
O'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN

REUNION NEWSLETTER #03 - 13 MAY 2023

Bocan Stone Circle, Culdaff, Co. Donegal



What's In This Issue?

- FAQs - including Travel Restrictions, What to Pack, "Fringe Events" and much more...
- Clonmany Evictions 1880-1882 and Distress in Carndonagh
- Spotlight on Northburgh Castle, Co. Donegal

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

Greetings to all our Clann Members!

We are now in the final stages of preparation for the long-awaited O'Dochartaigh Clann Reunion and only have just over sixty days left and counting!

For those of you that require more information on the Reunion and are planning to join

the celebrations, you can find everything that you need to make the trip to Ireland on our webpage:

<https://www.odohertyheritage.org/reunion>

Many thanks to Clann Member Will Dougherty III of Missouri, USA for all his assistance in putting the details together for us on the Reunion webpage. We are loving the straightforward format and new ticketing platform.

We are really excited to meet with you all and to welcome you to Donegal!



*Carrickabraghy Castle,
Isle of Doagh, Co.
Donegal*

REUNION INFORMATION SECTION

REUNION FAQ

In addition to the details posted on the webpages, there are some FAQs which have been directed to both the Facebook pages and to our email address:

ODochartaighReunion@gmail.com

We will try to answer these queries below. If, however, there is anything that we have missed in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us via email so we can help.

Q1: Are there any remaining travel restrictions into Ireland for summer 2023?

A: Since Sunday 6 March 2022, travellers to Ireland are not required to show proof of vaccination, proof of recovery or a negative PCR test result upon arrival.

There are no post-arrival testing or quarantine requirements for travellers to Ireland.

Any individual that develops COVID-19 symptoms while in Ireland should follow the HSE (Ireland's Health Service) guidance in relation to isolation and undertaking antigen or PCR testing as appropriate.



More information can be found at the Irish Government information page:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/77952-government-advice-on-international-travel/>



Q2: I will not be able to make the Registration on the first day of the Reunion. Is there any other way that I can pick up the tickets?

A: We would encourage you to attend the Registration in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel to get the opportunity to meet up with others in the Clann before the official launch. It also allows us to do the admin from one place at one time. As many of our volunteers will be doing this in their own time, we would ask that you try to make it. If, however, due to your plans, this is impossible, we ask that you email us as far in advance as you can to let us know so that we can make alternative arrangements to hand over the tickets, etc.

Q3: What are the additional “Fringe” events that are planned?

A: There will be some additional events that are not on the official itinerary of Clann events. These “Fringe” events will be added right up to the week of the Reunion since in the main they will be free and are not being organised by our committee. We will release details of these on our Reunion webpage as and when we receive final confirmation. We have been asking local restaurants, bars and accommodation to add entertainment to their usual schedules for the Reunion. Some do not finalise their plans until the week before!

Q4: Can we purchase tickets to individual events?

A: When we began to plan the various events on the itinerary, we quickly realised that the cost of venue hire, entertainment, food, and other expenses had risen considerably in the eight years since the last reunion. It has also increased substantially since the pre-COVID plans made for the 2020. We had to take a serious look at how to put on a week-long quality set of events which would be entirely dependant on minimum numbers to ensure that the committee could cover these costs.

We believe that we have come up with an event-filled itinerary which will allow Clann members to celebrate our Irish heritage and our Clann roots. The only real way to ensure that number quotas were filled (minimum numbers are required for each event to remain cost effective) was to give the two options on ticketing: #1 All Event Tickets (with an Early Bird option) or #2 Weekend Special (covering the weekend in the middle of the itinerary (Fri-Mon)).

However, there have been a few who have enquired desiring to pay to attend individual events. There are some who are doing a round-Ireland tour and would like to drop into the reunion and would only be around for a day or two. So, we have looked at the itinerary and can offer a limited number of individually paid tickets to the following events on our ticketing platform:

Wed 19 July	“The Gathering”	7pm-11pm	€60
Thur 20 July	Family History and Heritage Forum	6pm - 10pm	€40
Fri 21 July	Inishowen 100 Tour	10am - 4pm	€60
Sat 22 July	O’Dochartaigh Day (Derry)	10am - 5pm	€60
Mon 24 July	O’Dochartaigh Day (Buncrana)	2pm - 5pm	€20
Tues 25 July	“The Scattering”	7pm - 10pm	€60

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer any additional concessions on these tickets, and they will be on a “first come” basis. We hope you understand. Tickets will be released on 17 May 2023 – please check the ticketing site for more details:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/odochartaigh-clann-reunion-2023-tickets-562628144927>



Q5: We are unable to travel on a coach. Can we follow the bus on the Inishowen 100 Tour on Friday, 21 July using our own vehicle?

A: This request has been raised due to mobility issues and we can only agree to it for a very small number of people due to parking and health and safety reasons. Please note that an individual ticket (mobility) must still be purchased for those travelling in a vehicle and these are strictly limited. To avail of this ticket, please contact us via email to request the access code to purchase this type of ticket. Strictly on a “first come” basis.

Q6: Is there anything we need to do before we arrive at the Reunion?

A: We will be sending a registration questionnaire out to everyone via email in the next week. Please ensure that this is completed for every member of your group. This is to ensure we have all your contact details while you are here in Ireland to alert you to any unforeseen changes to the itinerary or to allow us to send you additional information. Further details on the form will be sent soon.



Q7: I am a musician, would it be okay to join in with the O’Dochartaigh Trad Session in O’Flaherty’s Bar on Friday, 21 July?

A: Absolutely! This is positively encouraged! For anyone who plays Irish traditional music or sings traditional Irish songs, this is a fabulous opportunity to join in! We would love any of you that fit into this category to give us a heads up so that we can arrange additional chairs at venues. There will be several traditional music sessions on both the itinerary and “Fringe events” to which you are invited to play. For a full list, please contact us via email. We will also be posting this information to our Facebook pages nearer the time.

Q8: Has a date been decided yet for the next Reunion after 2023?

A: An announcement regarding the next Reunion will be made at “The Scattering” event held on the final day of the 2023 Reunion. This information will then be shared on Facebook and emailed out to our mailing list members.

Q9: Can you advise what events have meals included on our Reunion ticket?

A: Not every event includes a meal, but these are the ones that do:

Wed 19 Jul "The Gathering"	3-Course Dinner
Fri 21 Jul Inishowen 100 Tour	Soup & Sandwiches
Sat 22 Jul O'Dochartaigh Day (Derry)	Light Lunch
Sun 23 Jul Rambling Cottage	Light Refreshments
Tues 25 Jul The Wake of Mickey John Joe Doherty	Light Refreshments
Tues 25 Jul "The Scattering"	2-Course Meal

Menus (where available) will be posted on the Reunion webpage the week before the first event takes place.

While every attempt will be made to arrange gluten free / other allergen free meals, this cannot be guaranteed as some of the premises at which the Reunion events take place do not cater to alternative menus.

Where this is the case, we will advise you in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Please note that at least one vegetarian and vegan option will be provided.

A pre-registration form will be sent out soon to all Reunion attendees to ask what their preferences are. Please ensure that you return your form by the date given to guarantee that your option is available.

We will be giving recommendations / suggestions of places to eat in each location around Inishowen and in Derry city. Look out for these on the Reunion webpage also.

We will also alert you to any local businesses / suppliers that will offer an O'Dochartaigh Discount to our Clann Members. Again, this information will be available on our Reunion webpage as and when we have confirmation from suppliers. It will also be placed in the Welcome Packs which will be distributed at Registration on the first day.



Hopefully that has answered all the queries that have been flagged to us lately. But again, if we have missed anything, please do not hesitate to email us! That's the fastest way to get a response. We aim to answer within 48-72 hours, although we are very busy with the run-up to the Reunion, so please bear with us!

We have been enjoying some lovely sunny weather here in Inishowen this weekend and we would ask that you all send blessings, prayers, good thoughts, cross your fingers, etc, etc, that the July weather is also kind to us! With that said, there is another question that did come up....

Q10: I've never been in Ireland and I'm not sure what to pack!

A: Great question! You will quickly learn in Ireland that we are OBSESSED with talking about the weather! It's our favourite topic of conversation. And so we always know what type of day it's going to be in advance as we need to dress accordingly.... although, sometimes we even experience four seasons in one day! With that in mind, these are some suggestions:

- **LAYERS!** Plan for wind, cold and rain but also make sure that you throw in some summer t-shirts that you use if the sun blesses us! Sweaters and cardigans should be packed to layer over shirts / blouses.
- **Jeans / trousers (pants)** – these are versatile and can be paired with different tops.
- We would recommend good-fitting, comfortable **walking shoes** – waterproof/ water-resistant if possible, although you can buy inexpensive waterproofing spray here in Ireland to spray sneakers, etc daily. There may be occasion to walk through wet grass for example.

- A **showerproof / rainproof, lightweight jacket** (with hood or bring a warm hat which won't easily blow off your head) is another necessity due to sudden rainfall and wind.
- **Swimsuit** – if you are planning to visit swimming pools or hot tubs at accommodations, or indulge in another Irish obsession....wild swimming!
- We would suggest that you bring at least **one "smart" outfit** to wear for "The Gathering" – this isn't obligatory, but you may wish to dress up.
- **Small bag / rucksack** to carry your essentials on a daily basis.
- There are no venues on the itinerary that have a particular dress code, so we would recommend that most of your **clothing** is in the "**comfortable**" bracket.



Remember to check the weather forecast closer to your travel dates for more accurate information. It's always a good idea to pack a variety of clothing options to accommodate changing weather conditions during your trip to Ireland. We will be advising of the advance predicted weather the week before the Reunion – watch out for the updates on social media!

We hope this latest update has been helpful. Please email us with any queries that we haven't yet managed to answer for you.

Historical Article

Our O'Dochartaigh Ancestors' Story

A series of newspaper reports from the 1880s describing living conditions of the poor and evictions



The Distressful Country

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Londonderry, Feb 8

10 February 1880 - The Daily Telegraph (London, England)

Every schoolboy knows, or ought to know, that in the extreme north of Ireland is an irregularly shaped peninsula, bounded west by Lough Swilly and east by Lough Foyle having the town of Derry at its base, and, at the other extremity, thrusting forward into the North Atlantic a bold promontory terminating in Malin Head. This tract of land though as large as some entire shires, forms part of the county Donegal, and bears the name of Inishowen. In ancient times it was the appanage of the O'Dohertys, a powerful race of native princes, the ruins of whose castles still exist, and whose name is borne by so many of the present inhabitants that you might call the first man you meet Doherty with the chances largely in favour of a response.

The district has its peculiar attractions, yet, probably, no part of Ireland is less known to those resident out of the immediate neighbourhood. On the eastern shore, Moville, and on the western, Buncrana, are small towns, frequented in summer by visitors from the counties close at hand, the first-named being accessible by road and steamer, the second by a railway from Derry. Otherwise, nobody penetrates into Inishowen. Tourists stop short in the Donegal Highlands, and will have nothing to say to it; while, as its roads lead to nowhere, they are travelled by few save the inhabitants. Concerning the natural features of the country I shall have something to say later; but its isolation has been pointed out first of all because it partly explains why the name of Inishowen did not early and prominently appear in connection with the distress.

At Dublin, the other day, I found, among those likely to be best informed, only a vague notion of the state of things in the peninsula, and this determined me to go north and see for myself. I have carried out the resolve, and regret to say that, although some portions of the district are fairly well off, others are in a state of destitution, which will rapidly grow very serious, indeed, unless adequate preventive measures be promptly taken.

My objective point on starting from Derry last Friday morning was Carndonagh, a little town eighteen Irish miles distant, and the chief place of that which should be called the northern half barony, but owing to some confusion regarding the cardinal points, is styled the eastern. Carndonagh occupies a central position in this district, and lies so near the wild Atlantic coast, north, east, and west, that its advantages for the purpose of my work could not be overlooked.

Along the road thither my old attendants, wind and rain, were in close company, as though suspecting that a few days of brilliant spring-like weather would lead me to see things too much couleur de rose. The Americans warned us of a coming “disturbance,” and it came in the shape of a great gale and lashing storms of rain that churned up the waters of Lough Foyle as I drove along the shore, and howled dismally through the trees and among the mountain glens. I should be very much wanting in adaptability to circumstances if this were not now regarded as a thing of course. Donegal or Kerry, it matters not much, “the rain it raineth every day (when I am on the road). And the wind is never weary.” For some miles out of Derry, as far as a little watering-place called Carrowkeel, the road keeps close to the Lough, and, save in a storm is extremely pretty and cheerful.

The mansions of the Derry merchants stand on the rising ground to the left; the strip of country between them and the shore is well wooded, and kept in admirable order, The villagers are neat, and have a prosperous appearance; the farms are comparatively large; and altogether, this entrance to Inishowen impresses the traveller favourably. But when, at Carrowkeel, the road turned inland towards the mountains that fill up the centre of the barony, the change was sudden and complete.

Again I saw the familiar features of a “distressful” district; poor cabins, small holdings, thousands of acres lying waste, more thousands imperfectly drained and poorly cultivated, and, looking down upon all, wild and stony hills. There is no mistaking now what such an aspect means. It means the direct poverty and want, fast coming, if not already there. Putting this thought aside, the road had its charms for me. It wound along through a glen almost desolate of life, with hills to the right and hills to the left from one to two thousand feet high, till finally it debouched upon a considerable plain in which, occupying a little eminence, Carndonagh stands.



The town had 731 inhabitants at the last census, and is a favourable specimen as regards appearance of such a place in Ireland. It boasts a spacious convent and school, a Catholic chapel of more than average pretensions, a Protestant church, a Presbyterian meeting house, and a bank that claims, without dispute to be Carndonagh's greatest ornament.

There is no hotel, in the ordinary sense of the word, but the duties of a hotelkeeper are discharged, and very well discharged, by a tradesman, who treats his guests with the personal consideration so rarely met with in these days under like circumstances.

The most hospitable of the O'Doherty princes could not have done the honours of reception more cordially than Mr. Patrick Doherty of that ilk, and when mine host took a chair opposite me before the blazing fire of his little parlour and unfolded a store of local knowledge for my behoof, I could not get free from a notion that somehow the clock of the centuries had been put back one. In no respect was there reason to complain of Carndonagh's welcome. My work, as representative of The Daily Telegraph, is now well-known in every part of Ireland, and appreciated at, I am half afraid, more than its true value, if not higher than sincerity of purpose warrants.

I had not been in the place long therefore, ere I received a call from the Rev. Patrick O'Doherty, one of the Catholic curates and

Mr. John Doherty, Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Inishowen Union. No visitors could have better suited my purpose or have been more qualified to give me a general idea of the state of the district.

The gentlemen just named are my authority for stating that around Carndonagh the people are not at present suffering in a very special degree. Thirty or forty families belonging to the parish were reported as more or less requiring charitable aid, and the prevalence of fever in several localities would seem to indicate a low condition of vitality, owing to want of proper nourishment.

One fever case brought under my notice by Father O'Doherty struck me as so painful that I feel bound to mention it here. It was that of a father and five children all down with the disease together, and attended only by the wife and mother. The father died, and at his funeral the distress of the widow was so extreme that she had to be removed from the graveside.

At the close of the ceremony her priest reproached her with rebellion against the decrees of Providence, whereupon the poor woman exclaimed,

"Ah! your riverencem it's asy to say that, but I've five childer at home wid the faver, and no one to earn them a bit oo bread." What could be urged in answer?



The Diamond, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal

**COUNTY OF DONEGAL
CROWN COURT**

RIOT AND ASSAULT IN CLONMANY

_____ * _____

(FROM OUR REPORTER)
Lifford, Monday

Tuesday, 19 July 1881 – Belfast News-Letter
(Belfast, Co. Antrim)

The Lord Chief Justice entered court at ten o'clock. John Doherty, jun., Patrick Devlin, Unity Gill, and James Doherty were indicted for unlawful assembly, riot, and violent assault upon Patrick McAleney, near Clonmany, on the 12th November last. They pleaded not guilty.

Mr. McCorkell (instructed by Mr. O'Doherty) appeared for three of the prisoners, and Mr. O'Doherty alone for the prisoner James Doherty.

Patrick McAleney a bailiff on the estate of the Hon. Captain Cochrane, was the principal witness for the Crown. His account of the affair was, shortly, as follows:-

He went out on the 12th November to serve notices on the tenants to pay rents. The first house he went to was open but the man was out, and, with five or six others, was standing on a knove blowing a horn, and he heard horns blowing in other places about. One of the prisoners came up to him, and said he had been warned already not to come back, and that he had better go home. He went on, but was immediately surrounded by about 150 persons. The female prisoner, Unity Gill, struck him with a turnip on the head, and knocked him down in a field.

He got up and ran on, but was turned by the crowd, the prisoner James Doherty pushing him on the road to go home. When crossing a mearing fence he was caught by the legs

and thrown off his feet. He got up, and was pelted with mud and dirt as he went along till he came to a river, and was crossing a ford on stepping stones. When he got near the far side a number of females pushed him off the stones into the river which was only knee-deep. He was still pursued to the top of a hill where he was struck by a stone and knocked down on the top of a bridge. He was there found by the police.

A constable proved finding the witness on this day covered with mud and dirt, and confused and agitated. Dr. Farren found a bruise on his back and that he was suffering from congestion of the lungs.

The jury retired and had not agreed to their verdict when this despatch left.

[BY TELEGRAPH]

After my despatch, the jury in the case of riot and assault near Clonmany returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoners were discharged.



EVICTIONS IN DONEGAL

_____ * _____

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Clonmany, Tuesday.

Wednesday, 22 March 1882 – The Freeman’s Journal (Dublin, Ireland)

It will be remembered that some nights ago the Chief Secretary was asked whether he was aware he was aware that extensive evictions of tenants in respect of arrears due were taking place, or had taken place, in several districts in Donegal, including Clonmany. The reply given to the interrogation was in effect an admission of the fact that such evictions had taken place, and a further statement by Mr. Forster that “in Clonmany the landlords had made arrangements with their tenants.”

Today I paid a visit to the latter district, and from the inquiries I there made and the information I received, I am at a loss to know how that statement came to be made, and no one seemed more amazed at the nature of the reply given in Parliament to Mr. O’Donnell than many of the tenants with whom “arrangements” were said to have been made. It is undoubtedly a fact that cannot be controverted, that so far from the allegation touching the Clonmany tenants being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, on the principal estate in the district the only arrangement so far made with the tenants has been to put them out on the roadside – a settlement with a vengeance.

Clonmany is situate about nine miles from the pretty seaport town of Buncrana, in a district the wild picturesque character of which is undoubtedly very great, but from an agricultural point of view much of the land is anything but kind; it is difficult to work, and presents even to the most willing workers obstacles that nothing but the patient and enduring nature of the people could overcome.

In one particular place to which to which I allude the arable portions are patches between huge rocks. Portions of one section (Mindoran) are so steep that the people have to carry the manure on their backs to reach the land, and indeed any one with even the most inexperienced eye must be struck by the unyielding prospect presented by much of this mountain district.

The first thing that most naturally strikes any one visiting the place now is the consideration how lamentable it is that at a time when farming operations are of such vital importance, when every man who has a bit of land is putting in his crops, when the almost unparalleled agricultural prospect of the present delightful spring gives hope of a better day to the tenant-farmer, that land reclaimed by honest labour, or where families have for generations managed to make a home, should become desolate by the judicial process of eviction.

On one estate alone in this district there have taken place no fewer than eighteen evictions – representing, I understand, the expulsion of over a hundred individuals. And this in the very place with reference to which the Chief Secretary has publicly stated “the landlords had made arrangements with their tenants.”

Before mentioning as briefly as may be a few of the facts connected with the more recent evictions which have come to my knowledge, it may here be observed as a not unimportant element in the case that the district had been scheduled in the Compensation for Disturbance Bill as a “distressed district,” and many of the tenants were in receipt of famine relief. This, in fact, applies to the majority of the tenants.

On the estate of Mr. John Loughrey there have been during the present month eighteen evictions actually carried out. In four cases I am informed that the tenants were admitted back as caretakers. There were all men and women whose families had been reared on the place. They are a very industrious race.

Father J. Maguire C.C. (who, with Father Doherty, the parish priest, has taken a fatherly interest in the poor people), described them today as deserving of the "best word that could be said of any people." Their only fault, he added was their poverty, and they were poor because the rents were high, and the bad times through which they passed had cramped their resources and left them, despite their superhuman labours, completely at the mercy of their landlord.

I was struck by the fact that in many cases there is not by any means such a disproportion between the Government valuation and the rent as is observable on holdings in the south and west, but I am informed that in this district especially the fact that the valuation is unreasonably high has been an unceasing source of embarrassment and discontent to the tenants because it gives the notion in many cases that they are paying what, judging by the valuation, would certainly not appear to be a rack-rent. It is hardly necessary, nor would any useful result follow from it, to go in detail through the circumstances surrounding the case of each individual tenant.

I take a couple haphazard, as fairly indicating, I think the nature of the holdings. Patrick Harkin, whose family numbers ten individuals, held at a rent of £5 5s, his valuation was £3 5s, and his old rent was £3 11s. The widow Lynch and J McLaughlin also held farms similarly circumstanced. The circumstances of these and most of the other tenants render their cases very hard to _____ with the place made it _____ notwithstanding all their troubles.

_____ rent of £10 10s, the Government valuation in this case being little more than.....half..... - namely, £5 5s, and his rent £7 7s.

_____ at least two years in arrear - _____ point arises with reference _____ formed by Father Maguire _____ as it now appears - raised two Mindoran holdings they were raised before the _____ of '79. The people here _____ is stated that they were furnished _____ representing the increased _____ of which the tenants were, as _____ in utter ignorance.

This I give _____ of Father Maguire, who says that had the people known what those receipts contained _____ not have accepted them. The old rent was in fact, paid, and receipts given for the _____ in some individual instances I am told a shilling was paid in respect of the increased rent.

The land was "striped" comparatively recently, and the tenants were obliged in consequence to pull down many of their original dwellings and build new houses, towards the expenses of which operation, as I have been informed, the landlord never contributed one halfpenny. Frequent applications have been made for a reduction, but without avail.



Father Maguire states that the people were absolutely unable to exist and pay the rents that were asked – that absolute starvation stared them in the face if they met the demands made upon them, and that every representation made to Mr. Loughrey was met by what, to use the mildest phrase, could not be described otherwise than as scant courtesy indeed. He would entertain no proposition for a reduction, arrears accumulated, no concession was made, the “law must take its course,” and the result has been to turn out on the charity of the world close on a hundred persons whose families had laboured through long lives of toil and hardship to earn at least a right to exist on the land which they had helped to create.



The scenes that took place when the evictions were carried out were of a most moving and pitiable character. I have just received from the clergymen who attended on the occasion a description of the event which would bring tears to the eyes of the hardest-hearted man. Not, be it understood, that there was any unnecessary hardship used – indeed, on the contrary, the soldiers and police who were engaged acted so far as they were personally concerned without any roughness.

The presence of such a military and civil display on the occasion was thoroughly unnecessary, and had no effect, save to add a further drop of bitterness to the cup of misery of those unhappy tenants. A large body of constabulary (on one day there were over 50 men there) and an equal number of soldiers of the 15th Regiment,

were present, and I make no breach of confidence in saying that the officers of the latter corps expressed to the priest their belief that, so far as they could see, the presence of such a force was quite unnecessary.



The first house visited by the sheriff's bailiffs, I think, was Brian Doherty's. He is an old man of about 60 years, whose sisters and niece lived with him. The bailiffs cleared out the furniture and what have come euphoniously to be known unhappily as “the usual formalities” were gone through.

Patrick Doherty was next visited. He has seven in family. William Grant and four in family were next left on the roadside. Patrick Doherty, his sister, a woman aged 70 years, and his brother William were next put out.

In the village of Gaddyduff, William Porter, a very industrious and respectable man, was evicted. He said to Mr. Loughrey that he thought that gentleman would be the last man in the parish to deprive him of his holding. The tenant, as I understand, offered to leave the fixing of a fair rent to any two respectable men, the landlord to choose one and he the other. This was refused and, the law took its course.

Owen Harkin, one of the next tenants visited, is an old man about 85 years of age and very feeble. His wife too is a very aged and infirm woman. They lived with their son, who looked after them and sustained them with touching solicitude. The old man had to be supported out of his house, his wife loudly bewailing the bitter day that had come upon them.



John McDermott, with six in family, was then put out. William Doherty's turn came next. He has eight in family. At Burnacrick, a little further on, the first eviction was in the case of John Gibbons, with six of family; then came Patrick Lynch, seven in family.

Bridget Doherty, whose husband is in America, was next to be turned out. She had been confined to bed, from illness, for some weeks previously, and on the appeal of Father Maguire the poor woman was allowed to remain for six months longer.

George Lynch's holding was then visited. He owed only a year's rent. He offered, I hear, to pay the year's rent if the costs were forgiven, but this was refused.

The Rev. J. Maguire was frequent and earnest in his appeals to the landlord to come to some settlement within the power of the tenants to carry out, but to no avail. He would give no reduction in the rent, the people could not pay what was demanded of them, and so they had to go.

As an indication of the condition of the tenants during the bad seasons it may be mentioned that the landlord was a member of the Relief Committee, and, as I am informed, he frequently represented the tenants as being in a very impoverished state, and fit subjects for relief. They are now, indeed, subjects for the compassion of every man with a heart to feel. They are scattered over the district, homeless and

almost without hope. Some are living on the charity of neighbours, others are depending for relief upon the aid of the Ladies' Land League. All this has broken their spirit, and exercises a demoralising influence which is one of the worst results left by such unhappy incidents.

There is no part of Ireland where the condition of the tenant-farmer is more deserving of sympathy than in this portion of Donegal. The character of the people for truth, honesty, simplicity, and intelligence is recognised everywhere, and when they have failed to meet their engagements, when arrears have formed a heavy chain around their necks, it is almost safe to assume that the fault does not lie with themselves alone.

When, therefore, the time comes that – from bad years, from the fatal drag of a heavy rent, and the growing difficulties in the way of making out a daily subsistence – arrears accumulate, sympathy for the farmers forces itself on every one who dispassionately considers their condition. In anything I have written in my last or present letter I do not wish to say a word implying the existence of a base, or cruel, or sordid motive on the part of the landlord. My plea would simply be for consideration for those who, from whatever cause, have been forced to leave, under bitter circumstances, their humble homes. I feel hopeful that, remembering the old motto, "All is not lost that's in danger," a better mutual feeling of consideration will arise, and that concessions on both sides will prevent, or at least limit, any further episodes such as those which I have briefly chronicled. I would also take the liberty of giving a word of advice to those entrusted with the carrying out of evictions in Donegal.

The proceeding is one which of itself is heartrending and painful enough without being made additionally so by the means taken to complete its execution. Wherever I have gone I have heard the most emphatic and loud-voiced protests against the

unnecessary practice of bringing down companies of military and detachments of extra police to aid the sheriff's officer in carrying out the law. It engenders a bitterness of feeling such as one could have no conception of. It leads ignorant people to imagine that the display of red-coated force and the prodigious parade of police are an indication of the vindictiveness of the landlord and much unhappy feelings are in this way created. This one broad fact is very important and significant, that in no single case has this absurd waste of strength been of the least use of necessity.

Another matter which came prominently before my notice is the fact that the mode in which the use of public vehicles is pressed into this ejection service is giving rise to a feeling of the greatest possible irritation and annoyance. In the recent cases of evictions at Clonmany and the neighbourhood of Carndonagh the soldiers threatened to "press" any cars they needed notwithstanding the fact that the car owners in question had previously made bona fide engagements.

How far the law would support such proceeding on the part of the Government officers it is not for me to say. I only know it has provoked a very strong feeling in the district that anything done in support of an eviction is above and beyond the law.



Mention of the name Carndonagh suggests to me the fact that it is a pity to see such a town, capable of such great things, in the undeveloped standstill state it now presents. At the beginning of the present century the town, which covers about fourteen acres, was probably not worth sixty shillings to the landlord. The present

value to him is something like £500, and it has grown to that simply from the enterprise and industry of the inhabitants. It is, so to speak, the heart of a large district, fed by four parishes. Efforts were made by the people to get up a proper market, but they have failed through, as I have been informed the apathy of the landlord, and this has seriously affected the welfare of the agricultural district around, the people of which pay higher market tolls for coming into the open streets of Carndonagh than are demanded for Moville, where at least good sheds are provided. The gibbet-like structure which does duty for a weighing centre has a most ghastly appearance, and ought to be replaced by something in keeping with the necessities and wants of the people.

I cannot conclude my letter better than by giving the names of the tenants who have been evicted, with the rents, valuation, and wherever I have ascertained it, the increased rent.

The Mindoran tenants are:

John Devir – valuation, £4 5s; old rent £4 15s; increased rent, £7.

James Devir – valuation, £2 10s; increased rent, £8 15s.

Widow McGonagle – valuation, £3 5s; increased rent, £5 5s.

William McLaughlin – valuation, £6 10s; old rent, £7 2s; increased rent, £10 10s.

Pat Harkin – valuation, £3 5s; increased rent, £5 5s.

Michael Gill – valuation, £3 5s; increased rent, £5 5s.

All the tenants were recently required to pay 8s each for turf.

The Gaddyduff tenant, William Porter, whom I have mentioned above, was paying £9 13s, his valuation being £7.

The Binnion and Tandaragee tenants on the same evicted property are:

Owen Harkin – Government valuation, £5 10s; rent, £6 12s 5d.

Jane Harkin – valuation, £4 15s; rent, £6 12s 5d.

William Doherty – valuation, £1 6s 4d; rent, £2 4s 3d.

John McDermott – valuation, £1 6s; rent, £2 4s 4d.

John Gibbons – valuation, £4 10s; rent, £7 7s.

Patrick Lynch – valuation, £4 10s; rent, £7 7s.

George Lynch – valuation, £4 10s; rent, £7 7s.

At Boharna the tenants were:

Brian Doherty – valuation, £6 10s; rent, £9.

Pat Doherty – valuation, £5; rent, £8 10s.

Pat Doherty – valuation, £7 15s; rent, £12.

W. McGinny – valuation, £2 15s; rent, £6.

Final
Newspaper
Article - 1882

EVICTIIONS IN DONEGAL

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(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

Carndonagh, Wednesday.

Friday, 25 August 1882 – The Freeman’s Journal (Dublin, Ireland)

When last I wrote from Carndonagh, not six months ago, I ventured to express a hope that the heading “Evictions in Donegal” was one that would rarely, if ever, again be seen in your columns, and that I had seen the last of those scenes of sorrow and distress which it was then my duty to endeavour to describe. It may be remembered that in March last, as I mentioned, the then Chief Secretary had been interrogated as to the truth or falsehood of the statements published in the Press, to the effect that extensive evictions had taken place and

were proceeding in Donegal. The reply given by Mr. Forester, whilst admitting that numerous evictions had occurred, contained the further information, professedly derived from a reliable source, that the landlords in Clonmany “had made arrangements with their tenants”.

To the surprise of most people who had read that answer, it was found that so far from an arrangement in the sense indicated being made evictions fell, as it was observed at the time, “like snowflakes” over the country, and the “arrangements” really effected were in the most cases to put the tenants out on the road.

So far as the particular district mentioned – Clonmany – is concerned, I had hoped that after the scenes that then took place – after all that had been said and written of the case as between landlord and tenants, after the advance in legislation, and the calming down of strong feelings, that better counsels would prevail, and that better times were near at hand. But it would seem from the record of the last few days and the rumours of what is yet to come that this was but hoping against hope, for again the “evictions in Donegal” form the chief topic of conversation in the North, again the soldiers and police are called upon to do their unwelcome duty, and the old story has to be told over again. I have resolved in whatever it becomes my duty to write of this new chapter of a too familiar tale to avoid as much as possible any discussion of the motives or influences that may be said to actuate either side, and to state simply the facts as they come under my personal observation or as they reach me from those upon whose trustworthiness I have the most absolute reliance.



In the cases of eviction that have just been carried out one cannot but be impressed by the fact that it is really a great pity that some compromise could not have been effected. The tenants in the Clonmany district are, as matter of fact amongst the most industrious and well-behaved in this part of the country. Most of them have become so identified with the places in which they live that one can scarcely conceive their living any place else and considering it "home". They have practically made their holdings worth whatever value they now represent. It is, therefore, not unnatural that to turn the away is an operation that cannot be effected without the infliction of a deep and bitter pang.

I met today one of a family that had been evicted within the past few days, and I cannot describe the agonised expression with which he told the story of his life in the old holding, and the misery of his being forced to leave it. To a stranger to Ireland the intensity of this feeling is inexplicable, but no one who has witnessed the horrors of that most horrible of scenes, an eviction, can fail to be impressed by it.

Describing the appearance of Carndonagh a few months ago, I said it was that of a town bordering on a state of siege. Well, again, the same description may almost be applied to the scene it presents, at least in the early morning. The clatter of military accoutrements, the rattling of cars over the stony street, the military word of command, and the bustle and excitement of the "evicting party," as it is now familiarly called, suggest to a stranger nothing so much as miniature war preparations. The residents have, however, now unfortunately become so accustomed to the scene that they take little notice of it; and it is a strange commentary on passing affairs that a travelling theatre erected on the market place is a far greater object of interest than the movements of the military and police. So much for the effect of familiarity. I may mention that in nearly all the surrounding districts special proclamations are posted prohibiting crowds from assembling to interfere with the sheriff or his officers – though, indeed, the experience of the operations of a few months ago might well have shown such proclamations to be quite uncalled for.



The evictions during the past few days have taken place on the properties of Mr. John Loughrey and Captain Cochrane. I have today made the most careful inquiries in my power and I cannot but repeat what I have already said, that it is sincerely to be regretted that no settlement could be effected, for the disposition of the tenants is to do all that is within their power to keep their holdings, their families have lived for generations on the place, they have paid rent punctually as long as it was in their power, and whilst not unwilling to admit that they may have erred in some things it is impossible for any man to consider their case without a regret that something could not be done to avert the bitter blow that has fallen upon them.

In passing I may mention that the proceedings are carried out by the Sub-Sheriff, Mr. J. S. McCay, Mr. Macleod, R.M., Captain Broughton, East Yorkshire Regiment (late 15th), Sub-inspector Hyde, and a posse of police and soldiers, together with the Emergency or Property Defence men.

The first of the present batch of evictions took place at a place called Cleagh, which is situate a short distance from the village of Clonmany. The widow, Catherine Doherty, was the first who was visited. She is an old woman with four or five in family. Her sons are grown up and able to take care of her. The family have had the place for over 100 years. She owed two years' rent, and two days after it became due – May, 1881 – she was served with a writ.

Every effort to effect a settlement failed. The costs accumulated to something like £16. The yearly rent was £4 5s 6d, and she offered, I understand, two years' rent - £8 11s - with half the costs, but the agent, Mr. James George Harvey, of Derry, refused. He would accept nothing less than the entire rent and full costs. This could not be paid.

Father O'Doherty, the parish priest; Father Maguire and Father McCullagh

endeavoured to bring about a settlement, but their efforts were unavailing, the agent saying that he could not do anything on his own responsibility. The matter thus ended, the furniture was cleared out, and the house barred up.

The forces then directed their march to Rooskey. There the tenant visited was one Denis O'Donnell, who has three in family depending on him. No terms would be made with him unless he paid the full amount of rent and costs at once – his term of redemption having expired. This he was absolutely unable to do, and he and his family had to leave, their family home was barred up against them. I understand, however, he has been given permission to save his crop.

The expedition then proceeded to one of the most bleak, rocky, and desolate as it is one of the barren districts in the county – named Gortfad. A more unkindly soil was never seen. There is scarcely an acre of it that is free from large rocks and stones. The vegetation is of the most wretched and meagre character.

The first holding visited was that of widow Unity Gill, who has seven in family. She is 80 years of age, in that stage of “second childishness and mere oblivion,” when the hardships of life, as in the case of children of tender years, are more bitter to bear, and move one to see more than in the case of the strong and the healthy.

The next on the list was a man named Philip Gill, but alas the hand of death is likely to intervene to save him from the fate of being evicted. He lies on a sick bed, so ill and wasted that the evicting party passed on and left him.

The next evictions were at Altbahal, where John Doherty, an old man close on eighty years of age, and stone blind, with his family of five were turned out.

The further evictions include those of Mary McAleeny at Minduff, and, at Ederville, Patrick Gibbons, ten in family; Ned Harkins, four in family; J. Donoho, five in family.

In Boherna, N. Grant, two in family; Brian Ruddy, eight in family; Owen Doherty, seven in family; Brien McLoughlin, seven in family; William Ruddy, five in family.

In Tandragee, Patrick Gibbons, three in family.

The entire district known as Boherna may now be said to have been completely evicted. As they say here, there is "not a smoke" to be seen in it, and the sight of those fireless barred-up cabins is to anyone who has a heart to feel inexpressibly moving.

Even yet I am sanguine enough to hope that all is not lost to these poor people. There is a rumour – in fact, I understand it has been plainly stated – that it is the intention of one of the landlords to sell his property to the Land Corporation.

Whether this be so or not I cannot say, but remembering the claims which the past history presents, could not some arrangements be come to before they leave the temporary shelter their neighbours now give them, and before they are scattered far as so many like them have been before, could not some mediating hand be stretched out to restore them to the homes they love so well, and to bring back a kindly feeling between them and the masters of their fate?

I regret to have to conclude this letter with the statement that from all I can learn the sheriff and his evicting party will have work to occupy them here for at least a fortnight.

Additional Recommended Reading

- "The Donegal Evictions in 1880" by Eilís Ní Dheá
- "The Great Evictions in Donegal" by Kevin Hickey
- "Donegal in the 1880s: Portrait of a Rent Strike" by Brian Lacey
- "Land and Popular Politics in Ireland: County Donegal from the Plantation to the Land War" by Adrian Grant
- "The Donegal Awakening: Donegal and the Land War, 1879-1882" by Helen Meehan
- "The Land War in County Donegal: A History" by Seán Beattie
- "The Politics of Land: County Donegal 1888-1914" by John Cunningham
- "Donegal's Changing Traditions: An Archaeology of the County" by Daragh McDonagh
- "From the Ashes: The Story of the Donegal Relief Fund 1880-1881" by Michael C. Gallagher
- "Donegal in Transition: The Impact of the Land War" by Adrian Grant
- "The Donegal Evictions of 1886" by Anthony Begley
- "The Politics of the Irish Land War" by Paul Bew
- "The Land War in Ireland: A History for the Times" by James Godkin



Northburgh Castle,
Greencastle,
Co. Donegal

**SPOTLIGHT ON
NORTHBURGH
CASTLE**

O'DOCHARTAIGH CASTLE SERIES

Location:

Located in the village of Greencastle, Co. Donegal along Stroove Road (R241), the castle can be easily observed from the car park of the adjacent building or from the shoreline pathway accessible via the main village car park.

Historical Background:

Known locally as "Greencastle", Northburgh Castle (also sometimes spelled "Northburg") was constructed in 1305 by Richard de Burgo, a Norman lord. Built using the finest materials by master craftsmen and cutting edge technology for the time, it was once one of the most impressive Norman castles built in Ireland. The walls of the beautiful polygonal towers are twelve feet thick!

Northburgh Castle was strategically positioned to oversee Lough Foyle and facilitate de Burgh's expansion endeavors. Due to the limited size of the rock outcrop/platform on which

Note:

Richard Óg de Burgh, 2nd Earl of Ulster and 3rd Baron of Connaught (1259 – 29 July 1326), called The Red Earl (Latinised to de Burgo), was one of the most powerful Irish nobles of the late 13th and early 14th centuries.

Richard was father of Elizabeth, second wife of King Robert the Bruce of Scotland. He was therefore also the maternal Grandfather of King David II of Scotland.

the castle stands, the original plans couldn't be fully accommodated. As a result, the gatehouse was constructed below the main castle area, with its first floor aligned with the main courtyard. The gate passage leads exclusively to a smaller lower courtyard, from which steps ascend to the primary courtyard.



In 1316, Edward Bruce (younger brother of Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland) successfully seized control of the castle and crowned himself "King of Ireland". He maintained his authority over the castle for a span of two years until his death in 1318. He suffered defeat and met his demise at the hands of Anglo-Irish forces belonging to the Lordship of Ireland during the Battle of Faughart in County Louth.

Following his death, Richard regained possession of Northburgh.

Richard's grandson, William Donn de Burgh, 3rd Earl of Ulster inherited the Earldom in 1328. William was known as the "Brown Earl" and married Maude Plantagenet, great granddaughter of Henry III.

A dispute arose however, between William and his cousin Sir Walter Liath de Burgh, who hailed from the Connaught branch of the family.

To settle the conflict, William incarcerated Walter in a dungeon where he met a tragic fate through starvation in February 1332. This significant occurrence is memorialised by a skeletal depiction present on the coat of arms of the City of Derry.



Sir Walter's sister, Gylle de Burgh, wife of Sir Richard de Mandeville, planned his assassination in revenge.

In June 1333, he was killed by de Mandeville, Sir John de Logan, and others. His widow, Maud (or Matilda), offered a reward for the capture of de Mandeville and his wife. This was the point that really ended Norman power in the northwest of Ireland.

The overlordship of Inishowen was claimed by the O'Donnell king following the Battle of Camierge in 1241. The O'Donnells again reasserted their claim in 1333. The title of Lordship was conferred by O'Donnell to O'Doherty probably in the late 1300s, but certainly no later than 1413. One particular community of the O'Dohertys settled this part of Inishowen, centred around Northburgh Castle

In 1541 Sean Mor O'Doherty, Lord of Inishowen, joined with the other chiefs in submitting to King Henry VIII and was given the title of Sir John Mor O'Doherty. He married Rose, daughter of Manus O'Donnell, Lord of Tir Connail.

Calvach, son of Manus O'Donnell (and brother-in-law of John Mor), on having a disagreement with his father left Tir Connail to seek help in Scotland, where he obtained forces.

He returned to Donegal with a famous gun called Gonna Gam (The Crooked Gun), with which he attacked Northburgh in 1555 and almost destroyed the complete structure. Northburgh Castle was left more or less in the state we see it today.

Around the time of the Ulster Plantation, in the early 1600s castle came under the control of the Lord Deputy of Ireland, Sir Arthur Chichester.

Chichester made a small number of repairs and garrisoned English troops here for a time, but by 1700 it was a complete ruin.

Northburgh Castle Ghost Story

It is said that the castle is haunted by a young woman whose story is connected to Sir Walter Liath de Burgh, the ill-fated young man who was starved in the dungeon.

One day she was crossing the sands on the other side of the lough and was meanly engulfed in a morass. Young Burke, saved her, and the two fell in love with each other.

Shortly afterwards Walter was captured by William Donn de Burgh in a battle between the O'Neills and the O'Donnells, and was brought to Northburgh, fastened to a ring in the dungeon and left there to starve. His young lover who secretly supplied him with food, was detected by the Earl, and thrown by him from the battlements and killed. Her ghost haunts the castle grounds since then.



Northburgh Castle Today

Standing proudly for over seven hundred years, Northburgh Castle is situated on the shores of the eastern edge of Inishowen, Ireland's largest and most northerly peninsula. This once magnificent Anglo-Norman edifice overlooking Lough Foyle has played a central role in some key moments of bygone days.

The castle's rich history encompasses a significant participation in both Irish and global chronicles. It serves as a poignant testament to pivotal episodes such as the Normans' ascent and their expansion throughout Europe, the Norman invasion of Ireland, the ebb and flow of Gaelic Ireland's influence, and the downfall of Gaelic governance in 1603. Its historical narrative extends all the way to the establishment of an independent Ireland in the 20th century.

The castle, acclaimed as "the largest and most impressive building of its kind in Ireland" by the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, holds immense importance on both a national and international level.

Nonetheless, the passage of time has taken its toll, resulting in the castle's current state of deterioration, necessitating urgent conservation efforts.

In 2021, the Northburgh Castle Conservation Group, known as An Grúpa Caomhnaithe Caisléan Northburgh, was established with the purpose of safeguarding the castle for the benefit of future generations.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.northburghcastle.com/>



Sketch of Northburgh Castle in 1806 by Captain William Smith

Additional work done to conserve this castle with a connection to our own O'Dochartaigh Clann can be found here:

<https://www.tcd.ie/library/manuscripts/blog/2022/05/old-tech-meets-new-19th-century-paintings-a-14th-century-castle-and-21st-century-technology/>

This article named "Old Tech Meets New: 19th-Century Paintings, A 14th-Century Castle, and 21st-Century Technology" by Dara Burke, architect, and Michael White, Northburgh Castle Conservation Group gives a fascinating insight into the plans to conserve Northburgh Castle for future generations.



Daugherty Family from Auckland, New Zealand visiting Northburgh Castle in May 2013

...and finally,...

O'Dochartaigh Clann Reunion Tour 2023

There are just a handful of openings still available on this tour which incorporates the official Reunion itinerary and an additional trip down the Wild Atlantic Way. The tour ends in Dublin, Ireland's vibrant and historical capital city.

The perfect way to enjoy the Reunion without having to worry about the endless minutiae of making plans, securing accommodation and driving! Sit back and relax while we do it all for you!

To secure one of the final spots on the tour, check out the details on Irish Ancestral Tours and Research's webpage. You can book direct via their payment link.

Click on the link below for more information:

<https://www.irishancestral.com/odreunion2020-477821.html>

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