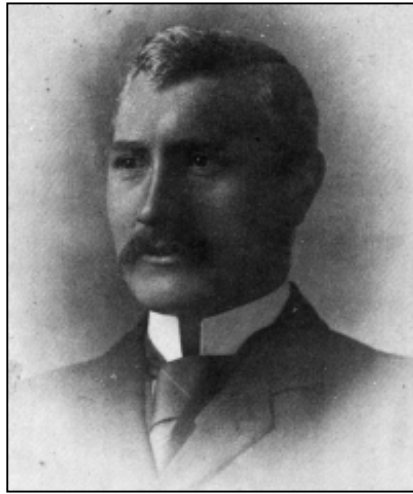


DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



DR. WILLIAM SMITH (1859 – 1901)

William Smyth, born on 30 March 1859 was son of Sam Smyth, local Dispensary doctor, and Mary Scott. Educated by Mr Willis (Mountcharles) Royal School Raphoe he graduated as a surgeon and doctor from Trinity College Dublin. He was immediately appointed Dispensary doctor in Ardara. In 1882 he was appointed to the Rosses district including Gweedore and the Islands. He had care of 12,000 patients. In 1883 he married Esther Mc Keown and settled at Raphoe Lodge Burtonport. He was famous for his selfless devotion - he once vaccinated 700 against smallpox in 2 weeks.

In October 1901 there was an outbreak of typhus on Arranmore. Nobody would agree to row the patients to the mainland en route to Glenties hospital and aided by Dr. Mc Carthy he rowed them himself.

On 19 November 1901 he died from typhus. He is buried beside the Church of Ireland in Dungloe. In 1902 a stained glass window to his memory was erected by Sir William Whitla and unveiled by the Earl of Dudley in the Ulster Medical Institute, Belfast. In the 1970's the Donegal Historical Society erected a plaque to his memory on Arranmore.