

far as we are aware Mary, Michael and Ann. Mary Cummins was a national school teacher and taught in Gleanicmurrin in Connemara and in Collinamuc national school. She then moved to Derrymoyle. She was a cousin of Martin McDonagh (Sean) and was cared for by Nellie and Martin in her final years. Michael Cummins married Tom Kellys sister Mary from Baurnagurtheeney they had two children Nonnie and Mary Bridget. Nonnie married Eddie Murray in Ardnasella and died in childbirth. As far as we are aware Ann Cummins lived in Derrymoyle. They are all buried in Glann cemetery. Michael Cummins sold his residence in Baurnagurtheeney to a gentleman called Joe Grealish from Rosmuc. He was a man who kept Connemara ponies on his farm, in 1948 he sold the farm on to the Joyce family and he moved to America. Paddy Joyce still lives in Baurnagurtheeney and in recent years he sold his farm to Mary Maughan from Mayo.



Martin and Nelly McDonagh

MCDONAGH JOHN There were eight residents in that house. That house was in the wood between John Clancy's sheds and Nellie McDonagh's house. The same gate was used to enter both houses—Clancys and McDonaghs. Those McDonaghs were known as the Seans as John and Cummin (above) were brothers. Pat McDonagh (Sean) was one of the

eight residents in the house. He like Johnny Billy was married twice. His first wife was Bridget Waters from Lochaen Beag in Spiddal who he married in 1901. They had three children Mary, John and Pat who like many more of the time emigrated to America. John never returned and never knew his step brothers and sisters but many of his children visited the village over the years. Pat's second wife was Sarah Coneely from Derrynea. They had ten children. Three of this children Bridget, Sarah and Nancy died shortly after birth. The rest of the family except Martin emigrated. Pete and Peg went to America whilst Joe, Mick, Jane and Cummin went to England. The first McDonagh of this family was Michael McDonagh who was on the run from the British in Sligo during the uprising of 1798, he was hidden by a widow in Clareville, Oughterard whose daughter he married. Pat Sean had a sister Annie who married Matt Mullins from Shanavaugh Glann. Descendants of this family have also returned over the years.

FEENEY, BRIDGET and PATRICK had seven residents in their house at the time of the 1911 census.



Patrick Feeney

One of their sons John Joseph left for the USA in 1914 aged 20 on the boat Cymric. He was in the American Navy from 1917-1919. Their daughter born in 1888 went to Boston in 1907. Their other daughter Margaret also went to America. She married Micheal Molloy (Pa) Baurisheen and lived in Baurisheen. Bridget and Patrick's daughter Bridget never married and lived on the farm now owned by her niece Nora who married Stephen John Tierney from Derrymoyle. They have five children in family, Tony, Mary, Peter, John and Patti. The old house is now in ruins beside Tierney's sheds.



Stephen John Tierney

Stephen John was a great historian and story teller and loved to engage in conversation with neighbours and passing visitors to the area as he daily wandered over the road to herd his cattle on the farm. He was a very well read man and a tidy farmer with a great sense of pride and passion for the old farming traditions, many of which he felt would be lost forever. His great gift was for water divining and worked for a period with a company from Limerick locating wells. He had great power in his left hand but could never explain where this gift came from. He used sally or hazel rods which would point to the location of a well as he walked over the ground. Many of the wells divined by Stephen John are still used today.

FEENEY, BRIDGET. There were three resident in that house at the time of the census. That house was where Paddy Joyce's sheds now stand. They had two sons Jack and Martin. Jack Feeney married one of Tommy Hallorans (Ballygally, Glann) sisters Margaret. They had five children, one of them Josephine Feeney is still living in Barna. Jack Feeney's son John sold the farm to Paddy Joyce in the 1950s.

CLANCY, MICHAEL and SARAH. There were four residents in that house. They were also known as the Paddies. One of the people in that house was referred to as the Mickleen. Their house was back from where Paddy Molloy's sheds are today. They sold this land to Michael Feeney who then sold it on to Stephen Molloy which is now being farmed by his son Paddy.

CONNOR, MARTIN and MARY. There were 3 resident in this house at the time of the census. All that is known of this family is that a man called Jamsey O Connor sold this residence to Stephen Molloy in 1945 for £100. Stephen Molloy came from Inis Treabhair and his wife Bridget Nee from Rosmuc came to Bournagurtheeney around 1945. They had seven children, Mary Ann went to America, Bridget Margaret and Tommy went to England. Stephen and Gerry live in Killanin and Paddy still farms the land and has built a second house on the holding.



Bridget Molloy with daughters Breege, Mary and Margaret



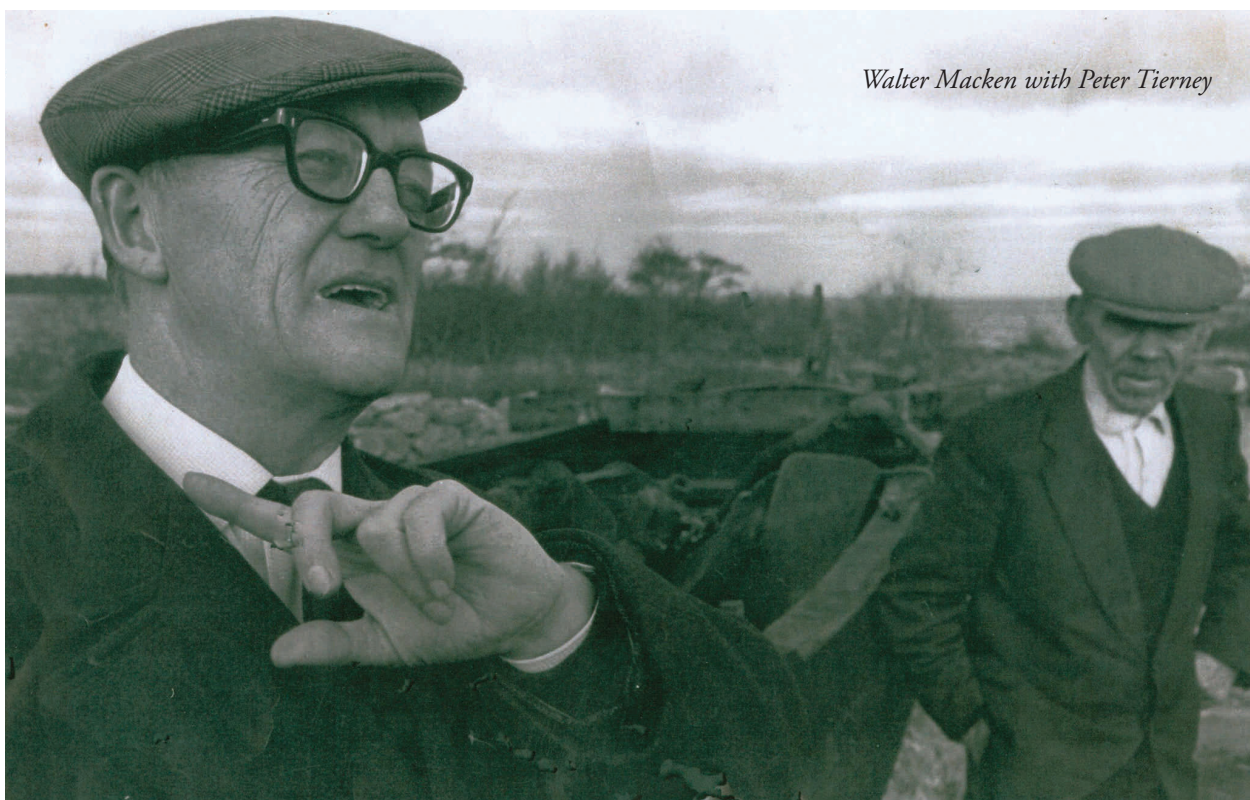
Stephen Molloy with Granddaughter

KELLY, JAMES and BRIDGET. Four resident in this house at the time of the census. Another daughter Mary is believed to be married up the village to Michael Cummins. Joe emigrated to America and Thomas known as Tom sold the residence to Mattie Mons, this is the location of the well known landmark Mayfly Cottage also known as "Toms". Mattie Mons sold it to a Dutch couple, Joseph and Rita Kentigen in

the 1960s. During the time they owned the property they won many an All Ireland prize for their beautiful garden. This has been sold on, on numerous occasions and it is now owned by John and Olive O'Neill. It was once the "Wash House" for Currarevagh where all the laundry was done.

JORDAN, PETER AND MARY ANN. Two resident in this house at the time of census. It is believed that they were care takers for Henry Dudley Hodgson who built the house. (grandfather of Harry Hodgson Currarevagh.) This is the house that the well known author Walter Macken who bought in 1951 from a lady called Countess Metaxa. She was of Anglo Irish descent, a sister of Anketel Jones, of the Jones of 'Jones Island'. She married a Polish Count. Ruth was her name. It was then known as Gortnaganiv (Sand field). It is believed Walter paid £3000 for the house.

He and his family lived there from 1951-1966 and in that house he wrote many of his novels, plays and short stories such as *The Bogman*, *Sullivan* and *Sunset on the Windowpanes* and his last novel *Brown Lord of the Mountain*. It was in this that he describes a wedding that was a description of Martin and Nellie McDonagh's wedding, which he had attended in 1962. Walter Macken died in 1967 aged 51. The property was sold on to a Michael and Della Callaghan in 1969. They used this house as a summer



Walter Macken with Peter Tierney

home and returned there for five to six months every year from The Bronx in New York. This house was then bought in 1993 by John and Bridget Morley on their return from New York where they still live and have reared their family.

The house next door to the north 'Corin Cottage' was built for Countess Metaxa also. Tommy Halloran was the builder in 1959. Finances ran out and it was sold to a man by the name of Kidd in 1950.

MCDONAGH, JAMES AND MARY. There was two resident in this house. All we know of this family is that they were brother and sister. Unfortunately nobody has any recollection of them or know where their house is.

Another family that also lived in Bournagurtheeney but that is not mentioned in the census was the MULLINS family. They lived where Eamonn King's land is now. Edward King married Margaret Mullins. We also know that Margaret's brother married Tom Joyces sister from Shanavaugh.

At the time of the 1911 census there was 10 houses in Bournagurtheeney with 48 people living there. Now in 2010 there are 20 houses and 28 people living there on a permanent basis. That tells a story.

1. NEIL MARTIN HOLIDAY HOME
2. PADDY JOYCE WITH 1 RESIDENT
3. MARY GERARD AND JOHN PAUL MAUGHAN WITH 3 RESIDENT
4. BILL AND NANCY GILBANE HOLIDAY HOME
5. SILVIA SLEIG B&B WITH 1 RESIDENT
6. VERENA BRETCHER HOLIDAY HOME
7. JOHN AND MARION AND ORLA CLANCY WITH 3 RESIDENT
8. EUGENE AND CIARA BOYCE WITH 2 RESIDENT
9. BRIDIE CLANCY WITH 1 RESIDENT
10. NELLIE MCDONAGH WITH 1 RESIDENT
11. PADDY MOLLOY
12. PADDY MOLLOY
13. PJ MCDONAGH WITH 1 RESIDENT
14. NORMAN AND ARLENE WOLFF WITH 2 RESIDENT
15. PHILIP AND ANN O GORMAN WITH 2 RESIDENT

16. KEVIN, ELIZABETH, EVAN AND LILY MCINTYRE
17. NORA, MARY, TONY, JOHN AND PETER TIERNEY WITH 5 RESIDENT
18. JOHN, BRIDGET, ANNA AND DEVAN MORLEY WITH 4 RESIDENT
19. JOHN AND OLIVE O NEILL HOLIDAY HOME
20. DAVID AND MIRIAM O REILLY CORIN COTTAGE.

The most recent addition to the community is Lily McIntyre born on Thursday 24th November. Her proud Mam and Dad, Elizabeth and Kevin, and her brother, Evan, moved to their new house in Bournagurtheeney.

Baroness McDonagh

With his twin, Martin, our dad Cumin McDonagh, was born in Bournagurtheeney, Oughterard on 5th February 1924. He was born into a world only the few of us but the very oldest can really understand. His generation saw the greatest social and economic change that will only ever be witnessed again by the developing world. One without electricity, running water, bathrooms and toilets and TV and telephone.

A family where children were born to emigrate. The first half of his family sailed to the States – first settling in the Bronx before moving out to the farming lands of Oregon and California. The next half to London where they all met and married happily. And one – like many West of Ireland families of their generation – stayed in the family home. Despite distance all stayed in touch and shared over the years each other's tragedies and joy.

In 1947 at the age of 23 our dad took a boat to Liverpool to make a life for himself. Rather than follow his older brothers – Joe, Michael and Peter into the army – he enlisted as a 'Bevan Boy' and went down the mines. First in Durham and then in the coalmines of Leicestershire. Our dad was soon given the well-paid job of dynamiting the coalfaces, which he put down to being a fast runner. But before long we realised it was due to his obsessional eye for organisation and detail. When his time was up he moved down to London to live with his sister Jane and her husband Arthur over St Mary's Church Hall in Clapham.

His childhood friend Tom Molloy soon came calling and the pair would seek out the best Irish