



Breda, Margaret, Cummin and Siobhan (MP) McDonagh

dances in South London. We believe if it wasn't for Tom our shy dad would never have picked up the courage to ask a pretty nurse from Carlow to dance. From that night onwards our dad's life changed and he believed everything good in life was due to her drive and fearlessness. Soon after marriage mum and dad settled in Colliers Wood where they lived in great contentment for 56 years. There happiness was sealed with the birth of their two children Siobhain and Margaret. The only thing now missing was a local church so like Glann local parishioners got together and worked out a plan to raise the money. St Joseph's Church, Colliers Wood was opened in 1966 six years after Our Lady of the Valley Church.

Not one for talking much to those outside his family dad took a list of all the local Catholic community and wrote them into a big book. Each Sunday after mass he would take his daughters 'door to door' to collect his neighbours weekly pledge. We believe this early introduction into door to door canvassing laid the basis for two successful political careers.

Unlike many of our friends we were lucky to spend

hours and hours with our dad growing up. There were three in our gang as we watched films, listened to music and shared his love of sightseeing, reading, concerts and sport of any kind especially football. Later in life we responded in kind and whenever he could dad came with us.

Our dad loved everything but most of all he loved progress. He wanted to look forward and never back. Dad never complained or felt bitter that in another life he'd have more opportunity. But for us he wanted more and saw education as the route to achieving it – and boy didn't we know it! Each night we faced a grilling on homework and on the 3rd or 4th night of denial he would hit the table and roar "it's the pickle factory for you and then where will you be." It was our mid teens before we realised that the 'pickle factory' was a state of mind and not a real place!

But for all his modern outlook dad loved going home. We thought it odd that he'd love to go back to Glann and Carlow to rise early to make hay. When in London he needed three alarm clocks strategically placed around his bedroom so he'd never miss the

5.30am call. Later in life he had many happy holidays and memories of Glann Church when he went to the weddings of his nieces Kathleen and Mary Teresa. His last trip was sadder as it was to the funeral of his twin brother Martin on 13th May 2002.

Our dad worked hard on building sites until the age of 70 to put us both through our various university degrees. He loved it in 1982 at the age of 21 yrs when Siobhan was the youngest councillor to be elected. By 1997 he was retired when she was elected as an MP and had been able to spend everyday leafleting door-to-door and travelling on the lorry supervising younger men in displaying large election posters. As the years went by dad could do less physical work but would continue to stuff thousands of envelopes and never missed a fundraising dinner. Dad also loved Margaret's achievements in organising both Labour's landslide General Election victories of 1997 and 2001 for the British Labour Party and was delighted and worried in equal measure when she became it's first woman General Secretary. Dad confided to Nell McDonagh, his sister-in-law who had travelled to London for the occasion, that the day Margaret was introduced into the House of Lords in 2004 was one of his best. Dad found himself in the unusual position of being the only man to ever have a daughter in each of Britain's two Houses of Parliament.

Sadly Cumin McDonagh died at home on 15th November 2006 in the presence of his wife and two daughters – just the way he wanted it.

BALLYGALLY

Baile an Ghallaigh, Village of the Gaul.

Area 420 acres

This large townland lies south of Currarevagh running onto the hill bordering Barnagorteeny to the east and Gowlaun to the west. The land is mixed with pockets of good arable land and some state forest and commonage on the upper hill.

It was lorded over in 1641 by one Thady McDonogh.

At the time of Griffiths valuation in the 1850s the Proprietor was Thomas B. Martin Esq. of Ballinahinch. Henry Hodgson was the Lessor of the land. The land is described as not good, free

from stone and very swampy containing 420 acres, 200 of which is under tillage and pasture with the remainder mainly pasture with a few parts of heathy and rough pasture and a small portion of bog towards its northern extremity. A bye road passes through it to the south. There is also an old fort close to its southern boundary. This is above Hynes' house. Hynes' was known as Lios(liss).

There is an area called Sligagh (Shelly land or a small area between two hills), near its boundary with the lake at Kitts Bay west of Currarevagh. Dick Halloran owns this area now. The hillock behind Matt Mon's house is known as Cnoc Fitchell.

The families living here then in the 1850s were Henry McGauley, Patrick Welsh, Patrick McDonagh, Bart. McGauley, Michael Canavan, Hugh McDonagh, Thomas Burke, Michael Sullivan, Martin Sullivan, and Margaret Rabbit who had a house and garden.

In 1911 there were 8 families living in the townland of Ballygally. Catherine Sullivan a widow aged 80 lived in house no.1. Anthony Canavan and his wife Mary and their 8 children, Bridget, John, Kate, Mary, Celia, Patrick, Anthony and Michael aged 1. Annie and Barbara were born later. Barbara is still alive in the USA. Annie died spring 2011

Bridget Sullivan a widow and her sister Mary lived at house no. 3.

The residents at house no. 4 were the Hallorans, Patrick and Mary and their 5 children, Martin, Thomas, Kate, Philip and Mary. The Hallorans originally came from Glantreig.

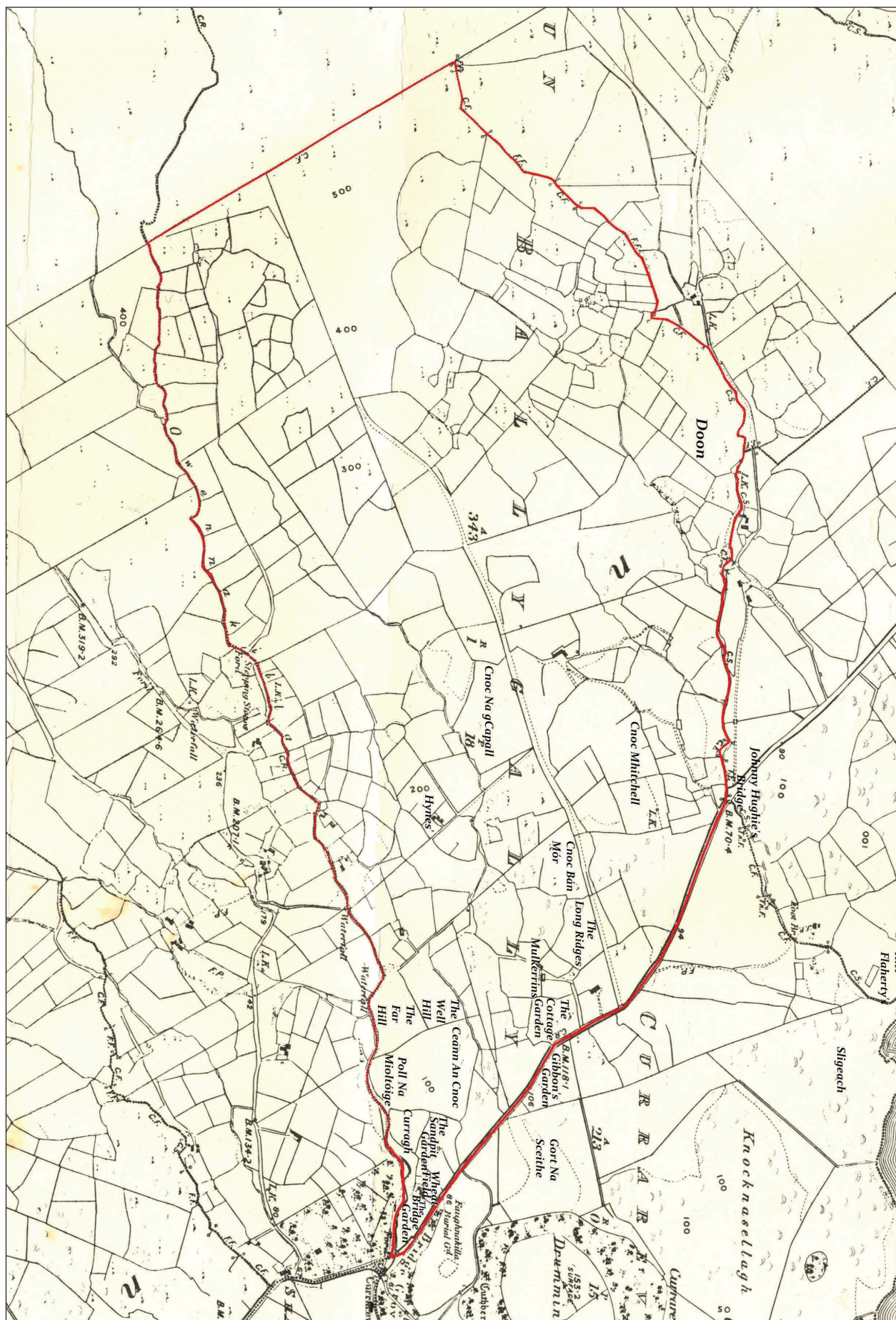
The residents at house no. 5 were the Mons family, Matthew and his wife Margaret and five of their children, Catherine, Bridget, Patrick, John and Ellen. They had three other children, Michael who was the eldest, Margaret and Maria. The Mons family came to the area as Rate collectors for the Martins of Ross

The residents of house no.6 were the Hynes: Patrick and his wife Mary and three of their children Terence, Margaret, and Michael. They had three other children Pat Martin and Stephen.

The residents of house no. 7 were the McDonagh family, Michael and his wife Bridget, and their 3 children Hughbert, Mary and Nora.

The eighth household was that of Denis Sullivan, not married at the time. He was a relation to Denny Sullivan, the famous footballer from Oughterard.

The families here in the sixties were Halloran and Hynes and Mons and Canavans.

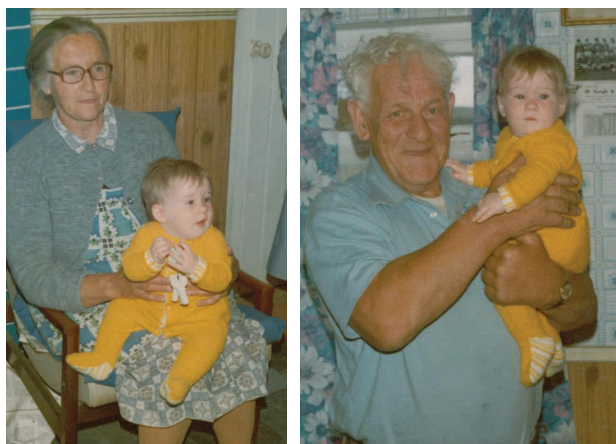




Tommy and Margaret Halloran

Tommy and his wife Margaret lived on their own as all the family had emigrated. Dick their son returned to mind them as they got older.

Michael Canavan and his wife Delia (Connelly) who was from Furbo lived with their daughter Mary. Tony worked in England and Bridie who was a Nun worked in Africa on the missions. When Mick got married he built a new home in Gurterwulla on his part of the land that was striped and divided in Gorterwulla by the Land Commission in the 1930s. There was a grant of £160 given to anyone who wished to build a house at that time. Trees were also given to plant for shelter.



Delia and Mick Canavan

Paddy Mons and his wife Maggie Walsh lived at the home with Matt and Jackie. Jackie married Mary D'Arcy from Moycullen and built a new home and boat building work shop farther west along the Glann road. (See article on Fishing).



Paddy and Maggie Mons

Matt married Mary Rose O Sullivan and built a home at "Kelly's farm" near Dick Halloran's.

Mickey Reilly, who was an orphan, came to work with the Hynes family.



Mickey in action with Sean T. Kelly, Mockey Geoghegan and Ann Sullivan, musicians.

Mickey Reilly was a very short man with an unusual accent when he spoke. He was a great character and loved a bit joviality and crack. On St. Stephens Day he and a few of the local musicians, entertainers and singers would dress-up and form a travelling band going from house to house. They were Michael Kelly, Sean T. Kelly, Eamon King, James Sullivan and of course Mickey. They played, sang, danced and recited all to howls of laughter and applause. Mickey used to dance and he had a favourite recitation.

*Love is such a funny thing
it catches the young and the old
It's just like a plate of boarding house hash,
many a man it has sold
It makes you feel like a fresh water eel.
It causes your head to swell,
You loose your mind for love is blind
And it empties your pocket book as well.
When a man is gone on a pretty little gal
He speaks as gentle as a dove,
He calls her honey and spends all his money
For to show that he is solid in love.
But when his money is all gone
and his clothes in hock
He finds the old saying it is true
"that a mole on an arm is worth two on
a leg, but what is he going to do.
When married folks have lots of cash,
their love it is fine and strong
But when they have to feed on hash
their love don't last so long
With a cross-eyed baby on each knee,
and a wife with a plaster on her nose
You'll find true love don't run so smooth,
when you have to wear second hand clothes.
So boys keep away from the gals I say
and don't be in a hurry to wed,
For you'll find when your wed,
they'll bang you till your dead,
With a bald-headed end of a broom.*

At the present time there are 11 houses in Ballygally: Mons old house, Jackie Mons, Dick Halloran, Amber and Paul Walsh Olsen (Howard Browns), 4 Canavan Girls, Hynes (now a holiday home), Matt Mons and Tony Canavan.

GOWLAUN

An Gabhlan, The forked area.

Area 275 acres.

This large townland lies west of Ballygally on the Glann hill bordering Farravaun and Curraghduff East to the west. The land in the upper area is mainly open mountainous type with good arable meadows with fine examples of superb field stone walls.

In 1641 the area was lorded over by Thady McDonogh.

At the time of the Griffiths valuation in the 1850s the proprietor was Thomas B. Martin Esq. of Ballinahinch. The Lessor was Henry Hodgson. The land was described as very wet and mountainous, containing 275 acres with about 40 acres arable, the remainder rocky and mountainous pasture together with a small portion of bog at its northern extremity.

In the 1850s the only family that lived in Gowlan was that of Michael Corcoran. Henry Hodgson was the landlord or Lessor of the land. Many of the people who rented in Gorterwulla had land rented in Gowlan also. The holdings seem to have been small. Michael Corcoran rent was 15 shillings with the other rents at 7 shillings.

Some of Michael Corcoran's family lived there in the late 1880s—Pat and Annie Corcoran and their sister. Pat emigrated and joined the Police in Liverpool. He married a Sullivan girl from Glann. Patsy Joyce's grandfather Martin bought the Corcoran lands for £100 and the set up home in Gowlaun. The Joyces were always great stone wall builders. It is a testament to their skill that the wonderful walls erected many years ago are standing tall and straight to this day.



At the time 1911 census there was one family living in Gowlaun, Martin and Anne Joyce and their children: Anne, Patrick, Nora, Thomas, John and Bridget. They had five other children Kate, Winifred and Honour Michael and Stephen. Thomas stayed at home and married Julia Thornton from Cornamona.