

Paul's brother Stephen who lived in America all his life published a booklet of some very witty poems.

HOW AN IRISHMAN OUTLIVES ALL THE ANIMALS

*The horse and mule live thirty years
And nothing of wine and beer*

*The goat and sheep at twenty they die
With never a taste of scotch and rye*

*The cow drinks water by the ton
At eighteen years she's almost done*

*The dog at sixteen cashes in without
The aid of rum or gin*

*The cat in milk and water soaks
And in ten short years it croaks*

*The sober modest bone dry hen
Lays eggs for nog then dies at ten*

*The animals are strictly dry
They sin-less live and swiftly die*

*While the sinful ginful Irishman
Survives three score and ten*

*Some of us but mighty few
Stay pickled till we're ninety-two*

CURRAUN BEG

An Corran Beag. The small reaping hook.

Area 149 acres

This hilly townland opposite the Hill of Doon lies west of Shannawagh at a sharp bend in the shoreline known as Leic. The shore line at the Currane townlands opposite the Hill o Doon resembles the shape of a reaping hook hence its name. There is a small lake (Lough Beg) situated at its southern boundary with Currane hill. At the time of James 1 in 1641 this area was granted to Morogh McRory. In the 1850s the Proprietor was Thomas B Martin. The land was described as very stony and mountainous, containing 147¾ acres about ¼ was under tillage and pasture. The remainder is rough mountain and bog including ¼ acre of water. An Edward Archer was the lessor of the land. William Murphy lived in and farmed the whole area at the time. His rent was £6 10.0.

In 1911 at the time of the census there were no residents living in Curraun Beg. Sometime thereafter Philibin's moved there from Curraun more. During the 30s it was also referred to as Maire Seoighe's cottage inferring that such a person may have lived there at some stage

There is a Triangulation mark at 359 feet close to its border with Shannawagh. There are two little Islands off shore in the narrows with Doon called Lackacanue (Lacka camus) East and West. Doon Rock is close by to the west. There was discussion at one time in relation to building a bridge across the Corrib at this point.

It is famous for its views of the Hill of Doon It is also well known for the Round House and the very picturesque thatched cottage.



This cottage, then in ruins, was purchased in 1946 by Mary Bruce Wallace and her daughter Monica and re-built in 1947 in a more northerly location. They named it "Marycot". Mary was born in 1877 into a prosperous middle-class family in Weston-Super-Mare in the UK. She was a mystic and a gifted writer. One of her better known works "The Thinning of the Veil" has been published many times. Her brother Wellesley Tudor Pole was born in 1884 and was to become "undoubtedly one of the greatest sears of his generation." One of the many things he achieved in his varied life was to persuade Churchill, the then Prime Minister of England, to launch what became known as The Big Ben Silent Minute. The idea was for the people of Britain to observe a minute of prayerful silence every evening on the strike of 9pm to help the war effort in a spiritual way. When the chimes rang out, (and they were broadcast) over 10 million people observed the ritual regularly. After the



war when being questioned by British Intelligence, a Nazi Gestappo officer was asked why he thought they had lost the war; he stated “you had a “weapon” we could not counter—your silent minute.

Mary married the Rev. J. Bruce Wallace, M.A., a Presbyterian Minister from Limavaddy whose ministry took him to Dublin and to Salthill where the family settled. It was during this time, on a trip to the Hill o Doon, that they came across the Philibin cottage, purchased it from Tommy Joyce and had it rebuilt, naming it Marycot. Both Mary and Monica, who converted to Catholicism, are buried in Kilcummin cemetery, overlooking their beloved Corrib.

Marycot is now owned by Liam and Deirdre Jordan who run a photography business in Ballinasloe.



Monica Wallace with Liam Jordan

The round house is owned by the Cleary family from Dublin who use it as a holiday home.

There are the remnants of a building south of Leic on high ground which is referred to as Paddy Sheever's.

CURRAUN MORE

Area 94 acres.

This townland is one of the most westerly along the Glann road and is where the public road finishes. Its green sloping meadows run along the shoreline. There are granite cliffs but also some limestone outcrops along its southern boundary with Curraune Hill (see lime kiln on map). There are some splendid views over Lough Corrib from here including the Maam

valley and the Maam Turk Mountains which can be seen to the west. It was part of Morogh McRory estate in 1641. At the time of Griffiths Valuation in the 1850s the proprietor was Arthur French St. George. A Mr. Kennedy was the immediate lessor, while the area was lived in and farmed by a Francis Ray. Rent was £13.10.0.

At the time of the 1911 Census there were two families living in Curraun more, Butlers and Philibins.

In the Philibin household were John, his wife Mary and their daughter Mary. They later moved to Curraun Beg to the place later to become Wallace's (Marycot) and now Jordans. The official census form shows that in the Butler household there was Margaret and her cousin James Tracey (Walter) who was staying there having come over from Cornamona.



The rest of the Butler family, Mary-Ellen, Catherine, Walter, Elizabeth, Tereasa, Christina, Sarah, John, James Elsie and Frank were in Cornamona when the census was taken, where their father and mother Jamsie and Bridgit ran a pub and shop. When James Tracey or Walter's family immigrated to America he stayed on in the Butler household in Cornamona. He later joined the Irish army and was based in Renmore Barracks until he retired shortly before he died in 1970. He had come back to live in Curraune with the Butlers just before his death. He is buried in Glann cemetery.

James joined the priesthood, studied at Mount Melleray Seminary, Waterford and All Hallows College in Dublin before being ordained in June 1932. He then went to Capetown, S Africa. He was appointed chaplain to the army during World War 2