



Zula's grave at Kilwarlin

Basil Patras Zula, Moravian Minister. A native of Greece departed this life Octr 1844 aged 48 years



The Siege of Missolonghi, 1825 to 1826

Between 1825 and 1826, Turkish forces besieged Missolonghi, Greece. The town held c12,000 Greek revolutionaries and civilians. On 22nd April 1826, a desperate attempt was made by Greek forces to break the Turkish lines and evacuate the starving civilians of the town. However, the Turks were forewarned and the sortie failed. Only 2,000 of the town's 12,000 inhabitants managed to escape, while the remaining 10,000 were either killed or imprisoned. Basil Zula though wounded, was one of them!

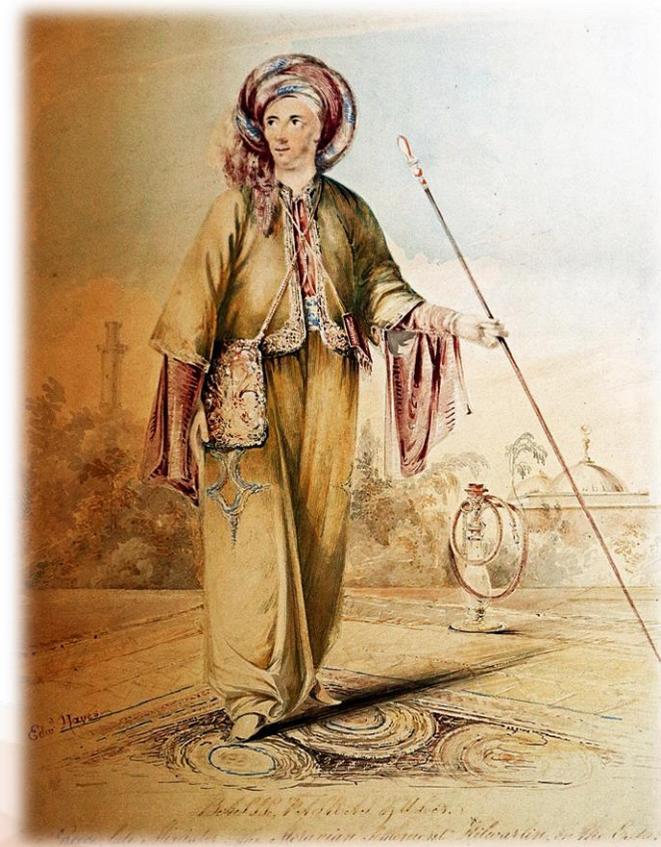
For more information on the Moravian Church see www.moravian.org.uk

The Story of Rev. Basil Patras Zula

The Greek Chieftain of Kilwarlin

ZULA'S ARRIVAL IN IRELAND

Zula's experience of war, and the horrors of Missolonghi, caused him to leave the revolutionary life behind. As the travelling companion of Sir William Eden, an English nobleman, Zula left Greece and eventually travelled to Dublin c.1828. While in Dublin, Zula visited the Bilton Hotel and, at a prayer meeting, met the Moravian schoolmistress Ann Linfoot who introduced Zula to the teachings of the Moravian Church. In August 1828, Zula entered the Gracehill Moravian Settlement, Co. Antrim and eventually joined the Dublin Moravian Congregation. In April 1829, he married Ann before eventually taking up his call at Kilwarlin in September 1834.



Portrait of Rev. B P Zula in traditional Greek dress, by Edward Hayes RHA, c.1833



Zula and the Moravian Church at Kilwarlin

A renowned figure in the Irish Moravian Church, Rev B P Zula is well remembered for his impressive revitalisation of Kilwarlin Moravian Church, 1834 to 1844.

On Zula's arrival at Kilwarlin, the struggling Moravian congregation (first established in 1755 by John Cennick) numbered only six elderly persons and the church was in 'a very ruinous state'. Zula rebuilt the church premises at his own expense, securing the approval and support of the 3rd Marquis of Downshire, Arthur Hill, who built a new day school adjoining the church grounds. The new Kilwarlin church was opened on 22nd March 1835 and in 1837 Zula was ordained as its new resident minister. A talented preacher and famed for his dedicated pastoral work, Zula enjoyed the respect and esteem of the local community and completed numerous improvement projects at Kilwarlin.



Parga, Epirus Greece. Zula's birthplace

These included the construction of the famous 'Zula's Hollow'; a unique, beautiful garden which includes a site plan of the famous battle of Thermopylae 480 BCE.

Zula rebuilt the school, church hall and the Manse with passageways and a room upstairs with hidden floors, rumoured to be an escape from any Ottoman assassins!

Zula's unprecedented success in rejuvenating Kilwarlin, increasing the congregation from just 6 to over 200 by his death in 1844, is well remembered. Through his dedicated works Zula laid the foundation of Kilwarlin Moravian Church, which continues to this day.

The Greek Chieftain

Zula is also remembered for his unusual background as a Greek chieftain and revolutionary. He began his life as a member of the prominent Zoulas clan of Parga, Epirus and fought against the Turkish Vizier, Ali Pasha, from an early age. Biographies claim that Zula, aged only 11, took on the role of chieftain and joined the fight for Parga's liberty, after his father's untimely death. Zula and his family were able to avoid the Turkish threat until 1819, when the British Empire ceded Parga to Ali Pasha, causing Zula and his family to flee their hometown forever.

Nevertheless, Zula and other members of the Zoulas clan would continue the fight for freedom, after the outbreak of the Greek War of Independence in 1821. Zula became a Greek revolutionary and was involved in several famous battles including the infamous 'Siege of Missolonghi' (1825 to 1826).



Zula's Historic Battlefield Garden, plan of the Battle of Thermopylae within the grounds of Kilwarlin Moravian church, built c. 1839 to 1841