



20th August, 2007

Re: Lacken Drowning Disaster - 80th Anniversary

On behalf of our committee, I cordially invite you to our Anniversary Remembrance Ceremonies on Sunday 28th October 2007.

The commemoration begins with Mass at 12 noon in Lacken Parish Church. The chief celebrant is Bishop of Killala, John Fleming. Following Mass we will have a remembrance ceremony at Lacken Pier, from which the fishermen set out. The Coastguard and the RNLI will be in attendance. Following the ceremonies, refreshments will be served in nearby Creevagh Old School (now a community centre).

An Taoiseach will be represented at the commemoration by his ADC. In addition to the families of the drowned, we are expecting a number of guests from the Religious, Political and Private Sector.

We do hope that you will be able to join us in Lacken and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Carol Whelan (Mrs)
Secretary

**Creevagh Heights, Carrowmore-Lacken, Ballina,
Co Mayo (096) 34933**

Bishop T. Finnegan (Chair) - Breege Lynott
(Deputy Chair)
- Carol Whelan (Secretary) - Teresa Kelly
(Treasurer)



On the afternoon of Friday 28th October 1927, between 5.00 and 5.30p.m., nine boats set out from Lacken pier to fish for herring in Lacken Bay. The boats were about 25' long. As the herring fishing was exceptionally good the week before, no boat was any further than 1000 yards from the shore when a sudden storm blew up from the southwest.

The sky got very dark. Crewmembers were just about able to see each other but they couldn't hear each other shouting from the roar of the gale. They just rowed in the direction that they thought the pier was in as the spray from the sea stung their eyes.

Two boats made it to the pier. Five boats were washed in on Lacken strand and their crews made it ashore. The two remaining boats were blown towards the cliffs on the east side of the bay. Seven crew members from one boat scrambled ashore but the eighth, Anthony Kearney, aged 27, was lost.

The 'Rose of Rathlacken' was also smashed against the rocks and the eight crewmembers were lost. They were: Thomas Lynott (52), Thomas Goldrick (46), Michael Goldrick (22), Pat Goldrick (19), Anthony Goldrick (19), Pat Kearney (50), Anthony Coolican (21), and Martin Kearney (30).

By 9.00pm the sea was once again calm.

On Saturday, 29th October, 1927 the body of Anthony Kearney was recovered. On Sunday a coat identified as that worn by Thomas Lynott, a muffler recognized as Pat Kearney's and two fishermen's aprons came ashore. Later that evening nets were washed on to the strand. All they contained was some herring heads and dogfish.

None of the remaining bodies were ever recovered.

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