delegate to the Colonies

Abstract
Patrick O'Farrell wrote dismissively of John W Walshe in *The Irish in Australia*: that ‘his activities in Irish nationalist causes gradually fell sad victim to alcohol, and he returned [from Sydney] to Ireland to die in obscurity.’ Walshe has been largely forgotten in Ireland and Australia – should he be remembered for more than this negative assessment?

This paper will explore aspects of his life in Ireland and Australia, explaining his foundational involvement in the Land League, and the importance of his achievements as founding IPP delegate to Australia in 1881. It will establish his association with the Australian tours of the Redmond brothers, John Dillon, and his cousin, Michael Davitt. And it will unravel some complexities and connections in his private life, clarify details of the lives of his two sisters who emigrated to Sydney in 1884, and explain the circumstances of his 1903 return to Dublin.

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