

was pumped into houses from the lake. Motor cars replaced the pony and trap. Tractors replaced the horse. Tourists arrived for the fishing and brought with them a whiff of the outside world. The pubs in Oughterard were now the centre of the social life.

Life was now easier for the farmer and his wife, but the New Year arrived with the seasonal work. Nature woke from hibernation, daffodils danced and bowed to the west wind. Apple blossom covered the apple trees. The cuckoo, that elusive bird heralded the summer, while the corncrake craked from the hay meadow. The swallows did their acrobatics in the air. Little fluffy chicks and goslings appeared in the yard. Newborn lambs and calves frisked in the fields. The

long whips of wild woodbine clung to and climbed the branches of the leafy trees while their yellow and pink flowers peeped through the greenery. Their scent mingled with scents of new-mown hay and wild rose. The grass was rich with buttercups, clover and daisies where grasshoppers chirped. The hedgerows, thick with foxgloves and insect life buzzed with the droning of bees. In Autumn great blue mopheads of hydrangea appeared, while the leaves on the trees turned amber and yellow before shedding their load. The farming community had no time to admire this cornucopia, they were too busy to 'stand and stare'. As they said "you can't eat the scenery".

Peg McDonagh



Glann: its people and townlands

In this section we look at each townland considered to be part of the Glann valley area.

We have a map of each townland showing the features of interest therein, field names, area names etc. We describe the townland and try to trace ownership (or some of it) from the 1600s to now. We list the families and some of their movements up to the present time.

DRUMINAKILL

Droim Na Coille, The wooded ridge

Area 50 acres

This small townland, as the name implies, is a wooded ridge or hillock that juts into the lake on the most eastern part of the Glann area. It commands panoramic views over the lake towards Inchagoill and Cong and east to Galway. It is the first townland considered to be part of the Glann area as one drives along the lake road from Oughterard. It is bordered on the north by Newvillage and to the west by Gortdrisagh. It is mostly wooded with some fine dry land on the ridge or drumlin area while the lower parts are boggy. Foorannagh (Fuar Annach—Cold peninsula) at its most northerly part is a long narrow peninsula (3½ acres) protruding into the lake.

In 1641 the townland was the property of Francis Blake.?

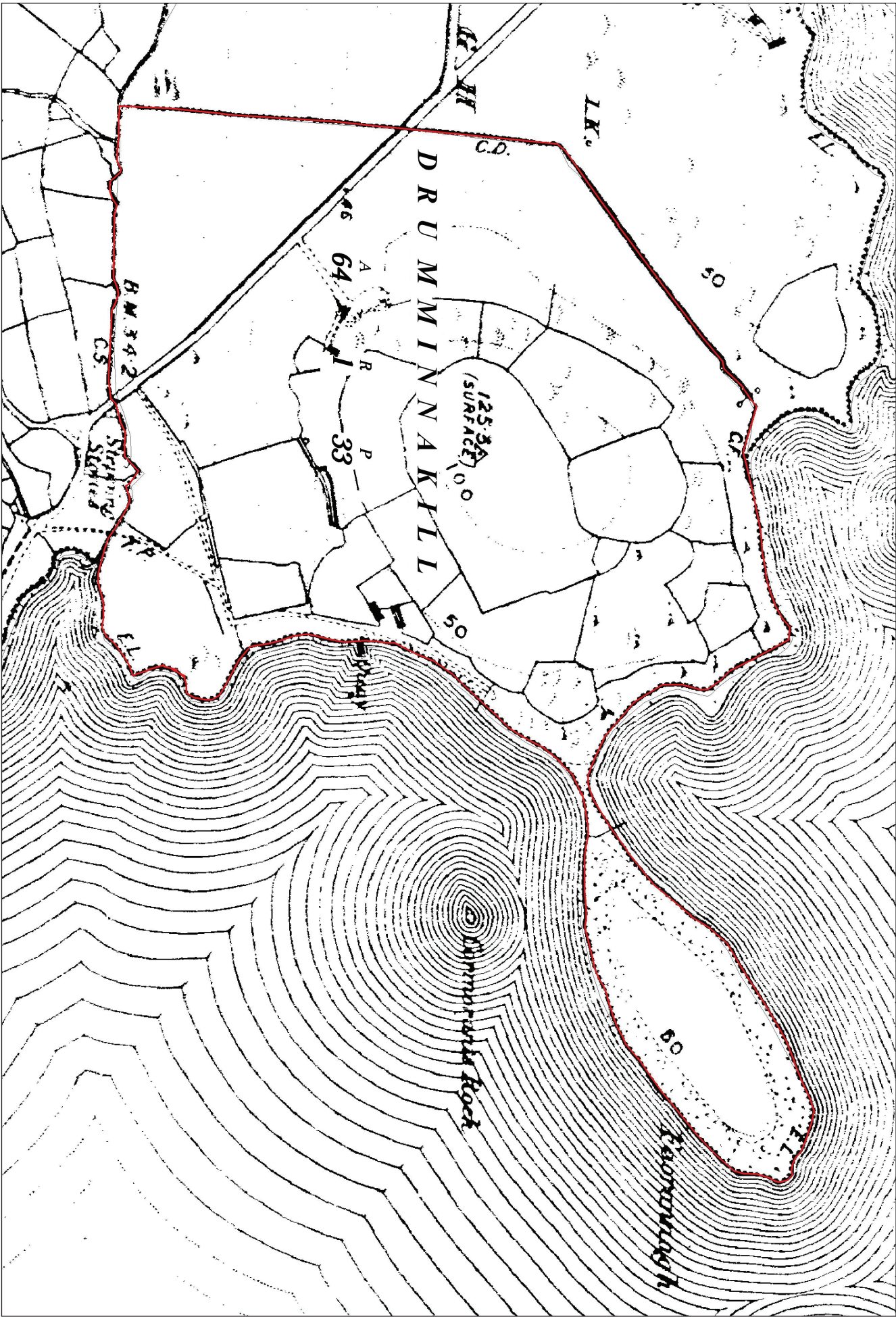
At the time of Griffiths valuation the lessor of the land was the Directors of the Law Life Assurance Co. of London so it was part of the Martin Estate. Walter Mons lived and farmed there. The rent was £9.10.0 on the land and £2.0.0 on the house.

At the time of the 1911 census there was only one family resident here, the Mons family.

Bridget Mons with 5 resident in the house. Drimnakill has been in the Mons family since the

1850s. Walter Mons was the tenant farmer of it in 1850. He farmed the 50 acres of Drimnakill as well as the headland of Fooranagh, then an island, and the island of Roeillaun. The land had been part of the vast Connemara estate of the Martins but after they were bankrupted by their creditors it passed to the Law Life Assurance Company of London. His daughter Margaret was born in 1848 and son Robert in 1854. Drimnakill stayed in Robert's family until it was inherited by Margaret's grandson John Taylor in 1980.

Robert married Bridget O Sullivan in 1885 they had six children Patrick, Christina (Tiff), Michael John, Mary Kate, Bridget who died very young and Robert. Robert is one of the residents in 1911 census but died in his teens. At the time of the 1911 census Bridget was renting 90 acres Drimnakill, Roeilaun, Annagh Island and Illaunanarrou from H.W. Hodgson of Currarevagh. At this time Christina had left to nurse in England. In the 1930s Bridget received the free hold of Drimnakill. Patrick became a Peace Commissioner in 1936. Bridget died in 1938. Michael John worked in the local dole office in Oughterard. Patrick, Michael John, Mary Kate and Christina who returned from England all continued to farm Drimnakill. None of them ever married. In the mid 1950s they sold a site of land to a Dr Galligan from Dublin who built a holiday home there, sold it to Roches and it is still owned by the same family for a holiday home.



Margaret Mons, Robert's older sister, married Michael Houlihan of Oughterard. Their daughter, Bedelia, (also known as Dell—this lady is grandmother of present owners Nicky and Fran Taylor) was born in the house now occupied by Finnerty's Butcher. Margaret died at age of 42 in 1890 and her husband Michael and daughter Dell moved to London where Dell married Patrick Taylor from Leitrim in 1916. Their son John grew up in England and spent most of World War 2 as a prisoner in Poland where he contracted T.B. After he got married in 1950, he moved back to Dublin on doctors' orders and often visited his Drimnakill cousins.

Pat Mons died in 1962, Michael John in 1974, Christina in 1979, and Mary Kate in 1980. She left Drimnakill to John Taylor. He sold most of the farm land to Petie Tierney, but for 17 years John and Jean Taylor would come and live in Drimnakill for six months every year at the house and lake shore they loved.



John Taylor, Baby Nicky and Paddy Joe McDonagh

In 1998, the year after John died, ownership passed through his wife to his daughters Fran and Nicky. They come and visit when ever they can, Nicky with her husband Tim and daughter Kate and Fran with her partner Roger.

There are ten members of the family buried in Kilcummin cemetery—Margaret (120 years ago), along with seven of the Mons family, John and Jean Taylor, all together in the family plot. At the house, in spite of the changes, the Mons's glass and delf are still on the dresser and their oil lamp is still on the side board and when the Taylor family are in Drimnakill they still eat at their kitchen table.

At the time of the 1911 census there was 1 house with 5 resident today there are 5 houses and 7 residents on a permanent basis

1. TAYLORS AS HOLIDAY HOME
2. ROCHES AS HOLIDAY HOME
3. MICHAEL PATRICIA AND JOHN McGAULEY WITH 3 RESIDENT
- 4 . JOSEPH ANN MARIE CILLIAN AND SAOIRSE TIERNEY WITH 4 RESIDENT
5. MARK McGAULEY