

NEWVILLAGE

An Baile Nua

Area 1010 acres

This is the largest town land in the area. It is situated north of Cappagarriff on the eastern part of the Glann hill. On the east it borders Tullvealnaslee townland with the old road from Glann running through it to the Faiy Bridge. On the west it borders the townland of Barnagorteeny. It is largely wooded with a lot of natural deciduous trees, with farm land inter mixed. The higher parts are planted with state forests which have some fine walks.

In 1641 Newvillage was part of the estate of Thady McDonagh.

At the time of Griffith's valuation in the 1850s the Proprietor was Thomas B. Martin of Ballinahinch. The Martins were granted vast areas of Connemara including the O Fflahertie Estate after they were slaughtered by Cromwell. The land was described by Griffiths evaluator John O Donovan as *very stony, wet and mountainous, containing 1006 acres with about 180 acres under tillage and pasture. There is a quarry situate in the west side of a bye road, the centre of which forms its eastern boundary, also Smithy towards the Northern extremity of the townland.*

There is a Triangulation station (346 feet) at Athknockmore.

The Lessor of the land at this time was the Law Life Assurance Co. of London.

The reason for this was that the Martin Estate was in receivership.

There were just two listings for rates. James Connor who had to pay £45.0s.0d. rent on his land and house and the Irish Church Missions who had an acre and a school house, received an exemption.

At the time of the 1911 census there was one only one resident family in Newvillage and they were the O Shaughnessy family. O Shaughnessy Thomas and Bridget with 12 people living in the house. This house was behind Schoolhouse Grove at the top of Kevin O Connor's fields on the right heading for Oughterard.

The old stone gable is still there at the mearing with the forest. At the time of census it is recorded that there was three step children in the O Shaughnessy house with the surname Nee. We know that Thomas and Bridget were both married twice and looking at the age of the children we assume that the three Nee children were Bridgets from here first marriage.



*Glann school Alexander Dallas
A mission tour book in Ireland (London, 1860)*

This land was owned by Hodgsons but had rented it to a family in Maam called the O Malleys. The O Shaughnessy family herded the cattle and sheep for O Malley's. Previous to this there was a Coyne family herding here and this was Tommy O Halloran's mother's family. When the O Shaughnessy family left here in the 1920's they went herding for Jackson who was a landowner in Killaguile where Ross Lake Hotel is today. Tadhg O Shaughnessy (RIP) from Killola was one of this family and his brother Mick lived where the shop is as you turn in Killanin road. When the O Shaughnessy family left the Conneely family, known as the Marcus', moved in and they herded and they continued to herd for Hodgson. This family came from Ugool but moved to Newvillage from Finnan. There was 22 children in this family. One of the girls, Maggie (remembered as Maggie Marcus), married Mike Hynes from Ballygally. It was Maggie Mathias (Mathias Clancy's wife) and Martin Molloy, Tom's father that made the match when Maggie and Mike got married. Martin and Mike were related.

In 1932 Hodgson sold the 1010 acres to the land commission. One hundred acres of the 1010 acres was allotted to local farmers from Derrymoyle, Baurisheen and Glann. Some got 10 acres and more got 6. This was fenced off in 1932. The farmers of Baurisheen and Derrymoyle who got land were Michael Molloy (father of P. A. Molloy), Mark Molloy (father of Michael John), Mike McGauley (Curley) and Michael Joe Kelly (father of Tommy and Seamus). This is all on the right hand side as you come back the Glann road—it is known as Sean Bhaile (Shanballymore today). The rest of the land was allotted to Conneely

(nee Marcus) they got 10 acres which was bought by Johnny O Connor in the mid 60s. Pete Tierney father of Stephen John got 10 acres. Martin Feerick father of Mick got 10 acres. This was sold to Sven Kapp in the 1990's. Tom Molloy (Terry) got 10 acres—this is at the back of Eddie Banks' (RIP) house, which Pete Joe Tierney bought. Stephen Lee also got 10 acres, which Pete Joe Tierney bought in 1960 and is where he and Mamie live to day. Martin McDonagh (Sean) got 10 acres where his daughter Kathleen and Eugene Hanley now live. John Lee Derrymoyle, who was a grand uncle of Mark and Mae Canavan, got next site. One site of this was sold to Bill and Barbra Edwards in 1960, and they lived there for many years. After they died the house was sold to Tim Pickring and Caroline Potter. The rest of this plot was sold to Hugh and Alma Allen in the 1990s. The last 10 acres was given to Joe Tierney whose son Pete farms it today. This is the boundary with the next village Bournagurtheeney.



Johnny and Josie O Connor

The outside 900 acres of the land was commonage for seven of the land owners mentioned above for many years. This area is known as Slievenavinnogue. The first 450 acres of commonage was sold to the Forestry in 1955 for 30 shillings an acre by the Landowners and the remaining 450 acres was sold in 1957 for 50 shillings an acre. This was started to be fenced off in late 1962 by local forestry workers. Some of the Glann people that we remember fondly that have now passed away that worked on this were Martin McDonagh, Martin John Molloy, Mick Joyce, John Clancy and many more. Other workers were Pete Tierney, Edwin McDonagh, Jimmy Canavan and Patsy Joyce. The forestry was always associated

with providing great steady employment to the men of Glann and surrounding areas.

Kevin O Connor's grandfather, Michael McDonagh bought 45 acres from Hodgsons in the early 1900s and built the home where Kevin and Helen and family live. Johnny O Connor who was from Oughterard married Josie McDonagh and moved to Glann in 1949.

They have four in their family Bridie, Pattie, Kevin and Pauline.

The Schoolhouse Grove, opposite the entrance to O Connors, got its name from one of the Reverend Alexander Dallas's mission schools (See article on Rev Dallas.) which was situated in the wood at the top of the hill on the Oughterard side. See map. It is now demolished. It was locally known as Teach na Mallacht. The stones were used by Johnny O Connor to build the lovely shed beside his house recently restored by Kevin.

Bothareen Na Minne (Botharín na Muine) Shrubbery Road, or Hill Road, goes from the high road at Slievenavinnogue down the mountain to Derrymoyle townland.



Pete Tierney and Martin John Molloy

Newvillage forestry was began to be sown in 1963 with Spruce and Pine trees. There was approximately 100 acres sown every year for 10 years. The cutting and thinning began in 1990 by An Coillte. In 2006 Oughterard Athletic Football Club bought 10 acres of Newvillage forestry from an Coillte for a substantial sum of money for their new Soccer Pitch. Until 1972 the road leading from Glann to Oughterard through Newvillage was only an old car track from O Connors to around "The Fairy Bridge". In 1972 this road was developed and tarred which is now one of the most scenic drives in Galway and for many years was used

for the Galway Rally as a stage of their rally and is now used for cycle racing. The high road or the old road as we call it was the original track or road to Oughterard from Glann.

In 2010 there are nine houses in the townland of Newvillage with 19 people living there.

1. KEVIN AND HELEN O CONNOR
WITH 2 RESIDENT
2. JOSIE AND BRIDIE O CONNOR
WITH 2 RESIDENT
3. SAGGERS HOLIDAY HOME
4. PATTI O CONNOR WITH 1 RESIDENT
5. MARK BANKS WITH 1 RESIDENT
6. PETE JOE AND MAMIE TIERNEY
WITH 2 RESIDENTS
7. EUGENE, KATHLEEN, CIARAN,
AISLING AND EOGHAN HANLEY
WITH 5 RESIDENT
8. TIM PICKEING AND CAROLINE
POTTER WITH 2 RESIDENT
9. HUGH AND ALMA ALLEN
WITH 2 RESIDENT
10. PETER KELLY AND NOREEN QUINN –
NEW IN 2011



*Josie McDonagh, Michael McDonagh,
Vincent McDonagh*

GORTDRISAGH

Gort an Drisagh, Briery Field

Area 90 acres

This small townland on the shores of the lake lies west of Druminakill. It is almost surrounded by water but for a narrow piece land that joins it to the mainland. It is mostly wooded with natural forest.

In the 1850s the land here was owned by Thomas B. Martin of Ballinahinch.

The Martins, at the time of “Humanity Dick” once had the biggest estate in all of British Isles at 200,000 acres. The Martins replaced the O Flaherty Clan as masters of Connemara. Humanity Dick’s son Thomas was known as king of Connemara.

The land at Gortdrisagh was at that time described as having 70 acres of tillage and pasture with the remainder bog and rough pasture. A neat house situated in the north extremity of this townland and also a gravel pit close to its southern boundary.

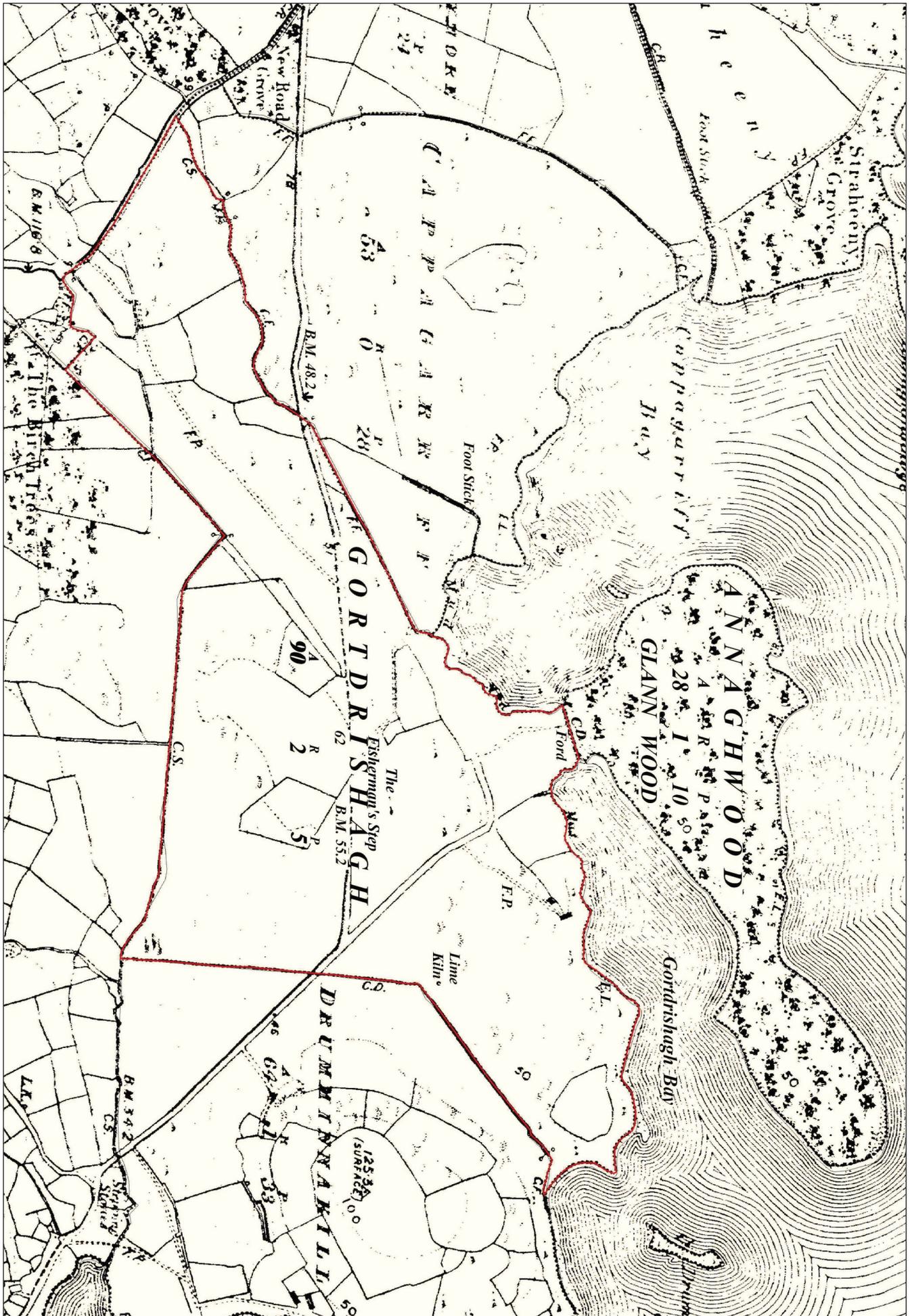
The lessor of the land was the Law Life Assurance Co. A James Connor was the occupier, with office and land. The Griffith valuation was £19.0s.0d.

At the time of the 1911 census two families lived in the townland of Gortdrisagh: Joseph and Edith McNamara and their servant Kate Knox, and Michael Noone and his wife Mary along with their son Patrick Michael. The Noone family moved to Oughterard.



Gortdrisagh House

Gortdrisagh house was built here in the 1890s by Spenser Anketel Jones (Family of Jones Island.) He is said to have had one of the first motorised cars in Ireland, a category B type car, these may have been 3 wheelers. Its registration number was IM 10. Cars were first registered in 1903. Robert C. Hodgson also had a car IM 126 in 1908.



Spenser Anketel Jones was killed skiing in the Alps. Shortly after his death is said that an old “Trolley” type car, without a driver, followed an Oughterard man that was in Glann courting one night, all the way from Gortdrisagh gate to the town and as far as the Pier Road, when it then, to the relief of the poor young lad that it was following, headed down towards the Lake and Jones’s Island I suppose. The man was petrified, weak at the knees and in a sweat. When he cycled fast the car went fast, when he slowed up it slowed up, when stopped it stopped. It took him a few days to recover such as was the fright he received. The man’s name was Paddy Walsh from Billamore and the woman he was courting was Annie Canavan a sister of Mick. They went to America, got married and both lived long lives. Paddy died in 2010. And that is a true story.

After Spenser A. Jones died Gortdrisagh was bought by Dr. Joseph McNamara from Dublin. He expanded it. It was then bought by a Mr Davy and Kennedy. They removed the extension previously added. Then Major O Sullivan, a brother of the actress Maureen O Sullivan bought it. Then in the early seventies Dr. Kevin Glynn of Glynn’s of Galway bought it. He and his wife Rose Mary Joyce and family lived there until the early ‘90s. The present owner is a Mr Brian O Donnell. There are two relatively new houses in Gortdrisagh—Bridie Molloy and Peter Kelly (Stephen John).

ANNAGH WOOD or GLANN WOOD

Area 28 acres

This little townland sits out in the lake also. It is all wooded and is famous for its rocks from where people fish and pick Mayflies. A well known popular fishing area “The Slate of the Wood” is just off shore here. There is no dwelling in this townland. It is afforested and owned by the semi- state company Coillte.

The Fishermans Steps are located here. The steps are just before the gate to Annagh Wood on the way to Glann. The fishermen from Baurisheen and Derrymoyle often had to tie up at Annagh Wood in bad weather as it would be too dangerous to go around the point of Foorannach. They were usually up the Glann shore where the fishing was best. A noted Glann angler is quoted as saying that “the fish are bigger back ourway.”

At the time of James 1 in 1641 this townland was part of the estate of the Earl of Clonrichard.

In the 1850s the townland was owned by Thomas B. Martin Esq. of Ballinahinch (Martins of Ross). It was also all under wood at that time. According to John O Donovan Field Notes at that time. There was a house situated at its eastern corner with a pathway leading to it. This was the herdsman’s house. The Griffith valuation of the land was £4.15.0 and of the house was £0.5.0

There is an ancient burial plot with a big flagstone located at Annagh wood (see map).

THE DAP

*The Mayfly is up, word is out
It’s a frenzy to catch a few trout
The whitethorn’s in full flower
A hatch of flies with every shower*

*Every boat hits the water
Fish and flies face such slaughter
Classroom numbers down
A few bob selling flies around town*

*Dapping-rod, blow-line and reel
A rush to the lakes of great fishing appeal
Mayfly-boxes and boats of all kind
Get on the lake on everyone’s mind*

*German, Frenchman, Englishman,
It’s make or break time for the boatman
Boomtime, sure the Pubs are all packed
Stories are told ...mystery and fact.*

*How’d ya do today?
“a mighty catch” I’d say ...
“two trout, a salmon and a pike”
On the fly?--- never heard the like!*

*Too calm—too windy—too bright—too dull
The wait can be long for that pull
It happens in a flash...adrenalin flows
Wonderful excitement, only the fisherman knows.*

Emmet McGloin