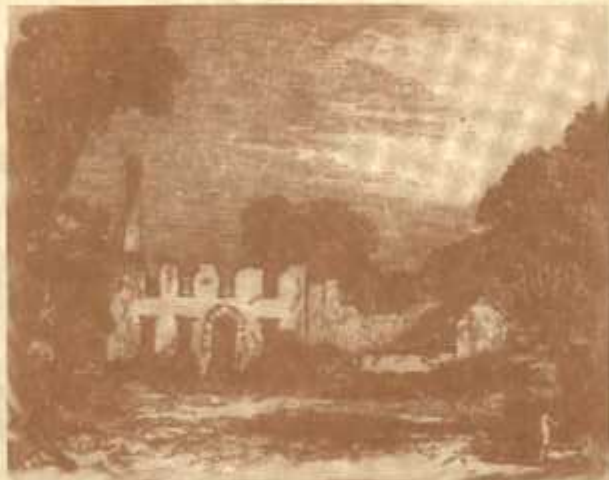




The Departure



The Water-Cress Gatherer



The Birthplace of Oliver Goldsmith, Pallas, circa 1880.

"The Deserted Village"

*All fares the land to hastening ills a prey,
where wealth accumulates and men decay.*

Oliver Goldsmith 1770



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PAGAN PAGE 1992



OLIVER GOLDSMITH

1728 - 1774

*Statue of the poet, playwright & novelist Oliver Goldsmith
at birthplace, Pallas, Abbeystride, Co. Longford.*

Oliver Goldsmith his Life ...

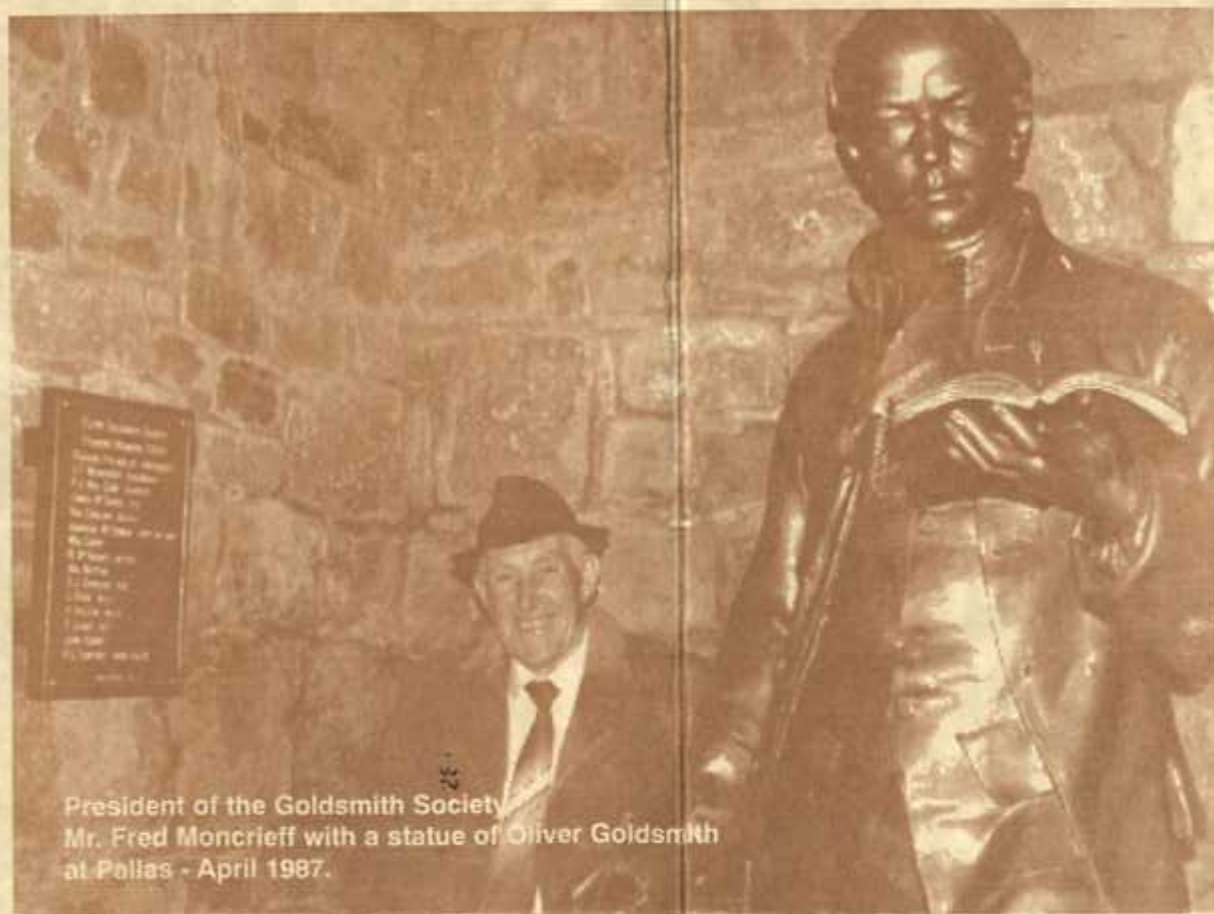
Oliver Goldsmith was born at Pallas, Co. Longford in 1728. He was the son of a clergy man and at the age of 14 went to study at Trinity College, Dublin as a sizar (or servant) working for others in return for tuition.

He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1749. He left Ireland in 1752 and found his way to the University of Edinburgh where he was supposed to study medicine. He had the misfortune to be fond of gambling and subsequently spent all his money and ended up studying at Leyden University in Holland.

Some Important Dates ...

1728	November 10th - Born at Pallas, Co. Longford	1751	Rejected for orders by the Bishop of Elphin	1756	Landed at Dover
1730	Family moved to Lissoy, Co. Westmeath	1752	Went to Edinburgh University to study medicine	1764	"The Traveller" published
1734	Attended village school under Thomas Byrne	1754	Arrived at Leyden, in Holland, to continue his studies of medicine	1766	"Vicar of Wakefield" published
1741	Sent to school at Edgeworthstown (Mr. Hughe's)	1755	Left Leyden and took Degree of Bachelor of Medicine at Louvain.	1768	"The Good Natured Man" published
1744	Entered Trinity College, Dublin, as a sizar		Travelled on foot in France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy	1770	"Deserted Village" published
1749	Took Bachelor of Arts Degree			1773	"She Stoops to Conquer"
				1774	Died April 4th and buried in the Temple

"Let not his frailties be remembered," said Dr. Johnson, "He was a very great man".



President of the Goldsmith Society
Mr. Fred Moncrieff with a statue of Oliver Goldsmith
at Pallas - April 1987.

He wandered around Italy, France and Switzerland and finally arrived back in London in 1756. Goldsmith then became a school master and began writing book reviews for magazines and in 1759 published a book of his own called *An Enquiry into the Present State of Polite Learning in Europe*.

In 1764 with the publication of his poem "The Traveller" his reputation was made. He became a popular member of London's intellectual society.

In 1765 he wrote the *Vicar of Wakefield* and in 1770 he published his greatest poem "The Deserted Village" a portrait of Auburn, once a thriving rural community now left empty, because of the effects of the Industrial Revolution.

Goldsmith regrets a world in which "Wealth accumulates and men decay". He made his name as a writer of comedy for the theatre when he wrote "She Stoops to Conquer" in 1773.

Goldsmith wrote a number of historical and biographical works, including a *History of the Earth and Animated Nature* - incidentally this is the book he was working on when he died in 1774.

After his death, his friends paid for a monument to be set up in his memory in Poets' Corner, at Westminster Abbey.

The epitaph, by Samuel Johnson was in Latin. Translated into English it said that "Oliver Goldsmith was one who left scarcely any kind of writing untouched, and touched nothing that he did not adorn.

The Oliver Goldsmith Summer School takes place annually in Abbeyshrule Ballymahon and the three Jolly Pigeons during June Bank Holiday weekend.