

## O'REILLY, John Boyle

John Boyle O'Reilly was born on 28 June 1844 at Dowth Castle not far from Drogheda, Co. Louth. His parents were brilliant scholar William David O'Reilly and his mother, the talented Elizabeth Boyle. During his teen years he worked as a printer's apprentice with the Drogheda Argus. After the death of the paper's owner in 1859 J.B. O'Reilly worked in Preston, Lancashire where he read much and learned about the Irish struggle for independence.

He returned to Ireland in 1863 and the Tenth Hussars considering this to be the best way to further the cause? He became a contact for the Fenian movement within the regiment and at the same time spread seeds of discontent amongst the ranks. It was not until February 1866 that the British authorities, sure of their men, moved in to make arrests. It was on a charge of intended mutiny that O'Reilly was charged and tried on 27 June 1866. After an unsuccessful escape from Dartmoor his twenty years imprisonment was converted to transportation to Western Australia. He arrived per Hougoumont on 10 January 1868. The voyage was noted for the production of a weekly newspaper The Wild Goose. His imprisonment was cheered by the friendship of two Roman Catholic priests, Father Lynch in Fremantle and Father Patrick McCabe in Bunbury. This volume of poetry is believed to date from this period and contains a dedication to the Reverend Patrick McCabe, R.C.C. and is dated 3 April 1868. These biographical notes have been taken from W.G. Schofield's *Seek for a Hero* (1956).

MN	ACC	meterage / boxes	Date donated	CIU file	Notes
1221	3708A		August 1989		
SUMMARY OF CLASSES					
POETRY					

REQUEST THIS NUMBER	DATE RANGE	DESCRIPTION
		POETRY
ACC 3708A Original and Microfilm	3 April 1868	Dedication to the Reverend Patrick McCabe R.C.C. and fifteen poems. The volume is bound in vellum with a brass clasp and covered with writing in shorthand, as yet not translated. To be rewritten in light of translation of the stenography. SP 6.5.92

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