

## **OBITUARY 25/01/1930**

### **Sligo Champion**

#### **THE LATE MR. C. GRAHAM, J.P.,**

#### **BUNNINADDEN.**

As we briefly announced in a previous issue, the death occurred on Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., of Mr. Charles Graham, J.P., of Knockalass, Bunninadden, Co. Sligo.

The late Mr. Graham was one of the best-known and most respected men in South Sligo, and although he had reached the age of 79 years, his death is deeply and widely deplored.

Eldest son of the late Mr. Patrick Graham, also of Knockalass, he was educated first at a National School and afterwards at Primrose Grange Grammar School, Sligo. It was his intention to enter the Ministry, but while at Primrose Grange his health broke down, and this altered the course of his life.

He took up residence at Knockalass, and when a mere boy of 19 years opened a loan office there. Later he started a grocery and hardware business, and this, under his capable guidance, expanded and flourished until its turnover, it is said, reached the sum of £15,000 a year. In recent years he was assisted in his business by his nephews and nieces, and afterwards by the Misses Marren, of Knockalass, and his faithful man, Mr. Thomas Taheny, who had spent practically his life-time with him. Events which followed, unfortunately, compelled him to close down his business, and so one of the most successful of rural enterprise was no more.

In addition to his business activities, the late Mr. Graham was a grazier on a large scale for the past forty years.

As a bachelor, his life was devoted to the welfare of his friends and the community at large. He was a firm believer in Christian teaching; more than that he practised what he preached—and was an open admirer of all who did likewise. It may truly be said of him that he was always willing to extend a helping hand to anyone in distress, provided that he believed in the honesty of their case.

He was the composer of some beautiful poems: poems which gave an insight into his noble character. Chiefly among them were two entitled "The Splendour of Dunmorán Strand," and "The Beauty of Lough Talt."

Although he lived in a Roman Catholic district, his different religion proved to be no bar to the friendship of his neighbours or those who knew him, as was shown by the large number of people numbered among his regular guests. On Mr. Graham's tennis court were to be found clergymen of all denominations, students of Trinity and Maynooth, as well as business men, solicitors and bankers from Bunninadden, and the surrounding towns. On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1923, he was presented with an illuminated address by the Roman Catholic clergy and laity of the parish, an act of friendliness and kindness which he deeply appreciated. The address he highly valued up to the end of his life, and it is now highly valued by his successors. The funeral took place on Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst., at Rathbarron, and the large and representative attendance was a striking indication of the universal respect and esteem in which the deceased was held. Very Rev. Archdeacon M'Cormick, M.A., and Revd. C. J. A. Harris, B.A., officiated.

The chief mourners were —J. R. Graham, P. W. M'Elroy J. P. Layng, J. P. Gillmor, S. Gillmor (nephews), R. Morrison, J. IT. Gillmor (nephews-in-law). In addition to above he leaves a sister, Mrs. Gillmor of Bohey House Dramahair, and a number of nieces and nephews to mourn his loss.

The following wreaths were placed on the graved—With loving remembrance, from Hilda; In loving remembrance from his dear sister; With loving memory, from Bertie and Birdie; With love, from Lily; In ever loving memory *of* dear Uncle, from Willie and Dorothy. From an obedient servant to the most honourable of masters—T.T.; In affectionate; remembrance, from Abbeyville; In respectful remembrance, from Arnold and Mabel Kane.

#### Notes SMCW

£15,000 1930 today's value, 2022 in excess of £1.1 Million. Likely this sum referred to when the shop closed c 1920 due to IRA actions and would be in today's value c £2 M