

An Echo From The Past

by Frank Hanley



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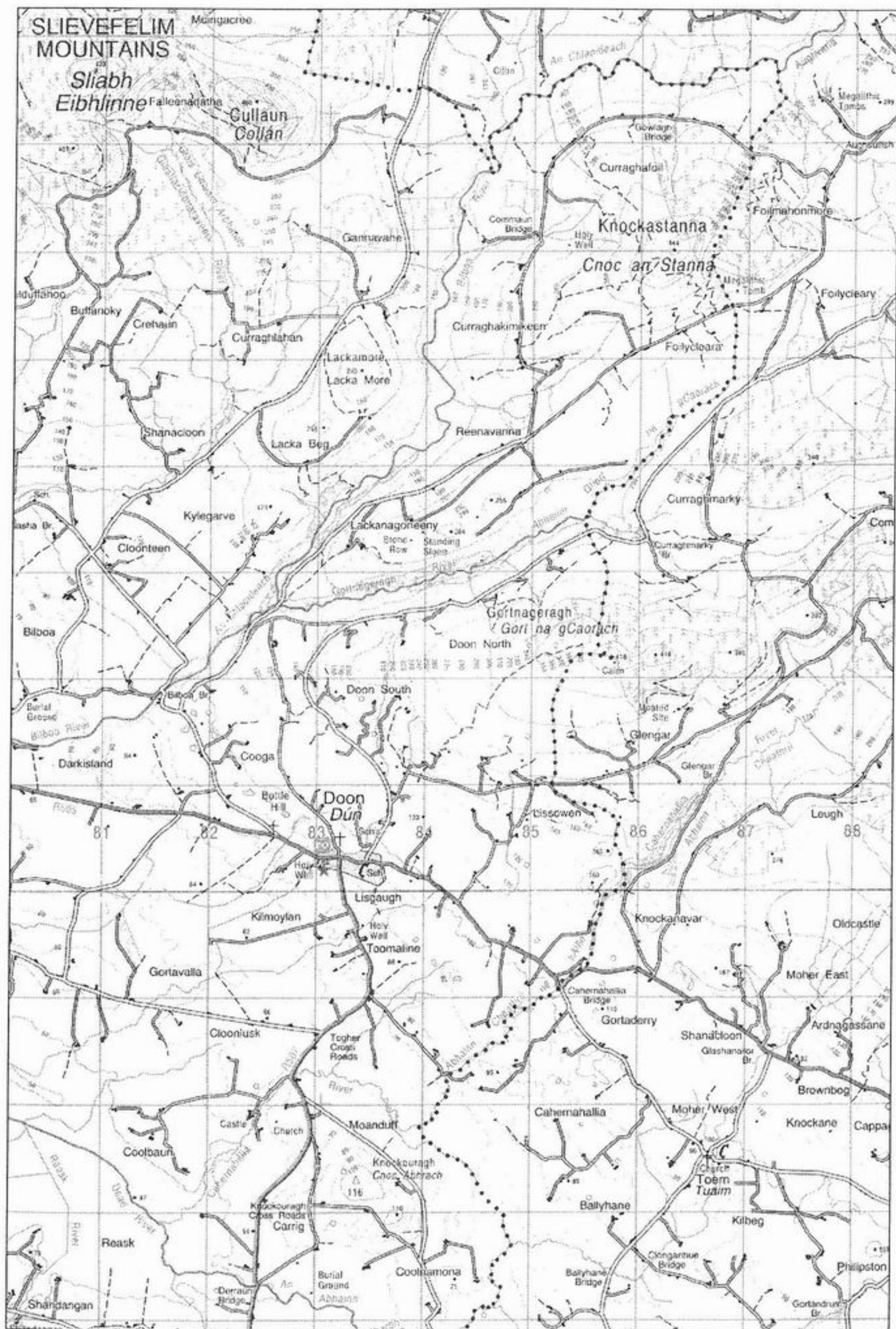
An Echo From The Past

A short history from County Limerick of the Hanleys of Cooga, the Ryans of Reenavanna and the Buckleys of Glengar.

Topics touched on:

- The great Famine
- Evictions
- Emigration
- A really decent landlord
- Disease, mainly TB
- Repression
- The Spanish flu of 1918/1919
- Ultimate success
- A Reenavanna descendant is awarded an MBE
- Workhouses during the famine

By Frank Hanley



A short history of my ancestors, the Hanleys of Cooga, the Buckleys of Glengar and the Ryans of Reenavanna, plus a look at some of the times they lived in.

By Frank Hanley, June 2003.

Some of my relations and friends, that will read this piece of history, may be aware that I published a book in 2001, its title is "*Kilkeedy A success story from a rural parish of the preservation of historic ruins*". This is a story of the restoration of an old graveyard near Clarina village, in the Parish of Patrickswell and Ballybrown, Co Limerick. Included in the book are some bits of local history from this part of Ireland that my late father, Jim Hanley, brought our small family to live in 1947. In doing the research for the book I accidentally reopened an old family sore, and that is the unjust treatment that was handed down to our family by the Land Commission in 1956, when the Tervoe estate was divided. In short my dad and his small family were entitled to get a portion of this land, but his application was dramatically turned down. Any time that this topic was discussed with our family, over the last forty-six years everybody said that it was most unfair, and I never heard otherwise. Under the 1997 Freedom of Information Act, I inspected the Land Commission records and one of the memos dated 23/5/58 has the following record, "*but the commissioners have expressed the view that it is a pity that some provision was not made for James Hanley.*" This public record speaks for itself. My father Jim Hanley and his wife Lily O'Brien, from Cappamore had two children, my brother Paddy and myself. We are not bitter with the Land Commission and in fact I have very good relationships with two of their staff, John Dunne and Brian Walsh. These men are very helpful with the supply to me of information that is at their disposal about Cooga, Reenavanna and my local parish of Patrickswell and Ballybrown.

It is not my intention to delve into personal triumphs or failures of our ancestors, and this exercise is simply a look at who we are and where we came from.

Many people nowadays could query why my father, Jim Hanley, felt entitled to get land from the Land Commission. But a brief look at his case and other events that effected our ancestors, the Hanleys and the Ryans, takes us right to the core of modern Irish history. To get a full appreciation of this family story I feel it could be helpful to take a broad general look at Irish history during the time under review. Our ancestors, like most of their friends and relations, had to endure misery and despair caused by -

Famine

Evictions

Emigration

Disease

Repression

The island of Ireland was governed by Britain for over 750 years until the Irish Free State was founded in 1922. Over the centuries most of the land in Ireland was confiscated by British landlords. These landlords owned huge tracts of land, sometimes in excess of ten thousand acres, and many of them were absentee landlords preferring to live in England. With few exceptions Irish landlords were not noted for the careful management of their estates. Many, only interested in hunting, drinking and the building of large mansions let their estates to middlemen, sometimes called Squireens who divided the land amongst tenant farmers. Sometimes these farms were subdivided, so that the holdings were small and rents were pushed up and the middlemen could make a handsome profit. In some cases the landlords adopted a sympathetic approach and encouraged the tenants to improve their lot. However the majority of them increased the rent if a tenant improved his land or showed any signs of prosperity. There was no attempt by the British government to promote and help Irish industries. On the contrary, attempts were made to kill whatever industry there was, in case it would interfere with employment in Britain. Therefore the land was the chief source of survival and wealth, but the vast majority of the population was denied ownership of it. And since the tenants had no security of tenure, they were always under the fear of eviction. Consequently, there was continuous unrest in Ireland for hundreds of years with uprisings and disturbances, as the people demanded fair play and the right to decide their own destiny. Down to the present day we witness unrest in this island, with the ongoing troubles in the North of Ireland, which is still governed by the United Kingdom.

We will see later in O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey of Ireland of 1840 the type of soil and the crops that were grown in Reenavanna and Cooga at that time. One crop, namely potatoes, is embedded, not only in the soil, but also in Irish history. An acre of land could produce enough potatoes to feed a family for the year and leave a surplus to be sold to help to pay the rent. Potatoes were also excellent food for animals and predominantly pigs were reared in small sheds beside the house, and it was common to see young pigs, sometimes sick, in a timber box beside the fire. Thus - bacon, cabbage and spuds - is a great traditional meal in Ireland and I hope this continues for as long as I am around. Because potatoes were so easy to grow and were very nourishing the people depended too much on them. There were twenty-four failures of the potato crop recorded between 1728 and 1851. But failures or not, the people kept depending on them and the population kept on rising. A serious out-break of blight (caused by the fungus *Phytophthora infestans*) on the potato caused the crop to fail in 1845 and with the people relying mostly on potatoes for survival, unbelievably thousands died of starvation in the resultant famine.

This was the start of an unforgettable era in our native land as the greatest recorded human catastrophe in Irish history was the Great Famine (An Gorta Mór), during which over a million people died of starvation and a further million emigrated to escape the disaster. The famine was at its height from 1845 to 1849. **There was a major famine commemoration event held in Cork in 1997.** The gathering prompted the new British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to seek to heal this festering wound by formally acknowledging Britain's inadequate response to the famine. In a remarkable message to the Irish people he stated: *"That one million people should have died in what was then part of the richest and most powerful nations in the world is something that still caused pain as we reflect on it today. Those who governed in London at the time failed their people through standing by while a crop failure turned into a massive human tragedy. We must not forget such a dreadful event."*

Our ancestors, Ryans and Hanleys, were typical Irish tenant farmers that had to pay rent to the landlords, because up to the end of the nineteenth century they were not allowed to own the land. During the nineteenth century thousands of farmers, especially after the famine, throughout Ireland, were evicted from their small farms for a variety of reasons, but mainly through their inability to pay the rent for the land. In the period when our grandparents were born 1859 to 1894 things could not be worse for the Irish people, with some fears of a further famine in 1877, when a disastrously wet season began a series of failures of the potato crop. Over a ten-year period, since the famine began, over two million people emigrated, and this was roughly a quarter of the population. Some landlords operated a no nonsense approach and those that could not pay the rent were put out on the side of the road. But there were others that were more lenient, and one of them was William Monsell, later to become Lord Emly, who was the original owner of the Tervoe estate to which we had gone to live, near Clarina village, in 1947. This man was an MP representing Limerick at Whitehall from 1847 to 1874. During his fifty-eight years as owner of the Monsell estate, and living amongst the people, no one was evicted from the estate up to the time of his death in 1894. During times of distress he forgave arrears of rent, and took it upon himself to repay Boards of Works loans, for improvements taken out by the tenants. And finally Lord Emly did not increase his rents at all from the 1830s to the 1880s. There were many others like Lord Emly who were thoroughly disgusted at the sheer horror and scale of this traumatic time in Ireland, and they worked very hard to alleviate the people's suffering from disease, hunger, destitution and despair. They were horrified by the total inadequacy of the measures taken by the British Government to deal with the crisis.

Irish people have a reputation for fighting, but many of them simply had to fight, with whatever means was at their disposal, to survive, many times down through the ages, but especially during the times of famine, and in the years thereafter. A former Fenian named Michael Davitt, released after many years in British prisons for the nationalist republican cause, began early in 1879 to set in motion a whole new land agitation, for a national reduction of rents. Davitt also demanded an end to evictions and a long-term aim to transfer the ownership of the land from landlord to tenant. Davitt got assistance from a young member of the British parliament representing County Meath, named Charles Stewart Parnell. Their first major rally was held in Westport in the summer of 1879, and from this a new organisation was formed, to be known as the Land League. This organisation had the motto of the three Fs, namely Fair Rent, Fixity of tenure and Freedom to sell the land. The Irish people were desperate for the right to run their own affairs, namely Home Rule, and unknown to the majority of people this was starting to happen. This was probably because the British seemed glad to turn their backs on Ireland, and sure some of the rulers of Britain must have felt ashamed of what they had let happen in this island. The issues of Home Rule and land reform were intertwined, and helped in no small way by the absolute brilliance of Charles Stewart Parnell massive changes were brought about. Parnell, was born in Avondale, Co Wicklow entered parliament of the United Kingdom in 1875 and was active in the 'obstructionist' faction of the Home Rule Party. Their intention was to obstruct the day to day business of the parliament in order to highlight Irish issues.

A study of the election patterns, in Ireland, to the House of Commons from 1868 to 1885 could assist in understanding the changes that were taking place.

Year	Conservatives	Liberals	Home Rulers	Total
1868	40	65	-	105
1874	32	12	59	103
1880	26	18	59	103
1885	18	-	85	103

The 1885 election completed the process, initiated in 1874, of eliminating the English parties in southern Ireland as the 18 Conservatives elected in 1885 represented the North-East, namely Ulster. The spectacular results left the Home Rulers in a strong position in relation to Irish affairs, more so because they held the balance of power in the mighty United Kingdom, and were now capable of toppling the government. In 1885 there were 249 Conservatives and 335 Liberals. Home Rulers had 85 in Ireland and one in Liverpool bringing their total up to 86.

Slowly the Irish were able to get concessions on the land question, until eventually they were permitted to own the land. The change in relationship between landlord and tenant came about by a progression of land acts. Deasy's act of 1860 placed the law firmly on the side of the landlord. In 1870 Gladstone secured the introduction of a land act aimed at strengthening the rights of tenants. Gladstone, in 1881, under pressure from Parnell and Davitt, introduced combined ownership by landlord and tenant and this meant the concession, at last, of part of the three F's. Ashbourne's act of 1885 allowed the tenant to purchase the land, with the state providing a loan to be repaid over a period of years. Another act in 1903 offered landlords a twelve per cent bonus to sell the land. The Land Commission was set up to facilitate the transfer of the land from the landlords to the farmers, and this is why my father, Jim Hanley and others, were entitled to make a claim for land in the Tervoe estate, here near Clarina village.



Mary Ryan

In doing this piece of family history I was assisted and encouraged all the way by a few people notably by Mary Ryan. Mary is my first cousin, Con's daughter, originally from Cooga, and now living on the outskirts of Doon, with her husband Patsy. One day she produced a very old document, the title deeds of Cooga when our grandfather Paddy Hanley bought the land over from the landlords. This is the land that the Hanleys had occupied as tenants for many years previously. With the assistance of John Dunne from the Land Commission Records office in Dublin we discovered that Paddy Hanley purchased the land from descendants of Lord Stanley and their names are as follows: Eliza Browne, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin. John Blount, 8 Merrion Square, Dublin. Margaret Grace, Boley, Monkstown, Co Dublin. Ellan Anne Hussey Walsh, 81 Onslow Gardens, London. Charlotte Eliza Mary Blount, 77 Elizabeth Street, Eaton Square, London. Annie Blount, 10 Belmont Terrace, North Circular Road, Dublin. Edith Margaret Blount, 10 Belmont Terrace, North Circular Road, Dublin. Lilian Blackbourne, Ounavarna, Lucan, Co Dublin. Annie Ethel Blount whose address is unknown. The price of the land was £381. We can now see, first hand, Irish history in the making when, on the 3rd of March 1902, a Hanley took over the land from the British. We, the descendants, can be justifiably proud of the achievements of our grandfather Paddy Hanley and we salute him today. And it is pleasing for me to revisit this piece of family history.

But going back in our history, and to Paddy's father and grandfather, we once again find ourselves back in the dark side of Irish history, because I am reliably told that the Hanleys were evicted from lands in Solohead. My aunts, Mary Kirby and Peggy Clifford well remember when their father would point to the left when travelling towards Limerick Junction from Oola.

5. The Lodgment of this Agreement with the Irish Land Commission is to be deemed an application by the said Tenant for an advance pursuant to the Land Purchase Acts, to be repaid as is by the said Acts provided.

SCHEDULE.

County Limerick Barony Boonagh Electoral Division Doon South

Reference to map.	Ordinance Survey names of Townlands (each on a separate line)	Area Statute Measure of the portion of each Townland to be sold.	Tenement Valuation.	Rent paid by Tenant.	Tenure of Tenant and particulars of fixing of Rent if a Judicial one. (See directions endorsed as to the filling in of this column)
		First Part—Description of Holding.			
16	Booga Lower	1 0 34	✓	2 3	years
4	Booga Lower	29 0 35	20 0 0	26 7 4	Tenant from year to year
9	Booga Upper	10 3 21	16 0 0	20 0 0	
Second Part—Additional land sold under the "Purchase of Land (Ireland) Amendment Act, 1889."					
					N.B.—These Lands must not exceed 10 acres statute measure in area, unless the tenement valuation be £10 or under. If the lands are not separately valued the approximate valuation should be given.

Signed by the Vendors, except John Blount,
Ellen Anne Hussey Walsh, Charlotte
Eliza Mary Blount, and Annie Edith
Blount, in presence of

Name W. J. Napier
Address 19 Merrion Square, Dublin
Occupation Lawyer

Signed by John Blount in presence of

Name W. J. Napier
Address 33 Alexander Road, Mallow
Occupation Windmill

Signed by Ellen Anne Hussey Walsh in presence of

Name Ellie McGuck
Address 81, Shelburne Road
Occupation Spinster

Signed by Charlotte Eliza Blount in presence of

Name Thos. McGrath
Address 29 Malinbeg St
Occupation Dublin

Signed by Annie Edith Blount in presence of

Name F. de Bernadine
Address 23, Blenheim Square, London
Occupation (date) Clerk in the Foreign Office

Signed by the Tenant in presence of the

Name Stephen J. Harty
Address Booga Boon County Limerick
Occupation Farmer

Signature of Vendors—

Eliza Browne—Eliza Browne
Postal Address—8 Merrion Square, Dublin.

John Blount—John Blount
Postal Address—8 Merrion Square, Dublin.

Margaret Grace—Margaret Grace
Postal Address—Boley, Monkstown, Co. Dublin.

Ellen Anne Hussey Walsh—Ellen Anne Hussey Walsh
Postal Address—81 Onslow Gardens, London.

Charlotte Eliza Mary Blount—Charlotte Eliza Mary Blount
Postal Address—77 Elizabeth Street, Eaton Square, London.

Annie Blount—Annie Blount
Postal Address—10 Belmont Terrace, N. Circular Road, Dublin.

Mary Blount—Mary Blount
Postal Address—10 Belmont Terrace, N. Circular Road, Dublin.

Edith Margaret Blount—Edith Margaret Blount
Postal Address—10 Belmont Terrace, N. Circular Road, Dublin.

Lilian Blackburne—Lilian Blackburne
Postal Address—Ounavaras, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

Annie Blount—Annie Blount
Postal Address—Booga Boon County Limerick.

Signature of Tenant

Postal Address Booga Boon County Limerick

Occupation or Description Farmer

The words in italics may be struck out unless the Tenant is illiterate.

He was pointing to the spot, in the Stanley estate, from where the Hanleys were evicted. It is important to point out that this medicine was not reserved for the Hanleys as thousands of other tenants got the same treatment. Our grandfather was known to be a staunch republican and looking over what he and his family endured it is easy to see why. This exercise could also enable present and future students to get an understanding of how some Irish revolutionary movements got their origin.

On hearing of the eviction, for the first time in August 2002, I felt driven to take an interest in the story, and have made a lot of enquiries. This was difficult because there were many families of Hanly's living about Solohead, around 1851. You may have noticed that I have now spelled the name without an e, Hanly. So which is correct Hanley or Hanly. My birth certificate spells the name Hanly, but my father always spelled it Hanley. I have in my possession copies of the signatures of my grandfather Patrick and my great-grandfather Cornelius and both of them spelled the name with an e Hanley, and that will do me fine. I got these details from the census forms of 1901 and 1911. I note however that my late uncle Con and his family do not have the e and go as Hanly. If you find this confusing then wait until I get to the other side of the story, the Ryans of Reenavanna. And just to give a taste of what is to come I found that in 1901 there were 21 families living in Reenavanna and thirteen of them were named Ryan!

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Cornelius Hanley (Signature of Head of Family)

The following are details of Hanlys living in the parish of Solloghmore, in 1851. **Lisheenkyle** – Judith, **Newtown** -Timothy and John, **Solloghodbeg** – Timothy, John, Cornelius and a second Timothy, **Ardlaman** – Daniel, **Ballyryan East** – William, Edmond, Edmond, Edmond, Timothy and Timothy, **Knockaneduff** – John, **Monard** – William and Edmond.

So far I have been unable to link any of these families to our people, and I have got great assistance from some people from the Sologhead / Oola area. The first man that I met is John Ryan from Ballyryan, Oola, he is a great historian, and gave me lots of leads on where to go to get information. The assistance that I received from John is invaluable and I greatly appreciate his generosity. The second person that I met is an elderly lady named Grace O'Dwyer. She has a fantastic memory of the happenings in that district and she remembers her parents talking about

the evictions. Miss O'Dwyer has two very old photographs of hurling teams from the parish of Oola, and is able to identify most of the players and it is likely that no other photographs were ever taken of some of the players. Finally I met Neddie Quirke, a great man aged 91, and still working around his farm. Neddie resides at Monard cross. He owns some of the land that Paddy Hanley often pointed to, and he has promised, all being well, to invite me out to indicate, in the springtime, the remains of houses that once were situated there. His knowledge of the evictions from Lord Stanley's estate is that the gentry, that lived in Ballykisteen House, had their view from the house spoiled by the sight of a number of farmers and their families, trying to survive in small plots of land, in a congested settlement. They are supposed to have resettled them elsewhere or deported them to Canada. Mr Quirke knows of evictions from three fields (farmsteads) that now form part of the Ballykisteen Golf Club. The farmers were O'Dwyers, Hanleys and Kilmartins. He said until recently that all the older people that lived in that area were familiar with Hanley's field, and it contained about ten acres. In 1998 some people with the surname Mielke, from America, called into Neddie Quirke. They are descendants of the O'Dwyers, who were evicted with the Hanleys, from Ballykisteen estate. Mr Quirke took them on a sightseeing trip around the parish.

Denis G Marnane, a schoolteacher from Tipperary Town, published an excellent book in 1985 – *Land and Violence – A history of West Tipperary from 1660*. An extract from page 58 is very interesting, details as follows;

One of the best managed estates was that of Lord Stanley and the credit for this went to his agent Captain Thomas Bolton. In his evidence to the Devon Commission, Bolton described how he had been managing the property since 1832 (the estate with its main residence at Ballykisteen was some seven thousand acres spread across the Limerick-Tipperary border) and it was set in small tillage farms, generally of less than twenty acres. One of his earliest actions was to clear out one of the most congested parts of the estate and from an area of about eighty acres, 290 men women and children were cleared. Bolton encouraged them to emigrate and to this end he hired a ship and arranged to have payments made to the tenants on their arrival in Quebec, Canada. Bolton was quite proud of this solution as he had a pamphlet published containing some of the letters written to him from Canada by former tenants.

Bolton's relationship with his tenants involved far more than merely collecting the rent (the situation on many estates) and he exercised a kind of benign despotism, actively involving himself with many aspects of their lives. He disapproved of leases and when they expired did not renew them. Leasing arrangements would of course have removed tenants from his control. He preferred he said to fix a "sharp rent" and encourage industry by a system of allowances for improvements such as drainage and fencing. In keeping with his attitude, individual cases were judged on their merits. He described his greatest difficulty as the prevention of sub-division and his attitude to leases was in part a response to this problem.

The above extract gives an indication of the thinking of the ruling class in the 1800s

Most of the Stanley estate, of 6,781 acres, was sold by Lord Derby in 1873/4 to Valentine O'Brien O'Connor, for £160,000.00. O'Connor had an address in Rockfield in County Dublin, but he died shortly afterwards, and the property was divided amongst his heirs, thereby introducing the Grace and Walsh families to ownership.

This type of research is very time consuming and involves a lot of travelling about, but I am able to do some of it in my daily duties as a Business Development Manager with Kemira Fertilisers Ltd. This job takes me around a lot of Ireland, and I can stop off and check out some facts at any place that is of interest to me, or where information is available. Unfortunately a huge amount of very important records were lost when the Four Courts building in Dublin was very badly damaged in the Civil War, in 1922. Rory O'Connor, one of the leaders of the anti-treaty forces took over the building. The Provisional Government tried to regain control by negotiation, but this failed and force was applied on the instructions of Michael Collins. It was attacked with guns and shells and in an explosion the country's historical records, stored in the Four Courts, were blasted into the atmosphere, and for days afterwards blackened fragments rained down upon Dubliners.

I assembled the following information from Tipperary Family History Research, Market Street, Tipperary and from Doon Parish records given to me by Father Tom Ryan, P.P. Doon:

On 2/2/1826 Michael Hanley married Hanora O'Doherty, in Soloheadbeg Parish, witnessed by Maurice Doorty, Register No 1826/040.

8/1/1827 Cornelius Hanley was born to Michael Hanley and Johanna O'Doherty, in the parish of Solohead/Oola. Sponsors were Edmond Hanley and Catherine Leamy. Register No. 1823/059. (I think that this Register No. may be incorrect and maybe should read 1827)

16/2/1828 Cornelius Hanley was born to Michael Hanley and Johanna O'Doherty, in the parish of Solohead/Oola. Sponsors were John Doorty and Johanna Doorty.

I can only assume that the first child died in infancy. And it appears that this was an only child, as there are no further records of children from these parents.

On 5/2/1856 **Cornelius Hanley** married **Hanora Carew**, and this marriage has a record No Gal/116 in Galbally parish, and it was witnessed by Patrick Hanly and Bridget Dwyer.

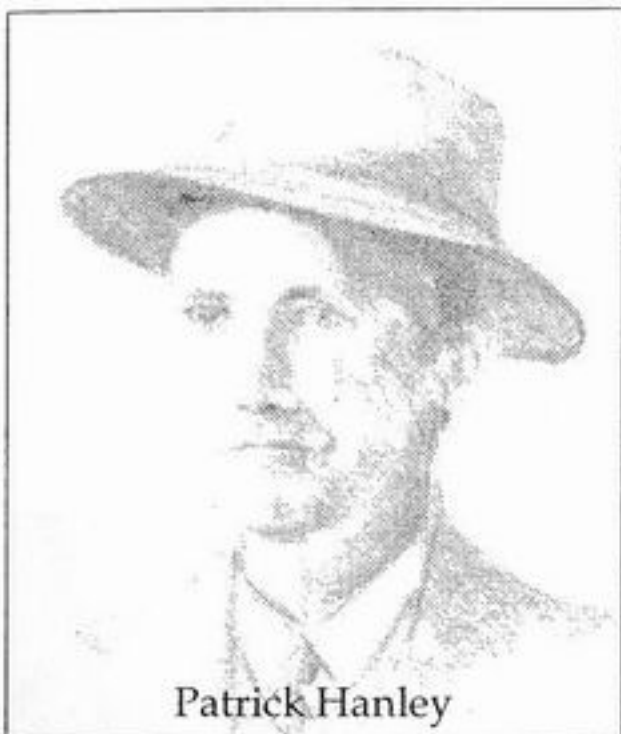
Note: Hanly witness spelled without e.

7/5/1859 **Bridget** was born in Cooga, parents Cornelius Hanley and Hanora Keary, sponsors John Hickey and Julia Hanley

22/3/1861 **Eliza** was born in Cooga, her parents were Conor Hanley and Hanora Keary, sponsors Bridget Madden and Michael Tobin.

22/1/1865 **Richard** was born in Cooga, parish of Doon, parents Cornelius Hanley and Honora Carty. Register Doon/325. Note this Carty is most likely Carey. The sponsors were William Coffey and Catherine Coffey.

24/3/1867 **Mary** was born in Cooga, parents were Cornelius Hanley and Honora Carey. Register Doon/325, sponsors were Daniel Tuohy and Margaret Hickey.



Patrick Hanley

10/10/1869 **Patrick** was born in Cooga, parents Cornelius Hanley and Honora Carey, register Doon/325. Sponsors were John Hanley and Julia Hanley.

11/8/1872 **Julia** was born in Cooga, parents Cornelius Hanley and Honora Cleary, register Doon/326. Sponsors were Richard Lloyd and Catherine Hickey. Note Cleary is probably Carey.

24/5/1878 **Hanora** was born in Cooga, parents Cornelius Hanley and Honora Carey. Register Doon/326. Sponsors James Carew and Bridget Hickey. *Note: Carew and Carey is the same name.*

Details of the births of Bridget and Eliza were obtained from the Doon Parish records, the rest of the names were obtained from Tipperary Family History Research which are Richard, Mary, Patrick, Julia and Hanora.

There are seven children, but the Hanley folklore is a bit confusing, details as follows:

Patrick is my grandfather and is well documented – the man that bought Cooga from the British.

Mary died young.

A son called **Jack** got drowned accidentally in Mick Simon's pond, he was coming home from a thrashing at Smiths.

Three of the girls married **Anderson**, **Whelan** and **Hilliard** and a brother is supposed to have married **Sheehy** from Cooga?

This gives us three sons and four daughters, but the official records tell us that there were two sons and five daughters, a bit confusing!

Patrick Hanley, our grandfather married **Mary Anne Buckley** from Glengar in Doon. The Hanley folklore is somewhat vague on Mary Anne's family because unfortunately, she died young. We know that they had two daughters, **Nellie** was born 2/6/1901 and **Norah** was born on 10th July 1902.



Nellie Hanley

Nellie had poor health as a child and went to boarding school to the Loretto Convent in Killarney. Her attendance for the school year 1913/1914 was poor 100/174 and she was unable to continue in boarding school. There are no school records for **Norah**.

Nellie and Norah emigrated to America and got married there.

Nellie married **Mick Griffin** from Doon, but he died at a young age. She returned to Ireland and married **Mick Fogarty** from Portnard, Cappamore, around the year 1938. Mick and Nellie had one son **Pat Fogarty**, born 14/11/1941. Tragically Nellie died on the 4/4/1942 aged 41 years.

Pat Fogarty married a neighbour, Mary Blackwell, and they live on the Fogarty farm at Portnard, Cappamore, Co Limerick. They have four children – Michael, Elaine, Maria and Aine.



Norah Hanley

Norah Hanley got married in Chicago, Illinois, to an Italian named **John Diminno**. John died in October 1975, and Norah died in May 1989. They had two children **Marian and Bartholmew**.

Marian Domino was the eldest and she married **John Jennings** in the USA. John Jennings' father was from Mayo and his mother was from Kerry. Marian and John had four daughters, ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren, and in 2002 they were all living in the USA. **Marian Jennings** has an address at 2508 La Cristal Circle, Palm Beach, Florida 33410 – 1450.

Bartholmew married Theresa whose parents were from Italy. They have three sons and four grandchildren, and in 2002 they were all living in the USA.

For more information on the Buckleys I was put in touch with Mrs Mary Buckley (nee Breen from Annacarthy). Mary runs a Public House in Doon with her son J.J and his wife Mary Joe (nee Doyle from Cappamore), her husband Jimmy is dead. Mary has a great memory and is therefore very good at tracing relations and families, and she gave me the following details on the Buckleys:

William Buckley, a farmer from Glengar married **Ellen Nash** from Oola, around the middle of the nineteenth century, and they had thirteen children.

William and Ellen Buckley passed on the farm to their son **Patsy**, but unfortunately he died young. Another son **Jim** had emigrated to America and got married there to a lady called Harrington from Drangen, Co Tipperary, and when Patsy died Jim was brought home to look after the farm. His son **Jimmy** married **Mary Breen** from Annacarthy.

Mick inherited Hayes' farm in Glengar.

John died aged 9 years.

Julia married Mick English from Laca.

Katie married Ryan Sog from Oola Hills.

Maggie married Mick Hayes from Glengar.

Lizzie married Hanley from Graffin Annacarthy.

Mary Anne married Paddy Hanley, she was born in 1864.

Bridget and **Ellen** became nuns and lived in Texas.

Sarah was not married. **Norah** died at a young age.

The following are Hanley details of the 1901 Census.

Name	Status	Age
Cornelius Hanley	Head of family	72
Hanora Hanley	Wife	60
Patrick Hanley	Son	30
Mary Anne Hanley	Daughter in law	37
Mary Hanley	Daughter	29
Nora Hillard	Grand daughter	7
Thomas Maher	Servant	15 farm servant
Mary Ryan	Servant	15 domestic servant
Patrick Ryan	Servant	60 labourer

Taking into account that it is believed that the Hanleys were evicted from land in Solloghead some time in the mid 1800s this official record above shows that they were fairly well to do in 1901. Early in the new century, around 1903/1904 Patrick Hanley's wife, Mary Anne, died.

Patrick Hanley later married Mary Ryan from Reenavanna and they had six children, three sons and three daughters. Patrick died in April 1940 aged 68 years and Mary died 31st March 1962, they are both buried in Doon Cemetery.

The details of the 1911 Census are as follows:

Name	Status	Age
Patrick Hanley	Head of the family	39
Mary Hanley	Wife	32
Nellie Hanley	Daughter	9
Norah Hanley	Daughter	8
Cornelius Hanley	Son	2 months.
Thomas Horan	Servant	16

Details of the children from the second marriage are as follows:

John Joe died aged six having contracted pneumonia. **Jimmy** died aged 47 on 13/10/1961 having contracted leukaemia, and **Con** died 3/6/1980 aged 69.

The three daughters are **Mary Kirby, Margaret Clifford and Josephine (Doley) Moran.**



Jimmy Hanley

Jimmy Hanley married Elizabeth O'Brien from Cappamore and they lived at Tervoe, Clarina, Co Limerick.
Family:

Patrick married Una Clifford from Cahirconlish and they lived at Clarina. They had four children – Brian, Una Maria, Darragh and Patricia. Una died in 1989 and Paddy later married Kay O'Connor from Finuge, Co Kerry.

Frank married Mary Purcell from Ferrybridge. Lives at Clarina and has two children James and Pauline.



Con Hanley

Con Hanley married Margaret Maher from Doon and they lived at the Hanley home in Cooga.

Family:

Paddy married Mary Beary Pallasgreen, one child Conor.

Roger married Freda Leahy – no family.

Mary married Patsy Ryan – seven children – Paul, Cornelius (Corey), Karl, Francis (Fran), Karina, Robert and Damien.

Rita married Conor Ryan, Dublin – four children – David, Seonaidh, Cathriona and Sarah.

Eileen married John Landers (Oola) – four children – Shane, Aoife, Maggie and Cathal.

Kay married Pat Walshe (Bilboa) – three children – James, Conor and Jack.



Mary Kirby

Mary married Jim Kirby, Linfield and lives there.

Family:

Mary married William Guthrie (Scottish) – they live in London – three children - Leanne, Graham and Allison.

Kathleen married John Power (Lattin) – living in Killoscully – four children – Anne Marie, Claire, Sean and Joanne.

Mossy married Anne Heffernan, Newport – living at Linfield – two children – Seamus and Mairéad.

Sheila married Paddy Ryan (Frank), Doon – living at Gurtavalla – no family.

Paddy married Chi Chi (Indonesian) – living in London – three children – James, Karina and Debbie.



Peggie Clifford

Margaret (Peggy) married Tommy Clifford (Boher) and they lived at Mountshannon, Lisnagry.

Family:

Mary married Noel Hartigan (Ahane) – four children – Pat, Dermot, Kieran and Elaine.

Norma married Martin Naughton (Limerick) – one child – Clifford (Cliff).

Liam married Margaret Gleeson (Limerick) – three children – Kyle, Shane and Susan.

Paddy married Mary O'Shea (Newport) – two children – Thomas and Frances.

Tom married Mary Murnane (Castleconnell) – three children – Tadhg, Aoife and Tommie.



Josephine Moran

Josephine (Doley) married Danny Moran, Four Roads, Roscommon and they live there.

Family:

Sean married Maureen Monson, Ballyheigue, Co Kerry– lives at Rockmount, Ennis – four children – Frances, Shane, Declan and Triona.

Bernadette married PJ Condon, Cloverfield, Roscommon – three children – Eunan, Enda and Ashling.

Oliver married Jeanette Lynch, Coraboy, Roscommon – living at Clooney, Co. Clare – three children – Olivia, John and Daniel.

Mary married John Finan from Sligo town – living there – three children – Aine, Sean and Cathal.

Anthony married Imelda Kilmartin, Tibarney, Co Roscommon –living there – have no children.

Frances died aged six months

The Griffith Valuation of 1852 in the Baronry of Coonagh gives some interesting details, particulars as follows:

Cooga Lower. Ord. S. 15 &16.

Ref. No.	Occupier	Lessors	Description of tenement	Area.
1a	Lord Stanley	In fee	Bog	119 0 5
1b	Lord Stanley	In fee	Land	7 3 3
1c	Lord Stanley	In fee	Land	0 3 20
1d	Lord Stanley	In fee	Land	1 0 4
1e	Lord Stanley	In fee	Land including bog	15 2 8
C	Daniel Ryan	Wm Crowe	Land (See also lot 7)	0 1 32
2a	Rd Wheeler	Lord Stanley	Land	5 3 24
2b	Rd Wheeler	Lord Stanley	House office and land	2 1 9
3a	Wm Crowe	Lord Stanley	House office and land	131 1 3
3b	Wm Crowe	Lord Stanley	Land	7 3 17
A B	Ed Mullowney	Wm Crowe	House and garden	0 0 27
4a	Hanna O'Neill	Lord Stanley	House office land	130 1 6
-	-	-	River	2 2 20
b	Vacant	H O'Neill	House	
5a	Ml Hanley	Lord Stanley	House office land	20 1 24
6a	Rd Sheehy	Lord Stanley	House office land	12 3 34
7a	Dan Ryan	Wm Crowe	House office land	6 3 7
8a	Wm Fox	Lord Stanley	House office land	8 1 3
8b	Wm Fox	Lord Stanley	Land	1 1 19
9a	Pat Meara Jnr	Lord Stanley	Land	0 1 37
9b	Pat Meara Jnr	Lord Stanley	House office land	0 1 33
9c	Pat Meara Jnr	Lord Stanley	Land	4 1 26
10	Wm Connell	Lord Stanley	House office land	36 0 1
11	Rd Browne	Wm Crowe	House office land	7 0 30
12a	Wm Ryan	Lord Stanley	House office land	0 2 14
12b	Wm Ryan	Lord Stanley	Land	4 1 39
13	Dan Mullins	Lord Stanley	House office land	12 2 22
Total				541 0 27

Cooga Upper

Ref. No.	Occupier	Lessors	Description of tenement	Area.
1a	Wm Crowe	Lord Stanley	House office land	53 2 7
1a	Wm Crowe	Lord Stanley	Lough and river	1 3 39
2a	John O'Brien	Wm Crowe	House office land	17 2 3
-	-	-	River	1 1 34
3a	Lord Stanley	In Fee	Land	35 1 6
3b	Lord Stanley	In Fee	Land	24 2 2
3c	Lord Stanley	In Fee	Land	2 3 20
-	-	-	River	1 0 2
a	Vacant	Lord Stanley	House	
c	Thomas Maher	Lord Stanley	House office	
4	Lord Stanley	In fee	Plantation	10 3 33
5	P Hennessy	Lord Stanley	House and land	23 2 13
6	Jim Hennessy	Lord Stanley	House and land	7 3 18
7	D Hennessy	Lord Stanley	House and land	12 3 26
8	Simon Ryan	Lord Stanley	House office land	16 3 34
9	John Ryan	Lord Stanley	House office land	13 3 32
10	Mick Connell	Lord Stanley	House office land	24 2 0
11	Mary Kennedy	Lord Stanley	House office land	12 2 3
11 b	Cat Kennedy	Lord Stanley	House	
12	Ml Hanley	Lord Stanley	Land	11 0 10
13	Rev P Hickey	Lord Stanley	Land	30 2 0
13a	Ed Heffernan	Rev P Hickey	House and garden	0 3 10
14	Nat bd Education	Lord Stanley	Garden attached to school	1 0 4
15a	Rev P Hickey	Lord Stanley	R.C. Chapel and land	2 1 6
15b	T Franklin	Lord Stanley	House	
15c	Nat bd Education	Lord Stanley	School house	
Total				307 0 22

The O'Donovan survey of 1840 Number 52 gives the following details of Cooga.

Cooga Upper

Cúige, a fifth part, or quintuple division. It was also referred to as Coogue, Coogy, Cugie, Cookie and Coogie. It is situated in the south end of the parish of Doon. Bounded on the east by the townland of Doon South, on the west by Bilboa Demesne, north by Clonteen and south by Cooga Lower. Contains 307 acres, which are arable. Soil is partly light and gravelly, with some limestone, producing potatoes, corn and flax. The proprietor Lord Stanley has it let per his agent Thomas Bolton in farms of 26 to 10 & 2½ acres to seven tenants by leases of three lives at £1 per acre. County Cess (tax) generally 1s.2d. to 1s. 8d. per acre half yearly. Tithe (tax on yearly proceeds of the land for the support of the clergy and the church) 1s. 6d. per acre. Bog in abundance. Prevailing names Ryans.

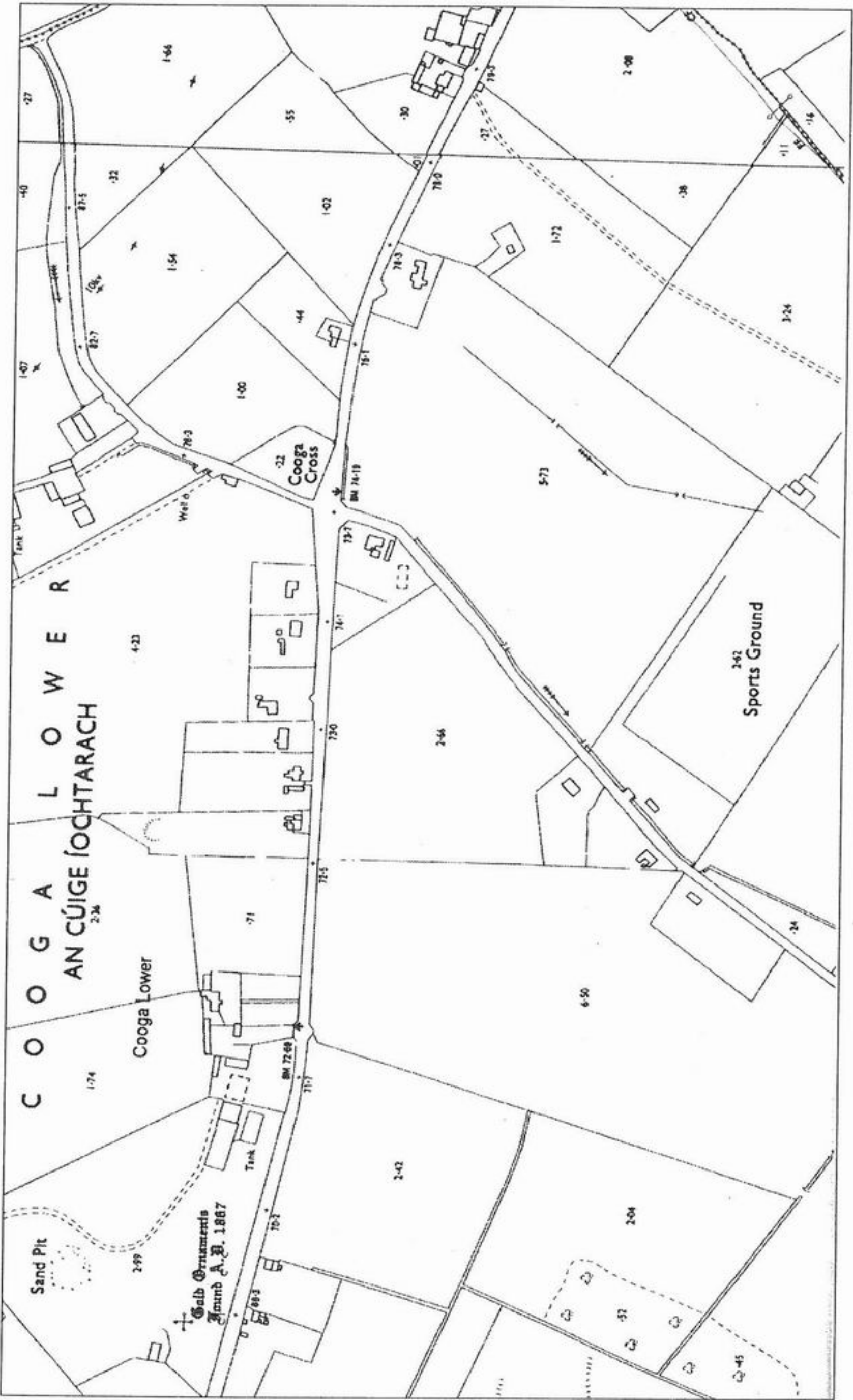
Cooga Lower

Situated in the south of the parish. Bounded on the east and north by Cooga Upper, south by Gurtavalla North and west by Dark Island. Contains 541 acres of which about half is bog. Soil is partly gravelly and light, with some limestone producing potatoes, corn, flax and some wheat. The proprietor Lord Stanley has it let per his agent in farms of 30 to 10 acres to 13 tenants by leases expiring in 1840 at £1. 5s. to £1 per acre. County Cess as in Cooga Upper. Tithes 1s 6d. per acre. Bog is plentiful and the prevailing name is Ryan.

An interesting bit of information that I came across is that two gold ornaments were found in Crowe's land in Cooga in 1867. These finds are noted on a map that I got from Limerick County Council on 5th November 2002. This map points to them being found between the sandpit and the road on the left-hand side travelling towards Doon. There is the shell of a house on the left of the sandpit.

I found a mention of this discovery in the North Munster Antiquarian Journal volume XXXV 1993-1994. One is a kind of bracelet and is broken in two. The other is unusual and is described as a massive cast penannular ring of approximately triangular section with expanded slightly dished terminals of circular shape.

The items are on display in the Nation Museum in Kildare Street, Dublin, and this building is situated next to the Dail. If one goes in the side entrance near the Dail you enter The Rotunda, a round room, then go straight through the next doorway and these objects are down the steps on the left side.



Now we go to the Ryan side of the story. We know that Paddy Hanley, our grandfather, got married again after Mary Anne, his first wife died. His second wife was Mary Ryan from Reenavanna. Ryan is a very prominent name in parts of Limerick and Tipperary especially along the border of the counties. Some places are littered with Ryans and a perfect example of this was to be found in Reenavanna in the year 1901, as thirteen of the twenty-one families that were living there were Ryans. It is necessary to adapt a nickname to distinguish one Ryan family from the next, and hereunder are some Reenavanna nicknames that I came across.

Rams
Rody
Oliver
Philip
Darby
Hunt
Mhichíl
Sadlier
Gough
Cobbler
Corny
Doctor
Hosey

My first cousin Mary Ryan (Hanley) told me that the homestead, in Reenavanna, from where Mary Ryan came from is now owned by Con Ryan, and she told me how to find it. She said to go out about a mile and a half from Doon towards Bilboa, and take the second turn to the right and go up the hill road, go left at the V junction, continue for about another mile and enquire there.

I checked my road map and found that Reenavanna is about three miles north of Doon going up towards the Tipperary border. On a wet and windy Saturday afternoon at the end of October 2002 I headed for the hills. I never before travelled on this Reenavanna road, but without any difficulty I found my destination, and there I met Con Ryan and his mother Rita. Rita's husband Matthew Ryan Hosey is deceased. When I explained the purpose of my visit the tea and barmbrack was produced, and in the course of a long conversation I discovered that our ancestors were known as Ryan Cobblers. Con then brought me up the road a distance of about a hundred metres and there on the right hand side I saw, for the first time, the derelict remains of the old house. This house is now used as a cattle shed and is of a fairly modern design with parts of the front plastered with a cement and sand mortar. It replaced the original house in which the family were born and reared, and was built sometime early in the twentieth century.

This was a sentimental occasion for me, and my initial thoughts were to wonder as to why it took me all these years to visit this place. At this point I did not know a lot about these Ryans, just that there were eleven children in the family. I knew that two of the boys became priests and that there were also some nuns in the family. I remember that Fr William, on his death, left a lot of money to his relations and my parents got a legacy from him in the late 1950s.

In the old home there surely was great enjoyment with all those eleven children growing up, and it would have rang with laughter no matter how difficult times were. But it would also have witnessed great sorrow as all but one of the eleven children were compelled to go away to different parts of the world, because there was little for them in Reenavanna. Some of them went to different parts of Ireland, but others had to endure the hardships and poverty as emigrants in England, America and Canada. So here we have another close up look at Irish history, as emigration was the only hope for the vast majority of Irish people in the years after the Great Famine.

Rita Ryan put me in touch with her brother, Paddy O'Donovan, a retired Garda Sergeant, living with his wife Christina in Ennis, Co Clare. When we met he staggered me when he told me that his mother was Margaret Hackett, a sister of popular farmers here at home in Ballybrown, Mick and Maurice Hackett. The Hackett brothers were very well known characters and their farm was right in the centre of the townland of Ballybrown, across the road from the Roman Catholic Church. Paddy O'Donovan sometimes lived for short periods with the Hacketts and went to Ballybrown (Tervoe) school for a period in 1926. Meeting Paddy O'Donovan was a major breakthrough for me because he is very interested in family history, and he gave me priceless information on Reenavanna and its people. Paddy is a great talker and he has filled in many blank spaces for me.

Paddy O'Donovan is related to us, but I will leave the exact explanation of the relationship to some genealogist, as his grandfather was married to our great grandmother's sister. The story goes that his grandfather, William O'Donovan, from Oola came to live at Bonavoy, Pallasgreen, he married Bridget Ryan (Ram) and they had two children, Bridget was born in 1892 and John was born in 1894. John married Margaret Hackett as stated above and they had five children – Canon Michael O'Donovan is in Swansea. Paddy is in Ennis. Rita is his sister that introduced me to Paddy and she was married to Matthew Ryan Hosey. Bill was married to Bridie O'Brien and they had no family. And finally there was Mary who married to Patrick J O'Connell and they lived in Kilcolgan, Co Galway.



Paddy O'Donovan



John Ryan Hunt

The next person of interest that I met in my search for information on our ancestors is John Ryan Hunt. His father, Thomas, was born in Reenavanna, near the Ryan Cobblers, and John is now farming at Elton, Knocklong, County Limerick. John is married to Ita (Margaret Mary) Fennessy from Wood Road, Castleconnell and I met them on a few occasions, and they are very hospitable people. John and Ita have five children – Joanne, Thomas, Eoin, Gerard and Dermot. There were two in his family – his sister, Joan, is married to Con O'Dwyer, Herbertstown. It is delightful for me to meet John as he has great knowledge of the Doon people and is keenly interested in family history. John has tremendous retention and I am always pleasantly surprised at his account of events and people. John is simply known as John Ryan around Elton, but back in Doon he is known as John Hunt.

One day in December of 2002 I found that I had a bit of spare time while on business in Kilkenny city, and I decided to visit the Saint John of God Convent there and look for information on my grandaunt Sister Idus Ryan. Idus is dead since 1971, she lived for a time in Kilkenny and I visited her there around 1968. I was hopeful that there would be some kind of an official record of her in the Convent archives that would give me some additional leads on her and her family. I was surprised to find that the only official information that is retained by the Saint John of God Convent is restricted to date of birth, date of entry, date professed and date of death. There are no other records kept of these great people after all the fantastic work that they did. But undoubtedly their eternal reward



Sr. Muredach Ryan

will make allowances for their fantastic achievements and sacrifices on earth. The first person that I met at the convent was Sister Maeve Cregan, a first cousin of the legendary hurler Eamon Cregan. She asked me to call back in a few minutes and when I did she introduced me to Sister Teresa Marie Fitzpatrick, and she immediately gave to me a beautiful photograph of Sister Idus and herself, that was taken over forty years ago. She knew Sister Idus very well and gave me some details of where they had ministered together. "Look here Frank" she said "if you are looking for information on Sister Idus you must call to our house in Rathdowney, County Laois and meet Sister Muredach Ryan".

When the opportunity came I called to Sister Muredach and once again I was thrilled to find that she too is interested in family history and is very knowledgeable about the folklore of Reenavanna. She told me a few stories about Sister Idus being quick minded, intelligent, great for organising charity events to raise money for the missions, encouraging membership of her community and an able organiser of plays. Sister Muredach was born Catherine Ryan Mhicíl, also known as Ryan Sadlier,

and she gave me full details of her family history, and she also gave me a very interesting insight into her community the Sisters of Saint John on God. At the funeral mass of her aunt she described Reenavanna as the King of Peaks. She said *"it is a place of beauty, but it was a place of challenge for those who lived there. You never walked in level ground – you either climbed up or down..."*. Her aunt was Sister Mary Marcellinus Ryan, born in Reenavanna on the 22nd January 1905, and she was attached to the Saint John of God Convent. She died in Wexford on the 15th December 1998 and is buried with her second cousin Sister Idus.

Some people have queried my determination to do this research, and also the research for my book Kilkeedy, but I have found this to be wonderful recreation. The friendliness of these people drives me on, and, whereas I do not pester them continually, I find that I can 'phone them from time to time and ask them questions that they are delighted to answer, as they too have an interest in the topic.

One theory that is emerging in this story, is that most of these Ryans came from the one background, probably when Michael Ryan came to live in Reenavanna. He was from Clonoulty in County Tipperary and he was married to a lady named English from the neighbouring parish of Rossmore. It is understood that they were evicted from the good land in Clonoulty, and resettled on the side of the hill in Reenavanna. There is a record that his wife died in 1834 and is buried in Toom Cemetery on the Limerick/Tipperary border.

Where the nickname Cobbler came from we do not know, but I have traced back to a marriage of Michael Ryan Ram, born in 1822 to Margaret - yes you guessed right – Ryan, but we do not have a nickname for her. They had nine children, details as follows:

Mary was born on 27/01/1851 and she married Jim Ryan, and they were my great grand parents. The only details that I have on Jim Ryan are what I got from David Clancy formerly from Glosha, Cappamore, Co Limerick. David, now retired from the Post Office in Limerick, told me about a visit to Ireland at Christmas time 1912 of Phil Ryan from Canada. Philip was born in Doon and had emigrated from Ireland at the age of 21 in 1879. When he was at home he stayed with his half brother Jim, our great grandfather, at Reenavanna.

Margaret was born on the 21/11/1852, and she married Matthew Ryan Hosey. They are the great grandparents of Con Ryan Hosey.

Edmond was born on the 25/08/1856. In 1872, at the age of 16 he joined the Christian Brothers in Dublin and his member's number is 994. His name in religion was Brother Athanasius. He received the habit on 8.9.1872 and was transferred to Callan, Co Kilkenny on 15.1.1873 and went home sick from Callan on 15.12.1880. He later went back to Carrick On Suir, and finally withdrew from the order, probably from ill health, in Nov. 1883.

Bridget was born on the 13/02/1859 and she married William O'Donovan. Their son John married Margaret Hackett, and these were Paddy Donovan's parents. In the realm of speculation again there may have been two children christened Bridget which suggests that the first child could have died young.

John and Johanna were twins and they were born on the 3/04/1864. John married Mary Darcy, and Johanna married John Ryan Hunt. These are the grandparents of John Ryan Hunt.

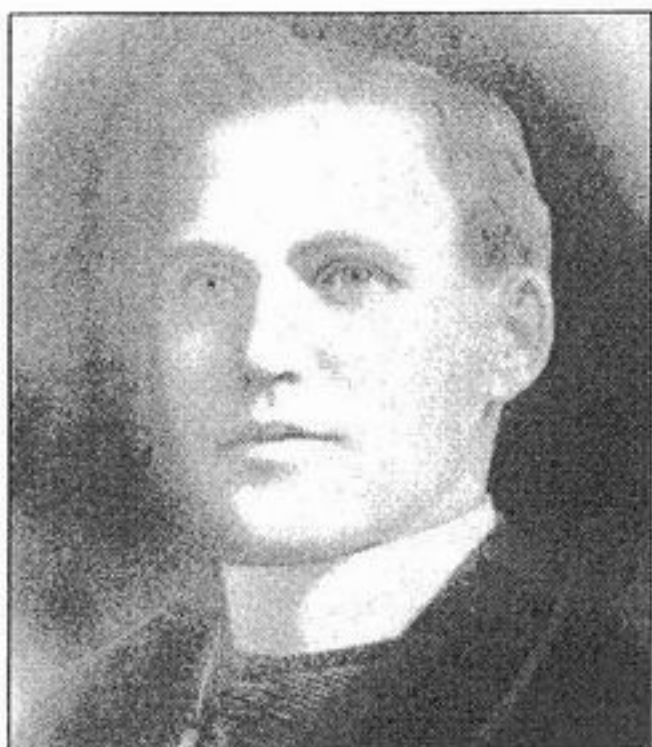
William was born on the 19/08/1866 and he became a Christian Brother. His member's number is 1529. Religious name was Brother Cuthbert. Accepted on the 30th May 1888, aged 22 at the old Marino house (Not the present Marino Institute of Education). He died a most holy death, aged 23, on 26th April 1889 in the Novitiate, and his father took his remains home.

Michael was born on the 3/06/1869 and he was unmarried.

Patrick was born on the 14/03/1872. He married Mary Healy and they had no family.

Hanora was born on the 23/09/1875 and she also was unmarried.

Next we take a look at the marriage of Mary Ryan and Jim Ryan that is mentioned earlier. She would have retained her fathers nickname – Ram – therefore Cobbler came from her husband Jim, and this is the introduction of Ryan Cobblers to the story. It is known that they lived in Reenavanna in a house on the land now owned by Con Ryan.



Rev. William Joseph Patrick Ryan

Twins, **Catherine and William** were born in 1875. I understand that Catherine became a nun, but regrettably I am unable to find any other details of her. William Joseph Patrick is recorded as being born on the 13th December 1875. He was ordained a priest in Saint Patrick's College, Thurles on the 21st June 1903, for the Diocese of Toronto.

Diocesan appointments:

1906 Secretary to Archbishop Denis O'Connor of Toronto.

Comments

Brother of Rev Father Edmund J Ryan.

Built St John the Evangelist Rectory at Whitby, Ontario.

Built St Bernard's School at Whitby, Ontario.

Parish appointments

St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, 21st Oct 1903, Associate Pastor.

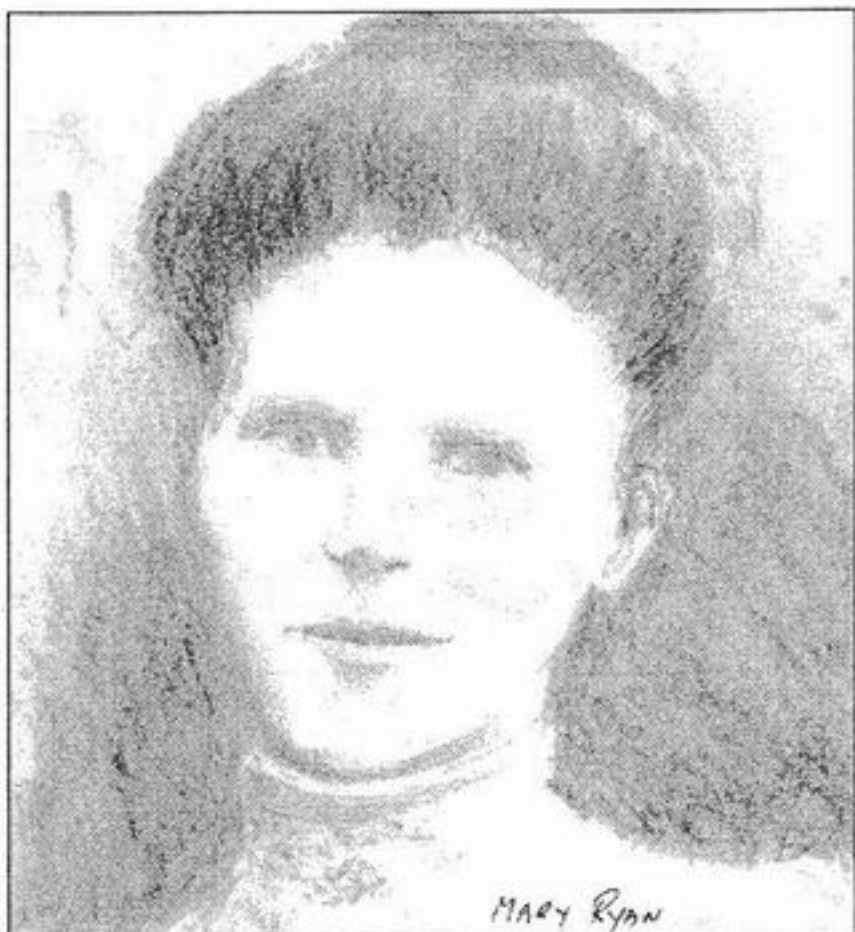
St. James's Parish Colgan, Nov 1904, Associate Pastor.

St. Patrick's Parish, Stayner, March 1907, Pastor.

St. John the Evangelist's Parish, Whitby, 20 Mar 1914, Pastor.

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, St Catherine's, Ontario, 10th Oct 1937, Pastor.

Died 30th November 1954 and is buried in Regina Cleri Cemetery, Scarborough, Ontario.



Margaret was born in 1877. She also became a nun and her name in religion was Sister Rose Bernard. She was teaching in Newark, USA, in February 1913. Margaret (Peggy) Clifford is called after her.

Mary was born in 1879. She married Paddy Hanley, after the death of his first wife. She died on the 31st March 1962 and is buried in Doon. I have particular fond memories of her, my grandmother, when she would give me a pound note every summer when I visited her in Cooga, way back in the late 1950s. I will cherish her generosity for all of my days.

Bridget was born in 1882. Unfortunately I am unable to get any significant information on her, but to record that my aunt Mary Kirby is called after her, as she was christened Mary Bridget Hanley. One of Mary Kirby's aunts, Sister Idus always referred to Mrs Mary Kirby as Mary B.



Mick Ryan and his wife Kate

Michael was born in 1883. He inherited the home farm at Reenavanna and married a lady called Kate Hickey from Boher. Kate had two prominent nephews that spent their working lives with the ESB, and they also devoted many years to politics, as they were staunch members of the Fianna Fáil party. Liam was an elected member of Limerick County Council and his brother Paddy lived in Dublin and he was an elected member of Dublin County Council. My granduncle Mick, as he was known, and

his wife Kate set up a hatchery in Reenavanna producing chickens that were sold as day old chicks. They also kept some hens and the produce from these enterprises was sold, mainly at the market in Limerick, on Saturday mornings. Mick travelled into Limerick in his pony and trap and he often stopped off at Farnane, Murroe to collect Breda Hickey, Kate's niece, and she would do some shopping in Limerick while Mick was at the market.

They had no family and Kate found it hard to settle in Reenavanna so they sold the place in 1944 to people called O'Dwyers. They then moved down to the Hickey's farm in Farnane, Murroe and Mick worked on the Hickey's farm. Mr Hickey, who owned the farm, was a creamery manger with the Dairy Disposal Board in Scariff, County Clare, and he did not have the time to devote to the farming. The O'Dwyers did not keep Reenavanna for very long and they sold it to a man called Tom Fitzgerald. A Mr McCarthy from Cappamore bought it some time later. McCarthy sold 9 acres to Pat Loughman from Doon and he still owns it. The next owner of what was left of the land plus the house and farmyard is a neighbouring farmer Con Ryan Hosey. So now this land is firmly back in the ownership of a Ryan from Reenavanna.



Philip was born in 1885. He worked in the Post Office in Kilburn in London and married Annie Kirk from Drogheda. They had one daughter Patricia and she married an American soldier.

Patricia Ryan

Johanna was born in 1887. She became a nurse and was working in Newark, USA in 1913, she was known as Jo.

Patrick was born in 1889 and does not appear anywhere in the records, and I can only presume that he died at a young age.

Norah was born on 11/9/1892. She became a nun when she joined Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul community in Fairview in Dublin. Her name in religion was Sister Gabriel. The convent rules did not permit her to come home, but she sent home lots of presents to her relations.



Sr. Idus

The last members of the family were twins born 14th June 1894, **Edmond and Ellen**, and they also went into religious life. Ellen was sent to boarding school to the Loretto Convent in Killarney. She joined the Saint John of God Convent and became Sister Idus and did stints, mainly as a teacher, in Wexford, Kilkenny, Kilmore Quay, Edenderry and Rathdowney. You will have noticed that I earlier have made reference to her great qualities. She died in Rathdowney and is buried in Wexford.



Rev. Edmond Ryan

Edmond received his secondary education at the Christian Brothers School, Doon, County Limerick. After that he went to: Rockwell College, Tipperary – classics.

All Hallows College, Dublin – classics and philosophy.

1918 National University of Ireland, Dublin – B.A.

Additional education: Seminary - 1st September 1920, St. Augustine's Seminary, Scarborough, Ontario.

Ordination history: Subdiaconate on 30th April 1922, Diaconate 1st May 1922.

Ordained on the 10th June 1922 at St Michael's Cathedral, Toronto.

Diocesan appointments: 1933 Chaplain, St Joseph's Hospital, Toronto.

Parish appointments

St. Paul's Parish, Toronto – June 1922, Associate Pastor.

St. Ann's Parish, Toronto, 25 Sept 1922, Associate Pastor.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Toronto, 5 Dec 1924, Associate Pastor.

St. Monica's Parish Toronto, Dec 1927, Associate Pastor.

St. John the Evangelist's parish, Whitby, 1928 Administrator.

Guardian Angel's Parish. Orillia, Dec 1929 to March 1932, Associate Pastor.

St. Mary Immaculate's Parish, Richmond Hill, Associate Pastor, 1932.

St. John the Evangelist's Parish, Caledon East, 22 July 1935, Pastor.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, Toronto, 11th Oct 1936 to 31st March 1963, Pastor.

There was an article on the Saint Joan of Arc Parish in the Canadian Catholic Register of the 29th April 1989 and an extract from it reads as follows:

On the 30th of October 1919, a property was purchased on the corner of Dundas and Edna Streets for \$9,800. The blessing of the corner stone took place on July 18th 1920 and the church had the distinction of being the first with St. Joan of Arc as patron Saint, because she was Canonised on May 16th 1920. Fr. Lussier became the Pastor. During the great depression many of the factories closed in the mid-west and most of the French Canadians moved elsewhere. This exodus of parishioners, coupled with the fact the parish was having financial difficulties, led the Toronto Archdiocese to designate St. Joan of Arc as an English territorial parish.

The majority of the new congregation were of Irish descent, and the new Pastor was Fr. Edmond Ryan. He arrived in 1936 and remained for 27 years until the church was expropriated by the Toronto Transport Commission for construction of the Bloor-Danford subway line.

Fr Ryan lived simply and sold half of the duplex that served as a rectory. He did much of the maintenance around the church himself. When he arrived there was a debt of \$128,000 and when he left there was a surplus of \$55,000 in the bank.

He fought hard to divert the subway, but his efforts failed and he was given notice that his church was slated for demolition by Easter 1963. He then returned to Ireland and was looked after by my aunt Peggy Clifford. During the summer of 1963 I was in Croom Orthopaedic Hospital with the first of my knee problems, and Peggy's husband, Tommy Clifford brought him up there to visit me. When he was going away he shook hands with me and Tommy Clifford told me to squeeze hard and I had no idea as to what Tommy meant. But when Fr. Ned released his grip I found that I had a pound left in my hand!

Peggy Clifford told me that Fr. Ned was a very depressed man because of what had happened in Canada, and he was also in very poor health. He died in St. John's Hospital in Limerick on the 5th of October 1963 and is buried with the Hanleys in Doon Cemetery. Mary Kirby told me that Fr. Ned was sent home very sick from College in Dublin, while he was a student there, around 1918/1919. He contracted the Spanish flu, a virulent strain of influenza, and it killed millions of people world-wide at that time. In one week, in October 1918, 2,225 deaths from this disease were recorded in London. When he got home I guess he was well warmed up with that white spirit that is made in the hills above Cappamore and Doon where the smoke curls up to the sky.

A short time after the birth of the twins, Edmond and Ellen Mary, their mother died. She was only in her mid forties at the time of her death. Jim Ryan was in his eighties when he died in 1926. He is buried in Old Pallas Cemetery and his son, Mick, is buried with him. Jim Ryan spent the last years of his life living with his daughter, Mary and her husband Paddy Hanley, in Cooga.

Next I am referring to the official records that I uncovered with the details as follows:

Ordinance Survey of 1840, as explained by John O'Donovan.

Reenavanna East

Rinn a' Bheanna, point of the ben (?). It was described in 1826 as Renavanna Outside. Situated in the east end of the parish. Bounded on the east by Curraghmarky td. On the west by Reenavanna west. On the north by Foilycleara td and south by Doon north.

Contains 378 acres of which about three quarters are mountain and rough ground, and the rest is arable and without limestone. Soil is light producing potatoes, corn and some flax.

The proprietor General Bourke has it let by a lease for ever to Thomas Lloyd, Esq, and he again by his agent to four tenants by leases of three lives or thirty-one years at £80. Gross, tithe included. Co. Cess generally 1s 2d to 1s 8d per acre half yearly for 33 acres. Bog used for fuel is in abundance.

Reenavanna West (Reenavanna inside/Reenavanna North)

Situated at the east-end of the parish. Bounded on the east by the td of Reenavanna East. On the west by Lackabeg td. On the north by Curraghkimikeen td. And on the south by the td of Lackanaguneeny. (Sr Muredach told me that this is the stone of the rabbits, Lack na Gcoinini.)

Contains 279 acres, which are arable and without limestone. Soil deep and wet, producing potatoes, corn and flax.

The proprietor General Bourke has it let by a lease of lives renewable for ever to Thomas Lloyd, Esq., and he again to seven tenants by leases of three lives at £80 gross, tithe included. Co. Cess generally 1s 2d to 1s 8d per acre half yearly for 33 acres. Bog used for fuel in abundance.

Now we go to the 1851 Griffith Valuation that gives details of the occupiers and owners of the lands of Reenavanna in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Reenavanna East (Ord. S. 16)

<i>Reference & occupier</i>	<i>Immediate lessor</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Area</i>
1 A William Ryan Jnr.	Thomas Lloyd	Land	33-0-27
1 B		House office land	51-0-33
1 a Michael Moore	William Ryan	House	
1 b William Ryan	William Ryan Jnr	House	
2 A John Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	24-2-32
2 B		Land	5-2-19
2 C		House office land	39-2-32
2 a Vacant	John Ryan	House	
3A Thomas Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	6-2-15
3B		Land	7-2-10
3C		Land	13-2-22
3D		House office land	23-2-26
A a William Hayes	Thomas Ryan	House	
4 A Patrick Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	17-3-15
4 B		House office land	27-2-07
A a John Hayes	Patrick Ryan	House	
5A Conor Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	63-2-29
5 B Margaret Ryan	Conor Ryan	House	
6A Mary Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	40-3-38
6B Mary Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	22-3-13

Total 378-2-38

Reenavanna West (Ord.S. 8&16)

<i>Reference & occupier</i>	<i>Immediate lessor</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Area</i>
1A John Dawson	James Ryan	House land	8-3-24
2 A Mick Donogher	Thomas Lloyd	Land	10-1-34
2 B			21-3-06
a Oliver Donogher	Mick Donogher	House	
b Rodger Ryan	Mick Donogher	House	
3A Oliver Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	2-2-07
3B Oliver Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	6-3-23
3C Oliver Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	19-1-16
4 Mick Donogher Jnr	Thomas Lloyd		
4 Oliver Ryan	Thomas Lloyd		
4 Jim Ryan Oliver	Thomas Lloyd		
4 Jim Ryan Hassey	Thomas Lloyd	Land	4-2-22
5 Jim Ryan Tussey	Thomas Lloyd	Land	8-3-22
a Denis Carey	Michael Donogher	House, office.	
6a Jim Ryan Hassey	Thomas Lloyd	House, office	
B Patrick Ryan		House office land	22-2-32
C John Moore	Patrick Ryan	House	
7 James Ryan Oliver	Thomas Lloyd	House Office land	19-1-26
8A Wm. Fitzgerald	Mick Ryan	House office land	6-2-23
8B Wm. Fitzgerald	Mick Ryan	Land	2-1-26
9A Philip Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	5-2-39
9B Philip Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	2-0-15
10A Philip Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	36-1-11
10B Philip Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	Land	3-3-21
11 Michael Ryan	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	33-3-39
11b Bridget Ryan	Michael Ryan	House garden	0-0-09
12a Tom Donogher	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	19-1-36
13a Andy Donogher	Thomas Lloyd	House office land	19-1-36
13b Philip Ryan Jnr	Andy Donogher	House	
14 Michael Mulcahy	Thomas Lloyd	House Office land	23-1-27

Total 279-0-14

The 1901 Census for the Reenavanna district

Parliamentary Division: *East Limerick*

Poor Law Union: *Tipperary*

District Electoral Division: *Bilboa*

Townland: *Reenavanna West*

Baronry: *Coonagh*

Parish: *Doon*

<i>Name of the head of each family residing in the house and the landowner</i>	<i>Total number of persons in each family</i>
Margaret Ryan	6
Bridget Slattery (land owner Margaret Ryan)	1
James Ryan	8
Martin Ryan	10
Patrick Maher	11
Jerimiah Ryan (Derby)	6
Jerimiah Ryan (Philip	5
John Quigley	7
Mary Ryan (Land holder Wm Ryan, Renavanna East)	2
Rodger Ryan (Land holder Wm Ryan, Renavanna East)	4
Michael Danagher	9
Johanna Hartnet (Land holder Wm Ryan, Renavanna East)	3
Michael Ryan	8
Mary Hurley (Land holder Michael Ryan)	3

Reenavanna East

Catherine Ryan	6
Cornelius Ryan	7
Denis Ryan	6
William Ryan	9
John Ryan	7
Thomas Fitzgerald	3
Thomas Gorman (Land holder Wm Ryan, Renavanna West)	6

Set out hereunder are further details of the 1901 Census and all the Ryans of Reenavanna are included.

(1)	Name	Status	Age
	Michael Ryan	H o f	79
	Margaret Ryan	wife	70
	John Ryan	son	34
	Michael Ryan	son	29
	Patrick Ryan*	son	24
	Hanora Ryan	daughter	21
	Margaret Ryan	niece	10
	Mary Connors	servant	20

This family was known as Ryan Rams. My great-grandmother, Mary, came from this family. Patrick Ryan* inherited this farm, he married Ryan Healy, they had no family and he left the farm to his nephew Michael Ryan who was a grandson of the head of the family.

(2)	Rodger Ryan	H o f	38
	Hanora Ryan	Mother	70
	Rodger Ryan	son	5
	Patrick Ryan	son	4

Ryan Rodies. No families known.

(3)	Mary Ryan	H o f	80
	Michael Ryan	son	24

Ryan Oliver. This Michael Ryan did not get married. If the information above is correct his mother was 56 when he was born!

(4)	Gerry Ryan P.	H o f	60
	Mary Ryan	Wife	48
	Mary Darcy*	niece	18
	Andrew Byrne	servant	36
	John Coleman	servant	21

Ryan Philip. John Ryan now living at Elton had a granduncle John that married Mary Darcy* and he was a brother of Mrs Hanley's mother Mary.

	Name	Status	Age
(5)	Jerimaih Ryan	H o f	64
	Mary Ryan	wife	64
	Michael Ryan	son	30
	Cornelius Ryan	son	29
	Mary Ryan	daughter	26
	Johanna Ryan	daughter	24

Ryan Darby, cousin of Ryan Corney.

(6)	John Ryan	H o f	45
	Johanna Ryan	wife	37
	Denis Ryan	brother	50
	Hanna Ryan	sister	51
	Thomas Ryan*	son	1
	Sarah Ryan**	daughter	1
	Edward Ryan	servant	48

Ryan Hunt. There were a total of six children in this family. Thomas* is John Ryan Hunt's father. Sarah** became a nun when she joined The Sisters of the Cross and Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and her name in religion was Sister Sorcha. She was a very sociable person and ministered in Rhode Island and is buried there.

After 1901 four more children were born, two boys and two girls. The two daughters, like their older sister, became nuns. Mary became Sister Mary Columba of the same order as Sarah – Cross and Passion. She ministered in Botswana in Africa and played a leading role in the development of her community in Africa. Sister Mary Columba was awarded an MBE in recognition of her spectacular achievements in Africa, but unfortunately she had died about a month before the award reached her community. She was a very serious person and very different from Sister Sorcha. The third nun in the family was Margaret and she became Sister Camillus in the Presentation Convent at Cashel Co. Tipperary. The sons were Michael who was not married, he lived in Reenavanna, but died at the young age of 36 in 1940. The remaining son was Denis, he inherited the Ryan Rams place in Reenavanna, and married Kitty Ryan from Carnahalla. They had seven children Mary Joe, John, Michael, Josephine, Eileen, Martin and Sarah. Martin inherited the home place and is farming there at present, he is unmarried.

	Name	Status	Age
(7)	William Ryan*	H o f	50
	Catherine Ryan	Wife	40
	John Ryan	Son	8
	Daniel Ryan	Son	7
	Michael Ryan	Son	6
	Patrick Ryan	Son	5
	Timothy Ryan	Son	4
	Cornelius Coughlan	Servant	40
	Kate Finucane	Servant	16

Ryan Sadliers, they were also known as Ryan Mhichíl. William* was a first cousin of John Ryan's father. Connie Connell has this farm now.

(8)	Martin Ryan	H o f	47
	Catherine Ryan	wife	38
	Michael Ryan	son	18
	John Ryan	son	14
	Sarah Ryan	daughter	12
	Nelly Ryan	daughter	10
	Martin Ryan	son	8
	Mary Ryan	daughter	6
	Josie Ryan	daughter	4
	Katie Ryan	daughter	2

Ryan Gough.

(9)	Denis Ryan	H o f	40
	Bridget Ryan	wife	40
	Michael Ryan	brother	50
	Eliza Ryan	mother	80
	Michael Coleman	servant	24
	Johanna Ryan	servant	17

Strangely they had no nickname. Dinny and Brigie had no family.

(10)	James Ryan	H o f	56
	Mary Ryan	daughter	22
	Michael Ryan	son	17
	Philip Ryan	son	16
	Johanna Ryan	daughter	14
	Norah Ryan	daughter	8
	Edward Ryan	son	6
	Nelly Ryan	daughter	6

Our ancestors Ryan Cobbler.

	Name	Status	Age
(11)	Cornelius Ryan	H o f	35
	Mary Ryan	wife	30
	Cornelius Ryan	son	2
	William Ryan	brother	36
	William Coleman	servant	22
	Michael Coleman	servant	16
	Elizabeth McGrath	servant	22

Ryan Corney.

(12)	Catherine Ryan	H o f	60
	John Ryan	son	30
	Michael Ryan	son	28
	Patrick Ryan	son	26
	Mary Ryan	daughter	25
	William Ryan	son	24

Ryan Doctor.

Noted as very clever people, with great sayings.

(13)	Margaret Ryan	H o f	47
	James Ryan	son	16
	Mary Ryan	daughter	15
	Michael Ryan	son	14
	Patrick Ryan	son	13
	Matthew Ryan	son	9

Ryan Hosey.

The 1911 Census is confined to our own people - the Ryan Cobblers.

	James Ryan	H o f	68
	Michael Ryan	son	26
	Nora Ryan	daughter	18
	Ned Ryan	son	14

THE SISTERS OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD

(By Sister Muredach Ryan.)

This order of nuns came into existence on the 7th October 1871. Four Bon Secours Sisters led by Mother Visitation Clancy separated from their congregation and on the invitation of Bishop Thomas Furlong of Ferns went to live in Wexford. Bishop Furlong wanted a congregation of sisters that would nurse the sick in their own homes, so he named his new congregation – Sisters of Saint John of God. They lived with the Sisters of Mercy in Wexford, for three weeks, until their new home at Sallyville Cottage was ready. The story goes that they had only one shilling and six pence on arrival in Wexford. The Bon Secours Congregation was very unhappy with their departure. Mother Visitation Clancy died, from TB, at the young age of 47, but the passion in their motto drove them on – "THE LOVE OF CHRIST URGES US".

At first the sisters concentrated in nursing the sick poor in their own homes. In 1873 they went to work in the Wexford Workhouse. They took charge of the Workhouse in Enniscorthy in 1875, and in the same year the sisters got possession of the Faythe School in Wexford. As social conditions changed the sisters responded to other needs.

In 1886 the sisters went on a foundation to Kilkenny, and from there they founded schools in Owing and Rathdowney. In the same year they took charge of the Fever Hospital in Kilkenny and the County Homes in Thomastown and Naas.

The Sisters of saint John of God expanded further in 1893 when they went on a foundation to Waterford, and the following year they took charge of the Fever Hospital there. They made three further acquisitions in Waterford as follows: In 1897 they opened a school, they took charge of the Holy Ghost Hospital in 1900 and later on in 1926 they opened Maypark Private Nursing Home.

Edenderry came into the Sisters' sights firstly in 1898 when they took charge of the Workhouse Hospital, and then in 1904 they expanded further there when they opened a school there. In the same year they went to work in Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry.

The Australian connection

In 1895 eight sisters went to Perth to look after the miners who were dying of fever in the Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie gold mines. From this humble beginning they developed the biggest hospital in Western Australia situated in Perth. In 1907 the nuns travelled north to the Kimberly region

to work with the Aboriginal people where leprosy was widespread, and they opened a leprosarium in Derby. They opened schools and went into the Bush to work with the people. Then in 1915 the sisters opened Hospitals in Ballarat, Victoria and in Goulbourn, New South Wales.

This never-ending crusade took the Saint John of God Sisters, in latter years, to Nigeria, Cameroon and Pakistan. Nowadays vocations to this Congregation of nuns are very much in decline in Ireland and in most of their convents elsewhere. For example in the nineteen sixties they had around 600 members in total. Currently their members world-wide have reduced to roughly 360. Young Sisters are joining the congregation in Pakistan and for the time being their future is assured there.

Ryan Mhicíl also known as Ryan Sadlier

Michael Ryan married Hanora English, they came from Clonoulty in County Tipperary to live in Reenavanna. We are told in folklore that they were evicted from land in Clonoulty. Hanora died on the 15th February 1834, aged 63 years, and is buried in Toom cemetery on the Limerick / Tipperary border. Michael erected a headstone to her memory, but when he died his name was not put on this headstone.

We have little details of the family of Michael Ryan and Hanora English, but we are fairly sure that they had a son called John. There is a record of a John Ryan from Reenavanna who married a lady called Catherine Lahy.

The children from that family are as follows:

	<i>Baptised</i>
Hanora	15/02/1830
Patrick	25/05/1831
Margaret	18/09/1832
Michael	25/09/1834
Julia	01/03/1836
Catherine	22/03/1838
Mary	06/03/1840
John	20/07/1842
Denis	30/09/1843
John	19/02/1846
William*	08/06/1848
Richard	08/01/1852

John Ryan died 17th March 1865, aged 64 years and his wife Catherine died 2nd August 1892, aged 82 years. His son William* married Catherine Donoghue. Catherine's parents were Daniel Donoghue and Catherine Cunningham.

Details of that family are as follows:

	<i>Baptised</i>
Richard	08/01/1852
Mary	20/12/1851
Michael	10/07/1853
Patrick	10/07/1853
Timothy	16/10/1856
Bridget	31/11/1858
Catherine*	14/05/1863
Jane	23/07/1865
Daniel	01/08/1867

William Ryan married Catherine Donoghue and details of their family is as follows:

John	Baptised 26/01/1893, died 22/8/1906, aged 13 years.
Daniel	Baptised 16/06/1894, married Mary Dooley in 1929, died 3/11/1985
Michael*	Baptised 23/01/1896, married Bridget Dooley in 1932, died 8/4/1984
Patrick	Baptised 07/01/1897, married Nora K?, died 18/01/1951
Timothy	Baptised 16/07/1898, died 22/05/1924 aged 25 years
Catherine	Baptised 23/07/1899, died an infant
Catherine	Baptised 11/12/1900, died an infant
Denis	Baptised 06/05/1902, died 28/09/1973, aged 71 years
Richard	Baptised 08/04/1903, married Mgt. Ryan, died 23/08/1985, aged 81
Mary	Baptised 03/02/1905, became Sr. Mary Marcellinus, died 15/12/1998
William	Baptised 26/05/1907, married Mgt. O'Brien 15/2/1936 died 10/05/'74

William Ryan died 7/2/1908, aged 59 years and his wife Catherine died 29/4/1946, aged 84 years.

Michael Ryan* married Bridget Dooley in 1932, they had a family of 6 daughters and three of them are nuns in the Saint John of God order.

Catherine* is Sr. Muredach in Rathdowney. Ellen became Sr. Syra and is in Blackboy Lane, London. Maria retained her Christian name and became Sr. Anne Maria and she is on the nursing staff in the County Hospital, Enniscorthy. Mary married Kennedy in Kiltelly. Margaret is married to Ryan (Harry) in Ahane and Biddy is married to Michael Keating in Newcastle in County Tipperary. Her father, Michael, inherited a farm in Kiltelly from his uncle Richard Ryan who was the youngest son of John Ryan and Catherine Leahy. Richard had an only son called John Joe that died aged 8 years.

Disease

Undernourished Irish people died from a variety of diseases, but the most common cause of death since the famine and up to the nineteen fifties was TB, Tuberculosis. So let's take a look at TB. The late Doctor Noel Browne had a lifetime association with this disease as firstly he and some other members of his family contracted the disease, and some of them died from it. He became a Medical Doctor and worked in various sanatoria treating people afflicted with the disease and he later entered politics and became Minister for Health. Extracts from his book *AGAINST THE TIDE* give alarming accounts of this disease. *"It was the practice then to treat consumptives suffering from tuberculosis of all forms with many strange, painful, even at times lethal procedures. The truth was that we did not know the cure for the disease. One of the principles of treatment was the belief that fresh pure air, ideally like that of Switzerland, would help to kill the germs, but there was no scientific proof that this was so. The Swiss hoteliers were delighted with their continuously filled rooms. Yet a desperate disease merited desperate remedies and the patients were encouraged to sleep out of doors on open verandas. Sanatoria were invariably built with such verandas in the heart of the country, and the unfortunate patient, winter and summer, slept in the open air depending on the whim of his doctor or his particular nostrum for this frightening disease."*

Doctor Browne describes the working conditions of the nurses that nursed in these sanatoria as unreasonable. They were compelled to work through the night in short sleeved uniforms, and became more and more perished as the night wore on..... *"They successfully promoted the idea that nurses belong to an angelic sector of society who must dedicate themselves entirely to the sick, as though they had a religious vocation. Nurses were led to believe that membership of a trade union or preoccupation with terms of employment and living conditions in hospital was improper and certainly not to be considered as subject for public protest."* He describes of how he made representations on behalf of the nurses, to improve their working conditions, in Doctor Stephen's hospital, but nothing was done to change the harsh conditions of the nurses.... *"It was Miss Reeves who 'tut-tutted' and sent back to work a gentle vivacious young nurse, who complained to me of not feeling well and of having headaches. Clandestinely, I had an X-ray taken of the girl. To our dismay, and I choose the words deliberately, the picture showed the dreaded 'snowstorm' effect of galloping consumption or military tuberculosis. The unfortunate girl had between six weeks and three months to live. Her death was a truly terrible one, slow and intensely painful. She went totally blind before her death."*

Doctor Browne gives the following description of TB. *"The disease could show itself by a cough, followed by the appearance of blood in the mouth, then the dramatic scarlet on the white handkerchief which I had first noticed in the case of the Christian Brother in Ballinrobe. It was a peculiarity of the disease, never*

explained, that if it first showed itself by the coughing of fresh red blood from the lungs, then every succeeding recurrence, if the patient survived the first attack, showed itself with bleeding from the lungs. The real importance of this distinction was that the onset by haemorrhage usually meant that the unfortunate patient would finally die in conditions of uncontrolled bleeding. Since the outpouring of blood from the ruptured vessel could not be removed fast enough from the lungs, the victim drowned in his own blood."

Doctor Noel Browne's most outstanding achievement was in helping the virtual eradication of tuberculosis from Ireland when he was Minister for Health in the 1948 to 1951 Coalition Government. Remarkably he was only in his mid thirties at that time.

The descriptions above will give some idea of the suffering of millions of people that had contracted TB, our ancestors included. I know of two members of my generation that have a chronic disease called Sarcoidosis, once thought to a form of TB.

Conclusion:

I would like to thank the following people for their assistance:

My first cousin Mary Ryan, Doon and her husband Patsy.

Oliver Moran, Clooney, Co Clare.

My aunts Margaret Clifford and Mary Kirby.

John Ryan, Grace O'Dwyer and Eddie Quirke from Oola/Monard.

Rev. Fr. Tom Ryan P.P. Doon.

Mary Buckley, Doon.

Pat Fogarty, Cappamore.

Marian Jennings, Palm Beach, Florida.

Con Ryan and his mother Rita, Reenavanna.

Paddy & Christina O'Donovan, Ennis.

John & Ita Ryan, Elton.

Rev. Sister Muredach Ryan, Rathdowney.

David Clancy, Limerick.

I would like to say a special thank you to my first cousin, Mossy Kirby, for printing this publication at his company - Tipperary Print & Design.

There is a wonderful lady living in Doon, her name is Margaret Franklin, and she is Librarian with Limerick County Council, O'Connell Street, Limerick. Margaret gave me great assistance with this effort and also with my book '*Kilkeedy*'. I could not thank her enough. I also got a very courteous reception at Limerick City Library from Mike McGuire when he produced the Census reports of 1901.

Tom Donovan gave me very valuable assistance and advice with '*Kilkeedy*' and he kindly helped out again with this publication.

My daughter Pauline and her friend Natalie Kilroy helped with the computer work and the text of the story. The sketches of Paddy Hanley, my grandfather, and that of his wife, Mary, brought life into two very old photographs. They were kindly done by my daughter-in-law, Cathriona.

My thanks to my wife, Mary, for her support at all times.

Other sources of reference were The Workhouses of Ireland by John O'Connor. Land and Violence by Denis G. Marnane. Drawing Conclusions by Roy Douglas, Liam Harte and Jim O'Hara. Modern Irish Society by Joseph Lee. A short history of Ireland by Martin Wallace. The Land Commission Records office. The Life and Times of William Monsell by Matthew Potter. The Griffith Valuations of 1852. John O'Donovan's Ordnance of Ireland 1840. Tipperary Family History Research. The Saint John of God Convents. The Sisters of the Cross and Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Archive's office of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The Archive's office of the Christian Brothers, Rome. Register of deaths at Limerick County Council. North Munster Antiquarian Journal 1993-1994. Against the Tide by Noel Browne. An Post's 75th Anniversary of the State by Dr. Patricia Donlon. Longman's Chronicle of the 20th Century.

Now that I have listed the above people it is possible that I may have accidentally excluded somebody. I could also have excluded some of my relations in this bit of research. I can only request that it be understood that I made an honest attempt to put my interpretation on this piece of genealogy. It was a delightful experience for me when I met some really wonderful people, and it will have been worthwhile if it brings some enjoyment to my relations. Undoubtedly this story is incomplete and I shall be glad to correct any mistakes, but this is the start and future generations will hopefully build on my version.

Looking back at Irish history in the time under review there is no doubt that some Irish people suffered as much as any other race in the world. And their misery is well documented, but none better, in my view, than when An t-Athair Peadar O'Laoghaire (1839 - 1920) recounts a family's experience of an Irish workhouse: *A family of four Patrick and his wife Kate had two small children, Sheila and Diarmuid, and they were forced to go into the workhouse in Macroom. The father was put with the men and the mother with the women. Sheila was put with the little girls and little Diarmuid with the younger children. The workhouse was full and all the people in it were sunk with every kind of sickness. The people were falling with the sickness as fast as they came in, and there was no room in the workhouse for half of them. Lots of people that could not gain entrance lay down on the bank of a nearby river. Each morning some of those people that were outside were found to be dead. Their bodies were lifted on to carts and taken up to Carrigastyra and all were thrown into a big, wide, deep pit. The same was done with those that were dead in the workhouse after the night.*

Not long after the family was separated little Diarmuid died. The small corpse was heaved into the cart, carried up to the pit and thrown into it with other corpses. Soon Sheila followed little Diarmuid. But this did not matter to these little saints as their souls were in the presence of God before their bodies were thrown into the pit. When the parents heard of what had happened they became so heartbroken that they could not stay any longer in the workhouse. They left and visited the pit where their children's bodies were thrown. They then returned to their cabin that was six miles away. On their way home they were given a drink and some scraps of food, but everyone was afraid to let them in because they had come straight from the workhouse, and the wife had the bad sickness. Patrick had to carry his wife most of the time as she was unable to walk. He eventually reached the cabin, and it was cold and empty before him, without fire or heat. A neighbour called to the cabin the next day and found the two of them lying dead, with his wife's feet held to Patrick's chest, as if he was trying to keep them warm. It would seem that he had noticed the death weakness coming on Kate and her feet growing cold, and he drew them to his breast to take the chill off them!

I would like to conclude my work on a happy note and reflect on the great strides that have been made by Irish people since 1922 when we gained our freedom from the British. Doctor Patricia Donlon compiled the 75th Anniversary of the state for an Post, and extracts from her labours are as follows: *When in that turbulent year 1922 the aspirations and hopes of free Ireland were expressed as peaceful self-government, control of legislation, and administration of over social and economic matters, building on an identity forged through a distinctive art, architecture, literature and language, it could hardly have been envisaged just how successful those aspirations would be.*

While we have had our share of petty politics and wrangles, the strides which have been made in all aspects of Irish life have resulted in a vibrancy and confidence which today is the cause of wonder and discussion at home and abroad. And the spirit of the nation has undergone several transformations and metamorphoses as it brought us through the turbulence of the last seven and a half decades. From insular, conservative, largely Catholic and rural we have become active players in the expanded European Community, a largely industrialised and urbanised population of many denominations. A sophisticated electorate has led to multi-party rainbow coalitions as the norm with many if not all the old Civil War divisions now gone forever.

One of the earliest achievements of the nascent state was the establishment of an unarmed police force, the Garda Síochána – according to most historians an unprecedented achievement for a country recovering from the ravages of civil war. Similarly the newly formed Irish Army had to deal and continue to deal with perceived threats from within its borders rather than with the might of external forces.

The arts flourish today as never before with all sectors and age groups finding their voice – on the popular music front, U2, Sinead O'Connor and Boyzone delight international as well as home fans. The winning and hosting of the Eurovision Song Contest is now a regular feature. Irish dancers have danced their way from the crossroads to the Oscar ceremony via Riverdance and Lord of the Dance. Irish plays are produced and translated on the world stage, Brian Friel, Hugh Leonard, Frank McGuinness, Sebastian Barry, and Marina Carr are a huge success internationally. Irish novelists John McGahern, Roddy Doyle, Seamus Deane, John Barnaville and Frank McCourt have also achieved worldwide fame. Poets like Evan Boland, Derek Mahon, Paul Durkin, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Peter Fallon flourish under the benign influence of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney.

International success in sport in recent years has acted as a stimulus to even greater interest and endeavour – Michelle Smith, Sonia O'Sullivan, Cathriona McKiernan, Stephen Roche, Ken Doherty and Michael Carruth are household names. Every four years the country is gripped by World Cup fever and the GAA All Ireland finals bring the capital's traffic to a halt. I have a great love of sport and in particular Gaelic games and we, the Limerick supporter's have got tremendous enjoyment from the Limerick under 21 hurlers when they won three consecutive All Ireland titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002 – not a bad start to the new century. This gives us hope for the winning of a Senior All Ireland hurling title which is very much overdue – our last success in the competition was in 1973. The sporting Irish also salute the rise in prominence of Rugby and in particular the achievements of the Munster senior team. Irish golfers Padraic Harrington, Christy O'Connor Junior, Eamon Darcy and Des Smith have graced the world's top venues with distinction. And in horse racing the Irish have not been left behind.

The conclusion of this little book coincides with an occasion of great joy in our household with the birth of Pauline's daughter Áine.

Thus ends *An Echo From The Past*.

Frank Hanley

52273