

Ballyorril

From 1628 TO 2000 AD

BY

BEN ROTHWELL

A history of

BALLYORRIL

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Stories of how a king of England camped on Ballyorril Hill and how a friend and relative of Cromwell owned Ballyorril at one time.

Including illustrated maps, photographs and lists of all who are known to have owned it and lived there.

Contributors to this work in order of the importance of their contribution:

Leslie Boxwell,
The late Rory Murphy,
Paddy Fitzpatrick,
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David Farrell.



BALLYORRIL

It's location and boundaries.

Ballyorril is a town land of approximately 570 acres enclosed between Marshalstown and Hollyfort on the west, Killaligan on the south, a small piece of Greenville and Moyne on the east and Coolnahorna and Tomnakipeen on the north. Coming from the Bunclody to Enniscorthy road near the junction with the Enniscorthy-Ferns road, following the signpost to Killealy, Ballyorril begins at the cross-roads on the top of the hill, about a mile away, and continues on both sides of the road to the Milehouse, down to the Killaligan border a little below Farrell's house and farmyard. Apart from a few yards at the right of the crossroads, it also continues on both sides of the road down the Windmill hill, to Marshalstown until it comes near Whelan's farmhouse. The road from the crossroads, on the left to Enniscorthy divides it from Coolnahorna, until it comes to the turn of the road, a field below Ballyorril House. Elsewhere, a small stream of water divides it from the townlands around it.

In the year 2000

The first house on the right from the crossroads is owned by James Power, a retired publican, and his wife. They have only recently come to live in this new two storey house. The next single storey cottage at the bottom of the Windmill hill is owned by the widow of Jack Walsh. She and her late husband are the parents of Johnny Walsh, who was a distinguished hurler with the local Hollow Rangers, and later with the Co. Kildare team. Beside this is the two-storey cottage owned by Jimmy Kelly, a well-known musician. On the opposite side of the road, are the homes of Colm and John Ryan, Agricultural Contractors. They have also recently

come to live in these new houses built on what was Whelans field. Coming back up the hill, the first bungalow and cottage on the crossroads, on the right, belong to the Hendrick and Doyle families. Pat Hendrick, a County Council worker, is married to a daughter of the Cullen's, who lived in the adjoining cottage for many years, and Sean Doyle, a soldier, is a nephew of the late Mrs. Cullen. Besides these, is the two-storey home of John Daly, a Bank Manager, and his family.

The next entrance on this road, three fields away, leads to the farm where Jim, Joan and Francis Morris live, and a little further down the road is the entrance to their out-farm, known as "Codd's", which is now vacant. My entrance is close by this, where my wife, Elizabeth and I live. We were married in June 2000, and since the death of my mother around the same time, I am now the oldest member of the oldest surviving family in Ballyorril. At the bottom of the hill, below our bungalow, there is an old type cottage, formerly Roche's, which a family named Pearson owns. They are artists and he has written five books. They use this home only as a holiday residence. Besides this, there is a single storey cottage, formerly Fox's, which is now vacant, and in the process of reconstruction by a developer.

Down the road, by a distance of 130 yards field, there are two modern, well-kept bungalows, each owned by a family called Murphy. The first of these is a middle-aged couple, with a young family, and the second is the widow of Martin Murphy, [who died in 2000] and her son Tony. The last house in Ballyorril, on this side of the road, is owned by Flynn's and was formerly, Redmond's. This family is made up of father, mother and teenage son. Further down the road on the opposite side, is Farrell's farm, where David, his wife, family and mother now live. My son Angus lives on the next farm, in the opposite direction, with his wife and three children. In his farmyard there is the old farmhouse, formerly lived in by

Keating's, Keyes and Kavanagh. After this, there are no more houses until we come to the crossroads again. The first of these is owned by Douglas Armstrong, who specializes in hardwood flooring, and beside this is a single storey cottage owned by the Hennessy family, whose late mother was a daughter of the late Paddy Walsh. The last residence in Ballyorril at the bottom of Ballyorril hill, near the Moyne road to Enniscorthy, is owned by Ron Rothwell, and is known as Ballyorril House. His wife Susan, formerly Latta, died this year, [2000] and his two sons are away at school. Susan's mother was a Gibbon of Sleedagh, and she was a cousin of Monk Gibbon, the poet.

The farmland of Ballyorril has six owners, four of which are active farmers. Ron Rothwell has about 190 acres which are leased to J. Redmond, Charlie Latta and Angus Rothwell. About 80 acres of his land are at the right side of the road, down to Marshalstown, beside Tomnakippeen, and was always known as Marshalstown. The remainder begins at the Moyne below Ron's house, continues up to the crossroads and down to about 70 yards from my entrance, at the opposite side of the road. At this point, there is a sceach hedge dividing what used to be the big field of 13 acres, and below this another sceach hedge, and drain running in a straight line to Nolan's fence. This line, where there was no fence up to about 20 years previously, is the division between Ron and Angus Rothwell.

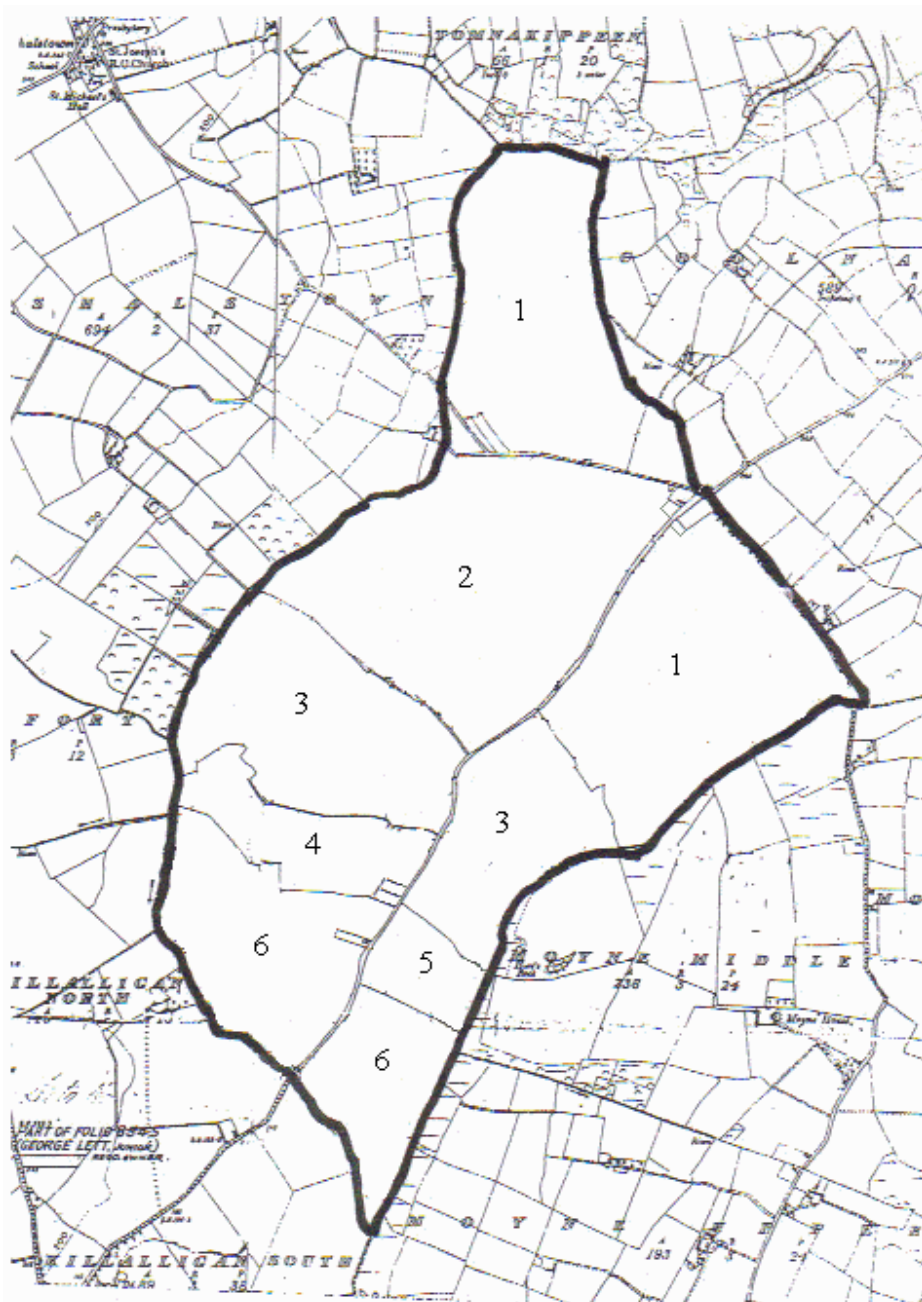
Jim Morris' land is at the opposite side of the road, where he has a dairy farm, of about 120 acres, which runs from Whelan's farmhouse up to the crossroads and down to Codd's old entrance. Angus has an entrance to his land which begins here and apart from our garden, continues on both sides of the road, down to Pearson's cottage on the west, and to my two fields on the east side of the road. These two fields begin at the end of Angus' first field from his house entrance, and are at

present, leased to David Farrell. The boundary at both ends of these fields is reasonably straight. David's land begins just one field up from his farmyard, and includes two fields in Killalagan, which he had recently bought from Jack Lett.

On the opposite side of the road, David's land comes up to the first of the Murphy bungalows, where the entrance to Atkinson's farm used to be. The boundary runs in a crooked line down to Lett's land in Hollyfort, and this farm carries over a hundred cows, and has a very modern large milking parlour, which was erected in 2000. Frank Brownrigg of Crory has a small outfarm of 30 acres carrying dry stock, between David and Angus, and this second boundary runs from Angus' house entrance, in a crooked line also down to Lett's land in Hollyfort. Angus' land is four reclaimed fields wide at the bottom, but only three fields wide at the road. This farm of about 100 acres, and the two adjoining fields under the road, rented from Ron, carries 50 cows, some beef cattle and a flock of pedigree sheep, at present. All the land in Ballyorril, except for Ron's, is therefore, under grass this year. {2000}

BALLYORRIL LANDOWNERS 2000

- [1] Ronald Rothwell.
- [2] Jim Morris.
- [3] Angus Rothwell.
- [4] Frank Brownrigg.
- [5] Ben Rothwell.
- [6] David Farrell.



In the year 1950.

When we go back to the year 1950, there were four farmers who owned Ballyorril, except for two fields, which were owned by Mrs. Whelan of Marshalstown. My father farmed about three hundred and sixty acres, which comprised of what are now two farms, which are owned mostly by my brother Ron, and my son Angus. Frank Morris farmed about 66 acres in two directions from the crossroads. The previous year he had sold 51 acres called Atkinson's, to my father for £780. Most of this land is opposite Angus' house and is now owned partly by David Farrell and partly by Frank Brownrigg. This land passed to my mother on my father's death in 1970, later it passed to me, when I gave two fields to Ron adjoining his. I then made an exchange with Martin Farrell taking over about 26 acres which lay between Atkinson's and Kennedy's hill, and giving him a similar amount beside him. Later, about 1985, I sold most of this land and some land east of the road which belonged to us since 1892, to my cousin, Jim Rothwell. In 1989 and 1990, Jim sold twenty acres of it to Farrell's and thirty acres to Frank Brownrigg, who owns it still. Therefore, there are now five owners to the farm which was owned by my father in 1950.

Between Morris' farm and Kennedy's hill, which is the land west of the road, which Angus owns, there was Codd's farm of about 56 acres. This was farmed very efficiently and carefully by Markie and his two sisters. This passed to Donagh Doyle, their half brother's son, on their death, and he rented it out to Jim Morris for some years. Eventually, he sold it to Jim Morris. So, during the past 50 years, two farms had been combined into one, and one farm had been divided into two, with small amounts divided amongst three others.

Martin Farrell's farm 50 years ago, was divided in three. A small amount of about fifteen acres was around the house and farmyard. A bigger amount of nearly thirty acres was across the road and the other 26 acres, which we mentioned already, was separated from the rest by Atkinson's. The entrance to this was opposite Angus' farm yard gate, and a lane way went up the hill and down again, by his land to where the fence turns right, where Kennedy's used to live. The exchange which we made sometime in the 80's, joined his land, as it did ours, and when David Farrell bought the three fields from Jim Rothwell, east of the road, and two other fields from Jack Lett in Killalagan, it made a good compact farm.

Angus has two fields of what was Farrell's 50 years ago. These are the paddock opposite his farm entrance, which is only about an acre, and the bog at the bottom adjoining Lett's and Bolger's. This reclaimed bog is six acres and was formerly divided in two. Frank Brownrigg of Croy now owns the remainder of what was Farrell's hill, and two fields of what was Atkinson's. The remainder of Atkinson's is now owned by Farrell's.

The first half of the first field in Ballyorril on the right, below the crossroads on the way to Marshalstown, was owned by Mrs. Whelan, 50 years ago. Ron bought it in the mid 80's from her son Johnny, [except for a site on which Power's build their dwelling house,] and levelled the ditch, between it and his brow field. Another field of nearly 2 acres owned by Whelan's in 1950 was close by Whelan's house where the Ryan's now live.

There were no dairy farmers in Ballyorril in 1950. Every farmer however milked several cows in the old fashioned method for their own use. They all separated the milk and made butter for sale and fed the skim milk to the calves. There were

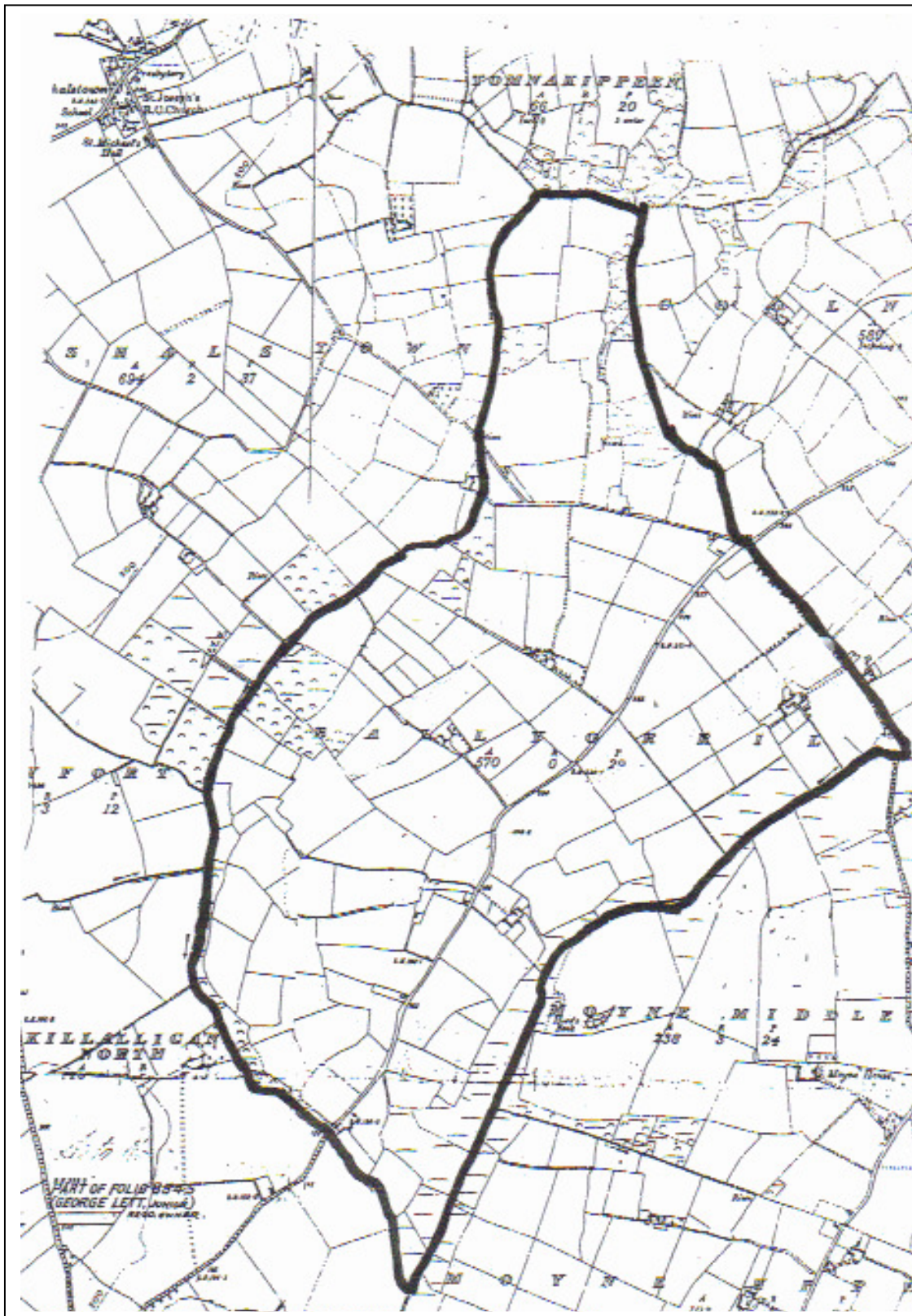
about eight farm labourers employed at this time so much of the dairy products were consumed on the farm. Dry cattle and sheep was the main enterprise on the big farm while grain growing was the main income earner on the smaller one. This was about the time when tractors began to be used for farm work; the first one; an old Fordson was bought in 1948. These past 50 years must have been the most revolutionary to have ever taken place in farming.

Population

There were very few people living in Ballyorril in 1950 compared to now. Jimmy Kelly lived in a cottage almost opposite Whelan's on the way to Marshalstown. Jack Walsh lived in a cottage owned by my father, with his wife and family on the middle of the Windmill hill. Mrs. Roche lived in a similar type of cottage as Kelly's, on Morris' side of the crossroads. Paddy Walsh, his wife Mag, and family lived in a single storey cottage in the opposite side of the road. Matty Kavanagh and his wife Katie lived in our farm house, which Angus now owns.

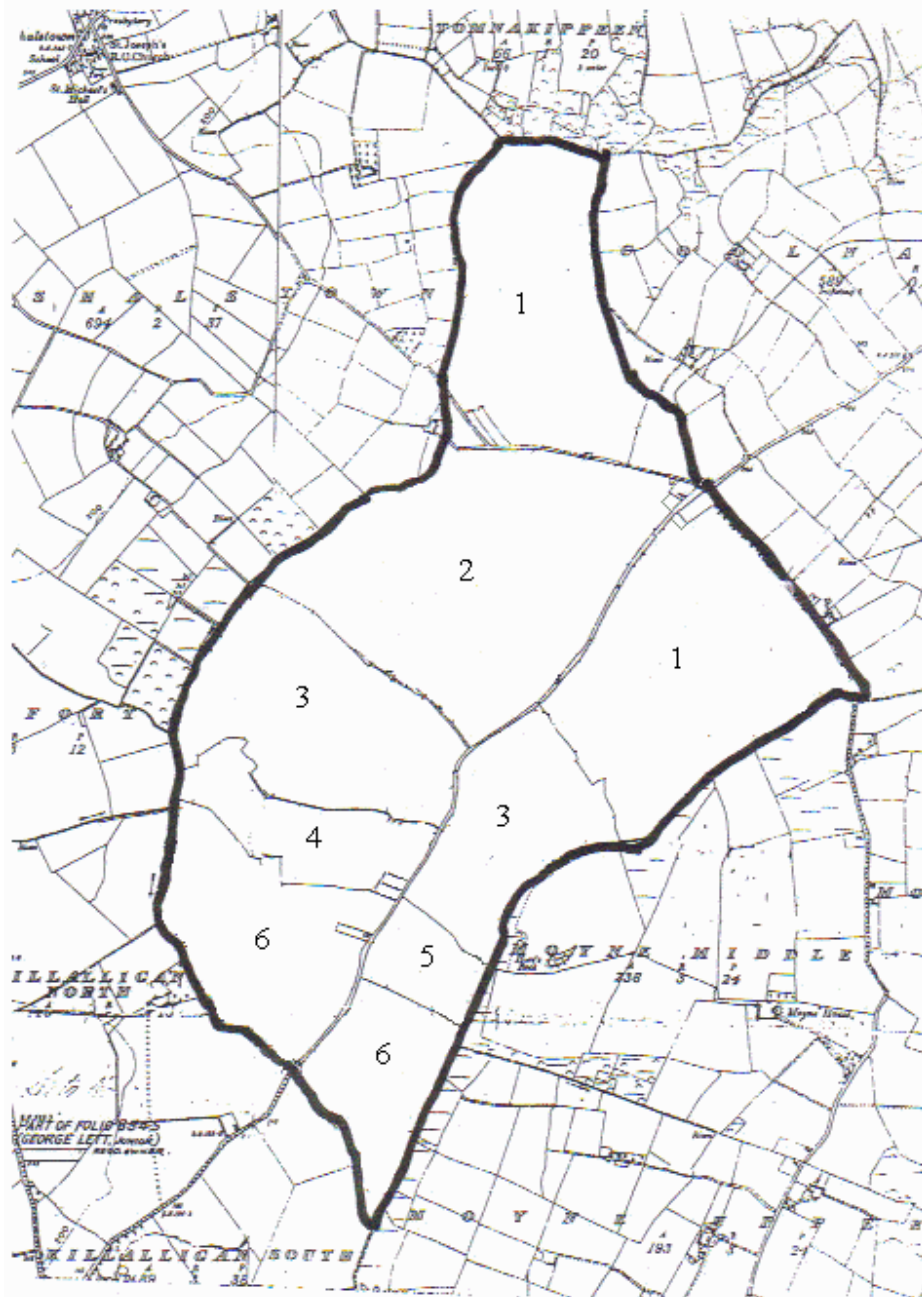
Peter Roche and his wife lived in a cottage across the road, and right beside him lived his nephew Ned Fox, with his wife Sheila, and large family. The last house down the road was lived in by Mike Redmond, his wife Mag and family. This amounts to eight inhabited houses, one of which was a farm house, in addition to the four farmers' houses. One house owned by my father in 1950, is not now inhabited, and the other one has been demolished. This means there are eleven houses in Ballyorril now, which were not there in 1950.

BALLYORRIL FIELD MAP 1925-1950



BALLYORRIL LANDOWNERS 1950

- [1] Benjamin Rothwell Jnr.
- [2] Mrs. Whelan
- [3] Frank Morris
- [4] Marks Codd
- [5] Martin Farrell



The above 158 acres is a misprint and should be 138 acres so the total acreage for the farmland in Ballyorril was 566 acres and 3 roods in 1912 as recorded in the department of registry and deeds. Two of these farmers did not reside in Ballyorril. Michael Whelan an uncle of the present Johnny lived just over the border in Marshalltown and Elizabeth Atkinson's address is given as Gurthine Templeshanbo.

We find that the division of the land was almost identical to 1950, in 1912 but understandably had different owners. Edward Nolan owned Farrell's, who bought it in 1920, for £3700, my Grand-dad, also named Benjamin, owned Rothwell's, except for Atkinson's which my father bought in 1949. James Morris owned the farm which was owned by his son Frank, in 1950 and by Keatings in 1901. Denis Doyle owned what was Codd's in 1950, since he had married Mrs. Codd and Elizabeth Atkinson owned the land which Ben Rothwell bought from Frank Morris. Michael [Mick] Whelan owned the two fields which his sister in law owned in 1950.

The 1911 Census

In this census the number of other dwelling houses in Ballyorril was almost the same in 1911, as in 1950, but two houses had not been built, and another was inhabited which later became a ruin. Thomas Doyle was living on Atkinson's, in the above house, and the last family to inhabit this house was Fox's. In the other houses, Old Jim Kelly lived in Kelly's, Johnny Walsh lived in our cottage, since demolished, John Roche lived on the crossroads, Edward Roche lived in the other Roche house down the Milehouse road, Michael Redmond lived in Redmond's and Johnny Keyes lived in our old farmhouse. Fox's cottage was built in 1929 and Walsh's cottage on the crossroads some few years before this.

The relevant part of the 1911 census reads as follows;

OCCUPIER	NO. OF ROOMS	NO. OF PERSONS	OWNERS
B Rothwell	8	9	B Rothwell
J Roche	4	3	J Roche
J Morris	8	6	J Morris
E Roche	4	7	E Roche
M Redmond	4	8	M Redmond
E Nolan	8	4	E Nolan
T Doyle	3	6	Mr. Atkinson
J Keyes	3	3	B Rothwell
D Doyle	6	5	D Doyle
J Kelly	4	5	J Kelly
J Walsh	4	10	B Rothwell
-	-	-	-
11	56	66	9

The 1901 Census.

The first and previous census was taken on the 31 March 1901, and the important part in this instance, reads as follows:

OCCUPANTS	ROOMS OCCUPIED	NO.OF PERSONS	OWNERS
B Rothwell	7	9	B Rothwell
J Keating	6	4	J Keating
D Doyle	10	7	D Doyle
J Keyes	3	4	B Rothwell
E Redmond	3	8	W Atkinson
E Nolan	6	4	E Nolan
6	35	36	5

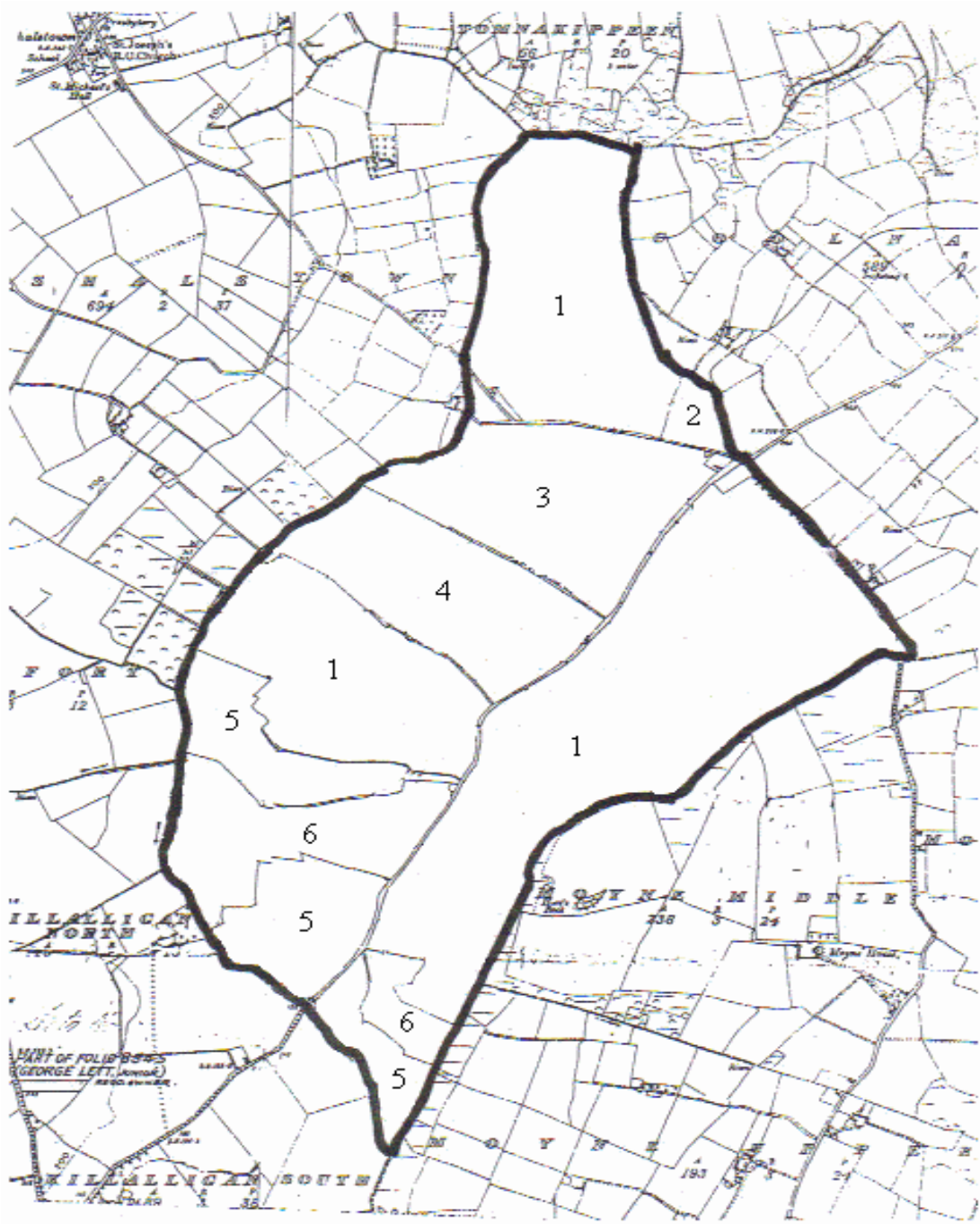
There was another house on this list owned by the same Edward Nolan, which was unoccupied and was either directly opposite Farrell's farmyard, beside Killaligan, formerly Tyrell's, or was formerly Kennedy's, on what is known as Farrell's hill, which Frank Brownrigg now owns. There certainly was a house in both those places at one time. Therefore, there was no cottage or bungalow in Ballyorrlil in 1901, and only six farmhouses were inhabited, two of which were not inhabited by their owners. The five old time cottages which were built in the following ten years, were Kelly's, Walsh's, Roche's, Roche's and Redmond's. Walsh's which my grandfather built, was first lived in by the father of Aidan Leacy, who eventually settled in Ballinakill. At this time, James Keating lived and farmed in Morris' since he had married a Miss Naughter whose family had lived there before this. Edward Redmond lived on Atkinsons land, in a house with a thatched roof. The other five houses had iron or slate roofs. The 10 rooms occupied in the house owned by Denis Doyle seem to be a mistake, and is probably a misprint. Another mistake is that my grandfather is put down as the landholder of two houses, whereas it was his brother Samuel who was the registered leaseholder until 1906. It must be remembered that the numbers in each house included workers, who lived there in addition to the family.

THE 1901 CENSUS FOR BALLYORRIL

NAME	POSITION	AGE	RELIGION	BIRTHPLACE	STATUS
Benjamin Rothwell	Farmer	38	C.of I	Co. Carlow	Married
Anne E Rothwell	Wife	29	:	:	:
Annie Rothwell	Dau.	5	:	Co. Wexford	Single
Eliza Rothwell	Dau.	3	C.of I.	:	:
Benjamin Rothwell	Son	1	:	:	:
Thomas Codd	Servant	28	R.C.	:	:
John Hearn	:	68	:	:	:
Mark Boggan	:	30	:	:	:
Mary _	:	30	:	:	:
James Keating	Head	70	R.C.	Co. Wexford	Married
Mary Keating	Wife	45	:	:	:
Michael Keating	Son	18	:	:	Single
Eliza Keane	Servant	39	:	:	:
Denis Doyle	Farmer	33	R.C.	Co. Wexford	Married
Mary Doyle	Wife	38	:	:	:
Mary Morris	Aunt	86	:	:	Single
Catherine Coad	St. Dau.	12	:	:	:
Margaret Coad	:	10	:	:	:
Marks Coad	St. Son	8	:	:	:
Patrick Doyle	Son	1	:	:	:
John Keyes	Farm Labrer	41	C. of I.	Co. Carlow	Married
Ann Keyes	Wife	50	:	:	:
Anne Keyes	Dau.	16	:	:	Single
John Keyes	Son	14	:	Co. Wexford	:
Ed. Redmond	Farm Labrer	34	R.C.	Co.Wexford	Married
Sarah Redmond	Wife	30	:	:	:
Johanna Redmond	Dau.	13	:	:	Single
Catherine R.	:	10	:	:	:
Ellen Redmond	:	8	:	:	:
Mary Redmond	:	6	:	:	:
John Redmond	Son	4	:	:	:
Margaret R	Dau.	2	:	:	:
Edward Nolan	Farmer	54	R.C.	Co. Wexford	Married
Mary Nolan	Wife	42	:	:	:
James Gahan	Servant	64	:	:	Single
Caherine Reid	:	16	:	:	:

BALLYORRIL LANDOWNERS 1900

- [1] Benjamin Rothwell Snr
- [2] John Whelan
- [3] James Keating
- [4] Denis Doyle
- [5] Edward Nolan
- [6] W. Atkinson Templeshanbo



The Rothwells had replaced the Byrnes at the time of this census and the following news item in the “People” of Wexford on Saturday 18th June 1887 explains how this came about,-

“On Friday about 30 people accompanied by the Bailiffs Dwyer and Dunphy of Enniscorthy, 2 emergency men and Myles Finn made a descent upon Mr Byrne of Ballyoral and took possession of his place .It appears this was a highly rack-rented farm. It contains about 300 acres. The ejectment was brought for one years rent. A number of people assembled to witness the proceedings and evinced unmistakable signs of indignation at seeing Mr Byrne cast out on the side of the road. Mr Byrne was willing to pay the Valuation and there is no doubt the offer is the best the Landlord will ever probably again receive.”

It is not known who occupied this farm after 1887 but they voluntary left it and the Rothwells came to rent it from the 1st January 1892.

There was a Mary Morris living in what is now Morris’s out farm in 1901. She was an aunt of Mary Doyle, the wife of Denis Doyle and formerly Mrs Codd.

The 1867 Survey.

In the year 1867, Fr. O’Farrell, who was curate in Marshalstown, carried out a survey of the Catholic population in the parish. In this list for Ballyorrl there are six families who are described as; fer, frer, or sl, frer. These abbreviations undoubtedly refer to ‘farmer’ or ‘small farmer’. Several others are described as lab. which must mean labourers. This list gives the names of servants working for each farmer but it is not certain that they lived in Ballyorrl.

These farmers with their families were;

Byrne – Nicholas, Bridget, Margaret, Nannie Kate, (12) Denis.

Morris - John (50) Mary.

Nowlan – John (50) Mary, Mosey.

Neile – Jas. Ellin, Pat, Mary, Eliza.

Tyrroll – Denis (55), Catherine.

Kennedy – Martin (45) Anty, Catherine (11) Jas. (6) Lce. (4) and an infant.

Another family is not described as lab. or fer; and this family was;

Nowlan – Ellen, Ann, Edward.

The above Ellen is described as sister in law of Denis or Catherine Tyrroll. The Nolan's lived close to the cross roads on a small amount of land which Whelans later occupied, so they had no servants according to this list, and did not register either as farmers or labourers.

There are two families on this list described as lab. (labourers) and these are;

Connors – Richard, Ellen Richard (8), Mary (6), Jas (4), Pat (2).

Glinch – Tom (45), Ann (40), Mogue (12), Tom (8) Mary (6), Catherine (1).

The Byrne's occupied over 300 acres at this time, so it is fitting they should have eight servants attributed to them on this list, three of which were female. It is likely that Connors and Clinch worked for Byrne's as well, because he occupied the only houses not accounted for in Ballyorrlil, at that time. The other eight servants are Tom Flood, William Black, Pat Brien, William Fitzgerald, Tom Dargan, Mary Whelan, Bidy Reily and Betty Butler.

The Morris family occupied what was Doyle's in 1901, which was 56 acres in 1853 as we shall see. It looks as though the last of these Morrises left the farm to a niece who was a Roche and who married James Codd and later Denis Doyle. Their servants were Pat Donnelly, Richard Comerton, and Mary Roch. Margaret Doolan is also on this list, but is not described as sevt.

The Nowlan's at this time did not occupy what we call Farrell's hill, and we are not sure if they farmed some or none of the land west of the road opposite Farrell's house. They certainly occupied the latter in 1853, and again in 1901 up till 1920. The Tyroll's lived opposite Nowlan's entrance about 150 yards from the road and occupied part of what is now Farrell's land. The Kennedy's are described as small farmers and occupied part of what later became Farrell's hill, so it is understandable that neither of these would have servants. This same family occupied the adjoining land, known as Kennedy's hill, at one time before Byrne came in possession of it. There is a tradition that one of the last of these Kennedy's had such a love for his land that he willed he was to be buried in Marshalstown, facing his land instead of the church.

By way of elimination the Neile's must have lived on what is known as Atkinson's, west of the road and the records also prove this. They had two male and female servants, three of which were the same name and the other was Mick Murphy. One four acre field on that land was known as Ned Neill's field until David Farrell levelled the fences around it. Ned Neill had it rented from Atkinson's up to the early 1940's, when Morris's bought it, but it is not known if he had any connection with Neile's who farmed it in 1867.

Conspicuous by their absence on this list are the families of; Atkinson, Naughter, and Keating, all of which occupied land in 1853, as we shall see. This leaves a doubt concerning their religious affiliation, but we cannot be sure if they lived here in that year. Atkinson's family were Protestants at one time, he did not live on the land he had rented in 1853, and he had not come into possession of the remainder of the land he farmed in 1901. One of these reasons is why he was not on the list. Keating's on Ron's farm may have been taken over by Byrne's at this stage, but another Keating or Naughter should have been living in Morris' in 1867.

1854

In the Dept. of Registry and Deeds, we find that on the 19th Dec of this year, £8800 was Paid by Richard Williamson of Fitzwilliam square, Dublin to the credit of Richard Francis Huson, for lands in Ballyorrl containing 568 acres and 28 perches st. measure. The Williamson family was to own this land until 1912 when it was bought out by the tenants. The above Huson had two law cases brought against him in 1851 and 1850. In the first case Anthony Hawkins of Ballycoursey sued him for £228:16s. and in the second he was sued by Lawrence Doyle . In both cases he is said to own over 568 acres in Ballyorrl and 515 acres in Co. Roscommon.

Griffiths Valuation of 1853.

The previous record known to this writer was in 1853 and was known as Griffith's Valuation. Things were very different then and the names were hardly recognizable compared to 1901. There were eleven names given in this list who occupied land and houses and these, with their immediate landlords were;

Occupant	Landlord	A.	R.	P.	£ & S	Valuation
James Comerton	Richard F. Hewston	13	2	3		7.10
John Keating	Same	66	1	21		37.10
Bridget Nolan	Same	5	2	20		3.00
Charles Naughter	Same	64	1	32		33.15
Roger Morris	Same	56	3	29		28.00
Nicholas Byrne	Same	78	1	32		59.00
Nicholas Byrne	Mrs Brownrigg	92	0	4		72.00
Nicholas Byrne	Richard F. Hewston	73	1	17		34.10
Catherine Kennedy	Same	19	0	27		10.15
Patrick Neill	Mrs Brownrigg	42	2	25		31.00
Sam Atkinson	Denis Nolan	10	2	6		5.05
Denis Nolan	Mrs Brownrigg	30	1	15		20.05
John Nolan	Denis Nolan	15	0	37		8.10

This is a total of 568 acres 2 roods and 28 perches, the same as Richard Huson was said to own. There was also a Richard Fanning who lived in a house belonging to Nicholas Byrne, but had no acreage.

The first name on this list is probably of the same family who later spelled their name Comerford, and became famous for bread-making. He lived in the middle of what is known as Marshalstown on his 13.5 acres. His house was very close to where there was a cattle shed until about 1998, and there were some remnants of it until about 1965 when Ron replaced the old shed with a newer one. Old Jim Kelly dreamed there was money under the door step so he dug it up one night but found nothing. John Keating farmed the remainder of that block of land except for the 5 and a half acres where Brigid Nolan lived but he probably did not live on it since

the list states there was a herds house and offices on the property. These buildings and the roadway to them are clearly seen on the 1841 map and are on the bottom field nearest to Tomnakippeen and Morris's land in Marshalstown.

Charles Naughter lived and farmed where Morris's farm is now and Roger Morris also lived on the part of this farm which was formerly Cods. Nicholas Byrne farmed about 240 acres which stretched from Coolnahorna down to Farrells on the east of the road, 190 yards from Farrells house entrance. He also farmed the block of land known as Kennedys Hill on the west and the two fields nearest the road of what is known as Farrells hill.

Patrick Neill occupied what we called Atkinson's east of the road. Denis and John Nolan do not have enough acreage to have held all of Farrell's at this time, and Catherine Kennedy was in possession of most of Farrell's hill, as we call it. Sam Atkinson had 10 acres rented from Denis Nolan on the east of the road.

An interesting part of this 1853 list is that Byrne rented three blocks of land with house and offices and leased out one house to Richard Fanning. This last house was probably one of the first three which he sub-leased to Fanning. It seems likely that Richard Francis Huson was not living in Ballyorrl House at this time although he is stated to be living in Ballyorrl in 1851, 1850 and 1841. This is because the list states there was a house and offices on the three blocks of land which Byrne occupied. It is easy to know where the two houses were on the east side of the road as they are still there but the third house is now demolished. A map of 1841 shows there was a house on the other side of the fence at the end of the lane where Catherine Kennedy lived at the bottom of what is known as Farrell's hill. There were obviously two farms here at one time but they and the lane leading to them

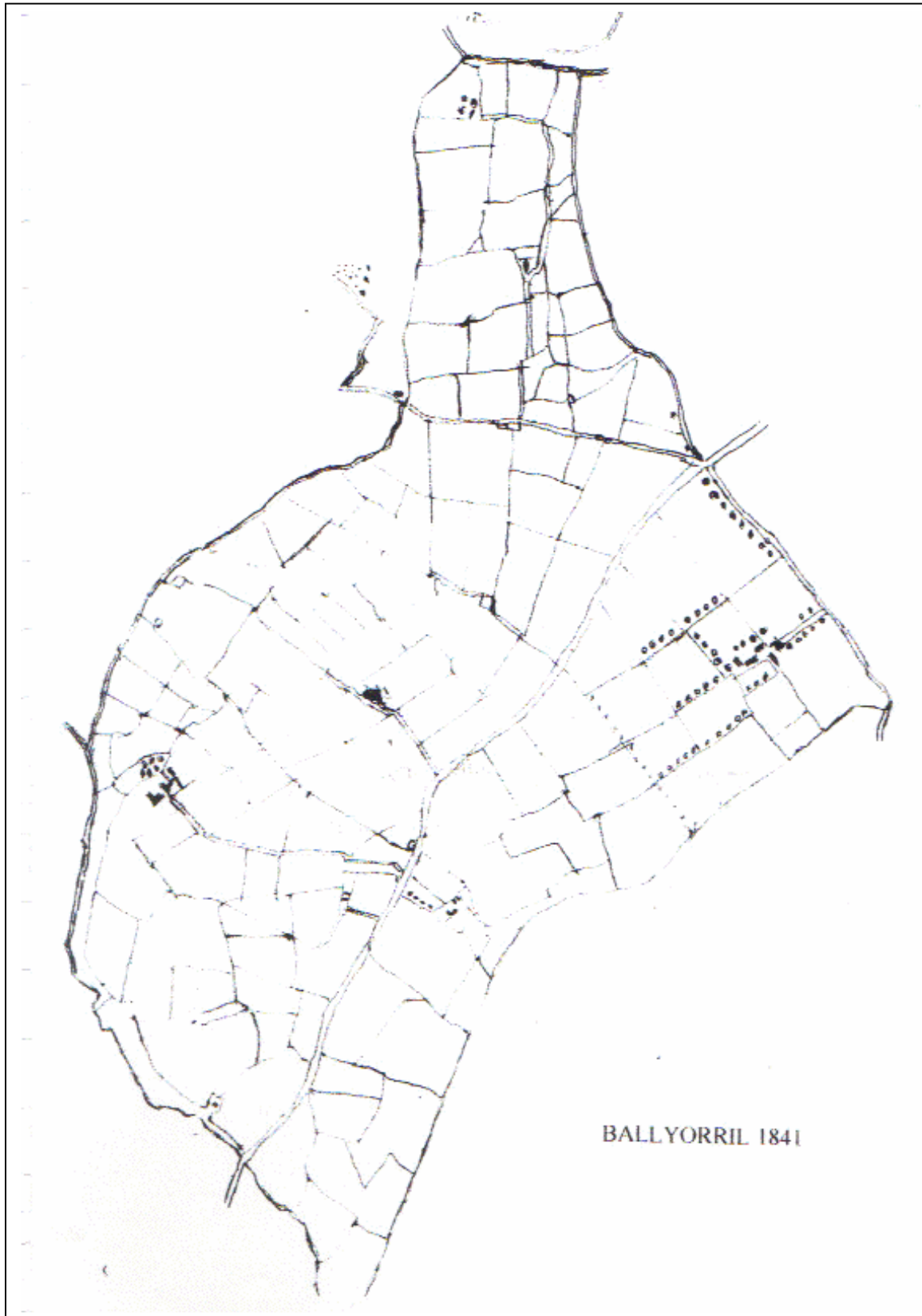
are completely gone. There was another small house by the road where the road turns right at the bottom of the hill. It was in one of these or in Angus' farmyard where Richard Fanning lived in 1853.

Denis Nolan leased out two lots of land to Sam Atkinson and John Nolan and farmed 30 acres himself. The 10 acres leased to the former seems to be the land east of the road which Atkinson's owned until the 1940's, the 15 acres leased to John were where Farrell's house is now and the 30 acres were across the road and there definitely was a house there where Tyrrell's once lived. Sometime between 1867 and 1901 Sam Atkinson came into possession of Patrick Neill's land, but was not living there in either of those two years.

The acreages given for the different blocks of land is almost identical to what it was 100 years later. The exception is for Kennedy's and Farrell's hill which had much the same acreage combined but were divided differently. It seems that Byrne must have occupied the first two fields on Farrell's hill at this time along with the land beside it while Catherine Kennedy occupied the remainder. This conclusion would make the acreages almost right for each.

It is obvious that some of the landlords on this list are persons to whom the rent was paid and were not the owner of the property. It was common practice for the owner to sub lease his property to a middle person who would collect the rent. Huson was the owner at this time who granted some of it to Mrs Brownrigg who was the immediate landlord [lady] in some cases. There are two instances here where Denis Nolan leased land even though he was only a tenant himself.

BALLYORRIL 1841



1829

In the Dept. of Registry and Deeds bearing the date 14th March of this year there is a memorial of an indented deed of surrender made between Edward Hawkins of Ferns and Margaret Bent of Marshalstown of the one part and Richard Huson of Ballyorriel of the other part. In this deed it states that the above Hawkins and Bent surrendered 49 acres and 3 roods in Ballyorril to Richard Huson which he had previously leased to them. This same deed mentions how this land came to be leased to Hawkins and Bent in 1760 and 1796 as we shall eventually see. This land is very likely that part of Ballyorril adjoining Tomnakippeen for two reasons. Firstly it was there that Hawkins lived and secondly there are 83 st. acres in that block of land which is approximately 50 Irish acres. [5 Irish acres equal 8 st. acres approx.] Elsewhere in the registry and deeds records it is probably this same land which is described as the sixth part of Ballyorril.

The 1823 Tithe Applotment List.

Thirty years before Griffith's Valuation was published there was the Tithe Applotment list of 1823. The acreages in this list are much less than 1853, because the acres were of Irish measurement. Five Irish acres are approximately equal to eight acres statute measurement. It is only possible to identify where these farmers lived and worked by comparing their names with the 1853 list or by the acreages which they farmed and it's very likely many of them did not live on their land. Another clue to the identity of these farms is the area of roadway attached to each farm. This list with the acreages farmed, and tithes paid were as follows:

NAME	ACREAGE	ROADWAY	TITHE
Richard Hewston Esq	111 0 12	1 1 12	13 16 8
Laurence Kennedy	12 0 1	-	1 16 0
Willaim Synott	15 0 20	-	1 6 0
James Cummerford	1 2 19	-	9 11
Richard Brownrigg	11 2	-	1 12 7
John Whelan	10 0 00	-	10 0 0
Roger Morrissey	34 2 38	0 1 6	3 1 0
Moses Kennedy	22 1 31	0 0 9	2 17 9
Philip Quaile	18 3 24	0 0 33	2 6 9
Dennis Nowlan	35 0 0	0 2 10	4 0 11
Dennis Byrne	50 2 0	0 3 12	8 5 7
William Hawkins	6 3 23	0 0 0	0 14 4
William McGrath	15 0 20	0 0 0	1 6 0
	347 3 28	3 1 02	40 3 6

The fact that the landlord Richard Hewston, was paying tithes at this time like his tenants would suggest that he was living in Ballyorril and farming some of it. He was the father of Richard Francis Hewston and his wife Margaret was living in Ballingale in 1841 when the land was transferred to his son. His land could have been farmed by a steward and perhaps this was Richard Brownrigg even though he farmed eleven acres of his own. The present big house in Ballyorril was not built at this time, and we do not know what type of house was there before it. Very likely it was there that Hewston lived since his son was there in 1841.

Three names on this list are spelt differently to the 1853 list, namely Cummerford, Morrissey and Nowlan, but very likely they are the same family. There are several names on this list which were absent in 1853, and these are William Synott, John Whelan, Philip Quaile, William McGrath and William Hawkins.

Three of these farmers can be identified by the acreages they farmed namely Laurence Kennedy, Roger Morrissey and William Hawkins. Kennedy had the same acreage which Catherine had in 1853, Morrissey had the same as Roger Morris had and Hawkins had almost the same acreage as was in the four bottom fields later reduced to two, in Marshalltown. I believe he farmed there because there was a house on that land, there was no road frontage and his brother lived across the boundary in Tomnakippeen.

I know nothing of Synott, Quaile and McGrath except that Thomas and James Sinnott occupied 50 Irish acres up to 1760; most likely in the northern part of Ballyorril, as will be seen later. John Whelan was probably of the same family, who lived just over the Ballyorril boundary in Marshalstown. James Cummerford probably lived in the middle of what is known as Marshalltown where James Comerton lived in 1854 and Moses Kennedy undoubtedly lived and farmed on some of Kennedy's hill. Dennis Nowlan definitely lived and farmed 58 st. acres on present day Farrell's but he had three acres more than he had in 1853. As for Synnot, Quaile, Magrath Whelan and Brownrigg we can only speculate where they farmed and of them only Quaile had a small road boundary.

Ballyorril in 1798

Going back to 1798 we find that Ballyorril figured prominently in the rebellion of that year. The “Irish Genealogist” tells us that William Hawkins of the 1823 list was undoubtedly the son of another William Hawkins, who was killed by the insurgents on the 5 June 1798. The latter Hawkins was married to Esther Esmond, in 1781 and the Hawkins on the 1823 list claimed £46 for the loss of his house which was burned down. A close relation of his, John Hawkins of Tomnakippeen was also killed by the Insurgents on the 28 May. Since the above Hawkins was farming land in Ballyorril in 1823, it is very likely he had rebuilt the house that was burned down in 1798.

The same paper from which I got the information of the Hawkins’, also relates that there was a Thomas Rudd of Ballyorril, who claimed £74 for losses in the rebellion. It suggests that he was a son of Lett Rudd, Ballyorril N., and if N stand for North; it is likely where Ballyorril House stands now. It also suggests he was a descendent of Anthony Rudd, gentleman of the 1659 census, who was Titulado of Balleshanogue, Johnstown and Drumderry in the Parish of Myacomb and Barony of Scarawalsh. If Thomas Rudd was descended from the above, that would be further evidence that he lived where Ballyorril House is now. The same source as above, suggests that Rudd’s were related to the Lett’s, who were of Cromwellian origin, and this is significant when we realize that Lett’s came to occupy large areas of land adjoining Ballyorril. Rudd’s claim was for cattle and furniture, and these cattle could have been the same that were used by the Insurgents, when storming Enniscorthy.

Jane Barber, who lived in Clovass and who wrote a history of the rebellion, lived in full view of the eastern part of Ballyorril, and related that, ‘she saw eleven distinct blazes in the distance, every one from its’ situation, marking out to us where the house and property of some neighbour, friend or relation was consuming.’ None of these fires she witnessed would have been in Ballyorril, as far as we know. She would not have seen the blaze from Hawkins’ house, if he was living in the north western part of Ballyorril. These fires took place on the Saturday night, 26th May before the Battle of Enniscorthy.

Nicholas Furlong in his book on Father Murphy informs us that Father Michael Murphy with his forces joined up with Father John Murphy on Ballyorril Hill after the latter had marched with his men from the battle of Oulart.

Jane Barber also relates, that on the following Monday morning, ‘when turning to the door, and casting my eyes to the top of Coolnahorna Hill, which was not a quarter of a mile away, I saw the ridge of it filled with men, armed with pikes, the heads of them glistening in the morning sun.’ Having camped on Coolnahorna or Ballyorril Hill, the previous night, the Insurgents then marched down to the Milehouse, and into Enniscorthy and eventually took control of the town. One the same date in 1998, 500 pikemen commemorated this event by unveiling a stone at the cross-roads, and marching down the same route. In an earlier reference to Coolnahorna Hill, Jane Barber wrote, ‘One this last (hill) a tradition said that King James, when fleeing stopped to take breath, and an old prophecy said that before another 100 years should have elapsed from that flight, the Irish should again muster on that Hill, strong and victorious.’ As it turned out the prophecy was only wrong by eight years. It is possible that King James also passed over the hill at a previous time, because it is recorded that when passing through Gorey, he stopped

to admire the excellent layout of that town. The flight of King James took place in July 1690, immediately after the Battle of the Boyne.

1796

In this year according to a deed already mentioned, Edward Hawkins demised part of his lands containing 49 acres and 3 roods to John Bent the father of Margaret Bent already mentioned in the references to the year 1829. This John Bent is described as a blacksmith and the most likely location of his smithy is near the cross roads where Nolans later lived and close by the house where the Powers are living at present.

1760

In this year Nathaniel Heuson the landlord granted 50 Irish acres to William Hawkins. William was the father of the above Edward and he had two other sons, Roger and Joseph. This land is very likely what is known as Marshalstown, north of the Marshalstown – Enniscorthy road since that would be the approximate acreage of it. Thomas and James Sinnott had it leased before this time.

1726

In this year the records show that Vesey the bishop of Ossory sold Ballyorile and Tomedilly to Nathaniel Huson for £6600 and £5000 respectively. From this time until 1854, Huson owned Ballyorril and later he owned 516 acres in Co. Roscommon. In 1708 Caesar Colclough was the owner and he was married to the daughter of Sir Thomas Vesey who was bishop of Ossory. Apparently there was some kind of family settlement between Colclough and Vesey which enabled the latter to sell the property.

1662

From the 15th report of the assistant Keeper of Records 1825 we read:-

“Granted to Alexander Barrington under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation 1662 and 1666. Ballyarrel 295 acres. Rent £5-19-5 ½.”

Alexander Barrington was a Cromwellian Officer whose family was related to Oliver Cromwell. The 295 acres would be the remainder of Ballyorril apart from the 50 acres already referred to.

He was also granted Davidstowne and some other townlands in the Barony of Scarawalsh. This was in accord with the usual practice of successive governments of displacing the local landowners and granting their land to soldiers as payment for their wartime services. The war in this case was obviously Cromwell's campaign in Ireland in 1649. The displaced landlord in this case was Dudley Colclough, sometimes described as from Monart and other times as Mohurry. It is now known he lived in Ken Leech's of Monart [formerly Sheil's] and later in Duffry Hall. This grant was made only for the lifetime of Dudley Colclough who seemed to be out of favour with the authorities, because of his religion and because he took part in the rebellion of 1641. Caesar Colclough who succeeded Barrington was half nephew of Dudley was from Tintern Abbey and a Protestant.

1640

Going back to 1640, the year before another Irish rebellion we have more information concerning Ballyorril. From Simmington we learn that a few years after this date, there was a Civil Survey done to determine the state of the country, before the upheaval of that rebellion. He informs us that the proprietor of 'Baliarrel', as it was then known in 1640, was Dudley Colclough, who held 400

acres, 4 of which were woodland. The valuation of this land was £30, and Simmington describes him as an Irish Papist. He also informs us that Killalegane had 400 acres, and the proprietors were Dudley Colclough, Hugh O'Brien and Joseph Farrell. (Ref: The Civil Survey of Wexford, 1654-1656, p284). Dudley was the son of Sir Thomas Colclough by his second wife Eleanor. He was granted the Duffry lands centered on the manor of Monart containing 2'570 acres in 1628.but added more to this by his marriage to Katherine Esmond and by purchase. By the time of the rebellion he owned about 30,000 acres including Ballyorril.

The origin of the name.

Edward Culleton published Treasures of the Landscape in 1996, in which he writes, that the name Ballyorril derives from Farrellstown, and when we see how it was spelt in 1640, it seems very likely to be right. When we discover that Farrell was one of the proprietors of the adjoining Killalegane, we might well ask if he had any influence in giving his name to what was at that time, Baliarrel.

It's physical features

Concerning the physical features of Ballyorril, it was during the 1950 and 60's that very significant changes were made, apart from the building of new houses, which has come about since then. The roads were tarred in the 1950's, whereas previously they were made of loose stones. In the middle of the crossroads there was a patch of grass like a roundabout, except that it was not round, and the traffic didn't go around it! This crossroads had been used as a meeting point, every good summer's evening where the locals would gather to talk, throw skittles, pitch horse shoes, or toss coins. The patch of grass was taken away, when the road was tarred. Sometime before this the stream of water dividing the Moyne from Ballyorril, had

been piped underground. In my early days, it flowed over the road, and was known as the 'Ford'.

Jim Dillon became Minister for Agriculture, in the first Inter-party Government in 1948, and soon after this, started a Land Reclamation Scheme. Martin Farrell was the first in Ballyorril to avail of this by draining his bogs, at the bottom of his hill, and below his farm-yard. At first, the Dept. of Agriculture workmen opened 4ft. drains around the fields, and levelled some unwanted fences. Then they used a big plough which a bulldozer would pull with a winch, to make the drains for the pipes, after which they would pull a mole plough across the pipelines, to collect the water and 'break the pan', as it was known. Changes were made as time went on, so that the digger replaced the mole-plough and drain plough, and a row of clay pipes were placed every eleven yards, whereas previously they were much further apart.

The Fianna Fail Government, which followed in 1951, gave the work to private contractors, instead of doing it directly. Over the following 20 years, practically all of Ballyorril was drained, ploughed and re-seeded, so that bogs which were not safe to walk on, producing only pheasants and rushes, were now producing good grass. Some of the driest of these bogs had previously been tilled in ridges so as to drain off the water and were in that condition when we ploughed them.

It was sometime in the first decade of the twentieth century that a pair of brothers took on the contract of cutting into Ballyorril hill. It is easy to see where the road was sunk by about four feet and it must have been very steep before then. The contract price was £50 but they were unable to finish it for this money. However, the local farmers came to the rescue and made a collection to finish it. At one time

the road to Marshalstown from the crossroads which swings right at Hennessy's cottage use to continue straight down Whelan's lane up to the end of the first field. It would then swing sharp right and then left under the late Charlie Murphy's farmyard where a row of bungalows is now. This change was made to provide a straighter road from Enniscorthy to Marshalstown. This new road divided the land which my family leased in 1892 and it passed by Whelan's at the back instead of the front as it normally should. This change took place sometime between 1841 when the first map was made and 1892.

The highest point of Ballyorril near the crossroads is 84 meters above sea level and this drops to 40 meters at its lowest point.

The soil in Ballyorril, as it is in most of county Wexford is the Clonroche series known as acid brown earth and is one of the best types in Ireland.

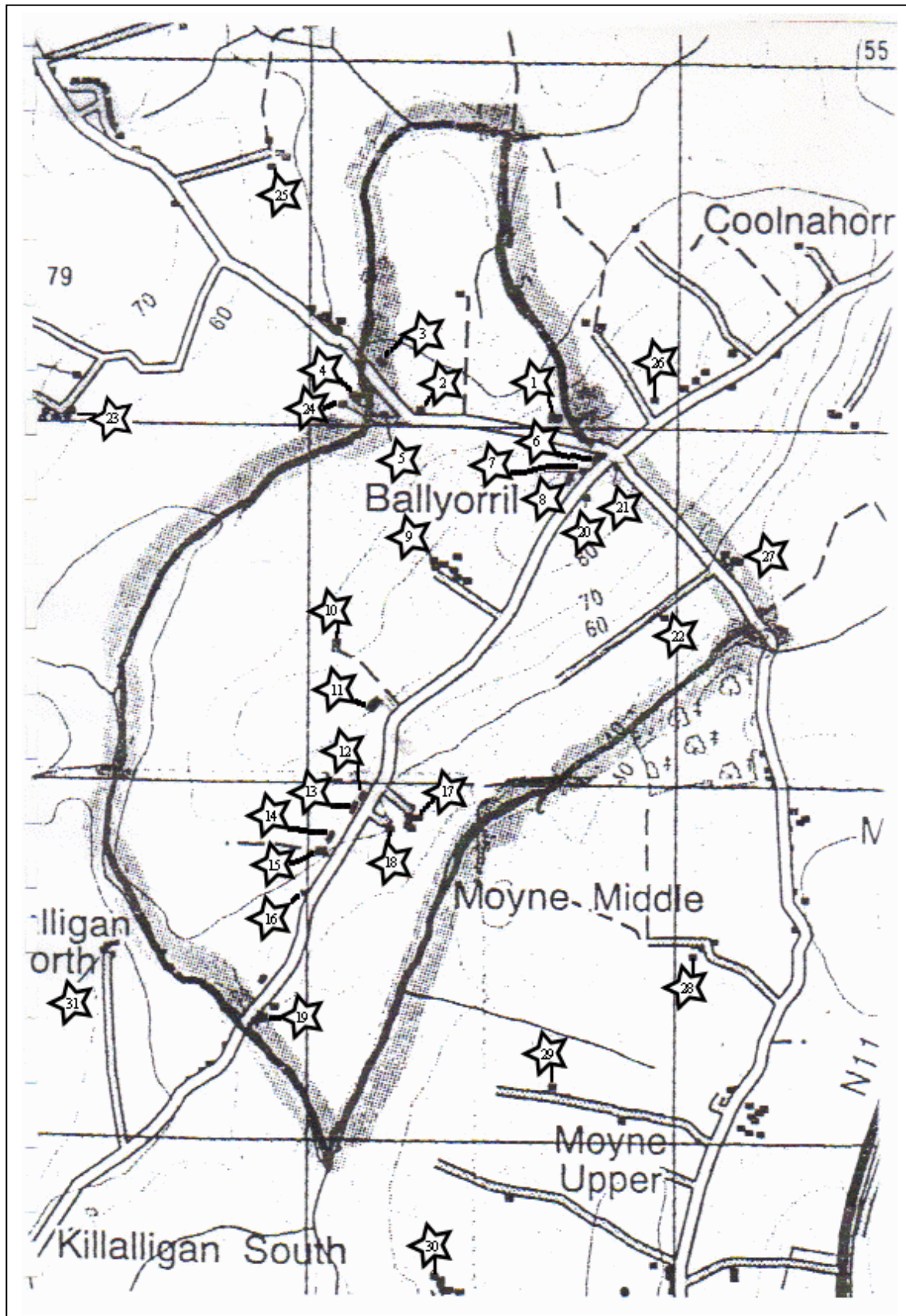
Occupants and Owners of Dwelling-houses in Ballyorril in 2000

- [1] Mr. & Mrs. James Power
- [2] Mary Walsh
- [3] Jimmy Kelly
- [4] Colm Ryan
- [5] John Ryan
- [6] Mr. & Mrs. Pat Hendrick
- [7] Sean Doyle & Family
- [8] Mr. & Mrs. John Daly
- [9] Mr. & Mrs. Jim Morris
- [10] Jim Morris (Vacant)
- [11] Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Rothwell
- [12] Mr. & Mrs Pearson.
- [13] Vacant – Formerly Fox’s
- [14] Mr. & Mrs. William Murphy
-]15] Mrs. Martin Murphy and Tony
- [16] Mr. & Mrs. Philip Flynn
- [17] Angus Rothwell (Vacant)
- [18] Mr. & Mrs. Angus Rothwell
- [19] Brigid Farrell
- [20] Douglas Armstrong
- [21] James Hennessy
- [22] Ronald Rothwell

Farmhouses bordering Ballyorril

- [30] Minnion formerly Hatton’s
- [29] Myles Roban
- [28] Jack Nolan
- [27] Tim Bolger
- [26] Michael Fitzpatrick
- [25] Eilish Morris
- [24] Johnny Whelan
- [23] Paddy Doyle
- [31] Jack Lett (Outfarm)

BALLYORRIL 2000 DWELLINGS AND BORDERING FARM HOUSES





BEN ROTHWELL OF BALLYORRIL [1863 - 1946]
HIS WIFE - ELIZA [1871 - 1902]
HIS DAUGHTER - ANNIE [MRS BOB JACOB DUNSINANE]
HIS DAUGHTER - LIZZIE [DIED YOUNG]
HIS SON - BEN [1899 - 1970]

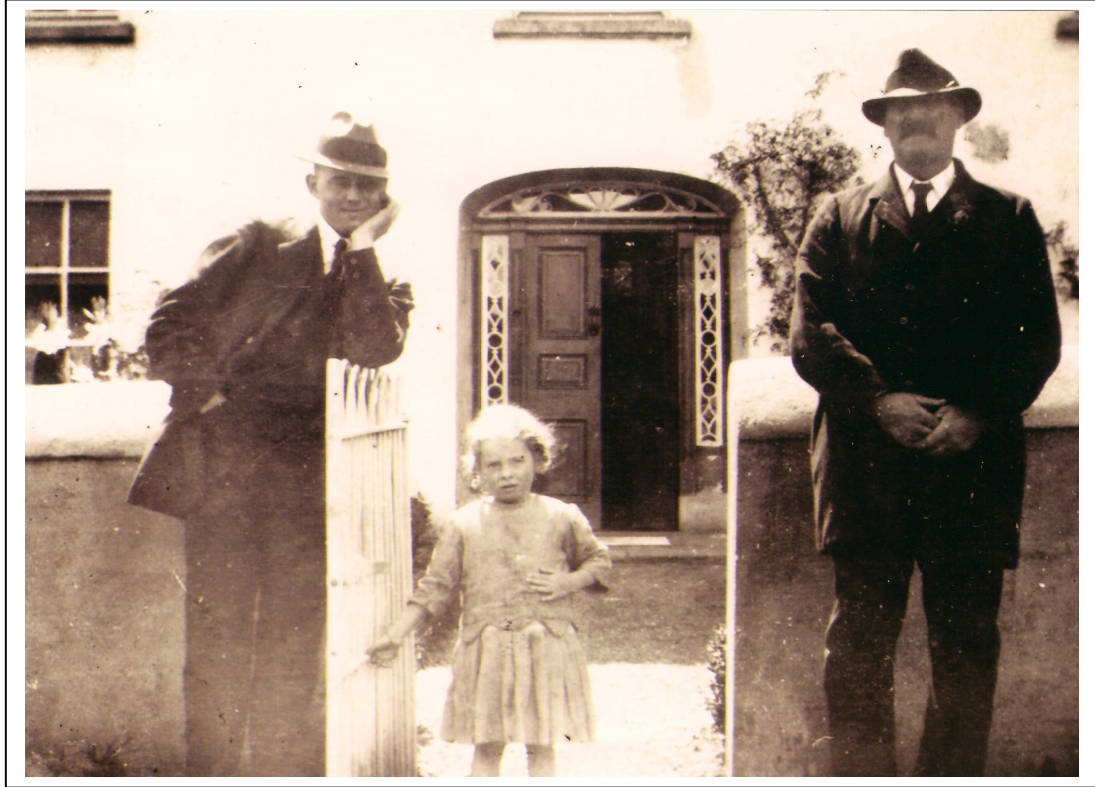
Photograph taken in 1901.



Ned and Johnny Walsh – Ballyorrl
Became famous Hurlers with the Hollow Rangers and the Co. Kildare team.



Kate Codd. Ballyorrl (1890 – 1970)



Ben Rothwell (1899 – 1970) and Mick Whelan outside Ballyorril House
(Early 1920's)



Left to Right: Jim Morris, Mike Morris, Frank Morris, Aidan Ryan
Seated: Martin Farrell with Catherine and Martin Junior
(circa 1958) (All from Ballyorril.)



Ballyorril House 1961



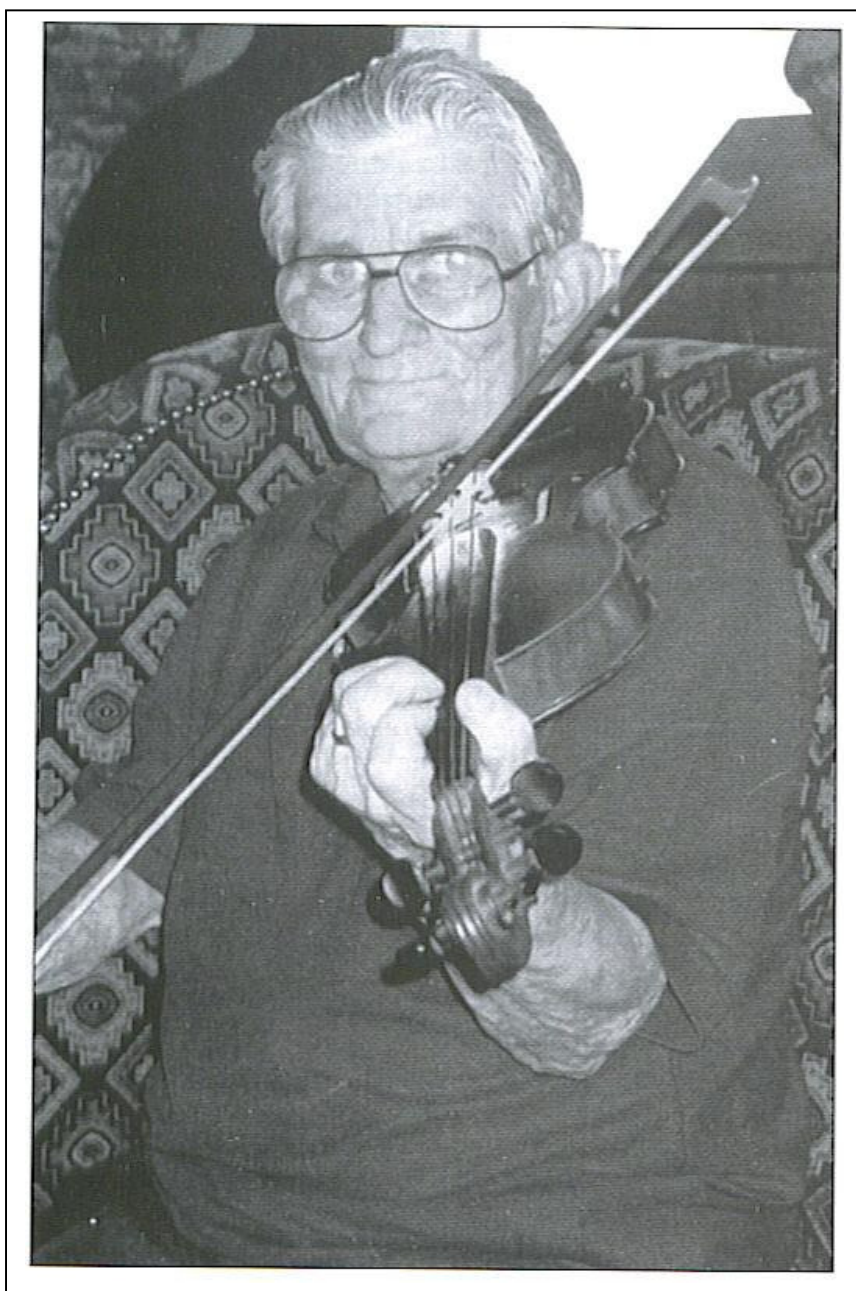
Farrells' Farmhouse Ballyorril circa 1963
Typical of four farmhouses in Ballyorril.



Redmond's Cottage, Ballyorril. Circa 1970
Identical to four cottages built in Ballyorril 1901 - 1911



James Morris (1875 – 1955) with his wife Bridget Roche
Photographed in 1907. (See 1911 Census)



Jimmy Kelly (2002)



Ben Rothwell and Matty Kavanagh
(circa 1946)

INDEX

Contents	Page
Map of Ballyorril (Illustration)	3
Ballyorril Location and Boundaries	4
In the year 2000	4
Ballyorril Landowners 2000 (Illustration)	8
In the year 1950	9
Population	11
Ballyorril Field Map 1925- 1950 (Illustration)	12
Ballyorril Landowners 1950 (Illustration)	13
The 1911 Census	14
The 1901 Census	15
Ballyorril Landowners 1900 (Illustration)	18
The 1867 Survey	19
1854	22
The Griffiths Valuation of 1853	22
Ballyorril 1841 (Illustration)	26
1829	27
The 1823 Tithe Applotment List	27
Ballyorril in 1798	30
1796	32
1760	32
1726	32
1662	33
1640	33
The origin of the name	34

INDEX continued

Contents	Page
It's physical features	34
Occupants and Owners of Dwelling-houses in Ballyorril in 2000	37
Farm Houses Boardering Ballyorrilin 2000	37
Ballyorril 2000 Dwellings and Bordering Farm Houses (Illustration)	38

INDEX of PHOTOGRAPHS

Contents	Page
Ben and Eliza Rothwell (Circa 1901)	39
Ned and Johnny Walsh	40
Kate Codd (1890 -1970)	41
Ben Rothwell and Mick Whelan (Circa 1920's)	42
Jim Morris, Mike Morris, Frank Morris, Aidan Ryan, plus Martin Farrell with Catherine and Martin Junior	43
Ballyorril House	43
Farrells Farm House (Circa 1963)	44
Redmond Cottage (Circa 1970)	44
James Morris and Bridget Roche (Circa 1907)	45
Jimmy Kelly (Circa 2002)	46
Ben Rothwell and Matty Kavanagh (Circa 1946)	47