

Cumann Didhreachta Eanách Dhúin

Annaghdown Heritage Society

www.annaghdownheritage.ie

info@annaghdownheritage.ie

Nuachtlitir Uimh. 1

Geimhreadh 2017

FÁILTE

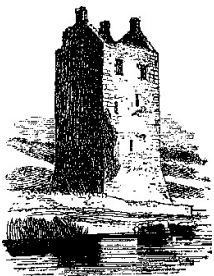
Míle fáilte chuig céad eagrán an nuachtlitir seo. This is the first edition of what we hope will be a regular publication of the society. This edition contains interesting items on several aspects of local social and cultural history which should be of interest to all in the area. Sincere thanks to the various authors for their valuable contributions. It is hoped to publish the newsletter biannually, with the next edition appearing in advance of the summer season, and to this end we invite contributions on any aspect of local history, heritage, or folklore.

After an interval of a few years, the Society was reconvened at a meeting in September last. Br. Conal Thomas, our long-serving Chairperson, had indicated his intention to retire and had sought volunteers to reestablish an active committee. Our thanks are due to Br. Conal, and to former officers Cassie Furey and John McGagh, for their sustained contribution to the Society over many years. Amongst the items currently in progress are the reorganisation of the Heritage Room in the Old Girls' School building, and the compiling of information for our newly established website, annaghdownheritage.ie. In 2018, we hope to initiate a major project to document and publish information on the townlands in the parish.

Membership of the society is open to all. We request an annual subscription of €5 to help with costs. For updates on our activities, follow us on Facebook and see our website.

To readers at home and abroad, we extend warm season's greetings together with best wishes for the coming year. Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

INFORMATION



Meetings: Third Monday of each month, 8:00pm, venue announced on our website and in local newspapers/church newsletters. Other events as announced. All are welcome.

Committee: Paul Greaney (Chair), Irene McGoldrick (Secretary), Nicholas Lyons (Treasurer), Johnny

Burke, Joe Gardiner, Patsy Lynch, Joe McDermott, Peter Newell, William Scully, Rena Small, Evelyn Stevens, Br. Conal Thomas, Martin Wallace.

Find us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/AnnaghdownHeritage](https://www.facebook.com/AnnaghdownHeritage)

BOREEN GORT DOBE BUÍ

Peter Newell

An element of local Annaghdown history which has receded into the dim and distant past is the fact that the area once had a thriving brick industry.

The perimeters of various bogs in the area contained a sticky grey 'daub', which when fired or baked-up turned into a yellowy brick. Not entirely suitable for external use, this brick was mainly used for lining chimneys and around window and door openings. There was a surge in demand for Annaghdown Brick when any major project was taking place in the city of Galway.

One instance where a lot of brick was required, was in the building of Galway University. A Fahy family from Lisanoran supplied a lot of brick to this project. They were delivered by flat-bottomed boats to Woodquay. The price is reputed to have been eleven shillings per boat load. Other projects mentioned were the Barracks in Eglinton Street and the workhouse, which later became the Central Hospital, before being demolished to make way for the current University College Hospital, Galway.

The business of brick making must have been labour intensive, certainly by today's standards. The daub would have to be dug out and put into moulds before being baked. The process also required a lot of fuel, more than likely turf, where warmer climes could rely solely on the sun to do the work.

Along with the sporadic demand for Annaghdown Brick, local people were fortunate to have a fairly ready market for various items and while the land was patchy and needed a lot of care and attention, it produced top class crops and livestock. Sedge and bulrushes were excellent materials for roofing and were in ample supply in the Currags.

There was an ecology in the region which lent itself to the perpetuation of this system which only came to an end with the advent of the Corrib Drainage Scheme in the 1950's. A lot of water meadows depended on regular winter flooding which led to a rich silt being deposited over the meadows. This in turn produced a lovely lush sweet smelling hay. It's the same all over the globe; people making use of available materials in their homelands.

On a final note, the title of this article relates to a boreen in the townland of Lisanoran where a lot of Annaghdown Brick would have been moulded and baked. Boreen Gort Dobe Buí is almost a direct translation of the 'Yellow Brick Road'. Perhaps the 'aul' people really did know that 'there was no place like home'!



Figure 1. Annie Ford (1840-1884) and John Francis Cavanagh (1833-1910), early Annaghdown settlers in New Zealand.

EARLY ANNAGHDOWN SETTLERS IN NEW ZEALAND

David L. Cavanagh

The first of our Cavanagh family to arrive in New Zealand was William Cavanagh; he landed at Port Chalmers, Otago, on the 'Gill Blas' in 1856 and came from Melbourne, Australia. How he got to Melbourne and with who else I am yet to discover - I suspect he wouldn't have travelled alone.

Although important to our family, William Cavanagh (1835-1873) is of greater importance to all of the Galway early settlers, as he was the first Irish Catholic to land in Otago, according to research carried out by Sean Brosnahan of the Otago Early Settlers Museum. Then, shortly after his arrival, he started an 'immigrant chain' that was to nominate many other Galway Catholics for passage to Otago and Southland.

William's arrival paved the way for other immediate family members to follow: John Francis Cavanagh (1833-1910; my great grandfather) arrived in 1857 on the 'George Canning'; a sister Annie (1827-1918) was listed to travel with John, but at the last minute she stayed in England and there married John Loftus - they arrived 1859 on the 'Alpine'; in 1862, Mary (1835-1914) and Michael Cavanagh (1841-1915) arrived on the 'Storm Cloud' - another sister Cecilia (1843-1925) was also listed to travel, but was 'short shipped' (not enough space on the ship, and she was to travel on the next available vessel). However, Cecilia returned to Annaghdown and married in 1866 to John Walsh - they eventually resided on the Cavanagh farm. 1865 saw Margaret (1840-1918) arrive on the 'St Vincent' - this ship also had a Celia Cavanagh listed to travel. There is one other sibling, Thomas Cavanagh (1841-?), whom I had thought had also travelled out to New Zealand, but the Thomas I found there is part of a different Cavanagh line, also from Annaghdown.

The above are all children of Francis 'Frank' Cavanagh and Cecily Ford, who married in February 1826 in the Parish of Annaghdown.

Besides Thomas (1841- ?), there could be other siblings that I haven't found as yet, and considering that when the immigrated they travelled in pairs or nominated to travel in pairs, there could be a sibling in Australia, either Thomas or another. Patrick is a name that features in offspring of each sibling, but I cannot find a Patrick born in Annaghdown that could belong to my line.

Having landed in Port Chalmers, William, and then John Francis, settled in Milton, South Otago before moving further south to Roslyn Bush just outside Invercargill, when land became available there. It is to Roslyn Bush that the rest of the family also went to when they arrived in New Zealand.

William married in 1862, Mary Collins (c. 1844 -1885), born in Drumgriffin, daughter of Michael Collins and Margaret Glen; she arrived at Port Chalmers on the 'Melbourne' on 17 March 1861 alongside 18 others from Annaghdown and Drumgriffin, all of them nominated as part of the 'immigrant chain'.

John Francis (1833-1910) married Annie 'Hannah' Ford (chr. 5 Apr 1840-1884) in 1861. She was born in Annaghdown to John Ford and Eleanor Casey, and arrived at Port Chalmers on the 'Melbourne' on 17 March 1861 with her brother Patrick Ford (1834-1918).

Annie Cavanagh (c. 1827-1918) married before 1859 to John Loftus (c. 1830 - 1917) from Co. Mayo; their marriage is thought to have taken place in England. They arrived in Port Chalmers on the 'Alpine' on 11 September 1859, initially settling in Dunedin and later travelling south to Roslyn Bush.

Mary Cavanagh (c. 1835-1914) married John Ford (c. 1831-1904) in 1863. He was born in Drumgriffin, son of William Ford and Margaret Kane, and arrived in 1857 on the 'George Canning'. They settled at Gropers Bush, Southland.

Margaret Cavanagh (1840-1918) married John Caulfield or Caulfield (c. 1841-1915) in 1868. He was born in Galway to parents unknown; a cousin Daniel Caulfield (c. 1838-1904) came from Drumgriffin, and was nominated by William Cavanagh. John arrived in 1863 on the 'Sir George Pollock', and they settled at Roslyn Bush, Southland.

Michael (c. 1838-1915) did not marry.

For a long time I thought that my great-grandfather, John Francis Cavanagh, came out to New Zealand on his own, and there he married and raised a family, but gradually I found his siblings. Then when Sean Brosnahan told me about the importance of William Cavanagh to those other Galway families that settled in Southland, my research changed to include those families and their descendants. In 1994 Denise Beerkins of Woodlands in Southland produced a booklet on the 100th anniversary of St Patrick's Catholic Church at Rakauhauka. In the booklet, she tried to list as many local families as she could find, but in the end had to say that 'there were almost certainly other families but we have not one to tell us about them'.

They were all from Ireland but predominately Co. Galway: Thomas (Rostellan, Co. Cork) and Mary Hanning née Ross (Whitegate, Co. Cork), William Lyons, Mary Ann Lyons, Mary Condon, John Ross (White-

gate, Co. Cork), Thomas Kilkelly (Annaghdown), Mary Caulfield (Drumgriffin), Daniel Caulfield (Annaghdown), Mary Finnerty, George and Margaret Brown née Burke (both from Drumgriffin), Bartholomew Burke, Thomas and Mary Garvey née Flanagan (both Co. Galway), Mary Murphy, James and Bridget Forde, John (Co. Galway) and Margaret Caulfield née Cavanagh (Annaghdown), James (Co. Galway) and Bridget Murphy née Caulfield (Drumgriffin), William (Co. Galway) and Annie Scully née Finnerty (Co. Galway), Roger (Annaghdown) and Mary Leonard née Collins, Anthony Fahey, Honora Lee, Denis and James Tobin (Cloyne, Co. Cork) John and Nora Lee née Maloney, John and Elizabeth Hurley, Lawrence and Jane Finnerty.

*David L. Cavanagh,
Adelaide, South Australia,
dchester@adam.com.au.*

ANNAGHDOWN HERITAGE SOCIETY: THE FIRST 21 YEARS

Br Conal Thomas

From some preliminary meetings held during the winter months of 1995, our Society was formally established in 1996 to compile, correlate and disseminate information pertinent to the many facets of Heritage in our locality. This would be of interest not only to the local community and its diaspora but to all who would wish to avail of it at national or international level.

To achieve our objectives, we were kindly given accommodation in the Old Girls' School, Corrandulla, as a focal point for regular meetings and as a store for artefacts and memorabilia, especially those in danger of being lost or discarded.

A summary of the undertakings of the Society for the past 21 years is given below.

Talks and lectures were given by members and invited guests. At all times we encouraged interested the general public to attend and participate in the discussions that followed. Past talks and lectures have included topics as diverse as Local Archeological finds, Basket weaving, B  itheadh Eanach Dh  in (1828), B  ithr  n na Smaointe le Se  n    Murchadha, Songs in the Irish language, Children's Burial Grounds, the Church of Ireland Building at Aughclogeen, Early Church History of Annaghdown, Faces and Places in Annaghdown, Farming Practices in Annaghdown in the 1940's, Folklore of the Parish (1939), From Annaghdown to the Pyramids of Egypt, From Ballybeg to Australia, Irish Coins before Decimalization, Irish Stamps and our Postal Service, Irish Words Used in Spoken English, John Murphy's Recollections, Michael Davitt's Address at Corrandulla in 1879, New Zealand Connections, Ordnance Survey in the Parish, Primary Education in Annaghdown Parish, Road-Making of the Curraghline, Round Tower Markings at Annaghdown Monastic Site, The Coming of the "Electric", The Art of Thatching, The Flora and Fauna of Annaghdown, The Great Famine in the District,

The Monastic Ruins at Annaghdown, and The United Irish League in North Galway.

Other events and projects of note have included the launch of the County Galway Heritage Plan in 2004, the collection of local field names and placenames, a survey of children's graveyards, a survey of thatched houses, and visits to the National Museum of Country Life, Castlebar, and to the Riverstown Folk Park, Co. Sligo.

The Society has also been active in publishing books and booklets on local history. Publications have included *Annaghdown Remembers Michael Davitt* (1996); *Famine Times in Annaghdown* (1997), *The Land for the People* (1999), *Wildflowers of Annaghdown* (2002), and *By Corrib, Clare and Cregg and Seanchas Cois Teallaigh* (2009). We were also involved in launching *Farm Habitats in Annaghdown, County Galway: Management Practices in the 1940s* by Tina Aughney and Mike Gormley, and Rev. Michael Goaley's *The Monastic Ruins at Annaghdown*.

We have collected and catalogued memorabilia on an on-going basis under the following headings: Agrarian Disputes pre-1921, Archeology, Burial Grounds, Castles and Tower Houses, Census/Surveys, Churches, Annaghdown Drowning Tragedy 1828, Family Histories, Gaeilge sa Cheantar, Local Wells and Water Sources, Maps and Mapping, Mills, Primary Schools, Postal Service, including special postage stamp collection.

PETTY SESSIONS RECORDS

Paul Greaney

The majority of the principal sources for Irish genealogy have been appearing as online databases over the past ten years or so, and it is now possible to conduct much, if not most, genealogical research from the comfort of one's own home. One of the more colourful sets of records to appear has been the Petty Sessions record books, of which the Headford and Galway collections relate to incidents in the Annaghdown area. The Petty Sessions were the lowest rung of the courts system, roughly equivalent to today's district court in some respects, with the Quarter Sessions and Assizes dealing with more serious matters. Most of the Petty Sessions records for Annaghdown relate to incidents of minor significance: road contractors frequently summoned farmers for allowing their stock to wander on the public road, for example. However, there are some more unusual, and some humorous incidents which provide a rich insight into life at the time. The following are a few interesting examples.

On 6 September 1852, before G. Staunton Lynch, E.L. Hunt, and Pierce Joyce. Martin Forde, bailiff, Gardenham, summoned Pat Browne, George Browne, yeomen, of Creggduff; Thomas Scully, Pat Lee, servants, Creggduff; Pat Tierney, William Cavanagh, yeomen, Ballinduff; Thomas Malley, William Malley, yeomen, Shanbally. Cause of complaint: Rescue of twenty heifers on the 25th day of August 1852 at Creggduff siezed for rent due to Walter Joyce,

Esqr., out of said lands of Creggduff. No appearance.

Reserve of Twenty Acres on the 25th day of August 1852 at Creggduff seized for Rent due to Walter Joyce Esqr out of said lands of Creggduff

On 7 February 1853, before G. Staunton Lynch and E. L. Hunt. Mark Keeneen, pound keeper, Aughlogin, summoned Bartly Wall, yeoman, of Carraruane, and Thomas Grealy, yeoman, of Racollough or Corbally. Cause of complaint: for that on the 27th day of January 1853 the defendants did enter complainants land at Aughlogin, then and there did forcibly & illegally take and carry away five sheep which were in compts care and impounded for Poor Rates by Matthew Creavin, Poor Rate Collector. Fined 10s. and costs each or one month's imprisonment in the County Jail.

On 13 November 1854, before E.L. Hunt. Winefred Newall, alias, Flynn, Rhinaharney, summoned Mary Flynn, spinster, Rhinaharney. Cause of complaint: Breaking open complainant's house at Rhinaharney on Saturday the 3rd November 1854 and feloniously stealing and carrying away thereout a quantity of potatoes, a small pig, bed clothes, dresser, and a box (complainant's property). John Dillon, yeoman, Rhinaharney, called to give evidence on behalf of complainant. No appearance.

On 28 February 1859, before William Joseph Burke. Michael Doran, Carrowbeg, summoned William Burke, Michael Burke, Michael Graney, Ardgeeneen; Michael Cunningham, Kilgill; James Graney, Bunnatubber; Patrick Graney, Glanrevagh. Cause of complaint: For having been engaged in a riot and having been rioting on the 13th day of February instant at Gortroe on the public road in said County, at the same time and place, William Burke of Ardgeeneen having assaulted complainant in the execution of his duty.

On 19 June 1871, Michael Ruane, Rhinaharney, summoned Stephen Donnellan, Rhinaharney. Cause of complaint: suffering and allowing your cow to trespass in complainant's potatoes and cabbage and injuring his shirt, all value to the amount of six shillings, on the 9th of June 1871 at Rhinaharney. No appearance.

These records are available on the subscription site findmypast.ie.

SOME RECENT VISITORS WITH ANNAGHDOWN ROOTS

- Steve Luttrell, Portland, Maine, descended from the Skerritt family of Kilgill.
- Nita (Fandray), Ed & Ford Modaro, Pittsburgh. Nita descends from the Forde family of Knockbluff/Annaghdown.

- Heather & Sonia Moloney, New Zealand, descended from the Laffey family of Knockbluff/Annaghdown.
- Patsy McMillan, New Zealand, whose in-laws descended from the Forde family of Lisheenanoran.
- Donna Staunton & Michael Wooldridge, Australia. Donna descends from the Staunton family of Lisheenanoran.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

QUACK DOCTORS

The Tuam Herald

April 18, 1840

In our last, we gave a report of an inquest held at Shanbally, parish of Annadown, on the body of Catherine Gibbons. It might be seen from the verdict that "the deceased came by her death in consequence of poisonous medicine administered to her by an itinerant Quack Doctor". It appeared in evidence that the itinerant vender of this medicine, with his wife, paid their first visit to Annadown, on the 30th of last month, he stating & publishing through the villages, that he was a French Doctor, that he had been 25 years on shipboard, and that he would cure all complaints with certain medicine and herbs "at two pence a dose". He thus worked upon the credulity of the peasantry and received money and entertainment, 'till the sudden illness of the woman Gibbons created an alarm, when he decamped at an early hour in the morning.

The Coroner, Mr. Andrew Hosty, has reported the circumstance to the Lord Lieutenant. An imposition of such fatal consequences should not, by any means, be overlooked, and we expect that the fellow, whoever he is, shall not escape detection, but that he shall be punished in proportion to his guilt and presumption. The country people should take warning from this melancholy instance of quackery, and not suffer themselves to be imposed on, or hazard their lives as they too often do, through notions or opinions the most absurd.

On the evening of the day in which the deceased took this medicine, she was attended by Doctor Donnellan. Doctor Donnellan found her collapsed, her mouth and throat inflamed and ulcerated, and though he used every exertion and remedy, all was ineffectual. The unfortunate creature lived but for a day (under his care) being affected during that time with convulsions and in excruciating pain. The Doctor opened the body and found the stomach also inflamed and ulcerated containing a large quantity of muriate of mercury, which, as he swore, had been the cause of death. The deceased, upon taking the draft, was immediately affected. Having taken it, she went to the door and returned instantly, and fell on the floor within, crying out to her friends, 'for God's sake to bring her the Priest'. These were her last words. We have been told that another woman lies at present in an almost hopeless state from the same cause.
