

A Story of Daniel O'Connell.

My name is
Eline O' Donovan. I'm
11 years old and I
live on Curragh Hill,
west of Skibbreen.



My grand-uncle,
Gerald O'Brien is
aged 81, and sourced
99% of this information. We live
next to Gerald.



The following
information is just
a fraction of
Daniel O'Connell's
life in which he was
carried up and made
a speech on Curragh
Hill. (The hill I live on)

Daniel O'Connell, often referred to as The Liberator or The Emancipator, was an Irish political leader in the first half of the 19th century. He lived from 1775 to 1847 and was aged 72 when he died. He was a nephew of a wealthy catholic landowner. On Thursday 22nd of June, Daniel O'Connell held a monster Repeal meeting on Curragh Hill, Skibbereen about poor Law Union Dispensary?



Daniel O'Connell's birthplace

Early Education:

Daniel O'Connell studied at Douai but fled to escape the French Revolution. He then studied in London from 1794 to 1796, in Law.

Allegations of United Irish sympathies led him to withdraw from Dublin back to Kerry for the 1798 Revolution.

He forged an opinion of honor against political violence. He entered politics in January 1800 and his whole political belief and policy were to secure repeal of the Act Of Union of 1800 which lasted until 1921.

While this was happening, Daniel O'Connell was building a career as a barrister-in-law. After the general election of 1832, O'Connell became leader of a small group of 32 m.p.s, all united in the cause of Repeal.

He held a series of monster meetings starting in 1841 to reach their climax in 1843. One of these was held on Curragh Hill, west of Skibbereen, on Thursday, June 22nd in 1843. Many exaggerated figures have been put forward as the measure of the crowd attending, but given that they came from most parts of Munster, a conservative estimate is safe at in excess of 100,000 persons. This ranks the crowd assembled at O'Connell's meeting as the largest concourse of people ever to have appeared either before or since in the Ilen Valley of Skibbereen.



The Ordnance Survey Plaque that now lies where Daniel O'Connell made his speech.

After the meeting, O'Connell and his party were lavishly entertained in the Temperance Hall on Townshence Street.

There were reports of some damage to crops on the land on which the platform had stood, that of John O'Brien (My great, great grandfather) of Curragh, it was suggested in the papers that some of these were put in the Round in town.

O'Connell's greatest achievement in politics was his Catholic Emancipation Acts of 1829. Unfortunately, he did not have the same success in his objective of Repeal of the Act of Union of 1800.

He was imprisoned from May 1844 to the following September, when he was released on appeal. Politically, he was overtaken by the Young Ireland Movement.

He also suffered a public embarrassment by cancellation of his last monster meeting organised at Clontarf for 8th of October 1843.



The spirit of the nation was destroyed by the Potato Famine of 1845. O'Connell, a broken man, left Ireland for the last time in January 1847 and died in Genoa on his way to Rome. He lies buried under a large monument in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

The O'Connell Meeting, Curragh Hill Euphoria



Daniel O'Connell held a monster Repeal meeting on 22 June 1843 at Curragh Hill which rises above the level lands of the Ilan valley, directly opposite this spot. Contemporary accounts of the numbers of people present to hear O'Connell's case for the repeal of the Act of Union with England vary from 75,000 upwards.