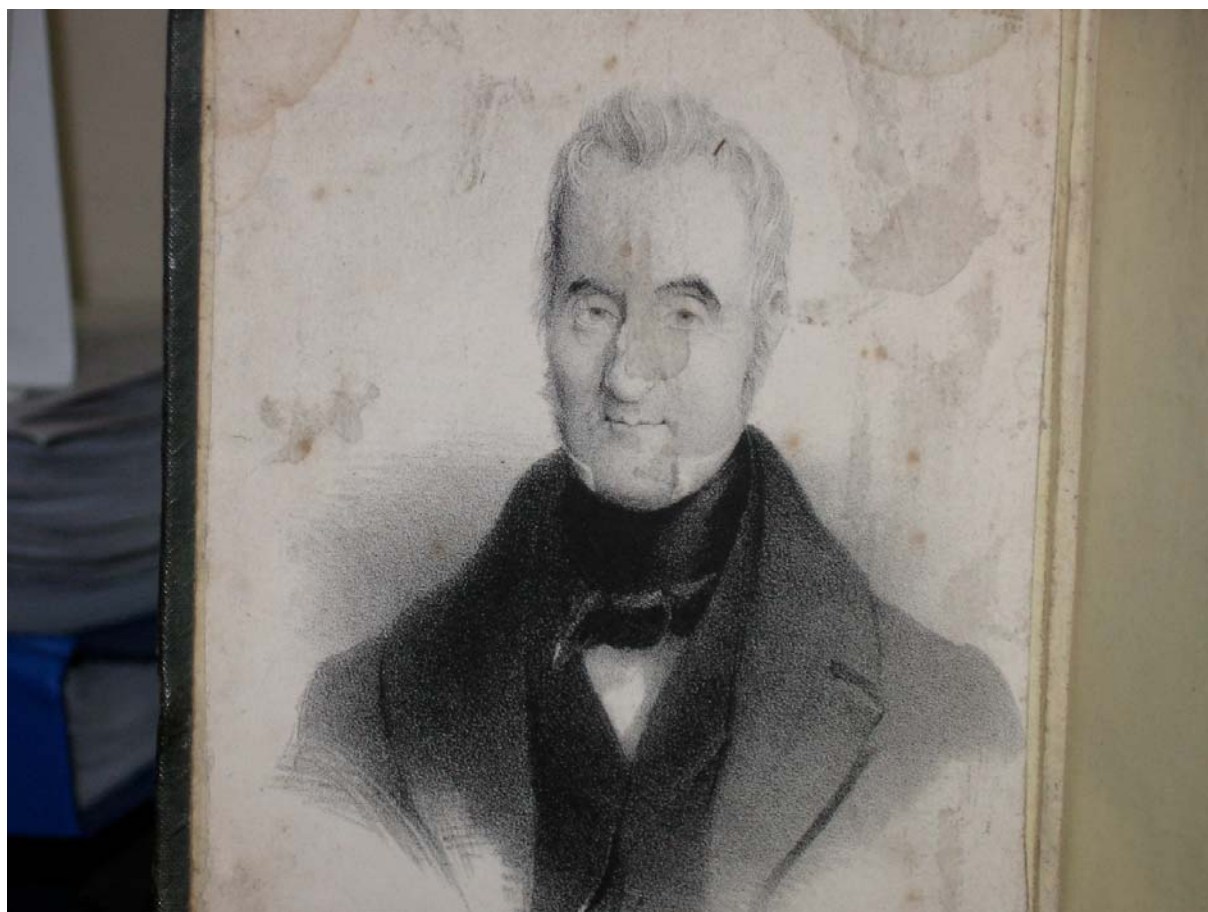


HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ATHY MUSEUM SOCIETY



PATRICK O'KELLY

Patrick O'Kelly, the son of Sylvester Kelly of Kilcoo, Athy, in his book '*1798 Rebellion*' claimed to have been one of the leaders of the United Irishmen in the Athy area during the period of the '98 Rebellion. He was said to have been just 17 years of age at the time. However, the obituary published in the *Freemans Journal* on 19th July 1858 gave his age of death as 82 years, while the Dublin Catholic Cemeteries Committees records gave his age as 85 years.

Following the '98 Rebellion Kelly emigrated to America where he spent 20 years before returning to Athy following the death of his brother John. When the Duke of Leinster refused his application to renew the lease on the family farm at Kilcoo Kelly and his family emigrated to France. He was employed there as a professor of languages in Versailles and while there he translated Abbe Mac Geoghegan's *History of Ireland* which was first published in Paris between 1758 and 1762. Kelly, by now called himself O'Kelly, returned to Ireland in 1831 where he operated a school for a number of years. He died at 3 Margaret's Place on 11th July 1851 and is buried in Goldenbridge Cemetery, Dublin.