

Birth, 20.1.1894, JOHN (of James Ryan and Bridget Hanly)
Townland of Lacka, Castleconnel, Co. Limerick.

Other members of the family

William - 11.6.1895

Catherine - 7.8.1896

Mary - 24.12.1898

Denis - 25.6.1900

From Castleconnel Parish Register.

Enclosed herewith a copy of 1901 Census which gives further details of the Ryan family, Note that William is not included as he had probably died in the interval between 1895 - 1901.

Bridget Hanley was - I think - from Nenagh area. The Hanleys were engaged in the Wooleen Mill business and appeared to be a prosperous family. Descendants of the family in the person of two - batchelor brothers now live and farm 200 acres at the Red House, Barringtons Bridge which their father purchased from the Barrington Family some years ago. The brothers also own a large farm in my neighbourhood at Cunnigvale, Pallasgreen. John Ryan S.J. was a childhood friend of my Uncles Con and Michael McMahon. They attended Castleconnell National School together, where they were taught by a Mr. Edmonds.

In my boyhood while visiting my relatives the McMahons at Lacka I heard them speak of Father John Ryan, who they were expecting a visit from as he had just returned from completing his studies in Germany. He would according to the rules of the Jesuits be over 30 when he was ordained priest in approximately 1924 or 25.

Francis John Byrne professor of early Irish History at U.C.D. in preface to his Irish Kings and High Kings . Debts to scholars living or dead will be sufficiently obvious from text and bibliography. With many I have disagreed: from all I have learnt. Of the older generation Eoin MacNeill, founder of early Irish History as an academic discipline, and T.F. O'Rahilly merit chief mention, MacNeills successor and my own predecessor, Rev. John Ryan, S.J. inspired my interest in this area of history which he knows so intimately. (1971)

See Brian Boruma, King of Ireland by John Ryan, S.J. in North Munster Studies.

Also list of members 1965 of Thomond Society, Rev. Prof. John Ryan, S.J. (Hon. Life Member) 35 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. As far back as I can go 1946 his name appears on Journal as a committee member also sometimes Vice-President. I would hazard a guess that he died in 1973, if this is correct there should be an Obituary in 1974 Journal.

As regards the Ryan's of Deereen. They were a reasonably prosperous farming family. The holding at Deereen was approximately 40 acres in area of mixed land including some Turbary. James Ryan, his son Denis and two servants worked the farm, a servant girl assisted Mrs. Ryan. As well as Deereen the ryan's had another farm about 2 miles away at New Garden, they worked the two farms jointly. Sometimes in the late 1920's or early 30s they sold Deereens and moved to New Garden where they lived for sometime, eventually. Denis Ryan inherited a large farm at Rathuard Castle near Limerick city. New garden was sold and he moved there. About this time denis married and had issue. Denis Ryan's sister married John Proprieter of J.J. O'Byrne. Gaelic Mineral Water & Bottling Co. Sexton Street, Limerick no issue. Another member of the family enter a convent.

My impression recollections of Denis Ryan, is of a very friendly man liked by everybody. Not enjoying good health he died in his 50's.

James Ryan was a hard working humble religious man who worked side by side with his servants with spade, hoe or hayfork. The Ryan home came into possession of the Murnane Family who still reside in the Old Ryan house at Deereen.

M. D Dwyer

P.s. Will continue hopefully - to seek further information
See Obituary. N. Muns Journal 1973-74.

* Rathuard Castle from his Uncle Michael Hanly.

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Dennis. 25. 6. 1900. From Castleconnell Parish Register.

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As regards the Ryans of Deeren. They were a reasonably prosperous farming family. The holding at Deeren was approx 140 acres in area of mixed land including some Turbary. James Ryan, his son Denis & 2 Servants worked the farm, a servant girl assisted Mrs Ryan. As well as Deeren the Ryans had another farm about 2 mls away at New Garden they worked the 2 farms jointly. Sometime in the late 1920's or early '30's they sold Deeren and moved to New Garden where they lived for some time, eventually Denis Ryan inherited a large farm at Rathward Castle near Limerick City. New Garden was sold and he moved there. About this time Denis married and had issue. Denis Ryan's sister married John proprietor of J.T. O'Byrne, Gaelic Mineral Water & Bottling Co. Sexton St Limerick. no issue. Another member of the family entered a Convent.

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R. Dwyer.

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