

## Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

### COUNTY ROSCOMMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



#### **Major General E dward Langford Dillon JP (1836 – 1925)**

Major General Edward Langford Dillon JP died aged 88 years at Hodson Bay House in 1925 and was the last Irish survivor of the Crimean War. Born in 1836 in Limerick he joined the British Army serving in the Royal Irish Regiment and fought in Crimea from 1854 until 1856. At the Battle of Sebastopol he earned a medal and clasp for his bravery in rescuing seven wounded Irish soldiers under heavy fire. Over 7,000 Irish soldiers died in the Crimean War. Subsequently he served in the Indian Mutiny.

His coffin, covered in a Union Jack, was placed on a gun carriage and accompanied by a Guard of Honour of Irish Army officers was brought up to this graveyard where volleys were fired over his grave.

His only son, serving in the British Army, died in the Boar War. He is buried beside his daughters in St Peter's Church of Ireland Graveyard, Kiltoom, Athlone Co Roscommon

*This graveyard, having been derelict and vandalised for a number of years, is undergoing a major restoration funded by family donations and a grant from Roscommon County Council. Manpower is from Roscommon Leader Partnership under the TUS scheme. It is located between Roscommon and Athlone on the N61 and is opposite the Kiltoom Stores.*

**Richard Collins**