

CURRAGHDUFF MIDDLE

Area 106 acres

This townland lies west of Curraghduff East. It is a long, narrow piece of land west of the Owen na Raha river running to the old mines rail track on the hill. It is mostly mountainous type land.

In 1641 it was part of Bryan O Flaherty's estate. A Captain T.H. O Flaherty was the proprietor at the time of the Griffith valuation. The land then was described as very bad and stony and mountainous. There is a copper mine situated in its southern extremity, also a children's burial ground and an old fort.

Henry Hodgson was the Landlord at the time of the Griffith valuation. A Hugh D'Arcy rented 3 acres of land and a house paying £1.10.0 rent. W.D.Griffith was the lessor of part of the land.



People of Cuggaghduff. Bartley Sullivan, Padhraig Flaherty, John Kelly, Jim Sullivan, Eddie Butler, Nancy Lydon, Mary Clancy, Bridget Flaherty, Delia Butler, Catherine Flaherty.

According to the 1911 census there were three families living there, 18 people in all. Patrick and Anne Lydon whom had 2 children living at home then. They had six in total five daughters (with a set of twins) and one son John whom was father to Frank, Vincent, Nancy and Lucy. Frank farmed it from the late sixties until his death in the eighties. He was a great sheep dog handler. After Frank died his family

who lived in England sold it. Some youngsters from Germany bought it. It was later bought by Roland and Helga Friedel from Berlin. They lived there for a few years while their daughter Dorothea attended university in Galway. Sadly they both got cancer and had to leave their life's long dream. This farm is now farmed by Thomas Walsh from Farravaun.

The second family there in 1911 was Patrick and Bridget Butler whom had 6 children then.

Annie, Patrick, John, Micheal, Bartly and Mary. Kate Thomas and Edward (Eddie) came later. Their son Eddie lived there with his wife Delia (Hynes, Gortmore) and their six daughters Mary, Eileen, Annie, Margaret and Kitty whom are twins and Geraldine. Eddie was good at the building trade and acted as butcher when it came to slaughtering a sheep or pig for the neighbours. Sadly Eddie died a relatively young man. This farm is now owned by Jack McCann who lives at Portacarron House in Oughterard.



Flaherty Family Curraghduff

The third family there was Mary Flaherty with her son Bryan and his wife Mary and their children William and Mary whom were twins and Catherine whom was a baby. Bridget and Padhraig were to come later. Willie and Mary emigrated. Catherine married Michael McDonagh from Farravaun. Padhraig and

Bridget ran the farm at home. Their house was first on the right at the end of the Curraghduff road. Sadly they are all gone now. Willie's children live in America.

At present none of the family homesteads in Curraghduff are occupied.

CURRAGHDUFF

*I did not know what beauty was
'Til I looked from the hills of Curraghduff
At the resting Corrib and its speckled islands
At Glann's end, the Hill of Doon
To count the sheep on the heathery slopes
To feed the horses in the stone walled paddocks
To listen to the flowing water of the mearing stream
As it tumbles to the lake to let the salmon escape
The seasons are toasted and exalted
The colours of nature bloom and are sampled
The call of the cuckoo heralding all is well
The pheasant's cry heard just before its death
A majestic stag appears at dusk
Comes down the hill for better grass
Lets off its mating roar following a doe's scent
Its ancestors have done the same a thousand years before
I lock all this in my memory box
Let it out when the day is dark
When I sit by the fire and salute old friends
And write it all down for the grandchildren*

Jack McCann

BARRATLEVA



Red Deer Stags in Curraghduff

Barr an tSeibhe Top of the mountain.

Area 480 acres

This townland as the name suggests is situated at the top of the mountain above Curraghduff. In the past it was commonage land owned by the Curraghduff people. It is now owned by the state forest Coillte and was planted in the late 1980s and would be the last large scale plantation to happen in the area. It had a fine larch wood at the turn of the last century, situated in the area at its northern boundary above Curraghduff where there is a cliff known as the High Wood. It was harvested and removed by McDonogh Merchants Galway. The timber was traced by horse along the tramway to the Jetty at Curraghduff West for transport to Galway by steamer. In Famine times it would have been populated as the remains of a number of bothains and lazybeds are evident there. Limestone outcrops are evident here also. The landscape here is dotted with the remains of the old copper mines (see also article on Currerevagh) and the track where the tramway carried the ore to the lake runs west along the hill.

Back in 1641 Bryan O Flaherty was the lord in the area.

At the time of Griffiths valuation in the 1830s the proprietor was Thomas B. Martin Esq.. The land was described as *being very soft, wet, swampy and mountainous containing 479¾ acres with about 100 acres arable and ¾ acres water. The remainder mountain pasture and a few patches of bog. There is a spring well situate close to its northern boundary.* Henry Hodgson was the lessor at this time.

There was a herds house and land with valuation of £18.0.0 on the land and £0.10.0 on the house. No name is given for the herdsman.

According to the 1911 census Mary Thornton aged 95 and her son Patrick aged 40 lived here.

No family lived here in the sixties.

CURRAGHDUFF WEST

Area 258 acres

This large townland lies west of Curraghduff Middle and Coosan and runs along the lake shore to Shannawagh. It is mostly covered with native woodland and some state forest.

In 1641 the Earl of Clonrickard was the landlord.



