

Collecting and Listing Local Postcards

Desmond Quail

My interest in collecting postcards came about in a roundabout way. Some people are just born to collect and have that "magpie" instinct, I am lucky to be one of them. From a child I collected stamps and in the early '70s I began to collect postmarks which are always tied in with stamps. By that I mean, when you receive a letter through the post it has a stamp on it but also a postmark or cancellation. A great source of postmarks was of course postcards. In the late seventies when I eventually went along to the Northern Ireland Postcard Club to look for these postmarks I became hooked on the picture side as well. Now at the beginning of the '90s I find myself putting down on paper, for the first time, some of the information I have amassed from postcard collecting over nearly twenty years.

Postcard collectors are referred to on this side of the Atlantic as **Cartologists**, and in America as **Deltiologists**. I have a preference for the latter. **Deltion** in Greek is "a small writing tablet" and **logos** is "the study of" hence the Deltiologist makes a study of the postcards he collects.

The golden age of the postcard lasted for a period of nearly two decades from 1900 - 1918. Its popularity died, quite suddenly, with the end of the War and the fact that the postage rate was doubled from a halfpenny to a penny. The revival of picture postcard collecting in the early seventies was brought about by a wave of nostalgia for past times which will never return. Scenes depicted on postcards of Edwardian times are now part of history. Change has wrought its work for nearly a century on streets, places and people.

Then there is a certain air of mystery and discovery about the background to the cards that one collects. For the deltiologist, most of the publishers of postcards have ceased trading and their records have vanished. Can these records be rebuilt? One of the best ways to rebuild these records is to form a *publisher collection*. Any postcard you collect brings you back to a publisher. When I find one card, from a set, it sets my mind wondering how many cards are in the set. It is probably six, but could be twelve or twenty or twenty-four or even an odd number.



The earliest recorded post card of Banbridge (1901). Multiview-vignette type.

Postcards in the golden age were often sold in a packet of 6 with a multiview type and five others. The price was usually 1/- (5p). Who were these publishers for a town like Banbridge? Harding of Banbridge and W. J. Napier of Scarva produced cards themselves. They took the photograph of the subject themselves and then produced these photographic images postcard size 6''x4''. Miss McMahon of Bridge Street, Banbridge, was a retailer who had postcards of Banbridge published. Raphael Tuck who stands foremost in the history of Fine Art Publishing in Britain has also published postcards of Banbridge. So we have both local publishers and national publishers.

In the town of Banbridge there are certain areas that were obvious subjects for a set of cards. They would have been Bridge Street, Newry Street, Church Square and of course the Crozier Monument. For the purpose of my research I have used the Crozier Monument cards. They fall into four categories. Some publishers used the monument exclusively for their postcard. Secondly the monument appeared in postcards published of Church Square. Thirdly it was the subject of a card in conjunction with other buildings viz. Masonic Hall and Barracks. Finally it was featured on a multiview card or in a card of Dromore Street. There will be in the list that follows some overlaps i.e. cards from the same set with Crozier Monument.

- 1 — Banbridge: Sepia Vignette type card with undivided back postally used November 19th 1901 at Banbridge. The earliest recorded card of Banbridge.
- 2 — Church Street, Banbridge: Sepia colour, postally used April 7th 1904. Same publisher (unknown) as above.
- 3 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: Sepia colour, postally used August 1st 1903, publisher unknown.
- 4 — Church Square, Banbridge: Sepia colour, postally used 20th September 1904, publisher unknown.
- 5 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: Sepia colour, postally used 24th December 1904, publisher unknown.
- 6 — The Crozier Statue, Banbridge: No.2707, postally used July 8th 1905. Published by W. J. Napier, Scarva.
- 7 — Church Square, Banbridge: coloured, postally used, October 10th 1905, published for Thomson and Co., Banbridge by Valentine, Dublin, code 46773.

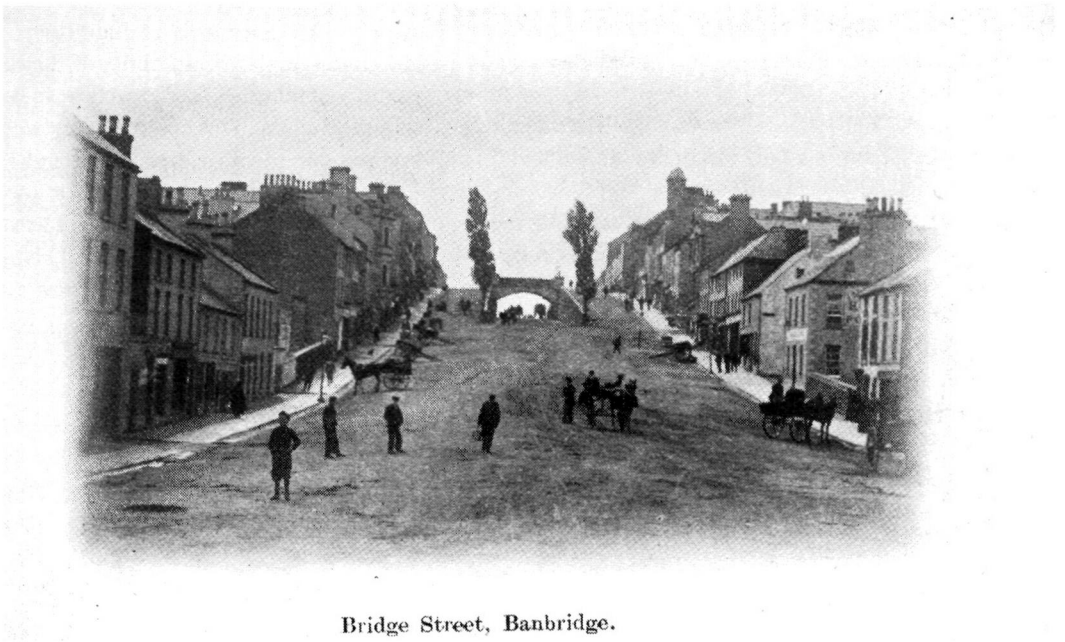
- 8 — Crozier's Statue, Banbridge: coloured, postally used April 13th 1906, publisher Thomson and Co., Banbridge.
- 9 — The Crozier Statue, coloured, publisher Thomson and Co., Banbridge.
- 10 — Dromore St., Banbridge: coloured, publisher Valentine, Dublin.
- 11 — Church Square, Banbridge: coloured, postally used September 2nd 1907, published by the N.P.O. Belfast.
- 12 — Multiview: Church Square, Banbridge: postally used 21st February, 1908, published by Dickson, Belfast.
- 13 — Church Square and Crozier's Monument, Banbridge: 526 coloured, published by Miss McMahon, Banbridge.
- 14 — Church Square and Crozier Monument: Coloured, postally used October 12th 1908, published by "Banbridge Chronicle" Series 75/8.
- 15 — Statue to Capt. Crozier, R.N. (1766 - 1848) Banbridge: tinted, published by W. J. Napier, Scarva.
- 16 — Church Square, Banbridge: coloured, published by Hugh McCaw, Stationer, Banbridge.
- 17 — The Crozier Monument and Masonic Hall, Church Square, Banbridge: coloured, 4922, publisher unknown.
- 18 — Church Square, Banbridge: coloured, publisher unknown.
- 19 — Church Square, Banbridge: real photograph, photographer Harding, Banbridge, postally used June 25th 1912.
- 20 — Multiview: Greetings from Banbridge: real photograph, photographer, Harding, Banbridge, postally used February 22nd 1914.
- 21 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, photographer Harding, Banbridge, postally used 28th July, 1914.
- 22 — Crozier's Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, published by Eason and Son Ltd., Dublin and Belfast.
- 21 — Church Square, Banbridge: real photograph, postally used August 1913. Published by Reliable Series, i.e. William Reid and Sons No. 75-19, for Thomson, Banbridge.
- 22 — Church Square and Crozier's Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, published by Reliable Series, William Reid and Sons No. 75/16 for Thomson, Banbridge.

- 23 — Crozier's Statue, Banbridge, real photograph, published by William Reid and Sons No.75/27, for Thomson, Banbridge.
- 24 — The Crozier Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, postally used 29th August, published by The Philco Publishing Co., Holborn Place, London W.C. Series No.2475.
- 25 — Church Square, Banbridge, real photograph, postally used, October 17th, 1917, published by The Philco Publishing Co., Holborn Place, London W.C. Series No.2475.
- 26 — Greetings From Banbridge, multiview Sepia published by Tarleton Publishing Co., Dublin.
- 27 — Crozier Monument, R.I.C. Barracks, Masonic Hall, Banbridge, published by Tarleton Publishing Co., Dublin.
- 28 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge. real photograph, published by Tarleton Publishing Co., Dublin.
- 29 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: coloured, postally used, 16th August, 1919, published by C. Porter and Co., Belfast.
- 30 — The Crozier Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, postally used 18th October, 1919, published by Philco Series, series No.4516.
- 31 — The Crozier Monument and Masonic Hall, Church Square, Banbridge: postally used 1919, published by Philco Series, series No.4516.
- 32 — Crozier Monument and Church Square, Banbridge: photographed by Coon of Letterkenny for publisher Watson, Merchants, Banbridge.
- 33 — Crozier Memorial, Banbridge: Sepia, postally used, 2nd Spetember, 1927, published by Valentines
- 34 — Masonic Hall and Constabulary Barracks, Banbridge: Sepia, postally used 3rd September, 1925, published by Valentines.
- 35 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: Sepia, postally used 28th September, 1926. 75/30 published by Mehaffey, Stationer, Banbridge.
- 36 — Crozier Monument, Banbridge: postally used March 5th, 1925, 75/30: published by Mehaffey, Stationer, Banbridge.
- 37 — Crozier Monument and Church Square, Banbridge, published by Raphael Tuck and Sons Ltd., Code I.
- 38 — The Crozier Monument: real photograph, postally used 25th August, 1937, photographer and publisher unknown.
- 39 — Crozier Monument and Church, Banbridge, Co. Down: real photograph, 208258 J.V. published by Valentines postally used 10th September, 1936.
- 40 — Church Square and Crozier Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, published by S.P. Co. for Banbridge Chronicle Press.
- 41 — The Crozier Monument, Banbridge: real photograph, photographer and publisher unknown.
- 42 — Crozier Monument and Church, Banbridge, Co. Down: real photograph, R2333 published by Valentines.
- 43 — Banbridge, multiview, R3324 published by Valentine, real photograph.
- 44 — Banbridge multiview, Collo colour, published by Valentines.
- 45 — Church Square, Banbridge, Co. Down: R.4247, real photograph, postally used 30th August, 1958, published by Valentines.
- 46 — Crozier Monument and Birthplace, Banbridge, Co. Down, N.I. B6603, colour, publisher Dennis.
- 47 — Crozier Memorial and Birthplace, Banbridge, Co. Down: R6170 real photograph, published by Valentines.

Each of the cards listed above represents a set of cards of Banbridge and, as I have said, each set consisted of at least six, but sometimes as many as twenty different views of Banbridge. So a complete collection of all the postcards of Banbridge published in the past 90 years, could well be in the region of one thousand cards. This could equally well be said of any comparable town or area in Ireland.

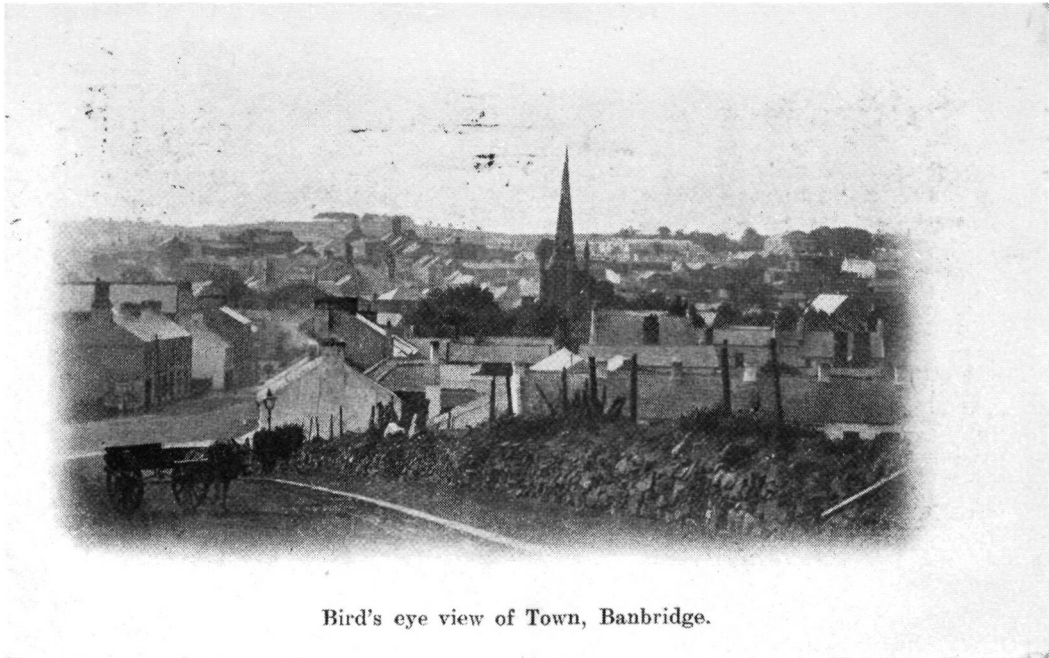
So the search goes on and for me a great many questions remain unanswered. Not least, who were Harding of Banbridge, and W. J. Napier of Scarva, the men who published the earliest postcards of this area.?

Six views of Banbridge which together with the multiview (above) make up the earliest recorded set of post cards of the town. (No. 1 on list).

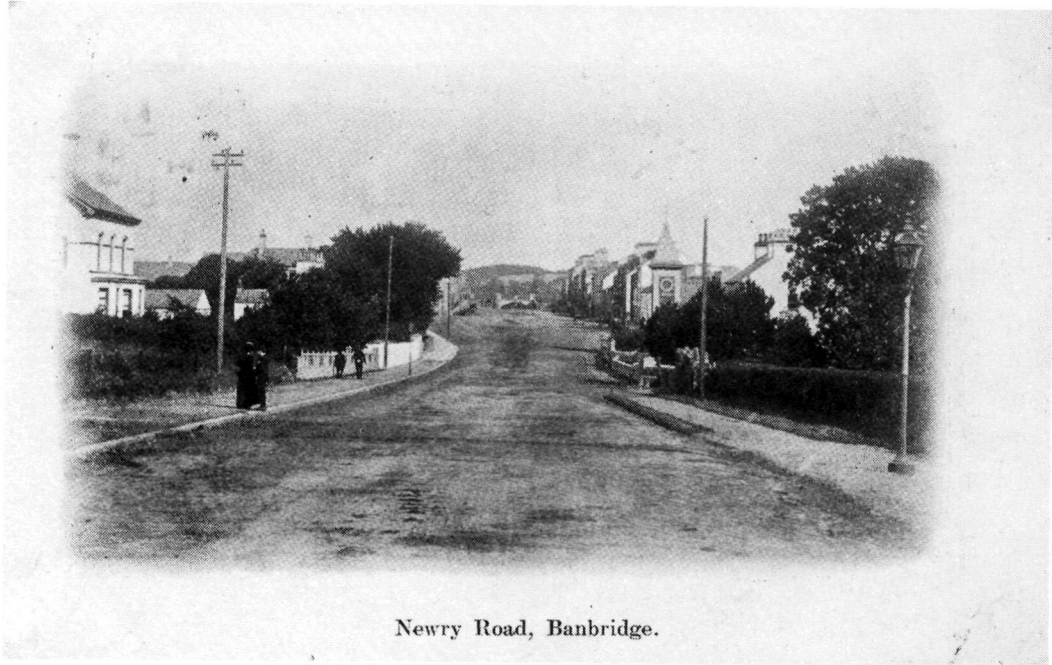




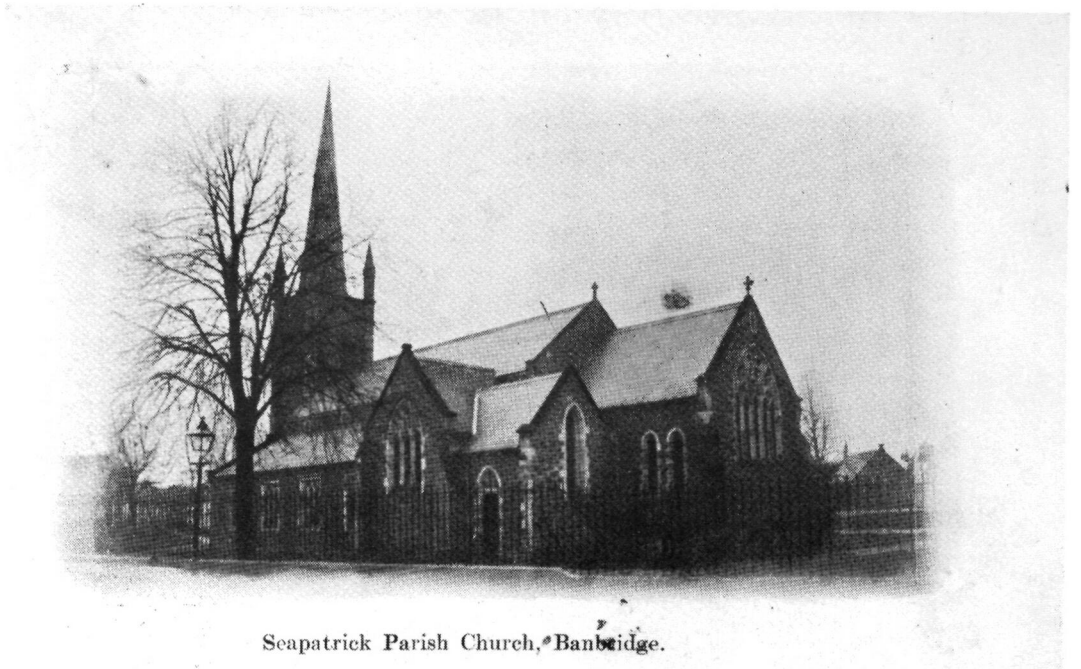
Church Street, Banbridge.



Bird's eye view of Town, Banbridge.



Newry Road, Banbridge.



Seapatrik Parish Church, Banbridge.



Crozier Memorial by W. J. Napier, Scarva.
c. 1910. (No. 6 on list).



Church Square, Banbridge, Harding, 1912. (No. 19 on list).

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Miss McMahon, an early post card publisher.



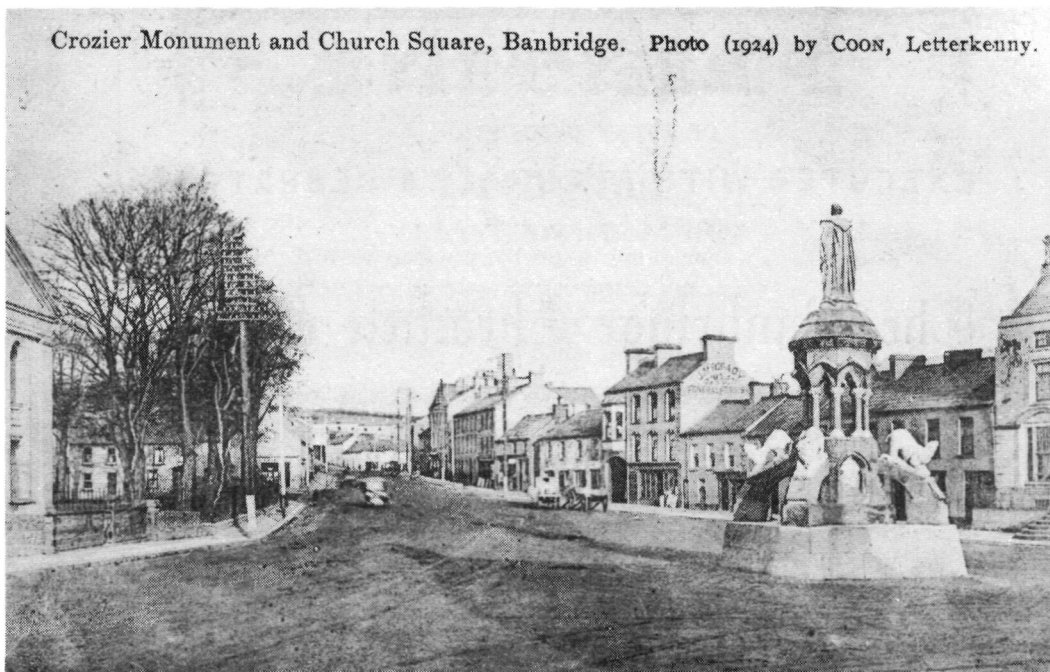
Seapattrick Parish Church, Banbridge.



Published by Miss MAC'MAHON, 34, Bridge Street, Banbridge.

Seapattrick Parish Church from an illustrated
 letter card published by Miss McMahon.

Crozier Monument and Church Square, Banbridge. Photo (1924) by COON, Letterkenny.



Crozier Monument and Church Square by Coon, Letterkenny. Published for Watson, Banbridge (1924). (No. 32 on list).



Crozier Monument, Banbridge.

Crozier Monument. Published for Mehaffey, Banbridge (1926). (No. 35 on list).

PRINTING

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AT

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The Banbridge Chronicle, publishers of cards of the district.



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Church Square and Crozier's Monument. Reliable series (1930).
(No. 22 on list).

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