

## HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

### COOKSTOWN LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



#### **THOMAS MACGREGOR GREER OF TULLYLAGAN MANOR**

Thomas MacGregor Greer of Seapark near Belfast came, after his marriage to Dorinda Florence Lowry in 1892, to Tullylagan Manor, near Cookstown, which he leased from Thomas Usher Greer. He had two daughters. Sylvia married Major Alexander (Pomeroy); Betty married Colonel Percival, Commander at Singapore during World War II. The Greers returned to Seapark after the 1st World War where Mrs Greer died in February 1930. In 1931 Thomas married Miss Leonie Caroline Handcock (Dublin) returning to Tullylagan. Thomas owned one of the first motor cars in this part of Tyrone. He sponsored the work of Harry Ferguson (of Ford Ferguson fame) who often stayed at Tullylagan. The ancient church of Desertcreat in the 1930's was beautified by an Oak Reredos, Pulpit, communion table and rails, all of which had been carved by Thomas, also two oak Jacobean chairs and a silver salver. Later he donated a reading desk and a lectern made from Austrian Oak. He was Church Warden for 25 years, Parochial nominator, a member of the Diocesan and General Synod, Hon. Treasurer and Secretary and read the lessons throughout the year. He had a keen interest in Tullylagan prize pipe band, presenting them with kilts in MacGregor tartan. In 1941 the parish of Desertcreat and people of the district were greatly saddened by the death of its most generous benefactor and paid tribute to the great interest that he had taken in the welfare of Church and district during his lifetime. A great man who is still missed!