

CLOONTIA

(Co Mayo)

ITS PEOPLE AND ITS PAST



By Tom Finn

INTRODUCTION

My name is Tom Finn. I am the fifth child of James and Maria Finn nee McGeever. I was their third son, born on the 28th day of April 1919. I am going to record my recollections of all the homes and people I knew in Cloontia in my early years. It is my desire to do this as truthfully and honestly as I can,

Thomas Finn (James) 8/4/1999
My 80th Birthday

CLOONTIA

Cloontia is comprised of four townlands, Dernabruck, Cloonmeen, Killgarriff and Tavenabeg.

TOWNLAND OF DERNABRUCK

Dernabruck is comprised of the five villages: Crowhill, Slievemore, Ballahere, Shanwalla, Derryaraune and Islandmore (which I will explain about later).

Dernabruck is a very long townland almost 3 miles long, with a road running right through with houses on both sides. It is said that Dernabrucks length was from Michael McGeevers (Ciarans in the forest) to Michael Callaghans (thats Pat Michael Forkins) last house in Derryaraune.

CROWHILL

I will start with the village where I was born, Crowhill. My great grandfather was known as Patch Finn. His sister Bridget was Tank Forkins mother. Patch himself was married to a woman from near Charlestown called Doherty. They had a son Seamus, my grandfather. Seamus took over the farm and married Ann (Nancy) Finn, (my grandmother) from Slievemore. She was sister to Jack Finn. They had 8 children Tom, Paddy, Matt, James, Bridget, Ann, Kate and Mary. James my father took over the farm and married Maria McGeever from Slievemore. She was sister of Patrick (Billy) McGeever. They had 7 children. Annie, Kathleen, James, Paddy, Tom (myself), Joe, and Jerry. Paddy married Nell (Slin) Phillips from Cloomeen. Kathleen married Brian (Seamus) McGeever from Ballahere. James, Paddy and Kathleen are now dead. Jerry took over the farm. He married Bridie Durkan from Curry. They have 6 children. Gerald, Joe, Mary, Fiona, Bernadette and Martina. Jerry and Bridle still live there.

There was a shop in Mick Tommie Finns (below) and when it closed one was opened in our house that was in my mothers time.

On one side of our house was a man called Mick Tommie Finn and his wife Catherine nee Forkin from Derryaraune (where Sean Forkin now lives). They had 2 children. I do not remember them. Mick gave the farm to his nephew Tom Jack Finn. He married Mary (Brackley) Phillips Killgarriff, (more about-them later).

On the other side lived old Tom Forkin (Tank). His mother was Bridget Finn my grandfather Seamus's aunt. Tank married Winnie Carney from Islandmore, sister of Thady Carney. Their son Dick (Patrick) took over the farm. His wife was Winnie Forkin, Islandmore. They had 5 children. Paddy, Winnie, Mick, John and Jim. Two more died in infancy. John married Mary Kate (Tom Jack) Finn from Slievemore. Mick then took over the farm. He married Maggie Shiel from Carrantemple. They had 3 children. Pat, Winafred and Mary. Maggie and her Son Pat live in a new house along the road and the old house is now closed.

Next there was Brian Duffy who was married to Maggie Cullen from Dernacurma. They had 7 children. John, Eddie, Bernie, Mary Kate, Winnie, Annie and Bea. Bea drown in the bog one foggy night. Bernie married Kathleen Gallagher from Brusna (sister to John Gallagher who married Maggie Duffy, Ballahere) and took over the farm and reared a family of 4. John, Edward, Margaret and Maureen. Edward died a young man in Australia. John married Bridie Morrisroe from Brusna. They had 7 children, Claire, Bernard, Sean, Anita, Catherine, Eveyln and Margaret. They lived there for some years but have now moved to England. The old house is closed now but Kathleen her daughter Margaret and John's son Sean live in a new house up the road.

SLIEVEMORE

I will now come to Slievemore where I now live. There were 6 homes there.

Ciaran McGeever lived where the forest is now. He was married to Catherine Gallagher from Rooskey. They had 8 children. Tom, Paddy, Mick, Matt, Dan, Maggie, Kate and Mary Ann. They are all now dead and the house is gone.

Next was Pat McGeever, (brother of the afore mentioned Ciaran). Pat was my grandfather, my mother's father. He was married to Honoria Finn and moved into her home from next door, (she was reputed to have been married at 14 owing to the early death of her father and an only child). They had 6 children. Micheal, Jack, Patrick (Billy), Nell, Nora and Maria (my mother). Billy took over the farm and married Maggie Phillips from Ballahere. They had 10 children. Nora who died in infancy, Paddy, Jack, Maura, Nellie, Kathleen, Bernadette, Teresa, Annie and Rita (all my first cousins). Maura married Jim **Towey** (Sailor) from Shanwalla, Teresa married Jack Armstrong from Annaghmore, Rita married John Vesey from Derreen, they all settled. in England. Annie married Denny O'Hara from Annaghmore and settled there. Annie's daughter Denise is married to Pdraig Durcan, Dernacurra, (son of John and Kathleen nee Carney Durcan). Her other daughter Pauline is married to Martin Phillips Doon Rock (son of John (Curly) and Neil nee Dooney Phillips mentioned under Killgarraff, Martin is nephew to Jimmy and Tommie Curly Phillips). Jack took over the farm and married Teresa Morrisroe from Tonragee. They had one son Raymond (the artist who did the drawing on front of this book) who now lives there with his wife Angela Duffy from Cortoon, Ballaghaderreen.

Where I (Tom Finn) now live was owned by Fannie Conway. She had 4 of a family, Mary (also known as Fanny), Catherine, Jim and Bridget. Catherine married Tom **Towey** from Islandmore (his second wife). Mary married Charlie McDonnell, Tavnaghbeg. Jim and Bridget never married and gave the place to their nephew Anthony **Towey** from Islandmore. He never married and I bought the place in 1946 from him. I married Kathleen Farrell from Meath in 1948. We had 10 children. Maureen, Patricia, Christopher, Annette, Angela, James, Daniel, Thomas, Joan and another baby who died in infancy. I still live there. Maureen married Paddy Marren from Cloonfeightrin, Joan married Sean OConnor from Dernacartha and James is married to Evelyn Carney in Bermingham who is granddaughter of Tom (Thady) Carney, Islandmore. Christy built a new house next door to my left. He lives there with his wife Carmel Hannan from Kilfree and their family.

There is no trace of a house where an old man by the name of Phillips (Simmons) once lived about a hundred yards to the right of where I now live. There was one son Mick who married Mary (Paucic) McGeever, Ballahere, from where John Rogers now lives and sister to Tom McGeever They in turn had one son Patrick. He was raised by his aunt Catherine Cullen nee McGeever, John Cullens wife in Dernacurra. He would be about 80 years old now and resides in the America.

Next was John (Tommie) Finn, brother to old Mick Tommie first mentioned in this book. He was married twice, first to a woman called **Towey** from Derreen. They had 8 children. Mary, Mick, Tom, Ned, Paddy, Ann, Nora and Kate. Mary married Pat (Bill) **Towey** Killgarraff, (Mary Bills mother). His second wife was Sishley Gallagher from Derrkinlough. They had no family. Paddy took over the farm and married Ann Duffy a daughter of John (Horse) Duffy, Ballahere. They had 6 children. John, Tom, Ned, Nelly and twins Micheal and Paddy. There was at least one still birth. Ann the mother died after the birth of the twins. Nelly married Pat Vesey from Derreen. Paddy Senior married a second time to Bridget (Siss) Conway from the Finn Village. They had 3 children. Mary, Seamus and Kevin. Siss still lives there and Kevin lives in a new house next door with his wife Monica Higgins from Kilvaloon and their family.

Mick (Mathue) Finn lived next door. He was married to a sister of John and Mick (Tommie) Finn, Crowhill. Her name was Bidy (Tommie). Jack was an uncle to my father, his sister Nancy was my dads mother. They had 3 sons, John, Mick and Tom. John died in the garden where the sheds now stands and Mick died of phenomina at the age of 41 or 42. Tom (known as Tom Jack mentioned before took over Mick Tommie Finns farm. When his brothers died he moved back to Slievemore, his birth place with his wife Mary Brackly Phillips from Killgarraff. They had 4 children, Mary Kate, Michael, Bridget and Johnnie. Michael died on Christmas night 1938 aged 7 or 8 with a brain haemorrhage. House is now empty but it belongs to Bridget who lives in America with her husband John McCann. Mary Kate married John Tank Forkin Crowhill and lives in England with brother Johnnie and

family.

ISLANDMORE

I'll now turn to. Islandmore, which is in Roscommon, it is not part of Cloontia. It is in the townland of Laragon but it has always been associated with Cloontia and it is part of what is known as the 3 villages Crowhill, Slievemore and Islandmore.

Thady Carney was married to Bidy McGeever a sister of Ciaran McGeever. Thadys sister Winnie was married to old Tank Forkin. Bidy was an aunt to my mother. They had at least 6 children. John, Bob, Tom, Nora, Maggie and Winnie. Winnie married Peter Finn, Doon Rock, (Peter Joe and Beas mother). Tom took over the farm and married Nelly Hannan from Ballyhere. They had 6 children. John, Mary Nora, Evelyn, Rita, Josephine and Tomas. Tomas took over the farm and is married to Sheila Finneran from Athlone. They live there with their 3 children. My son James is married in Bermingham to John Carneys daughter Evelyn.

Across the road was Tom **Towey** who was married to Mary Carney a sister of Thady Carneys. They had one son Jim but he was killed in England. Mary also died and Tom then married Catherine Conway, a sister of Jim, Bid and Fanny, (from the house I now live in). They had 2 sons Anthony and Tom, (I bought Conways place from Anthony). John Carney bought **Toweyes** and it is now owned by his family in Bermingham. The house is empty.

We now come to what was known as the old street. All the people who lived there were called Deignans.

Biddy Deignan married Jim Forkin and they had 3 children, (there may have been more). Jim, Tom and Winnie. Winnie married Dick (Tank) Forkin Crowhill. Jim took over the farm and married Mary (Brownie) Forkin from Dernabruck. They had 5 children. Bea, Mary-Ann, Una, Jim and Tom. Bea married Jim (Pat Michael) Forkin from the last house in Dernabruck. Mary-Ann married Pake (Pincher) Finn from the Finn Village. Tom took over the farm and never married, house now empty.

On the same street was Catherine Deignan sister to Bidy above. She was married to John Cafferky from near Kilmovee. They had at least 3 children. John, Pete and Maggie I remember. Maggie married Tom (Brownie) Forkin, brother to Mary above. They had one son Liam who still lives there.

It was on this old street that the legendary witch "Mauna Meridan" lived. She had a son who possessed great skills, running and jumping and brilliant at arithmetic although he never went to school.

Then a woman we used to call Catherine Roddy from Derryaraune sister of old Dominic Roddy lived where Francis Regan now houses his cattle: She was married to John Forkin and they had 5 children, Mick, Bea, Winnie, Mary, and Kathleen. Their father John died in England when the family were very young. Mary married Pat Duffy from Rooskey. Kathleen married Tom Regan from Derryaraune. Mick took over the farm.

Rory Diegnan lived next door. He was married to Peggy **Towey** sister of Martin (Celia) **Towey**. They had no family. A brother called Jim lived with them. He was never married. Mick Forkin (above) married Nora McGeever, moved to this house from his own next door, they had no family and lived there until his death. Francis Regan (Kathleen, Mick sisters son) inherited the place. Francis sold the house to a man from Dublin called Dave Quinn and he now lives there.

That concludes all the houses in those 3 villages.

I will now start on the right hand side of the road facing west from my birthplace.

BALLAHERE

I will take the Finn village first so called as 5 Finn families lived there, all closely related as well as 3 other families. The Finn village is part of Ballahere. They were Rues, Ned Rue, Patrick Rue and Michael Rue.

Finn Village (in Ballahere)

Ned Rue Finn was married to Mary Finn (a sister to my grandmother Nancy). She was a teacher in Cloontia school. They had 3 children (maybe more), Patrick, Sonny and Mary. Sonny went to America and Mary married a man called Finnegan from Monasteraden. He was her second husband and they had no family. I do not know who she married the first time. Patrick married Mary Morrisroe from Tonragee. They had 4 or 5 children. I only knew 2, Kathleen and Patrick. The others died young. Patrick married Annie McGeever a next door neighbour and Ciaran McGeevers (Finn Village) daughter. They had no family and the place now belongs to Annies nephew and her sister Kates son Pete Grady. The house is standing but empty.

Patrick Rue Finn cousin of above, was married but I do not know to whom. They had a son John who took over the farm. He married Maggie Forkin, Derryaraune (Tom Regans wifes sister). They had 4 children, Patrick John, Eddie and Bea. Eddie may still be alive but the rest are dead. Bea married Roger Cullen Cloomeen and the place now belongs to their son Eamon Cullen. The house is standing but empty.

Edward Finn (Pincher) a brother to John Tommie Finn (Slievemore) and Mick Tommie Finn (Crowhill), he was married to Bidy Conway who owned the farm it was her birthplace. They had 8 children, Tom, John, Ned, Mick, Pake, Jim, Mary and Nora. Tom married Winnie (Boatie) Kelly from Derryaraune. Pake took over the farm and married Mary Ann Forkin from Islandmore (daughter of Jim and Mary Forkin). They had 5 or 6 children. All went to England and Joe Duffy bought the place. House standing but empty.

Michael (Bob) Finn Senior (he was son of Michael Rue Finn) married Bridget Finn sister of his brother Edwards wife Mary. The two brothers married two sisters. He married into the place.

His home place being where his brother Edward lived mentioned later under Ballahere. They had 4 children, Michael, Bea, Mary and Kate. Mary married a man called Casey from Rooskey. Bea married Mick Duffy from Rooskey. Michael took over the farm and still lives there with his sister Bea and nephew Joe (Beasson) who both returned from England.

Patrick Finn (no relation to the other Finns) was married to Catherine McGuinn from Kilgarriff. They had 6 children, Annie, Nelly, Agnes, Mary, Nora and Tom. Nora married John Dunne from Galway. They took over the farm but after a short while emigrated to England. They sold the place to Roger Cullen. Eamonn Cullen now owns it and the house is empty.

Patrick Conway also lived in that village. He was married to Bid Vesey from Killgarriff, sister to John (Cap) Vesey and aunt to Tom Vesey. They had 2 children Michael and Ciss. Ciss married Patrick Finn, Slievemore. She is mother to Kevin Finn and he now owns the farm.

Frank Duffy lived next door to Bob Finn, he was married to Mary Finn (this was her home place). They had 6 children, Mary, Maggie, Ann, Nora, Mick and Tom. They are all now dead. Joe Duffy owns the farm but the house is gone.

Michael McGeever had a little shop (he was also known as Ciaran). He was a cousin of Ciaran of Slievemore. He married Ellen Finn from Charlestown. They had 6 children, Bea, Mary Ellen, Kate, Nora, Annie and Paddy. Annie married Patrick Finn from close by. Nora married Mick Forkin, Islandmore. Kate married Johnnie Grady from Bockagh. All are now

dead. The farm is owned by Pete Grady - grandson of Michael and Ellen and son of Kate.

That's all the houses in the Finn Village.

Tom McGeever was married to Kate Quinn from Carracastle. They had 5 children, Pat, John, Tam, Mary Kate and Maggie. Maggie married a man called Tom Rogers from Flaughena. Tom married a sister of John Joe **Towey**, Killgarriff West. Pat took over the farm and never married. When he died he left the place to his nephew John Rogers, (son of Maggie). He lives in a new house beside the old house with his wife Kathleen Phillips from Kilgarriff, (daughter of Tommie Curley Phillips) and their family.

Pat Duffy lived next door he was known as Dick, he married Mary Roddy from Derryaraune. They had 6 children, Mary, Bea, Kate, Maggie, Ann and Paddy. Maggie married a brother of Kathleen Duffy, (Berries wife), Crowhill called John, (he was from Brusna). Mary married Martin Regan old, Tom Regans brother from Derryaraune. Paddy took over the farm. He never married and all the family are dead now. Christy Forkin owns the place now. The house is empty but still stands.

Down the field Pat Forkin lived with Nancy Duffy his wife, sister of Pat Duffy (Dick) above. They had 4 children, Patrick (Dick), Tom, Jim and Mary. Mary was wife of to Jim Forkin Islandmore. Tom was husband to Maggie Cafferky, Islandmore. Dick married Mary Carney (Smiler) from Derryaraune. They had 6 children Marion, Rita, Virgie, Madeline, Paddy and Christy- Marion married Johnnie Martin John Phillips, Tavnabeg, Rita married Tom McDonagh, Derrykinlough, Virgie married Mick Brackley Phillips from Killgarriff, Paddy married Pauline Brackley Phillips (brother and sister married brother and sister). Christy took over the farm married Philomena Mahon. They live in a new house elsewhere in the village with their family. Madeline also lives with them. The old house still stands but empty.

There was another dwelling on that lane that leads down to Dick Forkin but I do not remember any one living there but it was called Connors(Roubin).

John (Horse) Duffy was next, he was married to a Bridget (Biddy) Phillips from Killgarriff. They had 3 sons, John, Tom and Bernard (Feather) and one daughter Ann that I knew, (there may have been more). Ann married Paddy Finn, Slievemore, son of John Tommie Finn. Tom took over the farm but never married. Bernard married Mary Kate McGeever (Edward) from the village and they lived in a small house next to the old farm house. He helped Tom on the farm. Bernard and Mary Kate had 6 children, Jim, Joe, Bert, John, Bea and Kathleen. Kathleen married Pat Forkin from the last house in Dernabruck and they took over the farm. They built a house across the road, mentioned later. The old house still stands but is empty.

There was a family by the name of Connors adjoining Duffy's farm. I never knew them or remember any house but I believe they went to America years ago. John Rogers now owns the place.

I will now come to the left hand side of the road starting at the end of the road across from my home place facing Westwards.

The first house on the left was Tom (Punch) Phillips. He died as a young man in England. He married Margaret (Peggy) McGeever, sister to Seamus (Strip) McGeever from the village. They had 4 children, Pat (Punch), Tom, Delia and Nora. Punch took over the farm and married Delia **Towey** from Dernacantha. They had 4 children, Margaret, Eileen, Tom and Pauric. Tom (Punch) Phillips now lives there.

Next came old Edward McGeever. Edwards sister was married to Jim (Michael) Phillips from Killgarriff. Edward was married to my father's aunt Catherine (Katie Finn) from Slievemore. She was sister to Jack and Nancy Finn, Slievemore. They had 4 or 5 children, all I ever knew were Edward and Mary Ann. Mary Ann married Pat Finn from Shaskin. She was mother to the famous "Darkie

Finn". Edward (Eddie) married a woman called Vesey from Derreen and had a daughter, Mary Kate . She married Bernard (Horse) Duffy from the village and moved to a little house beside Bernards home. The house is now empty. Kathleen Forkin nee Duffy, Mary Kate and Bernards daughter now owns the farm.

Patrick Hannan (Shinners) lived closeby. He was married to Mary Vesey from Derreen and a sister to young Edward McGeevers wife above. They had 5 daughters, Nora, Mary Ann, Bea, Kate and Nelly. Bea married Pat (Mick) **Towey**, Cloomeen. Nelly married Tom (Thady) Carney from Islandmore. Kate married her first cousin Anthony Vesey, (her mother's brother Mick Veseys son). They had 2 children John Joe and Ambrose. John Joe married Bridget a Waterford woman. They has no family. John Joe and Ambrose live in a new house and the old house is now empty.

Michael McGeever (Stripe) comes next. He married Mary **Towey** from Shanwalla. They had 2 children, Michael and Bridget (Biddy). Biddy married Jim Forkin brother to Dick Brownie Forkin. Michael took over the farm and married Mary Carney, daughter of Roger Carney, Derryaraune. They had 5 children, Michael, Roger, Tom and Pat and a girl who died at age of 10 or 12. Michael now owns the farm and lives in America. House empty.

Seamus McGeever lived next door and he was brother to Michael (Stripe) McGeever just mentioned. He was married to Catherine Duffy, sister to Patrick (Dick) Duffy across the road. They had 6 children, Paddy, Brian, Mick, Biddy, Mary and another who died at a young age. Mary married John Vesey, Derreen, (Joe Veseys mother and father). Brian married Kathleen Finn (my sister), Crowhill. They had 9 children, Paddy, Bernard, Joe, Tom, Kathleen, Mary, Ann, Bridget and Teresa. The house and farm belongs to Paddy who lives in America. The house in now empty.

Next was Sean Phillips. He had a brother Tom who married Maggie Phillips, Killgarrieff, (daughter of Tom (Dominick) Phillips. He also had a sister Maggie who married my uncle Patrick (Billy) McGeever, Slievemore. Sean himself was married to Winnie McDonnell from near Carracastle. The place was bought by Mary Kate (Edward) Duffy, (Kathleen Forkins mother) and belongs to the Forkin family, grandsons to Bernard Duffy from across the road. There is no trace of the house now.

Next is Pat (Michael) Forkins who married Kathleen Duffy daughter of Mary Kate (Edward) and Bernard Duffy. They had 12 children, Kathleen, Betty, Sheila, Mary, Ann, Sharon, Bernadette, Sinead, Pat, Michael, John and James. Mary is married to Michael Dooney from Dernacantha and Sharon is married to Noel O'Connor, Dernacantha.

Edward Finn lived close by. He was a brother of Michael (Bob) Finn Senior from the Finn Village and one of the Rue family. He married Mary Finn sister to his brother Micheal (Bob) Senior's wife. The two brothers married two sisters. They had 8 children, Michael, Edward, John, Bridget, Mary Kate, Ann and Nora. Edward married Kathleen Vesey from Derreen and Micheal married her sister Mary Vesey (sisters of Joe Vesey). Nora married Tom Finn, Killgarrieff. John took over the farm and never married and still lives there.

Shanwalla

I now come to Shanwalla, mostly **Toweyes** lived in this area.

I will start on the right side of the road facing west.

Old Jack Callaghan lived beside the river, he was married to a woman called Connor but I cannot be sure. He had one daughter, do not know her name but she married Patrick Durkin known as Belfast Durkan from Derryaraune. She moved to Derryaraune with her husband. One of their daughters (old Jack's granddaughter) Sarah married a man called Marren from Tubbercurry. He died about a year after the marriage. They had daughter Marion. Sarah then returned home to her mother and father in

Derryaraune. She then married again, Mick Brehony from Cloomeen but who was reared in Derryaraune by his uncle Tom Duffy and they then took over Jack's place and lived in the house. Marion (first family) married Johnnie Roddy, Cloonlumney. They had 2 more children, Patrick and Carmel. The place is now sold and the house is empty.

Tom **Towey** was next (he was called Tom Jimmie Haan). He was married to Ka **Towey** from the village. There was I think 5 children. James, Kathleen, Sheila and May that I knew. May married Michael Forkin (Sonny) from Derryaraune a moved over there. May's family now own the farm. The house is now empty.

Michael **Towey** lived next door. He married a woman called Callaghan. They had a family of which I knew 4, Patrick, Michael, Nelly and Winnie. Nelly married Paddy Regan from Derrnacartha. Winnie married Tommie Durcan from Kilfree. Paddy and Michael went to England. There was at least one other girl who went to America. The house is now empty.

Millers comes next, it got its name from the fact that there was a mill there at one time. Patrick **Towey** was his real name. He was married to Bid Casey from Killgarriff, (where Mary Bill **Towey** now lives). They had 2 sons and at least 3 daughters, John, Michael, Maggie, Ann and Kate. Ann married Tom Peter Carne, Derryaraune, (uncle to John Carney). Maggie married Ned Cullen, Cloomeen, (uncle to Eamonn). John took over the farm and married Bea (Matt) Roddy from Derryaraune. They had at least 6 girls and 1 boy. They sold the place to Bernal Duffys wife Mary Kate (Edward) Duffy nee McGeever from Ballahere. It is now owned by her granddaughter Kathleen Forkin. The house is empty. Millers also had a shop.

Pat Coen's is next, he came from Castlebaldwin in Co. Sligo. He was married to Ann (Bid) Callaghan, (I am not sure if she was related to old Jack Callaghan). They had 2 children Tom and Kate that I knew but there was 2 more I think. Tom went to America and Kate married Tom (Frank) **Towey** from the village. They had one daughter who is now in care in Swinford. The house is now empty

Martin **Towey** (Bob) lived next door. He was brother to Micheal, Frank and Patrick (Christy Lynotts grandfather). He was married to Mary Callaghan from the village. They had 6 or 7 children, Pit, Tom, Jim (Bob), Ann, Bea, Kate and Mary. Jim (Bob) still lives there.

I now turn down the road to the right. There were 3 houses on this road.

Old Kate Duffy married Martin Phillips. She was a sister of Horse Duffy from Ballahere. They had 3 children, Martin, Tom and a daughter. The land was sold by the family to a lady in America and she in turn sold it to Hugh **Towey**. There is no trace of the house now.

Micheal **Towey** lived a short distance away in a small cottage. He was brother to Martin (above) and Frank and Patrick below. He was married to Catherine Connor a local girl. They had 2 children Michael and Bridget (Babs). Neither married. They had no land only the house. The house still stands but is empty.

Frank **Towey** lived across the road (he did not own the land or house). He was brother to Martin (Bob), Jim Bobs father, Michael and Patrick above. He was married to Catherine Connor a local but not a sister to his brother Michael wife above, they may have been related. They had 2 children. Tom (Frank) and Jan. As I mentioned before he married Kate Coen. Martin **Towey** owns the land now.

I will now start on the left hand side of the road facing westwards again.

Martin **Towey** (Celia) comes next, he was married twice. First wife was Finn a local girl. They had 3 children but I do not know there names. His second wife was Bridget Kelly from Carracastle. They had 6 children, Micheal, Ned, Jim, Tom Mal and Bridget. Jim married Maura

(Billy) McGeever from Slievemore. Ned took over the farm, never married. After Neds death Michael's (who lives in Brusna) son Martin **Towey** took over the farm. The house is now empty.

James Finn lived next door to **Toweyes**. He was married but I do not know who to. They had a son Jim who went to America. Jim's daughter who lives in the U.S.A. owns the farm and the house is gone.

Patrick **Towey** (Puggie) lived next. He was married to Catherine **Towey**, sister of Martin (Celia) **Towey** above. They had one son Martin who took over the farm. He married Peggy Roach from Carlow. They had 3 children, P.J., Francis and Kathleen. The whole family moved to England and sold the farm to Christy Forkin who built a new house beside the old one. He now lives there with his wife Philamena and their family. Madeline, Christy's sister also lives with them.

Another Patrick **Towey** lived next. He married into his wife's Ellen Finn home place. He was brother to Martin (Jim Bobs father), Mick and Frank mentioned earlier and Jim Bobs **Toweyes** uncles. They had 3 children, Bea, Kathleen and Mary. Mary married a man from Crossmolina Michael Lynott. They had 6 children, Maureen, Caith, Michael, Kevin, Helen, Bridget and Christy: Helen married Brian Tansey Mountirwin, (brother to Elizabeth McDonagh Cullgeragaur, Tim McDonaghs wife). Christy never married and still lives there.

Derryaraune

I now come to Derryaraune and take the houses across from Christy Lynotts which are in Derryaraune.

A man called Joe Horan lived across the road where Martin Tatum has land now. I do not know about his relations. There is no trace of the house.

Tommie Regan has a new house built where he lives with his wife Margaret from Bermingham. They have 4 children, Thomas, Caroline, Jo-Ann and Lorraine.

I will now turn in the Derryaraune road at the High Road still staying on the right side of the road.

Tom Regans was the first house. He married Catherine Forkin a local girl (her sister Maggie was married to John Rue Finn from the Finn village). They had 4 children, maybe more. Martin, Tom, Bea and Annie. Martin married Mary Dick Duffy, Ballahere, in America. Tom took over the farm and he married Kathleen Forkin from Islandmore. They had 6 children Mary, Kathleen, Tommie, Joe, Seamus and Francis. Kathleen died at a young age. Joe is married to Joan Richardson, Dernacantha. Tommie has taken over the farm, lives in a new house. Francis lives in a new house across the road. The house is now empty as Kathleen now lives with her daughter Mary McGurran in Ballisadare.

Next was Roger Carney, he was married to old Tom Regans sister. They had 3 daughters, Mary, Lizzie, and Anne. Mary married Michael (Stripe) McGeever, Ballahere. Ann married Michael Beirne from Banada close to Ballaghaderreen. They took over the farm and had 6 children. John, Michael, Pat, Mary and 2 more whose names I do not know. Their mother died when the family were young. Pat now lives on the farm. Mary married Tommie Phillips from Tavenabeg and lives in Cuilmore.

Owen Costello lived next door, he was married but I do not know to whom. He did have at least 2 sons. John, one of the sons married Bridget Cullen from Cloonlumney. They had 5 children, Jack, Jim, Paddy, Mickey and Bea. Mickey still lives on the farm.

Martin Camey (Smiler) lived next door. He was married Mary Durcan from the village. They had 4 children, Martin, Kate, Winnie and Mary. Martin who died in England. Mary married Patrick (Brownie) Forkin from Ballahere. Kate married John Finn, Tavnabeg, Winnie took over the farm and married James Tatum from Shraugh near Rooskey. They had 3 children, Martin, Pat and Kathleen.

They live there now.

Old Bob Callaghan lived close by. I do not know who he married. They had 2 children, Patrick (Sonny) and a girl. John Carney owns the land. House still there but empty.

John Henry was next, he was a stranger to Cloontia. He came from America but originally from near Swinford. He was married to a woman called Morley. She was always known as Mrs Henry. They had 6 children, 3 born in America, Mary, Kate, Martin, (America), Michael, John and Bea (Ireland). Mary married Jim Matt Roddy, Derryaraune. Kate married Jimmy McGeever, Tavnabeg (from where Pdraig Phillips now lives). Michael took over the farm but sold it later to John Carney and moved to Cloonlumney with his wife Bea Durcan from Dernacruma and their family. Their son Michael is married to Bride Egan, Cloomeen.

Old (Boatie) Kelly was next door to Henrys. I do not know why he was called Boatie. His real name was Michael. He shot his left arm off with a gun. He had 2 sisters Mary and Winnie. Mary married a man named Rushe from around Ballaghadereen. Winnie married Tom Finn from the Finn village. The house is empty now and John Carney owns the farm. Hugh Carney lived next door. He was married to Bridget Veasy (Sis) from Derreen. They had 6 children. Pete, Pat, John, Bridle, Kathleen and another who died when she was 10 or 12 years old (I do not know her name). Kathleen married John Durcan Dernacruma, (Bea Henry nee Durcans brother). John took over the farm, married Florrie Kelly from Caracastle. They live there with their family. Tina their daughter is married to Seamus Phillips, (Jimmy Curly's son).

Tom Duffy was next, he was married to Bridget (Bid) Horan. They had no family but did rear a nephew of Toms called Michael Brehony from Cloomeen (his sisters son). Michael (Mick) married a widow who lived next door Sarah Marren nee Durkan and Patrick and Mary Durkan daughter below, (her first husband was Marren from Tubbercurry). Mick went to live in Sarahs grandfathers house Jack Callaghans in Shanwalla. The house is empty and the farm is owned by Hugh **Towey**, sold to him by Mick and Sarah's son Patrick Brehony.

Patrick Durcan came next (grandfather to Patrick Brehony) also known as Belfast Durkin. He married a daughter of Jack Callaghans called Mary. They had a least 4 children, Patrick, Sarah, Kate and Nellie. Sarah married a man called Marren from Tubbercurry. When he died she returned home to her parents. She then married a second time Mick Brehony above. They moved to her grandfathers home Jack Callaghan's. Patrick took over the farm, never married and gave the farm to Sarah's son Patrick, his nephew, who in turn sold it to Hugh **Towey**. House now empty.

Michael Roddy came next, he was married to Bridget Roddy from Cloonlumney (no relation). Bridget was known as Bid Reddin. They had no family but reared a daughter of Bridget's sister, the girl was called Bridget. She took over the farm and married Malachy **Towey** from Ballaghadereen. Their son Hugh now lives there with his wife Marie Callaghan from Swinford and their 4 children.

Dominick Roddy lived on the river edge. Dominick's sister Catherine was married to John Forkin, Islandmore (Kathleen Regans mother). He was married to Ann Phillips from Derryaraune (John Johns aunt), also known as Ann Tom Andy. They had at least 5 children, Bea, Maggie, Ann, Tom, Dominick. Bea married Tom (Brackley) Phillips. Maggie married Michael **Towey**, Dernacruma. Ann married Mick Durkan, Killgarriff. Dominick took over the farm, never married and died in early manhood. The farm now belongs to Tommie Phillips (Brackley), Beas son and Dominick and Ann's grandson.

Matt Roddy lived right beside the bridge that spans the river. He was married to Nellie (Micky) **Towey** from Dernacruma. They had 2 children, James and Bea. Bea married John (Miller) **Towey**, Shanwalla and James took over the farm. He married Mary Henry from the village. They had 5 children, Matt, Chris, Jennie, Brendan and Mildred. They had a shop. The parents sold the farm and moved to England. Tommie (Brackley) Phillips now owns the place.

John Forkin was next, he married Mary Phillips, Tavnabeg (a sister to Martin John) Phillips and aunt to Johnnie (Martin) Phillips). They had 2 sons Michael and John. John never married. Michael (Sonny) took over the place and married May **Towey** from Shanwalla. They had 5 children Sean, Michael, Peter, Mary Geraldine and Kathleen. May and sons, Michael and Sean, still live there.

Martin (Hughie) Carney lived next door. A brother lived with him and I am not sure if they were ever married but an old woman also lived there called Peggie Brennan. Sean Forkin has the farm now.

John (Tom Andys) Phillips was next door to them. He was married twice, first wife was Carney, sister to Tom (Paddy) Carney. They had 3 children, Tom, Pat and Mary. His second wife was Celia McGeever from Ballahere, (sister to Seamus Strip). They had 5 children, John, Jim, Pete, Andy and Bea. John took over the farm and the rest of the family immigrated to America. He married Nora Tansey from Gawlawn. They had no family. John became known as the famous John John, the cattle dealer. House now gone.

Next was Pat Michael Forkin. He married into the place which was known as Callaghans. He must have married one of the Callaghans. He was married twice. In the first marriage there were 3 children, their names I do not know. His second wife was Carney from Gawlawn. They had 6 children, James, Pat, Kathleen, Maggie, Sheila and Winnie. Kathleen married John Duffy from Rooskey. Kathleen married Martin Cullen from Dernacurra (Thomas Cullen's uncle). James married Bea Forkin, Islandmore. Pat took over the farm but then he married Kathleen Duffy, Ballahere, and he moved over there. They still own the farm but the house is gone.

On the left hand side was Thomas Carneys also known as Tom (Paddy) Carney. He was married to a Forkin from the village. They had no family but reared 2 children, Tom and Bea Kelly, (the children of Tom's sister who was married to Martin Kelly, Killgarriff) when their mother died. The farm was left to Tom. When he died Nora Phillips, Killgarriff (wife to Tommie (Curly) Phillips) and Tom's step sister got the place. John Rogers Ballahere farms the land now. He is married to Kathleen Phillip's daughter of Nora.

That concludes the houses in the Townland of Dernabrock.

TOWNLAND OF CLOONMEEN

Cloonmeen means smooth or nice meadows. I do not know how true this is as this is a translation from Irish I will start at Slievemore and travel westwards.

Martin **Towey** lived in a little house on the right hand side of the road. He was married to Bidy Horan from next door. They did not own any land. They had children, Pat, Michael and Frank. Pat married a woman called Connor from Killgarriff (sister to Martin Connor from where Tommie Brackley Phillips lives now. They had 2 children, Martin and Kathleen. All dead and house in ruins.

Patrick Horan lived next door. He was known as Butsey. He married a woman from Glann near Kilkelly called Mary Duffy. They had 3 children, Tom, John and Mary. John was married to Peg Phillips (Slin) from over the road and lived in Kilfree until his death. Joe Duffy owns the land now. The house is now in ruins.

At the back of Butsey's down the bog an old man called Cullen lived with his wife. There was no road to the house only a foot path. They had 3 children Pat, Michael-James and Mary-Ellen. The mother had a relation to the McDonnells of Tavenabeg. Pat married an aunt of Eamonn Cullen's but I do not know her name. All are now dead and the house is gone. The farm is now planted.

Old Mick (Johnnie) **Towey** was next, he was married to a woman called **Towey** from Derreen. They had 4 children, Tom, Pat, John and a girl called Bab. Pat (Mick) took over the farm and married Bea Hannan, daughter of Pat Hannan (Shinners), Ballahere. They had no family and the farm was sold and resold. It is now owned by Jimmy Noctor from Wexford and Mary Maxwell from County Dublin . They have built a new house beside the old house.

Adjoining that house was Mick's brother Anthony. He was married to Annie Phillips, sister to Maggie my uncle Billys wife and Sean Phillips, Ballahere. They had 8 children, Tom, Mick, Anthony, Pake, Jim, Delia, Mary Ellen and Maggie. Tom married a woman called Feeney from Bockagh (beside the bridge across from Jimmie Gingers). Maggie married John **Towey** (Larry), Bockagh. Jim took over the farm and married Winnie Forkin from Crowhill, daughter of Dick (Tank) Forkin. They had 4 children Marion, Eileen, Tony and Seamus. All gone away and the land is planted the house is in ruins.

John Brehony lived closeby. He was married to a woman called Duffy from Derryaraune. They had 3 children. I do not know the 2 girls names but the sons name was a was reared by Tom and Bid Duffy, Derryaraune. More about him under Derryaraune. Johns first wife died and he then married Ellen Grady from the village. They had 4 children, Tom, Ned, Maggie and Bea. All went away and the land is now planted. The ruins of the house are still there.

Patrick Kelly was next. He was married to Mary Shannon. They had 2 children, Pat and Mary Ellen. Old Pat joined the English Army and fought in the Great War 1914-18. Mary Ellen married Jim Durcan, Killgarriff and they went to live in Cullaherine, father to Patty Durcan who now owns John and Pat Durkins land in Tavnaghbeg, (beside Jerry Keanes). Pat took over the farm and married Maggie Ellen Phillips from Killgarriff. They had no family and the place was bought by Roger Cullen. Eamonn his son sold the house to David O'Gara from Crenane (his grandmother was Martin Keane's sister from Tavnaghbeg who married up in Crenane) and he lives there with his wife Maria from Manorhamilton and their family.

Old Ned Cullen was next. He was married to Mary Killgarriff, I don't know where she came from. They had 6 children maybe more, Anthony, Ned, Roger, Maggie and Lizzie and another girl who married Pat Cullen from over the village. Maggie married Pat **Towey** (Ginger), Bockagh. Lizzie married Mark Casey, Bockagh (father to John Casey). Ned married Maggie (Miller) **Towey**. Roger took over the farm and married Bea Finn daughter of John Rue Finn from the Finn village. They had 5 children, Padraig, Gerard, Eamon, Betty and Peggie. Eamonn took over the farm and married Rita from Glenamaddy. They had 2 sons Cyril and Gary. Gerard is married to Rita's sister in America. Eamonn, Rita, Cyril and Gary still live there.

James Shannon was next. He married a McGuinn from Killgarriff. They had 5 children, Bea, Margaret, Nora, Pake and John. Nora married Pake Charlie Phillips from the village. John married Minnie Coen from Flaughena (a cousin of Jerry Keanes). Pake took over the farm and married Mary Sherlock from Cuilmore. They had 3 children Micheal, Pauric and Caroline. Mary and Micheal live there now.

John Grady comes next. He was married to Kate **Towey** from Derreen and they had 5 children. Mary Ellen, Nora, Kathleen, John and Matt. Mary Ellen married John McQuinn from Carrantemple, Kathleen married Jerry Grady from Carrantemple. Matt married Maura **Towey** from Carrantemple. They had 6 children, Martin, Kevin, Michael, Bridle, Angela and Maureen. Maura and Maureen still live there. Bridie is married to Des Colleran and live in Mick (Michael) Geevers house in Killgarriff.

Next was James Phillips, he was known as Jim Jamsey. He was married to Ellen Durkan from Derrinkinlough. They had no family. Ellen gave the place to her niece Bea Durkan also from Derrinkinlough. Bea married Paddy Egan from Culleens, Co. Sligo and they came to live there. They had 2 children, Brian and Kathleen. Brian took over the place and married Marie Gormley (niece of Molly Vesey nee Mulhern Killgarriff), from Carrantemple. They had 5 children, Brendan, Francis,

Declan, Bridle and Evelyn. Bridle is married to Michael Henry, Dernacantha. Brian and Marie live in a new house across the road from the old one, it is now empty.

Pat (Charlie) Phillips lived next door again. He was married to a McGuinn from Killgarriff. They had 6 children, Annie, Bea, Maggie, Nora, Kate and Pake. Bea married Mike Reid from Bockagh. Maggie married Pake Kelly from over the village, (Jimmys brother). Pake took over the farm and married Nora Shannon from the village (sister to Pake Shannon). They had no family and the land was sold to the forestry. The house was bought by Paddy Forkin, son of Dick Forkin, Ballahere, and his wife Pauline Brackley Phillips, Killgarriff. They and their family who live in England use it as a holiday home.

John (Slin) Phillips lived at the corner now known as Slins. He was married to Margaret Finn from the Finn village (sister to Mary Finn, Frank Duffy's wife next door for Michael Bobs). They had 4 children, Maggie, Mary, Nell and Paddy. Nell was married to my brother Pat and Maggie to John Butsy Horan over the village. Paddy was married to Bea Finn, Killgarriff West, (sister, to Tom Finn who married Nora Ned Finn, Ballahere). They had one daughter Eileen, (now Eileen Hope). Bea died and he married Kathleen Kelly, Killgarriff (sister to Nora Phillips, Killgarriff, Tommie Curlys wife). They all went to England. Kathleen Phillips nee Kelly now lives on Cox's Line, Ballaghaderreen. Paddys daughter Eileen returned from England and lives in a new house across from the old house. She is married to Jim Hope from Belfast. They have 2 sons, James and Emmet. The ruins of the old house are still there.

I now turn to the left up the road to where Tom(Pat Peter) Phillips lived. He was :he postman in Cloontia for many years. He was married to Katie Gannon from Derrnacantha. They had 6 children. Pat, Maureen, Kathleen, Mairead, Sheila and Tom. Pat married Mary Scanlon from Carrantemple and moved to her home place. The rest of the family moved to away and the place was sold to John Phillips (the famous John. John), who lived there with his wife Nora Tansey (already mentioned under Dernabrock). They are both dead now and the house is empty.

I now come to the last house in Cloomeen, John Lydons. He was the school teacher in Cloontia for many years. The house was always known as the "Residence". He lived there with his wife Catherine Phillips, Tavnabeg (sister to Martin Tommie Phillips Tavnaghbeg and aunt to Tom (Martin) Phillips). They had 6 children, Jim, Mary Kate, Bea, Lucy, Marcella, and Kathleen. Marcella married McDermott from Mullaghroe and was mother to Quinton McDermott (Castlemore). They are all dead now except Kathleen. They sold the land to Jim Kelly from Killgarriff who was married to Ellen Kane from Galway. They did not live in the Residence but built a house next door. They had 3 children, Pake, Mary and Jimmy. Pake married Maggie Phillips above. Jimmy married Maura Kane from Tavnabeg. They had no family. Jimmy still lives there.

That concludes the houses in the townland of Cloonmeen.

TOWNLAND OF KILLGARRIFF

The next townland is Killgarriff. It is also a long village about 2 miles long with a road running North South. Another road East West cuts right through the belly of the village. Where the two roads bisect, is known as the Hill of the Forge. East of that is Killgarriff East and West, Kilgarriff-West. There are only a few houses on the North South road. I will start at the old school where many generations first learned their ABCs. It is now a Community Centre of which we are very proud.

Right beside the school is the Post Office. It was ran by a man named Pat (Jamsie) Phillips. He was married to Mary Flanagan from Boherbui near Ballaghaderreen. They had 5 children, Bea, Mary Kate, James and Patrick. I cannot recall the other name. James and Patrick were Postmen. The rest went to America. Patrick took over the Post Office and married Mary Robinson from Rooskey. They had no family. When they died Desmond and Kathleen Corcoran bought the house and Post Office and moved it over to the pub across the road. When they

sold the pub they moved the Post Office to where it was originally. They had 3 children, James, John and Bridle. Kathleen and Des still live there. Brian Egan bought the few acres of land.

Right beside the Post Office was a Granary, John (Jamsie) Phillips, (Pat Jamsey Phillips brother above) and his wife Ann Callaghan from Monasteraden lived. They had lived in Monasteraden when they got married but when they got older they came back to Cloontia, that was around the time I was going to school. They had no family. The granary is still there.

At the back of the Post Office Jim Kelly lived (already mentioned above in regard to the Residence). He was married to a woman from Galway called Ellen Kane. They had 3 children, Pake, Mary and Jimmy. The farm was sold to Tommie Regan, Derryaraune, and Jimmy lives in the house beside the residence as already mentioned. House is now empty.

Across from the Post Office James Vesey lived. He was married to Bridget (Bidly) McNulty. She was the daughter of Tom McNulty who kept the Forge ar??? gave The Old Forge Hill its name. James (Jim) Vesey was from Dernacantha. They had 5 or 6 children of which I knew Jim, Pake, John, Kate and Annie. John took over the farm and still lives there. He is unmarried.

The opposite side of the road again lived Martin Connor. He married Bridget Phillips from the last house in Killgarriff West and Dick Phillips daughter. They had a large family. I only knew John, Anthony and Kathleen. Martin took over the farm and married a woman from the North of Ireland. They had a family but emigrated to England. Tommie (Brackley) Phillips bought the place and built a new house when he married Sheila from Galway. They had 3 children, Kiernan, Michael and Angela. The old house is still standing. Tommie still lives in the new house.

A few hundred yards down the road Patrick (Stoke) **Towey** lived. He was married to Mary Kelly, Jim Kellys sister above. They had 5 children, Michael, Henry, Seamus, Bea and Kathleen. Henry took over the farm and married Una Sherlock (sister to Mary Shannon Pake Shannons wife). They had 4 children Brendan, Gerard, Seamus and Maureen. Gerard is married to Antonette Cullen, Dernacurma. Henry and Una still live there.

I now come to The Old Forge Hill a well known land mark in Cloontia.

At the Old Forge Hill there is now a new house built. It belongs to Seamus Phillips, Jimmy Curleys son from the village and his wife Tina Carney, daughter a John and Florrie Carney, Derryaraune. They reside in England.

I will now travel Westward. The first house on the right hand side belonged to Michael Durcan. He was married but I do not know to whom. They had one son Michael who married Ann Roddy from Derryaraune (sister to Bea who married Tom Brackley Phillips). They had no family and Jimmy (Curly) Phillips now owns the farm. House empty.

On the same side Frank McNulty lived. I do not know who he was married to. They had 1 son, Tom who married Sally O'Hara from Carrantemple. They 1 son Patrick who took over the place and never married. He gave the place to Pauline Brackley Phillips from the village. She is married to Paddy Forkin, Ballahere. They reside in England, the same people who bought Old Pake (Charlie) Phillips house in Cloonmeen. Patrick is still alive and lives with Mick (Brackley) Phillips. He is almost 90 now. The house is empty.

John Vesey came next. His sister Bid was married to Patrick Conway from the Finn village. He was married to Mary Glacken from Carracastle. They had 5 children, Mary, Sarah, Kate-Ann, Lucy and Tom. Tom married Molly Mulhern from Carrantemple, (aunt to Marie Gormally who married Brian Egan). They had 4 sons Brendan, Sean, Tom and P.J. They house is empty and the family are in America.

On the left hand side there were 3 families of McNulty, so I will have to give them nicknames. First there was Tom (Seamus Rue) McNulty. He was married to Ann Marren from Rooskey. They had 5 children, Jim, Tom, John, Nelly and another girl whose name I do not know. Tom, John and Nelly still live there.

Pat (Tom Ban) McNulty came next. He never married and gave the place to his sister Catherine's son Jimmy (Curley) Phillips. He married Mary Ann Phillips from Tavnabeg. They had 3 children, Maureen, Seamus and Bridie. Jimmy still lives there. His son Seamus is married to Tina Carney, John and Florrie, Derryaraune. They own the new house built on the Hill of the Forge, mentioned earlier.

Next came Mick (Stoke) McNulty. He married Maria **Towey**, Derrykinlough. They had a large family of girls, Kathleen, Betty Annabell, Phil, Dorothy and Gertie. Mick died when the family were young. Maria and family moved away. She now lives in Swinford with her daughter Gertie. House now empty.

A family called Phillips came next, he were known as Mick (Mathew). He had at least one daughter Ann. She married a John Phillips (Brackley) from the village. They had 3 children, Michael (Black Michael), Mary Ann and another whose name I do not know. Mick and Mary Ann still live there, neither is married.

A man called Bernie Phillips lived about a 5 hundred yards up the field. He was married to a woman called Dooney from Derreen. They had no family. They gave the place to a nephew Paddy Dooney, Derreen (uncle to the present Martin). He came home from England with his wife Kathleen Molloy. They did have a family but went to live in Castlebar and sold the place to Jimmy (Curly) Phillips. The house is now empty.

Brackley Phillips was next, I do not know what his real name was. He married Kate McNulty from the village. They had 5 or 6 children Tom, John, Jim, Pake and Mary. Another girl went to America I do not know her name. John married Ann Phillips (Watchoo) above. Mary married Tom (Jack) Finn, Slievemore. Tom took over the farm and married Bea Roddy from Derryaraune (sister to Ann who married Mick Durcan, Killgarriff). They had 4 children. Mick, Tommie, Pauline and Katie Ann. Tommie lives across from the pub. Pauline married Paddy Forkin, Ballahere, (brother to Mick's wife) and own Pake Charlie Phillips in Cloomeen. Mic took over the farm and married Vergie Forkin from Ballahere. The brother and sister married brother and sister. They have two children Melita and Colette. Patrick McNulty lives with them. Melita lives in a new house next door to them with her husband Aidan Gallagher.

Martin Kelly was next, he was married to a Carney from Derryaraune, sister of Tom Paddy Carney. They had 3 children. Marie, Bea and Tom. His wife died, Bea and Tom were reared by Tom Paddy Carney and his wife in Derryaraune. Martin married for a second time to Mary (Seamus Rue) McNulty, sister to Tom McNulty from Killgarriff. They had 5 children. Jim, Maggie, Kathleen, Annie, Nora and Tom. Nora married Tommie Curley Phillips, Killgarriff. Kathleen married Paddy Slin Phillips from Cloomeen (his second wife). Jim took over the farm and as he never married the farm went to his sister Nora when he died. Tommie Curly, Nora's husband now owns the farm and the house is empty.

Tom Finn lived next door. He was married to a woman called Callaghan from Rooskey. They had 4 children. Kate, Bea, Nora and Tom. Bea married Paddy Slin Phillips, Cloomeen, (his first wife and Eileen Hopes mother). Tom married Nora Finn from Ballahere, (John Ned Finn sister). They had no family. They sold the farm and moved to England. Tom is now dead. The farm is now owned by the forestry.

The last house on that side was known as Dick Phillips. I do not know who he married. He had two daughters Kate and Bridget. Kate married John **Towey**, Cloonmeen (brother to Pat (Mick) **Towey**). They had 3 children. Del, Caith and John Joe. Del married Tom McGeever, Ballahere, (brother to

Pat McGeever and Maggie Rogers, John Rogers uncle and mother). John Joe and Caith never married and lived on the farm. Caith died and John Joe still lives there.

I will now start at the Old Forge Hill again, this time I will travel Eastwards as far as the County mearn going to Carrantemple.

The first house on the right hand side down from the road about 2 or 3 hundred yards was Tom (Smoker) Finns. He was married to Mary (Michael) Phillips, old Jim Michael's sister from the village. Tom died young and left 6 children. Jim, Paddy, Kate, Bea, Maggie and Marie. All went away and Jim sold the farm to Seamus Davey.

John McGuinn came next. He married a woman called McDonagh. They had 5 children. Pat, Jim, John, Thady and Tom. His first wife died and he married a woman by the name of McDonagh the second time. They had no family. Jim took over the farm and married Kate Tatum from Rooskey. They had 2 children Annie May and Sean. Annie May died in her 20's and Sean took over the farm. He married a girl called Bridie from Galway. They have 2 sons. John (Dowd) McGuinn lived next door. I do not know who he was married to. He had one son John who never married and who is now dead. The farm is owned by the forestry.

Mick (Michael) McGeever was next. He lived with his sister Mary. Neither married and are dead. Des Killoran from and his wife Bridle Grady, Cloomeen, (Matt and Maura Gradys daughter) now live in the house. They have 3 children, Samantha, Angela and Brian.

Paddy (Curley) Phillips lived next door. He was married to Mary Phillips from that house, he married into the place. They had 5 children. John, Pake, Bridget, Mary Kate, Maggie Ann. Pake took over the farm and when he died his sister Bridget took it over. She married Fran Taylor from Carrantemple. They sold the farm to Jim (Micky) **Towey** from Derrnacartha. When he died the farm went to his sister's son Eddie Connor. He farms the land and the house is empty.

Tom (Curley) Phillips lived next again. He was brother to Paddy above. He was married to Catherine McNulty sister to Pat (Tom Bawn) McNulty. They had 3 sons. John, Tom and Jim. John married Nell Dooney and went to live on Doon Rock. They were the parents of Martin Phillips who is married to Pauline Phillips nee Ohara, Annie (Billy) OHara nee McGeevers, Slievemore, daughter. Jimmy married Mary Ann Phillips, Tavnabeg. Tom took over the farm. He married Nora Kelly from the West of the village. They had 3 children, Mary, Thomas and Kathleen. Mary married James McDonagh, Derkinlough. Kathleen married John Rogers, Flaughena and now live in Johns uncles place Pat McGeevers in Ballahere. Tom and his wife still live there.

Old John Scanlan was next. He married Mary Gallagher from Rooskey. They had 3 children. John, Eddie and Maggie. Ann. All are now dead and the house is empty. John Rogers now owns the farm. It was sold by some remaining relations in Australia.

Conways was the name of the people who lived in the next door. There was a little woman called "Aunty" in the house. She was a sister to Patrick Conway from the Finn Village:. There also was a boy and a girl, Pat and Annie. I do not know who their parents were but the woman called "Aunty" reared them. Pat never married and went to England. Annie married Tom O'Hara from Carrantemple. Annie, Tom and family went to Manchester. House is now empty.

Tom Scanlon lived next to the. Conway family. He lived with his sister Ann. Neither married and are both dead. The farm is nova owned by the forestry and house is empty.

I will now come back to the "Old Forge Hill" again and name the houses on the left hand side traveling eastward.

The first house is Pat (Bill) **Towey**s. This house was a one time Caseys, Pat or his father must

have married into the place. It was one of those Caseys called Bid who married Patrick (Millers) **Towey**, Shanwalla. Pat (Bill) was married to Mary Finn from Slievemore, sister to Paddy John Finn. She died very young. They had 4 children. Pake, Joe, Nelly, Katie-Ann and Mary. Katie-Ann married Mick Finn, Tavnaghbeg and went to live in Killmovee. Nelly married Michael Duffy from Rooskey. Mary (Bill) never married and still lives in the home. Nelly's son now owns the farm. There was a shop there when I was going to school.

Mick Morrin lived next and he was married to Mary Rushe from Rooskey. They had no family and are both now dead. Tommie Clossik now owns the place.

Tom Clossik lived next door. He was married to Bea Egan from Tavnabeg and aunt to Johnie Egan, Tavnabeg. They had 2 sons Vincent and Tommie. Neither married and live in the homeplace.

Michael (Captain) McGeever lived next. Old Captain was married to Nora McGeever from Balahere, sister to Ciaran McGeever. They had 3 children Mick, Mary-Kate and Bea. Mick married Nora O'Hara from Annaghmore (she was sister to Pat Tim O'Hara, husband to Bea Mc Donnell, Tavnabeg). They had 2 children Des and Kathleen. Kathleen went to America and Des to England but now lives in Ireland. The house is empty. There was a shop there too.

Jim (Michael) Phillips was next, he was married to Edward McGeever's sister from Ballahere. They had 3 children (maybe more) Jim, Eddie and Mary. Mary married Tom Smoker Finn, Killgarriff. Jim married Mary Giblin from Gowllawn (Rooskey). They had 2 children Michael and James. They all went away and the farm is owned by the forestry and the house is empty.

Tom (Dominick) Phillips came next. I do not know whom he married. They had 1 daughter Mary. She married Tom Phillips from Ballahere, brother of Sean and sister of Maggie wife of Billy McGeever, Slievemore. They had 5 children, Paddy, Myles, Tom, Bea and Mary-Kate. Mary-Kate married Ginger Armstrong, Annaghmore (brother to Jack Armstrong who married Teresa (Billy) McGeever, Slievemore). Paddy took over the farm but died tragically. The farm was then sold to Michael Phillips from Doon. The house is now empty. That house was the last in Killgarriff East and built on the mearn, between Mayo and Sligo.

There is also one more very important house in Killgarriff which I did not yet include as it was not there in my youth. It was only built in 1947 by a man called Frank McHugh from Monasteradan. He then opened a shop which was very successful. He sold it to a friend of his Tommie Mahon also from Monasteradan. He in turn sold it to Des Corcoran from Monasteradan. Des and his wife Kathleen from Frenchpark ran the business successfully and in 1961 opened a Public House. They also bought the Post Office across the road and brought it over to the shop. They continued to run Shop, Pub and Post Office until 1986 when they sold to John Morrisroe (John John Phillips nephew). Des and Kathleen moved across the road with the Post Office to where it originally was, (as already mentioned).

It is now called The Old Forge Inn and run by Mary Morrisroe from Clare, Johnny's wife.

I cannot leave Killgarriff without mentioning the school where I got my education without which I would have been unable to write this book. Looking back they were happy days. I had 3 different teachers. My very first was Miss Sherlock, a lovely young girl who taught the infants for about 2 years. She lived in Ballaghaderreen and cycled in and out to Cloontia each day. We must remember that in those days the roads were not tarred, rough sand was spread on it in order to keep it in repair. When she had implanted the little seed of learning in our young brains she sent us on to Master Lydon. I spent 3 years with him. He lived in the Teachers Residence already mentioned with his wife and family. He was replaced by a young man called Master Killgarriff from Ballaghaderreen. It was with him that I spent the rest of my school days until the age of 13 and a half. The school closed in 1986 to be replaced by a new one in the townland of Dernabrock. The school is now 113 years old and a beautiful Community Centre. I hope it will last another 113 years and give the people of Cloontia as

good a service as it ever did.

That concludes all the houses in Killgarriff.

TOWNLAND OF TAVNAGHBEG

Tavnaghbeg comprises of two villages Tavnaghbeg itself and Cullgeragaur. Once more I will come to that old spot "The Old Forge Inn". I will travel northwards for about half a mile before I come to Tavnaghbeg.

I will turn left into Martin Keanes who was married to Ellen Joyce, (I do not know exactly where she came from but I think she had relations in Derryaraune). Martin's sister was David O Gara's (who lives in old Patrick Kelly's house) grandmother. They had 4 children, Maura, Nan, Eileen and Jerry. Eileen married Tom (Mick Jack) Finn son, Tavnaghbeg. Maura married Jimmy Kelly already mentioned. Jerry married Tessa Cullen from Dernacruma and took over the farm. They had 5 children, Maura Evelyn, Noleen, Martin John, Kenneth and Christy. Noleen is married to Joe Mulligan Carn (nephew of Mary Shannon, Cloomeen and Una **Towey**, Killgarriff). Jerry and his wife still live there.

Next lived a man called Pat Durcan. He never married and lived with his sister Kate. They took in their niece Mary Jane Durcan, Kilfree (Pats brothers daughter), when she married Joe Taylor, Carrantample, they took in her brother Pat. They left him the place and he then lived there. When he died, he left the place to relations in Kilfree. They then sold it to Paddy Durcan, Cullaherine, who also now owns the other Durcan farm below. The house is now empty.

Next door again was John Durcan. He married a woman called Shiel from Carrantample. They had 4 children John, Jim Pake and Tom. Jim married Mary Ellen Kelly from Cloomeen and went to live in Cullaherine (parents to Paddy Durcan above). Pake took over the farm and married another Durcan, Annie from Derrinkinlough, sister to Bea, Paddy Egans wife, Cloomeen. She was a returned Yank. They had no family and left the farm to a nephew John Durcan, (Jims son) who stayed there for a few years and then sold it to his brother Paddy who also owns Pat Durcan's farm above. House empty.

John (Mick Jack) Finn lived a short distance away. He was married to Kate Carney (Smiler) from Derryaraune. His brother Tom (Mick Jack) was married to Kate (Luke) Finn, Cullgeragaur. They had no family and left the farm to Jerry Keane. House now empty.

I come out from those 4 houses and come to John (Jimmie) Geever. He lived along the road and was married to Ellen McDonnell from Derrykinlough. They had 4 children (maybe more) John, James, Mary Kate and Nelly. James took over the farm and married Catherine (Kate) Henry from Derryaraune. They had no family and when James died Catherine sold the place to Pauric Phillips from across the road. He now lives there with his wife Mary Hayden from Cortoon and their 4 children. There was also a shop there.

At the back of Geever lived John (Mickey) Geever. He was married to a Durcan, sister to old John Durcan above. They had 6 children, Michael, Pat, Jim, Tom, Mary Kate and Bea. Michael took over the place and never married. His next of kin sold the place to the Johnny Martin Phillips across the road. The house is now empty.

I will now cross the road to John Phillips. He was a very old man when I first saw him. His son Martin took over farm and married a girl called Conlon. They had 3 children, John, Tom and Marion. The mother died when Marion was born. Martin then married again, her sister called Jane. They had one girl called Jane. She is now dead. Marion married Tommie Mahon and lived in Ballaghaderreen. Tom married Mary Beirne from Derryaraune and moved to Cuilmore. John (Johnny Martin John) took over the farm and married Marion Forkan from Ballahere, daughter of Dick (Brownie) Forkan. They had 5 children, Martin, Pauric, Des, Christine and Marion. Martin died young. Pauric mentioned above. Marion, Des and his wife Ann McCoy (her grandmother was Maggie Stokes McNulty) live there now. Christine and her

husband Seamus Davey from Doocastle have built a new house next door.

At the back of Johnnie Martin Johns above lived another Phillips. He was known as Martin (Tommie) Phillips. He was married to a woman called Mary Grady from Cloomeen, (sister to John Grady). They had 4 children, Tom, Martin, Maggie Ellen and Kate. Tom took over the farm and never married. Seamus Davey now owns the farm and the house is empty.

John McDonnell came next, his place was known as the "Rookery". He had 1 brother and 1 sister. Maria the sister was a teacher in England. The house is now gone and the farm is divided amongst the neighbours.

Charlie McDonnell lived next door. He was married to Mary Conway from Slievemore, (the house I now live in). They had 4 children Pat, John, Kate and Mary Ann. John married a girl from Boherbui near Ballaghaderreen. They had a daughter Peggy who lives in England. The farm belongs to Eddie Kilroy now.

Pat McDonnells house was attached to Charlies, they may have been related. Pat married Mary Glackin from Carracastle. They had 5 children, John, Pat, Michael, Jim and Bea. Bea married Pat Tim O Hara from Annaghmore. Jim took over the farm and married Kate Finn from Cullgeragaune (aunt to John Joe Finn). They had 3 children, Pauric, Celia and Mary. Mary married Eddie Kilroy from Curry and took over the farm. They have 7 children and reside there now.

There was also another house in that area but I do not know much about it. They were also McDonnells. A girl called Winnie taught the infants (girls) in Cloontia School. A sister married old Roddy Finn, Cullgeragaurn. All are now dead and the house is empty. Eddie Kilroy owns the farm.

Old Pat Egan lived across the fields from the McDonnells. I don't know who he was married. They had 2 daughters, Mary Ann and Bea. Bea married Tom Clossik, Killgarriff (mother to Tommie and Vincent). Mary Ann married Pat (John) Phillips (step brother to John John). They took over the farm and had 4 children, Mary Ellen, Bridle, Brendan and Johnnie. When Mary Ann died Pat married Mary Kate Deignan a widow and neighbour from Cullgeragaurn, (mother to John and Michael Deignan). Mary Ellen married Jimmy (Curly) Phillips. Bridle is a nun. Johnnie took over the farm and still lives there. He is unmarried.

Cullgeragaurn

Cullgeragaurn is the last village in Cloontia and is in the townland of Tavnaghbeg. There were 6 families in there, all Finns except for one McDonagh.

I will start with Tim McDonagh he married into the place, his wife was Scanlon. They had a son Patrick who took over the farm (there may have been more siblings) and he married Mary O' Connor from Cuilmore. They had 6 children, Phil, Eileen, Patricia, Kathleen, Myra and Tim. Tim took over the farm and married Elizabeth Tansey from Mountirwan, (sister to Helen Lynotts husband). They live there with their 4 children.

I will now take the Finn families.

Mick (Mathew) Finn came first. I don't know who his wife was but they had 2 daughters, Mary Kate and Annie. Annie married Gaffney from Cuilmore. Mary Kate took over the farm. and married John Deignan from Shrough near Rooskey. They had 2 sons John and Michael. John Senior died in England and Mary Kate then married Pat John Philips already mentioned. John and Michael still live there and are unmarried.

Old Andy Finn came next I don't know who he was married to but they was at least one son called Jim. He never married and Jim McDonagh has the place.

Luke Finn lived next to Andy Finn. I do not know whom he married. There was one daughter I knew maybe more. Her name was Kate (Luke) and she married another Finn from besides Jerry Keanes called Tom (Mick Jack) Finn. They had large family. They all moved to England and America. Eileen Keane, Jerrys sister is married in England to one of them.

Next comes John (Paddy Bawn) Finn. I do not know whom he married. They had 3 children, Michael, Pake and Kate. Michael married Katie-Ann (Bill) **Towey** from Killgarriff. Kate married Jim McDonnell (Mary Kilroys father). Pake took over the farm and married Nora Hunt from Cloonfeighton. They had 2 children, John Joe and Annie May. Pake died a young man and Nora married a second time to her next door neighbour Tom (Roddy) Finn. They had 2 more children, Roger and Mary. Roger built a new house beside the old one and lives there with his wife Ann and 3 children. The old house is now empty.

Roddy Finns is the last house in Tavnaghbeg. He was married to a woman called McDonnell form the village and sister to the school teacher in Cloontia mentioned earlier. They had 4 children, Roger, Michael, Tom and Mary Agnes. Roddys first wife died and he married a second time to a woman called Ruane from Hawsford. They had no family. Tom married Nora (Hunt) Finn, her second husband, above. Mary Anges married Martin Grady Cloomeen, Cuilmore. Roger and Michael never married and still live there.

That concludes the houses in the townland of Tavnabeg.

I have now named every house in Cloontia that had people living in them in the 1920's. In my estimation there were about 6 people to every house (father, mother + 4 children). There were 131 homes so that would have been 786 people approx.

Today there are only 60 approx. homes in Cloontia and giving an average of 4 in every house that is 240 people approx. What a decline in population.

SUMMARY

In the 1920's the people of Cloontia lived off the produce of the land with help from the emigration earnings. Most men went to England for the summer months after they had sown the potatoes and oats. The wives and children were left to look after the crops and save the turf. It must be said that those woman and children worked extremely hard. The land of Cloontia was a cold and begrudging soil, every crop had to be coaxed from this cold land. Most of this land had been reclaimed from the bog. As there was no machinery in those days all work was done by hand summer and winter. Few people had horses and plough but most houses were lucky to have a donkey and cart. All winter was spent cleaning drains. Young boys between 13 and 16 years of age helped the adults with this work. From 16 on their thoughts turned to the boat for America or England. In the 1920's a lot of the young people went to America and got caught up in the great recession of 1929. Most never returned and as parents died there was nothing to entice them home. Slowly but surely the homes became vacant and never lived in again.

They old people had a saying "From once the fire goes out in a home it is seldom lit again". Indeed in my own experience that saying in all too true.

The houses in those days were all thatched. There were only 4 slatted houses in Cloontia in my young days. They were my own, a two story which was paid for by my aunts in America, the teachers Residence Bob Callaghans in Derryaraune and Michael Bob Finns in the Finn Village.

The houses were all of the same design, 4 stone walls about 30 feet long, 10 to 12 feet wide, two dividing walls giving a room at each end and the living room in the middle. This was where all the work was done, cooking, washing, baking and where the family were fed. Everything was cooked on the open fire. The fire was most important, food for the animals as well as humans was cooked there and it gave warmth and some light on winter nights. In most houses there was a reces built into the kitchen

wall where a bed was placed. This was known by many different names, the outchat, oldhag. This was where the man and wife sleep or the old person of the house. Very few houses was without the old person as most of the old were looked after at home.

After the great War (World War 1) times were very hard. Even in England employment was hard to come by. It was around those years up until the 30's that most people went to America. Even there it was hard to find the donors to send home. When we got our Government things began to slowly change but it was not until 1932 that things really began to change. The introduction of the Dole (unemployment assistance) brought slight improvement to the people. A few shillings a week made all the difference to the peoples lives.

In the mid 30's the government started to give grants to the people in order to improve their homes. To build a house you got £40 or a loan and £80 of a grant. This offer was gladly taken up and very soon new houses began to appear in every village. A great change came over the whole area.

In 1939 the second World War broke out and this put a stop to the building process. The War also had a very positive side as employment in England became more and more plentiful. Most men went to England to work where they earned big wages. It is safe to say that from that time poverty in Ireland began to disappear. When War was over building materials became plentiful again. House building began and the old thatched homes began to disappear one by one. By the mid fiftys there was hardly a thatched house in Cloontia. Beautiful slated homes all over the place serviced by that wonderful new element called Electricity. The days of the old lamps and candle were gone forever. To the young generation of women in particular this was a wonder thing. They were now able to have all sorts of gadgets in their homes, washing machine, electric cooker, irons. In fact everything to make life more pleasant, a far cry from their grandmothers day. It's hard to believe that so much could happen in half a lifetime. Great wonders had taken place. One would think there could be no more. Ah, but wait the best had yet to come.

Ireland became a member of the "European Community" now know as the EU. As a poor nation we were granted a special place when the funds were been handed out. These funds were known as grants, cattle rearing grants, sheep and pig grants, grants for slated houses to house the cattle in winter or all year around, calf rearing grants, grants for sending milk to the creamery. The days of the turf cut with the "clean" is over with the introduction of grants for turf machines.

The old way of making hay vanished with the introduction of baled hay, silage pits and silage bales.

So many things have happened since we joined the E.E.C. back in 1972 that we cannot be surprised any more.

To the young generation of Cloontia I say ye do not know the blessings ye have. Give a thought now and then to the hardships of your ancestors, make use of the gifts that has come your way. I hope the in the year 2099 that there will be some one in Cloontia that will record the last 100 years.

My story of the homes and people is now finished. I may have forgotten some things but I have given a true and accurate account as I remember them. I do not wish to offend anyone alive or dead and if I have done so I apologise sincerely as no offence was meant. I thank God for giving me the life I have lived. I would not change any part of it. If God lets me see the year 2000 I will have lived 4/5 of the century. To the dead I say well done and may their memory last forever, they were a great people.