

Wicklow County Genealogical Society



*Wicklow
Roots*

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EDITORIAL

In last years journal the point was made that as far as possible we attempted to limit the scale of articles in order not to deter readers who might not have particular interest in the subject concerned. There is always a balance to be achieved between the material available and what the casual reader is likely to absorb, the journal by it's nature is inclined to showcase the highlights of individual research, more substantial research should be confined to a specific publication, in the case of the WCGS we would be happy to consider the separate publication of family research which is presented to us.

With regard to this journal a number of data bases have been included, while some of these, such as the details of the Annual Papal Collection are reprinted from the original, others such as the "Home and Away" feature are a summary of entries extracted largely from newspapers, further information is available from the Editor on these entries and is available on request. It is our intention to produce support sheets for the benefit of our readers on all articles and features published in our journal including information that pressure of space has precluded from the main publication, for this reason it is always advisable to contact us if you have a special interest in any article or feature.

I suspect there is usually an element of embarrassment, perhaps even amusement in our reaction to the period of World War II in this country, tales of the Emergency are usually written in the lighter vein. James Scannell's review of Donal McCarrons book on the Emergency, "Step Together - Irelands Emergency army 1939-46, as told by it's Veterans", does not ignore the lighter aspect but there is also an understanding of the real uncertainty that existed at that time and the real sacrifices that were made. Stories of ill prepared and poorly armed volunteers setting off to repel reported invaders may be the stuff of anecdote now but to those involved and their families these were occasions of real tension and, dare I say it, real courage.

The first outbreak of "Foot and mouth" disease in this country in sixty years has now seemingly been successfully contained, credit must be extended to those involved, directly and indirectly, for this by no means insignificant achievement. In the distant past "Foot and Mouth" disease was endemic in this country. In 1869, at the insistence of the larger Dairy Interests in the country, the Government embarked on a slaughter policy to eliminate the disease. The long term benefits of the rigid application of this policy are now enjoyed by ourselves, but at a huge cost to many dairy farmers whose herds were destroyed with little or no compensation. In the spring of 1874 the Byrne family of Gormanstown, near Wicklow, were one of those families to suffer from this "scorched earth" policy, their story is told in this issue. We would be interested in hearing from any of our readers with greater knowledge of this disease and the efforts to control it in this country over the last century.

**EXCERPTS FROM RATHNEW CEMETERY
MEMORIALS.**

1 Elizabeth (Lyle) Mac Loughlin, Wolfe Tone Terrace, Nenagh, who died
26/9/1962. Her husband, John, who died 19/6/1982 aged 87 yrs.
2 Erected by her husband and family.

1 Joseph Kane, Inchicore Road, Dublin, wd 22/8/1959 aged 77 yrs. His wife,
Margaret Kane, wd 10/1/1968 aged 78 yrs.

1 Edward McGahan, wd 28/11/1958. His wife, Norah McGahan, wd 2/2/1963.

1 Eugene Joseph (Beud) McNamara, wd 27/12/1957. His son, Eugene
W.A.McNamara, wd 7/5/1958 aged 13 yrs. His wife Mary McNamara, wd
28/4/1973 aged 63 yrs. Their son Billy, Interred in England, 11/6/1989. His son
Leo, wd 4/3/1995, Interred in England. ebw, three sons, daughter, brothers &
sisters.

1 Patrick J.Fitzsimons, wd 13/3/1959 aged 55 yrs. His daughter, Flora Fitzsimons,
wd 4/8/1957 aged 14 yrs. His wife, Marion, 13/6/1991.

1 Mary Turner, Ballynahinch, Ashford, wd 1/1/0/1953. Her brother, Michael, wd
7/5/1978. eb Michael Turner.

1 James Alexander Byrne, 'Clogheen', Church Hill, Wicklow, wd 1/11/1956 and
Frances, wd 6/2/1979. ('Daddy & Mummy').

1 Mary McGrath, Barndarrig, wd 14/7/1954.

1 John J.Brennan, 66 Charlemont St, Dublin, late of Tinnahinch, Avoca, wd
18/1/1960 aged 78 yrs. His brother, Peter J., wd 19/1/1965 aged 80 yrs. James
Brennan, Dublin, late of Ardair, Wicklow, wd 6/9/1982 aged 64 yrs. His wife
Iris, wd 19/8/1991 aged 62 yrs.

1 Cecilia Cooney, Tymullen, Rathdrum, wd 21/9/1952 aged 75 yrs. Her daughter,
Mary Cooney, wd 7/10/1981 aged 61 yrs. Patrick Cooney, wd 1/4/1993 aged 85
yrs.

Martin Doyle, O'Growney Drive, Mullingar, Co.Westmeath, late of Kilcandra,
Glenealy, wd 12/7/1980 aged 67 yrs. His parents, Esther & Patrick Doyle,
Kilcandra, Glenealy. ebw&f.

1 Anna Mary Stone, Bellevue House, Wicklow, wd 4/2/1944 . her husband, Charles J.Stone, wd 6/1/1986. eb Capt. C.J.Stone.

1 Lucy McDaniel, Ballinacarrig, Brittas Bay, wd 9/1/1967. Rosanna McDaniel, wd, 14/7/1969. Alexander McDaniel, wd 12/10/1972.

1 Kathleen M.Liston, 'Roseville', Church St, Wicklow, wd 16/4/1961.

1 Thomas Marah, wd 29/6/1961 aged 29 yrs.

1 Margaret Malone, wd 28/12/1987 aged 88. Thomas Malone, wd 29/1/940 aged 36. ('Our Mammy and Daddy'..'To Daddy from Bosco').

1 Thomas Carton, wd 8/7/1961 aged 51 yrs, late of Dublin & Killoughter, Ashford. His wife, Catherine, wd 15/7/1983 aged 73 yrs.

1 William Earls, Dunbur, Wicklow, wd 14/7/1961 aged 85 yrs. His wife, Jane Earls, wd 14/6/1974 aged 92.

1 Margaret (May) Byrne, Ballinclare, wd 28/4/1980.

1 James Reilly, 'The Cabin', Murrough, Wicklow, wd 9/4/1985. eb Betty.

1 Joseph Lalor, High St, Wicklow, wd 16/11/1965 aged 69 yrs. His wife Bridget, wd, 14/7/1977.

1 Jackie Byrne, 6 Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow, wd 16/8/1965 aged 49 yrs. His wife, Mona, wd 10/11/1986. *ebw&f. plaque to JB from Sean & Linda.*

1 Peter Joseph Cullen, 'Crow Bank', Herbert Rd, Bray, wd 5/7/1965. *ebw&f.*

1 Mary Anne Reilly, Kilmantin Hill, Wicklow, wd 23/9/1990 aged 86.

1 Rita Brennan, Gormanstown, Wicklow, wd 16/7/1965 aged 49 yrs. Her husband, John J. Brennan, wd 10/5/1969 aged 65 yrs.

1 Richard Kavanagh, Harbour View, Wicklow, wd 24/1/1965. *ebw&f.*

**THE ELOPEMENT OF MISS MAUDE TIGHE, ROSSANAGH..
...SENSATIONAL STATEMENTS.**

**Subtitled..”the Story of Sweet Henry O’Neill” or
“Come out of the Garden County with me, Maude”.**

Report from ‘The Wicklow Newsletter’..Sat 8th February 1889.. A profound and painful sensation was caused throughout the County Wicklow this week by the announcement which appeared in one of our Dublin morning contemporaries to the effect that Miss Maude Tighe of Rossanagh had arrived at East Boston accompanied by a quoudam stable help, named Henry O’Neill, to whom (so the cablegram had it) she was married shortly after reaching the American shore. Notwithstanding the fact that rumour had previously set it’s many tongues wagging in the neighbourhood in connection with the painful episode, it was only when the cablegram of a New York correspondent of the ‘Irish Times’ on tuesday last contained the news that the full force of the pent up gossip broke forth into a torrent of improbable tales, loose conjectures and exaggerated ideas such as one might readily expect in connection with the supposed event.

To everyone acquainted with her father, Colonel James Stuart Tighe, D.L. and to those who knew the lady herself, either as her equals or the objects of her unvarying kindness and affability, the news came as a shock which was increased as the evening issues took up the theme and expounded the sensation under double lined headings in leaded type. The story, as the general public are in possession of it at present, does not possess a single romantic feature and is unredeemed from it’s physical character by a single moral or physical attraction of which the insignificant, from an artistic point of view, contemptible looking stable boy could boast. Tom Moore has written..

“When once the young heart of a maiden is stolen”,
“The maiden herself will steal after it soon”.

And while we are ready to acknowledge that wisdom, provided the young lady can get away, yet we’d not believe and we are sure our readers will agree when they read the particulars , that Miss Maude Tighe, under the impulse of a mad affection for the man, O’Neill, left her fathers roof to brave the vicissitudes of life in a foreign land with an ill favoured hireling , whose usual surroundings would be the stable, his favourite perfume the aroma of that place, we say this in no disparagement of the of the man, as the subordinate of the gentlemans groom, in fact the characteristics to which we refer would in due time secure his promotion in any well regulated stable, but simply to present to our readers the improbability of such a union of hearts and lives as would take place by any *mesalliance* of Miss Maude Tighe with such a person.

O'Neill was closing up to his thirtieth year of his age and was of a very slight build, standing about five foot six inches, under the standard. In fact he may accurately be described as a 'featherweight' and of very little use, physically, for anything but the work at which he was employed at Rossanagh. His features were worse than commonplace, they were, without being actually repulsive, the embodiment of ugliness and his manner and address were not up to the standard of a respectable stable help. He was employed in the same capacity for a number of years by Colonel Tighe. His parents were poor and in all enquiries we have not heard that he was especially kind to them in their declining years. Perhaps he was. His father was a decent old man of the humbler class, but was a cripple and died some years ago while his mother is a patient in Wicklow Hospital. O'Neill's brother is still in the employment of Colonel Tighe. A story is told of O'Neill, and we give it with some reserve, in which he comes out with some credit and were it not for the sequel suggested, might readily be believed. On one occasion, so the story goes, Miss Tighe was riding through or near her fathers demesne, attended by O'Neill, who for a time had been promoted to the grooms place, when suddenly the young lady's horse shied and she was thrown to the ground. O'Neill galloped to her assistance and arrived just in time to prevent Miss Tighe from being dragged along the ground by the horse and severely, if not fatally, injured. Gossip has it that after this incident an understanding was arrived at between Miss Tighe and O'Neill which ripened into an affection which developed into surreptitious meetings which culminated in a sensational elopement, like the house that Jack built. If the man really did assist Miss Tighe in the manner described we are sure she would reward him with coin from her purse and her gratitude to him as a faithful servant rather than with the full measure of her love and hopes of earthly happiness. As the lawyers would say, the sequel is 'bad and unfortunate on the face of it'..let us give a contrast.

Miss Tighe was well known in English and Irish fashionable circles, but particularly so in the area of Wicklow where her fathers name is honoured and respected wherever it is spoken. She was in her twenty third year and possessed of a stately figure but as graceful looking withal as the finest model that ever posed in the studio of an Italian maestro. She was good looking and owned all the natural allure, elegance and refinement which are par excellence. The attributes of good blood, high class mental training and the constant contact with all that was good and beautiful in social life. In society she was remarkable perhaps for a certain haughtiness of bearing towards her equals, but this wore off as acquaintance ripened into friendship, when indeed her warm and kindly nature was no longer concealed under the reserve of formality. To the poor for miles around Rossanagh, in the villages of Rathnew and Ashford she was always the same, an ever welcome visitor. Her kindnesses and quietly performed charity were proverbial and her presence in the home of sickness and want has many a time been felt as a sunbeam through the gloom. In everything she was a lady, dispensing her duty towards society and those

around her in a manner befitting her father's daughter and true to the traditions of the distinguished family to which she belonged. She was a fine equestrienne and very fond of horses, her favourite trap was a tasteful carriage drawn by a pair of handsome ponies and she has been frequently seen steering this vehicle from place to place, her attendant being O'Neill who invariably occupied the seat in the rumble.

She is the youngest daughter of Colonel J.S.Tighe, Sr, Rossanagh, Ashford, who is, as our readers know, a director of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company and a large landed proprietor in the counties of Wicklow and Tipperary. We are told, and indeed can fully believe it, that the Colonel was, if possible, more attached to her than any of his other children and that the young lady returned her fathers love is beyond all question. We believe, in the matter of making her choice of a life companion, she would echo the words of the poet.."Duty demands a parents voice to sanctify the daughter's choice".. and that, even if her heart had been captured by the most deserving amongst her suitors, she would have submitted to the call of duty and said with the Bard of Avon.."The voice of parents is the voice of God's, for to their children they are heaven..The winter freight of youth though storms and dangers which with full sails they bear upon and straighten the mortal line of life they bend so often".

Such then are the two persons most concerned in the rumours which have gained publicity through the press in the week now ending.

The first news came on Monday: New York..A beautiful and refined Irish girl has landed at East Boston from Liverpool accompanied by an unattractive man named Henry O'Neill who is several years her senior. they had eloped from Dublin. On landing they were met by two detectives and the Rev. William Tighe of Brooklyn, a relative of the lady, who endeavoured to persuade her to return home. The young lady would not be persuaded and she and her lover were married by Rev. Mr Jones of Trinity Baptist Church. The marriage was suddenly decided on when the young lady learned that her father, Mr James Tighe of Dublin was on board the steamer 'Etruria', due in New York today. O'Neill was the groom for Mr Tighe and Miss Tighe formed an affection for him when he used to drive her about and friendship ripened into love. The girl's parents objected and O'Neill was discharged only to be taken back however in obedience to the girl's request. It was then that they decided to elope.

Mrs Henry O'Neill, the pretty young Irish girl who eloped from Dublin is none other than the second cousin of the present Duke of Richmond. It is believed that her father is the son of the Right Hon. William Frederick Fownes Tighe who married Madeline, daughter of the Fourth Duke of Richmond and sister of the Fifth Duke. Mrs O'Neill passed today quietly at Ferrand House which is close by the Cunard Companies Berth at East Boston. Tomorrow she expects to leave with her husband for the west unless, as is not impossible, her father arrives from Liverpool, in which case it is said there will be some startling developments.

Report: Miss Tighe left Rossanagh on February 8th, O'Neill two days previously,

she having taken upwards of £3,000 worth of jewellery and plate with her, also £300 of her own money. her father's suspicions were aroused. A local Sergeant of Police and Colonel Tighe proceeded to Liverpool and from there to London, but failed to trace the lady, and Colonel Tighe left for America. It is expected that the lovers will be arrested for the robbery of the jewellery.

The imaging to which we particularly refer is the statement respecting the loss of the family jewellery as Miss Tighe, when leaving home, only took with her the property belonging to herself and only part of that together with whatever sum of money she thought she would need until she reached her destination, In fact the smallness of the amount (£30) taken by her seems to have caused her father very great anxiety as he feared it would not suffice to bring her to her brother.

On Tuesday 5th February, on having obtained a days leave of absence, O'Neill left Wicklow for Dublin, on the following day Miss Tighe left home stating that she was going on a visit to some friends in Dublin. Her father was then absent in the city attending to business. A few days afterwards her friends, dissatisfied at her not keeping her appointment to visit them wrote to Rossana raising the case, Col Tighe then suspected that something must be wrong and his suspicions received confirmation from the continued absence of O'Neill. Enquiries were immediately instituted with the result that information was forthcoming that the young lady and O'Neill were seen in Liverpool on the 9th inst. Miss Tighe is believed to have been bequeathed £1,100 by an Aunt and it is also stated that she has £500 in her own right.

We will show presently that the most important statement in the last quotation from the submitted reports are inaccurate but just now we will go back some circumstances which are matters of concern in local circles. O'Neill, it is stated, was at one time dismissed by Colonel Tighe, apparently for drunkenness, and was taken back at Miss Tighe's intervention and other members of her family in consideration of his aged and infirm parent and not as ill intended suggestion puts it as the result of a favoured disposition towards the stable hand on the part of Miss Tighe. The idle gossip that the almost simultaneous disappearances of O'Neill and Miss Tighe from Rossana gave rise was unfounded and everything that has been said is untrue.

We know that on the 6th Miss Tighe announced that she intended to go to Dublin to see some friends and left home taking the 2.45 Rathnew to Dublin train that evening. Servants say that in Miss Tighe's luggage one box was extremely heavy.

The friends which Miss Tighe had purported to visit having written as to her non arrival enquiries were set in foot by Colonel Tighe. He was accompanied by a very able officer and both men went to Dublin, Liverpool and London and returned by Southampton, dissatisfied men. The Colonel did not go to America.

We authorised our reporter to seek out the real facts and give them to the public. He says he went to the most reliable sources and that they supplied the circumstances which have been vouched for to him.

Apparently Miss Tighe was very attached to her brother Walter who sold out

what property he possessed in Ireland a few years ago and afterwards went to Buenos Aires where he is settled as a large ranch owner and agriculturalist. Miss Tighe had obviously conjured up an idea of happiness with him and formed a resolution to join him at the earliest possible opportunity without the knowledge of her family whose opposition she might fairly count on.

A search of her room disclosed a blotting pad on which there was an imprint of a letter stating Miss Tighe's intention to join her brother. Colonel Tighe went straight to Dublin discovered that O'Neill had taken a steerage ticket from Wells and Houlahan on 4th inst for New York. Miss Tighe was also traced in Dublin which she left for Holyhead on 6th, journeying from there to London via Euston and going on to Charing Cross Station. O'Neill's name never once turned up during all the enquiries made along that journey, but theres more to come, after resting in London, Miss Tighe went directly to Southampton and there purchased a ticket for Buenos Aires, whither she sailed, unaccompanied, the following day.

Detectives were on the track all the time and their observations coincide with our statements as to what really occurred. She had two boxes, one particularly heavy, but had no attendants. O'Neill, as further enquiries show, went on to Liverpool right enough, got into the steerage berth like a decent emigrant and went away far over the sea.

Editors note..

In last years journal in an article entitled "The Miller of Rossanagh" I wrote of the descendants of Bryan Meath of that place, amongst those descendants were his grandson Bryan who married Ann Nowlan and lived at Ballyduff, among their children, a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Bridget.

It may be purely coincidental but Bridget Meath with her husband Phelim or Felix (the anglicised version) O'Neill, Ballinalea, are shown in parish records as the parents of one Henry O'Neill, baptised at Ashford on 14th December 1866. Could this Henry O'Neill be the same young man so villified, yet so totally innocent of the "crimes" imputed to him by the "Wicklow Newsletter"? At first sight it seem's unlikely, since he would actually have been younger than the lady concerned and have come from a family noted for their good looks, but then little else in this report is true and these were merely extraneous details..

Reading the report of the elopement that wasn't, one is moved to reflect that the current tabloids still have much to learn, here a prominent family is lampooned, a humble one mocked, and it dosen't matter because the events outlined never really happened. My rather jaundiced view may, it must be admitted, be coloured by my dissapointment at missing out on that visit to the Carlton Club, and a few pleasant hours over a bottle of port with "Harry" Lennox (Charles Henry Gordon-Lennox, etc etc, but "they" never use their first names..The Duke of Richmond to lesser mortals..) mulling over the strange tastes of our common cousins.

THE FOGARTYS OF CARRIGMORE. A TIPPERARY FAMILY?

The Fogarty Clan has undoubtedly produced many great figures over the years who have added to our material advancement at home and to our spiritual mission abroad, it was one of those latter who gave grounds for concern to the great Diarist, Samuel Pepys, and was destined to immortality of a kind as a result..

March 28th 1664, "Home and there to find by my wife that Father Fogourdy hath been with her today and she is mightily for our going to hear a famous Roule preach at the French Ambassador's house, I pray god he do not tempt her in any matters of religion which troubles me".

Pepys, who was Secretary of the Navy at this time did not need reminding of the difficulties that could be posed to his advancement by any form of religious dissidence..

August 7th 1664, "I saw several poor creatures carried by, by constables, for being at a conventicle. They go like lambs, without any resistance, I would to God they would either conform or be more wise and not be caught".

Pepys could certainly not be accused of non conformism, his concern for correctness extended even to his domestic arrangements...

August 23^d 1664, "Talking with my wife and angry about her desiring to have a french maid, which I took to arise from her yesterdays being with her mother. But that went over and so she be well qualified, care not so whether she be french or no, so a protestant".

It appears unlikely that Mr Pepys, even in the interest of domestic contentment, ever presented himself at the French Ambassadors house, but it is not beyond the borders of possibility that Mrs Pepys acquired the services of a french maid, protestant of course, in fact her husband's admitted weakness for a pretty wench made it more than likely.

It was over a century later that my great great grandfather, Michael Fogarty wrote the first lines of that families history in County Wicklow. He was a mere boy when he presented himself at the farmhouse of the Russell family at Carrigmore looking for work, young Fogarty was not shy of work it would appear and soon he had established himself in the area, so much so that he could soon consider setting up a home of his own and the acquisition of a wife. In the former case he was offered a house by the local landlord, Mr Acton, and the means to furnish it (with four window frames, a dresser and a settle bed, according to

family legend) by his brother Laurence, a Cabinetmaker in Dublin. The latter requirement was met by availing of the services of a travelling matchmaker, his bride, Bridget Meath from far away in the Wicklow mountains may have had some local connection but in those days one did not base such important decisions on passing acquaintance much less affection.

Tradition has always held that young Fogarty was a native of County Tipperary, but the only evidence of a connection comes from his brother in Dublin (see “The Cabinetmakers Tale”, DLGS Journal, Summer 1995), and his connections in turn seem to go back to an earlier Dublin family, with some likelihood of a Carlow connection, nowhere is there even a hint of a Tipperary link.

Michael and Bridget Fogarty had at least seven children, Julia, Bridget, Marianne, Elizabeth, Michael, Laurence and Matthew. Michael is remembered as a brisk man who always wore a cut away jacket, he lived to see his family grown to adulthood, he passed away quietly one Christmas Eve, sitting in his chair in beside the fire. Bridget outlived her husband by sixteen years, she was an old lady, all of eighty years old when she passed on, but her grandson would remember his father’s tears on that occasion. Michael and Bridget lie in Killoughter, their headstone may still be seen there..

*In Loving memory of Michael Fogarty
Who died 24th December 1856
aged 65 years
Also his wife Bridget Fogarty
Who died 18th April 1873
aged 80 years
Also their daughter Maryanne Fogarty
Who died 3rd January 1847
aged 25 years*

Marianne, dying at only twenty five in the first days of “Black ‘47”, though probably of consumption, was the only child to the predecease her parents, she had three sisters.

Bridget married Michael Smullen in Wicklow town and had at least one child, Bridget, who never married.

Julia married William Smullen from Kylenamanagh nearby, and on his early death she married Michael Redmond, the local tailor, she had children by both. Records show the death of little Bridget Redmond at Carrigmore in the scarletina outbreak of 1864, she was just five years old.

Elizabeth married William Wisdom, his family had been well to do landowners from the Avoca area but apparently it became necessary for them to move for the benefit of her husbands health, the move took them only as far as the Traill Estate at Clonmannin, just outside Ashford, but it was obviously a success since both

Elizabeth and William lived into the new century, both passing away in extreme old age. The only known descendants of the Wisdom's are through their granddaughters Elizabeth and Anne (the children of their son Laurence and his wife Elizabeth Cullen) who married into the O'Toole family, also tenants at Clonmannin.

Laurence Fogarty married Ellen Bolton of Kilcandra, Glenealy. The couple moved to Dublin where Laurence joined the DMP, they lived at Parnell Place, Harolds Cross where they raised nine children. Their only known descendants in Ireland were the children of their son Laurence (who married Sarah McCormack) only one daughter of whom survived her father. Their son Matthew, married Mary Jane McCann, he worked as a bookbinder but may have later emigrated with his family.

Matthew Fogarty, the youngest of the family, lived all his life at Carrigmore (it is surprising how often this is the fate of the youngest child), like his father dying suddenly one Christmas at the family home.

There is said to have been another family member who emigrated to Arizona around famine times, this claim is supported by the visit of a fashionable American Lady, Annette Joyce to Carrigmore in 1892, she may have been the child of that sister or brother, long forgotten now. A long lost letter ,written by this Lady in Paris, provided an interesting insight into the greater world beyond the environs of Carrigmore. Mrs Joyce wrote of her concern at an outbreak of cholera in the French Capital. She writes that ,“We have a new President, to replace Mr Benjamin Harrison”, not a major concern one would feel, among her Irish cousins. Mrs Joyce also enclosed photographs of herself and Mr Joyce.

The letter from Mrs Joyce was by no means unique however, a few years later a cousin would write from South Africa enclosing a Krugerrand which would remain unspent, a family heirloom. A family address book would record the details of a cousin who lived in Quebec.

The families cousins the Bryans had long had links with the RIC, it may have been a member of this family, or perhaps a Dillon, who wrote in the early summer of 1895, the letter is still extant.

*Head Quarter Office
Belfast
26th July 1895*

Dear Hannah,

I hope you not be angry with me for not writing before this, but having nothing new to write about, I deferred doing so until the last moment to see if I could get leave to fulfill my promise in going to see you all next month, but I am very sorry to say that it is a matter of impossibility for me to do so just now in consequence of the unforeseen circumstances that has arisen since my last letter, what with the 12th July, the General election, and the visit of Field Marshal Wolseley &c having caused such an amount of work that I cannot be spared for an hour, much less a day, but I must be content for the present.

Well Hannah, how are all the people at Carrigmore going on?. I hope they are

all very well, busy like myself with the hay oats &c and I wish I was there to help you to bend the corn as heretofore, for I need not tell you that I have scarcely seen a field of corn since the last one I seen at Carrigmore.

I suppose you never intend straying away from the Cat Rock for a days holiday so that I might get a look at you. Is there any truth in the rumour that Jack Leonard has returned from America and if you have seen him, let me know what he is like.

Remember me to Uncles Mick and Matt, Mary Anne, Mick, Bill, Biddy and give them my best respects.

If there is anything favourable turning up before Regatta day I will let you know.

I remain, your Affec Cousin,

Mick.

The most famous letter received at Carrigmore was not addressed to the family, but to a young cousin who had come to stay. The content of the letter, an application for a loan which had, regretfully, to be refused, was not unique among the correspondence of young impoverished students, but the writer would later achieve more success with his pen when the firm of Shakespeare and Co of Paris agreed to publish his first novel, named "Ulysess" after the Greek Adventurer, in the spring of 1922.

Michael Fogarty married Hannah Bryan at Kilbride on 28th May 1863, they settled at Carrigmore and raised five children, Michael, the eldest, married Elizabeth Farrell from Ballygannon, he inherited an out farm which he later sold when he moved to Kiltimon, in old age he settled in Wicklow, he and Lizzie had no family.

Hannah Fogarty died of cancer in the autumn of 1884, it is said that the nuns from Rathdrum came to take care of her in her last illness, she left a young family, the eldest girl twenty years of age, the youngest boy just twelve. The eldest girl took over her mother's place in the family home, with her fathers death and the departure of her older brother she attempted to run the family farm by herself, but eventually she and her youngest sister sold out their portion of the farm to their younger brother and bought an old mill house at Brittas Bay where they intended to run a guest house. Mary Anne died during that first winter by the sea however and her sister Hannah was obliged to carry on alone, eventually she would be joined by her widowed sister Bridget, the latter had trained as a dressmaker, and belatedly married Joseph Keely in Wicklow by whom she had a son and daughter (see "A Master Builder of Wicklow", Wicklow Roots No.4).

The farm in Carrigmore was eventually inherited by the youngest son William, he returned home from Navan in County Meath where he had been working as a land steward, also late in life he married Elizabeth, the daughter of John and Elizabeth (nee Fortune) Waldron, a neighbouring farmer from Ballycapple. They had one son and two daughters, the elder two of whom still live at Carrigmore.

Sadly the Fogarty family name will disappear with the passing of the Fogarty's of Carrigmore, in fact the only other male descendants of the family, the Fogarty's of Parnell Place, Harolds Cross, would also seem to have disappeared, perhaps emigrated. In County Wicklow only a few families of the female line have survived, the Smullen family in Wicklow, descendants of Bridget Fogarty would seem to have disappeared, the Smullens and Redmonds in the Rathdrum and Glenealy area may be descended from Julia Fogarty who married twice, the Fishers from that line moved to County Meath, the name Wisdom too has disappeared, though intermarriage with another Clonmannin family, the O'Toole's, means that some of that family still living in the Wicklow area are descendants of Elizabeth Fogarty of Carrigmore. In the later generation the family of Bridget Keely (nee Fogarty) have returned to Dublin from whence the Keely's originally came.

Notes on the Fogarty family of Carrigmore.

- (1) *Michael Fogarty's name first appears as a witness at the baptism of John the son of John and Mary Reed in 1815.*
- (2) *It is traditional that the marriage of Michael and Bridget Meath took place in 1816, no record of it has been found, though the brides homeplace of Ballyduff would have been in Wicklow parish at that time (Ashford parish was created in 1864).*
- (3) *Elizabeth Fogarty was born in 1819, married William Wisdom, had three children, died at Clonmannin on 4th July 1906.*
- (4) *Mary Anne was baptised in 1821, died on 3rd January 1847, unmarried, she is buried at Killoughter.*
- (5) *Michael was born in 1829, he married Hannah Brien (see details in article on the Briens of Tyclash, WCGS 1998). He died at Carrigmore on 23rd August 1900, the cause of death, unusually was given as Aphasia, defined as a loss of speech, probably due to a stroke.*
- (6) *Laurence was born in 1830, married Ellen, the daughter of Joseph Bolton and Ellen Bowes at Kibride on 17th January 1859. They later lived at Parnell Place, Harolds Cross, in Dublin. Laurence was a constable in the D.M.P. He died on 13th April 1909.*
- (7) *Matthew was baptised in 1835, he lived at Carrigmore all his life, remained unmarried, he died suddenly at Carrigmore on 14th December 1901.*
- (8) *Judith (Julia) Fogarty married William Smullen at Kilbride in 1837, following his early death she married Michael Redmond. Her son Patrick married Margaret Brien of Tyclash, her daughter Mary married Joseph Clarke, Margaret married William Fisher. Julia also settled at Clonmannin where she died on 30th December 1898.*
- (9) *Bridget married Michael Smullen in Wicklow, they had only one recorded daughter, Bridget, who doesn't appear to have married.*

“STEP TOGETHER”
The Voices of Ireland’s ‘Emergency’ Army Veterans
..Reviewed by James Scannell

Study some of the publications on sale in the various book shops and one will notice that a good deal of them deal with the experiences of Irishmen who served in the British Army during the First World War (1914-18) and more recently those who served in the British Armed Forces during the Second World War (1939-45) and so it was with great delight that I came across ‘Step Together – Ireland’s Emergency Army 1939-46... as told by it’s Veterans’ by Donal MacCarron, published by the Irish Academic Press, as here for the first time we have accounts of Irish servicemen who remained at home during World War 2 and served in the Irish Defence Forces, answering the 1940 ‘Call to Arms’ which saw the numbers in the Irish Defence Forces rise dramatically as the nation got ready to defend itself from invasion from what ever quarter it came as in the early days the Government was unsure who posed the greatest threat – the British Army in Northern Ireland or the Germans in occupied France.

MacCarron has collected the recollections of ex-servicemen from all over the world and adheres to the old military maxim, “No names – no pack drill”, so as genealogists we are denied the names of these veterans but through the pages of this book the reader gets to feel what it was like to serve in the Irish defence Forces during this decisive period of our history.

One can sympathise with the recruits who nailed down their billet window to give them an extra few minutes to get out of bed when the sergeant came to call them and only laugh at how he got his own back on these enterprising individuals or the potential officer, a university professor, who asked for extra early morning physical training for his class to work off the years of sedentary employment and which was accepted by the other class members or the private, on being promoted to the rank of Corporal, was rejected by his former friends or the despatch riders on motorcycles, who, on rough border roads, often lost rifle rounds from their bandoliers and had to account for these losses afterwards.

One can admire the ingenuity of the Air Corps who evolved a clever subterfuge to disguise the fact that a pilot had damaged his aircraft while engaged in low level flying contrary to regulations and which fooled the examining officers sent out to inspect the damaged aircraft or how at various times items were procured outside of official channels or how the heavy and lifeless hand of bureaucracy was overcome or circumvented.

Even those who served in the Local Defence Force are covered and include one group who recall being armed with 1798 vintage muskets, such was the general scarcity of arms at one stage.

All the branches of the Irish Defence Forces are featured and what emerges is a

remarkable book which recalls what it was like to be a member of those forces during that crucial period of Irish history. Understandably, having read this book and having found out what the servicemen got up to a lot of times, it is not surprising that most of the contributors opted to remain anonymous though certainly some ex-service readers will be able to identify some of the individuals mentioned in the text or incidents referred to.

Given that all those interviewed are now in their mid seventies, this is a remarkable collection of personal memoirs by ex-servicemen, most of whom were discharged from the Irish Defence Forces in 1946 when the 'Emergency' ended. In 1996 there was a last get together of these ex-servicemen in Cathal Brugha Barracks in Dublin when the Department of Defence held a special ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the 'Emergency'.

As the refrain goes "Old soldiers never die, they simply fade away", regrettably these old soldiers have been passing away but their memories have been collected in time and preserved in this remarkable book for posterity. It's an excellent book and for a nation which does not cherish it's ex-service personnel, despite the best efforts of the O.N.E., this book is a lasting and permanent testament to these remarkable individuals.

'Step Together – Irelands Emergency Army 1939-46, as told by it's Veterans,' by Donal MacCarron, published by The Irish Academic Press. ISBN 0-7165-2619-0.

Wicklow Cuttings..

Wicklow Petty Sessions.

Eliza Free, an elderly woman, charged Mary Doyle (26) with assaulting her at Rathnew on the 11 inst. Mr Mulhall was for the complainant. The complainant stated that the defendant attacked her while on the road with a donkey and cart and having abused her, calling her husband "an oul orangeman", caught hold of her hair and beat her. Complainant was over seventy years of age and never appeared in a court before.

The defendant said the reason she committed the assault was because Free assaulted her. Complainant always had a 'pick' against her family with regard to a dunghill, Free struck her with a stick across the face... "I was left with two black eyes by the lick of a stick".

Defendant was fined 7/6 and costs.

...The Wicklow Newsletter, 1st June 1889.

ARKLOW SEAMEN IN WORLD WAR I

Philip Lecane.

Several British merchant Ships were docked in Germany when Britain declared war on 4th August 1914. The Germans seized the ships and interned their crews. A number of Arklow men were among those interned: Captain Edward Hall of the schooner “James Postletwaite”, Captain George Tyndall (59) of the Palgrave Murphy owned steamer “City of Belfast”, James Carroll, William Doyle of Meadow’s Lane, John Graham, John Heaney, John Kearney of Mahon’s Lane, John Leary, Patrick Murray of Meadow’s Lane and Peter Stafford. Graham, Heaney and Kearney were on board a Wilson Line steamer, registered in Hull.

The men were interned on an old hulk in Hamburg harbour. In November 1914 they were transferred to a camp at Ruhleben racecourse, in the Berlin suburb of Spandau. Civilian internees were sent from all over Germany to the Ruhleben camp. The largest group of internees were 1,400 seaman, being 34% of the total.

Representations by the International red Cross led to the release of 55 sick prisoners before Christmas 1915. They were sent home via neutral Holland. Among those released were Arklow men and shipmates, John Graham and John Heaney.

On 7th May 1915 one thousand, one hundred and ninety eight people were lost when the “Lusitania” was sunk by U-20, fifteen miles south of the Old Head of Kinsale. The Arklow steamer, “Dan O’Connell”, captained by James Hagan, was in Kinsale harbour at the time. She put to sea and came upon the first lifeboat, which contained about forty people. Captain Hagan put a crew on board and continued to the wreck of the “Lusitania”. The “Dan O’Connell” landed about sixty bodies and towed in a lifeboat containing about thirty bodies. Arklow man, Captain Edward White, on the “Elizabeth” also took part in the rescue.

On 31st March 1916, the 1,080-ton steamer “Alacrity” left Le Harve, France, for Seaham Harbour, Co.Durham. The ship, owned by Harris Brothers & Co. of Swansea, was captained by Joseph Dickenson (43), from Arklow. In the North sea off Lowestoft she struck a mine which had been laid by UC-5. The ship was lost with fourteen crewmen including Captain Dickenson. He was the first Arklow merchant seaman to die in the war.

U-46 torpedoed and sunk the “Astoria” (4,262 tons) in the Arctic Ocean on 9th October 1916. The ship, owned by Evans (Palin) & Co.Ltd of Cardiff and leased by Beaver Shipping Co.Ltd, was on a voyage from Philadelphia to Archangel. Among the seventeen men lost were two Arklow men, Michael O’Brien, 7 Fair Green, and Charles Tyrrell, 11 Hall’s Lane. Tyrrell (27) was the son of Mary and the late Charles. A fortnight later the “Twig” was sailing from Guernsey in the

Channel Islands to Portsmouth. The ship was stopped by a German submarine. The crew were taken off and the ship was sunk. The crew, including Arklow man Captain Thomas Tyrrell, were placed in captivity.

The “Laurentic” (14,892 tons) was built by Harland and Wolff, Belfast, in 1908 for the Oceanic Steam Navigation Co.Ltd, London. It was leased to the White Star Line, the owners of the “Titanic”. The ship was one of one hundred and fifty vessels fitted with mountings for guns to enable them to be armed in wartime. The “Laurentic” was commandeered by the Royal Navy upon the outbreak of war. At 5 p.m. on 23rd January 1917 it left Buncrana, a mine, laid by U-80, exploded on the ship’s port side. A second mine then exploded on the same side near the engine room. The ship took forty five minutes to sink. One hundred and thirty officers and men were saved, three hundred and fifty died from exposure. There were six men from Arklow on board. Only John Kavanagh, Ferrybank, and William Wolohan, Back Street, survived. Brothers Daniel (or David) (26) and John Heaney were the sons of Michael and Rosanna, 36 Proby’s Row, Arklow. John’s body was recovered and buried in Upper Fahan Church of Ireland Churchyard, Co.Donegal. The other two who died were John Hagan (Wexford Road) and John Kenny. The latter were the sons of James, 32 Fair Green, Arklow (Frank Forde gives his address as Back Street). He was buried in Arklow Cemetery. Many of those who died were buried in Fahan Church of Ireland Churchyard. The “Laurentic’s” bell was presented to the Church of Ireland at Portsalon. Eventually, 3,186 of the 3,211 gold bars on board were recovered.

On 26th February 1917 the “Algiers” (2,361 tons), owned by Oliver & Co.Ltd, London, and leased by the Franco-British Steamship Co.Ltd., was sunk in the English Channel by UC-65, while sailing from Calais to Barry Roads. Patrick Kenny (37) was among eight crewmen lost. He was the son Sarah and the late Thomas, 15 Tinahack (or Tinahask), Arklow. Charles (or William) Doyle (17) died when the schooner “Brandon” was sunk on 24th March 1917. He was the son of Thomas and the late Jane (nee Hogan), 6 Ashwood Walk, Wexford Road, Arklow. The steamer “Lodes” (396 tons), registered in Middlesbrough, was sunk by a mine on 5th May 1917, east south-east of Ballycotton. Those lost included the First Mate, John Kearon (53), husband of Kate (nee Wolohan), 57 Lower Main Street, Arklow. Born in Arklow, he was the son of the late Michael and Kate. Also killed was Able Seaman Thomas Kavanagh (41), husband of Elizabeth, 10 Tyndall’s Lane, Arklow. Born in Arklow, he was the son of Patrick and Mary.

The “Belgian Prince” (4,765 tons), registered in Newcastle, was sailing from Liverpool to Newport News with a cargo of blue clay on 31st July 1917. Built in 1901 for Furness Withny & Co. Ltd., London, she was leased to the Prince Line Ltd. In the Atlantic, 175 miles northwest by west of Tory Island, she encountered a German submarine. Two sources give differing accounts of what happened next.

According to “British Merchant Ships sunk by U-boats in the 1914-1918 war” by A.J.Tennant, the German U-boat was U-55. It sank the “Belgian Prince” with a loss of 39 lives. The ship’s captain was taken prisoner. “Maritime Arklow” by Frank Forde says that the German submarine was U-44. He says that the “Belgian Princes’s” crew were taken onto the deck of the U boat and their lifejackets removed. The submarine then dived, killing all the men on deck, including Seaman Charles Hempenstall (26). Born in Arklow, he was the son of John, Wexford Road, Arklow. U-44 was lost twenty days later.

In the summer of 1917 Nicholas Penston from Arklow was a gunner on the tramp steamer “Loch Lomond”. She came upon a surfaced U-boat. Penston hit the U-boat with four shells, forcing her to withdraw. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his action. At the start of the war he had landed with the Naval Brigade at Antwerp, Belgium.

One 22nd September 1917 the schooner “Jane Williamson” was sunk by a U-boat using gunfire. The submarine continued to fire as the crew took to the lifeboat. Captain Robert Valentine Kearon (40), was killed. He was the son of Robert and Anne, “Beulah”, Ferrybank, Arklow. Captain Kearon’s body was returned to Arklow for burial , accompanied by survivor John Proctor. He was buried in Kilbride Church of Ireland Churchyard. A party of Royal Munster Fusiliers fired a last salute. Also killed in the sinking of the “Jane Williamson” were Arklow men John Cassidy and John Deacon. Both were Ordinary Seaman and were buried in Penzance Cemetery, Cornwall.

The “W.M.Barkley (569 tons) was owned by Arthur Guinness and Sons Ltd., Dublin. On 12th October 1917 it was transporting a cargo of “the black stuff” from Dublin to Liverpool. Seven miles east of the Kish Light Vessel she was sunk by UC-75. Four of the crew were lost, including Captain Edward Gregory (46). He was the son of William and Letitia and was the husband of Catherine, 2 Meadow’s Lane, Arklow. Though not a merchant seaman, it is interesting to note that in late October 1917 the Admiralty announced the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to Lieutenant Fred Collins, Beresford Terrace, Arklow.

Frances Kearon, “Kylemore”, Arklow, was dealt what must have been an unbearable blow on 10th November 1917. Her husband Joseph (65) and sons Edward (19) and George (17) were lost when the “Lapwing” struck a mine laid buy UC-4 in the North Sea. Joseph was the captain, Edward was first mate and George was an ordinary seaman. None of their bodies were recovered. Also lost was George Tyrrell, Hall’s Lane, Arklow. The 1,192 ton “Lapwing” had been built in 1911 for the General Steam Navigation Co.Ltd, London. She was sailing from Rotterdam to London when she was sunk.

Four of those lost on the “Solway Queen” on 22nd April 1918 were from Arklow, they included Captain William J.Kearon and Second Mate Thomas Randolph Kearon (19), son of Margaret and the late Richard, “Salem,” Ferrybank. Also lost were Able Seaman Michael English (38) and Able Seaman Richard Nicholson. English was the son of Michael and Anne and husband of Catherine (nee Byrne), 26 Weadick Opening, Lower Main Street. Nicholson was the son Annie Price (formerly Nicholson) and the late Thomas Nicholson, and husband of Alice (nee Kearnes), 4 King’s Hill. Mary Weadock, 21 Brook Gardens, Arklow, lost her husband and son on 30th April 1918 when the ketch “Thetis” was sunk. Daniel (52) was the captain and his son Michael (17) was the mate.

On 17th August 1918 the “Denebola” (1,481 tons) was sunk by an unknown German submarine five and a half miles south west of St.Ives, Cornwall. She was sailing from Swansea to Rouen, with a cargo of coal. Anthony Murray (33) was one of those lost. He was the son of Mary Anne (nee Longbrill) and the late John, 13 Old Chapel Ground, Arklow. On 24th August 1918 the steamer “Auckland Castle” (1,084 tons) was sunk in the North Sea by the UC-59, while on a voyage from Tyne to Moss with a cargo of coal. Among the twelve crewman lost was Arklow born M.O’Donnell (51) (Frank Forde gives his christian name as John). He was married to Maria, 27 Bell Street, North Shields.

On 12th September 1918 the “Chad Chow Fu” was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. Three days later the ship was beached by Arklow man Captain Job John Hall, near Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded an O.B.E. and Lloyd’s Medal for Meritorious Services. U-46 sank the “Tasman” (5,028 tons) in the Atlantic on 16th September 1918. The ship was on a voyage from London to Calcutta. Among the fourteen crewmen lost was James Hagan, Halls’s Lane. He left a wife and two sons.

The greatest ever loss of life in the Irish Sea occurred on 10th October 1918 when the mail boat “R.M.S. Leinster” was sunk by UB-123 shortly after leaving Dun Laoghaire (then called Kingstown), Co.Dublin. The ship had two quartermasters, who took turns at the wheel. Both were lost. Arklow born Henry Tyrrell (57) was the son of Michael and Elizabeth. He was married to Bridget (nee Blanch), 2 Jane Villa, Tivoli Road, Kingstown.

At least four of the “Leinster’s” passengers spent their final days in Arklow. Maud Elizabeth Ward, secretary to Colonel Douglas Proby, stayed at Glenart Castle. Lady Phyllis Hamilton stayed at Shelton Abbey, with servants Martha Bridge and Ellenor Strachan. All four women were killed in the sinking.

On the day the “R.M.S. Leinster” was sunk Captain Edward Hall, Captain George Tyndall and a large group of men were taken from Ruhleben Camp near Berlin and released into neutral Holland. Tyndall was seriously ill and died ten days later.

The last Arklow merchant seaman to come under fire was James Heaney, who survived a torpedo attack on the “Sarpedon,” (Blue Funnel Line) off Palestine on 7th November 1918. The war ended four days later.

Notes:

- (1) Two sources were used for details on casualties, the records of the Commonwealth war Graves Commission and Frank Forde’s book on maritime Arklow. Where details differ, Forde’s details are put in brackets after those of the Commission.
- (2) Where a man is described as e.g. son of Sarah and the late Thomas, this means that his father was deceased at the time the Commission records were compiled in the early 1920’s.

Sources:

Forde, Frank, “*Maritime Arklow*” (Dun Laoghaire) 1988.

Tennant, A.J. “*British Merchant Ships sunk by U-boats in the 1914-1918 War*”. (Gwent) 1990.

Records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Personal research on the sinking of the “R.M.S. Leinster” on 10th October 1918.

Philip Lecane is currently preparing a publication on the sinking of the “R.M.S. Leinster”, he would welcome and will acknowledge any family reminiscences, etc, of that event. Contributions can be forwarded to him at the Wicklow Genealogical Society, 1 Summerhill, Wicklow.

Wicklow Cuttings...

At the residence of their parents, Frank Gall and Alice Dugan, in the Partido of Pergamino, on 4th October, Laurence aged 12 and Maggie aged 2 year, on the 8th, Simon aged 16, on the 10th, Mary Anne aged 21, on the 11th, Kate aged 4, on the 13th, Jane aged 10 years, all of diphtheria.

Deceased were all attended by Fr. O’Grady of San Nicholas and were fortified by all christian rites of the Holy Church, RIP.... ‘Southern Cross’Buenos Aires...25th October 1889.

.....The Wicklow People, 30th November 1889.

**THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII
IN THE DIOCESE OF DUBLIN.**

The Freeman's Journal , Tuesday 2nd August 1881.

Parish of Aughrim.....Total collection £17-0-0.

Rev. John O'Brien, P.P. £1.

Rev. James Manning, C.C. 10/-.

Mr Sylvester Burke, Ballyshane, Mr James Byrne, £1.

Mr John Nolan, Mr James Just, Mr Daniel Byrne, 10/=.

Mrs Kavanagh, Roshane, Mr John Butler, Mr Thomas Byrne, 7/6.

Mr William Ryan, Roshane, Mr Owen Fogarty, Mr John Burke, Mrs William Ryan, Greenane, Mr John Fogarty, Mr Edward Byrne, Mr James Doyle, Mr William Grant, Mr John Toole, Charles Byrne, Mr John Carty, Miss Toole, 5/=.
Luke Byrne, 4/=.

Mr John Kelly, Mr James Byrne, Mr John Nolan, 3/6.

Widow M.Byrne, Mr Andrew Burke, 3/=.

Mr Laurence Harney, Mr Charles Kavanagh, Senior, Mr Charles Kavanagh, Junior, Mr Andrew Ford, Mr Patrick O'Hara, Dr. D Harper, Widow Byrne, Mr Hugh Byrne, Mr Michael Byrne, Senior, Mr Michael Byrne, Junior, Mr Michael Byrne, Mr Thomas Butler, Mr John Byrne, Mr Thomas Magrath, Mr Andrew Burke, Mr Pierce Harney, Mr James Byrne, Mrs Farrell, Mr Maurice Merna, Mr Michael Martin, Mr Thomas Doyle, 2/6.

Parish of Rathdrum and Clara....Total collection £18-15-9.

Rathdrum..

Rev. P.Carberry, P.P. £1.

Rev. M.Ryan, C.C. 10/=.

Mr Comerford, Mr Byrne, £1.

Mr John Kennedy, Mr Peter Byrne, Mr John Cowley, 10/=.

Miss O'Neill, Mr Edward Short, Mr Laurence Byrne, Mr James Cullen, Mr Daniel Cullen, Mr James Byrne, Mrs Ford, Mr Patrick Byrne, Mr John Kavanagh, Miss Farrell, 5/=.

Mr Michael Kelly, 4/6.

Constable Pender, Mr Murray, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Bergin, Mr Edward Byrne, Mr Patrick Breen, Mr James Carroll, Mr John O'Hara, Mrs O'Brien, Mr James O'Neill, Mr John Farrell, Mr John Wright, Mr James Brady, Mr John Mulhern, Mrs White, Mr Lawrence McGrath, Mrs Thomas Byrne, Mr Dunphy, Mr James Farrell, Mr Michael Byrne, 2/6.

Clara..

Small Sums, £7.7.9.

Mr Mylie Byrne, Mr James Byrne, 7/6.

Mr Matthew Farrell, 4/=.

Mr Robert Johnson, Mr John Johnson, Mr Michael Doran, Mr Thomas Healy, Mr Thomas Cullen, Mr Patrick Cullen, Mr John Cullen, 2/6.

Parish of Glendalough.....Total collection £12-0-6.

Rev. P.O'Donnell, P.P. £1.

Rev. M.Evers, C.C. 10/=.

Rev. S.Anderson, C.C. 10/=.

Mr Maurice Byrne, 10/=.

Mr John Byrne, Mr Patrick Murphy, Mrs Doyle, Patrick Murphy, 5/=.

Mr James Murphy, Mr Laurence Cavanagh, 4/=.

Royal Irish Constabulary, 3/=.

Mr James Merna, Mr Lewis Byrne, Mrs Murphy, Mr Peter Byrne, Miss Parr, Mr John Kane, Mr William Murphy, Mr Thomas Keane, Mr John Byrne, Mr William G.Murphy, Mr Denis Byrne,

Mr M.Mahon, Mr Joseph Keegan, Mr Robert Douglas, Mr Patrick Keeley, Mr George Byrne, Mr W.Griffiths, Mrs Murphy, Miss Keenan, Mr Andrew Kenna, Mr James McGurk, Mr John Harding, 2/6.

Mr Andrew Murphy, 2/=.

Parish of Arklow...

Rev James Dunphy, P.P. £1.

Rev Joseph Deegan, C.C. 10/=.

Rev F.A. Donovan, C.C. 10/=.

Rev V.Barry, C.C. 10/=.

Rev C.P.Volance, C.C. 10/=.

Mr Hugh Donnelly, £1.

Mr Patrick Bolger, Mrs Lewis Hanagan, 10/=.

Mrs Troy, Mr James Hanagan, Mr John Boland, Mr James Hudson, 5/=.

Mr Michael Kelly, 5/=.

Mr Thomas Murray, Mr George Byrne, A.Friend, 3/=.

Mrs Kinsella, Hotel, Mr Patrick Kavanagh, Mr Bernard Kearney, Mr H.Byrne,

Mrs Redmond, Miss Boland, Mr William Kavanagh, Mr John Hanagan, Mr Patrick Kavanagh, Mr Thomas Kavanagh, Mr Richard Hudson, 2/6.

Parish of Arklow...Continued..

Mrs Judith Hudson, Mr Ward, Mrs Doyle, Church Lane, Mrs Fogarty, Mr Francis Hagan, Widow Woulahan, Mr Laurence Woolahan, Mr Terence Byrne, Mr Patrick Hughes, Mr L.Condren, Mr Edward Dempsey, Mr Daniel Somers, 2/6.
Mr O'Neill, Scarnagh, Miss Byrne, Mrs Kearney, Mr D.Condren, Mrs M.Condren, Mr Maher, Mrs Dunne, Mr John Doyle, Mrs Joseph Doyle, Mr Lewis Byrne, Mr John Tyrrell, Mr Arthur Byrne, Mr Michael Kavanagh, Mr Henry Birthistle, Mr John Birthistle, Mr John Darcy, Mr Andrew Sheehan, Mr Terence McAnamana, Mrs Beakey, Mr Peter O'Rafferty, Mr John Harte, 2/=.
Mrs McGuirk, 1/6.

Parish of Barndarrig and Kilbride.....Total collection £14-1-6.

Rev Michael Moloney, P.P. £1.

Rev William Duggan, C.C. 10/=.

Miss Larkin, Miss Martha Byrne, Mrs Costoloe, Mr Martin Doyle, Mr William Byrne, Mr Martin Doyle, Mrs Grant, Kilboy, Miss Costello, Mr Denis Finn, Mr William Ryder, Mr James Doyle,

Mr Alexander McDaniel, Mr Edward Byrne, Mr Sylvester Delahunt, Mr John McGrath, 5/=.

Mr John Fortune, 4/=.

Mrs Doyle, Crone, Mr David Goodman, Mr Laurence Arthur, Mr Joseph Brien, 3/=.

Mr John Brennan, Mr James Lenihan, Mr Robert Goodman, Mr Denis Brien, Mr Thomas McCawl, Mrs Byrne, Mr Richard Goodman, Mr Daniel Murphy, Miss Anne Doyle, Mr Robert Murphy, Mr George Blake, Mr Thomas Grant, Mr Robert McCoy, Mr John Graham, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Miss Darcy, 2/6.

Mr John Vickers, Mr Daniel Hayden, Mr Thomas Carr, Mr James Doyle, Mr Peter Bennett, Mr Andrew Hyland, Mr Colclough Byrne, Mr Simon Cullen, Mr Joseph Grannell, Mr John Castles, Mr Patrick Toole, Mr Owen Byrne, Mr Michael Brien, Mrs Thompson, Mr John Waldron, Mr William Kelly, Mr Laurence Cullen, Mr Con Brien, Mr Patrick Kearns, Mr James Meath, Miss Kate Keeffe, Mr John Delahunt, Mr John Smyth, 2/=.

Others, £3.15.6.

THE LOST CHILDREN OF GORMANSTOWN.

The Legend of a family unremembered.

Declan Byrne.

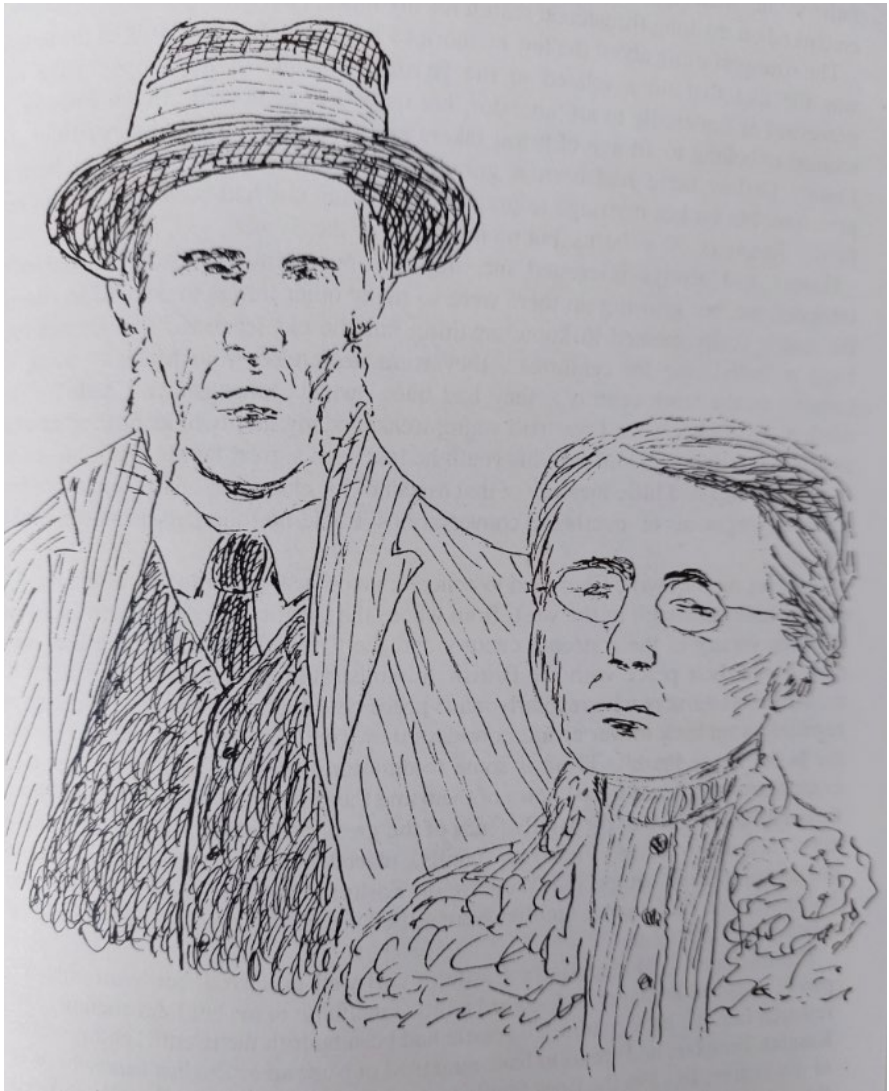
It is doubtful that anyone slept that night at Gormanstown, even the youngest children could not have avoided the knife edge of tension. There was no doubt, the family had been told, the market bound herd that had been accommodated overnight on the farm had been confirmed with the dreaded foot and mouth disease. Against all the evidence the family would cling to the thin hope that the air borne infection might have been carried away from their own herd grazing in the adjoining fields. The hope of deliverance was to be a vain one, in the night the wind changed and in the morning their mother told the children, "It is the end of Gormanstown".

It is a scene that must have been replayed with horrifying regularity in recent months, the only difference is that the Byrne family at Gormanstown, a townland just a few miles south of Wicklow town, could hope for no compensation for the destruction of their dairy herd, for in the spring of 1874 foot and mouth disease was still endemic in the country and the slaughter policy that was intended to eliminate it was less than five years old.

In the years that followed the family returned to the old "dower" house at Ballykeane, and a small attached holding of twenty four acres, even that was probably only made available to placate the local Land League with whom the family had once been active. Initially the children were probably too young to understand the loss that they had suffered, but time would bring adulthood and with it separation as the farm proved inadequate to provide for the future of its children, soon, all but one, they would be gone to find their own place in the world with little to tide them on their way. It was here, in the tiny cottage where he had been raised three quarters of a century before, that the childrens father was to spend the closing years of his life, undoubtedly reflecting on all that had been and all that might have been.

The strangest thing about the legend of the Byrnes of Gormanstown is that for so long it remained buried in the past. The loss of the family lands had never been explained to me, my father never mentioned that time, nor indeed that generation to me. I later learned that my great grandmother lived with the family up to the time of her death, but my father never spoke of her, nor indeed did he speak of his fathers youngest brother who lived with the family following the breakdown of his marriage, it was all a closed chapter.

My father had been the eldest son of Loughlin Byrne of Ballykeane and his wife Mary Anne Gahan, her family had lived in Rathdrum but had originated in County Carlow, my father had had eight siblings, four brother and four sisters, of these one brother and two sisters had died long before I was born, another sister would die in the days of my earliest memories, his two youngest brothers had



Loughlin and Mary Anne Byrne in old age.....G McCall.

emigrated in the twenties leaving only one brother and one sister who, due to my fathers late marriage, would soon also be only a memory by the time I finally embarked on my long threatened search for my roots.

The strangest thing about the few memories I had of my father talking of the family was the fact that none related to the Byrnes...an ancient headstone in the old graveyard at Ennereilly to an ancestor, her name I remembered.. Honor Rossiter..it seemed to belong to an age of priest takers and rapparees, fear and superstition..In County Carlow there had been a grandmother Watchorn, she had been born a protestant but on her marriage to grandfather Gahan she had been cut off from her family..Rossiters.. Watchorns..but no memories of the Byrnes..

History had always interested me, and my own familys history undoubtedly intrigued me, but growing up there were so many other things to do, and no one in the family really seemed to know anything but the old legends.."The Byrnes had lived at Ballykeane for centuries... they were descended from Malachy, King of Leinster in the tenth century... they had once owned Dunganstown Castle". The death of my father when I was still young weakened my family links further, as well as being a well known hurler in his youth he had been a great family historian.. or so I was told, for I had little memory of that aspect of his character, apart from those few scattered fragments of overheard conversations, I held no inherited memories of the past.

Articles on the Byrne Clan tend to concentrate on just two branches of the family, the Gabhail Ranalagh in the west, from whom the great clan leader Fiach McHugh O'Byrne sprang in the sixteenth century and the Criach Bratnach in the East who early made their peace with the British Administration and largely maintained it, unlike the westerners who regularly made peace with the administration and just as regularly went back to war again..nowadays they would have been certainties for the the Nobel Peace Prize!. There is some recognition that other branches of the clan existed but little seems to be known of them and they are rarely mentioned apart from their subsidiary roles in the family feuds of the greater branches of the family. I have never heard any claims from our family, placed precisely between the two, to descendance from either the Western or Eastern Clans. Branches of both the Ballinacor and Ballymanus families were settled nearby, but there was no close close relationship with them.

The reference to Dunganstown Castle (a still well preserved, but totally ignored part of our local heritage) had seemed a little fanciful to to me but I did attempt some research into it's background. The castle had been built in the twelfth century by the Knights Templars and seems to have remained in Norman or English hands for most of it's history. In 1596 the Hoey family took up residence in the Castle and remained there till 1804. Visitors to the Castle included Lord Bacon and the Commander of the British Fleet that faced the Spanish Aramda, Lord Howard of Effingham. Troops were sequestered at the Castle during the Napoleonic Wars as part of National Defence and at other times to protect important shipments of iron ore landed from Wales at Ballincarrig for transfer to

the Iron Smelter then located at Ballinaclesh. The castle was sold to the Wright family in 1804 and subsequently was transferred to the McDonald family in 1922, the preservation of the castle into modern times must be credited to these families.

Claims of an O'Byrne residency at Dunganstown were difficult to verify, if true they seemed likely to date from the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries when the O'Byrnes who had initially lost territory during the Norman settlement began the process of reoccupation, this process was arrested by the spread of British rule into the Pale in the Elizabethan era and the final shiring of the County Wicklow in 1606. It is likely that many lowland families, like their contemporaries in Newrath, largely accepted British rule and in return for the loss of their military power, were regranted large portions of their lands, it was probably at this time that the Castle of Dunganstown like that of Newrath was lost to the family. It is notable in this area that many Byrne families remained prominent, often being large landlords in their own right, it is doubly ironic that many of these families have disappeared not in wartime but in peacetime, their lands repossessed not by military might but by economic power. In general it is probably not unreasonable to assume that a branch of the O'Byrnes, holding a hundred acres in the eighteenth century, had held a great deal more in the sixteenth. My own family the Byrnes of Ballykeane probably came under this latter heading, and the fact that the lands they held in the townlands of Kilmacrea and Ballykeane were not of the highest quality, the former being mountainous the latter boggy, probably inferred that the family had offended more than most in previous times of upheaval.

The legend of a family connection with Dunganstown Castle received unexpected support from an article published in the "Leabhair Breatnach" in 1991, this article speaks of a Tomas Mor O'Byrne being driven from the Castle in 1691, his sister dying in the upheaval, this occupation, if it ever took place, can only have been of short duration, perhaps during the rebellion of that time, since the Castle was owned by the Hoey family during that period.

Tomas Mor is said to have retired to Glenmalure to lick his wounds, this would not necessarily infer a close family tie since it would appear that the Clan Ranelagh kept open house at this time, extending hospitality to all the dispossessed who happened that way, the O'Mores and O'Connors from the Midlands were regular visitants, even the O'Neills and O'Donnells from the North found it necessary at times to rest in their mountain fastness.

By the time I had embarked on my own family search all of the older generation had passed away, however, a conversation with a cousin who still lived in Ballycapple nearby provided a vital breakthrough. Malachy Arthur was the son of my father's eldest sister, and probably the person who had been closest to my father over many years, he told me that he had been involved in the clearance of the old graveyard in Redcross, there they had uncovered a headstone to the Byrnes of Kilmacrea, our ancestors from times past, and that our own grandparents and great grandparents were also buried in the same place though their graves were unmarked. A damp autumn evening found me standing before the grave of my

great great grandparents, strangely though, the detail was not quite what I had expected, it read..

*Erected by Patrick Byrne, Killanacree, Co Wicklow,
In Loving Memory of his Parents,
William who died 30th June 1852 aged 72 years,
Jane who died 17th March 1855 aged 75 years,
His brothers, John who died 25th December 1840 aged 24 years,
Thomas who died 2nd July 1857 aged 51 years,
His Wife, Anne who died 11th July 1863, aged 50 years,
The above Patrick who died 6th June 1866, aged 56 years,
Also William Byrne who died 21st June 1890, aged 71 years,
Jane Brady who died 24th March 1906,
Margaret Arthur who died 15th April 1908,
James Brady who died 25th October 1947.*

No other headstone existed to the family up to the present, an indication perhaps of the familys fall from prosperity in that period. A nearby slatestone also interested me, it read..

Here Lieth the body of Loughlin Byrne,
who died on 22nd October 1735,
Aged 58 years.

Eighteenth century slate stone is often more legible than nineteenth marble or granite, but unfortunately personal details such as place of origin or family connections are omitted, the name Loughlin occurred in other families of course (most notably in this area, in the Byrne family of Three Mile Water, buried in Castletimon and in the Byrne family of Glentague, buried at Ballintemple), even so the likelihood of a link to our family could not be dismissed. If the legend is correct Loughlin could have been a son of Tomas Mor O'Byrne, but there is no confirmation of such a link and at least two generations separate Loughlin Byrne from my Great Great Grandfather, William Byrne.

I had no idea who Patrick Byrne was, the reference to Killanacree was obviously an error, the intended reference was obviously to Kilmacree, a neighbouring townland to Ballykeane and a part of a the original family Byrne property. The names William and Jane had been handed down in the family but I had been told that my direct ancestors had been named Loughlin, there was no Loughlin here. I had heard of the Bradys who were distant relations so there was no question of my having been completely misled. The headstone to the Byrnes stood alone near a sidewall fronting onto the River Valley Camp Site, I wondered how my ancestors would have felt about having a crazy golf course as a neighbouring edifice. There was no headstone to my grandfather and his family, whom I knew were buried

there, nor to my great grandfather who must also have lain there, but still remained unknown to me.

The national land records are often the earliest and most reliable family records that can be found (most Catholic Parish records date from the early nineteenth century). The first great land census was in 1669, as always it was taken for tax purposes, and since this tax was to be based on the number of hearths (later in the nineteenth century it would be based on windows, thus the number of still closed up windows in old houses) it became known as the Hearth Roll Tax.

The Hearth Rolls Survey gave little information that was of any use to me, many Byrne families but none in Ballykeane, there was a John Byrne in Dunganstown who might have confirmed the families link with that area, but there was absolutely no evidence to support that. The name John certainly appears in each generation of the family and may once have been the prominent family name (in the Index of Wills I noted the name of John Byrne who died in 1795, he is listed as having lived at Kilmacree, County Dublin, the possibility of a clerical error cannot be totally ruled out). The early land records are notoriously difficult to analyse since, contrary to our current impression, land was held on relatively short term leases in those times and often changed hands for a variety of reasons, even families long resident in an area might have lived on a number of different farms.

In the Tithe Applotment Records of 1833 I identified William Byrne who held ninety seven acres at Kilmacrea and Ballykeane as my great great grandfather, a further fourteen acre plot was probably also his, John Byrne who lived on twenty three acres at Ballykeane could have been his father but was more likely a younger brother. The landlord on all but the latter section was Reville, that lease was from Annesley.

I noted the name of Thomas Arthur who farmed one hundred and fourteen acres at Ballykeane, at this time I only knew the Arthurs as relatives by marriage, my fathers sister Dora having married Richard Arthur of Ballinabarney. The Arthurs were of long standing in the area, the Lane Poole Survey reveals a James Arthur, Ballycane, buried in Redcross Churchyard as early as 1733.

The Tithe Applotment Records also identified Edward Byrne who farmed 107 acres at Ballykeane, this may have been the Edward Byrne, Ballykeane, identified as a trustee of the Wesleyan Church built at the Mall in Wicklow in 1858, more likely it was his father.

In the Griffith valuations of 1854, sixty seven acres at Ballykeane were leased to Loughlin Byrne, thirty at Kilmacrea to Patrick Byrne (this land would later transfer to his son in law, Thomas Brady) and twenty four, including the old family home at Ballykeane (previously held by John Byrne) were in the name of my great great grandmother, Jane Byrne, who died in the following year. William Byrne had obviously divided his land between his sons. Loughlin Byrne also held twenty six acres at Ballinacor West, as I later discovered this was probably due to his wife's connection with the area.

In the census of 1901 there were in fact two Burne (note the revised spelling)

families living in this area, that of William Leonard at Kilmacrea and Thomas at Ballykeane, since both were Wesleyan Methodists it seems likely that both were sons of the original Edward Byrne of Ballykeane, though the connection in at least one case might have been more distant.

Many Catholics had converted to Methodism during the Wesleyan Missions of the late eighteenth century, but despite this and the fact that their name appears in the earlier records in the Catholic form, there is no definite evidence that the Burnes were originally Catholic or even natives of this place. The Burnes were said to have lived on good terms with their Catholic neighbours, but there is a folk memory of a Great Uncle declaiming to one of them that he was, "One of a family of changers, the only ones in the family", the Uncle concerned was not a noted authority on these matters however and may have been a little "tired and emotional" at the time.

The Land Records at the National Archive effectively ended with the Griffiths Valuation, but the absence of any explanation as to what had happened to the families quite extensive holdings at Ballykeane and Kilmacrea meant that further research was required in that area.

It was some time later before I ventured into the offices of the Irish Land Commission in Ely Place. It was a bright spring morning just five years ago when I was shown into a dusty basement by a member of the office staff and had the rather antique indexing system of the "cancelled books" explained to me. The phrase "cancelled books" was in fact a literal explanation of the information contained in these ancient loose leaf ledgers, they began in the 1850's and contained the original information collected by the Griffith's Valuation, while the ledgers in the Irish land Commission recorded the changes that occurred to these records by the simple expedient of a line drawn through the original record and the new details entered underneath. I had little difficulty discovering that in the spring of 1858, my greatgrandfather had surrendered leases of sixty seven acres at Kilmacrea and twenty six acres at Ballycapple (that had previously been leased by his wife's family) at the same time, but retained the lease of a small holding at Ballykeane previously held by his mother, this section of just twenty four acres contained the old family home. At the same time I noted the transfer of two sections of land totalling one hundred and sixty seven acres at Gormanstown from Henry Reville to Loughlin Byrne, the two events were obviously closely linked. Although I had assumed that the family had returned to Ballykeane, I could not help but be stunned by the finality of the cancelling lines dated May 1874 that marked the families departure from Gormanstown, if I had any doubt about the drama that led to those fading lines in that ancient ledger, I had only to turn a few pages to see that similiar uncompromising lines sheared through the family holding back at Ballykeane, this was no tactical withdrawal, even the old family home had gone, all had been lost.

My mother confirmed the families exile at Gormanstown, she remembered a

story of their neighbours, ancestors of the later prominent Everitt family, having a sickness in their herd and the Byrnes lending them a goat to run with the cattle, it was a traditional Irish cure and was apparently successful and a friendship had arisen between the families that had endured, the tale was to remain unconfirmed and would be deeply ironic in view of my later discoveries.

My initial suspicion was that Loughlin Byrne had, in time honoured Irish fashion, simply “drank” the farm in Gormanstown, the very absence of any memory of those times in my family tended to support that theory. The true story of Gormanstown was revealed to me in an unexpected manner and from an unexpected source.

Michael Fogarty is a well known local Historian in the area surrounding Carrigmore where he lives, as my mothers first cousin I had often spoken to him about my maternal relations. The revelation by my mother that my father had “stood” for Michael’s sister Lil at her christening aroused my interest, they were not neighbours or close friends as far as I knew. Michael confirmed the Christening connection and added that his mother, formerly Elizabeth Waldron of Ballycapple, had previously stood for my father at his christening, there was a family relationship through the Waldron’s. Michael remembered his mother speaking of the Byrnes and of their years in Gormanstown, there was a story of a “Little Bill Byrne” returning home late one night at Ballinteston, happily joining in a football game until he realised that his companions were no ordinary beings but the “good people” who set about him leaving him much the worse for the wear on the following morning, whether “Little Bill” was a family member who had partaken too deeply of the hospitality of the nearby hostelry at Coolbeg has never been clarified, if so he probably wasn’t the only patron of said place to wake up in a ditch covered in cuts and bruises. On a more serious level Michael remembered his mother saying that the Byrnes never lived long, even while in Gormanstown a boy in the family had been killed in an accident. When I mentioned the families sudden departure Michael remembered that there had been an outbreak of disease on the farm, the details were very vague, his mother had spoken of the wind changing overnight, their mothers fatal words, even as he spoke I could feel a shiver running down my spine, it all made sense now, those fatal lines in the cancelled book, the sudden fall from prosperity, the sad return to the small holding at Ballykeane. More recent reports of the wind blown holocaust simply served to confirm what I already knew in my heart, the killer had been “foot and mouth” disease, a history of the disease had confirmed the awful price paid by those in it’s path, a century and a quarter after those events the truth was finally confirmed.

Michael remembered that at family gatherings my fathers favourite song had been “The Old Bog Road”, his own fathers “The Last Rose of Summer”. My father had always liked to sing, even now “Hail Queen of Heaven” brings back memories of him, the rattle of the thurible and the smell of the incense at mass mornings long ago in the old church at Kilbride. Most of all he loved the game of

hurling, I remember how he positively glowed at Ashford one day when, during an undistinguished encounter, a fellow spectator complained, "They don't make them like Billy Byrne of Ballykeane anymore, he'd hit the ball up the field and you'd think it'd never come down".

It had all been so much different fifteen years earlier when Loughlin Byrne had moved the family from their traditional home onto those more lush pastures in the shadow of Castletimon. The reasons for the change were probably in part domestic, in part business. Loughlin cannot have been happy that thirty of the best acres of the family holding of ninety seven acres in the neighbouring townland of Kilmacrea had been willed on his fathers death to his younger brother Patrick. The headstone in Redcross commemorating his parents and siblings had been Patrick's recognition of the special favour shown to him. The fact that Patrick had only one child, a daughter, whose inheritance quickly passed out of the family cannot have escaped his older brother. Despite any concerns he may have had, the prospect of a new start on a much larger holding at Gormanstown must have seemed very attractive initially and indeed those early years at Gormanstown seem to have rewarded that initial enthusiasm. There is a folk memory of the family making milk deliveries to the Wicklow market on a daily basis using a huge horse drawn vehicle. The family grew too, though to what extent I would only discover later.

Parish Records contain the most detailed personal information on our ancestors, unfortunately, though Diocesan Records indicate that Registers were kept in Kilbride Barndarrig since 1791, the available photocopied records in the National Library only dated from 1858 however, probably the latest in Ireland for an already established parish. My research in Kilbride Barndarrig had got off to a bad start, and my prospects seemed even worse when I accessed the microfilm of the available records, page after page of microfilm wound out before me, quite blank or bordering on blankness, whether this was due to original quality or poor copying was unclear but the amount of information disclosed, particularly in the earliest period was miniscule.

Despite the poverty of the Parish Records I did identify two records of particular interest to me. The baptism of a child to Loughlin Byrne and Dora Waldron, names barely legible, in the early months of the records, confirmed the connection with the Waldron's and my great grandmothers maiden name, this latter not a surprise since it was also the name of my father's eldest sister, a name traditionally inherited from the maternal grandmother. A few years further on I would identify the marriage of Thomas Brady to Jane Byrne, the daughter of Patrick Byrne and Anne Donohue, this was undoubtedly the Jane Brady referred to on the family headstone in Redcross, some progress at least had been made, later I would confirm these and other entries from the actual parish records, for now however this remained my only source information.

Dissatisfied at the paucity of information provided in the Parish of Kilbride Barndarrig I decided to investigate the records of the surrounding parishes, it was

a step taken more in hope than expectation since even my limited discoveries confirmed that Kilbride Barndarrig was the families home parish. The fact that Ballykeane was on the border of the parish encouraged me to hope that some marriages at least might have spilled over into neighbouring Avoca. It was ironic that Redcross village including the old cemetery where the family were buried was actually in Avoca, or Newbridge as it had been originally known, it was doubly ironic that the Parish Records of Newbridge dated back to 1777 and that even the oldest entries, in classic copperplate writing, were still quite legible. My search in Newbridge for the Byrnes yielded only frustration, the name of course was quite common but though other entries of interest emerged there was nothing of my immediate family, to make matters worse the later records were recorded in Latin which involved special scrutiny, the pace of my search slowed to a crawl. Most common christian names were quite easily identifiable in Latin, John=Johannes, James=Jacobus, one Latin name did cause me a difficulty however, Giuliemus, the name occurred twice in one entry, Giuliemus Byrne, fils Giuliemus Byrne et Jeanne Arthur had married Ellen Pluck, initially the names meant little to me, but on reflection a possibility occurred to me, I had never seen the letter W in Latin, could Giuliemus be William?, if so the combination of William and Jeanne, or Jane, were the names of my own Great Great Grandparents as identified on the headstone in Redcross, if so I had discovered the marriage of my Great Uncle, William Byrne (commemorated on that same headstone) and the maiden name of my Great Great Grandmother, the dates certainly seemed to fit, no children were recorded to the couple, whose marriage had taken place late in life, the absence of a reference to a wife on the headstone, while unusual, was not unique, (Thomas, the husband of Jane Brady, was also excluded). Although further confirmation was necessary I was already quite certain of my discovery.

The first rule of Family History is to collect all possible information regarding the subject from all available family sources, in this I had failed abysmally, my father and all of his siblings had long passed away, my mother, though helpful was not of this family and had not married into it till quite late in life.

My research to date had raised almost as many questions as it answered, even belatedly, it was time to try to find some answers in the family circle. In our family it is said that all roads lead to Annamoe, here my fathers niece Molly Grehan maintains his family tradition, presiding over and dispensing hospitality to not just her own quite extensive family, but the broader clan and sometimes, it seems, to all the clans of the Barony at home and abroad. There can be few in those parts who have not at one time enjoyed an evening in "Larch Cottage", good company, good food and a good sing song, so often led by our quietly genial (and now much missed) host, Gerry Grehan, who could always be persuaded to sing a few verses from "I'll take you home again Kathleen" or "Snowy breasted pearl".

What I learned that day in Annamoe underlined the almost unfathomable depths of my ignorance with regard to my family. Initially it was confirmed, my grandfather had been Loughlin and that had been the family name going back, the family had once lived at Gormanstown (even my cousin admitted to having forgotten this, she had once sent away a group of visiting Americans seeking descendants of the Byrnes of Gormanstown, regretfully telling them that our family had come from Ballykeane, we have never discovered who they were), they had a large dairy farm there, she had no idea why they left, my father had grown up on the small farm at Ballykeane.

What Molly told me of the family in which my grandfather had grown up amazed me, he had, she said been one of thirteen children, ten boys and three girls, even on reflection I could think of only two or three connections that could have come from that generation, my informant confirmed them.

My grandfather had a sister in Wicklow married to Sutton, a butcher. That family had later emigrated to Canada, one member had been a well known local councillor.

A brother, Peter, had lived in Dublin, he was the progenitor of the Byrnes of Marino, of whom I had heard some reference, a member of the family had married a publican, Paddy O'Donoghue, and been the landlady of his famous pub in Merrion Row, it was here that the folk boom was born in the early sixties when a group of friends, who later called themselves "The Dubliners", were allowed to play quietly, "as long as no one objected".

A younger brother, Michael, had actually lived at Ballykeane, he had been married once but had eventually returned to the family home, his erstwhile wife had lived in an old fallen down cottage at Ballycapple Crossroads, the children would remember her as an old witchlike figure whom they called "Mary Gosh" never realising that she had once been the bride of their great uncle and a beautiful bride too if the stories were true. Her real name was Mary Jane Cunniam and she had later been taken in by her in laws, the Hetherington's, at Ballinameesda. Uncle Mick was remembered for his military bearing, clipped accent and fondness for the fare provided by a nearby licensed premises. The family usually waited up for Uncle Mick's late night return, concerned at the danger of fire as he climbed, wooden candlestick in hand, to his night quarters in the loft over the kitchen, one night Mick did not return from Ballard, and in the morning they found him where he had fallen at Springfarm, past all human aid.

A youth in the family had been killed in an accident, his brother, born soon after, was also named Garret in his memory. Garret had lived in Sandymount, my cousin had visited the family there in the early forties. Garret worked in Johnston, Mooney and O'Briens, she thought he had a sister called Mary who worked in Brown and Nolans and had got her nephew a job there.

Most surprisingly, since I myself had just moved to Sandyford in South Dublin, my cousin told me that I had once had a great aunt who had married and lived

there. Great Aunt Jane had one trait which had earned her undying recognition in the family, she was an inveterate borrower. Any visit from Great Aunt Jane would be anticipated with trepidation in the family since she would never leave empty handed, many a family heirloom disappeared in this way, never to return.

Apart from my grandfather, who I remembered having told, died in the year of the Eucharistic Congress, I had now identified five, perhaps six siblings of his, there were other suggestions also..

My mother remembered that my father had always said he'd been named after an old uncle who'd owned a pub, there had been hopes of an inheritance apparently but these were never fulfilled, they had received a table however, but it was in very poor condition. My cousins had no knowledge of this connection. The possibility was that the uncle referred to was in fact the previously mentioned William Byrne, my fathers Granduncle, he had not married till late and had no family, he had owned a shop in Redcross, however he did not trade in liquor under any form (that we know of), indeed it is said that Redcross was a temperance village at that time.

The aforesaid Bradys were said to have been cousins, though of doubtful proximity, my Aunt Jane in Glenealy had often spoken of an old lady named Mary Jane who had been a priests housekeeper in Wicklow, she had been a member of this family (the result of later research into the Brady family has been published in "Wicklow Roots", No.5).

My Aunt Sara had died in Dun Laoghaire during the great flu, she had been visiting a cousin who was getting married and she had been asked to be bridesmaid. My mother thought this family were named Ryan, my cousin thought they were Doyles, their mother could have been a daughter of the Gormanstown family, the only unidentified one.

Someone had suggested that the Kinsellas of Kilmurray were cousins, my cousin doubted this, though they had certainly been friends and neighbours. Her sister had heard mention of an uncle called Pat, but had no recollection of him, at least five of the children of Gormanstown had faded completely from family memory.

Reflecting on my discoveries I realised that I had more real information on the family of my Great Great Grandfather than I had on the generation that followed, in many ways it was the lost generation, it was time to widen my search, to find the lost children of Gormanstown.

...To be continued in our next issue..

..Declan Byrne

Early Records on the Byrne Family:

Parish records....Marriages..

- 1862: June 5th Thomas Brady to Jane daughter of Patrick Byrne and Anne Donohue
- 1867: January 21st William .of William Byrne and Jane Arthur to Ellen Pluck.

GRO.....Death Record..

- 1890: July 6th William Byrne, Redcross, Married, Aged 71 years, Shopkeeper, from Apoplexy, 14 days certified, Witness, Jeremiah Smith.
- 1906: March 21st Jane Brady, Kilmacrea, Widow, Aged 60 years, Widow of Thomas Brady, a farmer, from Central Apoplexy, 2 days certified, Witness, James Brady, Son.

Extracts from Census Records...

In the Census of 1901 Anne Farrell (50) and her brother Daniel (42), Farmers, Unmarried, were recorded as resident at Gormanstown.

In the Census of 1901..Recorded as residing at Ballykeane.. Loughlin Byrne (45), Farmer, his wife MaryAnne (39) Byrne, his mother Dora Byrne (67), widow, his children, Dora (12), William (11), Loughlin (8), Sarah (7), Mary Anne (5) , James (3), Jane (1).

In the Census of 1911.. two additional children, John (then 9) and Peter (8). Loughlin and Mary Anne were married for twenty three years, all nine children born to them were still living. The childrens grandmother was by then deceased.

The Irish Land Commission: Summary of records regarding the Byrne family.

Date:	Location:	Transfer:	Landlord:	Acreage:
1858:	Gormanstown	W.H.Reville to Loughlin Byrne	W.H.Reville	165
1860:	Ballykeane	William to Loughlin Byrne	R.Annesley	24
1860:	Kilmacrea Lower	Loughlin Byrne to Andrew Burke	W.H.Reville	67
1860:	Kilmacrea Lower	Andrew Burke to Loughlin Byrne	W.H.Reville	67

1860:	Kilmacrea Lower	Loughlin Byrne to James Arthur	W.H.Reville	67
1866:	Kilmacrea Upper	Patrick Byrne to Thomas Grant	R Morris	33.
1868:	Kilmacrea Upper	Thomas Grant to Thomas Brady	R Morris	33.
1874:	Gormanstown	Loughlin Byrne to G.Reville	G Reville	165.
1874:	Ballykeane	Loughlin Byrne to Wm Murphy	H.Goodison	24
1874:	Ballykeane	Wm Murphy to Loughlin Byrne	H.Goodison	24.
1881:	Gormanstown	G.Reville to Anne Farrell	G.Reville	165.
1909:	Ballykeane	H.Goodison to Loughlin Byrne		24.
1918:	Gormanstown	G.Reville to John Sheane		165.
1922:	Gormanstown	John Sheane to Patrick Brennan		165.
1937:	Gormanstown	Patrick Brennan to John J.Brennan		165.

Families and family history, some random thoughts...

“The family you have come from isn’t as important as the family you’re going to have.”

.. .Ring Lardner.

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“Irish Genealogical Sources No.14 - People of the Rebellion, Wicklow 1798”.

(ISBN 1 898471 26 6). Price £8.00 (Postage £1.00, Ireland, £2.00 overseas, £4.00 airmail).

Researched and compiled by the noted local historian, P.J. Power of Arklow, County Wicklow. Around 1,800 names of those who took part on both sides in the 1798 Rebellion in Wicklow are listed together with their affiliation at the time, their probable addresses coupled with information about their lives or deaths.

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