

The Munnellys of Muingelly and more

To understand yourself, to understand your position in the greater scheme of things, to understand human tenacity and the trials of other times, these are the personal stories that you must know. No one else will tell these stories, it is up to you.

(Bernard Salt, *the Weekend Australian*, 18 -19 February 2017)

Compiled by: Áine Uí Eadhra 2026

(Grand-daughter of Bridgie Healy and John Munnelly, Muingelly)

In memory of all our families, especially of those who were called early:
Kathleen Munnelly, Jack Healy, Sarah Carey, Seán Williams, Deirdre Glackin,
Fionnán Farrell, David Munnelly, Raymond Langan, Jack O Malley,
Seán Carey, Elaine Madden, Peter Sweeney, John Seán Healy,
Noel Madden and Francie

In ióthlainn Dé go dtugtar sinn!

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Introduction

The story of the Healy and Munnelly families will tell us who's who in the various family trees as well as a description of the people concerned, the life they led, the schooling available and Irish in use in the 1950s and 60s.

When our Uncle Peter Munnelly died in 1993 I felt it was time to find out more about our Mayo family. Our grandparents John Munnelly and Bridgie Healy had died in 1961 and 1966 resp. I needed to find out more about our ancestors, the Loftus and Bell families too. These were the pre-internet and pre-Google days. Applications to North Mayo Heritage centre in Enniscoie House cost £20 or £30 a go; big church registers and census records could be accessed only by genealogists. Most of us wouldn't know where to start. The experts in Enniscoie house did the searches requested and typed them out. Their fee was well earned. I copied them and sent them to others; to Breege Doherty née Healy who wrote a detailed letter (in 1993) about the Healys of Behy. Matters rested so. I hadn't the time then nor did I know how to finish the research.

In the last year or two I started working on the various family trees, the Munnellys and the Bells, but then I found out that we were related to McHughs, Burkes and Murphys. We knew how we were related to the Maddens. I hadn't yet started on the Healy side with a Loftus link. Then other surnames like Langan, Keane and Reape popped up. This latter surname was a surprise – I'd never heard of it, but now the 2024 Mayo team has Colm Reape as goalie, a business in Foxford is called Reape and there was a Reape on posters for the recent local elections - Annie May Reape, for Ballina Town Council, re-elected.



The Internet has now made searching easier. The Censuses for 1901 and 1911 are online as are church records and public birth, marriage and death registers. DNA tests with Ancestry.com and 23andme linked me to Bernadette Kane Miller in San Francisco; Peggy Dee in the US was a Bell as was Brian Wrigley in Australia. However I felt it was necessary to portray the life lived by our grandparents in the 1950s and 1960s, the type of people they were and the houses they lived in, the schooling they received and their use of the Irish language. These are my memories, my musings and opinions, added to by others.

I recognise that my memories of past events can differ from yours. Sadly the life led in the 1950s and its people are all but gone. There are many new houses in the area, some built and owned by local people, others are sold on. I have not included all the documents I came across for each family to produce a more detailed account of each family nor have I worked on historical documents which may cover the Doonfeeny families. More work could be done in each family grouping. That is for others to investigate.

1. MUINGELLY

We left Dublin every summer and headed westwards, always the first fortnight in August, the annual workers' holiday. En route we learned the names of towns as we drove to **Muingelly** - Lucan, Leixlip, Mullingar, lunch in Longford, cross the Shannon at Tarmonbarry, Strokestown, Tulsk, Swinford, Foxford, till we left Ballina on our right; in Killala turn right and then left and on we went, taking care crossing the narrow eleven-arched Palmerstown Bridge. A sharp left followed till we reached the one street town that is Ballycastle. The route couldn't be easier. Down the hill and onward we drove, remembering to take it easy crossing Killerduff Bridge while catching a glimpse of the Stella Maris Hotel - a former Coast Guard Station - an imposing white building. A short distance further on, on the left-hand side was the stone pillar in Doonfeeny Cemetery, of pagan origin, second highest in Ireland.



At about the 3 mile point from the town we passed a two storey white washed house on the right-hand side close to the road, O Boyle's house, not a cottage. Without GPS or Eircode - just watch out for landmarks - we found ourselves in Muingelly. On the right side were the first houses in **Muingelly**, Joe Mahon's, the Langers, the O Malleys, and the Goldens, all thatched. At this point our grandparents' house and Bridgie Early's were the only houses in view on the left.



Painting by Anna Cranshaw

Our grandparents were **John Munnelly** and **Bridget Healy**. John's mother was **Mary Bell**, daughter of **John Bell**. He emigrated to the US with Mary's only sibling, Bridget with husband Thomas McHale and children. There Mary Bell lost father and only sister. John Munnelly's only sister, **Mary**, married **Thomas Madden** of Glenurla. John's uncle **Patrick** had previously married **Catherine Healy** from Behy. His family lived next door.

Our grandmother Bridgie was the daughter of **Martin Healy** of Behy. Martin had five siblings - sisters **Catherine** married to Patrick Munnelly (as above), and **Anne** married to **Anthony Keane** of Glenurla. His brothers were **John (Seán)** m. Bridget Judge, and **Mícheál** m. Bridget Carey. Their parents were **Francie Healy** and **Brigid Reape** (aged 90 in the 1901 census) = our great-grandparents x 2.



Granny Bridgie was the eldest born to **Martin Healy** and **Catherine Loftus**. Patrick, John and Martin didn't marry. **Thomas** married **Bridget O Donnell** - daughter Breege Doherty. **Michael**, a Garda, and **Bridget Curran** had eight children. **Mary Kate** married **Johnny McGuire**. Born in Muingelly to **John** and **Bridgie Healy Munnelly** were **Mary** (May) m. Brendan Lynam, **Peter**, **Bridie** m. Phil Munnelly (Muingelly) and **Martin** m. Josie Carey of Doonfeeny.

Muingelly, situated on the north coast of Mayo between Doonfeeny to the east and Glenurla to the west, is the townland in Mayo where our grandparents John Munnelly and Bridgie Healy lived. The main road, the R314 brings you there from Ballycastle town, 5k away, and on to Belmullet, passing Céide Fields on the way. From the cliffs bounding the Atlantic to the north it consists of 319 acres, divided among ten households. To the south, Maumaghkeogh (mám an cheo) mountain rises, adjoining the large tract of bog land leading to the Céide fields to the west.



Muingelly, Muing Oilí or Muing Eilí

The **Ordinance Survey of Ireland** was established in 1824, to undertake a townland survey of *Ireland*, **mapping** the entire country, in English. John O'Donovan, appointed in 1830, produced the definitive English version of the ancient forms of place names to be used on the O.S. maps.

J. O D. anglicised Muing Oilí to Muingelly. In the sketch book we find "Muingéili, **Elly's marshy stream**". He also added Moing Éili in 1838. His assistant Thomas O Connor opted for Mwingelly.

J. O D.'s explanation is questionable. In Dinneen's Dictionary 1927 **Muing** or **Moing** is translated as morass, or swamp, elsewhere as marsh, but not "stream". Uncle Peter's field on the cliff was quite sodden, even in Summer.

Mungelly -- Sketch Map
MUNGÉILI, Elly's marshy stream.

mong, g. muinge, d. muing (oft. nom.),
pl. -s, -ača and mungeanna, f., a
thick growth of hair, grass, underwood,
trees, etc.; a mane or crest, long hair
of the head, a quiff or fringe, beard;
horsehair, a fishing-cord (muing, R. O.);
fig. ropes, cordage; a fen, morass or
swamp; m. capaill, a horse's mane;

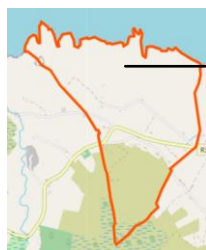
oileac, -lís, m., a rock, Ellagh in several
place-names, esp. O. na Ríog, an early
Ulster capital, Spuanán Oilí (Greenan
Elly), O. móir, O. nír, O. Fúisheann,
id.; Aorú Ailí, Aorh of Aileach; al.

1912-3 O'Donovan (OSL, p.131) adduces evidence
in support of Oileach "stonehouse" but note that
eclipsing n- is palatal, thus O. Ríog: "is Elly"

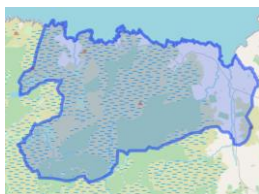
Re **Elly**: Cuan Oilí or Elly Bay is south of Belmullet. (See notes on right). Oileach means Rock. Written as Elly it sounds like a girl's name. Where was the rock in Muingelly? J. O D.'s task was to give an English version of prevailing pronunciation, and / or translation. It may be noted that in Mayo **Scoil** is pronounced as Skell, skull elsewhere. Oilúint would be Ell-oo-int, hence Oilí as Elly. As far as **Muingelly** is concerned, it used to be pronounced Mwing-el-eh-eh. Could Muingelly have been Muing Éalaihthe / Éalaithe / Éilithe from the Healy surname Ó hÉalaithe. Perhaps we have Muingelly = Healy's swamp? Or Muing Éalaithe < éalú tuiséal Ginideach = of the escape, the marsh of the escape, way out? With changing times one now hears Mwin-elly or Mu-nelly more often than not nowadays. *PS It has been said elsewhere that J. O D. ran through North Mayo, being wined and dined with the Bingham's in Belmullet, while his lesser qualified assistant surveyed the area.*

The MUINGELLY TOWNLAND

Muingelly is a townland on the north coast of Mayo, about 30 km from Ballina. It is in the Civil Parish of Doonfeeny and in the Barony of Tirawley in County Mayo, in the Province of Connacht, in the west of Ireland.



Townlands are the smallest official land divisions in Ireland since 600 AD (There are 3,422 in Ireland in total). They were based on the amount of land needed to support an extended family. Boundaries often followed natural features like streams etc.



Doonfeeny Civil Parish

Civil parishes ([Irish](#): *paróistí sibhialta*, *paróistí dlí*) are units of territory in the island of [Ireland](#) with origins in old Gaelic territorial divisions. They were adopted by the Anglo-Norman [Lordship of Ireland](#) and then by the [Elizabethan Kingdom of Ireland](#), and were formalised as land divisions at the time of the [Plantations of Ireland](#). They may correspond, in both name and boundary, with [Church of Ireland](#) and [Roman Catholic](#) Parishes with multiple townlands per parish. A parish may cross the boundaries of baronies and counties. Mayo

has 73 Civil Parishes. Doonfeeny Civil Parish stretches from Belderrig to Killala to Lough Conn, Addergoole and Crossmolina. It consists of 31,385 acres and 35 townlands including the townlands of Doonfeeny Upper 641 acres and Doonfeeny Lower 55 acres.

Baronies were subdivisions of counties; they were created during the Tudor conquest of Ireland, replacing the earlier cantreds formed after the original Norman invasion. They acquired modest local taxation and spending functions in the 19th century before being superseded by the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. There are multiple parishes per barony. **Tirawley** – in grey - is one of the nine baronies in County Mayo; it is the second largest Barony in the country.



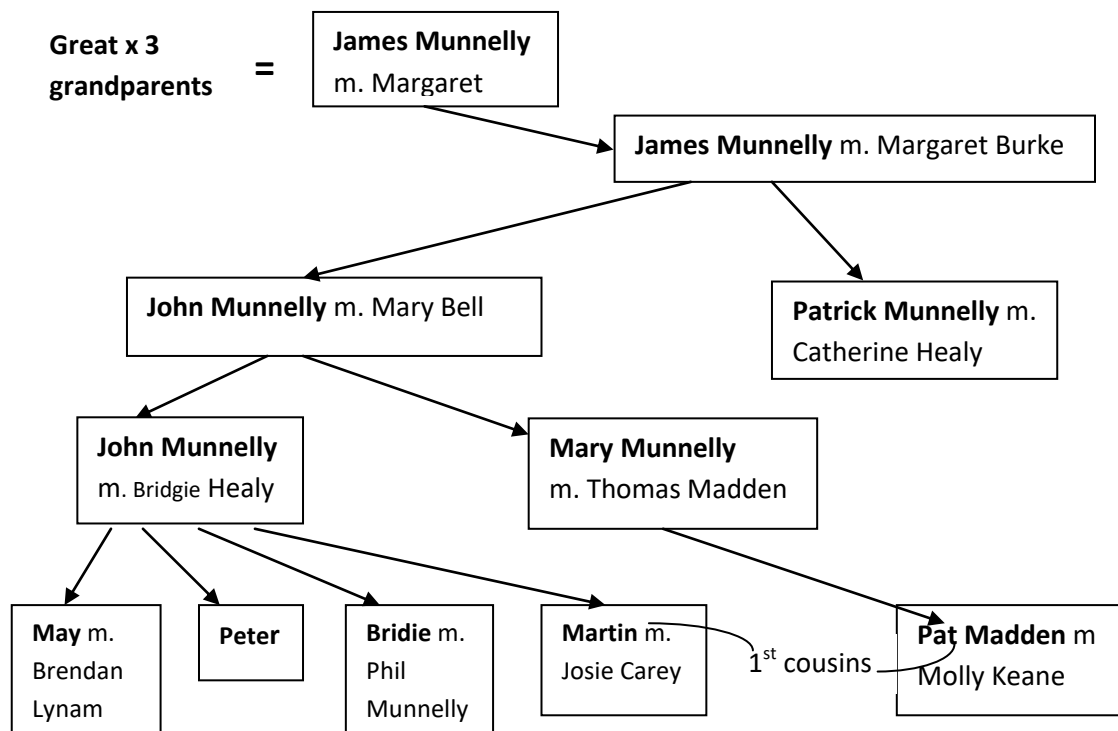
The Counties began as Norman structures, and as the powers exercised by the Cambro-Norman barons and the Old English nobility waned over time, new offices of political control were established at a county level. There are 32 counties in Ireland, nine in Ulster in Northern Ireland. In Connacht there are five, twelve in Leinster and six in Munster. There were five Provinces or Cúigí. Meath and Westmeath were the 5th Province till 1610 under the reign of James I. Besides Mayo the other counties in Connacht are Galway, Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo. Co. Mayo is the 3rd largest county – by area – after Cork and Galway.

When searching the Census, Tithe Applotments or Griffiths Valuation it is more efficient to refine your search knowing which townland or Barony is in question. Prompts come up looking for same.

2. JAMES MUNNELLY of MUINGELLY

James Munnelly and **Margaret Burke** were our paternal great-grandparents x 2 in Muingelly, Doonfeeny Civil parish, Ballycastle, County Mayo. **James and Margaret Munnelly** had two sons, **Patrick** and **John**.

John Bell and **Anne McHugh** were our maternal great-grandparents x 2. **John Munnelly** senior (1835-1915) married their daughter **Mary Bell**. They were then our great-grandparents (on the Munnelly side). **John** and **Mary Bell Munnelly** had two children, **John junior** and **Mary**. **John Munnelly** married **Bridgie Healy**: our Munnelly grandparents, while **Mary** married **Thomas Madden**.



Our great-grandparents x 3 were **James Munnelly** (1794–1878) with spouse Margaret (born about 1800 in Erris). Their son **James Munnelly** (1827–1875) married **Margaret Burke** (1829–). They were the parents of Patrick born in 1839 (?) and **John** Munnelly. Margaret's name appears as mother of **John** who married **Mary Bell or Belle***, the daughter of John Bell on 6th August 1876, **John** aged 37 and **Mary** 21 years. (Born in 1849 and 1855 resp.). The children of **John** and **Mary Bell** were **John** – our grandfather - who married our grandmother **Bridget Healy**, and **Mary** who married **Thomas Madden** of Glenurla.

* Both versions of **Bell / Belle** appear.

x	James	Munnelly	Munnelly	Filius Jacobi & Margt Burke	
5-	Maria	Belle	Doonfeeny	Filius Joannis	McHugh Doonfeeny

The children of **John Munnelly and Mary Bell** were **Mary**, baptised on the 7th September 1881 in the presence of Thomas McHale and Anne McHugh and **John** baptised on the 11th May 1884 in the presence Patrick McHugh and Catherine Loftus.

67	1915 Thirtieth November Munnelly	John Munnelly	Male Married	79 Years	Farmer	Senile Debility Household attendant Son of Deceased Munnelly	Fourth November 1915	Howley Registrar.
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John Munnelly died 13.11.1915, aged 79 years, of senile debility.

See account of the Bell family. Mary "lost" her sister Bridget and father John Bell to America in **1884**

Grandparents John Munnelly and Bridget Healy

John Munnelly married **Brigid Healy** of Behy on the 8th of May 1922 with William Grier and Maggie Healy (Seán) as witness. This information comes from the church records. The marriage wasn't registered. Living with them was John's mother **Mary** née **Bell**. She died on 27th August 1927, aged 77 years. She had some dementia, confusing my mum for her own daughter. The cause of death was simply recorded as influenza. **John Munnelly**, Mary's husband and our great grandfather had died in 1915.

John	Munnelly	Brigid	File: John Munnelly Mary Bell	Munnelly	Mrs. Constance per. of dispensation
Bridget	Healy	Behy	File: Martin Healy Catherine Loftus	Behy	Constance

The Marriage of John and Bridget, with Canon Munnelly as celebrant. Bridget's parents were **Martin Healy** and **Catherine Loftus**. There was some reason for a dispensation. John's uncle Patrick had married Catherine Healy, an aunt of Bridget; it was queried but all was in order.

Census 1901

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy
Munnelly	John	62	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read
Munnelly	Mary	46	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Wife	Cannot read
Munnelly	Mary	18	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Daughter	Can read and write
Munnelly	John	16	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Son	Can read and write

Census 1911

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Monnelly	John	74	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and English
Monnelly	Mary	65	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	Irish and English
Monnelly	John	27	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farm Labourer	Read and write	Irish and English
Monnelly	Mary	29	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read and write	Irish and English

Comments:

1. Re age at time of marriage. John Munnelly was 37, years approx. In the 1901 census Brigid was 14 years and in the 1911 she was 29. I think the lower age is correct, i.e. that when marrying, Brigid was 37, not 4 years older.
2. It was a busy and full household for the children growing up. On a visit to Doonfeeny cemetery a while ago, a man approached us, curious to know who we were. I think his name was Nealon. He said he could tell me things I might not know. Firstly that the family had taken in **Katie McGuinness** in old age. She owned land including McGuinness's Hill, where we used fetch water; our grandparents would get her pension. I don't know how long she lived with the family. She died in November 1936, aged 84 years, of senility. Michael Barrett's name is on the death register. Mary née Bell had also lived in the house till 1927 – she was doting for a while. Remember, this was a three-roomed house, a one up one down.
3. The Nealon man also said that **Tommy Loftus** had lived with the family. He died in Muingelly in September 1953. He was a bachelor, aged 80 years and died of coronary thrombosis. Granny Bridgie's mother was Catherine Loftus, who had a brother Anthony, married to Ellen (parents of Ciss Loftus) and an unmarried brother, Thomas. This Thomas came to live in Muingelly as an elderly gentleman. Families cared for ageing relatives and others. There weren't any care homes for the needy and elderly in those days.

BRIDGET / Bridgie Healy was born on 20.01.1886, godparents Patrick Loftus and Bridget Judge. She had left school by age 14 years. I heard mention that she worked in Glenlossera Lodge. Indeed she and her sister Mary Kate spent many years at home following the death of their mother Catherine (or housekeeping for the family) before marrying. Bridgie was 36 on marriage and Mary Kate 37 years. Whether true or not it was said that a match was made between John Munnelly and Mary Kate, the younger sister, who at the time was 23 years, but that on wedding day Bridgie turned up at the altar. **John Munnelly** married **Brigid Healy** of Behy on the 8th of May 1922, with William Grier and Maggie Healy (Seán) as witnesses. This information comes from the church records.

The Offspring of John Munnelly and Bridgie Healy

Mary (aka May) was born on 1st April 1923. Her godparents were Thomas Healy and his sister Mary aka Mary Kate (siblings of her mother). Canon Michael Munnelly officiated. May moved to Dublin in the mid 1940s, where she met Brendan Lynam. They married in Dublin on 25th April 1950. Brendan was a printer / compositor as were his father and brothers. They lived in Fairview and later in Raheny. Their children were Anne, Colm and Breda. *Brendan died on 24th November 2010, May on 28th December 2010, aged 87 years.*

The following year **Katie** was born on 23rd April 1924. The godparents were Martin Healy and Ellen Munnelly, 1st cousin. *She died at 19 months on the 22nd November 1925.*

Also in 1925 on the 28th April **John** was born. John Healy and Katie Madden were the godparents. Fr. Pat Durkin CC, presided. *John was baptised on the 2nd May. It is not clear how long he lived. His death was not registered.*

Peter was born on the 25th June 1926. The godparents were Patrick aka Padney Healy and Mrs. John Munnelly. Peter had continued to work the family farm in Muingelly. *He died suddenly on the 22nd February 1993, aged 66 years.*

Bridget (aka Bridie) was born on the 6th August 1927. The godparents for Bridie were Michael and Kate Langan, brother and sister. Bridie married Philip Munnelly of Muingelly in 1949, the son of Michael Munnelly who was a neighbour married to Mary Carey of Doonfeeny. Their children were Fr. Michael, Derek, Philip and Paul. They lived in 61 The Ridgeway in London NW9.

Bridie died on 26th October 2009, aged 82 years.

Martin, the youngest, was born on the 22nd November 1930. He was baptised on the 29th November. His godparents were Patrick Madden and Mary Madden, his first cousins. The presiding priest was Fr. Tom Browne. Martin married Josie Carey of Doonfeeny in 1964. Josie's father, Michael was an uncle of Phil Munnelly. Their children were John, Fiona, baby Martin RIP, and Mary. They lived in Colindale, near Bridie and Phil. *Martin died in London on 22nd Sept. 2017, Josie on 12th November 2023 both aged 86 years.*



Comment.

- Women usually had babies every second year, one year breast-feeding – sterilisers and baby food were not available – and pregnant the next. Not so in this family. Granny had four babies in 4 years straight. Given the three year gap between Bridie and Martin it is possible that a baby or two was lost or miscarried.
- The date of baptism was more accurate than the date of birth, as babies were baptised within days of birth, whereas registration didn't take place immediately, maybe months or years later or not at all.
- It was custom to call the first son after the grandfather or father, the first daughter was given the (grand) mother's name. May was called after her grandmother, John after his father or grandfather. This happened in this case, but a deceased child's name was often passed on to another. I was told the Peter was given a different name, that maybe ill-luck might be attached to the name John. However the name continues with Martin's son John in London. And his son is called Peter!
- *It may be noted that in the three years, 2008 to 2010, Phil, Bridie, May and Brendan died as well as Sean Carey, Jack (Phil's) brother, Brendan's sister Phoebe and nephew Brendan, as well as Pat Madden.*

**Bridie Munnelly, Phil Munnelly, ?,
Jack Munnelly**



THE MUNNELLY SURNAME

One explanation is that **the Munnelly name** is of ancient Norman origin, arriving in England with the Norman Conquest of 1066. The Munnellys lived in places like Manley in Cheshire.

*"In Ireland the name **Munnelly** is derived from the native Gaelic **O'Maonghaile sept**. **Ó Maonghaile** descendant of Maonghal = gift-valour < gaile, mainly in Donegal and Mayo. **The original Monnelly / Munnelly surname** appears almost nowhere else except in County Mayo Ireland and is statistically uncommon even there. There appear to be three "clusters" of the surname in County Mayo today - the **Killala-Ballina** area, the **Crossmolina** area, and the **Belmullet-Geesala** area. There are family stories and one written reference to the fact that the Monnelly / Munnelly surname originally came from a group of fighting men from the Doherty clan. From Peter Manley's website.*



*"The **Ó Dochartaigh (Doherty) Clan**, was a dominant force on the Inishowen Peninsula of County Donegal. According to John O'Donovan in the Ordinance Survey Letters (1839), Monaoile Ó Dochartaigh of Inishowen moved his kinsmen to County Mayo sometime in the 16th century. (One report states they were moved to make room for planters). Where they resettled became known as "Baile Monaoile" – Baile is home or town. The name was eventually Anglicized and became "Ballymonnelly," a townland in Kiltane Parish, near Belmullet, in County Mayo.*

*"**Monaoile Ó Dochartaigh's male descendants** began using the name Ó Monaoile Ó Monaoile was Anglicized to O'Monnelly or O'Munnelly - the O was eventually dropped. It is believed that all (variants) Manleys and Munleys with roots in County Mayo were originally Monnellys or Munnellys and can all be traced to this one Doherty clan. While not a common Irish surname, there were many of these families scattered around the northern half of Mayo in the middle of the 19th century." This article was researched by Marianne Manley Granoff of the Munnelly Connection group. She is the granddaughter x 2 of Michael Monnelly of Belmullet, Co. Mayo.*

(The 1901 Census shows **473 Munnellys** in Mayo, **17** in the rest of the country)

Mark Hapeman of the Munnelly Collection introduced me to the article above.

"My great grandfather x 2 James Munnelly was from Carrowmore, Belmullet and came to this country - the US - around 1865 and settled in the coal region of N.E. Pennsylvania. Although he was from the western part of Mayo I also have DNA matches to other descendants of Munnellys in the Killala region".

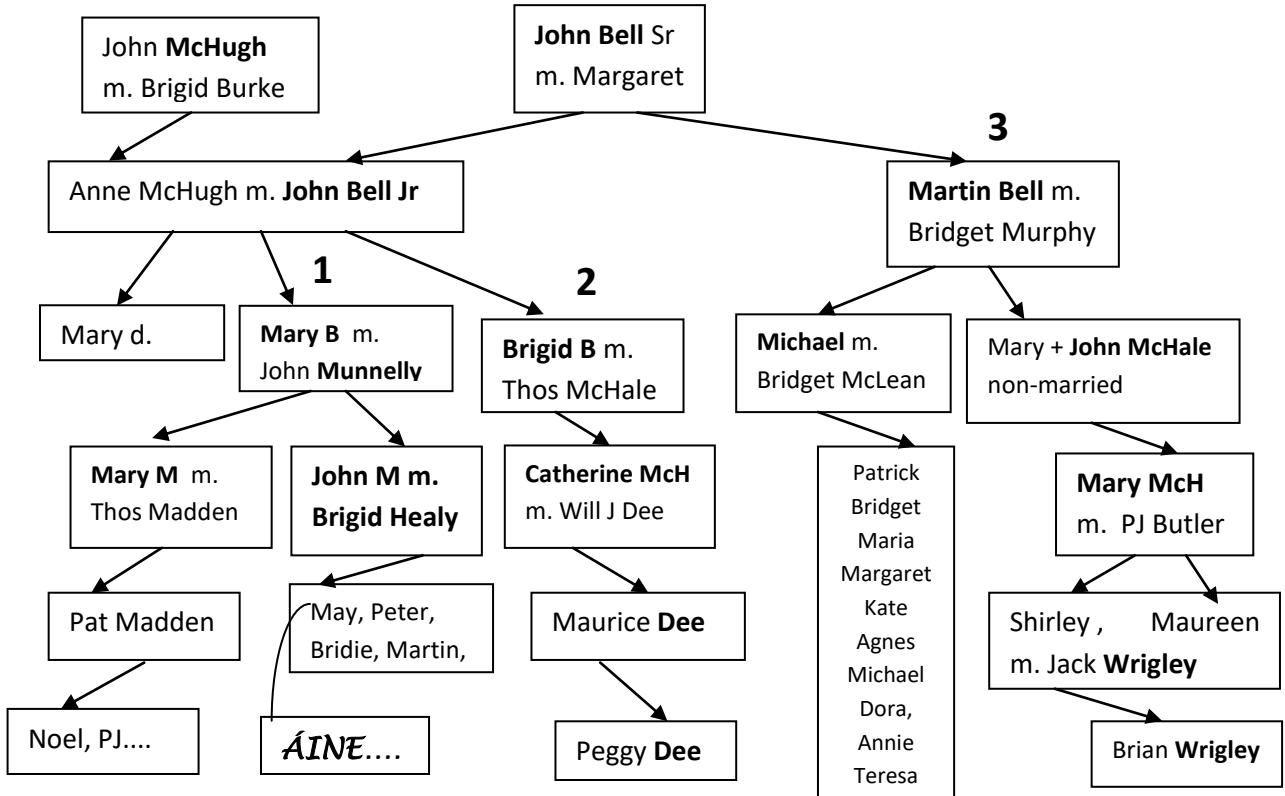
*"There were quite a few Monnelly / Munnelly families from County Mayo that immigrated to the **Pennsylvania coal mining areas** during the famine years and immediately after. My great-great-grandfather was Michael Monnelly from Belmullet in County Mayo. I am lucky to have the certificate of his marriage to Catherine Padden in 1857 from the Belmullet Parish records.....My great-grandfather Frank Munley moved to Archbald in Lackawanna County in the 1890s". Mark Hapeman.*



The Munnelly Homestead
painted from photograph by Áine Uí Eadhra 1996

3 THE BELL FAMILY

We always knew that we had a **Bell connection**. Grandfather John Munnelly's mother was **Mary Bell** who hailed from Doonfeeny. She lived with our grandparents John and Bridgie till 1927.



1. The **Mary Bell** and **John Munnelly** family

John Bell and **Margaret** (1785 – 1873) are our great-grandparents x 3. John Bell is named in Griffith's Valuation in 1856 having 2 acres. Their children were John and Martin. In 1846 son **John Bell**. (b. 1820s) married **Anne McHugh** (parents John McHugh and Bridget Burke) - our great-grandparents x 2. Their children were Mary, **Mary** and Brigid. (See Census 1851 re their first Mary who died in 1849 aged 2 years.)

The second **Mary Bell** married **John Munnelly**, our great-grandparents.

17	Monnelly, John	Munnelly, John	Belle, Mary	Doonfeeny	6 Aug 1876	James & Maat. Burke
	John & -- McHugh	Doonfeeny	Wl. Loftus	Mary Belle		

*John Monnelly (should be Munnelly) married Mary Bell - John, son of James (Munnelly) and Margaret Burke, Mary, daughter of John (Bell) and ? McHugh on the 6th August 1876; **John** was aged 37 and **Mary** 21 years (b. in 1839 and 1855). Their children were **Mary**, baptised on the 7th September 1881 in the presence of Thomas McHale and Anne McHugh, and **John** baptised on the 11th May 1884 in the presence Patrick McHugh and Catherine Loftus.*

The document below was an unusual find. Firstly it is most unusual to come upon the **1851 Census**. You will note the date 24.02.'20. This has to be 1920. The details at the top are easily read. It refers to Mary Bell, daughter of **John Bell** and **Anne McHugh**, who were married in 1846. Mary died aged 2

years in 1849. This Mary would be their first daughter. Our **Mary** was given the name Mary again, born in 1855 if we can trust the census details. Mary and John Munnelly are the applicants. The reason for this application came about perhaps because the first Mary would be due to get the pension born in 1847, so aged 70 years about 1920. Overall it's quite strange.

24- Cen/S/21/2749 Application No. 60 3094.
Date of Receipt, 24. 2. 20 Disposed of,

EXTRACT FROM CENSUS RETURN OF 1851.

Full Name of Applicant, *Mary Bell.*
Address, *Mrs. Mary Munnelly, Mungelly, Ballycastle, Co Mayo*
Full Names of Father and Mother of Applicant, *John & Anne Bell*
Name of Head of Family (if other than Father) with which Applicant resided in 1851, *(McHugh)*
Relationship and Occupation,
Residence in 1851:
County, *Mayo*
Barony, *Drinawley*
Parish, *Boonfeeny*
Townland, *Boonfeeny L. & Upper*
Street (if in a town),
Place in Record Treasury, *L28/21*
Return searched by *In 23/3/20 John & Anne Bell m^d 1846*
Extract made by *no return of applicant Mary*
Certified by *(Mary says died 1849)*
Form replaced by *sheet 19x*

21-20-2
89 178825
23/3/20
ac

Our grandfather was **John Munnelly** who married our grandmother **Bridget Healy** in 1922. Bridget was the daughter of **Martin Healy** and **Catherine Loftus** of Behy. **John's sister Mary** had married Thomas Madden of Glenurla in 1915.

<i>John</i>	<i>Munnelly</i>	<i>Mungelly</i>	File <i>John Munnelly Mary Bell</i>	<i>Mungelly</i>	<i>Mrs. Catherine</i>
<i>Bridget</i>	<i>Healy</i>	<i>Behy</i>	File <i>Martin Healy Catherine Loftus</i>	<i>Behy</i>	<i>dispensation</i>
					<i>Consent</i>

They were married by Canon Munnelly, but what does the dispensation mean? The dispensation was granted. There was no reason for it, both parties not immediate relatives.

Census 1901

Residents of a house 4 in Muingelly (Ballycastle, Mayo)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Lang
Munnelly	John	62	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and Eng
Munnelly	Mary	46	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Wife	Cannot read	Irish and Eng
Munnelly	Mary	18	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Daughter	Can read and write	Irish and Eng
Munnelly	John	16	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Son	Can read and write	Irish and Eng

2. Thomas McHale and Bridget Bell

*John Bell and Anne McHugh had another daughter, **Bridget**, born on 18th July 1854. She married **Thomas McHale**, son of Thomas McHale and Margaret Burke, of Doonadoba on the 9th March 1873. Witnesses: Michael McHale and Maria Bell, most likely Bridget's sister. **Bridget and Thomas McHale** had six children, John b. 1873, Bridget b. 1876, James b. 1879, Anthony b. 1881, Catherine b. 1882. Nelly was born in Jessup 1885 (Bridget was pregnant on arrival in the USA). Thomas was born in 1889. In the 1910 Census it states 6 children were alive of 10 born.*

The following are contributions from **Peggy Dee**, USA and **Brian Wrigley**, Melbourne. Peggy would be a great grandchild of Bridget Bell McHale, sister of Mary Bell Munnelly.

- According to Alice McHale, **John Belle**, his daughter **Bridget** and her husband **Thomas** and their children John, James and Catherine emigrated together from Ireland in 1884. (John aged 58). Their son Anthony stayed in Ireland. Peggy Dee descends from Catherine, who married Maurice J. Dee. Their son was Peggy's father.
- **John Bell** died in Jessup, Pennsylvania on 14th March 1896. "Family stories say that John's father may have been a Protestant minister". I remember hearing that he may have been a Methodist or Presbyterian.
- Eileen Lee said that he was called Jack. **He worked in the mines** and could not read or write. When she went to Ireland there was a stone on his land, which he was carving for his grave-marker; however he came to America and **died in Jessup in 1896. Bridget Bell McHale** died on 31st May 1911 aged 56 years in University Hospital, Philadelphia.
- Daughter Catherine became a nun in 1896 – **Sister Mary Cyprian** – in the Sisters of St. Joseph Order. She died in Concordia, Kansas aged 96 years.

When John and daughter Bridget Bell McHale emigrated in 1884, her sister Mary lost her father and only sibling. She had married John Munnelly in 1876. It states elsewhere that John Bell could not read or write – neither could his daughter Mary. Maybe others wrote letters for them.

3. The Martin Bell and Bridget Murphy Family

Martin Bell was the son of John Bell senior and brother of John Bell.

Michael, son of Martin, and **Bridget Bell**, 14 Doonfeeny Upper in the **1901 Census**.

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Belle	Michael	35	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Bridget	33	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Patrick	12	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Bridget	10	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Maria	8	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Margaret	7	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Kate	5	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	Irish and English
Belle	Agnes	3	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	-
Belle	Michael		Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	-
Belle	Martin	81	Male	Father	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read and write	Irish and English
Belle	Bridget	80	Female	Mother	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	Irish and English
Mc Hale	Mary	17	Female	Niece	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Domestic Servant	Read and write	Irish and English

Their house in 1901 is thatched, there were 3 windows to the front. It is rated as 2nd class. The outhouses consist of a stable, cow house and piggery. It is a bigger house than most others and accommodated 15 family members at one time, grandparents, parents, 10 children and niece **Mary McHale**. Their children survival rate was extremely high for the period.

There are three generations together: 1. **Bridget**, grandmother 80 yrs, and grandfather **Martin Belle**, 81 yrs., born in 1820 - he had died before 1911. 2. **Michae**, in census above born in 1866, married to **Bridget McLean** in 1884, daughter of Patrick McLean, Lisbrin. (**Michael** d. 1948 aged 84, wife **Bridget** d. 1937 aged 71 years). 3. **10 children** and niece Mary McHale.

Brian Wrigley provided the following information: "*John Belle was married to Mary and Thomas McHale was married to Bridget, but Thomas had a relationship with another Mary Bell *daughter of Martin Bell and Bridget Murphy, (sister of Michael) the result of which was my grandmother Mary McHale*", born 1984 approx. **the year Thomas and Bridget and John Bell emigrated**. Mary McHale married Peter Butler in Tuam in 1914. Before they emigrated to Australia, they were asked by the Bell family to bring Margaret (aged 7 in 1901 Census) with them. The offspring of Mary and Peter Butler were Shirley and Maureen. Shirley married Jack Wrigley in Melbourne in 1944.

Other Bells born to Martin are 1. **Kate** married **Anthony Blanche** of Killerduff in 1895. 2. **Mary** d. 1923 aged 71. 3. **Patrick Bell** who died in 1872 aged 22 years. 4. There's a **Mary** born in 1869. Martin may be their father.

Brian W. Continues - "*Your great-grandfather John (Munnelly) was the brother in-law of my great-grandfather Thomas McHale*".



The Bell Surname

The Bell surname is derived from the Middle English Bell. This surname likely originated as an occupational name for a bell ringer or bell maker; or else from a topographic name for someone who lived by an actual bell, or by a house sign or inn sign. The surname appears to have originated in Scotland and northern England. It could have been a nickname from the Old French *beau* or *bel*, meaning “handsome,” given possible origins of the Scots Bells in France. There were 7,346 with this surname in Ireland in 1911, but most lived in the northern counties of Antrim, Donegal and Down. In 1901 the 40 or so Bells who lived in County Sligo were Protestants, Church of Ireland or Presbyterian. The 40 Mayo Bells were almost exclusively Catholic.

The Blanche family

Catherine or Kate Bell, daughter of **Martin Bell**, married **Anthony Blanche** in 1895. (See the account on next page of his misadventure at sea in 1894!) Sadly Anthony died 5 years later in 1900 of heart failure aged 35, five years after marriage, leaving two children **Mary** 4 and **John** 2 years old. In 1906 Kate married **Martin Donnelly** of Glenurla. Her mother in law, Anne Blanche then died of senility in 1909, aged 92. (On census night 1911 Kate’s sister, Mary Bell aged 40 was in their house). Son **John Blanche** married **Mary Nallen** of Belderrig in 1918. She died later in the same year. Then he married **Mary Gibson** of Glenurla in 1921. John died in 1963. In 1911 aged 15 John was head of house and farmer. He lost many members of family in such a short time.

Census 1901

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy
Blanche	Kate	29	Female	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Read and write
Blanche	John	4	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read
Blanche	Mary	2	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read
Earley	Thomas	82	Male	Visitor	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farm Labourer	Read and write
Blanche	Anne	80	Female	Mother in Law	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read
Belle	Mary	40	Female	Sister	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Daughter	Cannot read

Census 1911

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish I
Blanche	John	14	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and
Blanche	Mary	13	Female	Sister	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read and write	Irish and

Re the **Blanche** surname in Ireland. There were only about 50 persons of this surname in 1911, mostly in the south-east, all Catholics. The Blanche surname is of French origin, coming to Ireland during the Norman Invasion. The Normans who “became more Gaelic than the Gaelic themselves” might have used the Irish version of their name “**de Faoite**” – like de Brún, de Léis, and de Buitléir. As the English language became established during the English plantations and with the imposition of English in the National Schools, all Irish surnames were translated to English. De Faoite became **White** in some places while others could have reverted to Blanche.

In the following account of a tragic accident at sea, we read about skippers **Anthony Blanche** and **Michael Bell**, son of Martin Bell. **Breandán Mac Conamhna** included this story in his book **Curach Dhún Chaocháin**, *The Belderrig Curragh*.

In 2007, Jack Langan of Ballyknock, Ballycastle, told me the story of a drowning tragedy when a boat capsized in Ballycastle Bay about 1894. Two men were lost, and his own grandfather survived. In virtually his own words:

"It was about Michaelmas day in 1894 and they were out cod fishing in a 26ft. boat. The crew were Johny Langan of Ross; Pat Winters, Ballyknock; John Langan, Minnawn; Anthony Blanch, Killerduff; Tom Bán Heffernan, Doonfeeney; Martin Sweeney, of Killerduff; and the Skipper, Mick Bell, of Doonfeeney. The sea was looking bad and Michael Doherty, Killerduff refused to go and took his line and coat out of the boat. Martin Sweeney asked to replace him and he had little knowledge of the sea. The sea got very upset and they were a long distance out and could not see the land. They started for home and were within a mile of the land when the skipper got scared and the boat overturned. They were all thrown in the water. Pat Winters and Johnny Langan were good swimmers and so also was Tom Bán Heffernan. John Langan grasped the helm first. Martin Sweeney tried to get on the overturned boat and was pulled back. John Langan threw the helm to Martin Sweeney and told him to lie on it and grasped an oar himself. Anthony Blanch and Mick Bell were on the keel of the overturned boat. Martin Sweeney panicked and sank and his body was found later. Tom Bán Heffernan was thrown in at Cladach (opposite the Stella Maris) and lived two days, leaving a baby in the cradle. John Langan, my grandfather, clung to the oar for about two hours and was thrown on the rocks twice at Rinn (behind the pier). Two men, the Mánuis Langans, were cutting wrack and refused to make any attempt to rescue the drowning men as it was unlucky to save a man from the sea.

Webb Foley, the Minister's son, who was a boatman, horseman and carpenter, and lived in the rectory in Killerduff, came home and saw what was happening. He put out in a small boat with the Coast Guard and saved John Langan and the other men in the water. John Langan's father, who was over 80, wanted to go in the boat but was not let. John Langan was supported all the way home by his father and wife Kitty Sweeney. He collapsed about 100 yards from his home. He survived and reared a family of ten."

Bell Marriages

					Parents of spouse
Bell, Michael	Doonfeeny	McLean, Bridget	Lisbrin	10 Jun 1887	Martin & Bridget Murphy
Bell, Michael	Doonfeeny	Nealon, Elizabeth	Aughoose	8-Dec-1935	Michael & Bridget McLean
Cunningham, Luke Patk	Sgt. Civic Guard	Bell, Agnes	Doonfeeny	15-Jun-1925	Patk. & Mary Glynn
McDonnell, Michael	Geevraun	Bell, Bridget	Doonfeeny	11-Mar-1917	John & Bridget Walshe
McHale, Thomas	Rathlacken	Bell, Bridget	Doonfeeny	9 Mar 1873	Thomas & -- --
Blanche, Anthony	Killerduff	Bell, Catherine	Doonfeeny	2 Feb 1895	Dominic & Anne Agily?
McGuire, Thomas	Mulligar	Bell, Kathleen	Doonfeeny	16-Nov-1922	Andrew & Anne Seally
Jordan, Michael	Ballyglass	Belle, Bridget	Doonfeeny	Apr-Jul? 1876	Michael & Cathn. McAndrews
Monnelly, John	Muingelly	Belle, Mary	Doonfeeny	6 Aug 1876	James & Magt. Burke
Donnelly, Martin	Glenurla	Blanche nee Bell, Catheri	Killerduff	3-Feb-1906	Peter, & Sarah Tighe?

4. BRIDGIE, JOHN and PETER

Bridgie Healy was born in 1886 in Behy, the eldest of eight children. After her mother Catherine Loftus died in 1915 Bridgie stayed at home till 1922 when a match was made for her with John Munnelly. The Bridgie that Anne knew was in her 70s. She was quite small and always wore a bib – a sleeveless navy floral cotton coat - and her hair more grey than white, held in place with a fine hairnet. She had no teeth. Did she smoke a pipe?

She was remembered as a midwife, donning her coat, heading off, day or night, in all weathers, with the expectant father in toe to assist at the birth. She helped deliver a Madden baby or two.

On one occasion her sister Mary Kate arrived with baby Mary Anne, who was poorly; no remedies had worked, baby was not keeping down her feeds. Bridgie made some concoction and all was well.

May said that she knew how to mix leaves, roots and grasses to produce a colour for dyeing wool and materials too. Where did she learn how to do this?

Michael Diamond remembers: *"I knew your Munnelly family very well, both your grandparents, John and Bridgie. Your grandmother was very kind and used to let me play old records on an ancient chest-like wind up player, which they bought at an auction of furniture from a Protestant family"*.

Bridgie *"made wonderful soda bread and used to cut me a slice when I visited. She must have had a fair bit of the Irish because she said *Boig le grian*, when she saw me lying on my back on a sunny day by the side of the road as she passed by with food she bought in Ballycastle"*.

Anne remembers the only time she made boxsty, the grater made from a flattened tin-can with holes punched in it. The grated potatoes were squeezed in a muslin cloth, the pink liquid discarded and some of the starch at the bottom mixed through the potatoes with some flour and perhaps an egg or two. The pancake portions were flattened on the pan. I still dream of these boxsty cakes. I tried making some but not very successfully. Maybe I needed a grater like Granny's!

When one of the travelling shops arrived, granny was hot foot down to the road. Her black handbag in hand she was ready for a chat with the driver from Connor's, Polke's or Winter's, the proprietors of food shops in Ballycastle town. Flour, tea, sugar, a flitch of bacon, the staples were available to your door-step. They chatted on, exchanging all the latest news; we tried in vain to get a look in through the door of the van. On she chatted. She would never have thought of buying us sweets or biscuits, not that we often got them in those days.

Granny never came to Mass on the Sundays when we were there, but she donned a smart black coat and laced heeled shoes on two or three occasions we went to **Knock**. Before we departed, an empty whiskey bottle was produced. Mick Healy, granny's brother had arrived. He expressed



his displeasure that Knock holy water would replace the even finer liquid that had filled the bottle, i.e. poitín.

Our Dad wasn't too sure of the route, but Granny repeated again and again that Boholy was on the route. Boholy, Boholy..... We giggled at the sound of it. Later we learned that this town was Bohola. Once arrived we did the round of the stalls, selling scenes of Knock in glass balls showering snow when turned upside down, and other knick knacks. Boholy???

Granny tended her hens and turkeys to the end. She was always on the go, reaching a good old age of 80 years. Beds etc. were ready for our arrival with no small help from **Julia Madden**, niece of husband John. I think Julia also looked forward to our visit; we were new company. I remember her hearty laughs. She had a certain playfulness about her. Granny was fortunate to have her help and company.

Granny's house was a welcoming house. From early morning the door, not a half door, was open. The dog barked and in walked the postman. He was offered a cup of tea, and no, only one boiled egg. Pat Madden would call in going "over" (soir as Gaeilge) the road or "back" (siar) the road, always of joyful demeanour; on one occasion he produced a freshly caught salmon, our first ever taste of such luxury. Next to come was Bridgie Early who would sit by the wall for the day.

One February morning in 1993 Pat was going "over" the road and noticed the door was closed. Later, going "back" the road, he noticed that the door was still closed. Peter wasn't a man to spend the day in bed. **Peter had died in the night**. A shock for Pat! However this was a case of neighbour watching out for neighbour. This was the third sudden death May and her siblings would be confronted with. The death of a sibling is never expected.

Finally, parting was always a very sad occasion, Granny crying out loud, sobbing. It was heart-rending. It would be twelve months again before we would visit – no phone calls, just a letter now and again. I will never forget these partings. When she died in May 1966 we stayed in the Stella Maris, recently vacated by the Sisters of Mercy, who had moved to the town. One beautiful memory was the yellow primroses along the roads. We had never seen them before along the roadside; and seeing them now they still remind me of that time and Granny.

John Munnelly, Grandfather

My memories of our grandfather are vague. We visited him in the summers of 1958 – 60. He was in his late 70s by then, a fairly tall man, unshaven with white stubble on cheek and chin and few teeth. He still had some white hair atop his head. I think he smoked a pipe. He used stand to the right of the garden looking out to sea. He wasn't grandfatherly, but many grandfathers weren't in those times. Children were meant to be seen etc. He was grumpy too – we undoubtedly upset his routine - but in retrospect he may have felt unwell.

Anne remembers a tale that he had gone to Ballina with horse and cart. Bridgie waited up till he came home. She found him asleep on the cart; the mare had known the way home. Anne was a director of Adult Education in Trim. When she mentioned to May that **Basket Making** was one of the courses on the next programme, May's eyes lit up. Granddad used to make baskets. Carried by a donkey they were called creels or pardogs < pardóga. As she remembered it, when the baskets were made indoors, the centre of the floor was needed to lay out the willow. The uprights were stuck into sods of turf and he wound the willows around and around. When the completed creels were on the donkey, he had some way of attaching the bottom so that when two slats were pulled, the bottom fell down along with the sods of turf. This was a clever construction. One of the downside was, given the restricted space in the kitchen, the children spent the evening in by the wall away from the heat. Payment too for baskets was meagre or not at all. Money was scarce in those days! John was known to **sing** John Mitchell and the Rocks of Baun (Bán), (see p.26) but in summer there were no céilís or song sessions in our time.

Michael Diamond who lived in Muingelly in the 1950s would say: *"Your grandfather John could be irascible and I remember him firing the cards on the ground in our house, where the neighbours gathered to play cards. They tried to teach him to play poker and he refused to accept that two deuces were a better addition to a hand, than an ace and a king"*.

John preferred to play 25 as others did too. He died in the spring of 1961.



We thought this was a photo of John.
The pose is his, but it is likely to be Tommy Loftus



Pat Madden



Peter Munnelly or Uncle Peter

Anne's early memory of Uncle Peter was in 1953 or '54 when she first met her uncle. He turned up in our house in Dublin one Sunday morning. This may be her first memory in childhood, aged 2 or 3 years. It was then that the word TB became a feature of our lives but in this case Peter had survived. He stayed with us a day or two. It would be 1958 the next time we met him in Muingelly. Michael Diamond remembers the day he was diagnosed with TB. A medical unit was set up in the town to test and proceed to treatment. For Peter a positive! Michael remembers him crying with his uncle Dick as he headed off to the sanatorium, presumably alone, not knowing where he was going. Up till then, few if any had returned, but now in 1953 or so, streptomycin had been developed and survival rates had improved. Peter spent about a year in Crooksling (see end of chapter).*



Peter and mare

Peter wasn't as tall as his brother Martin, but he was taller than his uncle John. He was stocky with black slightly wavy hair, hardly receding. He had lovely white teeth to the end, thanks to good food and few sweet things. He had a nice singing voice too which we heard only when he was milking. He sounded so in tune with the task in hand. "It's not for the want of employment I'm going...." from the Shore of Amerikay. Why did he sing this song? What dreams or regrets did he have?

Uncle Peter was first **and foremost a farmer**, a small farmer. He went out each morning, milked the cows, fed this year's calves and went down the cliffs to see to the cattle grazing there. He had a sense of duty. He had to tend to his cows, Rex at his heels. He had sheep on commonage up the hill behind the house, one fewer, thanks to our arrival. It all involved manual work, no tractor or combine harvester. His only tools were a two pronged fork, a twister and of course the mare. He and Tommy Carey worked well together, a helping hand here and there. While we were still at breakfast he came in with his cap full of big white mushrooms. At other times he came in with a bucket full of creathnach, báirneachs and mussels. Gourmet food, if we knew it! In the 1980s he wondered why the rocks at sea level were bereft of seaweed and shellfish, no more creathnach to dry out and chew. One would wonder if some pollutant in the sea had affected the seashore around that area.

On a good day, there was hay to be turned with a long fork, or if dry to be raked in and made into a big cock of hay in situ, tied down by a súgán rope. The rope was made from some hay looped around the hoop of the Twister (see next page – this is Peter's twister) and twisted by another, pulling away as the súgán gained in length. We helped as best we could, raking in every scrap of hay, but there were other neighbours to hand. At mid-day Granny used a whistle to summon us to come up for dinner, easily heard in those days of less traffic. We didn't know the word "meitheal" then, but it has been brought back into usage. A few neighbours gather on one farm today, save the hay, have dinner there and move on to the next neighbours' field when done.



Peter lived on his own for 27 years. His **Honda 50** enabled him to head off to town for a drink or two and a game of 25. When Busby's opened a bar, his journey was shorter and he could still play cards but not with older friends nearer the town. However Peter would later acquire a television. One summer coming for a visit during the Olympics, he was totally engrossed in the competitions, especially in athletics. Anne was welcome, but he was more engrossed in the athletes from across the globe. He knew them all by name and country.

Making a súgán was hard on the hands, but Peter had another problem with his hands – Dupuytren's Contracture. We Irish have inherited this condition from the Vikings whereby the fingers begin to curl in and tighten towards the palm. It is more common in men. If untreated grasping a knife, fork, farm tools or indeed gripping the brakes on the Honda 50 become impossible. Peter seldom went to the doctor, and never to a dentist (he had a full set of white teeth) but this operation had to be done. Perhaps he had seen others unable to use their fingers. In September 1992 while Peter's hands were operated on, to straighten the fingers, May and Bridie went down to help out. (*Guillaume Dupuytren was a French surgeon in Napoleon's time, who developed this form of treatment, in the 18th century.*) Peter died in 1993, six months after his hand operation. Born in 1926 he was 66 years old, not long after he qualified for the pension, never having taken the dole / unemployment benefit.

Finally, whenever Anne introduces herself as Peter Munnelly's niece, 30 years later he is still remembered "as a gentleman", "a decent man", and "the nicest person they ever met who hadn't a bad word for anybody".

Michael Diamond remembers Peter's brother Martin: "*Martin Munnelly was a kind and very friendly person who took time to talk to a noisy little boy*". **Martin** married **Josie Carey** in 1963 in London. Josie was a neighbour from Doonfeeny.

Michael Diamond has very fond memories of Peter. When he came back from the sanatorium he had become "*an expert in the game of draughts and beat me with ease. Peter was a bit of a joker with a lovely sense of humour and when my mother sent me a present of a watch (very cheap and with a loud tick) he dubbed it Big Ben. 'Is yer watch wound up? I can usually hear it from over here'*". Finally Michael remembers a day in 1990; "*The last time I spoke to him, Peter, was at the funeral of my uncle Jack in Killala in 1990 and he held my hand and cried as he told me that all his old friends were dying*". Peter died suddenly in his sleep on the night of 21th/22nd February 1993.



Peter's Twister



**Peter, his sister Bridie
and May's dog Dusty**

Another tale from Michael D.:

"I remember when Phil (Bridie's husband) came on holiday to the old house in Muingelly with his son Michael as an infant, your grandmother (Bridgie) had stirred a boiled egg in a cup with some milk and Phil was feeding him with a spoon while the boy was sitting on his lap. Phil was telling a funny story and as it came to a climax the rate of spoon to mouth increased and poor Michael was unable to get any more food into his mouth. This was of great interest to me as a small boy and for some crazy reason I still remember it".



Martin & Josie

***Re Crooksling Sanatorium:** *The sanatorium was built in the 1900s for the treatment of patients with consumption or tuberculosis. It followed the principle of Dr. Otto Walther, a German doctor, who had developed a method of treating patients, which became famous across Europe. With emphasis on fresh air, the Crooksling site was chosen near the Dublin Mountains in Brittas. There was plenty of ventilation with beds pushed out on to verandas. After streptomycin was invented in 1944, the incidence of TB gradually declined. The building then became a care home - St Brigid's - till a more modern care home was opened nearby in 2020. Crooksling was to be sold - to become an elderly village or leisure complex., but the sale fell through. In January 2024 it was intended to house refugees in the now empty buildings. Protesters set it alight. It burnt down completely. For Saint Patrick's weekend, refugees camping along Dublin's city streets were removed and brought to Crooksling where they set up their tents in the grounds. Many are still there. 25th May 2024.*



**Peter's eldest sister May with
baby Anne 1951**

The Rocks of Bawn

"The Rocks of Bawn" describes the back-breaking, unrewarding labour of farming in the impoverished, rocky soils of western Ireland. "To plough the Rocks of Bawn" became a metaphor for undertaking difficult, seemingly impossible tasks often born from poverty and displacement. The lyrics express a desire to escape this harsh existence, even wishing to join the British Army rather than continue farming the unforgiving land.

John Mitchell

John Mitchell, an Irish revolutionary, was a strong advocate of a peasant-led rebellion to establish independence for Ireland. In 1848, found guilty of treason by a 'loaded' jury, he was sentenced to fourteen years transportation to Australia. Five years later he escaped from Tasmania and made his way to America. Ironically, while there he became a leading supporter of slavery and the southern cause. He returned to Ireland in 1875, where he became Member of Parliament for Co. Tipperary.

The Rocks of Bawn

Come all you loyal heroes, wherever you may be.
Don't hire with any farmer till you know the kind he is:
You'll get up there in the morning – from the clear daylight of dawn,
And 'tis then you'll have to tackle up and plough the rocks of Bawn.

'Rise up, rise up young Sweeney, and give the horses hay.
Go give them a good feed of oats before you start the day.
Don't feed them in mash turnip, let them out in yon green lawn,
And 'tis then you might be able for to plough the rocks of Bawn.'

My shoes they are all worn and my stockings are getting thin,
And my heart is always trembling, what fear I would give in.
My heart is always trembling for the clear daylight of dawn.
I'm afraid I won't be able for to plough the rocks of Bawn.

I wish that Patrick Sarsfield would write to me in time,
And place me in some reg'ment while in my youth and prime.
I would fight for Ireland's glory from the clear daylights of dawn,
But I never would return again to plough the rocks of Bawn.

My curse upon you Sweeney and you have me nearly robbed,
You're sitting by the fireside with your *dúidín* in you gob. (*dúidín* = clay pipe)
You're sitting by the fireside from the clear daylight till dawn
And I know you won't be able for to plough the rocks of Bawn.

It is true that I must ramble, it is true that I must go.
It is true that I must ramble from my dear old Irish home.
My poor ould heart is breaking for the clear daylight of dawn,
For I know I won't return no more to plough the rocks of Bawn.

John Mitchell

So I am a true-born Irish boy, John Mitchell is my name.
And to join my native countrymen, from Newry town I came.
I struggled hard both day and night, to free my native land.
By which I'm now transported into a foreign land.

First when I joined my comrade men, it being in forty two.
Those things that'll follow after I will plainly tell to you.
He raised the standard of Repeal, and gloried on the deed.
And he vowed to heaven he'd never rest, until Ireland would be free.

He was locked in a prison cell before his trial day,
And his loving wife she came to him, and through these words she says:
'John, my dear, cheer up your heart, and lonely do not be,
It's better to die for Erin's rights, than to live in slavery.'

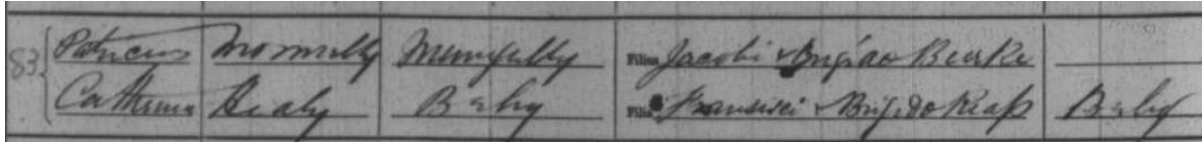
'Dear loving wife it breaks my heart when I think of parting you.
Likewise my young and tender babes, great God what will they do?
My friends and kind relations, they will mourn for my downfall.
And to part with you, dear loving wife, it grieves me worse than all.'

He was taken before the magistrate, on his trial day.
The magistrate spoke up to him, and those words to him did say:
He was offered there his liberty, if he'd forsake the cause.
Well he'd sooner die nine thousand deaths, than to be ruled by British laws.

And he was locked in a convict ship, in strong irons he was bound.
And seeing his native countrymen, they assembled there all around.
It was up on deck he went to take a last and farewell view.
He had shed a tear, but not through fear, for my native land and you.

6. PATRICK MUNNELLY

Patrick Munnelly was the brother of John, our great-grandfather, son of **James Munnelly** and **Bridget Burke**. Patrick married **Catherine Healy** of Behy, daughter of **Francis Healy** and **Bridget Reape**, on 10.03.1872, in the presence of Thomas Munnelly and Winifred Henry (the local teacher). Catherine was aged 21 – born 1851 - and Patrick 26 years – born 1846 (as famine ended). Catherine died in 1926 aged 75 and Patrick in 1924, aged 80 years. Patrick and family lived next door to our grandparents John and Bridgie, in what we called “Bridgie Early’s” house.



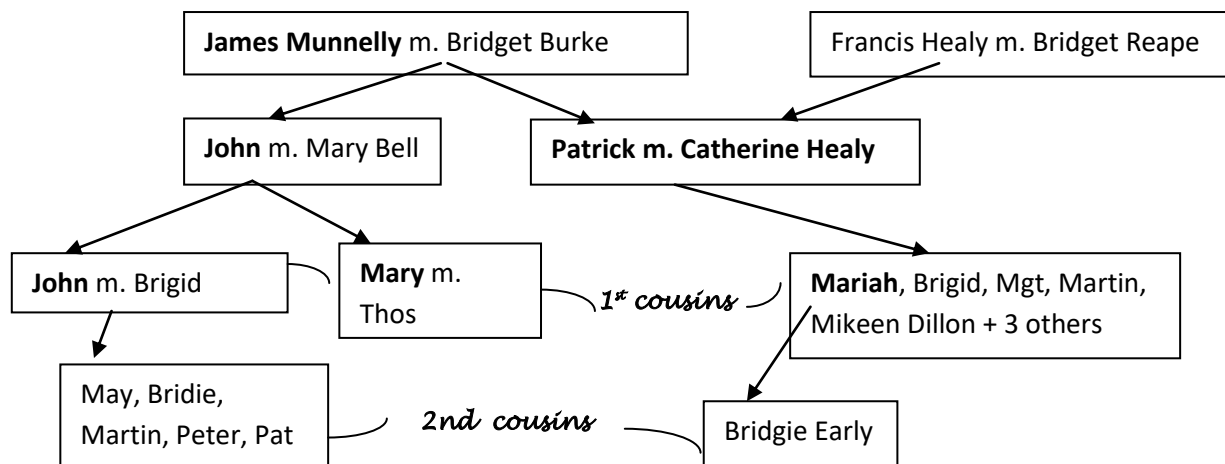
We read: Patrick Munnelly of Doonfeeny with parents James Munnelly and Margaret Burke married Catherine Healy of Behy with parents Francis Healy and Brigid Reape. (Church record).

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
27	10th March 1872	Patrick Munnelly	28	Bachelor	Farmer	Munnelly	James Munnelly	Farmer
		Catherine Healy	21	Spinster		Behy	Francis Healy	Farmer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Beldring according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, Patrick A. Macdonnell C.P. Ballycastle.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Patrick Munnelly and Catherine Healy in the Presence of us, Thomas Munnelly and Winifred Henry.

Winifred Henry, teacher in Palm Hill School.



According to Census reports the children born to Patrick and Catherine were **Mary** aka Mariah 1873, John 1874, Bridget 1876, Margaret 1878, Martin 1880, Catherine 1883, **Michael** 1887 and Patrick 1890 and Ellen 1886. In the 1911 Census they answered the question re number of births as born 10 and living 7. Only the three youngest are still at home in 1911, i.e. **Michael**, Patrick and Ellen; Patrick junior died of influenza in Glenurla, John Early is present, on 31.12.1918. It's a thatched house, grade 3 in 1901 Census, with two windows and two cow houses.

Bridgie Early: On Census night In April 1901, **John Early** of Glenurla aged 37 years is a widower. His parents are listed as Michael and his mother Bridget Forde. John re-married **Mary** aka **Mariah Munnelly**, daughter of Patrick in 1901. The witnesses were Margaret and Martin Munnelly, presumably siblings of Mary. Maria and John had two children in Census 1911, Mary born in 1903 and Bridget **Bridgie Early** in 1909, died 1970, aged 61 years. Michael Early, grandfather, aged 80 died in 1938 and Maria, aged 87 in 1952. I don't know when John, her father died.

Mikeen Dillon: The house next door to our grandmother's house was called Mikeen Dillon's. Michael Munnelly was the son of Patrick and the brother of Maria. It is likely he inherited the house after his parents' demise. He continued to live there unmarried, alone. He died on 23rd June 1958, aged 74 years, a lonely man. Was it after her mother's death in 1952 that Bridgie Early, niece, came to live with Mikeen? She never spoke very much.



All the **Michael Munnellys** in the area had monikers or nicknames, like **Faulkner** or **Merchant**. Another man, not Munnelly, was called **Biscuit**. Mikeen had two monikers, **Farmer** and **Mikeen Dillon**. Perhaps the name Dillon had something to do with the famous politician, John Dillon. Maybe that is how he got the name.

"He was a great friend to me and spent many evenings sitting by our fire telling me stories". Michael D.

BRIDGIE EARLY was a second cousin of May, Peter, Bridie and Martin. She was the only occupant in the house next door in Muingelly when we visited. We still call the house Bridgie Early's. She spent all her days sitting on the form (a wooden bench or long seat) inside the door of granny's house. She did not say much nor did she do chores like fetching water or bringing in turf. There were tales of odd behaviour as a child. After granny died in 1966 Bridgie went to the County Home in Castlebar. She got cancer, but may have had it for quite some time. She died age 61 years. We would have thought she was much older.

Nowadays she would be regarded as special needs, but there was no help available in those days, psychological or otherwise. Anne has a memory of a Master Early being mentioned. In the Schools' Collection there was a Mrs. Early, teacher in Palm Hill. She was Winifred Henry, who on marrying John Early, farmer, in 1866 became Mrs. Ayrly. She died in 1899. John subsequently married Mariah Munnelly, daughter of Patrick in 1901. Bridgie was their 2nd daughter born in 1909.

After Anne's parents died, her mother, **May**, was buried with Peter, her brother in Ballycastle cemetery. **Brendan** had wanted to be buried with his brother Michael in Glasnevin. He died on 24th November 2010. Less than five weeks later, May died on 28th December 2010. This was the year of the "big snow" that began on Dad's funeral and continued



till St. Stephen's Day. When the stone masons were adding names etc, Anne had a headstone put on Bridgie's grave. She contacted Father Killeen, then P.P. in Ballycastle, to check her date of birth. It was 1909. He sent back the cheque she had sent him to do the search, a generous man!

Ellen Munnelly, daughter of Patrick married Anty (Anthony) McGuire in Ballycastle in 1927. His parents were Michael McGuire and Kate Langan of Ballyknock.

We have **Manley and Munley relatives in the US** - some married with the Flynn surname. They would have to descend from the males in this Munnelly family, i.e. James great-grandfather x 2, father of two sons, John great-grandfather and Patrick as above. It's likely there were more children who may have survived childhood and / or emigration, born to James and to John Senior. The latter had just two children, grandfather **John** who married **Mary Bell**, and **Mary** who married **Thomas Madden**. Some of our Munnelly cousins have their surname from their Dad, Phil Munnelly, neighbour, who married our aunt Bridie Munnelly – yes a Munnelly, married a Munnelly. Only one male Munnelly is carrying the name forward, i.e. Peter son of John, son of Martin.

What's in a name?

Munnelly is usually pronounced Munn-il-ee with emphasis on Munn. In England some say Munn-ell-ee, a bit like an Italian. In the US, the simpler Munley or Manley was initiated by Immigration officers when registering the Irish who couldn't spell their own names. In the 1911 Census John Munnelly, unable to read, could not have corrected the entry "Monnelly" written by the Census enumerator.

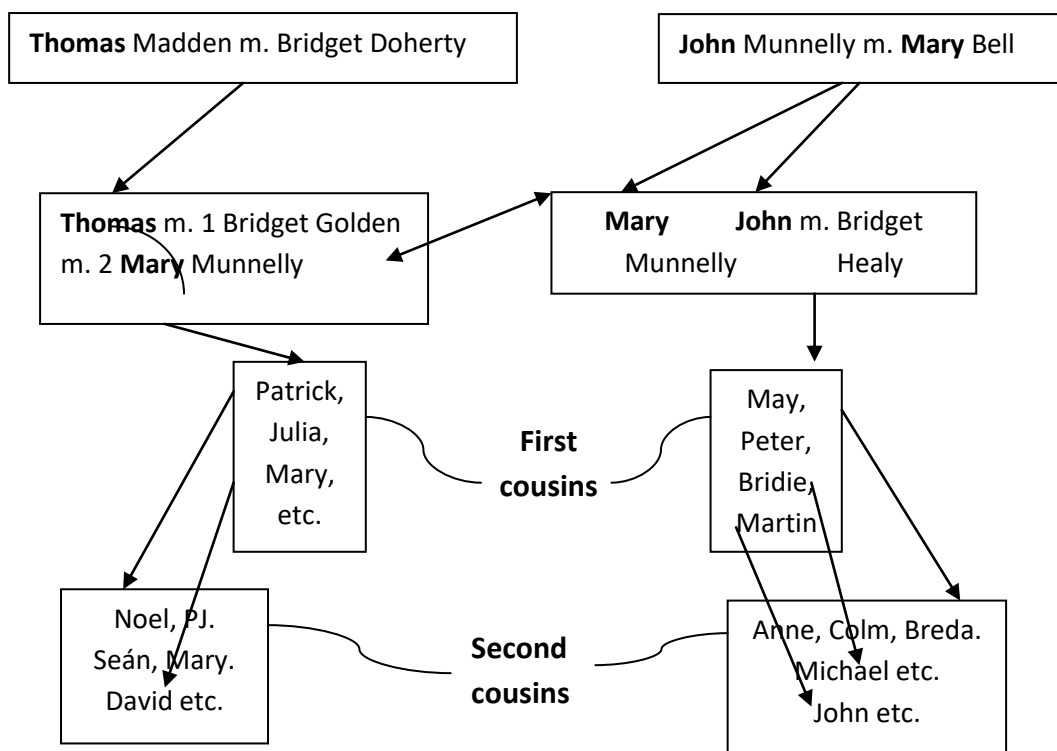
Bell could be spelled Bell or Belle - not an Irish name. Teachers used "Mac Giolla an Chloig on school rolls. **Keane** (< Ó Catháin, Oh cah-hawn) appears as Kean or Kane, pronounced Kane, cane in Mayo. **Walsh** is pronounced as Welsh. For **O Malley** you hear O Mayl-yeh. There are some Mallees too. The surname Heffernan - Ó hIfeárnáin - of Tipperary and Clare origin, is spelt Hefferon or **Heverin** in Mayo. Many people, not from Mayo, consider Munnelly, Bell and Loftus to be unusual surnames, but North Mayo is host to rare surnames: Battle, Bilbow, Blanche, Carden, Caribine, Mahedy, McAvock, Moyles, Newcombe, Padden, Polke, Pryal and Tomas (pronounced Toe-mass). Our great-great grandmother **Reape**. The 1911 census shows 138 Reap(e)s in Ireland, 118 in North Mayo, 20 in Sligo. What is the origin of these names? Had they been coastguards? Cromwell's soldiers given land?

There was a very limited range of first / Christian names for boys and girls, as evidenced from cemetery headstones. Most popular for boys were **John, James, Michael, Patrick** and **Thomas**. Women were called **Catherine** aka Kathleen, Kate or Katy, and **Mary** aka Molly, May. Mai or Maura. **Bridget**, the most common name, appears on documents, but within families you find Breda, Bridgie, Breege, Brigid, Bríd, Bibi, Brídín, Biddy, Bride and Bedelia (in Sligo). Some emigrants took on Delia. The unwritten custom of naming children after grandparents or parents led to a narrow palette of names. My mother May had John x 2, Martin and Mary, Bridgie and Katie among her immediate forbears. All of these names were repeated among her siblings before Peter was used.

Names in Irish were very uncommon fadó. Remember, all names were anglicised in the National Schools in the 19th century till the founding of the state. The Church also insisted on saints' names. Gradually names like Seán, Séamus, Pádraig, Liam, Áine, Colm and Niamh appeared. In time Oisín, Gráinne, Sadhbh, Ciarán and Deirdre would be introduced, before Ireland's most popular baby names in 2025 – Lily, Éabha and Fiadh, as well as Rian, Noah and Jack, always a popular name!

6. THE MADDEN FAMILY OF GLENURLA

Now we will explore the connection between the Munnelly and Madden families, of Muingelly and Glenurla resp. **Thomas Madden**, son of Thomas (see chart below), married **Mary Munnelly** in 1915.



The 1901 Census and the 1911 Census

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish l
Madden	Thomas	70	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and
Madden	Bridget	75	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	Irish and
Madden	Thomas	30	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Son	Read and write	Irish and

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace
Madden	Thomas	80	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo
Madden	Bridget	80	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo
Madden	Thomas	45	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo

Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified Illnesses	Years Married	Children Born	Children Living
Irish and English	Married	-	-	-	-
Irish and English	Married	Blind	54	6	3
Irish and English	Widower	-	-	-	-

Mary Munnelly was the only sibling / sister of **John Munnelly**, our grandfather, with parents John Munnelly and **Mary Bell**. Their daughter, **Mary**, was baptised on the 7th September 1881 in the presence of Thomas McHale and Anne McHugh. **Mary**, aged 34 years, married **Thomas** (44) in 1915.

Thomas Madden senior was from a family of six children, of whom three reached adulthood. It states in the census that his mother **Bridget** was blind. We see from the headstone below that she died on 2nd July 1944 (63 years), **Thomas** died on the 3rd February 1950, aged 82 years. They were predeceased by their daughter **Bridget** in 1946 on 5th February, aged 26 years. *It is noteworthy that Mary Bell Munnelly and her brother John Munnelly were buried in adjoining graves in Doonfeeny Cemetery.*

Thomas Madden, son of Thomas Madden and Bridget Madden, as in Census 1901 above, married **Bridget Golden** of Muingelly in 1902. Bridget's parents were Thomas and Mary **Golden**. (Witnesses were John Madden and Catherine Golden). However, Thomas's wife Bridget Golden died in childbirth. Their daughter **Katie Madden**, was reared by her Golden relatives in Muingelly. She wore thick rimmed glasses. (In

1911 Katie, aged 10 years, was living with her grandmother Mary Golden 76 years; also with uncle Patrick 46 years and aunt Annie, 36 years. Patrick died in 1953, aged 86, Annie in 1954, aged 73 years. It is assumed that Mary died at an earlier date. Katy later had a child, Pat Madden, out of wedlock, but was not sent away to a Mother and Baby Home. This was in the 1940s. Her son, who could be unruly, ultimately went to England).

Thomas Madden remarried **Mary Munnelly** in 1915. We learn that his parents were Thomas, and **Bridget Doherty**. (The witnesses were Anthony and Ellen McHugh). The children born to **Thomas** and **Mary Munnelly** were Patrick / Pat b. 1916, Michael, Thomas, Nora, Bridget, Julia, Nelly, Anthony, Julia and Mary. Michael aged 1 years and Nora 3 years both died in June 1924, a day apart. A daughter Bridget aged 22 died in 1946, born in 1922 as can be seen from the headstone. She was born blind.

Of nine children born only six survived to adulthood, i.e. Pat, Mary, Nelly, Julia, Anthony, and Thomas.



Pat and Molly Madden

Pat Madden was born in 1916. He married **Molly Keane** (38) on 25th January 1944; her parents were Patrick Keane and Molly Heaney. Molly was from Caherlistran, Co Galway, a relative of Dolores Keane's aunts; the family moved to Kilfian to run a shop - Molly was 6 years old. She later became Fr. Gallagher's housekeeper and when he was moved to Ballycastle she continued as his housekeeper. He was living in the Stella Maris, at that time a convent. Pat met Molly and wooed her. They lived in Bun na hAbhann / Bunahowna, Glenurla, where Pat farmed and also fished –he was good for a tune on the Bosca – Button accordion too. They moved to Seaview, Ballycastle Town, where they lived for many years. *Sister Hilda, Molly's sister, was a nun in Sydney, Australia. At an advanced age she visited Ireland in 1979 in time to see Pope John Paul in the Phoenix Park. Molly had two brothers, Michael who was married in Kilfian and William /Willy married in Leeds.*



Pat died on 25th January 2009, aged 93 years on their 65th wedding anniversary. Molly died on 16th January 2016 in her 110th year, the oldest person in Ireland that year. Their children were **Noel** (RIP 2024), **Patrick Joseph / P.J., Seán** and **Mary**.

Mary, sister of Pat, born in 1918, married Jock Grandison, watchmaker, in Sligo. Mary died in 1999. Their children were Tommy, who was a lecturer in the DIT Dublin. He died in 2008. David lives in Dublin, Charlie in Sligo and Mary in Tralee, Co .Kerry.

Julia was born in 1920. She had very bad eyesight, but she made a life for herself, doing household duties for Miss Clifford and Granny Munnelly. For some time she knitted Aran jumpers, a scheme that ran in many areas and was a good source of income for the local women. The Clancy Brothers had popularised the Aran geansaí, hand-knit jerseys. Later Julia moved to St. Marys' Home for the Blind in Dublin. She died in 2002.

Nelly lived in London and was married to Bill Williams. Their only son, Seán, died in 1975, aged 12 years following many years of treatment for leukaemia. Nelly died ? **Anthony** was born in 1926 and married Bridie but was separated for many years. Their children were Rosaleen, Anthony, Bernadette (eyesight problems), Michael and another girl. They lived in London. **Thomas?**

1927. Julia aged 7, only girl in 1st class in Glenurla School.

		Standard I : girls
7.10	2	Julia Madden

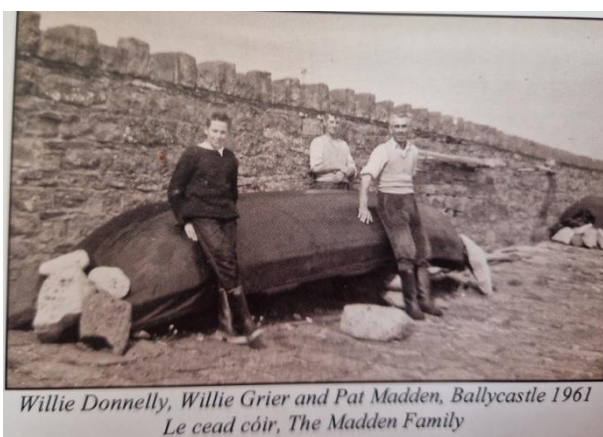
Ellen / Nelly is in 2nd class with another girl. There are 5 boys in her class.

		Standard II : girls
8.9	7	Ellen Madden
8.2	1	Mary Munnagham

(In the 1911 Census Thomas 70 and Bridget are parents. Thomas, son, father of Pat, is 45 years old; he was 30 years in 1901. Of six children born, three are alive. Bridget is blind.) There were four Madden families in Glenurla in 1901. Were they headed by the brothers Thomas senior, Anthony, husband of Ellen and John?

- In one house, Anthony 67 is married to Bridget Granaghan 60, with daughter Bridget ages 30 yrs, only surviving child of 2 born. **Anthony** is a brother of Thomas! Same parents!
- In another house **Ellen** 67 yrs lives alone.
- In the fourth house **John** 60 (wife Bridget Sweeney RIP) is with children John 23, Bridget 20, Pat 18 and Catherine 14.

Re the differing ages in the 2 censuses above, the 1901 ages as nearest to true. The old-age pension had been introduced before 1911 and then many people added a few years to qualify sooner for the pension. Thomas junior had aged by 15 years. We can trust that he was 44 years when he married Mary Munnelly. (The official registration of Births etc. began in 1864. Registration was patchy. Baptismal Certificates are a better source of information as babies were baptised within days of birth.



Willie Donnelly, Willie Grier and Pat Madden, Ballycastle 1961
Le cead cóir, The Madden Family

From the *Ballycastle Bicentenary Magazine* 1997

A lucky escape

It was on a Monday night in the second week of July in 1970. We left Ballycastle Pier for a nights fishing. There were four of us on the boat; Joe O'Donnell, Peter Kelly and Jim O'Donnell (all now deceased RIP) and the fourth person being myself. Peter Kelly was taking the place of his son Paddy on that night. We steered the boat towards Down Patrick head and when we were about a mile west of the head we cast out our nets. We sat and chatted for a while and suddenly we discovered that there was something wrong with the nets. We decided it was better to board them up again. We had two nets boarded when it became clear that the nets had gone around the boat and were tangled in the propeller. The engine cut out and we were now faced with a serious situation. We argued for a few minutes about what to do next. Eventually Joe O'Donnell and I had to put out the oars and we kept backing the boat away from the rocks while Peter Kelly and Jim O'Donnell pulled in the nets. When we had the nets in we were at a loss as to know what to do next. We decided to throw the anchor to see if we could hold the boat there. The anchor rope was short so we tied one of the nets to it and threw it out.

We waited there hoping that we would be seen by someone. Gradually the sea got rougher and to our horror the anchor broke. We were adrift with nothing to hold us. We knew we could not make it to Ballycastle Pier because the wind was coming from the wrong direction. The only alternative was to head for Lacken Pier which was quiet some distance away. Myself and Joe O'Donnell went back to the stern to steer the boat and Peter Kelly also helped with the rowing.

The boat was been rocked from side to side by the huge waves. It was seven thirty on Tuesday morning when we arrived at Lacken pier. there was no one on the pier so early in the morning so I went to Brodie Golden's house it being the closest to the pier to phone home and let them know we were safe. When I got there I discovered that Brodie didn't have a phone so he directed me to Patrick Fordes house. Patrick went to the post office in Lacken where he phoned Willie Barrett in Ballycastle with the good news that we were safe.

In the meantime Frank Whelan who lived in the Stella Maris guesthouse close to Ballycastle had suspected that something was wrong when we had not returned to Ballycastle pier. He too had phoned Willie Barrett to raise the alarm.

Willie came over to Lacken and helped us pull up the boat and get the nets off the propeller. We left the boat there and returned home to get dry clothes and some food. That evening we went back to Lacken pier where we launched the boat again and made the same journey along the coast to Ballycastle pier. Despite our horrendous experience and narrow escape we were not deterred from going fishing again that night.

I have often relived that night in my mind and realised that it was the courage and will-power of all of us on board that night, especially Joe O'Donnell an excellent seaman that saved us from deaths door along with the power of Almighty God.

by Pat Madden
Seaview, Ballycastle

*"The original local landlord, **Joseph Williams Madden**, lived in a house now demolished, where Kevin Healy, Paddy's son now lives. J.W. Madden originally owned 4,000 acres in Mayo in 1876. He died a bankrupt. He owned extensive holdings in Glenulra and Ballycastle town. His estate sold 478 acres to the Congested Districts Board in April 1905 but there was a prolonged legal dispute about the sale of the holdings. Local tenants and residents organised a campaign, through the United Irish League, to oppose the sale as one lot and won the right to bid for individual holdings. A number of the Glenulra tenants were prominent in this struggle. Thomas Madden secured title to their land holding at the river, in June 1914." **David Connolly**.*



Noel, Bridie Munnelly, Molly and Pat in London in the 1970s

The Madden Surname

Madden is the anglicised version of the Irish O Madaidhín, from a diminutive of madadh, meaning "hound". The individual from whom the Maddens claim descent was Madudan, son of Gadhra Mor, who was killed in 1008. The family were part of the Ui Maine tribal grouping based in east Co. Galway; their territory extended across the river Shannon into what is now Co. Offaly. Madden strongholds are recorded at Meelick, Cloghan, in Co. Offaly, and Derryhivenny, near Portumna. Their hegemony in the area was not seriously challenged until the English incursions of the 16th century; Lord Deputy Sussex captured Meelick Castle in 1557. It was destroyed in 1595, as was Cloghan castle, in a bloody campaign which resulted in the death of many of the O Maddens. They retained power until the final confiscations of the late seventeenth century - Derryhivenny was built as late as 1643 - but had lost all by the start of the 18th century. Nonetheless the family remained numerous in the area, and even today, the surname is by far most frequent in east Galway.

A branch of the family moved south to the Clare/Limerick region in early times, and anglicised their name as "Madigan", and this separate surname is also still most strongly associated with its original homeland.

The most famous bearer of the name was Richard Robert Madden (1798-1886), doctor, traveller, historian and fervent opponent of the slave trade. He was the author of the monumental and hagiographic 7-volume, *The United Irishmen: their lives and times* (1842-1846).

His son Thomas More Madden (1844 - 1902) was also a well-known writer.

Census 1911 Number with Madden surname - 32 counties – 4,492; Mayo - 332; Galway - 892.

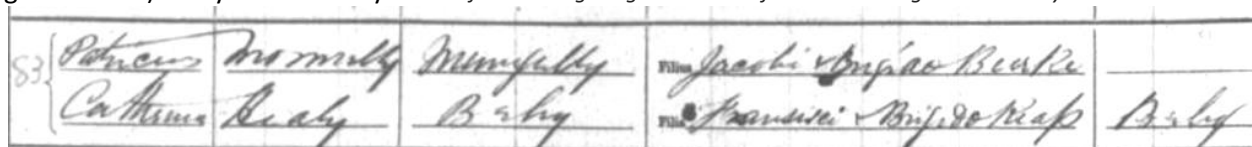


Photos of Family and Neighbours



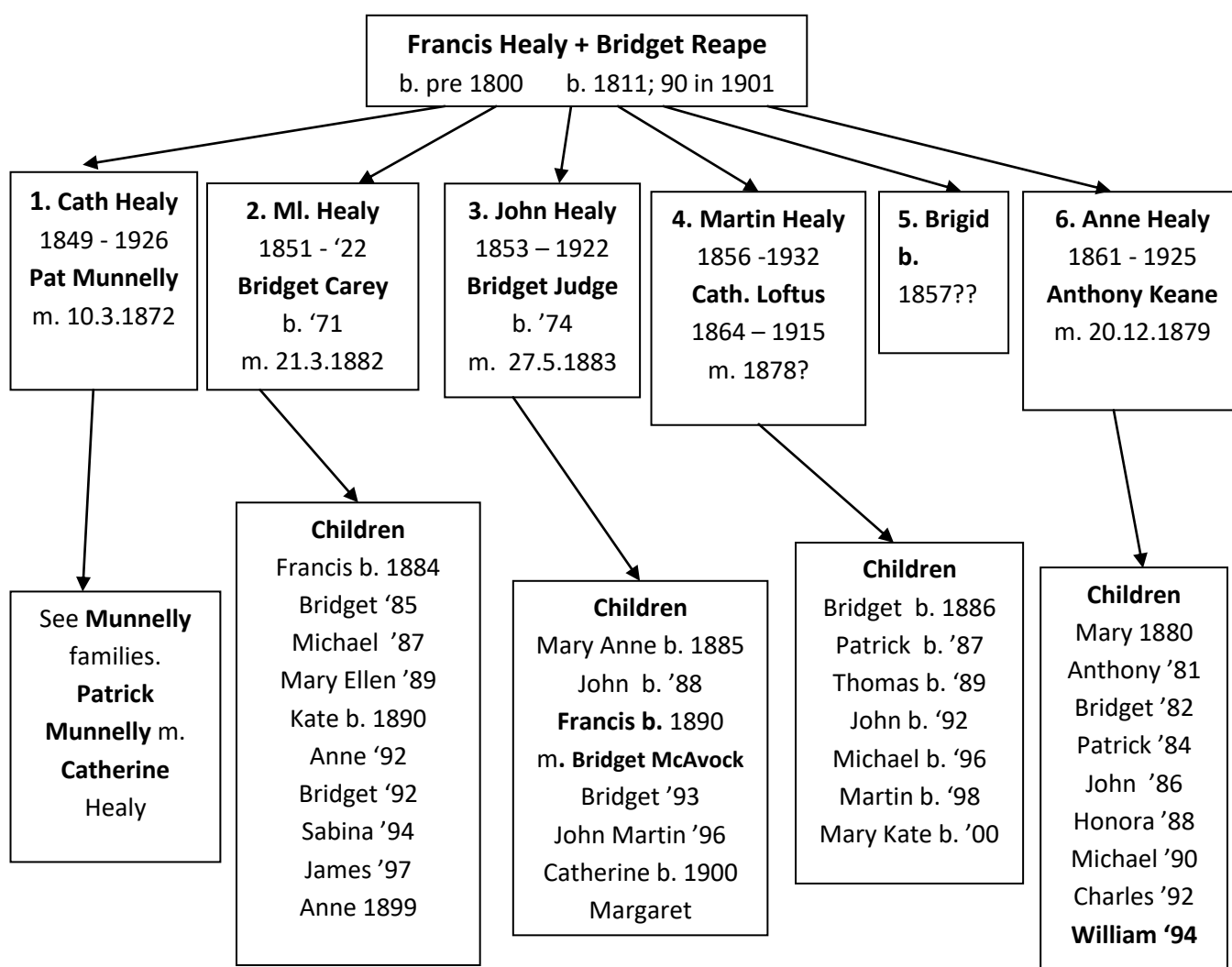
7. FRANCIS and BRIDGET HEALY of BEHY

Francis Healy and **Bridget Reap** were our great-grandparents x 2. According to the Enniscoe researchers, **Catherine Healy**, who married **Patrick Munnelly** of Muingelly, was the daughter of **Francis Healy** Behy. Bridget Reap / Reape's name appears in the copy of the church records below. Catherine was born in 1849. (Patrick was the brother of John, father of **John Munnelly**, our grandfather). They lived in Behy. "One of the last sightings in Ireland of the Golden eagle was at Behy in the 1900s"



This reads: Patrick Munnelly, Muingelly, parents are Jacobi = James and Brigid Burke. Catherine Healy, of Behy, parents Francis and Brigida / Bridget Reap, Behy.

Francis Healy was born prior to 1800, probably in the townland of Behy. He died before 1872. He married **Bridget Reap/Reape**.



Records of the Five Healy Family in Behy - Census 1901 and 1911

Bridget Healy, head of house, aged 44, and **Bridget Reape Healy**, aged 90, mother are in house No. 2 in the Census 1901. Both are widows, speak Irish and English, but cannot read nor write. **Bridget senior** is the wife of Francis; Bridget **the younger** may be her daughter, born in 1857. She is a widow. Her husband? Both Bridget daughters-in-law are alive, living with husbands John and Michael. It is noteworthy that Bridget Sr. lived through the famine years 1845c–1847 and after.....

1. CATHERINE HEALY married PATRICK MUNNELLY

– see the chapter on Patrick Munnelly

The families of the **Three Healy brothers** of Behy, Michael, John / Seán and Martin were known as the **Micheás** the **Seáns** and the **Mártans**.

2. MICHAEL HEALY married BRIDGET CAREY

Healy, Michael	Behy	Carey, Bridget	Muinganierin?	20? Mar 1882	Francis & Bridget Rape
Behy	James & Sabina Maughan	Muinganierin?	John Rice, Glencalry	Bridget Gilroy, Muing-in-irin?	

Michael Healy of Behy married **Bridget Carey** of Muinganierin; he is the son of Francis and Bridget Reape; Bridget is the daughter of James Carey and Sabina Maughan. Witnesses were John Rice of Glencalry and Bridget Gilroy of Muinganierin (= Moing an Iarainn).

1882 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>Ballycastle</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Ballycastle</u> in the Union of <u>Rillala</u> in the County of <u>Mayo</u>								
No. (1.)	When Married. (2.)	Name and Surname. (3.)	Age. (4.)	Condition. (5.)	Rank or Profession. (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7.)	Father's Name and Surname. (8.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9.)
65	21 st March 1882	Michael Healy	30	Bachelor	Farmer	Behy	Francis Healy	Farmer
		Bridget Carey	22	Spinster	Farmer's Daughter	Muinganierin	James Carey	Farmer
							deceased	
							alive	

This is the civil certificate of marriage. It is 1882. We see that **great-grandfather x 2 Francis** has died.

For Census 1901 **Michael** 50 and **Bridget Carey** Healy 40 are in house No. 6. Aged 18 to 2 years the children are John, Francis, Michael, Mary Ellen, Kate, Sabina, James and Anne. All are scholars with Irish and English. The house is the same as others, with a cow house. From Census 1911 we note that Sarah and Celia are the youngest and five children are elsewhere. Michael and Bridget are 31 years married; all ten children are still alive.

Mary married James Corcoran of Glenurla in 1914. There was a **daughter Bridget** who married Michael McNulty of Kilfian in 1915. 12 year old James **or Jack** died by falling from the nearby cliff trying to rescue a sheep. That was in the 1950s.

Mark Hapeman of the Munnelly Connect site on Facebook provided the following information about the family of Micheál who emigrated to the US. *"I just wanted to let you know that I was doing some research on the Michael Healy family and I discovered that four of his children immigrated to Pennsylvania; three of them were in Wilkes-Barre and one in Chester, Pennsylvania. Mary Ellen,*

Celia, and James were in Wilkes-Barre, and Sarah was in Chester. James was married to Sally Dougherty whose mother, Mary Mundy's brother was married to Susan Moore (the sister of one of my 2x great -grandmothers x 2 Bridget Moore.) James and Sally lived in the East End section of Wilkes-Barre where a lot of my relatives on my mother's side of the family lived. Also I think that Celia and Sabina on the 1901 and 1911 censuses might have been the same person as their ages on the census seems to suggest so. I also believe that Michael had a daughter Bridget born in 1893 and was living with her grandmother Sabina Maughan Carey on the 1901 and 1911 censuses. I have updated my family tree and all of this information is on there if you are interested".

The Hefferon Connection

Hefferon, James	Glenurla	Healy, Katie	Behy	17-Dec-1924	Michael & Honor Healy
Glenurla	Michael & Bridget Carey	Behy	John /Murphy, Behy		Margaret Murphy, Killena

This information is important. Kate Healy, daughter of Michael and Bridget Carey, married **James Hefferon**, son of Michael Hefferon and Honor Healy, on 17.12.1924. The witnesses were John and Margaret Murphy. Kate died in 1982. (See headstone!) This means that Kate **Hefferon** was a first cousin of Granny Bridgie, her siblings, the children of Seán and Anna Kane.



My Father used to tell us that the three houses were built at the one time, Seans, Maistard, Michael. They were three brothers as you know. The same three houses are still in Behy & three different buildings built then, the only way they had to level the walls was a bottle of water & when the water spilt the wall was not even & thick they were brilliant in those days.

Written by Breege Doherty 1993



Behy, looking westwards



A typical "Healy" house in Behy

3. JOHN HEALY married BRIDGET JUDGE

Healy, John	Behy	Judge, Bridget	Creggane	27 May 1883	Francis & Bridget Healy
Behy	Edward & Bridget Judge	Creggane	John Healy, Behy		Anne Healy, Behy

John Healy married **Bridget Judge**, with parents Edward and Bridget, from Creggane. The witnesses were John and Anne Healy. In the 1901 Census we find **John Healy**, 40, and **Bridget Judge Healy** 37, in house No. 4. This family was known as the **Seáns**. Their children, ranging from 14 years, were Mary Anne, John, **Francis**, Bridget, John Martin, Margaret, Julia and Catherine. John may have died young and a subsequent son was called John Martin, later known as Sonny. The parents are Irish and English speakers. In 1911 they are 31 years married, 10 children of 10 born survive. Julia is absent.

Mary Anne married Thomas Nealon of Ballyknock in 1899 and lived in ?

John RIP?

Francis (1892 – 1954) married Bridgie McAvock (1914 – 2010) from Geeveraun (west of Belderrig) on 25.03.1942, Francis 40 years and Bridgie 28 years of age.

Catherine ?

Bridget married Thomas McAndrew in 1916.

John ? Martin or Sonny ?

Margaret married Thomas Ashe from Tralee. They went to the USA. **Julia?**

Catherine or Katie, unmarried, stayed at home.



The family of Francis and Bridgie McAvock

- **John** married Kathleen Garvin and lived in Behy.
 - **Mary** married Dave Houghton and lives in England.
 - **Thomas**, single, lived at home.
 - **Francis**, RIP 2024, married Christina Burke and lived in Killala.
 - **Vincent** married Elizabeth McDonnell and lives in Ballycastle.
 - **Bernard** married Anne Gibbons and lives in Ballycastle.
- (**John**, father, died in Feb. 1923, aged 71; his brother **Michael** died in Apr. 1923)

Thomas McAvock	Robert McHale	Guernon Geeveraun	Witness Thomas & Maria Munnelly		M. J. Munnelly Anna Belderrig
			Witness Michael & Bridget Walsh	Geeveraun	

The parents of Bridget's McAvock were Thomas McAvock, 1876 – 1977, and Maria McHale 1883 – 1972. Her parents were Michael McHale and Bridget Walsh, while Thomas had parents Thomas McCovick and Maria Munnelly. See certificate of marriage! The year is 1905. Bridget's brothers were Michael and Thomas McAvock.

[SLOINNTÉ NA h-EIREANN](#) **McAvock, McCavock** - Very rare: Mayo etc. Ir. *Mac Dhabhóg, Dabhóg* is a diminutive of David. They were a branch of the Burkes of Galway. [SGG](#). To **McCavock, McAvock**....

4. MARTIN HEALY married CATHERINE LOFTUS

Martin was the son of Francis Healy, **Catherine** the daughter of Patrick Loftus. In 1901 **Martin Healy, 40 and Kate Loftus, 37** lived in house No. 5. Their children were **Bridget 14, Patrick** (not on Census lists), **Thomas 11, John, Michael 6, Martin 3 and Mary Kate 10 months**. Eight children were born, one baby not living. Bridget can speak Irish and English like her parents; she is a farmer's daughter, no longer in school. The house details are the same as the others, but there are **2 outhouses** for cows and pigs. In 1911 **Martin 64* and Catherine 66*** are 33 years married and six children are living from 8 born. (*Years added the sooner to qualify for pension)

Their marriage certificate is not available. They married in Kilfian*, we may suppose, where records were not well logged. **Catherine Loftus** died aged 52 on 19.05.1912 of a cardiac problem, ongoing for 5 years; **Martin Healy** of Behy died 3.11.32, aged 78.

171	19.32	Third November Behy	Martin Healy	Male	Widower	5	Farmer	Bronchitis Two years Certified	Thomas Healy Son of deceased Present at death Behy	Fourth November 19.32	Howley Registrar
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N.B. In the 1911 Census there was an issue with people adding more than 10 years to their ages since 1901. However many births were: 1. Unregistered, many having only an inkling of their age; 2. Women often reduced their ages for vanity reasons; 3. Many older people added more than ten years, the sooner to get the old-age pension, introduced by the UK Government in 1909.

4.1 BRIDGET married JOHN Munnelly - see chapter on James Munnelly

4.2 PATRICK aka **Padney** does not appear on either census. His birth was registered on 19.01.1887. The godparents were John Healy and Bridget Walsh. I found a 12 year-old Patrick Healy in his uncle's house in Cluddhaun, Kilfian West, a hint to where the Loftus family hailed from. Patrick is a nephew. He may be a visitor for a short time, or as was common, a child who spent most of his childhood with a relative who was childless perhaps. I haven't found where Padney was living in 1911, when he was aged 24 years. However he lived in Fairview and had a job in the Civil Service, position unknown. **Padney** died on 22.04.1950, aged 60 (but in fact 63 years) at 86 Fairview Strand, of myocarditis, heart disease, certified by his brother, Michael Healy, resident at 33 Fairview Green. That date is significant, because my parents, Brendan and May Lynam, Padney's niece, got married three days later, on 25.04.1950. This may explain why no one from the Healy side of the family appears in the wedding – they went to Mayo for the funeral, except Michael.



Wedding photo of Brendan Lynam and May Munnelly with bridesmaid Helen Healy, 25th April 1950

*Kilfian is a civil parish; it stretches westwards from Moygownagh and Crossmolina, south of Doonfeeny and Belderrig.

4.3 THOMAS “TOM” married BRIDGET O DONNELL

THOMAS b. 08.12.1889 had godparents James McDonnell and Maria McCavock. His marriage to **Margaret O Donnell** was registered in Pulathomas Church on 16.03.1940. Thomas Healy died 19.06.1958 aged 64. (Dates are taken from census and cemetery in Doonfeeny.) They had two children, **Breege** and **Martin**. Martin didn't marry and died 2003. **Breege** Doherty, née Healy was born on 29th December 1940 in Behy. Breege's parents were **Thomas Healy** (1900 – 1956) and Bridget O Donnell born



Bridget O Donnell, John Healy, Breege and brother Martin

09.05.1917 in Porturlin.

Bridget died 4th May 1961. **Breege**, her brother **Martin** and their uncle **John** continued living in the original family house in Behy.

Breege married **Paul Doherty**, born on 28.06.'37 in Ballymachugh, on 28th August 1970. Their family home was in Ballymachugh, on the road to Dún Briste, Downpatrick Head. Paul died 30th June 2013 and **Breege** on 7th April 2023, predeceased by her brother **Martin** in 2003.



Kitty Healy Fitzpatrick, with children Frank, Eileen, John Anne and Kate Back row: Uncle John, Breege, brother, Martin and cousin Kitty in front of Behy house, 1965 approx. Thomas Healy below.

For the record Breege's grandfather, father of Bridget O Donnell, was Seamus Dearn O Donnell in Porturlin, born 1874. When Colm was born, Breege was sure he got his red hair from Seamus Dearn. Bridget's parents were Maggie McGuire and Seamus O Donnell, and his parents were John O Donnell and Maggie Deane.

The family of **Breege** and **Paul Doherty** are Seamus, Maura, Breda, Kieran and Colm.

1. **Séamus** m. **Simone Darcy**. They live in Athlone.
2. **Maura** m. **Sean Fox**. They live in the townland of Ballymachugh.
3. **Breda** m. **Midou Naafa**. They live in Colorado USA.
4. **Kieran** m. **Denise Kielty**. They live near Foxford.
5. **Colm** m. **Georgina O Grady** and they live in Dublin.



4.4 JOHN Healy

JOHN died in 1975, aged 84 years. He never married but lived in the family home in Behy. Of slight stature he was not very tall but was quite dapper. Breege looked after him in her house in his latter years. When we visited him in hospital he pulled my Mum closer to him. He wanted to know if there would be space for him beside his sister Bridgie in Doonfeeny cemetery. He did not want to go into the new graveyard, alone.

4.5 MICHAEL married BRIDGET CURRAN

MICHAEL, Mick Healy, was born on 05.07.1896, son of Martin and Catherine Healy. His godparents were John Loftus and Bridget Garvin. He married **Brigid Curran**, a dressmaker, in Killala on 8th October 1924, daughter of John Curran. At the time Michael was a resident in Sligo as a soldier of the Free State Army. The Gardaí had been founded in February 1922. **Michael** and **Brigid** lived in 33 Fairview Green (not far from niece May Lynam). Michael died on 17.03.1970, predeceased by Brigid on 31.05.1969.



Their children were Helen, Maureen, Úna, Kitty, Alice, Michael, Brigid and Martin.

Helen married **John "Jack" Naughton** (pronounced Neachtain), a builder. Their children were Colm, Mary, Mícheál, Neal RIP and Dara. They lived in Maywood, Raheny.

Maureen married **Tom Glackin**, a Garda from Donegal. Their children were Deirdre (deceased), Paddy, Séamus and Kevin. They lived in Clontarf.

Úna was married to **Tim Farrell**, a Garda from Cork. Their children were Tadhg, Con and Fionán (deceased). Úna lives in Beaumont.



Kitty married **Dominic Fitzpatrick**, a Civil Servant. Their children were Frank, Eileen, John, Anne and Kate. They lived at times in Bray, Limerick and Clontarf.

Alice married **James O Reilly**, a Civil Servant from Dublin. Their children were Mary, Helen and Joseph. They lived in Fairview.

Michael married **Olive Fagan**. Their children were Mitchell and Susan.

Brigid married **Paddy Clinton** who worked with Guinness Brewery. Their children were Brídín, Trish and Marty. They lived in Clontarf.

Martin, the youngest, married **Chrissie Healy**. Their children were Anne and Brigid. Chrissie lived in 33 Fairview Green.

Brigid Curran – a brave lady in troubled times

Brigid Curran of Killala had been arrested on 2nd April 1923 and was detained at the North Dublin Union. Tomás Ó Conaill, member of the 3rd Dáil, asked if any charge had been brought against her. General Mulcahy, Minister for Defence replied: *"Miss Curran was detained on grounds of assisting the Irregulars by carrying despatches and doing intelligence work. She has not been formally charged. She has signed the usual undertaking, and, in view of this and of the peaceful state of her district, she was released yesterday."*



Clockwise from bottom: Alice, Helen, Maureen, Kitty, Úna, Bridget.

4.6 MARTIN HEALY

This **Martin Healy** was the son of **Martin Healy** and **Catherine Loftus**, second youngest, **born before Mary Kate**. He seems to have disappeared - we understand he went to the USA.

Mark Hapeman of the Mayo Connection website did some searching.

These are his findings: *"I found a Martin Healy on the Brooklyn census for 1930; he's listed as being born in Ireland and is 34 years old and a labourer. There is also a Thomas Healy 36 also a labourer living with him and they are boarding with a family. On the 1950 census for Brooklyn there is a Martin Healy, 54 years old, married to a woman named Margaret and they have seven children and he is working as a bartender, I don't know if he is the same Martin as the one on the 1930 census or not, but the maths work out."*

4.7 MARY KATE HEALY married JOHNNY MCGUIRE

MARY KATE, b. 15.07.1900 was the youngest of the family, born to Martin Healy and Catherine Loftus. Her godparents were John and Bridget Reap / Reape and Honor Loftus. Mary Kate married **John McGuire** of Carrowcor on 17.06.1937. (Her father, Martin had died in 1932). Johnny's parents were Michael and Bridget née Lavelle. Michael Barrett, Carrowcor and Catherine Healy, Behy were witnesses. Mary Kate was 37 years (taken from the more correct 1901 Census where she is 10 months old). Johnny was 11 years in 1901; he married at 48 years. Records say he was 88 years when he died in 1976 and **Mary Kate** was 65 years in 1967.

There were two children, **Mary Anne** and **Johnny** (who died in 2006), born to Mary Kate and Johnny. Mary Anne went to the USA for a few years and Anne calculates that she came back mid 1960s. Breege Doherty said she stayed with Kane and Finnerty relatives, some of whom had visited Mayo. When Mary Anne came back to Ireland Anne thought she was so glamorous with lovely clothes. She was also very good looking. On her return she built a new house for her parents. Anne has a vague memory of visiting her Mum Mary Kate in the old house which may have been thatched.

Mary Anne married Mícheál Sweeney of Cappagh, son of Peter Sweeney and Mary, aka Baby Golden. Their children were Peter RIP, Brendan and Oliver. **Mary Anne** died in 2021 during the Covid epidemic, Mícheál in 2022

5. Brigid Healy

There was a Brigit Healy, a widow, in the census of 1901. Was she a daughter of Francis and Bridget Reape or married to another son of theirs?

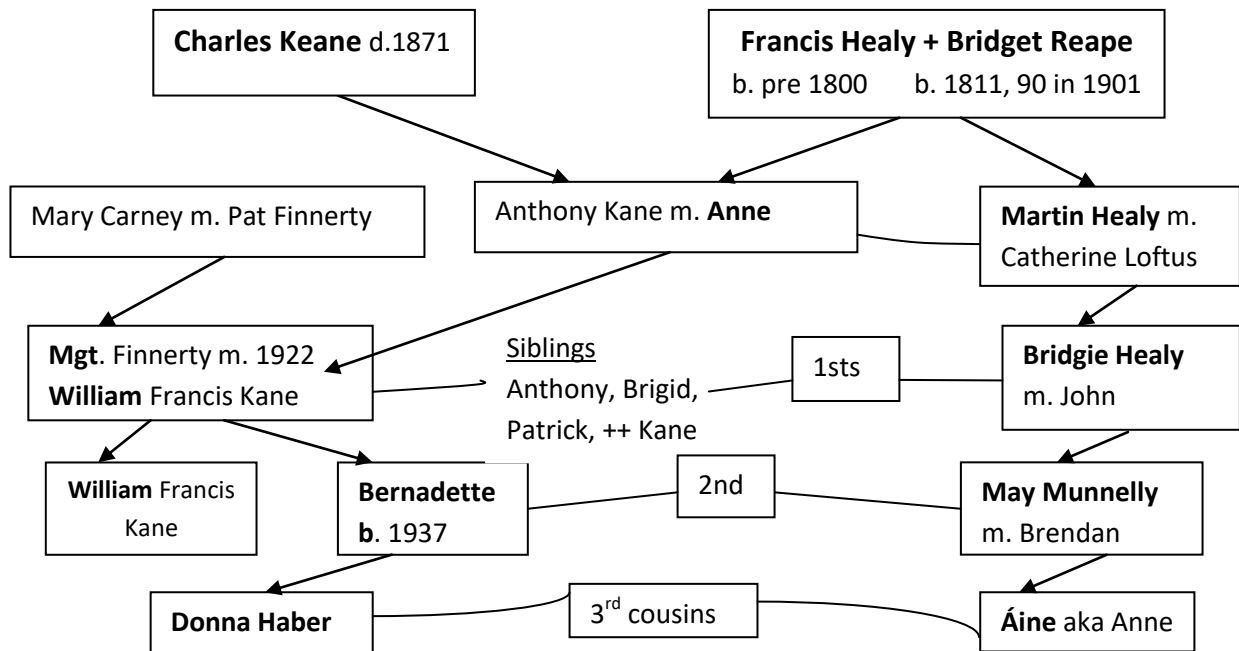
6. ANNE HEALY married ANTHONY KEANE

Few people will have remembered **Anne Healy**, b. 1861, 6th issue of Francis and Brigid Reape, and sister to Catherine, Martin, John and Michael Healy of Behy. There were nine children born to Anne and **Anthony Keane** (Charles, James, **Mary**, **Anthony**, Bridget, Patrick, **William**, John, Honora, and Michael). They married in 1879. In the 1901 Census it is likely Mary, Honora and John were born in the US. The family address is 12 Glenurla. Anthony senior is a boot maker. The Keane Healy family emigrated to Scranton in September 1906, taking their children with them. They were not on our

1911 census, but on the 1910 census for **Scranton** (hometown of Joe Biden and it was also the destination of John Bell and Brigid McHale and family).

Keane, Anthony	Doonfeeny	Healy, Anna	Behy	20 Apr 1879	Caroli (Charles)?
Doonfeeny	Thomas? & Bridget Reape	Behy			

This reads Anthony Keane, Doonfeeny married Anna Healy of Behy on 20.04.1879. Charles is father of Anthony and Thomas (error?) and Bridget Reape of Behy are Anna's parents. No record of witnesses. Charles Kane, aged 71 years, died in September 1871 in Doonfeeny. His sons were Anthony and Patrick who married Honora Nealon of Doonfeeny. Charles died of bronchitis.



- In the **1901 Census** Anthony Sr. signed with an X – the enumerator wrote the name. The walls are of stone, the roof is thatched; there are 2-4 rooms and only 1 window to the front. It's a 3rd class house (1st is highest), with a piggery, no cow or fowl sheds.
- Anthony appeared a couple of times in the **Petty Court sessions**, bringing people to court for non-payment of boots / shoes made, sometimes a year later.
- In Griffith's Valuation the table for Doonfeeny shows Anthony Keane was in a group of four, dividing 61 acres, **about 15 acres each**. Potato blight was one factor leading to the famine: constant subdivision of holdings led to unviable farms, many on poor land. Crop failure led to rent arrears, leading to eviction. How well did Mr. Madden landlord treat his tenants?

Belmullet Because I remember when I was little Maria Finnegan coming to Behy she was in America (Maria's name was De Bourke) she used to visit our house John Sean's father & Frank Healy in (Baile Heale) she was

Breege Doherty remembers a visit from Maria / Mary Finnerty to Behy in the 1940s or '50s. Mary Anne Sweeny née Maguire also stayed with a Finnerty family during her stay in America.

Hi Aine, my Mother is the daughter of William Francis Kane and her mother is Margaret Finnerty. Her father was Anthony Kane's brother, along with Brigid his sister who stayed in Ireland. Mary Carney married Patrick Finnerty who then had Margaret Finnerty who married William Francis Kane. They went on to have my Uncle William Francis Kane Jr. and my Mother Bernadette Kane. I was born in April of 1957 as Donna Jean Targwell. All I know is 2 sisters married 2 brothers on the boat from Ireland. My Great Grandparents stayed in Indiana and the other brother and sister Kane and Finnerty moved back to Ireland (County Mayo). From Donna

✓	Keane	25	7	23
	Krall	29	11	17
	Keane	27	11	21
✓			11	22
✓	Anthony	21	11	23
✓			11	23
	Pal	21	17	15

Lucenstown

2-7	Kelleher, Mary	22
8	Keane, Anthony	28
13	Kenny, Winifred	18
14	Korridge, Louis C.	22
15	Kett, Margaret	22

23	4	Kean	John	29	New York N Y
24	6	Keane	Anthony	23	Chicago Ill
24	15	Keane	Bridget	25	do

MI. Healy m. 1. **Cath Nealon**
 2nd wife Anne Monnelly
 Sons with Catherine
 Pat and Seán Bán

Brothers

John Healy m. **Bridget Walsh.**
 Daughter **Maria** m. **MI. Healy**, son of
 MI. Healy and Bridget Carey = **THE**
LOCHS / LUCKS

Their children were Patrick, Kate, John, Mary, Michael, Thomas, and twins Owen and Anthony.



Anna Maria Kane
Brown b. 1888, d. 1957



Mrs. Anna Kane died this morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Moss, 517 River street. She is survived by the following children: Patrick, Charles and James, of this city; Anthony, William and John, of Gary, Ind.; Mrs. Anna Brown, Mrs. Charles Moss and Bridget Kane, of Scranton.

MRS. KANE IS BURIED IN CATHEDRAL CEMETERY

The funeral of Mrs. Anna Kane, of 517 River street, was held Monday morning with a high mass of requiem in the Church of the Nativity, and was largely attended.

The casket bearers were: Edward Clarke, Patrick Kane, Michael Langan, Patrick Carey, Edward Carey and John McHale. Burial was in Cathedral cemetery.

These two photos are of **Anna Maria Kane** above, and **Anthony** below. They were daughter and son of Anne and Anthony Kane of Glenurla who emigrated in 1906.

The lady in the white dress?

In the death notice (1925?) above we see listed the sons of Anna and Anthony senior: Patrick, Charles, James, Anthony, William, John, daughters Anna Marie, Mrs. Charles Moss and Bridget Kane, all in the USA.

The second death notice is for
Anthony Kane.

In Loving Memory of
ANTHONY A. KANE
Born: August 15, 1880
Died: November 20, 1952
Services: St. Luke's Church
November 24, 1952
INTERMENT
Calumet Park Cemetery
Crown Point, Indiana

The Healy Surname

There is an English **surname Healy**, derived from the Old English heah, "high", and leah, "clearing", "wood", but almost all of those bearing the name in Ireland are descendants of one of two Irish families, the Ó hÉilidhe, from eilidhe, "claimant", and the O hÉaladaighthe, from éaladhach, "ingenious". The Ó hÉilidhe had territory in south-east Co. Sligo, on the shores of Lough Arrow, one of the most beautiful parts of the country, where their seat was at Ballyhely.

The Ó hÉaladaighthe, whose name was originally given the more phonetically accurate equivalent "Healiyh", were based in the parish of Donoghmore in Muskerry in Co. Cork, where they retained considerable power and wealth up to the seventeenth century. The surname is very common and widespread

today, though significant concentrations are to be found around the original homelands in Connacht and Cork. The best-known modern bearer of the name was John Healy, of the Connacht family, renowned for his passionate defence of the rural way of life.

From **John Grenham**



At the time of **Griffith's Valuation in 1856**, **Zachary Mudge** owned three townlands in the parish of Doonfeeny, barony of Tirawley, County Mayo, previously part of the Knox of Castlereagh estate. (Doonfeeny Civil parish reached as far west as Belderrig). In 1876 Arthur Mudge, an army officer of Plympton, Devonshire, had an estate of 3,634 acres in County Mayo.

I remember May said once, only once, that the people of Behy had a good landlord, Joseph F Meade. They seem to have survived the famine a bit better than in other townlands.

Townland	1841 population	1851 pop.	1841 houses	1851 houses	% loss pop.
Behy	89	70	15	13	21%
Glenurla	109	59	16	10	37%
Muingelly	48	36	9	7	25%

***Loss of households and people in the years 1841 – 1851, death from hunger or emigration.**

The landlords were also employers needing a cook, housekeeper, maids and a butler to maintain their opulent lifestyle. Farmhands tended their cattle, herded the sheep and harvested the crops. Local families could benefit, having a wage, and money to pay the rent. At times of famine the local people were too weak to work; there was no harvest leading to unpaid rents. A good landlord, where possible spared his people but our history re-iterates the true stories of death from hunger, people dispossessed dying by the roadside, their thatched cottages ablaze. The landlord could stock the holding with more cattle to be shipped to England. In **Dúchas, the Schools Collection**, we find accounts written in 1937, told by grandparents or neighbours who had lived through the travails of the Land War to eventually having their own home.

*It has been noted elsewhere that the percentage loss of people was greater than the percentages here. The population had been rising steadily up to the start of the famine in 1845. It can be assumed that the population of Glenurla, for example, was greater than the 109 in 1845. **(As noted by Fr Brendan Hoban.)**

The Gallery



Uncle John Healy, Behy



Breege and Paul Doherty, Ballymachugh: Mary Munnelly, Muingelly



Mary Munnelly, Mrs Grier x 2, Julia Madden



On right: Brendan Lynam



John Seán and Francie Healy



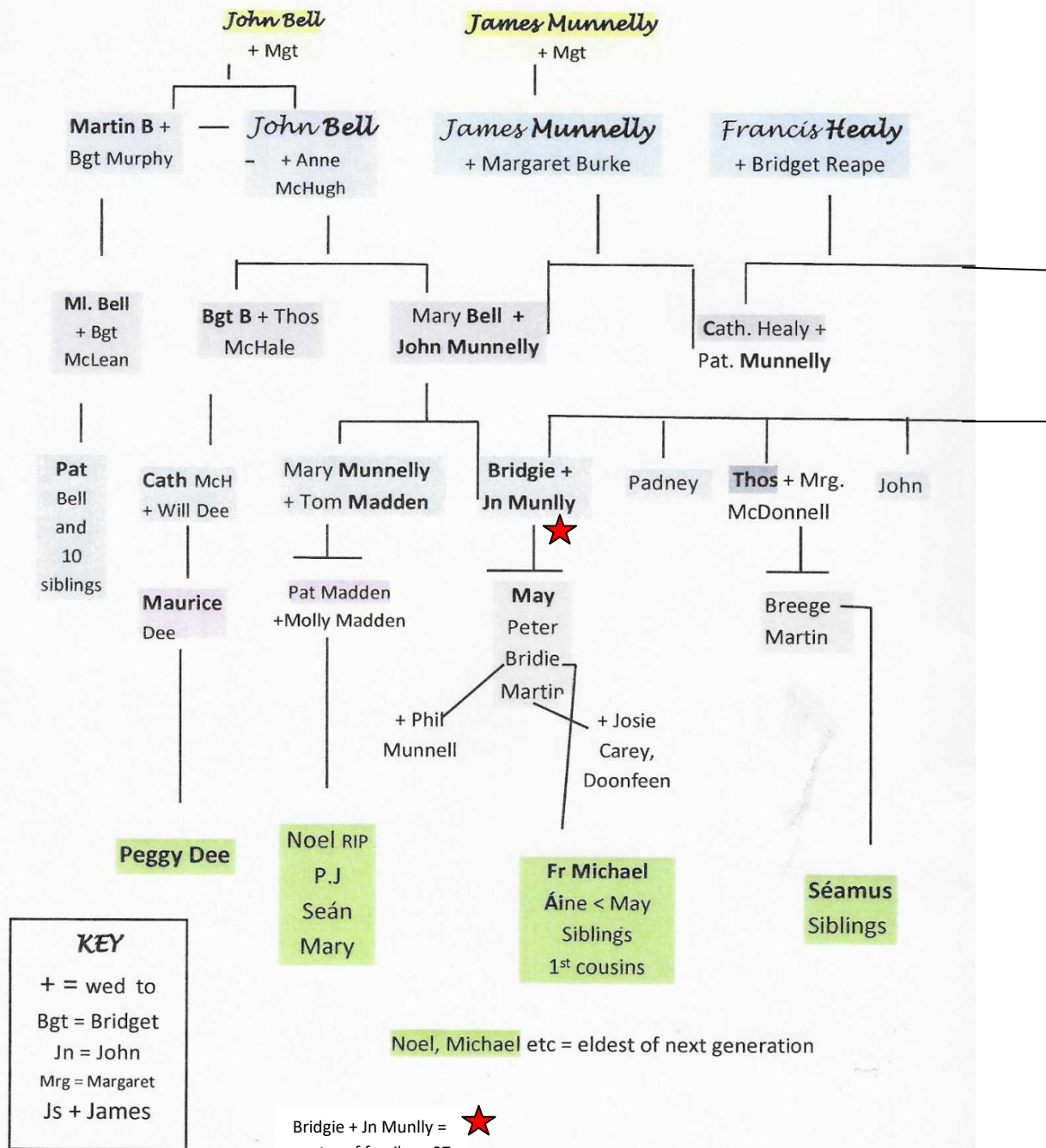
Peter and Martin Munnelly



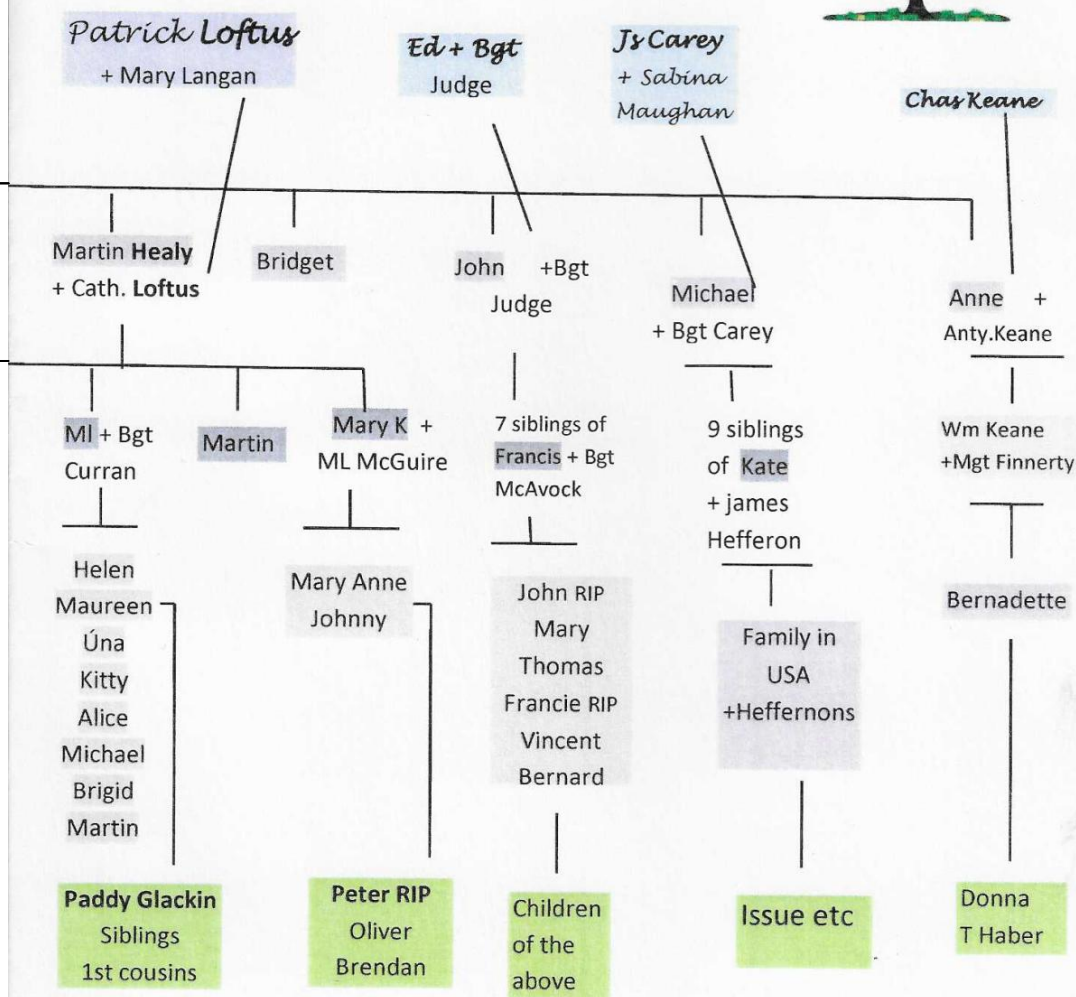
The Cliffs at Céide – painted by Áine Uí Eadhra

8. The Big Family Tree

The BELL, MUNNELLY,



HEALY, LOFTUS TREE



9. Catherine, Ciss and Thomas Loftus

We always knew that the Loftus surname featured in our family background. The person concerned was our great-grandmother **Catherine Loftus** who was married to **Martin Healy** of Behy, the father of Bridgie Healy, Thomas, Michael Healy and Padney. There are records available too for **Thomas Loftus** and **Ciss Loftus**.

Residents of a house 6 in Cluddaun (Kilfian West, Mayo)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Loftus	Michael	35	Male	Head of Family	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and English
Loftus	Mary	26	Female	Sister	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Sister	Cannot read	Irish and English
Loftus	Edward	24	Male	Brother	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Brother	Read and write	Irish and English
Loftus	Anthony	23	Male	Brother	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Brother	Read and write	Irish and English
Loftus	Thomas	21	Male	Brother	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmers Brother	Read and write	Irish and English
Healy	Patrick	12	Male	Nephew	R Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English

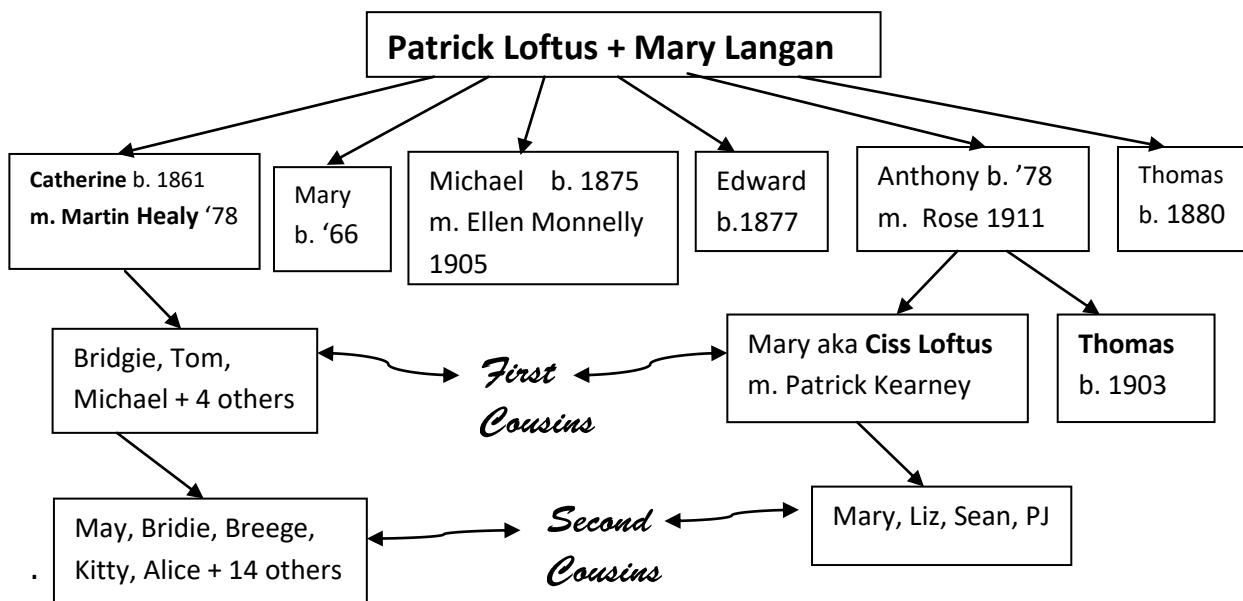
In the 1901 census above, we see a Loftus family. We can see an adult family of siblings living at home, Michael, head of house, Mary, Edward, **Anthony**, and Thomas. **Patrick Healy** aka Padney is a nephew of these Loftus siblings. This is the lead to the family of **Catherine Loftus** who married **Martin Healy**. Padney is their son, not at home in Behy on census night. His age is right; no other Patrick Healy his age can be found in the 1901 census. As Catherine's siblings they are also our great-granduncles and aunt.

Residents of a house 1 in Cluddaun (Kilfian West, Mayo)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Loftus	Michael	57	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and English
Loftus	Ellen	40	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read	Irish and English
Loftus	Thomas	40	Male	Brother	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farm Labourer	Read and write	Irish and English

Above we find Census 1911. Michael Loftus married Ellen Munnelly of Inagh, Belderrig on 28th January 1905; her father is Thomas Munnelly. Michael is now head of the household and Anthony is elsewhere. But most revealing is Michael's father's name **Patrick Loftus**. (The marriage was in the presence Fr. Michael Munnelly). I also found that **Mary Langan** was his mother. **That makes Pat Loftus and Mary Langan our great-grandparents x 2**. It is important to note that these are parents of Catherine Loftus, great-grandmother.



Who was Ciss Loftus or is it Sis?

Ciss had reddish crinkly hair, a pointy nose, and was full of talk, sometimes quite loud. How were we related to her?

Ciss must have been a pet name. In the 1911 census **Anthony Loftus** is 10 years married to Rose, living in **1 Crochnacally**, Kilfian West. (Cnoc na Caillí or hill of the hag). They had three children of whom two were still living, Mary 9 years and Thomas, 8 years. This **Mary Loftus is Ciss Loftus, who married Patrick Kearney** on 21.12.1932; Patrick was 47 years of age, Mary 33 years. Patrick's father was Pat and his address is Breaffy. Patrick died in 1961 aged 76 years, Mary / Ciss in 1984 aged 81 years.

Ciss and Patrick had four children, **Mary** and **Elizabeth** aka Liz, **Seán** and **Paddy**. Mary and Liz lived and worked for Miss Cleary in Baggot Street. I think they were housekeepers. When she died she provided them with a house in Trees Road, Stillorgan, and a very fine property. Later they moved back to Ballina and later still to Swinford. Liz developed cancer and needed care while Mary had dementia. *"Mary went out one night in night-attire. Somehow the Gardaí came upon her, asked her address. She didn't know the Swinford address, but she wanted to go "home", and guided the Gardaí to Kilfian, where brother Paddy's family lived."* As told by Breege Doherty.



They both moved into care in Ballina. Liz died first on 19.10.2018 and Mary on 30.08.2020; Sean and Paddy worked in the state forestry plantation. Seán never married and fell on hard times – he liked a drink or two – and died in 2008. Paddy Joe had died in 1995.

Where Ciss lived was referred to as **Breaffy** or **Kilfian**. Breaffy – Breaghwy an earlier version - where they lived, was one of the townlands in Kilfian Civil Parish, south of Ballycastle. We visited **Ciss** a few times - take the Crossmolina Road at the end of Ballycastle town and turn right further along! Patrick Kearney was underset as was Ciss. The house was furnished with far more dark pieces of furniture than in other houses we visited.

Mary used to visit us in Fairview every Tuesday afternoon and would bring a bag of chocolate eclairs. or pink and white iced toffees. They were such a treat. Mary was quite slim, stylishly dressed and always wore suits with a pencil skirt, like Jackie Kennedy wore. She had brown lightly wavy hair, long but always in a soft bun, not round but flattened up on the back of her head. **Liz** used visit Mick Healy's family in Fairview Green. I saw her only once. She had had a accident where she lost an eye. She wore glasses.

How are we related to one another? Catherine Loftus married Martin Healy, brother of Sean and Micheál Healy. **Ciss Loftus** was a niece of **Catherine**. Her father Anthony was Catherine's brother. Ciss was a **first cousin** to Granny Bridgie, to Tom and Michael, a Garda. Mary and Liz Kearney were **second cousins** to my mum, to Kitty, Alice and to Breege.

Thomas or Tommy Loftus

Tommy Loftus was a brother of Catherine Loftus and therefore an uncle of our grandmother Bridgie in Muingelly. It was noted in the account of the Munnellys that Tommy came to live in Muingelly in his latter years, with his niece.

A chance meeting with a Nealon man near Doonfeeny graveyard told Anne that Tommy had lived with our grandparents. We don't know when he moved in to Muingelly. It is an example of family looking after family, before the age of care homes. He died in 1953. However Michael Diamond tells the following tale about Tommy.

I remember Tommy Loftus. He was a small quiet man who was quite old when I knew him. I went to his wake with my grandmother and spoke to Michael Munnelly (Farmer) about him. Farmer was known as a fast walker (i.e. time from Killala to Muingelly). He told me that Tommy was spotted walking along the road with a 'worm' in his hand by the RIC. A worm was a spiral of copper tubing used in distilling poitin. It was quite distinctive and they jumped off their bicycles and ran towards him. He set off up the fields to the south of the Doonfeeny road and up the hill. They stood no chance of catching him and came back an hour later covered in mud and exhausted. Farmer said that somebody had hidden their bicycles which left them in a terrible temper. He was a great friend to me and spent many evenings sitting by our fire telling me stories.*

*Michael Munnelly aka Farmer was the son of Patrick Munnelly. See James Munnelly article.

Townland	1841 population	1851 pop.	1841 houses	1851 houses	% loss pop.
Cluddaun	79	49	14	10	38%
Clydagh	150	101	29	14	33%
Cnocknacally	20	10	3	2	50%

This is a table of population loss during the famine, through death or emigration.

Figures

taken from "On our Knees" by B. Hoban

Ciss Loftus lived in Crochnacally. **Cluddaun, Clydagh and Crochnacally are situated in the west of Kilfian Civil Parish.** Go down the Glen Road and further down turn right. Looking at the map these townlands are immediately south of Belderrig behind the mountain – take the road to Glenamoy and a bit further on. This is possibly the route the Behy people and the Kilfian folk took to visit one another or find a spouse! This is where our Loftus family stemmed from.

Origin of the Loftus name.

Loftus is a translation or an Anglicisation of the Irish surname **Ó Lachtnáin**. **Loughnane** is another version from **Ó Lachtnáin**. (Lochta is the Irish word for loft).

The **Loftus** name is also of English descent and is found in many ancient manuscripts in that country. Examples of such are an Alanus Loft of County Huntingdonshire who was recorded in the 'Hundred Rolls', England, in the year 1273.

In 1901 there were 1,326 Loftus surnames in Mayo out of a total 1,798 in all Ireland. 74%.

(The Munnellys were 473 in Mayo and elsewhere 17 = 4%)



Loftus Crest

The All Ireland Football Curse

In 1951 the Mayo senior football team had won the All-Ireland final, a Sunday in September. They were on their way home, passing through Foxford, County Mayo, where a funeral was taking place. They drove on through the town. The local priest considered it disrespectful not to pay their respects. Speaking to the team the local priest said "For as long as you all live, Mayo won't win another All-Ireland final." And so it came to pass. Despite sending many teams to Croke Park for the All-Ireland game, Mayo has never won a final since.

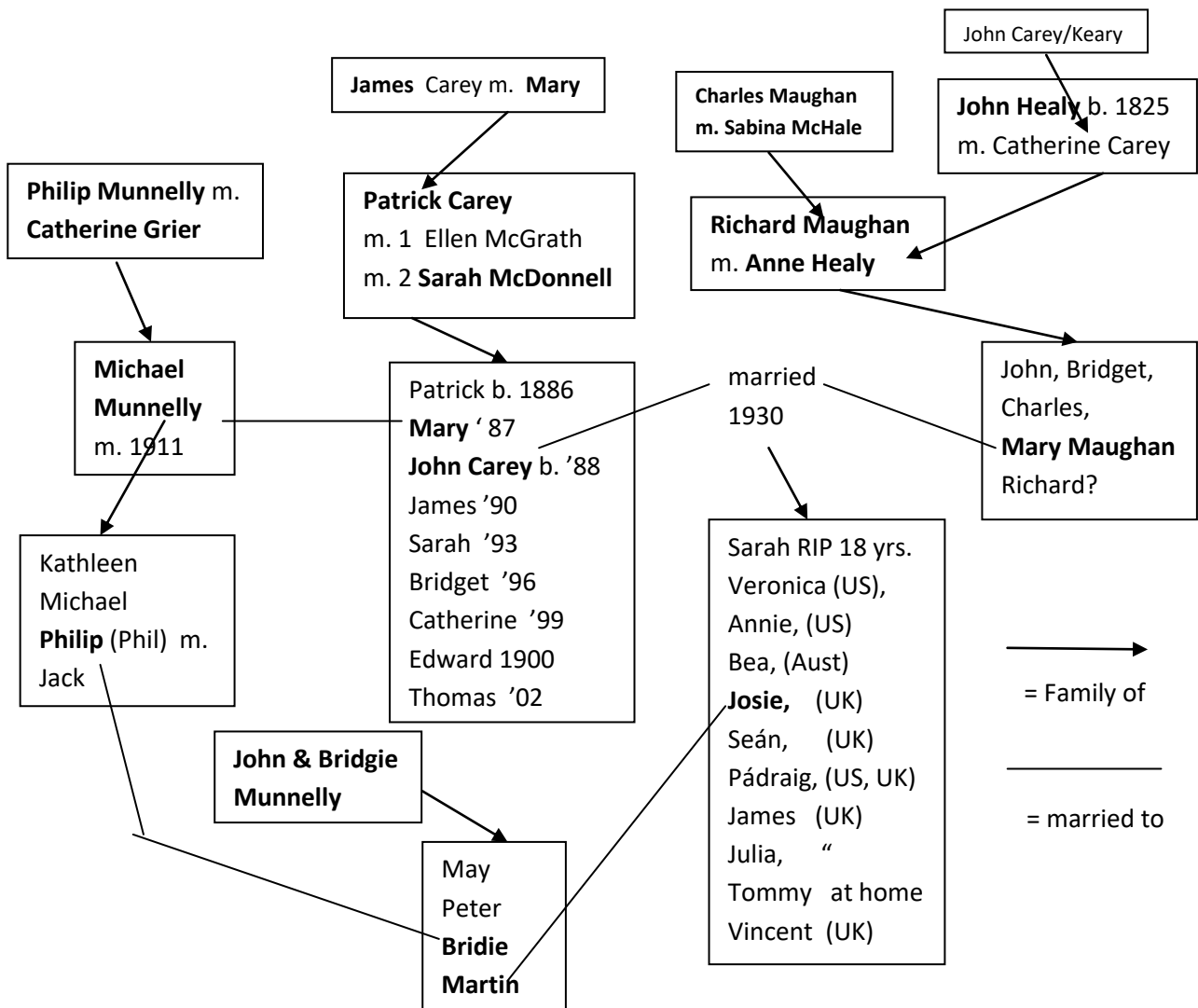
However the last surviving member of the team was a famous Loftus man, **Dr. Michael Loftus**, from Crossmolina. He died in April of this year 2023. It remains to be seen if the senior team will win the coveted Sam Maguire Cup in the coming years

10. THE CAREY CONNECTION

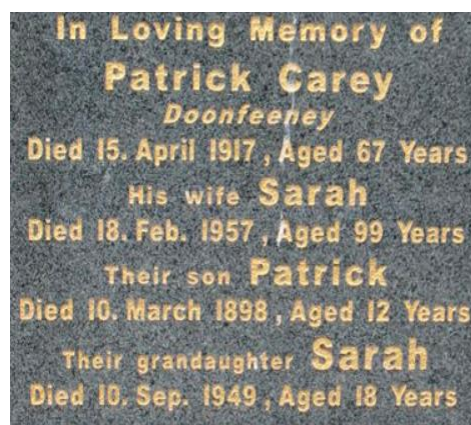
Mrs. Mary Carey and her brother John Maughan were our nearest neighbours on the old road, in Doonfeeny Lower. Mary married **John Carey** in 1930 and together they had eleven children. (*John's sister, Mary Carey married Michael Munnelly*). Daughter **Josie** married our **Uncle Martin**, son of John and Bridgie Munnelly. But what do we know about the Carey origins? John Carey was the son of **Patrick Carey** of Doonfeeny. He married Ellen McGrath of Glenurla in 1883. Patrick's parents were James and Mary Carey, of Shraghmeen. Ellen died in 1884 of secondary haemorrhage (in childbirth?). Details of Patrick's marriage to Sarah McDonnell could not be found.

Carey, Patrick	Doonfeeny	McGrath, Ellen	Glenurla	12 Apr 1883	James & Mary Carey
Shraghmeen?	Michael & Bridget McGrath	Glenrila	J. Flanagan, Ballymachugh		Mary Madden, Glenurla

202	1884	April	Doonfeeny	Ellen Carey	24	Married	24	Farmer's wife	Secondary Haemorrhage	8 days	Certified	Mr. J. J. Flanagan	Registrar
-----	------	-------	-----------	-------------	----	---------	----	---------------	-----------------------	--------	-----------	--------------------	-----------



The Carey family of Pat and Sarah: In the 1911 census Pat states that nine of the nine children born were still living. (*Pat and Sarah can't read or write*). Daughter **Bridget** had died in 1896 of measles, age 16 months and eldest son **Patrick** in 1898, aged 12 years, of gastro enteritis. Daughter **Sarah** married Peter McDonnell of Glenurla in 1919. Father **Pat** died in 1917, aged 67, born 1850. Why did their daughter **Catherine / Kathleen** spend a lifetime in a Care Home in England? Had she a baby out of wedlock? Mother **Sarah** died in 1957, aged 99 years. *Pat and Sarah were born soon after the famine ended.*



The family of John Carey and Mary Maughan (*daughter of Richard Maughan and Anne Healy*): John 42 yrs. and Mary 20 yrs. married in 1930, going on to have 11 children – *see above - Sarah etc.*! This eldest daughter **Sarah** died in 1949, aged 18 years. *See details below.* We can ask why and when she went to Castlebar. She died of TB. Dad **John** died in 1955, aged 64 years. At that stage Mary's brother **John Maughan** came to live with them, helping out with the farm work. Most of the children emigrated to London, including **Josie** who married **Uncle Martin**. Veronica and Annie went to America and Bea to Australia. **Mary** died in 2003, aged 93 years, 48 years without husband John. Tommy stayed, married Anne and worked the farm, building a fine house down on the R314. In her latter years Mary's family visited her very frequently, thanks to the proximity to Knock Airport.

Seán died in 2008, **Tommy** in 2022 and **Josie** in 2023. RIP. From the graph above we see that Pat's sister **Mary** married **Michael Munnelly** - their son **Philip** married **Bridie Munnelly**.

19.11.1949 Female September Hospital Castlebar	Sarah Carey Ballycastle	7	Spinster	17	Farmer's daughter	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Indefinite Certified	J. Moran Domestic Castlebar	1949 September	J. Ryan Registrar
--	-------------------------------	---	----------	----	----------------------	--	-----------------------------------	-------------------	----------------------

Sarah Carey, daughter, aged 17 years, died in Castlebar.

18.8.88 Male July Doonfeeny	John McDonnell	64	Married	66	Farmer	Peripneumonia Septicemia Claudication Sanguine吐衄 Certified	Mary Carey Widow Present at Death Doonfeeny	18.8.88 September	G. A. Mullins Registrar
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Birth details of John Carey (Josie's dad). His parents were Pat Carey and Sarah McDonnell.

19.5.55... Male February Doonfeeny	John Carey	Male	Married	66	Farmer	Peripneumonia Septicemia Claudication Sanguine吐衄 Certified	Mary Carey Widow Present at Death Doonfeeny	19.5.55... February	A. J. Deane Registrar
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Death details of John Carey, Josie's dad.

Mary née Maughan Carey

Mary Maughan's parents were Richard Maughan and Anne Healy. Mary was born in 1910. Richard's parents were Charles Maughan and Sabina McHale. John Healy and Catherine Carey 1832-1901 were Anne Healy's parents. (Catherine's father was John Carey / Keary.) Their children were John, Bridget, Patrick, Peter, Anne, Catherine and Francis Healy. Anne married Richard Maughan in 1904. Their daughter Mary, mother of the 11 Careys was born in 1910. (see box on previous page)

204- ntypf may 1870 Shramen	Richard	Male	Charles Maughan Shramen	Living Maughan formerly McHale	Small farmer	Charles Maughan father Shramen	Living June 1870	Register
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Birth details of Richard, Josie's grandfather. John = Richard's brother.

204- Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>Belderrig</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Ballye</u> in the Union of <u>Gillala</u> in the County of <u>Mayo</u>								
No. (1.)	When Married (2.)	Name and Surname (3.)	Age (4.)	Condition (5.)	Rank or Profession (6.)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7.)	Father's Name and Surname (8.)	Rank or Pro. Father (9.)
238	16 th Sept 1904	Richard Maughan and Anne Healy	Full age Full age	Bachelor Spinster	Farmer —	Shramen Muingenan	Charles Maughan John Healy	Farmer Farmer
Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>Belderrig</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, <u>Richard J. Lully C.C.</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us <u>Richard Maughan</u> Witnesses <u>John Maughan</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Margaret Maughan</u> Witnesses <u>Margaret Maughan</u> <u>M. J. Lully C.C.</u>								

Marriage of Richard Maughan and Anne Healy 1904.

Census 1901

Residents of a house 4 in Srahmeen (Kilfian West, Mayo)

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head
Maughan	Sabina	60	Female	Head of Family
Maughan	Richard	31	Male	Son
Maughan	James	27	Male	Son
Maughan	Catherine	25	Female	Daughter

Census 1911

Residents of a house 3 in Shrameen (Kilfian West, Mayo)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Maughan	Richard	40	Male	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Cannot read	Irish and English
Maughan	Anne	36	Female	Wife	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Read and write	Irish and English
Maughan	John	5	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Scholar	Cannot read	-
Maughan	Bridget	4	Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	-
Maughan	Charles	2	Male	Son	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	-
Sal Maughan	Mary		Female	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	-
Maughan	Sabina	75	Female	Mother	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	-	Cannot read	Irish and English

In the census above **Mary Maughan** is not yet one year old. Her parents are Richard and Anne. Brother John is the eldest. The couple are 7 years married; of 5 children born, four are alive.

David Connolly writes:

Muinganierin and Shrameen are townlands west and south of Belderrig. Just a few pointys. The Maughans were from Shrameen, which I'm sure you know, is a very isolated area accessed from the Moygowna road or on foot on the Western Way. I've visited there a few times by both routes, initially to buy best quality poitín, many years ago!

There used to be quite a large population living there, but I met a man from there in Ballycastle a few weeks ago and he said almost all have left. Mary Carey once told me, that when she was young, she used to walk out, in her bare feet, to attend the dances in Ballycastle, carrying her good shoes under her arm. Her brother John told me that they survived by making poitín and poaching salmon from the local river.



Josie Carey Munnelly
1937 - 2023



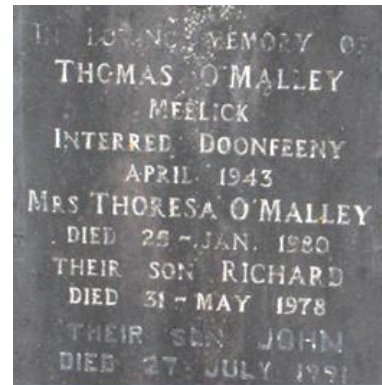
Jimmy Carey 1947 - 2022

11. OUR MUINGELLY NEIGHBOURS

Muingelly isn't a large townland. Consisting of only 319 acres, it is sandwiched between Doonfeeny Lower with even fewer acres - 54 and Glenulra – 2,167. Most of the family names in the 1911 Census were still there in Muingelly in the 1950s. There were a few cases of the eldest unmarried son alone or with an aging parent, his siblings in the UK or Philadelphia. There were no newly married couples with young children.

Tom J. O Boyle's was the first house we met along the main road from Ballycastle. He liked tinkering with battery powered radios. On Sundays he used to cycle home from Mass, a big accumulator (charged in one of Ballycastle shops) on the back of the bike. In the 1960s John and Pauline **Busby** with **daughter Áine** ran a restaurant and bar here – a shorter journey to go for a drink and a game of 25, a popular pastime in houses, then as now. Later on the Busbys built a house on the old road, near Anna Cranshaw's house. (Pauline RIP 2025).

On the right, a short distance further along the R314 was a cluster of four houses. **Joe Mahon**, box player, lived in the first house, son of Anthony, both good for a session.



The **O Malleys** lived in the next house. Tessie Winters lived there with her daughter Tess and sons Jack and Dick or Richard. Her husband, Thomas O Malley, d. 1943; baby Mary Gabriel d. in 1923, aged 2 months. Tess emigrated in 1950 to the US. In the 1960s the Land Commission continued to re-locate families. The houses were knocked down and the land was re-divided among neighbours. Tess and sons were allocated a house in Killala on the Ballina road. Dick had contracted MS (Multiple Sclerosis), an illness not conducive to the work of a plasterer where a steady hand was needed. After some time in Castlebar Care Service he died in 1978. However, earlier on in the spring of 1949, the family had been joined by grandson, six year old **Michael Diamond**, son of Kathleen. Michael's parents were in London hoping to find work and lodging. Michael attended Glenurla School; a Ballina boy with an inquiring mind, observing life around him (and written about later). He re-joined his brother and parents in London in 1957. *Google "Michael Diamond Muingelly" for poems etc. He would later fly BA 747 jets worldwide with British Airways.*



The O Malley homestead.
Painted from memory by M. Diamond

Nearby was **the Langan family**, Michael aka Mikey and Mary, daughter Philomena with sons, P.J., Raymond and Michael.

Katy Madden lived in the last house. After her mother Bridget died in childbirth she was reared by her Golden grandparents and two



uncles; she later had a son called Pat. He went to Leeds in England and married. Katie died in 1954. The age given 57 is wrong. She was just over 50 years.

Back on the R314 there is a turning to the right, the lower road or bóithrín to **Faulkner's** house. **Michael Munnelly** – we're not sure where he got the nickname "Faulkner" – but with three Michael Munnellys in the area each with a nickname, all knew who was who. This was another Munnelly family in Muingelly, not related to our Munnellys. Michael was a shoemaker and played the fiddle. The family had lived in a house at the bottom of the town, but moved to Muingelly in 1960 to a house, without electricity. Before then the "Yank" had been living there - Annie Judge. All who returned from the States were called "Yank". (see Munnelly details p61 and 62.)

Further on the left was **Kate (Kett) McGuinness** who lived with her unmarried brothers. Nearer the sea were two houses, home to **Willy Grier** aka Cooper and **Finn Grier**. Was it in one of their houses that a priest suggested to their mother of these ageing bachelor sons that they should find a wife. Shocked at the suggestion she replied "Don't be putting such notions in their heads!"

Further down near the cliff is **Pollajorky** on the boundary (between Muingelly and Glenurla) a remarkable hole from which there is a subterranean passage, created by the pounding of the waves. A channel of water tunnelled its way in under the cliff till the earth above collapsed creating the "watch hole" < Irish **Poll a' Dearcaigh** = the watching hole. (dearcaigh = to watch). There is a similar hole **Poll na Seantoinne** (Seantine?) on Dún Briste or Downpatrick Head, now fenced off for safety reasons.



Poll a' Dearcaigh



Altnatona < Alt na Toinne

On the main road again we turn right and a house emerges down on the right, **another Munnelly household** - not related to our Munnellys. Mary Carey, as she was always called, born in 1887 lived here with son Michael aka the Merchant. Mary had married Michael Munnelly, son of Philip Munnelly in 1911. Aged 94, she died in 1978 – her brother John Carey of Doonfeeny had died in 1955.

1911 Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of <u>Ballycastle</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Ballycastle</u> in the Union of <u>Gillala</u> in the County of <u>Mayo</u>								
No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
113	30 th March	Michael Munnelly	35	Bachelor	Farmer	Muingelly	Philip Munnelly	Farmer
	1911	Mary Carey	22	Spinster	//	Doonfeeny	Patrick Carey	Farmer

We return to the R314. A short distance to the right is a bóithrín about a kilometre long. On the left is a field with many famine burials. Now follow the road leading down to **the Madden household** in

Bunnahouna / Bun na hAbhna (= the end of the river), on the far side of the Glenurla river. Just before the



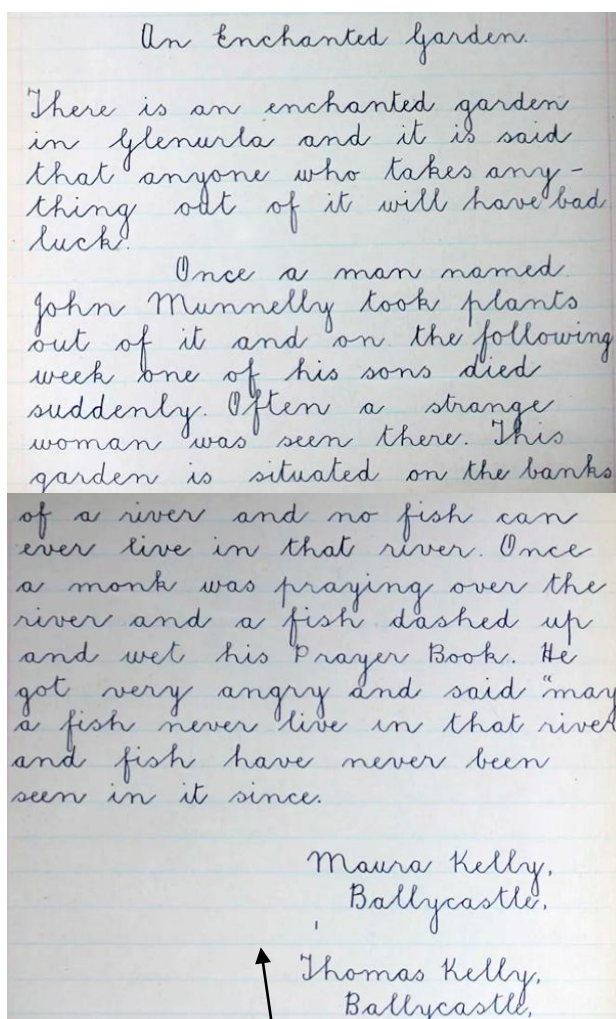
bridge was **Pat Donnelly's** house. A sturdier bridge was later built, strong enough for a car to cross over to Madden's house. Re the name **Glenurla** - John O Donovan assigned Glenurla to Gleann an Iolair in 1838. Some say it should be Glenulra, meaning Gleann an Iolair, the eagle's glen. Initially it was pronounced Glenulra. **(There is a linguistic explanation for it!)**

Back on up to the R314, turn right at **Paddy Kelly's** house – his parents were Peter and Mary née McGuire from Ballyknock, his sisters Bríd and Michael. **Katie McGrath** lived nearby

in a sort of shack. We didn't dare stare at her lowly abode – we felt embarrassed about her circumstances. She had married Tom Gibson in 1945, but remained childless. Her house was on the site of Palm Hill School, pre erection of Glenurla National School. *(From Dúchas, the Schools' Collection)*

The R314 takes a right turn leading to Glenurla School, then turn left into the narrow bóithrín which is the "auld" or upper road*. McGuinness's Hill was on the right where we fetched water. The only house further along this road was **Carey's** farm. Later in the 1960s English woman and artist, ***Anna Cranshaw** built the first house on the right hand side. She was related to the Connor family; Mary Carey's daughter, Kathleen, had married postman Paddy Connor, from Corhoor (Sea Road). Many more houses were built here since, all enjoying the magnificent view of sea and Dún Briste or Downpatrick Head.

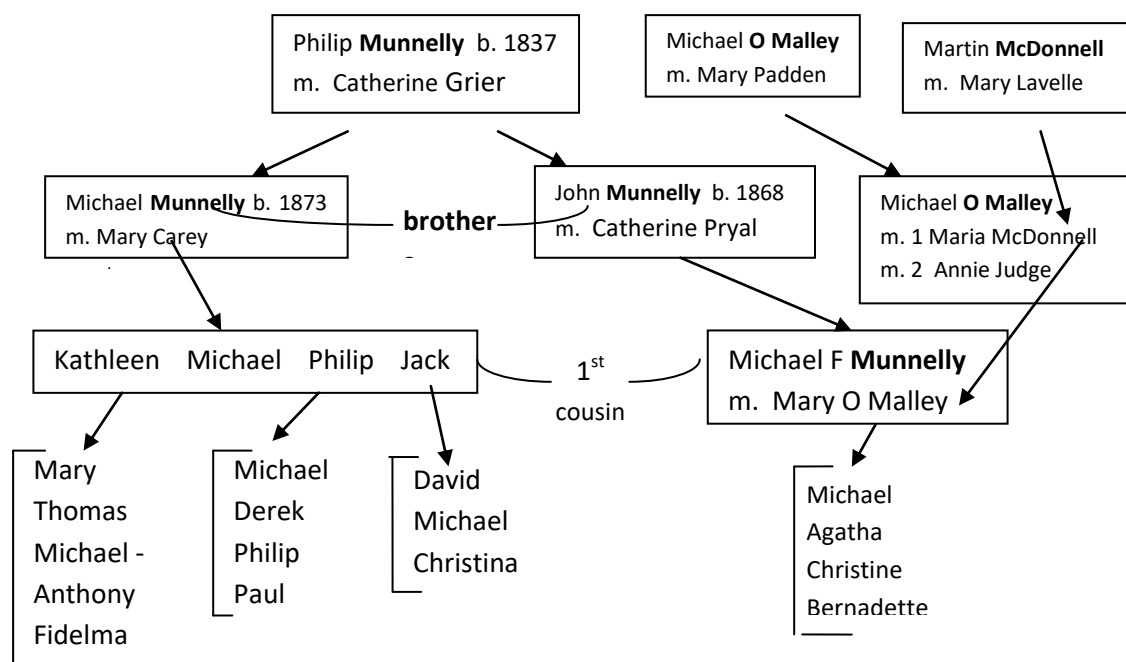
Sometime later **Isabelle Walsgrove** bought Bridgie Early's vacant house. In their own way these two ladies became part of the community, driving others around, or going fishing. Being elderly they both moved back to England, presumably to be adjacent to better health services. * Anna Cranshaw painted the picture of the Ballycastle Street. See page 5.



*Re: **The Auld Road**. This upper road was the shorter direct route from Behy to Doonfeeny, with the local parish church and graveyard there. When was the main road, the present R314 built?

See “Seanbhóithre” or The Old Roads, a Dúchas text in the chapter on Gaeilge!

Philip Munnelly and Catherine Grier



The Family of John Munnelly and Catherine Pryal

The sons of **Philip Munnelly** and Catherine Grier of Muingelly were **John Munnelly**, married to Catherine Pryal in 1897 and **Michael Munnelly** married to Mary Carey in 1911. John Munnelly was born in 1868 and died in 1943, aged 75 yrs. Catherine Pryal died in 1953.

526	Monnelly, John	Ballycastle	Pryal, Catherine	Ballyglan	25 Apr 1897	Philip & Cath Monnelly	Muingelly
	Muingelly	Martin & Mary Pryal	Ballyglan	James McDonnell, Dooclough		Mary Pryal, Ballyglass	

This reads: **JOHN Munnelly** Ballycastle married Catherine Pryal of Ballyglass, on 25.04.1897, John the son of Philip Munnelly and Catherine Grier, Catherine daughter of Martin and Mary Pryal and 2 witnesses.

In the Census of 1901 John Monnelly, 33 years, is a Bootmaker; Catherine is 23, a dressmaker - their children Mary and John 2 and 1 year resp. Michael McDonnell, 20, is an apprentice Bootmaker. It is Ballycastle 7, (thatched, two windows and three outhouses for cow, pig and turf – a 3rd class house). In 1911 there are 4 more children Catherine, Patrick Joseph, **Michael Francis** aged 3 and Agnes. Of 8 children born by 1911, 6 survive. It is house No. 22, has three windows and is 2nd class. Martin, Tom, Tess, Evelyn, Carmel and Joseph were born later – at least 14 in total.



Michael Francis aka Faulkner married **Mary O Malley**, daughter of Maria McDonnell and Michael O Malley of Muingelly in 1945. Mary's parents were Michael O Malley (parents Michael O Malley and Mary Padden m. 1870) who married Mary McDonnell (parents Martin McDonnell and Mary Lavelle of Doughlough m. 1881 in 1922).

O'Malley, Michael	Muingelly	McDonnell, Mary	Doughlough	9-Feb-1922	Michael & Mary Padden	muingelly
Martin & Mary Lavelle	Doughlough	John Hefferon, Doonfeeny	Elizabeth Lavelle, Killerduff	96		

Mary's uncle, **Thomas O Malley**, had married Teresa **Winters** in 1916. Her parents were Richard Winters and Mary Langan of Ballyknock. (See Tess O Malley in "Muingelly Neighbours" above.)

O'Malley, Thomas	Muingelly	Winters, Teresa	Ballyknock	19-Feb-1916	Michael & Mary Padden	Muingelly
Michael & Mary Padden	Muingelly	Richard & Mary Langan	Ballyknock	Pat Munnelly, Muingelly	Kate McDonnell, L	

O'Malley, Michael	Muingelly	Padden, Mary	Cappagh	5 Mar 1870	-- & --	Muingelly
Muingelly	James & -- McDonnell	Cappagh	William Barrett, Ballycastle	Bridget Cox, Carracubbock		

O'Malley	Michael	Muingelly	90	Mary Padden	1-May-1931	Doonfeeny
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Mary's mother, Maria, died in 1929, aged 39, when Mary was 4 years old. Baby Michael John, 3 months old, had died in June '28. Mary stayed with her McDonnell grandmother till her father married **Anne Judge** of Glencalry in 1931 (her parents were John Judge and Anne Reilly). Michael died in 1950, aged 72 years and Anne, aged 74 years in 1960. **Michael Francis**, a shoemaker, as was his father John, who was also a fiddle player, died in 1992.

Mary Munnelly was a stylish, warm and welcoming person. Her house was spick and span. She died on 14.02.2014. Their children were **Michael**, who fished in Killybegs, **Agatha**, who lives in nearby Killerduff, while **Christine** and **Bernadette**, live in Dublin.

The Family of Michael Munnelly and Mary Carey

543	Munnelly, Michael	Muingelly	Carey, Mary	Doonfeeny	30-Mar-1911	Philip & Catherine Grier	Muingelly
	Muingelly	Patrick & Sarah McDonnell	Doonfeeny	James McHugh, Ballycastle	Bridget McHale, Curhoor		

This reads: **Michael Munnelly** married **Mary Carey**, on 11.03.1911. Michael is son of **Philip Munnelly** and Catherine Grier. Mary is daughter of Patrick Carey and Sarah McDonnell and 2 witnesses.

Census 1901 tells us that **Philip Munnelly** and **Catherine Grier** lived in Muingelly. Philip is 64 and Catherine, 60 years, born in 1837 and 1841 resp. Their children are Michael 28 and Mary 22 years. Michael married Mary Carey in 1911 and Mary married John Loftus of Glenurla.

The children of **Michael Munnelly** b. 1862, d. 1948 and **Mary Carey** were **Philip** (b. 1912 d. 48 days), **Kathleen**, **Michael**, **Philip** (Phil) and **Jack**. **Kathleen** b. 1913 married postman Paddy Connor. (Their children were Mary, Thomas, Michael Anthony, and Fidelma. They lived on the Sea Road*. **Michael** was born in 1915. **Phil** b. 1923 married Bridie Munnelly, daughter of John and Bridgie. They moved to Kingsbury in London. Phil's brother **Jack**, married to Joan (Tipperary) lived nearby too as did **Josie Carey** (Phil's 1st cousin) who married **Martin Munnelly**, **Bridie's sister**, as well as Jimmy Carey. In the Ridgeway near Colindale all from the Muingelly area who came to London for work and lodging were welcomed by Bridie to stay till they got a start. (Did Mary miscarry between 1915 and 1923?)

***David Connolly** descends from this line in the family.

In the 1950s we found it strange to find a woman in a bed to the left of the fire in the Merchant's house. She was a relative, **Mary Loftus**, widow of John, d. 1922 in Glenurla (and sister-in-law of Mary Carey). She died in February 1961, aged 92 years. **Mary Carey** had stayed with us in Dublin in the late 1960s, following an operation to remove a growth on her face. During a quiz programme on

television we answered some question ahead of the participant. She maintained he got the right answer from us. Later when a television came to Muingelly, she used to hide behind the dresser, and afraid she might get shot during Wild West or gangster films – she was doting at this stage. Mary died in 1978, aged 94, predeceased by her husband Michael who had died 1948, aged 87.

The dance at the Merchant's

*Some were back from England for a week
And thought to capture that which they had missed.
A night of dance and gaiety they'd seek
Replete with song, with fiddle music blessed.
They borrowed, then, the Merchant's kitchen floor
And placed a cask of Guinness by the door
With poteen stored for those with need for more.*

*To Doonfeeny and Glenurla I was sent
To summon those who owned a pair of feet.
The supple young and those whom age had bent
To dance a set, both elegant and neat.
Joe Mahon with a hundred tunes in store,
Faulkner, with at least a hundred more
Combine their skills to make the rafters roar.*

*Accordion and fiddle found an air,
Miss McCloud was reeled into the night.
The dancers stepped together pair by pair
The oil lamp bathed us all in subtle light.
At times they swung together four by four
At times all eight around a central core:
The flagstones, then, for mercy did implore.*

*A bed beside the chimneybreast was built
Four-postered and with flowered curtains pent.
Where Mary Loftus lay beneath the quilt,
The haven, where her final years were spent.
Her fingers danced like those upon the floor
She remembered Sunday dresses she once wore
When she was young, at dances by the score.*

*Songs of emigration filled the room
The Old Bog Road as well as Noreen Bawn
Nell Flaherty's dead Drake dispelled the gloom
As sunlight, through the window, signalled dawn.
To bed, upon my uncle's back I slept
Till afternoon when out of bed I crept.
Until now, those memories I've kept.*

By Michael Diamond



**Back row: Tess O Malley, Michael O Malley (her cousin) and
Bridie Munnelly??
Front row: Michael Langan, Michael Diamond, P.J. Langan**



Painting by Michael Diamond

12. HOLIDAYS in MUINGELLY

Starting in 1958 our family went “down the country” to spend the summer holiday with our grandparents John and Brigid aka Bridgie Munnelly. I was brought down in the summer of 1951, the first baby, to be shown to the grandparents. The photograph below is of the Model T Ford (or other model?) which our dad shared with his brothers Michael and Noel. Aged 3 or 4 years, I had met Uncle Peter on his release from Crooksling. My brother and sister had to wait till 1958 for the next trip, three children under the age of seven. In the photo Granny has just fetched water in her white enamel bucket. The family house is on the left, the turf shed is beyond the white stone wall and the far house is Mikeen Dillon's. Uncle Peter knocked down the house with corrugated roof on the right, which was used as a barn by Mikeen Dillon; he replaced it with a big metal barn for storing hay.



Our memories are more likely to be from the following years. John, our granddad seemed very old and he was. He used to stand over to the left of the house, smoking a pipe, looking out to sea, to Dún Briste or Downpatrick Head. We didn't get to know him. He seemed distant, maybe grumpy. We spent our two weeks there in August and would continue to do so for many years.

Granddad died on 6th April 1961, a telegram with word of his death arrived; sudden, unexpected news with no warning at all, for May. We set off westwards, where we stayed with our Madden cousins in Glenurla. We weren't used to the sound of a river rushing past. We children had no idea what lay ahead. We had never seen a corpse before. Nothing was explained to children in those days. Was the body in a coffin or lying on a form or the table? The white waxen face was eerie. I don't remember much of the wake, save that a few men arrived later that evening saying it was hard work. They had just dug the grave. At the burial I found the filling in of the grave immediately after interment, shocking. I've never got used to it! This was our first experience of a wake and funeral.



When we visited Muingelly **in the 1950s and 1960s**, our grandparents lived in the **cottage** as in the painting, with three windows to the front. This was the house that John built. To the right was the turf house, as we named the low lying stone house with corrugated roof. Uncle Peter parked his Honda 50 here too. Was this the house where Grandfather John was born or was it Patrick's house? It was knocked down in recent years. There was an outhouse to the left of the cottage with maybe four rooms where cows were milked etc. One had an open side where the cart was kept for Peter's mare. Was this the house of John and Mary Bell? It was knocked down with the re-build of the old house. *To the left was the midden with lots of bluebottles hovering around.*



Oil painting by Á Uí Eadhra 1998

The Muingelly house and farm were on a **hillside**, a gentle slope from cliffs up to the hill that is Maumakeogh 379 metres / 1,243 ft., Mám an Cheo = the Pass of the Mist. The fields at cliff level were sodden even in summer; this was where some cattle grazed. Oats and barley were grown in the next field between cliff and lower road. The field leading up to the main road was always grassland. *(Coming out from Ballycastle the best arable land for all was between the main road and cliffs. There were few trees along the way, nobody had apple trees beside the house).*

The garden in front of the house was banked high above road level giving a more or less level surface for potatoes, cabbage and “ingens”, as Peter called his onions. There was a high bank or ditch on three sides; facing the house was a fuchsia hedge - deora Dé, with a small wooden gate. The garden obscured most of the house from view at road level. The field behind the house rose up to meet the old or upper road. Beyond there was the “hill”, commonage shared, for grazing, but if you turn around this was the view – well worth the climb! **In the 1901 census** both **John** and **Patrick Munnelly** live in thatched cottages

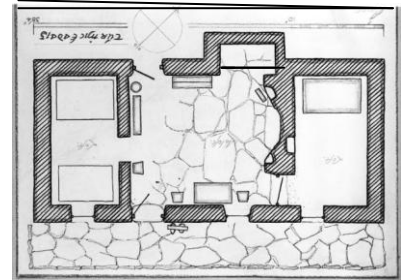


side by side in Muingelly. Both houses had two windows to the front. This regulation dates back to Penal times, 1690 onwards, when there was a tax on windows. In the picture above it is possible that the two stone buildings were their houses. Or was the stone house to the right in the painting the house where they grew up, the house of James Munnelly and Bridget Burke? I remember it being said that John the younger, son of John, our grandfather, built the existing house, thatched and slated later. It was said that he was involved, with others, in building the new church in Ballycastle.

The Munnelly Homestead in Muingelly

The house where John and grandmother Bridgie had their six children had just three rooms. It was a typical house, a “kitchen with one room to the right and one to the left”. The front door, not a half-door, was in line with the back door, and to the front there were three sash windows with generous sills. The house was nestled into the hill behind the house, a high bank or ditch about eight feet away. The house faced northwards, getting less sunlight during the course of the day.

It was a typical house, but without a loft. In the diagram here of a similar house layout with a protruding alcove called “**cailleach**” at the back (with room for a bed behind a curtain where perhaps a grandparent slept). There wasn’t a cailleach in the house. In the 60’s **the ceiling was lowered** to a flat ceiling; no longer were the rafters visible from floor level. May thought it darkened the room, but in winter it would have been easier to heat.



All of life centred around the kitchen. Winter and summer the fire was lit in a big wide recess in the wall. – an open fire. In some houses you could see up to the sky. There were stoves or Agas in other houses, but where a metal bar hung at the back and a few holes in it with a bracket called a crane. Water was boiled in a big black kettle hung from a hook and potatoes in a big open pot, suspended over the blazing fire. Bread was baked in a **pot oven** or bastible, which was put on the floor to the front of the fire with hot coals below and on top, the frying pan similarly. This meant a lot of bending down to turn rashers or eggs, or reaching above the blazing fire to lift off a kettle or pot. This was done by the woman of the house, pregnant maybe or aging.

Turf saved from Céide bog, having turbary rights there, was the only fuel used. The big black hard sods were stored in a big basket beside the fireplace, sods brought in every day from the stack of turf or turf house. At bedtime the caoráns or embers were gathered together, a few sods put on top of them for the morrow, embers still aglow. There was no need for matches or fire-lighters. First up lit the fire to boil water for the breakfast tea. The 1901 Census tells us that there was a cow house, but no turf house. The floor was a **flagstone floor**, with lino in the good room.

Above the fireplace was a **mantelpiece** or shelf, adorned with two delph cats and two brass candlesticks. Cord or twine, blackened with smoke from the continuous fire hung underneath from side to side. A couple of men’s knitted socks were hung there to dry. One on them was taken and used to lift a pot or kettle from the fire, much like we use an oven glove nowadays. Clothes were generally dried on the bushes, spread out on the fuchsia bush opposite the front door. Unlike our house in Dublin, there wasn’t a clothes line.

A long table with an oilcloth cover stood in the middle of the kitchen. A basin with potatoes was placed in the middle and dinner could begin. As dinner ended Granny took the uneaten potatoes, mixed in a few handfuls of grain and fed the hens. This same basin, filled with hot water, was put again on the table and used to wash the dishes. Later handfuls of flour, not measured, were mixed with buttermilk, maybe with a handful of raisins, and a perfect tasty cake was the result. There was no need for a clock or timer; with a tap on the bottom she just knew when it was baked.

The Box iron: when sheets or shirts were to be ironed, a blanket and sheet were put on the table. Out came the box iron, as here in the picture. The stone / iron on the right was placed in the blazing fire to heat it. When it was a-glowing the long tongs were used to pick it out from the blazing sods; the back flap was pulled up and the stone was gingerly inserted in the cavity – a tricky job. The ironing could begin, especially the clean shirt for Sunday.



There were two **forms**, the word used for a bench, placed against two walls. A form consisted of a piece of wood about 4 feet long and one foot wide, with broad legs near each end. A visitor, presumed to take a seat, back to the wall or it was pulled close to the table at mealtimes. On either side of the fireplace was a **wooden chair**. There was a new dresser or cupboard with wooden doors on the bottom and doors with glass panels on top where cups and saucers or finer ware were on show. Open shelving on top was more usual. To the left of the fireplace was a two door press from floor to ceiling. I think bed linen and blankets were stored here. The frying pan, when not in use, was at the bottom. And every house had a picture of the Sacred Heart with all the family names. A red lamp with a cross inside came along with the advent of electricity.



In **the upper room**, the room behind the fire-place was a bed, a wardrobe and a chest of drawers. There was a wind up record player, which we children attempted to use. I can't remember which records were there, though. This room had a fire-place too, lit before our arrival to "air" the room and bedding. When a station was held, when it was your turn for the priest to say Mass and hear confessions in your townland, this was when a meal was provided, using the best table-ware. The plate on the left was part of a set. It is a copy of a famous **Meissen pattern** from Germany – wedding gift or bought at auction, perhaps? The plate on the right is an original.



We never went into **Granny's room**, the lower room, where there had been a fireplace. A four foot bed now takes up most of the width in the room.

This was a very **frugal lifestyle**. There was no electricity nor was it plumbed for water. The last house to have electricity installed along the road from Ballycastle heading westward was before O Boyle's house. Granddad's house was one of the next houses along the roadside. Although part of the Rural Electrification Scheme in the 1940s, Grandfather John did not want it. The electric poles stopped there. It has also been said that it is likely there were other objectors too.

An oil lamp, with a tank for oil and a glass globe around the wick, was lit as darkness fell. Others had a "Tilly" lamp which gave a whiter and brighter glow. The **electricity** came eventually in the 1960s. Uncle Peter was in charge at that stage. He installed one light in the kitchen and another in the upper good room with one socket for the radio. A light on the gable end thrilled him too. (The older radio was a **wet battery wireless**, which had to be recharged for Sundays when neighbours used to gather to



listen to a GAA match, the shrill voice of Mícheál Ó hÉithir painting a picture of the action on the pitch in Dublin's Croke Park). Electrification brought all-day news and other programmes. The new radio rested on the front window ledge. Having been without electricity bills all the years, Peter kept an eye on the meter, as the numbers rolled up during our stay increasing his bills, especially when May brought along an electric kettle and an electric ring for cooking on.

Nor was there provision for running **water** in the house. Rainwater was gathered in a butt filled with a pipe from the gutters. For drinking purposes we had to fetch spring water from a well up on McGuinness's hill. This was up on the old road on the hillside going westward. I often fetched water in a big white enamel bucket, a gallon or so. Praise for doing same encouraged me to do this chore quite often, at 10 years perhaps. When Noel Madden built his house in the next field on the town-side, both he and Peter dug trenches to pipe down the water. Peter's only need for water was a tap outside, again at the gable end. However in the 1980's he was encouraged to build an extension at the back, giving him a kitchen, and bathroom fitted out with an avocado coloured suite, the height of fashion at the time.

Recycling was a fact in those days not an ideology but would wane. There was good solid food but not in abundance – no ketchup or mayonnaise, no yoghurt cartons to be disposed of. Milk came in a bucket and then poured into a jug. (*One of our family didn't like cow's milk. A bottle was brought from Dublin, filled and placed outside each morning on the window sill – brought by the milkman, of course.*) The hens ate the uneaten cooked potatoes. Granny raised a few turkeys each year, sending one to Dublin in time for Christmas. We threw our rasher skin to Rex. Flour came in large cotton bags perhaps 3ft. by 2ft. When empty the bags were stitched together, by hand, to make generous bed sheets and pillow cases.

Shoemaking was in decline then and the weaver and tailor equally so. Clothes lasted till worn out. When we produced another jumper or shirt for Uncle Peter he got "veckshed" – he had several specimens in unopened packages. However knitters got a boost when the Clancy brothers wore white Aran geansies as their trademark. Groups of women including Julia Madden produced many garments, each knitting a back or sleeve or whatever, the organiser assembling the pieces. This type of geansaí became a must for tourists as a souvenir. The old-age pension was the only income in many houses, added to by the sale of some eggs and later in the year some sheep and calves were sold. The knitting provided extra income. Of course there were no fuel bills, no VHI, no house insurance and no phone bills. Essential calls to relatives were made via Barrett's shop with the phone number Ballycastle 6. Dialling the operator we asked to be put through to "Ballycastle 6" who would pass on word of our trip west. A neighbour's phone in Dublin passed on news to us from the west.

Our Summer Holidays

Our Mayo holiday wasn't in Butlin's or Centre Parcs, but that didn't bother us. We helped rake in the hay – every last wisp of grass was raked up with a big wide wooden rake. Others forked up bundles of hay building a cock. It was fun turning the twister, walking backwards as we turned a súgán. Work on the bog was not such fun; the only job was to bring sods out to the horse and cart. We soon tired; we weren't very fit. Another of our memories was a day at the fair in Ballycastle – big steaming cattle or sheep up and down the street. Our Dublin noses were not very receptive to the mustard-coloured liquid!!! We city children didn't wear wellies, just summer sandals.

Visiting neighbours was common practice. A nod after Mass said we would call in during our stay. Any afternoon would do as the woman of the house was always at home. A cup of tea was immediately given. Mrs. Carey fussed that she had nothing for the children: we had to be given a treat. She gave us a glass of a liquid. We liked its sweet taste. It must have been sherry. In another house we saw how the new younger wife was less free to host us. She was given a “shop” cake “for her guests”. Mother-in-law sat there decrying the evils of modern life. Only at the gate were a few words of the newly married expressed. But best of all was Molly Madden; she produced tasty home baking with her home-made butter – and a pound to take home. We loved its salty flavour. We have memories of walking back from Glenurla late in the evening. Being summertime we didn’t spend much time indoors

For this reason we were never party to **storytelling** or a **céilí** / hooley at home. Nor were we party to talk about the past. Politics hardly featured. The Sunday Press, Dev’s paper, the only reading material in the house, lay on the window ledge for the week. We did have a “Dev” moment though. John of Behy, Granny’s brother invited us to visit one Sunday morning. From his house in Behy he brought us across the road to what is now the site of Céide Fields. A “Young Dev” with some archaeology students from UCD was working on the roomeens, but they had covered up the dig for the weekend – out of bounds – but John was well in with the group. Seamus Caulfield was likely to be among them. In time we would learn its greater significance.

Discussions about politics and the Civil War never featured during our annual stay. Our parents went to the town for a night out and to meet others. Granny was at home as our babysitter / minder, drenching us with Knock holy water to bless our sleep. A dance in Glenamoy was another night out, May very nervous of the drive home past Céide cliffs, without today’s sturdy barriers.

We never heard discussion of the 88 Volunteers in the Ballycastle Company in the War of Independence or the involvement of Muingelly Volunteers Pat Grier, Peter Kelly, John Hefferon, Pat Kelly and C Munnelly. Indeed Granny’s cousin Tommy Loftus of the 3rd battalion was captured in an ambush on the IRA Flying column on 26 June 1921, by the RIC in Clydagh, where Thomas Nealon was shot dead and a number of leaders captured. Nor was there talk of the preceding century history. What part did any of our relatives take in the resistance to evictions? What was their role in the Land League? Mayo man Michael Davitt was never mentioned. It must be remembered that it was summertime; we were out and about till nightfall.

Why we knew our Muingelly relatives and neighbours so well: Our annual trip to Muingelly helped to acquaint us of our Mayo relatives. What also enhanced this familiarity was the fact that many of those coming and going to London spent a night with us in Fairview. We loved heading off to Dún Laoghaire to meet a weary traveller, usually arriving from **the Mail boat** in the evening – a long day spent on the train and boat. We offered a bed for the night before the train journey westwards. On one occasion we drove to the Spa Hotel in Lucan, Uncle Martin driving behind us, he not knowing his way through Dublin. We did the reverse trip some time later.

Uncle Peter, Pat Madden and Mary née Carey Munnelly spent a night or two post medical treatments in Dublin before the long journey westwards. Finally, the Leaving Cert., after its introduction to Ballycastle, enabled some to get work in Dublin. Staying with us for a week or two facilitated the move to work in Dublin before finding a bedsit or two. Even as teenagers we looked

forward to our stay in Mayo, not a sun holiday in Lanzerotte. Just as poet Paul Durcan looked forward to his stay in Achill and regretted its ending, so we too came back to the dusty Dublin streets - in by the Cunningham Rd. and on to the North Circular Road. That was it for another year.



The old house with chalet bedrooms on the right

Father Michael's brother, Philip (sons of Bridie and Phil Munnelly), bought our grandparents' house over 20 years ago, installed a modern sun-filled kitchen and a generous bathroom to the back. Central heating was also installed. The original layout is still basically the same, consisting of two bedrooms and a central sitting room, a fireplace where a fire can be lit and a big modern television mounted on the front wall. In the building on the right are two large en-suite bedrooms. To the front we no longer see the garden where Peter grew enough spuds for the year, nor the turf house and the stables to the left. Nowadays the tendency is to reconstruct cottages as they were, with several television programmes showing the results of restoration. Sometimes people are encouraged to do the work themselves. **Bridie's Place** is now modern and comfortable. We recognise that times and trends change.



Here we see three new houses to the left where there were none before.

Going Home to Mayo, Winter, 1949

Leaving behind us the alien, foreign city of Dublin
My father drove through the night in an old Ford Anglia,
His five-year-old son in the seat beside him,
The rexine seat of red leatherette,
And a yellow moon peered in through the windscreen.
'Daddy, Daddy,' I cried, 'Pass out the moon,'
But no matter how hard he drove he could not pass out the moon.
Each town we passed through was another milestone
And their names were magic passwords into eternity:
Kilcock, Kinnegad, Strokestown, Elphin,
Tarmonbarry, Tulsk, Ballaghaderreen, Ballavarry;
Now we were in Mayo and the next stop was Turlough,
The village of Turlough in the heartland of Mayo,
And my father's mother's house, all oil-lamps and women,
And my bedroom over the public bar below,
And in the morning cattle-cries and cock-crows:
Life's seemingly seamless garment gorgeously rent
By their screeches and bellowings. And in the evenings
I walked with my father in the high grass down by the river
Talking with him – an unheard-of thing in the city.
But home was not home and the moon could be no more outflanked
Than the daylight nightmare of Dublin city:
Back down along the canal we chugged into the city
And each lock-gate tolled our mutual doom;
And railings and palings and asphalt and traffic-lights,
And blocks after blocks of so-called 'new' tenements –
Thousands of crosses of loneliness planted
In the narrowing grave of the life of the father;
In the wide, wide cemetery of the boy's childhood.

*This poem "Going Home to Mayo, Winter 1949"
by Paul Durcan appeared in the Irish Times
in May 2025 following his death
on 17.05.2025, aged 80 years.*

13. GLENURLA NATIONAL SCHOOL

Glenurla National School was erected to a standardised design for the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland (cf. 31312002) representing an integral component of the early twentieth-century architectural heritage of Contae Mhaigh Eo [County Mayo]. It was a detached four-bay single-storey single-cell national school, **built 1908; opened 1909; extant 1911**, on a rectangular plan. **Repaired 1949, renovated 1959, closed 1966.**

However it was preceded by **Palm Hill National School**, a low building, thatched, opposite the present site of the Glenurla School. This school was a National School established under English rule. Exam registers and School rolls are now available for 1871-1899. Joseph W. Madden was the manager from 1871; later Fr. Timlin took over. **Winifred Henry**, 26 years, R.C., was appointed teacher in 1871 having been on the Board from 1863, aged 18 years. Her income was £29.

N.B.—In writing out this Roll keep the Names of the Pupils of same class, as far as possible, on same page. Place the names of the Paid Monitors to be examined for Results after names of the ordinary pupils of the class in which they are to be examined.

1884 Received in 15 SEP 85 Writers Dep.

District No. 20
Roll No. 9737
P. L. Union
County Mayo
Post Town of School, Ballyvaughan

Name and Address of Manager, J. W. Madden Esq.

EXAMINATION ROLL
(AND PROMOTION SHEET)

Of all Pupils whose Names were on the Rolls on the last day of Month preceding Examination, and who made 100 or more Attendances within the previous year. (12 Months.)

Year ended 31st day of July 1884. (Last day of Month preceding Examination.)

Dated, August 4th 1886. Signed, Winifred Henry

Taking 1884 - 85 as an example, there were 15 in the Infants' class, 11 in 1st class, 5, 12, 8, 6 and 1 in classes 2nd to 6th. The **total was 58 pupils**. Reducing numbers were a common feature of these 28 years, few pupils staying longer than 4th class. In one 3rd class the ages range from 8 year to 13. All pupils on the rolls attended at least 100 days.

The Figure 1 denotes a Satisfactory Pass, 2 a Merit Pass and 0 Failure. Cancel Name in case of Absence.

Infants.	Reading, &c.	Writing, &c.	Arithmetic, &c.	Spelling, &c.	Grammar, &c.	Geography, &c.	Agriculture.	Book-keeping.	Needlework.	Music.

002000

3rd Class.

139	Pat Madden	12	102	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	3 ⁴	0	X
152	Pat McDonnell	9	150	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	2 ²	X	X
160	Anthony Madden	9	116	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	2 ²	X	X
165	Martyn Hefferan	9	174	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	2 ²	0	X
102	Catherine Madden	11	57	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	2 ²	X	X
117	Mary Monnelly	9	180	3 ⁴	8 ⁸	2 ²	X	X

We can see the possible subjects taught and tested: reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, grammar, geography, agriculture, book-keeping, needlework and music.

1890 end of school year. Madden x 2 = uncle and aunt of Pat Madden. Mary Monnelly = sister of John Monnelly.

Winifred Henry kept details of rolls very precisely. Anthony Keane above was aged 9 years, attended 116 days, completed 3rd class and started 3rd class in Aug. 1890 having completed 2nd class. Pat Madden had repeated 3rd class. Winifred was 30 years in 1887 when she married John Ayrly (26) from Bloomfield - she signed the rolls thereafter as Winifred Ayrly. 12 years after marriage she was 50 years when she died in April 1899, of influenza and pneumonia, her true age a secret! What a difficult job she had teaching up to 50 pupils every day from 1873 – 1899 in less than ideal circumstances. Pupils used a peann luaidhe or ink - no coloured markers nor biros, and not many books to be read at various levels. With just 3 or 4 years spent in school some made little progress. Without reading material they could forget what they had learned. It can be assumed that in 1909 the pupils “moved across the road” to their new building. In the 1901 Census John Early – not Ayrly - is a widower. He subsequently married Maria Munnelly in 1901 – see chapter on Pat Munnelly and Bridgie Early. (I’ve attached texts from the **Dúchas Schools Collection**, written in 1937).

Old Schools
 In the village of Palmhill there is a long low thatched building which served as a school a long time ago. The seats were long narrow tables. The desks were long narrow tables. The pupils wrote on slates with slate pencils. If they spoke Irish they would be slapped by their teacher whose name was Mrs. Early.
 Name Jack Maughan 25-11-37
 An t-úinéir a fuair aicé:-
 Mrs Mary Maughan, - 45 yrs.
 Cappagh
 Ballycastle,
 Mayo.
 23-11-37.

Miss Annie Clifford, born in Ballina in 1881, was one of the first teachers along with Miss Swift in the new Glenurla National School after it opened in 1910. At first she stayed in a house in Glenurla with her aunt, Mary Tighe, who was also a national teacher, who had been a teacher in Ballycastle. See Census 1911 and 1901. Records show that gradually more students completed 6th class, with two or three pupils staying on for 7th and 8th class. They were aged 17 – 19 years. Among them were Katie Carey, Bridget and Katie Lavelle as well as Annie Bell attended for two more years, i.e. 5th and 6th class while Agnes Bell, 19 years in 1918, was promoted to “Monitor”, a teacher assistant who later attended

Old Schools.
 About forty years ago there was a school in Palmhill. It was one storey in height, built with stones and roofed with thatch. The teacher's name was Bridgie Henry. Her dwelling house was attached to the school. Every scholar had to bring a bundle of straw each year to thatch the school. It was the custom that every scholar had to bring two sods of turf each morning. Long ago the teachers were teaching school in the farmer's houses. The attendance of pupils at school every day was about thirty and forty.
 Peter Pryal. 9-12-37.
 Ballyglass.
 Ballycastle.
 Co Mayo.
 25-11-37.
 An t-úinéir a fuair aicé. Mrs Martin Pryal, - 58 yrs.

Teacher Training College. How were these students chosen to stay on longer, chosen by ability or by ability to pay? May said that she had attended tuition or classes given by the nuns in the Stella Maris, then a convent. I think this was after she left Primary School.

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth. (2.)	Name (if any). (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residences of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Registration Number added after Registrar of Birth, and Date. (11.)
160	1881 Ballycastle Mayo	Anna Maria	Female	Alfred Clifford King St Ballina	Mary Clifford formerly Clarke	Plumber	The Parish of Ballycastle Mayo John F. F. F. F. King St. Ballina	1881	C. Thompson Registrar	

Birth details for Miss Clifford: **Anna Maria Clifford** was born in January 1881. The family lived in King St., Ballina. Her mother was Mary Clarke Clifford, and her father Alfred was a plumber.

Glenurla National School was a **two-teacher school**, with a partition dividing the room. One teacher taught the junior classes, usually the female teacher. The four senior classes were taught by the Principal, Ronnie McDonnell – see article below. There were other teachers over time; Mrs. Hefferon Ms. Swift and Ms. Walsh.

Residents of a house 16 in Glenurla (Ballycastle, Mayo) 1911

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Tighe	Mary	50	Female	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	National Teacher	Read and write	Irish and English
Tighe	Michael	40	Male	Brother	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	Farmer	Read and write	Irish and English
Clifford	Annie	25	Female	Niece	Roman Catholic	Co Mayo	National Teacher	Read and write	Irish and English

Census 1901

Residents of a house 33 in Ballycastle (Ballycastle, Mayo)

☒ Show all information									
Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language
Lavelle	Ellen	22	Female	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Mayo	Publican	Read and write	Irish and English
Lavelle	Mary	23	Female	Sister	Roman Catholic	Mayo	Farmers Daughter	Read and write	Irish and English
Connor	Ellen	10	Female	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Mayo	Scholar	Read and write	Irish and English
Tighe	Mary	34	Female	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Mayo	School Mistress	Read and write	Irish and English
O'Malley	Kate	17	Female	Visitor	Roman Catholic	Mayo	Farmers Daughter	Read and write	Irish and English

Over the years most of the teachers, who came to the area, stayed with Miss Clifford. In other areas accommodation was provided for the teacher in the **Teachers' House**, built nearby. Was Miss Clifford's house such a facility? Annie never married, but Mick Golden, her nephew, lived with her, bringing in the turf and doing all the usual chores about the house. She could also rely on Julia Madden to help with the housework.

There are accounts elsewhere that **the early years of these new Primary Schools** could be fairly chaotic. Children turned up with varying levels of previous education, 12 year olds who couldn't read and a 7 year old who could read ahead of his peers. Some children in the area attended regularly in Palm Hill. The pupil records show that some repeated a year where attendance was poor the previous year. In 1926 the school Attendance Act was passed. Department Inspectors appeared to check on performance and standards and the parish priest of the day cast an eye over the school

too. Attendance could always be a problem - children could miss a few days at harvest or other times, saving turf, digging potatoes or helping their mother with baby number 5 etc.

On our part, a visit to Miss Clifford was always on the cards during our stay in Muingelly. In the 1950s she was in her 70s, petite, precise, with all her teeth. She delighted in a visit from a past pupil, my Mum, a good pupil who shone at maths. We felt very welcome too. The thing that impressed us most was the toilet in the shed - just a bucket with a regular toilet seat. A luxury! **Annie Clifford**, retired National teacher in Glenurla National School, Palm Hill, died on 02.12.1978, aged 97 years. Mick Golden had died in 1974, aged 75 years.

Comment: There are still some one and two teacher schools in remote areas of Ireland. Parents fight hard to keep the local school open when threatened with closure, due to falling numbers. Some have had a campaign to welcome families with school-going children to live in an area, maybe providing a house or two. The alternative means bussing children to the next school, a very long day especially for young children. This happened when Glenurla School closed.



Day-schools and Hedge-schools *In the 19th century “there were eight schools in Doonfeeny Civil Parish, i.e. from the town of Ballycastle as far as Belderrig - four day-schools and four hedge-schools – and a hedge-school in Kilbride. Two day-schools were supported by the London Hibernian Society and the Irish Society; a third by the Baptist Society and the landlord, John Knox; and a fourth by the Baptist Society. The five hedge-schools were effectively Catholic schools where the subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic and the Catholic catechism”, and “The societies were interested in resourcing schools as a way of circulating the Bible in Ireland and as part of the effort to convert Irish Catholics to Protestantism” from **On Our Knees**, by Brendan Hoban, pp 110 and 143.*

There was a day school in Behy catering for the children of the Coastguards, while Bridget Ormsby ran a school in the Parish of Doonfeeny, mainly for girls. We cannot know how high the standard of teaching was in these schools. It depended on the erudition of the teacher. There are reports that Latin, Greek and Shakespeare were taught in some hedge schools. The registers kept in the first national schools provide very **detailed records**, even by today’s digital standards.

Glenurla was late getting a new school building. Annaghmore National School in the Parish of Kilfian was officially opened in March 1892, almost eighteen years before the new Glenurla National School in 1910. **Electricity** did not come as far as Glenurla till the 1960s. There was therefore neither central heating nor electric lights. Families were asked to provide the school with **a load of turf** each year. As it ran short, a family would get a reminder. In other places each child brought a sod of turf per day. Shoes or boots were worn only from the 1st November to the 1st May. After that, children went **bare-foot**. None were driven to school, five year-olds walking two or three miles to and from school every day. *“These hardy children brought a hot potato to school, placed in the hot ashes of the fire the night before. It could keep the hands warm and while intended for lunch-time, it often got eaten on the way.”* (According to May Munnelly).

In retrospect, school-life everywhere wasn't easy in those days. **Discipline was strict**; the cane was wielded for misspellings; it was "it was 'cuir amach do lámh!' for six of the best", but some students just couldn't perform the tasks expected of them. Teachers were unaware of conditions like **dyslexia or ADHD**. They had a strict demeanour too. Teaching four age groups in the same room demanded silence from some while a lesson was being taught to first class or the junior infants. A senior pupil might sometimes work with the younger ones as did a Monitor when introduced.

Had Miss Henry an assistant teaching all seven classes? Had the children pencils? Writing with a pen and ink took skill, more so by candle light, doing homework at home. It was long before Bic pens were invented in 1950. Most teachers worked the students hard; slaps were given for a blotted exercise. Many pupils reached a more than acceptable level in subjects like mathematics, English and later in Irish. Many teachers did this in the knowledge that primary education was the only education most children could aspire to. Progression to secondary schools was only for a minority and many miles away.

The Primary Certificate* was the goal to be achieved, making sure all nationwide reached the same standard. Students were examined in Gaeilge, Béarla, Matamaitic (arithmetic, algebra and geometry) and singing. The Primary Cert. as it was called ceased in the mid 60s. Since then students can progress to secondary school with their cohort, some with reading levels below expected age, poor spelling ability and not knowing their tables!

A **Co-Ed Secondary school** opened in the early 1960s in the town of Ballycastle, run by the Order of Mercy nuns. Students had to pay fees, but the school was well subscribed to; the local people knew the value of education. The pupils didn't let them down. Many of the students came in with top results in the Leaving Certificate. In 1967 free Secondary education was introduced nationwide. Eventually the convent school closed in 2000 and was merged with the Secondary School in Lacken to become St. Patrick's College, Lacken Cross.



***Michael Winter's 1930 Primary Cert., in an article by Nuala Vaughan in the Irish Times. Date?**

A past pupil comments on his schooling

"I went to Glenurla National School between 1949 and 1955 before emigrating to England. The School has been a private house for many years (probably since the 1960s). My teachers were: Miss Clifford in the 1940s followed by Miss Swift. The headmaster was Ronnie MacDonnell of whom I have many good memories. He actually taught my mother in the 1920s and 30s.

My memories of being sent out to the well to get water for the teacher's tea and of looking out the window to spot the mail-car as it came around the cliff at Céide, stay with me.

(Ronnie performed the task of passing on mail to the mail car as it passed the school, as part of his role). I have settled in England but I return on odd occasions to the area."

Michael Diamond, Muingelly, past pupil.

Another past pupil, **P. J. Madden** remembers arriving to school one morning when he was aged about 7 years. An ambulance arrived from Castlebar hospital and took a group of 5 or 6 boys to Castlebar to have their **tonsils** removed. Two days later they were returned to the school with bandages over their mouth and chin. They had to walk home, regardless of distance or how they felt. We can only wonder if parents were informed of the impending procedure or their permission sought.

Why are tonsils removed? *They are lumps of tissue on both sides of the back of the throat that help the immune system protect the body from infection. Some children suffer from infected tonsils. If removed, other tissues in the body take over their role to prevent infection.*

Dúchas, the Schools Collection

This is a collection of folklore compiled by schoolchildren in Ireland in the 1930s, from 1937 to 1938. For the duration of the project, more than 50,000 schoolchildren in 5th class from 5,000 schools in the 26 counties were enlisted to collect folklore in their home districts. They wrote about schooling, customs, old stories, about trades and crafts etc., writing down the material from parents, grandparents and neighbours. The aim was to catalogue, index and conserve the content in these copybooks entrusted to the National Folklore Collection under the 1937 'Schools' Scheme. In recent years the UCD Folklore Department uploaded them - some in Irish were translated to English. We get a flavour of the usage of language. See dúchas.ie. Mayo, Ballycastle

The school in Ballinglen

*Long ago there was a school in Ballinglen. The teacher's name was Mr Brannigan. He had two assistant teachers namely **Mr Bourke from Glenultra** and Mr Lynn from Ballinkinlettra. About 96 children attended this school. Mr Brannigan invited all the old people who were able to read and speak Irish so that when the inspector (when) would come they would be able to speak in Irish. This day the inspector came and examined all the children and all the old people. He found that a man whose name was Martin Pryal was the best man. He asked him to join with Mr Brannigan and that he would give him a good salary. Of course he would have to become a Protestant before joining forces with Mr Brannigan. This Pryal was not prepared to do. The Catholic clergy objected to Brannigan's school and they would not allow the old people go there. It was a plan of Brannigan's to set up those Irish schools in hopes that the Catholic people would turn Protestants. Father Malone heard about this. He went one day to the school and beat the Brannigans and also turned out all the children of the school. This put an end to Brannigan's school. Afterwards the National Schools were established and there was a block of timber attached to each child's neck*. If the child would speak one word of Irish this block was scored. At the end of a period these notches were counted and commensurate punishment administered.*

From the **Dúchas** collection. Collector: **Thomas Pryal**, Informant: **Andrew Pryal**, aged 60, Ballyglass, Co. Mayo.

Records from Palm Hill and Glenurla Schools

John Munnelly John Healy brother Michael Healy Francis Healy Patrick Kelly

31-7-92	142	1 st	8/1	1 st
31-7-93	164	2 nd	8/2	2 nd
31-7-94	151	3 rd	8/3	3 rd
31-7-95	158	4 th	8/4	4 th
31-7-96	130	4 th	8/4	4 th
31-7-97	116	6 th	8/6	5 th
31-7-99	48	5 th	8/7	—

30-6-10	31	Inf	4 th
30-6-11	105	"	"
30-6-12	102	1 st	1 st
30-6-13	100	2 nd	2 nd
30-6-14	97	3 rd	3 rd
30-6-15	66	4 th	4 th
30-6-16	17	—	—

31-7-03	2	Inf	2 nd	—
31-7-04	44	"	"	Inf.
30-6-05	106	1 st	1 st	1 st
30-6-06	115	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
30-6-07	111	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd
30-6-08	50	4 th	4 th	4 th
30-6-09	99	"	"	"
30-6-10	82	4 th	4 th	4 th
30-6-11	91	"	"	"
30-6-12	101	—	—	—

31-7-00	62	Inf	2 nd	Inf
31-7-01	65	1 st	1 st	1 st
31-7-02	39	"	"	abs.
31-7-03	103	1 st	1 st	1 st
31-7-04	77	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd

30-6-06	66	Inf	4 th	Inf.
30-6-07	147	"	"	"
30-6-08	104	1 st	1 st	1 st
30-6-09	158	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
30-6-10	148	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd
30-6-11	130	4 th	4 th	4 th
30-6-12	104	5 th	5 th	5 th
30-6-14	43	—	—	—

Column 1 Last day of year
Col 2 No. of days present
Col 3 Class Inf, 1st, 2nd etc
Col 4 Date that class ended

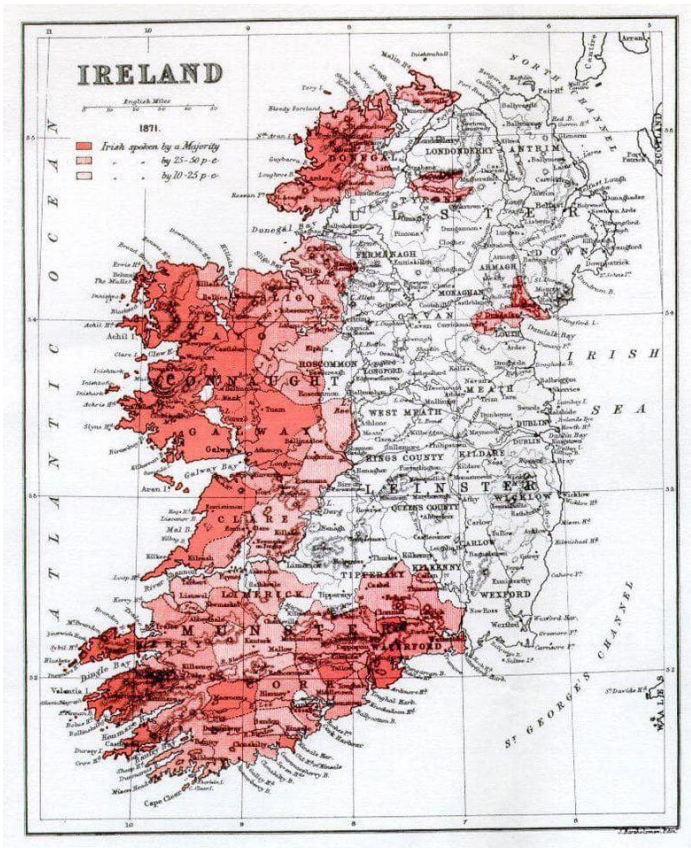
E	F
6.	21. Pádraig Ó Maonagáil
6.	23. Anraoine Ó Maonagáil
5.4	27. Pádraig Ó Maonagáil
5.10	28. Máire Ó Maonagáil
6.2	30. Pádraig Ó Maonagáil
5.9	31. Seán Ó Maonagáil

Naoidhneáin - Cailíní	
5.7	25. Coraíosa Ní Maile
5.9	26. Síle Ní Munnagáil
6.11	19. Máire Ní Maile
6.4	33. Agnéis Ní Conaíosa
3.3	34. Anraoine Ní Munnagáil
4.	36. Caelín Ní Pádraig
5.5	38. Brigid Ní Maonagáil
	38. Máire Ní Donnagáil
	39. Caelín Ní Donnagáil
5.2	40. Agnéis Ní Maonagáil

Infants' class in 1931:
Peter Munnelly, Anthony
Madden, Martin Hefferon
and Jack Munnelly

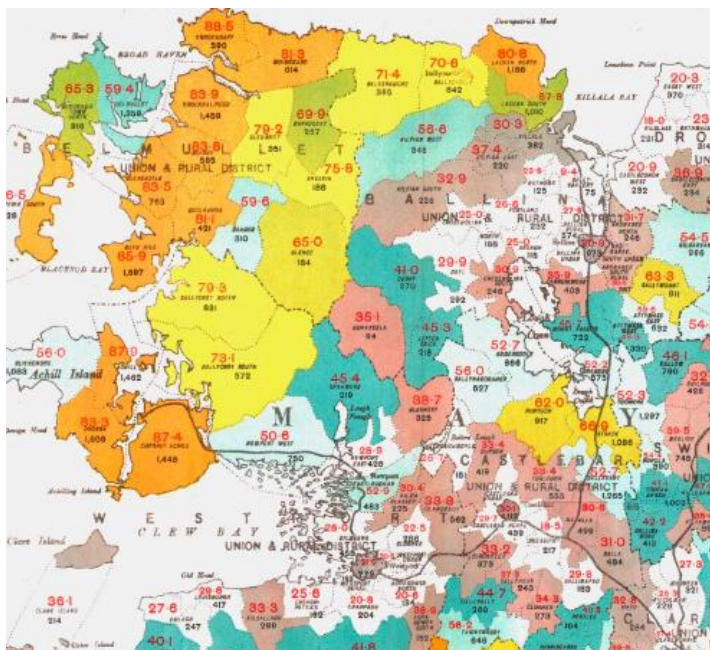
Naoidhneáin / Naíonáin Cailíní
Tess O Malley, Mary O Malley
and Bridie Munnelly 1932
Names now in Irish

14. An GHAEILGE i MUING EILÍ



This map of Ireland highlights the areas where Irish was spoken, mainly along the western seaboard in 1871; the darkest pink represents a majority, the medium pink is 25 – 50% and the light pink is anywhere above 10%. Ballycastle fits into the 2nd category, i.e. from the town as far as Belderrig up to half the people spoke Irish.

The second map is based on a 1925 survey and the Census 1911 records. Roughly 70% or two of every three spoke Irish in the yellow area from Ballycastle to Belderrig or further; even more Irish was spoken in Ballymachugh and Lackan. 80%. Kilfian.



In Erris, roughly similar 60 - 65% spoke Irish - see the blue and green areas. This map comes from a government website. In a census where the question asked is "Do you know Irish?" many will answer positively but the question didn't ask how well one spoke. All school pupils were entered as Irish speakers.

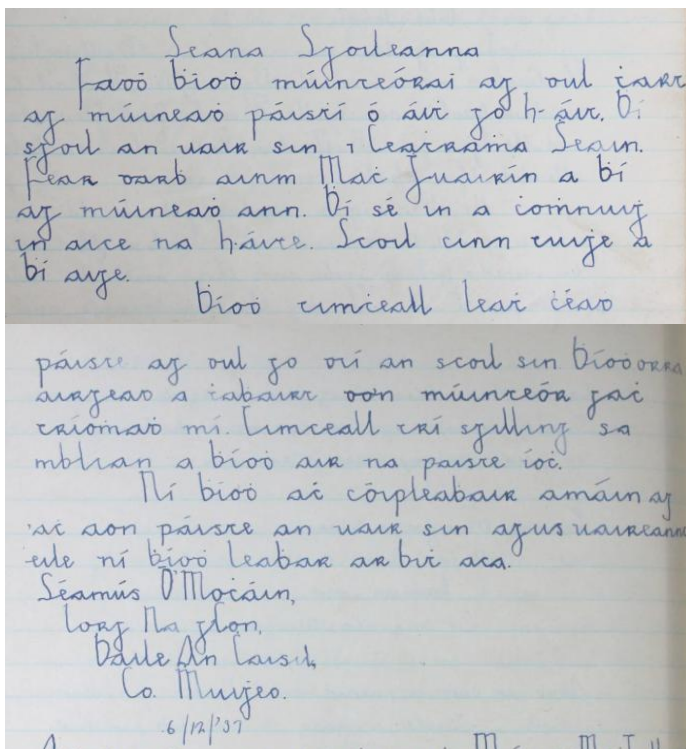
Were there any Irish-speaking landlords? Business people, the teacher, the priest and the RIC were among the first to abandon the use of Irish in their daily lives. If we were to include the town figures with the adjoining townlands of Doonfeeny, Muingelly etc., one would expect that the statistics for Behy would be much lower.

The area westwards of Belderrig is considered a Breac Gaeltacht with some Irish speakers. I **never heard Irish being spoken** in my grandparents' house, only the odd word. I was never aware that older relatives were speaking in Irish, maybe about an issue not suitable for small ears. Bairneach, creathnach and sleabhac were used. May used to say "**Tá mo sháith agam!**" when she had enough, but she pronounced "sháith" as "ha" as would be the case in Donegal Irish. (Recently in our Irish comhrá group in Athboy a man used this phrase – no, not another cup of tea. This was the first time I had heard this since about 1960!). We learned eireaball in school, but May said it was ruball. She used to say "I'm **in a baileabhair**" pronounced ball-ower as in cow-er. She implied that she was unsure what to do. I came across this word in Cré na Cille by Irish writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain. I recognised its meaning immediately. Jimmy Carey said the only people he heard talking Irish were Granny Bridgie and Uncle Peter. Michael Diamond remembers Granny saying that he was "ina luí, bolg le grian", i.e. lying down, his stomach towards the sun. We never heard her talking as Gaeilge!

Few of our parents' generation, born in the early 1900s, **seem to have any or no Irish**. May said that Irish was introduced in Glenurla School when she was in 5th class, in 1933 perhaps. Up to that point all names on the rolls were translated to English, even Winifred Early became Ayrly. The Irish language was allowed to be taught in the new state National Schools but it would take many years before there were enough teachers trained or fluent enough to teach Irish with ease. They taught it with more or less enthusiasm.

Names of Teachers giving extra instruction.	Subjects Taught.	Standard Courses Taught.	Qualification of Teachers giving the instruction.
Mary Tighe	Irish	5 th 6 th 7 th	Native Speaker and Irish Certificate
Annie Clifford	Irish	3 rd + 4 th	Irish Certificate

The Old Schools



Long ago the teachers used go from place to place. At that time there was a school in Ceathramha Sheáin. The teacher's name was Mac Guairín. He lived nearby. The school had a thatched roof. About 50 pupils went to that school. They had to give the teacher money every third month. About 3 shillings each year a child had to pay. Only one copy each child had at that time and at times they had no book at all. Written by Seamus Maughan from Lorg na gCon. Máire Mac Giollarnath (Gilroy) told the story. Translated by Á Uí Eadhra. From Dúchas, the Schools Collection. 06.11.1937

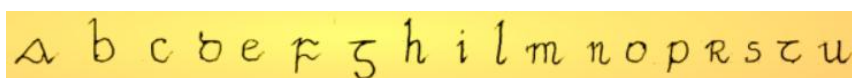
The effects of the Great Famine were among the reasons the speaking of Irish declined; people had to emigrate, and letters home stated that English was necessary to work and live, particularly in America, for those hoping to join relatives who had emigrated ahead of them. Socially, people looked up to English speakers too.

The **National School system** also put a nail in the coffin of the declining Irish language. Founded in 1832, one of its main aims was the teaching of English. Children were strongly discouraged from speaking Irish, only English was to be spoken, the medium of instruction was English and the English translation of names was used.

The “**tally stick**” or “**bata scóir**” was introduced into classrooms in the 19th century. Children attending school had to wear a stick on a piece of string around the neck. Each time they used Irish, a notch was cut in the stick. At the end of the day, they were punished according to how many notches they had on their stick. We can’t be sure how rigidly and for how long this practice was applied in schools. **Six of the best** meant 6 slaps on the palm of the hand, given by a bamboo stick. A tally stick was ***an ancient memory aid used elsewhere to record and document numbers, hours or days worked and quantities bought and sold.***

N.B. **Corporal punishment** was banned in all Irish schools only in 1982. \

An Cló Gaelach



Until the 1960s the **cló gaelach** was used everywhere and taught in schools. Not only did children have to learn to write their letters as in English, an Cló Rómhánach, they had also to learn to use the letters as shown here above, usually done in a separate copy. Cursive or joined up writing was learned in both cases. Writing with the right hand was de rigueur – **ciotóga** or ciotógs were slapped and forced to write with the right hand. There are some lovely examples of Irish writing in the stories from the Dúchas Collection, as below. With the “new” style of script, gone was the séimhiú or buailte, the dot over consonants as here:

ḡ ṣ ḃ Ḅ which became ph, Sh, bh and Bh.

An bheirt Fhile

Bhí beirt fhile san áit seo fadó. Fear aca darab ainm Peadar Bacach Ó h-Éilighe, bhí sé in a chomhnuidhe i mBaile Mhic Aodha. Bhí an fear eile ina chomhnuidhe i gCill Fhir Dubh agus Tomás Mac Cillín an t-ainm a bhí air. Casadh an bheirt aca le na chéile lá amháin i dteach éicint. Bhí a chlár fhiachail caillte ag Mac Cillín agus bhí beárnach manntach. Dubhairt Peadar leis: - "Ceist agam ort agus fuasgail í. Cé againn is gile ná is áilne gnaoi?" D'fhreagair Cillín é, "Tá fear againn bacach agus fear eile beárnach buidhe", Is nach truagh Mhuire an bheirt againn!

From Dúchas, the Schools Collection.

There were two poets. A man called Peadar Lane Healy lived in Ballymachugh. Another man lived in Killerduff and Thomas Killeen was his name. They met together in some house. Killeen had lost a front tooth and was gapped and missing a tooth. Peadar said one day "I have a question for you to answer. Which of us is fairest and most beautiful?" Killeen answered him. "One of us is lame and the other is Beárnach - tooth gapped (and) buí - fair, tanned? Lord /Our Lady have mercy / save the both of us!"

Clorzeann an fíanaig ará curra
i ndún fíanaig

Timceall ceirne szór bliadain ó sorn bí
socruid i ndún fíanaig. Laint na daoine
an uair go h-an doimin mar bí a iuille
cómraon le dul ann i na diaid an cinn
seo táinig siad an clorzeann a bí cón
món le clab móna. Táinig uairbas an na
daoinib agus do dún siad suas an uair
arís. Tá an uair sin raob tuaid den cloic
món ará i roilg dún fíanaig agus níon
foscailt an uair ciadna ó sorn.

The Giant's head buried in Doonfeeny

About four score years ago, there was a funeral in Doonfeeny. The people dug the grave very deeply because other coffins were to go in after this one. They came on a head as big as a turf basket. The people were terrified and they closed up the grave again. That grave is north of the big stone in Doonfeeny graveyard and that same grave has never been opened since.

Áine Ní Moicáin,
Rathúnac

Liam Ó h-Éilize,
Rathúnac

Written by Liam Healy, Rathoona.

Story told by Áine Maughan.

Translated by Á. Uí Eadhra.



As seen on a road near
Tigh Áine in Rath Cairn
Samhain 2025.

Seán Doonfeeny.

Seo iad seán bóicéirín an
 Ceannra. Seán bóicéirín Dún Éirí;
 bóicéirín an Claíde Dúib; bóicéirín an Póirí
 bóicéirín na Trágha; bóicéirín an nGleanna.

Tá seán bóicéirín i Dún Éirí
 ag síonadh ó Déal an Áis go Ceannra
 na nDubha i nGleanna Uala. Níl fios cén
 uair a rinneadh an seán bóicéirín, ní fíor
 áir seán bóicéirín móra ó d'Éirí é.
 Is dóig go bfuil sé d'Éirí le míle
 bliain. Ní fíor áir seán bóicéirín níos
 fíor ná Gleanna Uala agus sin
 síor bí cosáin le h-áiríocht luic (ar) suibéal
 agus luic capall ag rith le h-áiríocht na
 fíoráirí agus ag dul iomlán fada le
 Déal Éirí. Tá trí droichead ar na
 ar na h-áiríochtaí ar an seán bóicéirín.
 Táiríocht ag d'Éirí uair den seán
 bóicéirín iomlán mar is a bfuil cuig cead
 bliain ó áiríocht.

Doonfeeny Mac Conamara.

Cill Fíor Dúib, Uigíoch-Máiríoch Ó Doonfeeny Baile an Chaisil, Co. Múigeo. 27/5/1938. M.	Cill Fíor Dúib, Baile an Chaisil, Co. Múigeo. (R. D.) 3/3/1938.
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Old Roads

These are the old roads of the area - Doonfeeny Old Rd., Black Sod Rd., the Bog Road., the Sea Road and the Glen Rd. There is an old road stretching from Ballina to the Hill of Dubhna in Glenurla. No one knows when this road was made, not seen by our grandfathers. It was probably built 1,000 years ago. The old road didn't go further than Glenurla. Onwards (west) were paths for those on foot and on horseback running beside the sea and going as far as Belderrig. There are three bridges on the rivers on the old road. The old road is being used as much as it was 500 years ago.

Written by **Noel McNamara**

Author **Martin Doherty**

Told 3/3/1938 written 27/5/1938

Translated by **Á Uí Eadhra**

Townlands, Place-names, Logainmneacha

In the 1830s John O Donovan's task was to produce Mayo's place-names in the definitive English version for use on the Ordinance Survey of Ireland maps. The townlands adjacent to Muingelly are all direct renditions in English of the Irish sounding place-names – Baile an Chaisil to Ballycastle. Sometimes there are translations or a different word e.g. Cathair na Mart to Westport. Contd. →

Dúchas - the Schools Collection

This is a collection of folklore compiled by school children in Ireland in the 1930s. It was originally to run from 1937 to 1938. For the duration of the project, more than 50,000 school children from 5,000 schools in the 26 counties of the Irish Free State were enlisted to collect folklore in their home districts. The aim was to catalogue, index and conserve the Primary school copybooks entrusted to the National Folklore Collection under the 1937 'Schools Scheme'. This included oral history, topographical information, folktales and legends, riddles and proverbs, games and pastimes, trades and crafts. The children recorded this material from their parents, grandparents and neighbours.

In recent years the UCD Folklore Department uploaded the records, and some in Irish were translated to English. We get a flavour of the usage of language at the time too. See dúchas.ie.

However even though pupils in Glenurla School filled out copybooks with tales and customs, their copies were not sent to / collected by the Folklore Commission. Kept in a cupboard in the classroom, pupils in the 1950s had access to them. One former pupil reported looking forward to reading them.

I've chosen accounts from the three Ballycastle schools listed in the collection, covering the wider Ballycastle area, with some familiar surnames. The style of English is quaint in places, the handwriting neat and accurate, all written with pen and ink. I've provided a translation of some of the accounts as Gaeilge. The standard of Irish is beautiful, fluent, colloquial, Gaeilge Mhaigh Eo nó Mhuigh Eo - stories provided by older neighbours especially in Killerduff.

Note the **name of scribe** is given along with **person, parent** etc. **who provided the tale or information**.

Townlands, Bailte Fearainn, Translations

Baile an Chnoic: The town of the Hill > **Ballyknock**

Ceathrú an Uisce: Quarterland of water > **Carrownisky**

Ceathrú Cor: odd or hill > **Carrowcor**

Cill Ardubh / An Fhir Dhuibh: > black man? > **Killerduff**

An Baile Glas: the green, grey town > **Ballyglass**

Ceathrú Thaidhg: Tadhg's acre **Carrowteige** silent T > heige

Dún Fhíne: Feeny's fort > **Doon(f)eeny** silent F > eeny

Céide: flat-topped hill > **Céide**

Ráth Thamhnach: ring fort, arable place > **Rathoonagh** silent T

An Bheithigh: of birch (wood) **Behy** silent T

For **Glenurla** / Ulra see p.62

For **Muingelly** see p.6

Ceathrú

Ceathrú, -ínn, -ínn, *ds.*, -ínn, *f.*, a quarter; a leg (of mutton, etc.); the thigh; a quarter of an acre, cwt., etc.; c. órólaí, a quarter of an inch; quarter of a baile fearainn; a quadrant; one line of a quatrain, respec-

Cill – cell, church

Dún - fort

Baile – town, homestead

Ráth – ring fort silent T
(Raw /rah)

15. TITHES, RENT AND LANDLORDS

The oldest relatives for whom we have records lived in the early 1800s. Francis Healy was born pre-1800, his wife Brigid Reape in 1811. John Bell Senior and James Munnelly go back to early 1800s too.. Were they given land as Cromwell's soldiers - see unusual surnames in Mayo p. 29 - or had they been part of the "To hell or to Connacht" dispossession? They were then tenant farmers, cottiers, victims of the Penal Laws - a series of discriminatory laws, designed by the British Protestant ruling class to suppress the Catholic majority and Presbyterians etc, restricting their rights in land, education, public office, voting, and worship, aiming to maintain control and wealth. A Catholic could not own a horse of greater value than £5 or "drive a coach and four", or attend a Catholic school; priests were banned, celebrating Mass only on hidden Mass rocks: Catholics could not own or buy land or property. A son could become a Protestant to inherit the farm and some did. All was rented from the landlord. Repeal of these laws was fought for much later in the 19th century.

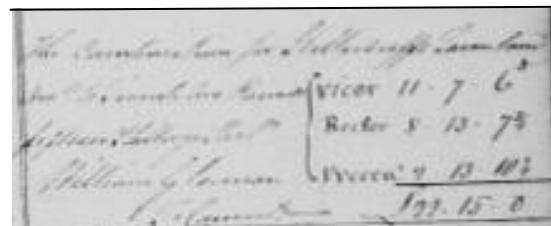
In the 19th century the British Government set about fully implementing the English way of life in Ireland. The Protestant church needed funding. The **Tithe Applotments Books** are a record of every rural household, and the amount of the tithe to be paid by Catholics to a church not theirs. **The Ordnance Survey of Ireland** was established in 1824, a mapping of every townland and property in the entire country, in English. (Imagine a group set up to rename French or German place-names. Paris would become Paree, Bordeaux Bordoh, Berlin Little Bear etc.) All the names of towns had to be anglicised. The establishment of the **National Schools** in 1831 would teach the basics all in English. There would be slaps for talking Irish! Finally **Griffith's Valuation** helped to better fund the English Planters and landed gentry with a mapping of every holding, house and field, to calculate the amount of rent to be paid, countrywide. During all this period **the Great Famine** further impoverished and helped to decimate the native Irish by death and emigration.

Daniel O Connell had achieved Catholic Emancipation (for all in the Commonwealth), and the Disestablishment of Church of Ireland had taken place before our grandparents John and Bridgie Munnelly were born in the 1880s. They would live through the period of the Land League and the Tenants' Rights campaign, the achievements of Charles Parnell and Michael Davitt.

The Tithe Applotment Books 1835

The Tithe Applotment Books and **Griffith's Valuation** are two of the most valuable sources of family occupancy in the 19th century in the absence of incomplete census records. However only the name of the Householder or Lessee is given; the 1901 and 1911 censuses record each member of the household. These records are readily available, while we await the 1926 records in April 2026.

The Tithe Applotments books in 1835 calculated how much **each household had to pay to the Church of Ireland**. **Tithes** were a tax on agricultural produce payable by the occupiers of agricultural land. The tithes were not levied on large towns or cities or on the poorer tenants. They were generally collected by "tithe- proctors" on behalf of the clergy. We find a number of older place names in the Tithe Books, now forgotten and don't appear in the later "Ordnance



Tithe from townland to Vicar, Rector and Presenter.

Survey Books". They were the main source of income for the clergy of the Church of Ireland (the established Protestant church, but not for the Catholic, Methodist or Presbyterian churches). The tithe was calculated on the average price of oats and wheat between 1816 and 1823. Cash was later accepted. What happened by default of payment? The RIC, established in 1832, took goods or cattle for non payment of tithes. They were known to hover at fairs - not at all welcome - to confiscate cattle etc. As time progressed, the tithe payment was added to the rent payment. (Tithes were / are paid to Clergy in some European countries for their upkeep).

In this table from 1834 **John Bell** of Doonfeeny is in a group of six, whose obligation is calculated as one group. As far as it is legible, the others concerned are Anthony Keane, Arthur ?, John McDonnell, Patt Burke, Michael Hefferon and John Bell. Between them they have 41 acres, of which 21 arable, 7 ditto and 5 acres coarse Mt. (mountain) Pasture?? 43 acres were calculated for assessment for payment of

	2 1/2	Moor				2 1/2
Anthony Keane						5 16 3/4
Arthur ?						
John McDonnell	11	8	Arable			28 8 1/2
Patt Burke	17	2	Arable			14 5 8 1/2
Michael Hefferon	3	7	Pasture			1 2 1/2
John Bell						43 14 11 1/2

£4-5s-6d. This must be **John Senior**, as in Griffith's Valuation.

Muingelly was assessed as part of Doonfeeny. **James Munnelly**, below, had two acres Arable; three acres were Moor, with some Pasture and an illegible section? The total tithe was £5-13s-9d. This payment went to the Vicar, Rector and Deacon, none for the Catholic Church.

Doonfeeny	James Munnelly	2	3	10 1/2	Arable							3 16 1/2
			2	7	Arable							9 9 1/2
				11	Pasture							0 1 1 1/2
		3	2	12 1/2	Moor							1 6 10 1/2
												5 13 9

The **Tithe War** (Cogadh na nDeachúna) was a campaign of mainly non-violent civil disobedience, punctuated by sporadic violent episodes, between ca. 1830 and 1836 in reaction to the enforcement of tithes on the Roman Catholic majority for the upkeep of the established state church i.e. the Church of Ireland. Goods confiscated were sometimes re-stolen from the landlord, or set on fire.

Griffith's Valuation

The Poor Law Commissioners appointed **Richard Griffith** to carry out a survey and valuation of the whole country. This was duly done and the results were published between 1848 and 1865. This was a short few years after the famine. Officially known as the Primary Valuation of Tenements, it has come to be known by most researchers as **Griffith's Valuation**. In the absence of a census it lists the Tenant / Lessee of every holding i.e. house and / or land or office or outhouse in the country. It calculated the rent due to the Landlord to **Daniel Madden** in 1857 as in Doonfeeny below. The Tithe payment had been based on a group of residents; that also applied to the rent to be calculated - the occupiers / tenants held the land **in common**. (A household could also be calculated separately). Together the six tenants have 72 acres. **Martin Bell** has 5 acres (**John Jr.** 4 and **John Sr.** almost 2).

Martin's house is valued at 10 shillings (John Jr's at 5 shillings, John Sr's at 12 shillings). Their total rateable value including Martin's is almost £12 pounds. See circumstances of **Charles Keane** over!

	No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
		Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
20	a	Patrick Bell,	Same,	Land and house,	41 2 5	16 0 0	0 10 0	7 15 0
21	b	Patrick Doherty,	Same,	Land, house, and office,	18 1 30	2 10 0	0 10 0	7 15 0
22	a	Anthony Bourke,	Same,	Land, house, and office,	24 2 27	10 10 0	0 10 0	7 15 0
	b	Patrick Corcoran,	Same,	Land, house, and office,			0 10 0	7 15 0
	a	John Keane,	Same,	Land, house, & offices,		8 13 0	0 12 0	9 5 0
	a	Charles Keane,	Same,	Land and house,		3 15 0	0 5 0	4 0 0
	c	Michael Heffernan,	Same,	Land, house, & office,		8 0 0	0 12 0	8 12 0
23	d	Martin Bell,	Same,	Land and house,	72 3 8	5 8 0	0 10 0	5 18 0
	e	John Bell, jun.,	Same,	Land and house,		3 10 0	0 5 0	3 15 0
	f	John Bell, sen.,	Same,	Land and house,		1 18 0	0 12 0	2 10 0
24		Daniel Madden,	Ecclesiastical Commrs.,	Land,	111 0 27	1 2 0	—	1 2 0
Total,					635 0 5	224 1 0	24 4 0	248 5 0

In **Glenulra** Anthony and Edward Madden had 535 acres, Daniel 561 approx. **Daniel** is the Lessor / landlord of Glenulra. **Thomas Early** had 6 acres approx. He was likely to be John's father, he who married local teacher Winifred Henry. When she died he married Mariah Munnellv. daughter of Patrick. Who was the father of Thomas Madden. Pat's father?

GLENULRA. (Ord. S. 6.)								
1	a	Anthony Madden,	Daniel Madden,	Land, house, & office,	535 3 25	10 10 0	3 10 0	14 0 0
	b	Edward Madden,	Same,	Land, house, & office,		10 10 0	1 10 0	12 0 0
	c	Thomas Langan,	Same,	Land and house,	9 2 35	1 2 0	0 4 0	1 8 0
2	a	Thomas Early,	Same,	Land,	2 3 34	0 15 0	—	2 13 0
3	b	Thomas Early,	Same,	Land and house,	4 0 15	1 3 0	0 15 0	—
4	c	Peter McDonnell,	Same,	Land, house, and office,	580 2 6	15 15 0	1 10 0	18 0 0
5	d	Catherine Gavin, (See also lot 6.)	Same,	One cottage,	—	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 2 0
6	e	Mary Regan, (See also lot 6.)	Same,	Garden,	0 0 24	0 2 0	—	0 2 0
7	f	John Bourke, (See also lot 6.)	Same,	Garden,	0 0 30	0 3 0	—	0 3 0
8	a	Mary Regan,	Same,	Land, house, & office,		2 12 0	0 12 0	3 4 0
	b	(See also lot 5 d.)	Same,	Land, house, & office,		2 12 0	0 8 0	3 13 0
	c	Patrick Gavin,	Same,	One cottage,	400 3 30	—	0 13 0	—
	d	Catherine Gavin, (See also lot 5 c.)	Same,	Land, house, & office,		2 12 0	0 10 0	3 2 0
	e	Daniel Madden,	Same,	Land and house,		2 12 0	0 3 0	2 15 0
9	f	Daniel Madden,	Ecclesiastical Commrs.,	Land,	347 3 2	3 15 0	—	17 10 0
10	a	Daniel Madden,	Same,	Land,	214 2 10	13 15 0	—	—
Total,					2104 3 10	67 18 0	10 10 0	78 6 0

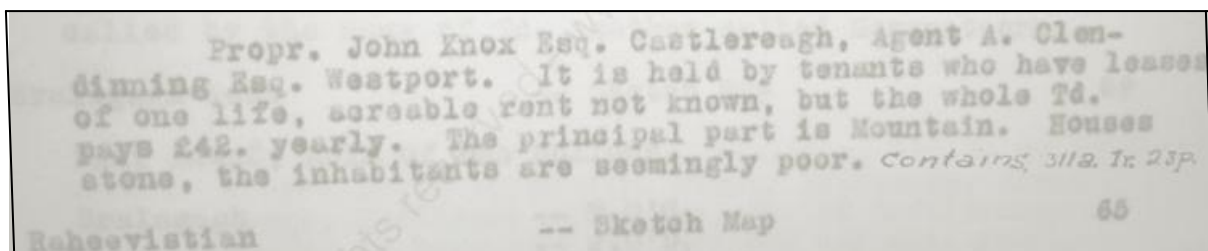
In **Behy** (below) Joseph F. Meade is the landlord – as in Muingelly. Francis Hely / Healy, our great-grandfather x 2 seems to have 4 acres with rateable value at £4–18s. According to the Penal laws, his sons would have to divide the plot, as Catholics they were not allowed to buy property or land. Landlord Zackary Mudge in the next townland Glenglossera, has 1191 acres, rent (to himself?) is £25.00. At the time of Griffith's Valuation, **Zachary Mudge** owned three townlands in the parish of Doonfeeny, barony of Tirawley, previously part of the Knox of Castlereagh estate.

BEHY. (Ord. S. 6 & 13.)								
1	a	Michael Munnell,	Joseph F. Meade,	Land, house, & office,			1 0 0	5 10 0
	b	Patrick Munnell,	Same,	Land, house, & office,			1 0 0	5 10 0
2	c	Francis Hely,	Same,	Land, house, & office,	4 0 0	1 18 0	0 8 0	4 18 0
	d	Michael Corcoran,	Same,	Land, house, & office,	032 3 18	25 4 0	0 5 0	4 16 0
	e	Michael Hely,	Same,	Land and house,			0 10 0	5 8 0
	f	Patrick Hely,	Same,	Land, house, & office,			1 0 0	5 10 0
	a	John Madden,	Same,	Garden and house,	0 1 20	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0
	b	Charles Hamley,	Patrick Hely,	House and garden,	0 0 30	0 5 0	1 0 0	1 5 0
	c	William Owen,	Michael Hely,	House,	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
	d	Samuel Hamley,	Patrick Hely,	House,	—	—	1 2 0	1 2 0
	e	Andrew McDonnell,	Joseph F. Meade,	Land,			4 10 0	4 10 0
	f	Edward Tomas,	Same,	Land,			1 10 0	1 10 0
	a	Anthony Tomas,	Same,	Land,	1603 3 34		1 10 0	1 10 0
	b	Patrick Tomas,	Same,	Land,			1 10 0	1 10 0
Total,					2501 1 31	36 10 0	7 17 0	44 7 0
GLENGLOSSERA. (Ord. S. 6 & 13.)								
1	c	Zachary Mudge,	In fee,	Land, house, and offices,	1191 2 35	21 0 0	4 0 0	25 0 0



Glenglossera Lodge is situated in the next townland west of Behy near a deep bend over a bridge, lined with rhododendrons - ablaze with colour in late spring, but a very invasive non-native plant which spreads at will. In 1876 Arthur Mudge, an army officer of Plimpton, Devonshire, had an estate of 3,634 acres in county Mayo. The Lodge has been vacant for many years now.

*The following is a **sketch map re Muingelly**
from the Ordnance Survey 1839, by John O Donovan.*



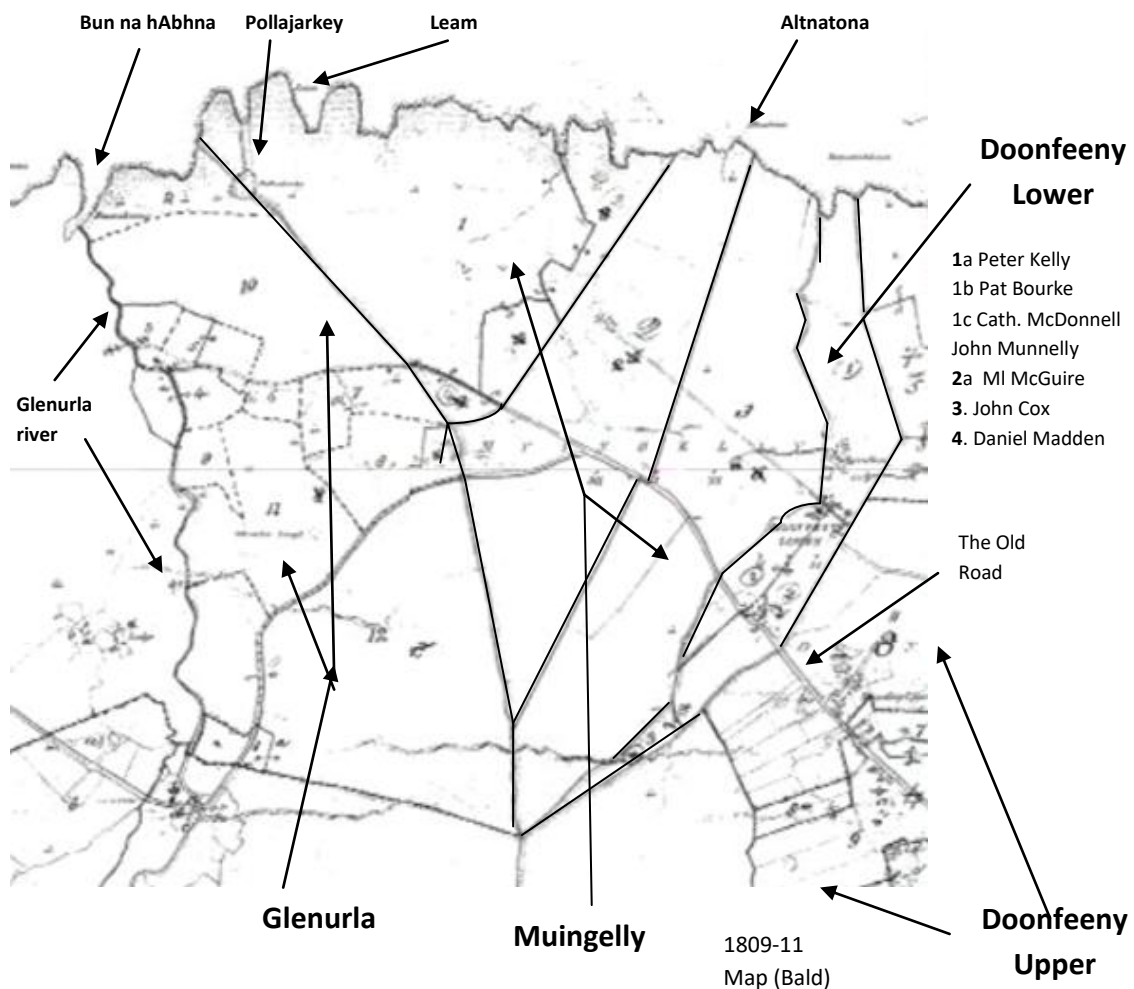
Propr. John Knox Esq., Castlereagh, (the) Agent A. Glendinning Esq. Westport. It (Muingelly) is held by tenants who have leases of one life, agreeable rent not known, but the whole Townland pays £42 yearly. **The principal area is Mountain. Houses stone, the inhabitants are seemingly poor.** Contains 311a-1r-23p. (Source: John O Donovan, Ordinance sketch map 1839).

MUIGELLY. (Ord. S. 6.)							
a	Thomas Burke,	Joseph F. Mead,	Land, house, and office,	112 2 30	12 10 0	1 5 0	13 15 0
b	James Gibson,	Same,	Land, house, & offices,		7 0 0	0 15 0	7 15 0
c	Patrick Malley,	Same,	Land, house, & offices,		3 10 0	0 14 0	4 4 0
d	Michael Malley,	Same,	Land, house, & office,	93 3 27	3 10 0	0 10 0	4 0 0
e	Michael Flynn,	Same,	Land, house, & office,		3 10 0	0 8 0	3 18 0
f	John Flynn,	Same,	Land, house, & office,		3 10 0	0 8 0	3 18 0
g	Peter Kelly,	Same,	Land,		15 0 0	—	15 0 0
h	William Munnelly,	Same,	Land,	104 3 6	7 10 0	—	7 10 0
i	John Munnelly,	Same,	Land,		7 10 0	—	7 10 0
Total,				311 1 23	63 10 0	4 0 0	67 10 0

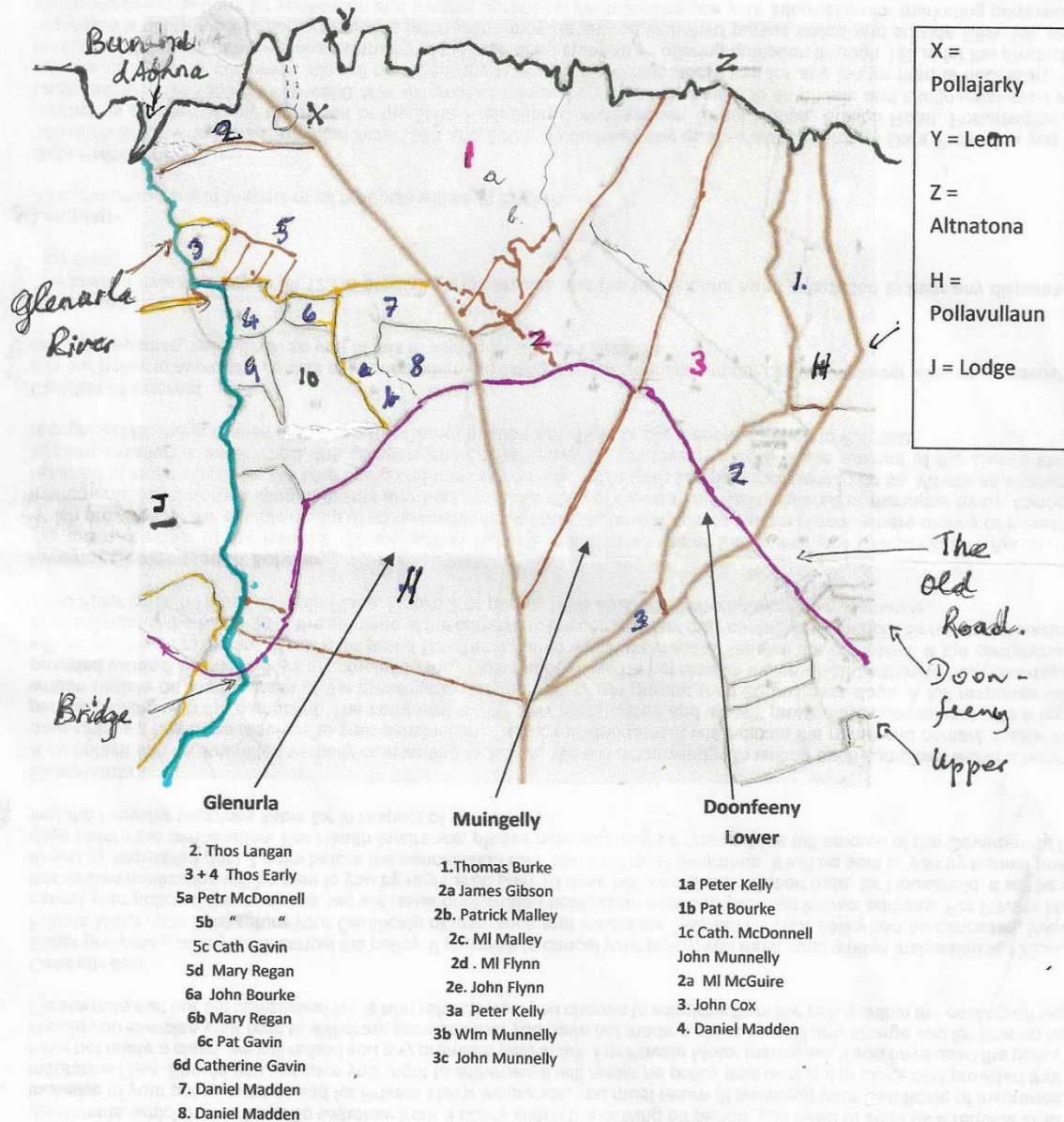
In 1856 there were **two Munnelly households in Muingelly**. They were headed by William and by John. Along with Peter Kelly they had 104 acres, but no buildings (of rateable value). Their total annual valuation was £7 each for William and John while Peter Kelly paid £15, i.e. he had half the acreage. These were the rent calculations to be paid to the immediate Lessor, i.e. agent or landlord, Joseph F. Mead. In **Doonfeeny Lower** John Munnelly had 8 rateable acres, but no house buildings.

DOONFEENY, LOWER. (Ord. S. 6.)				A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	a	Peter Kelly,	Daniel Madden,	Land, house, & office,	25 0 1	1 7 0	1 10 0
	b	Patrick Boerke,	Same,	Land & herd's house,		1 7 0	0 3 0
	c	Catherine McDonnell,	Same,	Land and house,		1 7 0	0 13 0
	d	John Munnelly,	Same,	Land,		1 7 0	—
2	a	Michael McGuire,	Same,	Land and herd's house,	9 0 12	4 5 0	0 10 0
3	a	John Cox,	Same,	Land, house, and offices,	13 3 33	4 5 0	0 15 0
4	a	Daniel Madden,	Ecclesiastical Commrs.	Land,	3 3 8	0 1 0	—
Total,				51 3 14	13 19 0	3 11 0	17 10 0

This is a Map from **Griffiths Valuation 1856**. **Muingelly** is the townland in the centre, divided in three sections; Part of Glenurla is to the west, with holdings clearly divided and numbered. Doonfeeny Lower is to the east. In Muingelly the 3 divisions of tenancies are unclear. This is described elsewhere as “holding in common”. We also find John Munnelly and Peter Kelly with a share in a holding in Doonfeeny Lower. It consists of 25 acres shared between four people. We can assume that land vacated through death or emigration could be rented from the landlord.



This is a Map from **Griffiths Valuation 1856**. Muingelly is the townland in the centre, divided in three sections. Part of Glenurla is to the west, with holdings clearly divided and numbered. Doonfeeny Lower is to the east. In Muingelly the 3 divisions of tenancies are unclear. This is described elsewhere as "holding in common". We also find John Munnelly and Peter Kelly with a share in a holding in Doonfeeny Lower - 25 acres shared between four people. We can assume that land vacated through death or emigration could be rented from the landlord.



Map of Mayo made by William Bald of the Bog Commission. set up in 1809 to ascertain the nature and extent of the bogs of Ireland, and the practicality of converting them to agricultural land.

An Gorta Mór, The Great Famine

Mayo was one of the counties that suffered most, losing one third of its population through death and emigration. In 1841 the population of Mayo was 388,847; by 1851 it had fallen to 274,830; the number of homes in the county had fallen from 70, 542 to 49,073 in the same period. In some places however, the population loss amounted to 50%.

	Ballycastle				
	1841	1851	1841	1851	Pop %
TOWNLAND	Pop	Pop	Houses	Houses	decrease
Belderigmore	307	126	59	21	60%
Behy	89	70	15	13	21%
Glenglossera	35	7	6	1	80%
Muinganierin	25	9	4	1	64%
Srameen	37	39	5	5	+ 0.05%
Glenurla	100	59	16	10	41%
Muingelly	48	36	9	7	25%
Carrownisky	164	48	26	8	71%
Doonadoba	278	164	43	28	41%
Ballymachugh	202	66	38	10	67%
Cluddaun	79	48	14	10	39%
Crocknacolly	28	10	3	2	50%
Ballycastle Town	798	372	148	77	53%
Belmullet	637	935	115	154	+ 47%
Doonfeeny Civil Parish	4819	2720	865	491	44%

Figures taken from “**On our Knees**” by Brendan Hoban.

The Landlords

At the time of Griffith's Valuation, **Joseph F. Mead** had three townlands in the parish of Doonfeeny, barony of Tirawley, county Mayo, previously part of the Knox of Castlereagh estate. He is the landlord of Muingelly and Behy. In 1876 he owned 2,872 acres in county Mayo. The estate was sold to the Congested Districts' Board on 28th July 1906.

*“**Daniel Madden** held lands in the parishes of Kilbride, Kilfian and Killala, barony of Tirawley. He owned the land in Doonfeeny and Glenurla. These lands had been sold in the Encumbered Estates' Court in 1852 and 1853 the family were extensive merchants in Ballycastle, who bought land..... They were badly affected by the Famine, sold their property and went to Australia”. “The local landlord, **Joseph Williams Madden**, lived in a house now demolished, where Kevin Healy, Paddy’s son, now lives. J.W. Madden manager of Palm Hill School, originally owned 4,000 acres in Mayo in 1876. He died a bankrupt.... His estate sold 478 acres to the Congested Districts Board in April 1905 but there was a prolonged legal dispute about the sale of the holdings. Local tenants and residents organised a campaign, through the United Irish League, to oppose the sale as one lot and won the right to bid for individual holdings. A number of the Glenulra tenants were prominent in this struggle. Thomas Madden secured title to their land holding at the river, in June 1914. Miss Tighe secured original title to her (now our) house in January 1911”. **David Connolly**.*

The Knoxs came from county Donegal and settled at Castlereagh in the 17th century. By the early 19th century they held an extensive estate of more than 10,000 acres in the barony of Gallen, county Mayo.... They also owned **most of the parish of Doonfeeny**, in the barony of Tirawley and land in the parish of Kilmeena, barony of Burrishoole. In 1835 Arthur Edward Knox married Jane, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Rosse of Birr Castle. In 1853 Arthur E. Knox sold his estates in the Encumbered Estates' Court. The first sale amounted to 16,178 acres in three county Mayo baronies.... and the second sale comprised 25,004 acres in the barony of Tirawley and 1,059 acres in the barony of Gallen. He and his wife went to live at Triton House in Sussex. Their eldest son, **Laurence E. Knox, founded the "Irish Times" newspaper in 1859.** In the 1870s the representatives of Laurence E. Knox, Dublin, owned 902 acres in county Tipperary.

Non-payment of rent led to eviction, thatched roofs torched or the walls of the house were levelled (with a battering ram). There was a tendency not to talk about the hard times, the famine or the loss of a baby. If you studied Peig for the Leaving Cert you would have read how she rolled up her sleeves and set to work after she lost her son down the cliffs. Silence seemed to make the pain go away.

The local landlord of Killerduff, Ballyknock, and Ballycastle was Colonel Arthur Gore. He was succeeded by his brother "sir Charles", and lived in Beleek manor Ballina. The Gore family were very good landlords to their tenants. They never carried out evictions. They usually supplied their tenants with seed potatoes, and seed oats, and the tenants were highly pleased with their landlord.

Tithes were collected by the Protestant Minister but the people resisted and fierce battles were fought, between the tithe collectors, and the people, and finally the tithe gathers were wiped out, and the Minister had to live on the

encome of his glebe.

The land was divided in most places by the landlords, and given to the tenants. In other places the land was sub-divided into rundales, and is so at the present day in some localities. The landlords exercised special powers over their tenants. The tenants were supposed to give four days work in the year to the landlords, such as mowing hay, reaping oats, cutting turf, and when the turf was saved the tenants should take it with their horses, and draw it to the landlords place.

From **Dúchas, the Schools Collection 1937**
Collector: Eddie Gilmartin. **Informant:** John Gilmartin, Killerduff. *These are accounts of the landlords; not all the landlords behaved badly. Memories of that period can be exact or exaggerated. Life could be grim!*

~~crops to the tithe gatherers.~~ Fierce battles were often fought between the people and tithe gatherers. At this time the young men of the district planned to kill some of the landlords.

At any election if the tenants did not vote to suit the landlord they would be evicted at once. Tithes were collected in this district in former times.

Miss Gardiner was said to be one of the worst Landlords living. It is said that she took a cruel delight in evicting poor people. She often had a whole townland evicted in one day. Some of the evicted people emigrated to America and some of them built huts on the mountain side.

How to search **Griffith's Valuation Books**: Google **Ask about Ireland**. Click the prompt at the bottom of the page. Up comes "search by family or place. Enter family name, then 1st name, then county / townland. Barony will give a prompt, choose Tirawley, under Union the prompt is Killala, and under Parish - roll down to Doonfeeny."

PETTY SESSION COURTS

John Munnelly Senior appeared at the Petty session court in 1870 for not having a dog's licence. **The Petty Sessions** were formally established with legislation in 1827; they were held in Ballycastle every Wednesday, from 1866 to 1912. By 1851, amid growing concerns about the fairness of some of the justices of the peace, the Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act sought to tighten up the rules. Farmers were fined for letting their cattle wander or for driving a cart without name painted on the side. Debts were collected and disputes settled. Public drunkenness was a common offence, as was assault and general rowdiness between neighbours. Lack of a dog licence brought great numbers to court. Penalties were 5/- (five shillings) or a week in jail. There were several "no shows". It is noted that proportionally more people in Ireland were summoned to attend these courts than in Britain. The landlord too, in his role as Peace Commissioner, sought to punish those who were behind in rent for whatever reason.

Case: Defendant did on the 8th day March 1876 at Ballyknock assault the Complainant.

Defendant's cattle did trespass on the Complainant's land cropped with turnips at Glenulra in said district and county - 5 head of cattle on 7th November 1898.

Case: That defendant did leave and absent complainant's service and employment undischarged, contrary to contract entered into, to same complainant up to June 1873. Defendant was Anthony Keane.

Complainant: P. Enright, RIC, Ballycastle. Defendant: John Munnelly, Farmer. Case: That Defendant had a dog, unlicensed at Muingelly on the 4th April 1870.

Case: Defendant is indebted to the Complainant to the sum of one pound = £1 for school fees.

Case: Defendant did on the 5th day of March 1876 at Killyduff Commit a breach of the Sabbath by gathering wrack.

Case: Defendant is indebted to the plaintiff in the sum of 11/- for a pair of shoes sold and delivered within the last 12 months.

Case: Defendant did allow 2 pigs, his property to wander on the public road at Muingelly on the 14th Sept 1886.



Case: Defendant did on the 29th day of March 1876 at Ballycastle, allow his horse and cart to remain on the public street without having a person sufficiently near to have control of the animal.



Addendum

- **The simple version of the family history.** All pivots around Grandfather, **John Munnelly**. He is the link tying all the families together. His mother was Mary **Bell**, daughter of John **Bell**. His only sister Mary married Thomas **Madden**. He married Bridgie **Healy**, daughter of Martin. John's uncle Pat had married Catherine **Loftus Healy**, aunt of Bridgie. And one more twist. May's sister Bridie married Phil **Munnelly** and her brother Martin married Josie **Carey**. Sin é an scéal!
 - **Many women married "late"**. Granny Bridgie had her first baby aged 36, her sister Mary Kate was over 37 years. Molly Madden was 38 years when she married. There could also be **a big age difference** between husbands and wives. Mary Kate was 37 years on marrying Johnny McGuire aged 48. John Carey was 42 years, Mary was 20 years. Ciss Loftus was 33 years at marriage, Patrick her husband 47 years.
 - **The eldest son usually inherited the farm** but when his mother died, or soon before, he brought in a new wife. They lived in a 2 or 3 roomed house! Sometimes the young bride was bossed about by her mother in law, still fit and able, or a wise old lady supported the new lady teaching her skills. Granny might be well minded too.*
 - **Longevity**. Mary Maughan Carey was 93 years when she died, her mother in law, Sarah McDonnell was 99 years while Molly Madden was 109. R.I.P.
 - In the school records p. 79 we see that **students started school** on 30.06.1910 and on 31.07.1892, i.e. the last days of June and July. When I started school in the 1950s we attended for one week **before** the summer holidays and then back again at the start of September. Each class moved up a grade for one week with the new teacher, if that applied. That system ended some time since. The primary school year now starts at the start of September. Note that in 1892 students got holidays only at the end of July.
 - Where landlords had **large numbers of acres**, a great deal of this land was bog land, given the area concerned.
 - Áine has 3% DNA in Ulster / Donegal on her maternal side. The Munnellys came down from Inishowen see p.12 The Bells were from Scotland and the North of Ireland, planters? P18
- * Máirtín Ó Cadhain wrote a brilliant short story "Glantachán Earraí" about the older lady feeling superfluous. Would she be thrown out just like the broken chair, and the torn blanket?

Some of Our Mayo neighbours in County Meath

Our dentist in Navan is David Kelly from Belderrig. Pádraig Farrell, vet, Deirdre (X-rays in Navan Hospital) and Mícheál IT expert are the family of Frank Farrell RIP, Lacken and ráth Chairn. I taught Brian son of Seamus McDonnell, Doonfeeny. Keith and Paul Munnelly, the grandsons of Lacken Robbie Munnelly are also past pupils. Caroline McCombs née Barrett ex OPW lives in Trim. Mary O Hara of Athboy Sabrosa Restaurant is from Westport Aughaval parish. Mairéad Staunton, Athboy Optician, wife of Pádraig Farrell vet, is from Moygownagh. Pádraig Stanton, Athboy Pharmacist 2025 RIP was from Louisburgh. Finally Pádraig and Déaglán Mac Conamhna were former pupils too..

Bibliography

Bourke, Eoin: Poor Green Erin

Connolly, David: Martin Connolly of Kilgevrin

Hamrock Ivor: The Famine in Mayo

Hoban, Brendan: Ocras

Hoban, Brendan: On Our Knees

Langan-Egan, Maureen: Women in Mayo 1821 -1851

Mac Conamhna, Breandán: Currach Dhún Chaocháin

Ó Munghaile Tomás: Ó Bharr Thrámh go Baile Ghib

Online Resources

North Mayo Heritage Centre

Griffith's Valuation and Tithe Applotment
Books

Census 1901, 1911

Goldenlangan.com for grave records in
most Mayo cemeteries and for Ballycastle
death and marriage records

irishgenealogy.ie. civil and church records

Findmypast.ie subscription paid

Ancestry DNA subscription paid

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Dúchas.ie The Schools Collection.

Logainm.i.e.

Mayo and Sligo, Ireland, School Registers,
1850-1924 (through Findmypast or
Ancestry DNA)

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About the Author

Áine Uí Eadhra née Lynam Munnelly was born in Fairview in 1951. May Munnelly of Muingelly was her mother. She was a teacher of German and Irish in Scoil Chaitríona and Coláiste Eoin in Dublin and in Boyne Community School, Trim. Until retiring she was the Director of Adult Education. *She has written four issues of the German Leaving Certificate books “Deutsch für die mündliche Prüfung.”* Starting in 2005 she began to research her Dublin Lynam roots followed by several years working on Alan’s O Hara’s Leitrim and Tralee family. The Munnelly book was waiting! Tá cónaí ar Alan agus Áine Ó hEadhra i Ráth Chairn, Co. na Mí. C15WF65 auieadhra@gmail.com



Baby Anne Lynam made her first trip to Muingelly in August '51. The b. & w. photo from that occasion has been AI colour enhanced.



Tide Coming In, Ballycastle 1909 Jack B. Yeats



Fair Day in Ballycastle 1925 Jack B. Yeats 1871 - 1957

Irish Artist, **Jack Butler Yeats** frequently visited the Ballycastle area in North Mayo, notably with writer J.M. Synge in 1905 to sketch and document the region. He visited the area many times after that..

