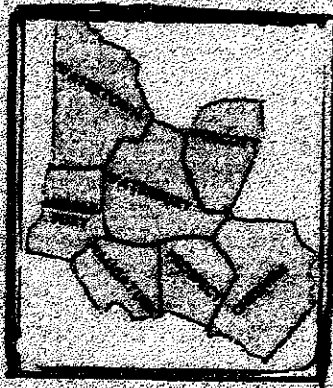


Betty Leidka
Margaret Dwyer

History
of
Abbeyless
Abbeyless Society



Founded by
Raymond J. Fanning
1893-1976
Retired Executive Editor
of the
Republican and American
Newspapers
Nash Barber

Retired Editor's Funeral Tuesday

The funeral of Raymond J. Fanning, retired executive editor of The Republican and The American, will be held Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. from Bergin Funeral Home, 290 East Main St., to the Church of the Immaculate Conception for Mass at 10. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Watertown. Friends may call at the funeral home today from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

Mr. Fanning died Sunday at St. Mary's Hospital after a brief illness. He was 82.



Raymond J. Fanning

Mr. Fanning, of 50 Johnson St., was a Waterbury newsman for 45 years and served in numerous capacities with the papers. He retired in late 1961 after having been executive editor for 12 years.

One of Mr. Fanning's favorite causes was speaking out for better and more thorough news coverage. Mr. Fanning was the managing editor when Publisher William J. Pape led a journalistic crusade and revealed a city administration conspiracy to defraud the municipal treasury of large sums.

He joined The American staff as a reporter in 1916, but a year later interrupted his newspaper career when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Florida during World War I. After his tour of duty, Mr. Fanning returned to The American as its political reporter and, following the merger of The Republican and The American, he continued in many positions.

Among the posts he held were Sunday editor, promotions director, assistant city editor, telegraph editor and, in 1927, city editor of The American, a position he held for 10 years.

He was promoted to managing editor in 1937 and 10 years later he advanced to the newly-created position of executive editor of both papers.

In 1963 Mr. Fanning was appointed as a Pulitzer Prize juror by Columbia University and was reappointed several times. Other activities Mr. Fanning participated in included serving as president of the

Connecticut Associated Press Circuit, chairman of the United Press International Newspaper Association of Connecticut, chairman of the city's Board of Police Commissioners, commissioner on the Board of Public Health and an agent on the Bronson Library Board.

He was a graduate of St. Thomas Parochial School, Crosby High School and Danbury Teachers' College. Mr. Fanning also founded the Abbeyleix Society of Waterbury, an Irish social group, and headed the city's first March of Dimes and Cancer Fund campaigns and was the city's scrap drive director during World War II.

He was also chairman of the state Probate Assembly. He served on many AP and UPI committees and was an advocate of freedom of the press in relationship to accessibility of public records.

In addition to his long newspaper career in Waterbury, Mr. Fanning also worked for a short time with the Macy newspaper chain in Westchester County, N.Y. Prior to coming to work for The American, he was the principal of a school in Glastonbury.

Mr. Fanning was born in Waterbury April 2, 1893, the son of the late Richard and Mary (McEvoy) Fanning. He leaves a son, Richard D. Fanning of Scituate, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Rabbot of Hamden, and three granddaughters.



ABBEYLEIX SOCIETY OF WATERBURY

WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

OFFICERS PAST AND PRESENT 1968-1975

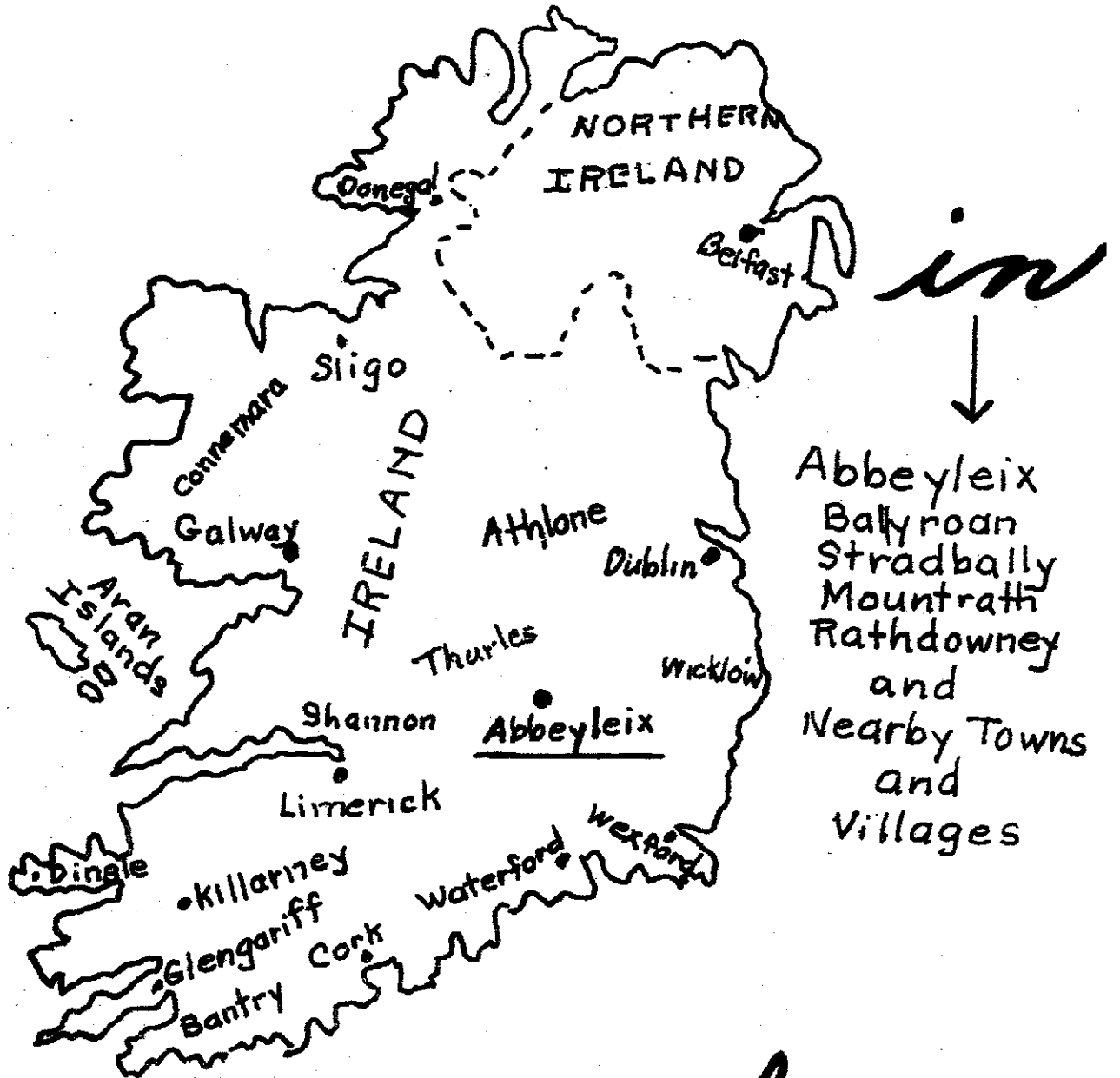
- President--Mr. **Raymond Fanning** Vice President--Mr. Joseph Scully
- Secretary--Mrs. Ernestine A. Kelly Treasurer--Mrs. Wm. Farrington
- President--Mr. Raymond Fanning Vice-President--Mr. Edward Sutton
- Secretary--Mrs. Ernestine A. Kelly Treasurer--Mrs. Margarite Neeson
- President--Mr. Edward Sutton Vice-President--Mrs. Louise McCarthy
- Secretary--Mrs. Ernestine A. Kelly Treasurer--Mrs. Margarite Neeson
- President--Mrs. Louise McCarthy Vice-President--Mr. Martin Scully
- Secretary--Miss Winifred Caine Treasurer--Mrs. Margarite Neeson
- President--Miss Winifred Caine Vice-President--Mr. Raymond St. John
- Secretary--Mrs. Ernestine A. Kelly Treasurer--Miss Mary Birmingham
- Historian--Miss North Barber

Joseph Scully
 Martin Scully
 Sons of
 Mayor Martin Scully



Raymond St. John
 Navy Lieutenant
 Stamp Columnist
 in the
 Sunday Paper

And they left their homes ^③



To build new homes
in Waterbury, Conn. U.S.
and surrounding Towns

And how did they fare?

They made out fine.

They became ---

Maids, Cooks, Clerks, Time Keepers
 Factory Workers, Foremen
 Carpenters, Farmers Navy Lieutenant
 Policemen, Firemen, Sailors, Soldiers
 Saloon Keepers, Owners of Grocery Stores
 Teachers, Principals, Librarians
 Secretaries, Nurses, Office Workers
 Insurance Agents, Mailmen, Stamp
 Reporters, Editors, Business Men
 Lawyers, Doctors, General Directors
 Priests, Nuns, Brigadier General
 Politicians. Factory Owners - Mrs. R. Turpin
 Judges - Patrick Harley - Frank Healey
 Presidents of Colleges - Judge John O'Connor
 Rep. C. A. McEvoy - Villanova College, Penn.
 Sister Mary Consolata O'Connor -
 St. Joseph College - West Hartford

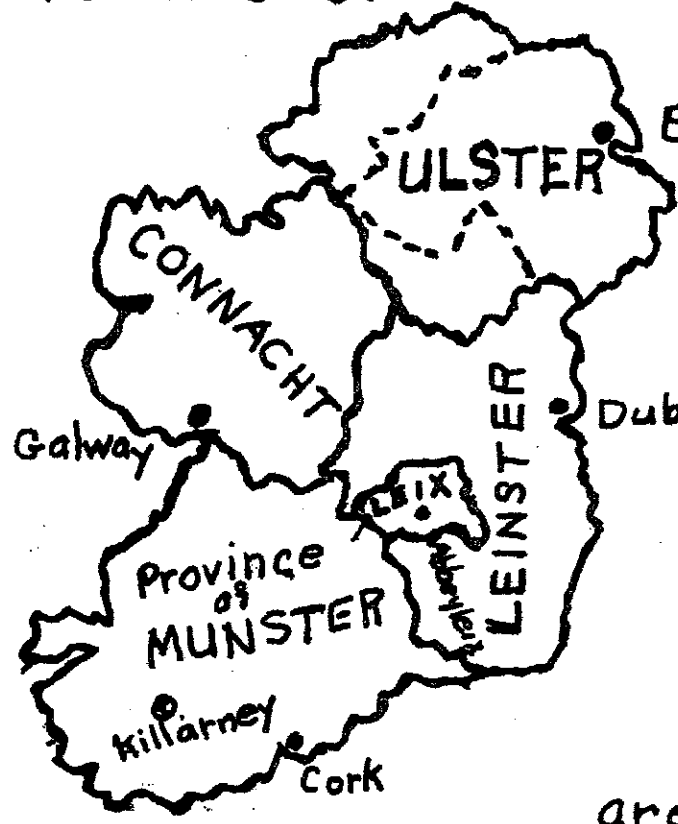
Mayors - 4

Martin Scully - son Vincent Scully
 Edward Bergen - son Edward Bergen 1975

Archbishop - John C. Murray

They come to the U.S. remembering the Penal Laws of Ireland - when no Catholic could own property - and they owned their own homes here!

ABBEYLEIX, a town of about 1,100 inhabitants, 50 miles from Dublin, in Laois County (Leix Co.) Province of Leinster



ULSTER

- ✓ Derry - Antrim ✓
- ✓ Tyrone - Down ✓
- ✓ Fermanagh
- ✓ Armagh
- Donegal
- Cavan
- Monaghan

The Dash Lines -- are the boundaries of Northern Ireland 6 Counties

COUNTIES

LEINSTER

- * Laois (Leix) (Queens Co.)
- Dublin -- Louth
- Meath -- Longford
- Westmeath
- Offaly -- Kildare
- Wicklow -- Carlow
- Kilkenny -- Wexford

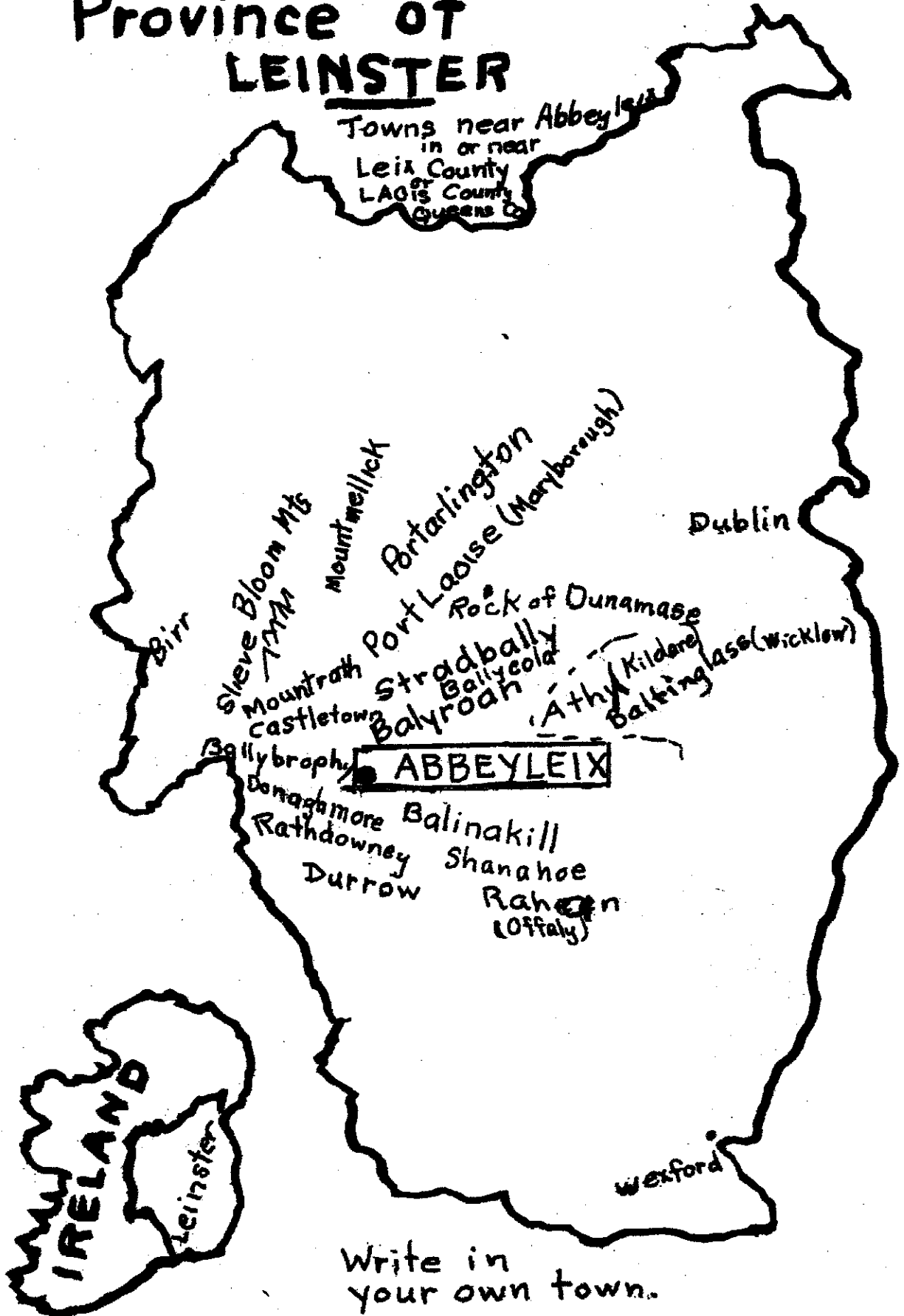
MUNSTER

- Kerry -- Cork
- Limerick -- Clare
- Waterford -- Tipperary

CONNACHT

- Galway -- Mayo
- Sligo -- Roscommon
- Leitrim

Province of LEINSTER



⑦

The following information was sent to
Winifred Caine
from

Father John Carey
Clough - Ballycola
now transferred to Kenmore, Kerry

- 1-- History of the County of Leix
- 2-- Story of Abbeyleix
- 3-- Ballyroan
- 4-- An Old-Timer Looks Back
- 5-- An Exile's Dream

Note. Have your Grandsons and
Grand-daughters read the History

History of the County of Leix

8

(Take time out, and read this some day. Very interesting.)

To appreciate the story of Abbeyleix, one must look backwards through the mists of centuries to the historical and traditional background of the County of Laoighis (Leix-Lavis-Queen's County.)

The story centers around the Rock of Dunamase or Dun-na-Masg, a steep and almost inaccessible hill to the north west of the great Heath of Maryborough. (Port Laoise) This natural defense post was known from the very earliest times to the pagan Irish, and was strongly fortified and named after Masg, the reputed ancestor of the people of Leinster, a son of the 44th King of Ireland of the line of Mileadh.

About the year 113 A.D. Cucoib, King of Leinster, appealed to the Ard Ri (Chief King) of Ireland, Feidlimidh, the law-giver, to help him drive out the men of Munster, who were over-running his kingdom. The Ard Ri hastened to help drive out the men of Munster under the leadership of Lugaid Laoiseach (or Laoighis), the son of Liosach Cear More, the grandson of Conall Cearmach, leader of the Red Branch Knights

The men of Munster were defeated, and as a reward for his services and able leadership, Lugard Lasighis was given Dunamass and the surrounding territory which there after took his name. At the instance of Cucorb's queen the territory was, however, sub-divided under seven sub-kings to prevent the King of Leix from becoming too strong. (smart lady) Dunamass remained the seat of the Kings of Leix until the coming of the Normans. (1170)

The men of Leix adopted Christianity at an early period. St. Patrick visited Leix and preached at Mag Reta (Morette) and he most possibly visited Dunamass. The chiefs of Dunamass established many monastic foundations. There is some mention of one at Clonkeen in the vicinity of Abbey Leix. The period of peace that followed was broken by the Danish invasions. In 850 A.D. Cinceidigh took the offensive against the Danes and defeated them in a series of stirring battles. It was (his) his grandson who adopted the name of O'Mordha later O'Moore, and as a leader of the armies of Leinster defeated the celebrated Cormack MacCullinan, King and Bishop of Cashel in the battle of Ballymorn in the year 906 when Cormack unwisely invaded Leinster, to enforce his claim to the Abbey of Monastererever.

The Norman Invasion - 1170

In 1152, Diarmid MacMurrrough brought Georgilla, wife of O'Rourke of Brefus, to his castle at Dunamass. He slept with her when her husband was not home. All Ireland was