

OSPIDÉAL NA LEANBH TRÉIGTHE

le Seóirse Sálter (Canónach)



Former Foundling Hospital entrance, Leitrim Street

Leis na blianta anuas, féachann Seandún ar na Déantúsí, na daoine ag teacht agus imeacht agus ar gach uile a bhí ar siúl fé scáth an Túir. Mairfodh na mílte beithíoch gach bhliain agus chuireader an fheoil steach i mbairrille chun é a thabhairt thar lear. An fola an tháinig ós na beithígh, as sin a deineadh “Drishín”. Ag an am gcéanna bhí an déantús ime ag dul i méid san áit agus tháinig na ceannaitheoirí le chéile chun an déantús a chur ar aghaidh... Maraon le sin bhí ceol na gclog le cloisint ar fud na Cathrach.

In aice Seandún d’oscalafodh Oispidéal na Leanbh Tréigthe, fé Acht den bParliament sa bhliain 1747 chun linbh tréigthe a thabhairt isteach chun cúram a thabhairt dóibh. Bhí an t-Oispidéal seo fé choimirce na Cathrach -- daoine fé leith a bhí toghfa gach bliain chun é a stiúradh. Bhí cáin spesfalta fén a bhráid chun cabhrú le seo -- scilling ar gach tonna gual a tháinig isteach i gCorcaigh.

Bhí comhacht ag na Gobhnéirí linbh tréigthe a thabhairt isteach san Oispidéal chun aire a thabhairt dóibh comh maith le héadaigh. Tugadh teagasc dóibh ina theannta sin i léamh agus scríobhneoireacht. Bhí ceithre scoileanna ins an Institute agus tháinig an dochtúir gach lá chun freastail ar na linbh.

Sa bhliain 1833 bhí 1765 leanbh ar na rollaí. Deirtear go raibh an t-Oispidéal suite in aice Abha an Kiln le cois Sráid Naomh Eóghain. Sa bhliain 1854 dhún na Gobhnéirí an t-Oispidéal agus cuireadh na leinbh isteach i dTeach na mBocht ar an taobh theas den gCathair.

Ar dtús nuair a oscalaíodh an t-Oispidéal dos na lenbh tréigthe bhí an iomarca páistí ann agus bhí gach sort galair ag cur isteach ortha agus fuair 18 fén gcéad bás gach bliain. Ní raibh dóthain slí ná cabhrac aca chun freastail ar na páistí ach nuair a dúnadh an t-Oispidéal agus tar éis é a dhíol bhí na Gobhnéirí i n-ann na páistí a chur amach fé chúram cloinne. As san amach bhí gach rud déanta ar son na páistí fé chúram chloinne. As san

amach bhí gach rud déanta ar son na bpáistí fé mar a dhéantar i ngnáth-chlann.

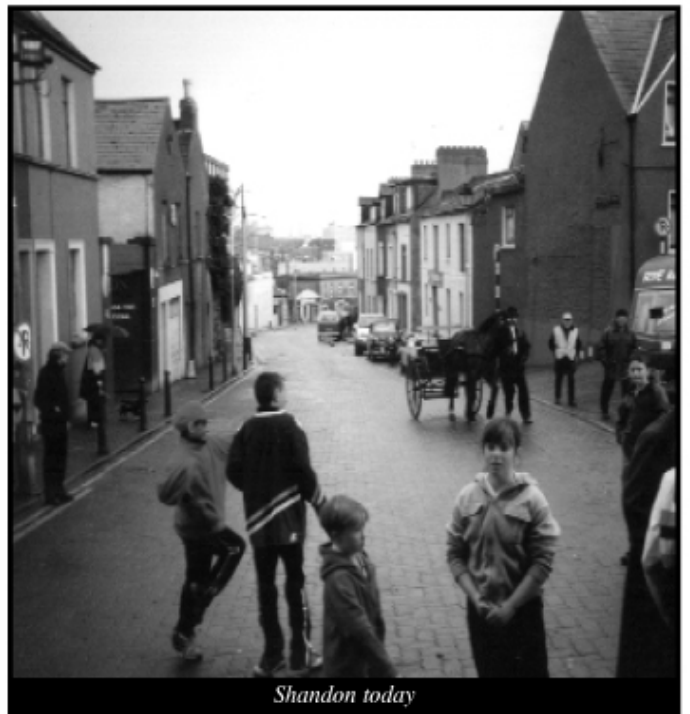
Seo cuid d’ár stair i gCathair Chorcaighe ó’n ochtú haois déag agus is maith an rud é go bhfuil athrú iontach tagaithe in ár measc leis na blianta anuas.

The Foundling Hospital: Summary

Over the years Shandon looked down on the Industries, the people going about their business under the Shadow of the Tower. Thousands of cattle were slaughtered in the vicinity - from the blood of the cattle “drisheen” was made. Buyers came to promote the industry and butter was manufactured for export as well as meat. Near Shandon the Foundling Hospital was opened in 1747 to care for foundlings - under the Patronship of the City - one shilling per ton was levied on coal to support the hospital. The Governors controlled admissions, providing care, clothing and education in Reading and Writing. A doctor attended daily. In 1833 there were 1,765 children on the Roll list and the hospital was located near the Kiln River (John Street).

In 1854 the Governors closed the hospital and the children were transferred to the Workhouse on the Southside of the city. At the beginning, the Foundling Hospital was over-crowded and 18% died there annually - there was not sufficient room nor facilities to care for the children. After the sale of the Hospital the children were boarded out to families - a vast improvement. All this is now in the past and we can see the great changes for the better that have taken place through the years.

Canon George Salter was for many years Rector of St Luke’s Parish, Church of Ireland, on Cork’s Northside and a popular figure in the community.



Shandon today