

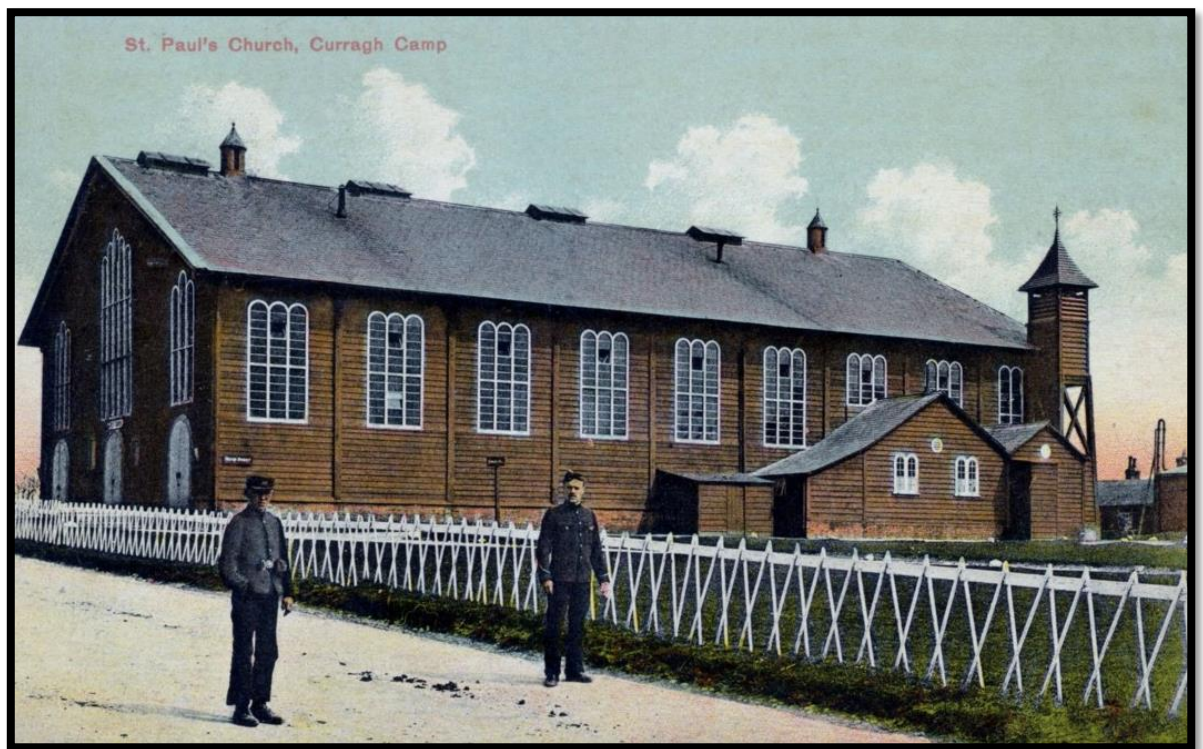
Freemans Journal

Wednesday, August 1st, 1855

THE CAMP AT THE CURRAGH

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

The vast series of structures constituting this camp are now nearly completed in all their details, its outlines and divisions have become more defined, and in the ensemble, it has begun to assume the character and aspect of a great military station. The arrangements for the supply of pure water to the camp are all but finished. The officers' quarters, with their out-offices, are ready for the reception of their occupants, and the buildings generally are prepared for the accommodation of the troops which are daily expected. The troops in camp at present consist of the 60th rifles, numbering over 600 men, with their officers; the County Dublin Militia, 450 strong; the North Cork Militia, 350 rank and file, besides officers and non-commissioned officers, together with several squads of recruits. The Longford Militia, and the Westmeath Militia, are hourly expected to arrive in the camp. Last Sunday a novel and interesting scene was presented in the centre of the encampment. The hour of church parade for the troops was sounded at half-past ten o'clock. The Protestant soldiers, amounting to about 400, were assembled in the square belonging to mess E, and the Catholic troops, numbering at least 700, were paraded in front of the officer's mess C. The Catholic troops encamped on the Curragh owe this blessing to the charity and zeal of the Rev. Patrick Carey, C.C., Newbridge, who, notwithstanding the pressure of his heavy parochial duties, determined not to leave such a vast number of Catholic soldiers to endure the obloquy and the injury of being deprived of the ministry of their religion on the Sabbath day. It should be observed that the spiritual requirements of the comparatively few Protestant soldiers were supplied on the occasion by the Rev. Mr. McGee, a Protestant minister, who has been regularly appointed at the Horse Guards, London, and has been accorded officers quarters' in the camp. Their respective congregations speak in terms of high eulogy of the merits of the clergymen. After celebrating the Holy Sacrifice in view of the kneeling co-hosts, the Rev. Mr. Carey proceeded to deliver for their instruction a discourse replete with gospel truth and sound maxims of Christian morality. The rev. preacher's allusions to the sacred traditions attached to the ground on which they stood, and especially to the venerable ruins of " Kildare's holy shrine" which were seen from the spot, were peculiarly happy and produced, the most marked and edifying effect. " The true Christian kindness evinced by the Rev. Mr. Carey has rendered the name of that rev. gentleman a theme of praise and gratitude amongst the masses of Catholic soldiers now encamped on the Curragh.



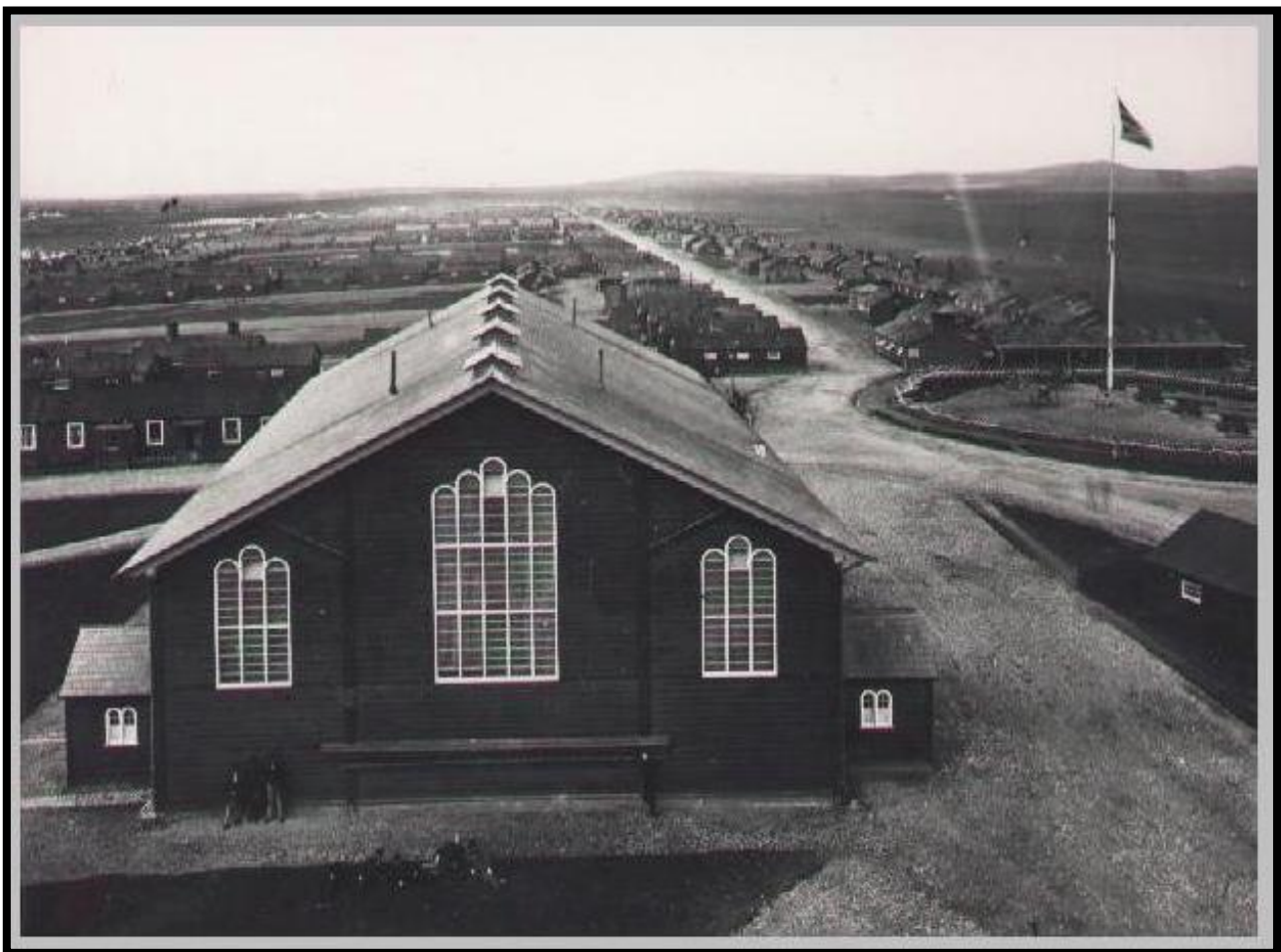
FIRE AT ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL, CURRAGH CAMP.

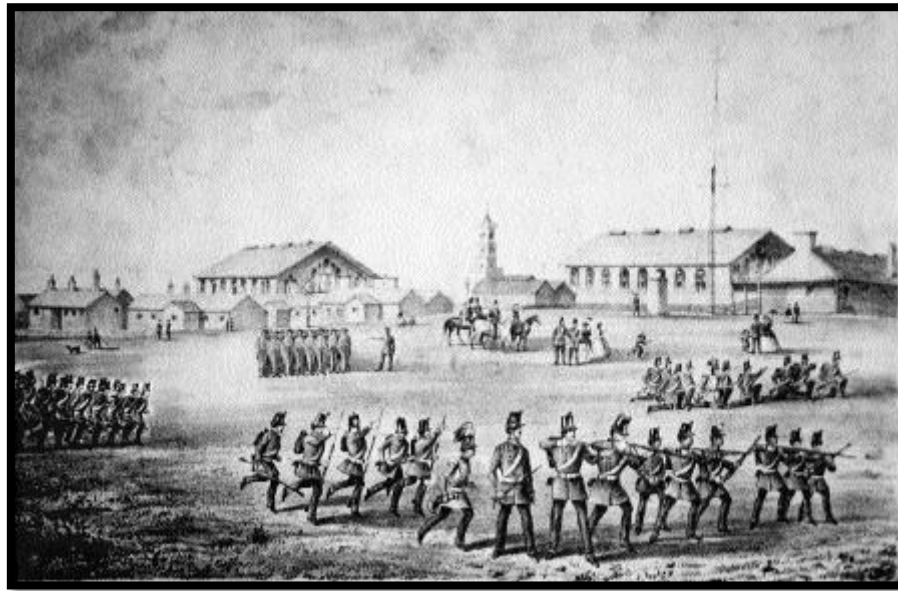
A fire was discovered at the Curragh Camp Roman Catholic Chapel yesterday soon after 6 O'clock, and the military fire Brigade was quickly on the scene and working with a will. The flames were got under in the course of half an hour, not, however, before the roof had been almost completely burned away and the altar destroyed. The Mass usually held at 11.30 was celebrated in the open air, a tent being erected for the purpose of protecting the altar. The fire is said to have originated through a defective stove.

Irish Times Monday, 12th November, 1906
Transcribed by Matt McNamara - December 2017



EAST CHURCH, CURRAGH CAMP.





When planning the layout of the first permanent camp at the Curragh, Lieutenant Colonel H.W. Lugard, Royal Engineers, made provision for two identical churches either side of the Curragh clock tower. One to cater for the Catholic and one for the Protestant soldiers stationed at the camp.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Williamson Lugard

(10 July 1813 – 30 November 1857)

Lt Col. Lugard was a military engineer of the Corps of Royal Engineers. He served as architect and engineer in the construction of military, convict and public works in the Colony of New South Wales and Norfolk Island (1835–1840 & 1842–1844), military works in New Zealand (1840–1842) and Ireland (1844–1857), and as Commanding Royal Engineer for the China Expedition of 1857, based in Hong Kong.

Whilst preparing for the operations upon Canton, Henry Williamson Lugard died on 30 November 1857, age 44 years.