

ANNALS
of
SAINTFIELD

BY

WILLIAM SPRATT.

(PRIVATELY PRINTED. FIFTY COPIES ISSUED)

BELFAST
1923.

William Spratt was born at Ardmillan in 1768. He was descended from a Scottish stock settled for a century and a half in that neighbourhood. He served his time with his father, Samuel Spratt, an eminent clock and watch maker.

William made rapid progress, and two years after his apprenticeship ended (1788) removed to Saintfield where he carried on a lucrative business for sixty years.

As he was considered one of the best mechanics in the North his trade extended over a wide area. He was an excellent clock and watch maker, engraver, gilder, and silverer; made musical clocks, spring clocks and more especially eight-day clocks, which are still numerous in the district, and much prized. The clock on the Market-house he made with his own hands.

As a man he was of good morals, sound principles, and possessed of a high sense of religion. He died on 2nd March, 1846, aged 80 years, leaving considerable property in Saintfield and neighbourhood.

*The above and the Annals are from M.S.S in the possession of his grandson James Charles Spratt, Belfast
Editor*

Some old eight-day clocks bear the inscription, "SAML. SPRATT, A.M." The letters A.M., which have puzzled many, simply stand for Ardmillan. Samuel Spratt died in 1821.

ANNALS OF SAINTFIELD

- 1776 - Saintfield Church built.
 1777 - Presbyterian Meeting-house built.
- 21 Jan 1787 - Celebration of Mass in the R. C. Chapel for the first time by Rev. Daniel M'Daniel.
- 1 April 1787 - Miss C. Price married to C. Hoey, Esq. of Strangford.
- 15 June 1788 - Sam M'Kinzie drowned in Mr. Price's fishpond.
- 13 July 1790 - Mrs. Francis Price died at Saintfield.
- 7 Jan 1791 - Francis Price, Esq. died.
- 16 Oct 1791 - John M'Elvernon killed by Sam Duff's horse.
- 1796 - Seceding meeting-house built.
- 17 May 1797 - Charles Clarke shot by Captain Mann accidentally. The Captain was exceedingly sorry.
- April 1797 - Joseph Harper shot on his way from Belfast and £100 taken off Saintfield parish for same.
- 6 Sept 1797 - Wm. Marshall shot by Parker.
- 9 June 1798 - Engagement between York Fencibles and Rebels near Saintfield.
- 12 June 1798 - Engagement between Military and Rebels at Ballynahinch.
- 8 Sept 1801 - Marquis of Downshire died.
- 11 April 1803 - M'Elvernon stabbed by Murray of Market-hill near Saintfield.
- 18 June 1803 - Wm. Wade died, aged 102, served 87 years in the Price family.
 1803 - The market-house built. The first Court Leet held 18th June 1804, John M'Burney, Seneschal.
- 17 July 1804 - Miss Betty Price married Mr Blackwood.
- 11 April 1805 - Nicholas Price Blackwood born.
- 17 June 1805 - John Hamilton, sexton, found dead in the church. Drank to excess.
 1807 - Wm Murphy died. He was confined to bed for 34 years.
 1807 - The building of Saintfield Inn begun.
- 6 April 1817 - Lady Sarah Price died, Easter Sunday.
- May 1819 - Master Nicholas Price-Blackwood died.
- June 1819 - Miss Jane Shaw died.

DIED

As the remainder of the manuscript consists largely of obituary notices they are given here in abbreviated form, except where comment is made, in which case a full report is given. *Editor*

1819

- 1 Nov Miss Jane M'Cartan murdered by her insane brother James.
 19 Dec Mrs Jane Jennings

1820

- Feb James Little, Leggygowan, aged 87, formerly Seneschal of the Manor.
 10 Mar Thomas Lindsay, Leggygowan
 6 Apl Catherine Gillis, sexton of the church.
 20 July Archibald M'Robert.

17 Sept Miss Esther Wallace, Todd's Hill.
28 Dec Adam Boyd's wife, Ravarra.

1821

Saintfield School, built in 1821-22, by the town and neighbourhood, Mr. Price, and Government Grant.

1 Jan Sam. Shaw's wife Junr. Killynure, died by poison and he was married two weeks afterwards.
4 Apl Robt. Hanna's wife, St. field
22 June John Carrigan, AE 80.
2 June Robt. Skelly, AE 93.
3 Oct David M'Kee's wife, Anne, aged 42.

1822

27 Apl Sam. Brown, Saintfield.
10 June Miss Esther Francis, 18 years.
16 June Miss Jane Maffett, 31 years.
10 Nov Bernard Roney.

1823

4 Jan Mrs. Mary Thompson.
17 Jan John Craig, shoemaker.
23 Feb Wm. Dodds, Carricknacesna.
4 Mar Andw. Dalzell, pensioner.
10 Mar John Trail's wife, aged 38.
7 May Jas. Maglennon, blue-dyer, aged 27.
6 June Suddenly, Arthur Shannon, aged 56.
5 Sept Sam Duff, aged 58.
9 Oct Adam Cross's wife, Lisowen, aged 55.

1824

5 Jan Anthony Stoddard, aged 98, served in the army 8 years, received a pension of 6d a day for 60 years.
3 May Married in Saintfield by Rev. Henry Simpson Mr. Wm. Knyghte of Bridgeview, Aughnadarragh, to Widow M'Kinstry of Ravarra. She is his second wife and he is her fifth husband, she being a great many years ago Miss Marshall, again Mrs. Buchanan again Mrs. Rainey, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. M'Kinstry, and now Mrs. Knyghte.
1 Aug Died, Felix M'Glaughlin.
1 Aug Mrs. Rd. M'Coubry from burns.
Richard Brennan was clearing out a well 40ft deep in Andrew Shaw's yard and after having finished got in the windlass bucket and had nearly landed when the rope broke and he was hurled to the bottom. He was got out with difficulty but expired immediately.
Oct 1826 Andw. Shaw, woolendraper.
Oct 1826 Robt. Hanna, suicide.
May 1828 Jas Warnock, junr., consumption.

HIATUS

1828

- David Patterson, chandler.
 John M'Coubrey, painter, a cart passed over his leg.
 June Jas. M'Auly, Lisdoonan.
 6 June Sam. Orr, Lisdoonan.
 13 June Mrs. Molly Wallace, school-mistress.
 23 June Stewart Beggs, Leggygowan, aged 75.
 27 June John, son of Rd. Frazer, Ravarra, AE 29
 6 Augt. "Little Jemmy" Gibson, a hunchback. AE 41
 3 Sept. John Scott, crushed to death by the water-wheel of Galbraith's mill, Kilmore.
 13 Sept. "Whiny" Sam Shaw, Killynure, aged 79.
 1 Nov. Isaac Grogan, saddler, an eccentric character who abhorred kingly and priestly power, and believed in the prophecies of Columbkil, an impostor of the 13th century.
 1828 - Iron gates hung on the arches of Market-house this year.

1829

- 12 Jan. Wm. Bates, one of the execrable informers of 1798.
 27 Jan. John, son of Simon M'Robert, Leggygowan, aged 37. He had just returned from America after 10 years sojourn.
 23 Jan. In Dublin, James Wallace, attorney, aged 65. His remains were conveyed to Saintfield, followed by a vast number of carriages and deposited in the family vault, Saintfield Meeting-house green.
 28 Jan. Widow O'Prey, aged 60.
 31 Jan. Samuel Ranson, aged 53, a man of public spirit and integrity.
 20 Apl. Jas. M'Clure, Ballyaugherty, aged 86, over 40 years carpenter to Nicholas Price, Esq.
 30 Apl. Wm Jas., son of Rev. H. H. Wosley, drowned in small pond at Ballytrim, aged 18 years.
 2 May. Robt. H-r-s, R-d-n-n, suicide. He had been trustee of the parish of Kilmore, and a report got abroad that he had misappropriated the money which afterwards was found to be intact, but not until the unfortunate man, stung by the unmerited calumny, had rid himself of the world.
 8 June Jas. Warnock, aged 61.
 20 Aug. Wm. Smith, stone-mason, AE 58.
 22 Aug. Geo. Ritchie, late of Florida-Bridge. Ill 20 months.
 31 Aug. Wm. Crosby, St.field, AE 56. A man, who had he joined more straight-forwardness in trade to his application, and avoided Methodistical cant, would have left behind him a family in comfortable circumstances and a character free from reproach.
 29 Sept. Hugh Crockard, Leggygowan, aged 102.
 28 Nov. Sam Shaw, C'nacessna, AE 58.
 18 Dec. Jas. M'Keown, servant to N. Price, Esq., kicked by a colt lingered 6 days, and died aged 19.

1830

- 8 Feb. Catherine Mageean, once the landlady of the "Cock" Public-house, St.field, aged 84.
 22 Feb. Jas. Bailis, B.augherty, aged 79.

1 May Miss Agnes Elliot, once landlady of the Head Inn.
Nich. Milligan, many years labourer to Mr. Price.
17 May Daniel Mallon, Tonaghmore.
18 May Jos. Chambers, Lisdalgaun.
3 June Rev. Thos. Walker, Seceding minister.
26 Sep. Miss Mary M'Burney, AE 28.
Saintfield Inn and Market-house rough-casted.
New bell hung in the Church.
25 Oct. Robt. Hamilton, mason, killed by a fall from a scaffold while repairing
St.field Inn.
27 Dec. Hugh Hamilton, Carsonstown.

1831

8 Jan Miss Anne Lloyd, at Rosemount, buried at St.field.
15 Jan Adam Cross, aged 78.
17 Jan Mrs. Geo. Lowry.
11 Feb. Saml. Maffet, St.field, AE 80.
2 Apl. Dr. Walker, AE 81.
Wm. Patterson, Tonaghmore.
21 Apl. Jas. Gardner's wife, Glasdrummond, who took a potion of Sulphate of
Zinc in mistake for Salts.

FINIS