

*out from between the bushes
as I approach the Senior School, hoping the students
will have parked their L-plate cars and motor-bikes
before I get there.
I wiggle across the uphill twisted bridge weaving between
Bus Eireann and the giant JCB's
engaged in knocking down the convent
– (thus making room for twelve luxury apartments) –
and the panting euro lorries
pounding their way to Connemara.
At last I reach the newsagent and gather up my paper –
'Isn't the Dublin traffic terrible?' they say 'Your so much
safer in the country'.*

If one takes either of the newly constructed gravel roads built by Eamonn King you come across the stone ruins of two old adjacent houses nestling in the shelter of the raised fields facing south. The first was last occupied by Tom and Mary Joyce—a brother and sister. In the other was their brother Matt who married Julia Walsh from Dooras. They were the parents of Mick and Thomas, John, Mary, and Patrick. They built the house which Mick and Thomas later renovated.

Julia died in 1944. She was the last person from Glann to be buried on Inchagoill. The day of the funeral was cold, wet and squally. Walter Butler's Púcan brought the coffin to the island and a cortège of boats followed. The sail on the Púcan was torn, but Walter and Christy managed to bring it back to Currarevagh after the burial and that was its last resting place. Sadly her son John had a cold on the day and developed pneumonia. He died as a result and at his own request is buried in Faughnacille.

The previous occupants of Tom and Mary Joyce's house were the family of Willian Allen mentioned above. The adjoining house to the west was occupied by John Sullivan. Tom Joyce's nick-name was 'Jingles' and to this day the point on the lake to the north of their home is known as Jingles Point. It used to be a 'deadly' place for a salmon.

Just a last little picture of Rinneroon. When Matt and Julia's family were in their teens and early twenties John was a great organiser. The fields were fairly flat and extensive and he organised Pony races Sports and bicycle races on a regular basis.

FARRAVAUN

Fear Bhan White Grass or white lea.

Area 232 acres

Farravaun one of the bigger townlands is centrally located lying west of Rineroon and Gorterwulla with the Owen na Raha river forming its western boundary with Curraghduff and Gort na Shingaun. The land is mostly dry arable with a lot of stone walls forming the field boundaries. Glann School is located here as is Cnoc na Raha (Rath Hill) the *Ringfort* with its commanding views of the lake and surrounding countryside.

At the time of James 1 in 1641 Farravaun was lorded over by Owen McDaniell.

In the 1850s at the time of Griffiths valuation Robert Martin Esq. of Ross was the Proprietor. The land was described as *very bad and stony, containing 232 acres, all arable with the exception of 60 acres of bog and rough pasture. A bye road passes through it to the south east.*

The Lessor of the land then was William Downes Griffith. He was a brother of Richard Griffith of land valuation fame. He was a Judge of the county courts and author of the Laws on Bankruptcy.

Five families rented land in Farravaun at this time. Andrew Joyce had land at the lake side of Farravaun. It is still known as Joyces land. Eamon King farms it now. The rates then were £7.5.0 for the land and house.

Mathias Clancy had two parts of land, the area that today is Paddy Clancy's, Peter Clancy's and McGloin's Rath-hill. The rent was £17.10.0 for a house and the land. The house was located close to where Glann House is today

Stephen Sullivan farmed in Farravaun paying rent of £2.10.0.

Michael Sullivan farmed a large area on the east side of the townland, that farmed by Kevin Clancy today. The rent then was £6.10.0 for the land and 10 shillings for the house.

Michael Sullivan and Patrick Keeler farmed the southern Part of Farravaun at this time, paying £3.15.0 each for their houses and land.

According to the 1911 census there were nine families residing in Farravaun, with 51 persons in total. There were three Clancy households, all descended from Mathias mentioned above and his wife Mary Creaven

who arrived from Galway about 1800. They had three sons Patrick, William and James.

Patrick (Pat) married Mary Sullivan. They had two sons and one daughter. Patrick, Mathias and Margaret. Patrick married Mary King and had four sons John, Edward, Michael and Peter and three daughters Catherine, Margaret and Breege. Margaret married Sgt. Joe Morrissey. Their home was where Breege Clancy's house is.



Peter and Cassie Clancy

William married Biddie O Toole. They had four sons, one was called Matt. Matt married Annie Sullivan. They had 3 sons—Paddy, William (Bill) and Cummin and two daughters Mary and Bridget. Their home was at Glann House.



Paddy and Mary Clancy

Paddy married Mary Joyce from Shannwagh. They have five children Patrick, Kevin, Frances, Nora, Ann and Stephen. Paddy and Mary were great business people running a shop from their home in the early days and developing a wonderful farm and fishing guest house (Glann House) where anglers from far and wide were treated to Mary's excellent cooking and Paddy's endearing charm. Paddy also ran a building business employing many of the local trades-men. Paddy is remembered in a poem by Una O Higgins O Malley.



Mary outside Glann House

THE PASSING OF PADDY MATT

*We thought of him as a builder, boatman,
host of the neighbouring guesthouse;
it was only in his passing
we realised the measure of his story-
how from his early youth he had been a cornerstone
an oaktree giving shade to many,
a constant in that lakeshore place
for more than eighty years, a man for whom the
preacher wept
lonely remembering tears.*

Cummin Clancy

Cummin and Maureen

There were, as in most parishes in Ireland, always good athletes in Glann. They completed successfully in the well known county sports fixtures—Ross, Cornamóna, and Seaneaglish to name but a few. Farravaun had and have a good share of them. Perhaps, the most famous is Cummin Clancy.

Born 9th November 1922, Cummin is the youngest and only surviving child of Matt Clancy and Annie Sullivan. (For a fuller account of his achievements see *Connacht Tribune*, Sept. 14th, 2009). Garda Ned Tobin was based in Galway and got to know Cummin. He saw his ability as an athlete, in particular his prowess as