

Town Time

Medieval Carrick had defensive walls, gates and mural towers to protect its citizens. Little survives except for a 100m section of town wall at the northeast corner of its original circuit. The 16th century tower house at West Gate was part of the original defences. A wine merchant named Gallwey who lived in Ormond Castle paid for the town clock to be installed in the tower in 1784.

Philandering Tom

The three wives of Black Tom, the 10th Earl who lived in Ormond Castle, bore him three legitimate children. Black Tom reputedly fathered another twelve children or more. Rumour had it that Elizabeth I was the mother of Piers, his eldest and favourite illegitimate son.

Another illegitimate son, Thomas Butler, one time High Sheriff of Tipperary, is buried in the graveyard of what is now the Heritage Centre, off Main Street. Dorothea Herbert, the 18th/19th century diarist and poet is also buried there. The Heritage Centre also displays a collection of 17th century church silver associated with the Butler family.

Sporting Pride

Sean Kelly Square is named after a farmer's son from outside Carrick who became one of the finest cyclists in the world. In 1970 Sean won his first race in Carrick; by the time he retired in 1994 he had won nearly 200 professional races. The naming of the Square under the Town Clock commemorates his success in the 1982 Tour de France, and in the World Championships where he won a bronze. He is sometimes described as the world's greatest cyclist never to have won the Tour de France.

Another leading figure in sporting history was the Carrick-born international athlete Maurice Davin (1843-1927), co-founder and first President of the Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.). Many major games, including the 1904 All-Ireland hurling final, were played on his farm at Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir.

Aran Jerseys

The legendary Clancy Brothers folk group - Paddy, Tom and Liam Clancy, along with their brother Bobby - came from William Street in Carrick. Their mother bought them Aran sweaters in a Main Street draper's to keep them warm during the freezing New York winter of 1961. Locally knitted Aran sweaters became the boys' trademark. Each June, Carrick celebrates its local heroes at the Clancy Brothers Music and Arts Festival.

Carrick had a theatre in the 18th century. It now boasts two thriving theatres and has a longstanding and nationally recognised tradition of music and drama.



The Town Clock. Image courtesy of Tipperary County Museum.



The Clancy Brothers. Image courtesy of The Heritage Centre, Carrick-On-Suir.



Dorothea Herbert. Image courtesy of Dr. Frances Finnegan.

Look for the fish on the top of the tower's weathervane which tells you which way the wind is blowing.

Butler