

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

KILL HISTORY GROUP



ERASMUS SMITH SCHOOL

In the centre of Kill village, opposite St Johns Church of Ireland, stands the old 'Erasmus Smith' school.

These schools take their name from Erasmus Smith, a London adventurer who received large estates in Ireland following the 1641 rebellion. He vested some of his land in trust for the establishment of grammar schools in Ireland. In 1723 the trustees secured an act of Parliament which enabled them to grant-aid the establishment of 'English' or primary schools wherever a landowner so wished, and by 1824 there were over 100 such schools in existence.

In that year, the school in Kill had an attendance of 50 (24 male and 26 female) of whom 30 were Catholic and 20 were Protestant. It was a pay school with a total income of £39 and 14 shillings. The master was an Edward Menzies and the Erasmus Smith Fund paid him £30 per annum.