

## HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

### OLD DROGHEDA SOCIETY



#### **HANDBALL ALLEY.**

Located at the eastern gable of the former Officer's Mess/ Canteen, which now forms part of Millmount Museum; unusual in the sense that, it was erected during the 19<sup>th</sup> century within a British Army Barracks, when Handball Alleys were, at this time, being erected by members of the United Irish Leagues and the founding members of the G.A.A. The soldiers that were stationed at Millmount included that of the Leinster, Wexford and Monaghan Regiments.

The game of handball however, dates back to a much earlier period than the 1870`s or 80`s and when the G.A.A. was founded in 1884 the rules governing the game of handball did not allow for members of the `Crown Forces` to participate, which resulted in many handball alleys being constructed within the walls of military and police barracks.