

was occupied by the farm animals of the Caretaker. This was the Gatekeepers house at Gortnaganiv.

There is a 'story' that Mr. Hodgson may have won it and 28,000 acres in a game of cards. The Currarevagh Estate of 1,331 acres stretched to Maam Cross and beyond Maam Bridge at that time. Merlin Park was sold to the Waithman family in 1876 but still held some 17,000 acres in Co. Galway. Interestingly the Hodgson Waithman and Previte families(all related) had all spent time at Merlin Park. Many years later the Waithmans moved to Murrough House which is opposite Merlin, and the Prevites moved to Drimcong House in Moycullen.

According to William Wilde's *Lough Corrib* he quotes, "At Leckavera and Glann, Mr Hodgson carried on Mining operations for some time, and shipped copper and sulphur from the port of Galway".

Two steamers (the *Lioness* and *Tigress*) were used to transport the ore to Galway. These were the first on the Corrib and used to bring goods and passengers from the city stopping along the way at the various village piers. Copper, iron and pyrite ores were mined on the Glann hill. The area is littered with test holes and mine holes. A tramway ran along the hill from Barratleva through Curraghduff to Shannawaugh to carry the ore to the timber jetty on the lake shore at Curraghduff West. Men and women worked in the mines which were excavated by hand. The ore was smashed into small pieces with a lump hammer and carted via the tramway to the loading point on the lake shore. It was then loaded on the steamers bound for Galway.

The remains of the tramway and the jetty are visible to this day. Both are marked on the historic 6" map.

Currarevagh is home to one of Ireland's oldest and most famous fishing lodges with 'Blue Book' status

where anglers from all over the world have enjoyed the great fishing and friendly hospitality offered by the Hodgson family since the 1890's.

Currarevagh has always been an important employer in the locality providing seasonal employment at the hotel and work for local gillies. Charles O'Brien worked as their gardener and handyman for 49 years.

The present house at Currarevagh was built in 1842

In the 1850s copper was discovered in Spain and America and new export taxes were introduced by England. This heralded a change of fortunes for Currarevagh so the Hodgson family had to diversify trying fish farming and turf production- inventing the peat briquette in the process. The Fishhouse Field which is on the left of the avenue on the way into Currarevagh gets its name from the location of a trout hatchery operated at Currarevagh. The ruins of an old turf drying room are to be seen at Lecavera west of Glann near the Failmore river.

In fact Charles Hodgson can be credited as the inventor of the Peat Briquette Press. In the early 1860s there was a bit of an industrial revolution in relation to making the harvesting of Peat more efficient and mechanised. An English inventor named Gwynne had designed a machine to compress dried peat. In 1854 Charles Hodgson built a version of this which he used in Galway to make dried peat. The machine was not successful. In 1858 he patented his own extrusion press with coolers. The machinery was ingenious, the most comprehensive and technically perfect system of peat production in Ireland in the 19th century and to this day it forms the basis for briquetting worldwide.

In 1861 he patented his peat milling process. He bought some bog at a place called Derrylea part



Remains of the timber jetty (left) and tramway (right) at Curraaghduff

of the Clonsast Bog between Portarlinton and Monasterevin. He set up a most unique business there employing 200 workers at its peak, making briquettes to sell in Dublin. His company was called Patent Peat Company Ltd. His brother Henry was involved also.

They set up a factory at Derrylea which was self sufficient making their own iron to manufacture their machinery and producing gas from the peat mixed with coal. They used the gas to produce light. They built a village to house workers. The peat was milled on the bog using huge harrows 300 foot wide pulled along on rail tracks by steam engines. It was air dried to 55% water before it was piled in long rows for use in the factory. The factory produced 180 tons of briquettes per week which sold at 10 shillings a ton in Dublin. It was difficult to compete with coal and when the price became higher than coal the company ran into difficulties as it was undercapitalised and experienced technical difficulties with continuity of supply. It was a great shock to the region when the factory closed in the late 1860s. Charles and Henry emigrated to Russia and the to Bilboa in Spain where the were involved in mining. Charles invented an over head wire railway system for mining. He later moved to Florida to grow oranges finally returning to England where he died aged 68 in 1901. Some of the machinery that he invented can be seen at the Bord Na Mona museum.



Currarevagh House

Currarevagh started keeping paying guests in the 1890s.

After the civil war in the 1920's large estates were broken up to be divided amongst tenants. Landlords were assured they would get 5 shillings an acre. This was never honoured and Currarevagh had to

depend on the paying guests for income. An attempt to blow up the house by 'out of town' Free Staters was discovered and the explosive made safe. After that members of the local IRA kept guard saying Currarevagh was not to be touched. The Hodgson family whom were not absentee were kind landlords during the famine years helping to alleviate the suffering at that time. A famine graveyard exists at Faughnakilla on their lands beside the family's own Protestant consecrated grounds.

Times were very difficult during the Second World War. The contents of the old house at Currarevagh were sold off. It was later pulled down.

In 1947 Currarevagh was the first country house to open as a restaurant and continues in the family to this day.

Harry Hodgson and his wife June and their son Henry and his wife Lucy and their children, Holly and Faye, live there at present.

The Glann cemetery at Faughnakilla (shelf of land with a church or burial ground) is in this townland as is St. Cutberts Well once called Tobercullier or St. Callin's Well. According to John O Donovan Field Notes St Callin's Well is the true name of the well.

St. Cuthbert (634-687) of Lindisfarne in Northumbria was an Anglo Saxon monk and Bishop. His tomb is to be found in Durham Cathedral. He is venerated by the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion and Eastern Orthodox Church. The Hodgson family originated in this part of north Eastern England.

BAURNAGURTHEENEY

Barr Na Goirtini, Top of the small fields

Area 728 acres

This large townland lies west of Newvillage, also on the Glann hill with commanding views of the Lake and surrounding area. The land is largely hill type with pockets of good arable meadows. The upper area is commonage with some afforestation.

In 1641 the land in this area was lorded over by a Thady McDonogh.

In the 1850s at the time of Griffiths valuation the proprietor was Thomas B. Martin Esq. of Ballinahinch. The land was described as good free of stone. It is

mountainous but dry, containing 723½ acres with 120 under tillage and pasture, 5¼ water and the remainder mountain pasture. There is a Triangulation Station at Knockaunirla (Crucaunurla), Hill of the Eagle. So there were eagles in Glann. Edmund King of Farravaun (Eamonns grandfather) used to say that he saw an eagle, describing it as “the size of an ass.”

Lochseecon (Loch suidhe Con—Lake of the seat of Con) is a small lake 6½ acres on the hill on the south side of Baurmagorteeny. There is also an area called Laragaree (Learg a Righ) The King’s Hillside.

The Lessor of the land at this time was Henry Hodgson. The families living there were Bartholomew Burke, Patrick Clancy, John Clancy, Peter and William Clancy, Comyn McDonagh, William Kelly, Coleman Mullen, Thomas Conry, James Early. and James McDonagh, farming 122 acres. The rent was generally £4.10s .0d for the land and around 5 shillings on the houses and more if you had a shed or out house of any kind, described as an office

The families here in the 1911 census are McDonagh (Cummin & Bridget), McDonagh John, Clancy (John & Margaret), Connor (Martin & Mary), McDonagh (James & Mary), Clancy (Michael & Sarah) Feeney (Bridget) Feeney (Patrick & Bridget) Kelly (James & Bridget) Jordan (Peter & Mary Anne)

At the time of the 1911 census there was 10 families resident in Baurmagurtheeney with 48 people living there. There was 20 males and 28 females.

CLANCY, JOHN AND MARGARET had nine people living in their house. John Clancy (Johnny Billy) married a lady called Margaret Burke from Drimnahoan.



Johnny Billy Clancy

They had 11 daughters and 1 son. Three of these children William, Julia and Sabina died shortly after birth. The other nine daughters were called Mary, Margaret, Helen, Bridget, Catherine, Barbra, Ann, Nora and Teresa left for America and settled there. Some of these girls never returned to their home again but in years gone by their children and grand children returned to visit their many relations in Glann and Baurisheen. Teresa’s only son (Lutz built and still operates a private hospital in New Jersey. One of Johnny Billy’s great-grandsons lost his life in the World Trade Centre. Margaret Burke died in 1911 and Johnny Billy re-married Bridget Lydon from Curraduff in 1912/1913. They had four daughters and two sons, some of whom lived locally and are well known to us all.



John and Bridie Clancy

John married Bridie McDonagh from Gurthrulla in Glann and Bridie still lives in their home house to day. Rita McGauley, Baurisheen, and Julia Carrol, Derrymoyle. Paddy and Marion moved and settled in England and Christina in America. Bridie’s grandfather Paddy McDonagh(Dick) married a lady called Mary Burke, Johnny Billy’s sister-in-law from his first marriage. So when John’s step-sisters and families returned to visit John they were also related to Bridie but John and Bridie were only related through marriage! The old Clancy home is now where John Clancys shed s are today.

MCDONAGH, CUMMIN AND BRIDGET had six people resident in their house. Their house is now where Nancy and Bill Kilbanes is. To distinguish them from the other McDonagh family they were known as the Cummins’s. They had three children as