

Robert Ballagh

Robert Ballagh was born in Dublin. He grew up on Elgin road in Ballsbridge. Robert's father was also named Robert and was married to Nancy Bennett from Limerick. Robert and Nancy were both elite athletes, his father played cricket and tennis for Ireland along with rugby for Leinster. His mother Nancy played hockey for the Irish team. Soon Robert discovered he had Irish connections with Union Hall through his Westropp ancestors. He then knew for certain that Colonel William Fitzhenry Spaight was responsible for changing the name of the village to 'Union Hall.' The Spaight and Westropp families were intermarried. When the Spaight's later moved to West Cork they intermarried with the Somerville and Limrick families, so that he probably shared quite a lot of his DNA with the Somerville's of Castletownshend and Limrick's of Union Hall.

Written by:

Kellie Pearce

Union Hall NS.

Told by:

Robert Ballagh

Co. Dublin



This is a copy of one of
Robert's paintings of Union
Hall !

A Story from the Past

My Nana told me a story about her father, George Limrick. George was a hard worker. He had a Wife and 5 children. He was a full time worker on small wages, He worked as a lorry driver for the Nolan family. When he would come home from work in the evening, he would go out on his punt fishing for herring and would sometimes take his children. Then depending on how much fish they would get, he would send his children to the village to sell some fish. On Sunday morning they would go to mass in Union Hall church at ten o clock. In the afternoon George would go out on his punt again with his children and go under the bridge to get some sticks for the fire but would have to be back before six o clock to go to benediction in Union Hall church. Later on in George's life he was diagnosed with diabetes and a while after got a bad cramp in his right leg and had to get that leg amputated. Weeks later George got a severe in his left leg and also had to get his left leg amputated and George sadly spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

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