

AUSTRALIAN JOINT COPYING PROJECT

MICHAEL DWYER

Papers, 1838-1905

Reel M603

**National Library of Ireland
Kildare Street
Dublin 2 Ireland**

**National Library of Australia
State Library of New South Wales**

Filmed: 1966

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Michael Dwyer (1772?-1825) was born at Camera, County Wicklow, and worked as an ostler and farm hand. In 1897 he joined the Society of United Irishmen and when rebellion broke out in Wicklow in 1898 he was one of the militants. In 1803 he supported the attempted coup d'état of Robert Emmet. With his whole family facing transportation, Dwyer surrendered in December 1803, was gaoled, and in 1805 was transported to New South Wales as an unsentenced exile. He arrived in the colony in February 1806 and was granted 100 acres facing Cabramatta Creek. In 1807 he was arrested and tried for sedition and sent to Norfolk Island and later Van Diemen's Land. He returned to New South Wales in 1809 and subsequently became constable of the Georges River district. In 1820 he was briefly chief constable of Liverpool. In 1898 Dwyer's body was exhumed and, in the presence of tens of thousands of Irish-Australians, he was buried in Waverley Cemetery in Sydney.

Luke Cullen (1793-1859) was a seaman before joining the Third Order of Discalced Carmelites in 1838. He was a free school teacher at the monastery of Mount St Joseph at Clondalkin, near Dublin. Brother Cullen spent much of his later years travelling round the Wexford-Wicklow border area collecting the memoirs of survivors of the 1798 Rebellion. In particular, he befriended Anne Devlin (d. 1851), who had helped her cousin Michael Dwyer when he was hiding in the Wicklow Mountains and who worked closely with Robert Emmet in 1803. Cullen also corresponded with Richard Madden, the author of *The life and times of Robert Emmet Esq.* (1847). Cullen's extensive collection of manuscripts, now in the National Library of Ireland, were mostly written in school copybooks.

John Cyril Weale (1857-1942) was born in Bruges, Belgium, and moved to England in 1878. In 1882 he emigrated to Sydney on account of his health. He was editor and part-owner of the Catholic newspaper *The Express* (1883-88) and editor of the *Catholic Times* in Wellington (1888-89). He returned to England in 1892 and engaged in press work, historical research and the study of Christian art. His proposed study of Michael Dwyer was not published.

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National Library of Ireland MS 9760. Manuscripts of Luke Cullen

Manuscripts of Luke Cullen relating to Michael Dwyer and the Irish uprisings of 1798 and 1803. They comprise lengthy transcripts of oral recollections of John Dwyer (Michael's brother), Mrs Donohoe (Dwyer's sister), Anne Devlin, Michael Kearns and other individuals who knew Dwyer. Many of the testimonies deal in detail with the capture, murders or deaths of particular rebels. There are also extracts from *Memoirs of Joseph Holt, General of the Irish Rebels in 1798* (1838), Richard Madden, *The United Irishmen, their lives and times* (1843) and transcripts of articles in contemporary newspapers such as the *Freeman's Journal*, *Dublin Evening Post*, *Dublin Journal* and *Walker's Hibernian Magazine*.

The manuscripts are written in a book containing attendance rolls of the Clondalkin School, c. 1816-25.

National Library of Ireland MS 13334. Papers of J. Cyril Weale

Manuscripts, transcripts and newspaper cuttings collected by Weale in about 1900-5 for a proposed biography of Michael Dwyer. They include transcripts of the correspondence of Lord Cornwallis, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1798-1801, extracts from the despatches of the Governor of New South Wales (1806-9), copies of articles in the *Sydney Gazette* (1807-8), extracts from the proceedings of the court-martial of Major George Johnston (1811), and extracts from R. Montgomery Martin, *History of Austral-Asia* (1836). There are manuscripts of short pieces entitled 'Michael Dwyer: an anniversary' and 'An Irish desperado', and cuttings from Australian newspapers on the centenary of the 1798 rebellion.