

He came back to Curraune and took over the home-place and had seven in family. They are Margaret, Zita, Walter, Martin, Jim, Ann and Tina. Living in Curraune now is Martin and wife Margaret. They have five in family which are Alan, Phelim, Jamsie, Ina and Liam.

Frank Butler, Walter's youngest brother, who spent a number of years in England came back in the early 40s and took over the house from his parents who went to live with Frank's sister in Prospect Hill, Galway city. He married Mary Hynes from Gortmore, Moycullen and had a family of six boys and one girl. They are Seamus, John, Francis, Walter, Bernadette, Bernard and Gerrard. They sold their house and farm which included Curraune Hill and Cappanalauna in 1961 and moved to Roscahill. Frank's old house as it is known has passed through several owners since then and is presently owned by Tony Duffy from Dublin.

The other house in Curranne More which Walter and Treasa Butler built and lived in for a number of years in the early eighties before moving to Oughterard is now owned by the Donnelly family from Enfield, Co Kildare.



Frank and Mary Butler and their family before leaving Curraune in 1962

CURRAUN HILL

Area 235 acres

This large townland on the top of the hill is largely mountainous. It is afforested and is in the ownership of Coillte, the State Forestry Board that purchased it from Frank Butler around 1960. Patches of trees planted then in sheltered valleys in the townland are being harvested at the moment. This is one to climb if you wish to get a good view of the Hill of Doon, Maam valley and Cornamona.

Curraun Hill was also part of Morogh McRory estate in the early to mid 1600s

In the 1850s the Proprietor was Thomas B. Martin Esq. The land was described as containing 232 acres all mountain except two small patches of arable land.

Edward Archer was the immediate lessor, while it was farmed by William Murphy with a valuation of £2.20.0. There was no dwelling listed in 1911, although there are remains of old village on its boundary with Curraun More.

CAPPANALAUABAUN

Ceapach Na Laura Baine The field of the white foal.

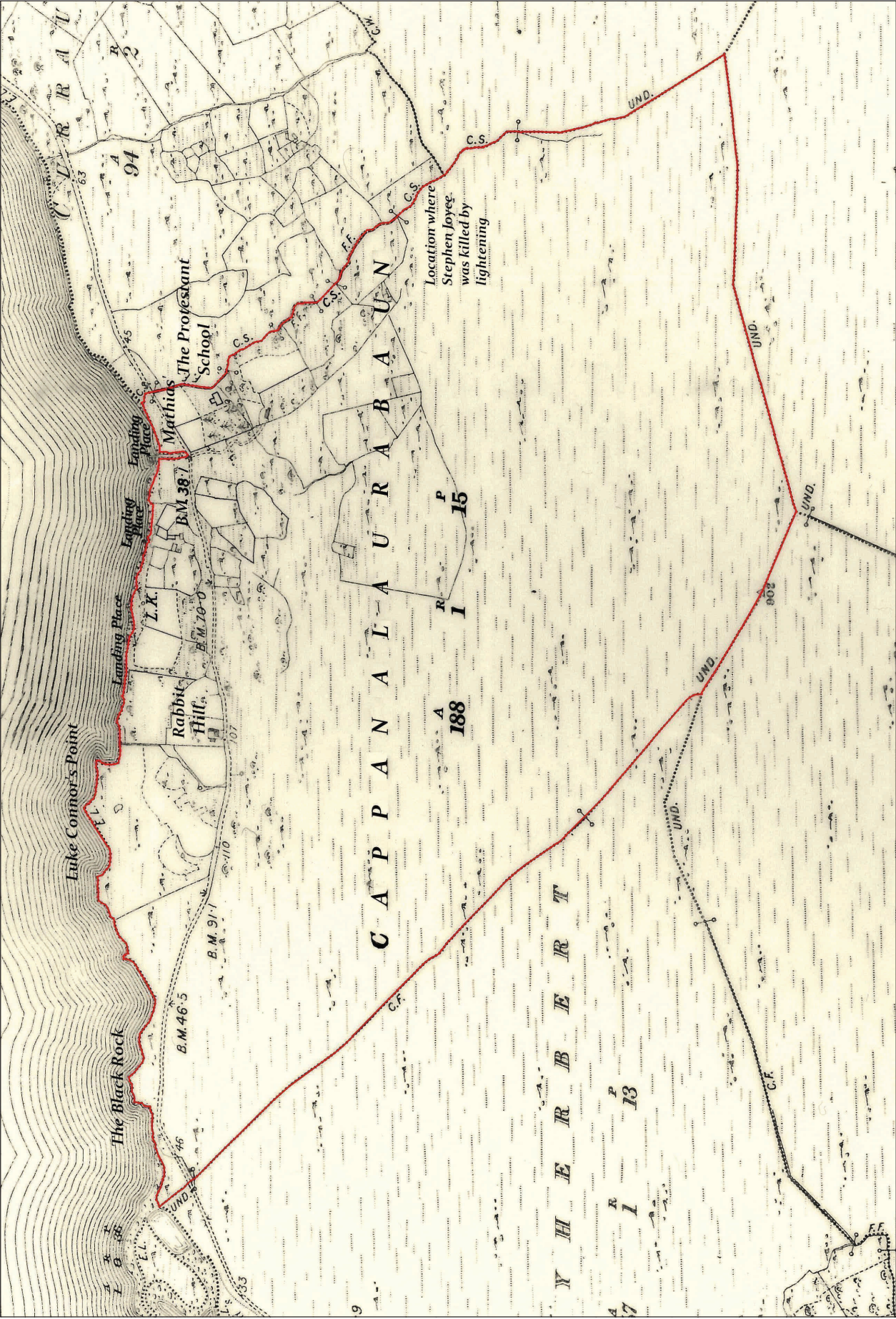
Area 184 acres

This townland is at the most westerly end of the Glann valley, and is the last but by no means the least when it comes to history, for the purposes of this project. It is afforested having been planted in the sixties by the state. It was at that time in 1962 while working on the planting of this area that Stephen Joyce from Gowlan got killed with lightning. The exact place is close to the southern boundary high up where Curraun Hill and Curraun More meet. Some sections have now been harvested.

In the 1640s the land here was granted to an Owen McDonnell.

There is no record available for the 1850s.

At the time of the 1911 census there were two families living here. Luke Connor and his two children Mathias and Ellen. After Luke passed away Mathias and Ellen went to live in Oughterard in a house in Camp Street, opposite McGeough's Butcher shop which is now owned by Pat and Ann Joyce.



Ellen died in 1948 and Mathias died sometime between 1953 and 1956. They are both buried in Church of Ireland grounds Oughterard. The other family was Mathias Connor, presumably a brother of Luke and he lived near the old school on the eastern side of the townland. It is possible that he would have been the caretaker for the school. Around 1922 Jim Murphy of Cornamona acquired Cappanalaureabaun and lived in the house of Luke Connor. This is at the place called the “rabbit hill”! He was married and had one son named Jim who was better known as Bobby to those that remembered him. Bobby’s mother died when he was young and his Father; Jim got married again to Sarah Butler (Walter’s sister). They had three daughters Maris and Angela, who were twins and Phil. Before Phil was born this family had moved to Tullavrick (Where Larry Higgins later lived). They then moved in to 34 Prospect Hill Galway. Before this Bobby went away to England as a stowaway on a ship from Galway docks and could not be traced. His father Jim went to try and find him on a number of occasions but was unsuccessful. On one of these searches in England, Jim developed pneumonia and died. He is buried in Birmingham. In 1990 through Martin Nee from Leenane, Christy Butler made contact with Bobby Murphy who at that stage had spent most of his life as a plasterer in England. Christy went over to meet him and they saw one another for the first time in over sixty years.



*Christy and Bobby meet for the first time
in over sixty years*

They spent a few great days in London “catching-up”. Bobby later came back to Curraune and re-visited his birth-place in Capanalaureabaun in 1996.



Bobby in Cappanalaureabaun 1996

Thereafter he kept in regular touch by phone and letter until he passed away in Dec 2004 aged 88 years. He is buried in Brixton, London. Maris and Angela are both deceased having married and had families. They both lived in Dublin. Phil married and still lives in Canada.

There are the remains of one other house in Cappanalaurea. It is past the school on the right hand side of the road. This was known as Frank’s house.

A ferry operated from Capnalaurea to Doon and all sorts of goods and even horses could be carried on it. This was also used to ferry children from Glann to Castlekirke school in Doon. On the 19th August 1852 the protestant Bishop of Tuam laid the foundation stone for the school in Capnalaureabaun. The piers on respective sides of the lake still exist today.

The ruins of the old school are to be found to the left of the roadway close to the boundary with Curraune more. This was a project undertaken by Mrs Blake of Doon with the help of Rev. Alexander Dallas of the Irish Church Missions. Mrs Blake was the wife of a retired British army Captain who bought Doon house in 1944.



Remains of old school Cappanalaureabaun

The Rev. Alexander Dallas and the Irish Church Missions

The Reverend A. Dallas was an Englishman born in Colchester in 1791. He was an officer in the Napoleonic War before becoming a protestant minister and taking charge of Wonston Parish in 1829.

In 1839 he was invited to Ireland by Anthony Thomas of the Jews Society who had been a missionary in Connemara. He became involved in efforts to convert Catholics to Protestantism. He became acquainted with Captain and Mrs Blake of Doon (Drumsnaugh) who were building a school for girls for teaching scripture. Mrs Blake was coaxing children to school with offers of food (soup) and clothes.

He promised clothes and food and funds to finish the school and in so doing, set up the first of his missions in Connemara.

This was during the famine of 1845-1847 when the people of the area were starving and totally neglected by the state (administered by England) and their own religious. There was no Catholic priest or church in the Oughterard area in the early 1800s.

Dallas saw an opportunity to convert these vulnerable people who had no schooling and were starving by offering them food and clothes and education. In 1846 he decided to send some 20,000 copies of a religious tract to householders throughout the country. This was entitled, "A Voice from Heaven" and was printed in Irish and English. He set about building schools churches and opened soup kitchens. He campaigned amongst the better off for money to fund all of this. This became known as the Castlekerke mission. He saw the Glann area as having "fields white for the harvest". The school at Cappanallaura was also used for religious services.

In 1848, Rev. John O Callaghan was brought to work at Castlekerke. He was a fluent Irish speaker and had been a student at Maynooth. He is said to have been even more zealous than Dallas himself in his work of conversion but sometime after his arrival he had some form of a dispute with Captain Blake over control of funds. O Callaghan was appointed

rector of Kilcummin, Oughterard in 1851 and the bell there bears the following inscription; "Thomas Hodges Founder, Abbey Street, Dublin 1853. Rev'd John O Callaghan, Rector."

Two other schools, one at Ballygally and another in Newvillage (Teach an Mallacht), were built in the Glann area (refer to townlands for their locations). The mission became successful and spread all over Connemara. Youngsters were paid to become scripture readers. Many families sent their children to the schools to avail of the clothes and food. Bitterness and animosity became the norm. Families who jumped became ostracised. Stories of races between protestant ministers and catholic priests to baptise new born children were common.

In Glann, Peter Lydon's grandfather, Thady, who lived near the church, was evicted because a new born child was baptised by the catholic priest. There is a field in Farravaun called Thady's field, where he lived, thanks to a kind neighbour who allowed him build a *Bothain* there until he got his house back.

The Catholic authorities were, needless to say, perplexed by this upsurge of the Irish Church Mission and set about righting the situation with the result that Catholic schools and churches sprang up in the areas affected by the Mission. A sort of religious war raged all over Connemara at the time. Some fairly nasty rivalry developed with verbal and physical onslaughts occurring on both sides. Our church in Glann may have been established as a result of this. A campaign to oust Dallas's mission was waged between 1847 and 1884.

Dallas was no angel, with only one thing in mind, but his Mission fed thousands in Connemara who would have otherwise died and because of his activities a greater focus was placed on the region with the result that people received an education not available elsewhere.

By the time of his death in 1869, Dallas was reputed to have built 21 churches, 49 schools and 4 orphanages, with over 400 full-time workers employed by the Irish Church Missions.

Note: Place name meaning were researched from The Placename Data Base of Ireland, R.W. Joyce LLD. Irish Names of Places and from John O Donovan's Ordnance Field Notes from the 1840s. And all local interpretations were considered.