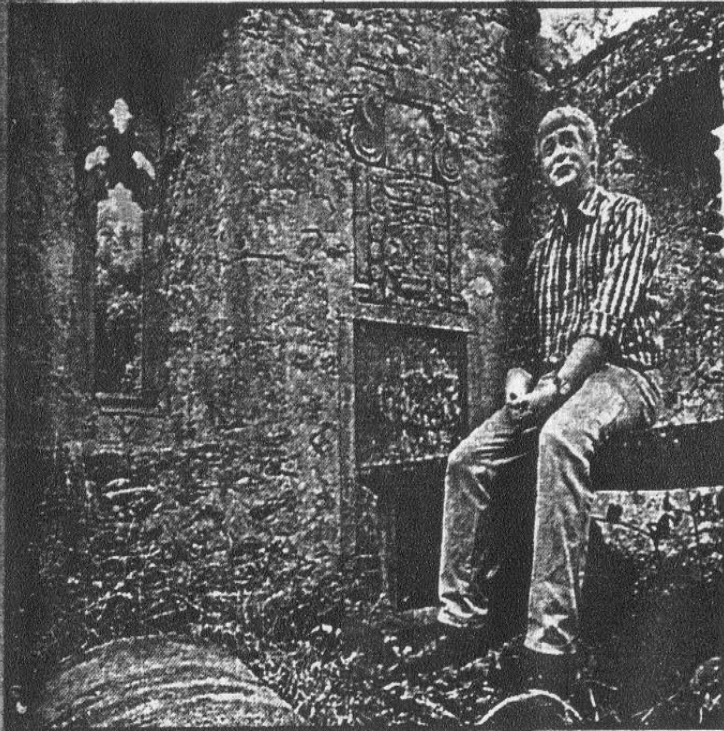


Cruise's crumbling pile



SAD: Willie Ryan amid the ruins of Kiltewan House

THIS is the crumbling stately pile Tom Cruise has left to, well, crumble...

The mega-rich star has all the luxuries money can buy, including a £3 million Hollywood mansion.

So he's unlikely to be too troubled about the fate of a once-magnificent ancestral family home.

Kiltewan House, Roscommon, has gone to rot since the last member of the Mapother family in Ireland died back in 1932.

Cruise – born Thomas Cruise Mapother IV – is descended from Richard Mapother, the first Sheriff

By JIM GALLAGHER

of Roscommon in 1588. He dropped his last name when his American-born parents divorced when he was 12.

Recently he popped over to see the ruins and family tomb while making the film *Far And Away*.

Local historian Willie Ryan, 69, who has just published the Kiltewan story, said: "The family built the village church and funded the local school.

"But the last three siblings, Thomas, Harriet and Mary, never married and after Mary died, aged

96, the mansion fell into disrepair."

Most of the walls, built in 1713, the sculptured gardens, tree-lined avenue and pheasantry have all disappeared.

Cruise, 35, whose films like *Jerry Maguire*, *Mission: Impossible* and *The Firm* made £1 billion, is now restoring the family's wealthy tradition.

But as a child he found life a struggle.

When his parents split in 1974, his mum Mary Lee was left to bring up their four children and scraped a living by doing three jobs.