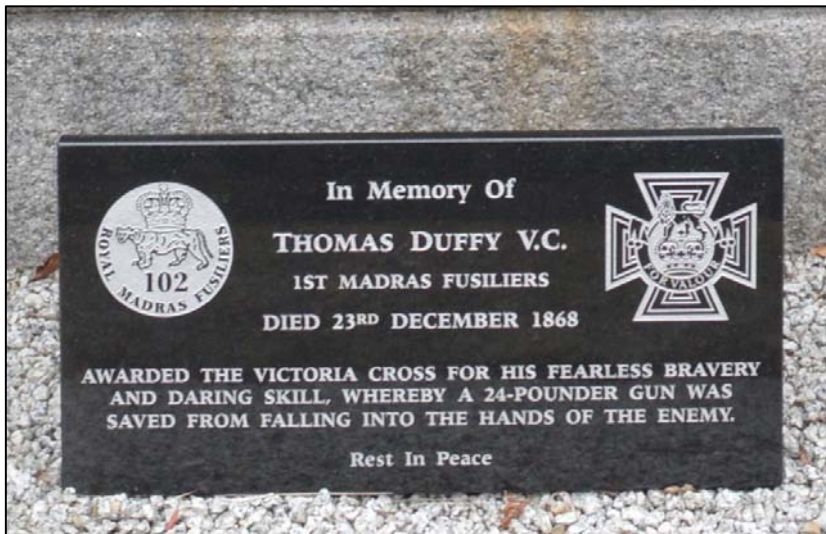


MOATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THOMAS DUFFY - V.C.

Born in Mount Temple, Moate, Co. Westmeath in 1806, Thomas was a brave Irish man who was awarded with a Victoria Cross for bravery in the face of an enemy force. This is the highest military decoration that can be awarded to armed forces of various Commonwealth countries and previous British Empire territories. Not much is recorded about his early life but aged 51 Thomas was a private in the 1st Madras Fusiliers for the Indian army during the Indian Mutiny. Two heavy 24-Pounder guns with some thirty ammunition and store carts were abandoned whilst getting out of heavy fire. On the morning of the 27th of September 1857 the guns lay in a very dangerous position under fire. In an attempt to stop the heavy guns from getting into enemy hands it was here that Pvt. Duffy's heroic and brave acts earned him a Victoria Cross. Duffy managed to skilfully fasten a rope on one of the guns so as it could be pulled out of enemy fire to stop the giant gun from getting into enemy hands.

The book of the Victoria Cross compiled by Major Rupert records Pvt. Duffy's Victoria Cross as being awarded

For his cool intrepidity and daring skill, whereby a 24-pounder gun was saved from falling into the hands of the enemy. London Gazette, 18th June, 1858

Though 25 Duffy family members are recorded in the 1901 census as living in Mount Temple and 30 in 1911 few Duffys live in Mount Temple, Moate today and Thomas Duffy's story is becoming forgotten about.

Thomas died in Dublin on the 24th of December 1868, aged 63 and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

Christopher Mc Cormack, Moate Museum and Historical Society, Co. Westmeath