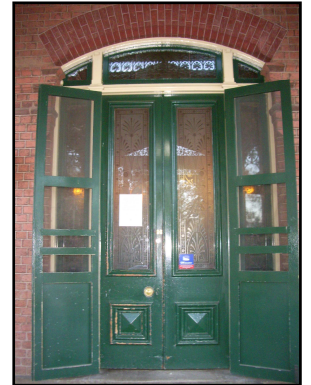


Historic Duntryleague – A Brief History. . . .

James Dalton, who was born on the family farm at Ballinamona, Galbally, in the Electoral Division of Duntryleague, Co. Limerick, Ireland, immigrated to Australia in 1849 and on arrival he set up home at Summer Hill where he built a small store of slabs with a bark roof.

This store was situated one mile from the town of Lucknow. In order to build the store, the surrounding land had to be cleared of tree stumps and undergrowth. In 1836 a grant of 640 acres known as Campdale was made to William Ely Sampson for which he paid one hundred and sixty pounds. Further grants of land were made to George Blackett, Jonathon Gosling, William Ellis, Thomas Kite, Simon Lord and others, which saw the district of Orange firmly established. In 1849, James Dalton acquired a portion of land of Campdale, which he named Duntryleague.

James had established a very successful business by this time, which he expanded greatly as a result of the discovery of gold at Ophir in 1851. At that time his brother, Thomas, joined him and together they established the firm of Dalton Brothers who were later joined by their half brother Michael. As the years went by they acquired substantial land holdings in the Orange district extending from Ophir to Cheeseman's Creek which encompassed Lookout, Kangarooobi & Amerdown Stations.



In 1861 James Dalton opened the first flourmill in Orange at the corner of Summer & Sale streets. The mill was an instant success and won several international design prizes. The mill was demolished early in this century and a new mill was erected in Piesley Street. It was demolished in the early 1960s and there are no flourmills in Orange presently.



The Dalton brothers then turned their attention to Sydney where they established a warehousing, wharfing and wholesale empire. After many years in business together the Daltons dissolved their partnership with Thomas, who later became the Honourable Thomas Dalton MLC.

James Dalton married Margaret Collins of the Springdale Collins family and together they had a total of twelve children. They were Thomas Garret Dalton, who later became Mayor of Orange, Winifred, who joined the religion of the Sacred Heart Order and was known as

Mother Dalton. Eleanor married Major William Redmond MP, one of the leaders of the Irish Nationalist Movement and a member of the House of Commons who was killed in action in the 1914 – 1918 war. Jenny, died in France, Celia married Dr John Cruise who built a house now occupied by medical rooms. Elizabeth also joined the religious order of Sacred Heart. Rosey married Mr McKillop MP, also an Irish Nationalist, Jack Dalton managed the flour mills, James became a barrister, Dick managed Amerdown property, Michael managed Kangarooobi and Patrick became a Jesuit priest.

While the family lived for some time at 70 Byng Street, Orange, James Dalton commenced the building of a mansion, which he named Duntryleague, in 1876. The house befitted a man of considerable means. The name of the mansion was taken from near his birthplace that is roughly two miles from the aforementioned village of Galbally, with the literal meaning "the fort of the three flags or pillar stones". The building of Duntryleague, originally known as "Doon Tri Liag", was accomplished by well known architect Benjamin Backhouse, who drew up the plans for the mansion. The actual builders are not now known, but the house is of splendid construction and incorporates a magnificent stairway. Two excellent tradesmen from Sydney did the general carpentry. The beautiful wrought iron lace embellishments and iron lace portico is the work of Fletcher Brothers of Park St, Sydney. On a stone below the chapel room, the inscription reads Duntryleague 1876.



The stained glass window in the mansion was presented to James Dalton on the occasion of his investiture as a Papal Knight for his services to the Catholic Church by The Vatican. It bears his papal crest and the motto "Inter Cruces Triumphans in Cruces", which roughly translates to "amid the crosses, triumphing in the crosses". The motto is also included on the leadlight above the front door of the mansion. Other aspects of the building are the considerable stonework which includes the flagstone veranda. All the stone was quarried from Coffey Hill, fifteen miles from Orange on the Cargo Road. The mansion itself, in addition to its many fine architectural designs, has a tower which provides many excellent views over a wide area.

The house was originally two storied, with slate on the roof and a balconied second story surrounding the chapel. The five dormer windowed rooms were added later as was the enclosed tower giving a balance to the whole.

Many of the original outbuildings on the estate are in excellent condition as are the entrance gates and gatehouse on Woodward Street. A vineyard, orchard and many bores were part of the features of the property.

James Dalton presented five beautiful windows to St. Josephs Church in honour of his wife Margaret and other members of his family were similarly honoured by their children in memory of services rendered to the church over many years.

On the death of James Dalton, Michael Dalton became the Manager of the Dalton Stores. The property was left to Father Patrick Dalton, a Jesuit priest and in accordance with the rules of society it became a community property. The Bishop of Bathurst rejected the idea of turning Duntryleague into a catholic college. The property was sold to the Orange Golf Club Ltd in 1935, which still owns and operates the site and buildings to this day. Extensive development work has taken place, turning the vast property into a championship eighteen hole golf course.

For more information of the history of Duntryleague and it's many current uses, please visit our website at www.duntryleague.com.au or call us on 02 6362 3466. Postcards and other memorabilia of Duntryleague is available at the Orange Visitors Information Centre in Orange. Alternatively, you may also discover more information on Duntryleague via the NSW Heritage Office website, www.heritage.nsw.gov.au which offers information on other Dalton built homes in the Orange area.

