

By Edwin Handcock



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# FINGAL

## IPA House Dublin

### *The Welsh Police Connection*

The IPA made the inspired acquisition of number 13 Iona Drive, Glasnevin, Dublin 9 in c.1991, and in doing so continued the police connection with this location which dates back to 1867. The land, upon which it now stands, was owned by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Gore Lindsay who was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Constable of Glamorgan Constabulary in Wales from 1867 to 1891. Lindsey owned, farmed and subsequently developed all the surrounding land, including that which today bears the street names prefixed by Iona, Lindsay and Cliftonville. He was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1830 in nearby Glasnevin House at the top of the Washerwoman Hill overlooking the River Tolka and died there on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1914, aged 84.

In 1847, in keeping with family tradition, Lindsay joined the British Army, entering the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade in which he fought and served with distinction in the South Africa campaign 1852-1853, the Crimean War where he saw action at Alma, Balaclava and Sebastopol, and the Indian Mutiny in 1857 where he was mentioned in dispatches. He retired from the Army in 1859 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1867 he was appointed as Chief Constable of



IPA House

the Glamorgan Constabulary. His style of leadership was flamboyant to say the least, totally unlike that enjoyed by any Commissioner of An Garda Síochána. He resided on a country estate at Leckwith near Cardiff and lived the life of a gentleman farmer, establishing himself as one of the 'County Gentry'. His maids were drawn from police families, the footman, butler, coachman, farm workers, cowmen, ploughmen, thatcher, stone mason and carpenter, were all recruited from the Police Force. He cut a dash when he



Lt.Col. Henry Gore Lindsay

inspected a police station, travelling in a carriage complete with police footman and police groom as his driver. His uniform was adorned with sword and spurs. During his tenure of office, his Deputy Chief Constable and Superintendents all lived and travelled in style.

Lindsay was very generous to his officers, especially with gifts at Christmas. This benevolent attitude to the Police was quite common at this time amongst the County Gentry of Glamorgan, where for example, a Mr Blandy Jenkins the Squire of Llanharan, would send the Village Constable one or two tons of coal, a "Baron of Beef" and "suitable" liquid refreshments. However there is a wise old saying that there is no such thing as a free meal, the Police were considered to be subservient to the dictates of the Gentry, protecting their estates from the nocturnal activities of poachers, and it was not unknown for the local Constable to assist the farm workers at the "Big House" or at the Manor with the summer haymaking and harvest.



Glamorgan Police Officer c. 1891

Lindsay retired from the Police in 1890 and returned to Dublin to live on his estate at Glasnevin House, bringing with him a retinue of servants, footman, butler and handy men, all who actually retired from the Glamorgan Police Force to work for him. In addition to being a gentleman farmer, he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of County Dublin and a Justice of the Peace. He also became what today would be known as a major "Property Developer" in the Glasnevin Area, and this is where the IPA House connection comes in.

Lindsay engaged the services of two building contractors, Alexander Strain and Thomas Connolly to develop substantial residences on his property where "everything had to be of quality and built to stand the test of time". They began to lay down the roads, footpaths, gas and water mains of Iona Road, Park and Drive, also Cliftonville and Lindsay Roads in 1904. Any visitor to IPA House would have to agree that it is indeed a house of quality.

The approx., 3500 guests who stay in IPA House each year can enjoy the relaxed and pleasant atmosphere of this Edwardian oasis of red bricked houses in Glasnevin or Glas na'an in Gaelige meaning "stream of the infants". Alas, this was not always the case, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the rather



Glasnevin Village - 2008



Glamorgan Police Helmet Plate c. 1875

puritanical Protestant Archbishop King of Dublin described the area in scathing terms, " When any couple had a mind to be wicked they would retire to Glasnevin, it was the receptacle for thieves and rogues and a harbour for dishonesty".

However in 1837 in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, Glasnevin was described as being pleasantly situated and the residence of many families of distinction, this glowing description could easily apply to IPA House and its many guests.

In conclusion, perhaps the National Executive Committee of Section Ireland might consider it appropriate to display a plaque or some other item of interest in IPA House to show our connection with Glamorgan Constabulary, which ceased to exist in 1968 when it was merged into "South Wales Police".