



Mark and Mary Canavan

The house of the next family in Gorterwulla is no longer there but at the time was occupied by Michael McDonagh (Mickey Edward) and his wife Anne. When Micheal died Anne re-married another McDonagh man named Pat (Pateen Eamon). Pateen was from Oughterard. He was a soldier in the free state army. There is a story told that he saved the life of a young teacher named John Donnellan from Oughterard who had been captured on suspicion of carrying information. Pateen recognised him and said he was sound and to release him. Pateens first wife Anne also died a young woman. Pat remarried Barbara O Donnell. They had five children, Ned, Sis, Joe, Nora and Colman.

Ned married Nancy Kelly (Baurisheen). They have two in family P.J. and May.



Ned and Nancy McDonagh

Further down the Gurterwulla road is another McDonagh family. Richard McDonagh. He was

married to Maire de Burca from Maghera. He died leaving five children. In 1911 Richard, Michael, Martin and Margaret had left home and Paddy was looking after his mother and the farm. Michael returned later to live in Newvillage. His daughter Josie married Johnny O Connor from Newvillage and lives there to this day. Richard and Margaret went to the US and Martin went to Canada to be never heard of again.

Paddy married Ann Joyce from Gowlaun. They had 9 children, Joe, Mary, Bridie, Stephen, Kevin, Dick, Raymond, Brendan and Winnie. Dick married Bidgie Walsh (Raha) and set up home in Gorterwulla. They have 6 in family Ann, Richard, Michael, Mary, Patrick and Brian.

Richard and his wife Eileen (Higgins) and daughter Lisa live in Gurterwulla as does Patrick and Bridgie. Dick sadly passed away before his time.



McDonagh family

Because Gorterwulla has a shore line that contains some of the best fishing waters on Lough Corrib such as Kitts Bay, Snaithdans, Doonavilla and parts of Rineroon Bay. It comes as no surprise that the area gained popularity with anglers from far and wide. This led to some of the wealthier members of society moving west and the number of Holiday homes/ fishing lodges increased rapidly. Today they number 13 in Gurtherulla alone. One of the earliest to be built was by the Holland Family in the early sixties. Ronnie Holland came from London was a regular visitor to Currarevagh Hotel. Their regular boatman was Martin

Molloy (father of Tom). They bought a site off Dick McDonagh and built on it a fine house. They came every year in May and August and for many years were well known and respected as top class anglers. Now the house is owned by Heinz and Christine Skalder, who are keen anglers and spend a lot of the summer there. As time passed many more summer houses were built with the good fishing being the main attraction. These summer homes provided welcome sources of employment in harder times for boatmen, caretakers and down to the Mayfly pickers, many of whom honed their entrepreneurial skills on the shores of the Corrib. NAMA was never an issue either in those days. Some of the earlier anglers were from England but then as the economic situation improved more Irish people moved to the West. Names like De Burgh, McGrath, Bartons, McCoys, Donoghues, Leonards (the “shack”) and many more. Now there are 17 full time residents as well as the 13 Summer homes.

There are three other families in Gorterwulla: John, Patricia, Mark and John Kavanagh; Mark, Maura and Mark Molloy and Tony, Tina, Jake, Simon, Anthony and Aaron Dixon. Tony and Tina Dixon live in the house overlooking Kitts Bay.

ANNAGH BEG

Small peninsula

Area 51 acres

This small townland as the name describes is the peninsula that runs east west forming the north shore of Kitts Bay. It is a dry piece of sandy land. The most easterly part is covered with natural deciduous wood. It is home to several holiday houses.

In 1641 it was part of the lands of the Earl of Clonrickard.

At the time of Griffiths valuation it was part of the Estate of Henry Hodgson

The valuation placed on a house office and lands was £11.0.0 for the land and £0.10.0 on the house and office. (office was usually some kind of shed) the man there was known as Colman.

This house according to the historic map of 1824 was in Richard McDonagh’s field just behind Heinz Staddlers Holiday home on the lake shore. This area is changed to Gorterwulla townland in the 1880s map.

Interestingly the townland boundary was changed. It also shows a Triangulation Point of 86 feet at a point south side of the peninsula overlooking Kitt’s Bay. Dunnavilla Island (*Dun a’Bhile*—Fort of the old tree) is part of Annagh Beg townland, as is Snahadaun Island (*Snathadan*).

There are 4 houses in Annagh Beg: Fidelma Clarke; McGrath’s/Barton’s (holiday home); Coleman Lynch (holiday home) and Seán and Angela Donnelly.



What a catch!



What a beauty!