

# Beginning of the End

**1925** Following the death of Lord Ardilaun in 1915 and Lady Ardilaun in 1925, the estate was inherited by their nephew Bishop Plunkett.

**1939** Following the sale of the house to Dublin Corporation for £55,000, a fine art auction of the contents was held.

**1943** A fire broke out turning the building to ruin.

**1968** The house was demolished by a wrecking ball.

*Almost at once, flames shot out of the top windows of the east wing, in which the fire began.*

On Christmas Eve 1943, the mansion was engulfed and brought to ruin by a large fire. The house had been unoccupied for several decades and was in the ownership of Dublin Corporation. The blaze was discovered around midnight by the caretaker Mr. Hugh Savage who summoned the fire brigade. The fire raged through the east wing and by 4.30am much of the building was engulfed. A.R.P. equipment including gas masks, boots and highly flammable chemicals stored in the building throughout the Emergency were destroyed. Despite the great efforts of the local fire services, the fire burned for three days.

The ruined shell survived for 25 years before a wrecking ball was employed to finally demolish what remained of the house. Many locals still have fond childhood memories of the ruins.

The story of St Anne's survives through these people with a new generation of volunteer archaeologists helping to unearth and resurrect the story of a local palatial mansion.

