

Six Decades of
St. Thomas'
National School
Peterswell,

1944-2004

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to,
the Parishioners of Peterswell,
the Teachers and Pupils,
past and present
with out whose contributions this
publication would not be possible.

Published by the Peterswell Reunion Book Committee

1st Published in June 2004

ISBN: 0-9547641-0-2

The Peterswell Reunion Book Committee has taken great care to ensure the accuracy of this book. However, errors and/or inaccuracies may occur and they CANNOT accept responsibility for same.

This project was part funded by Galway Rural Development under the NRDP programme. The GRDP cannot accept responsibility for omissions or inaccuracies contained herein.

This project was also part funded under Galway County Council Heritage Grant Scheme.

The Book Committee realises that to thank each individual would fill another book, so on behalf of the People of the Parish, The Committee formally wishes to thank all those who researched and contributed articles for inclusion in this Book and also those who kindly granted permission for materials included.

Acknowledgements

South Galway GAA Board 1913-1975

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Printed in Galway by Jaycee Printers Ltd.

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FOREWORD

Peterswell is a parish that is proud of its History, and what better opportunity to publicly declare some of its heroes and characters than on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the National School, from whence the knowledge for their achievements was nurtured.

The present building was officially opened in the month of March in the year of our Lord nineteen forty-six, having commenced in the month of September 1944, hence this year, 2004, being the 60th anniversary.

We produced this book to coincide with the proposed celebrations, planned for June of 2004, and as a token recognition of all her past pupils, teachers and management staff, and in particular, to record for all time, some of the recollections of the deeds and achievements of its most memorable sons and daughters as told by its past pupils in their own inimitable styles.

Particularly we seek to use this opportunity to compile for eternity the many fragmented stories of our history in one volume and hence have one publication containing the answers to many questions and revealing many little known facts about the origins of the Parish, combining the folklore and the memories of her parishioners on the occasion of these celebrations

I hope all who read this recall with some pleasure a memory sparked by its contents and live many a long day remembering Peterswell, a parish to be proud of.

It would be unforgivable of us not to mention, at this point, our enormous gratitude, which we, the committee and the parishioners of Peterswell extend to each and every person that contributed in any way shape or form to the production and publication of this book.

To those whose efforts are reproduced here we say, thank you. To those whose efforts are not, we thank you too because behind every publication are many unacknowledged efforts without which no best seller could be produced, but regretfully not all geniuses are published!

And now for my bit!

The Committee, the Parish, and all its contributors, will not accept any responsibility what so ever, for any errors, offence given or taken, from any of the contents of this book or the manner in which it is presented and we blame all inaccuracies on the fact that all accounts are based on characters which should bear no resemblance to any real person or persons, living or dead, and if they are so deemed, it is purely by coincidence!

James T Fahy BL

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Background to the 60th Celebration

The idea originated when St. Thomas' National School achieved county championships in both hurling and camogie. This had never been done before at National school level in Peterswell and the idea was born of celebrating this achievement in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the opening of the school.

Many informal meetings and discussions took place over the intervening months, between Easter and September of 2003 then finally a formal meeting took place on the 18th of November 2003 in St. Thomas' National School.

At that meeting a Committee was formed to organise an event to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening of the present school.

Ideas were solicited and by the end of the meeting it was decided to hold a two-day event on the June bank holiday weekend in 2004.

The question of events then arose and it was in the middle of these discussions that the subject of a book arose. Before long there was a book committee formed to publish a historical record of the parish, and achievements and memoirs of its parishioners, past and present pupils of the school.

The idea was to invite all past pupils to the event and have the book available for sale as a keepsake for all.

Fundraising of course was a major issue to be considered. Many ideas were explored and evaluated. One particular idea came to fruition and a fundraising concert was held in the Lady Gregory which featured Seán Keane (husband of a local Peterswell woman – Virginia Burke) This event raised a considerable sum of money, thanks to the endless time and effort put in by committee members and great support coming from all the locals. That sparked even more interest and before long help in many forms arrived from all sides.! Articles, memoirs and the all important Financial help.

The result,including endless hours of research,sweat,and "editorial tears" is this book.

ENJOY.!

The Parish and its History

By Frank Helly

The parish of Peterswell is situated in south County Galway , 3 miles east of the town of Gort. It borders the Ardahan parish in the north and stretches across the Slieve Aughty Mountains to the county Clare border, a distance of almost 10 miles. On the western side it adjoins the parishes of Kilbeacanty and Gort with Ardahan, Kilchreest and Derrybrien to the east. It has an area of 11,700 acres. The parish includes part of 2 baronies, Loughrea and Kiltartan and 41 town lands, 24 and 17 in each barony respectively. The official name of the parish is Kilthomas.

Famine Years

Peterswell had a population of 3,278 people according to the census of 1841 and they lived in 584 houses. It is not known how many died or how many emigrated in the famine, which followed the failure of the potato crop. Potatoes were the staple diet of the Irish at the time when they were destroyed by blight. The census of 1851 shows that the population had dropped to 1,903, a loss of 1,375 among the locality's residents since 1841! Some of them surely ended their days in the Gort Workhouse. The first admission to the Workhouse was on the 11th of December 1841, when it opened. It had cost £5,250 to build and £1,150 to furnish and equip and it had accommodation for 500 people. When the famine ended in the late 1840's there were many families living in poverty stricken circumstances.

Peterswell Relief Committee 1880

In 1880, the Peterswell Relief Committee was set up under the chairmanship of Father Jerome Fahy. The district representatives were Martin Kelly, Jim Fahy, Dan Kearns, Thomas O'Donnell, P. Kelleher, William Kerans, Thomas Kelly, Pat Burke, and a local dignitary J. Galbraith Esq. By the 7th of February the amount of meal distributed to the poor of the parish was 388 stone and it cost £35-2-2. This provided relief for 124 families. The main sources of funding were:- The Mansion House Relief Committee, who gave 9 donations totalling £270, the Most Reverend Dr. McEvilly (Bishop of Galway) gave £45, with instruction to spend some of the money on seed potatoes. Later he donated 7 tonnes of champion seed potatoes. Other donors were the Herald Relief Fund giving 7 donations amounting to £65, the Land League gave £20, the Marlborough Relief Fund gave £17 while the Philadelphia Relief Fund gave £25 and the New York Herald gave £10. At a meeting of the Peterswell Relief Committee on Sunday the 24th of July it was shown that the quantity of meal distributed on the week ending the 23rd

instance was 456 stones at a cost of £29-7-6, providing 184 families with assistance. The Peterswell Relief Committee on the eve of suspending their labours, begged to give public expression of their deep sense of indebtedness to the Mansion House Relief Committee. They desired to record with deep gratitude that the work of feeding the suffering poor of the parish during the 6 months just past had been effected mainly through the magnificent grants forwarded to them by the Mansion House Committee and by the generous charities of the Most Reverend Dr McEvilly, Bishop of the Diocese.

"We Shall Long retain a grateful recollection of the humane attention to the wants of this district manifested by the Right Hon. The Lord Mayor and by the other people associated with his noble labours of charity during this year of crucial suffering."

James Leonard, Secretary to the Committee

Slieve Aughty

About 500 acres of the parish is in the Slieve Aughty Mountains and consists mostly of bogland. It is obvious from the cut away bogs that it was all forestry in bygone years. Turf, the main source of fuel was cut and saved there for centuries. The saving of turf was at its peak in the 1940's during the Second World War as only a limited amount of coal was available. Besides supplying the local and adjoining areas there was a big demand for turf in Dublin. Horses and creels were used to deliver the turf locally while lorries were used to transport the turf to Dublin where it was stacked in the Phoenix Park for the poor of Dublin. In the 1950's turf cutting went into decline and at this time the Department of Forestry began planting trees on the mountain. Now 50 years later very little turf is saved there.

Farming

The rest of the parish could be referred to as mixed land, some parts very fertile and other parts wet and stony. The arable areas were used for hay and tillage and the rougher areas were used for grazing. During the war years 1939-1945, it was compulsory for farmers to till 3/8 of their arable land. Crops of the time included cereal crops of wheat, oats and barley and root crops of potatoes, mangels, turnips and sugar beet. It was a time of near complete self-sufficiency when people grew their own vegetables, produced their own milk and butter, reared pigs and cured their own bacon, raised their own poultry to supply eggs and some even spun their own wool for knitting. One enterprising parishioner, John Willie Fitzgerald of Lecknabegga, set up his own wind charger and generated electricity for his own use, a man ahead of his time. All farm work up to about the late 1940s was done with horses. After those years horses started to be replaced by tractors. People kept more cows and sold the milk to the creameries. They also reclaimed marginal land and with the use of fertilisers output increased.

Snow

The spring of 1947-Black '47-saw the heaviest snowfall ever and it did not thaw for weeks. Late April and early May were very warm and the children had discarded their shoes and were going to school in their bare feet. But on the 10th of May there was another snowfall and it was back to the boots again. That year, the last of the snow on the North side of the Mountain did not melt until June.

Tradesmen

Most people worked on the land. There were 3 blacksmiths in the parish, Fitzgerald of Lecknabegga, Hynes of Gortadragan and Leary of Cappard. John Hallinan had a sawmill and grinding mill and his brother Martin was a wheelwright and made harrows and other equipment needed by the local farmers. There were many thatchers, the best known was Bartley Connors of Hollymount who travelled far and near all year round plying his trade. The last great thatcher was Paddy Lally of Ballylee. He was shown plying his trade on RTE when Ballylee Castle and House were being restored. The last tailor was Paddy Caulfield, who was a noted hurler who died at the early age of 28 in 1941. His workshop was situated between Cooney's shop and the old school.

Shopping

In the days long before supermarkets and malls the shopping public of Peterswell had five retail outlets to choose from. In fine Irish tradition two of the shops were groceries-come-pubs as was the norm at the time; Hayes and Sherries. Lahiff's has changed hands a few times and was owned by Gavins, Fitzgeralds, Keoghs, McDonaghs and Geoghegans and is now run as a pub only and trades under the name of "Hunters Lodge". Eoin Harte ran the Public House where Maureen O'Donnell's house is now. Harte's pub ceased trading in the early part of the last century. Sherry's formerly Sheehans and now Flaherty's no longer deals in groceries and operates as a pub only and is known as "Yeat's Lodge". Since the 1950's Cooneys have run a grocery that was owned by Cunninghams and is now the only remaining grocery and post office in the parish. In the 1930's Cooney's also had a shop in a relative's premises "The Shaughnessy's" of Skehanagh. It opened only for a few hours each day and closed during the early days of the Second World War. Last but not least was McInerney's of Hollymount. McInerney's closed about 1940. Up to the mid 1950s the Post Office was run at Cuilmore near the crossroads by Mrs Lyons. The mail came from Loughrea by bicycle per Bertie Kelly and was then delivered on foot by the local postman Joe Ford. Joe was very keen on hurling and always encouraged the young people of the parish to play the game. He represented the Club at South Board meetings for many years.

Garda Barracks

The Garda barracks was there since the RIC was founded. Vincent Donoghue, whose father served in the RIC in Peterswell in the early 1900s and attended National school in Peterswell became President of the GAA in 1952, representing Co. Waterford. The father of a recent President of the GAA, Mr Seán McCauley, served as a Garda in the Peterswell Barracks in 1940. The Barracks have been out of use for a number of years now.

Electricity

Electricity came to the North of the parish in 1948 and it was some years later before it was extended to the rest of the area. Initially most houses got one light per room and one socket in the kitchen. Very few got an outside light. The "switch on" took place on the 31st of May and when the first bills came the following August they were the source of much debate. (It is interesting to note how little times have changed). One household had used only one unit of electricity! It was some time before people got any electrical

appliances in their houses and longer still before they used electricity around the farmyard.

The Parish Church

The original church was dedicated to St Thomas the apostle, hence its name Kilthomas (Kil coming from the old Irish word Cill meaning Church). The present church was built in the 1830s. Robert Foster Blake of Knockmoy Abbey, who had donated the site, laid the foundation stone. The parish priest of the time was Father Patrick Bodkin Quinn. Richard Gregory of Coole Park contributed to the cost. Father P. O'Connor was the parish priest when the church was completed. In 1880, Monsignor Jerome Fahey added a belfry and bell at the behest of his predecessor Father Grealy. In 1904 the roof was replaced and gables were raised. The builder was Martin Linane, who lived at Dromore Hill. Father Patrick Geraghty erected a marble altar at the bequest of a Miss Sheehan of Blackrock, about 1904. In 1947-48 the church was renovated and a tower was added at a cost of £5550 and McInerneys were the contractors. Father Denis Hehir was parish priest at the time and was assisted by Father James Larkin who was then the administrator. The Father John Keeley memorial stained glass window, "Our Lady of the Rosary", which was added in 1950 is by Evie Hone. Father Keely was a native of Doonally East and is buried in Kinvara. Father N. Kelly reordered the interior of the church in 1973. The altar rails were removed and the wooden altar was replaced by moving the marble altar forward. Dr. Joyce of Gort presented a new sanctuary lamp. A beautiful grotto to "Our Lady of Lourdes" was erected in the grounds when Father Jennings was Parish Priest. There has been no resident priest since Father Jennings died in 1999. Father Paddy Callinan served Peterswell and Kilbeacanty parishes until last year. Now Father Derek Feeney Parish Priest serves Peterswell and Kilchreest.

Parish Priests of Peterswell

Father John Duffy	1819
Father Michael Gleeson	1819-1829
Father Patrick Bodkin Quinn	1829-1833
Father Patrick O'Connor	1833-1856
Father Thomas Grealy	1856-1874
Father Francis Forde	1874-1876
Father Jerome A Fahy	1876-1883
Father Patrick Geraghty	1883-1910
Father John Burke	1910-1941
Father Denis Hehir	1941-1951
Father James Larkin	1951-1973
Father Edward Kelly	1973-1976
Father Vincent Jennings	1976-1999
Father Paddy Callinan	
Peterswell and Kilbeacanty	1999-2003
Father Derek Feeney	
Peterswell and Kilchreest	2003-to date

Other priests who served in the parish :-

Father Andrew Hanrahan CC 1854-1855

Father Christopher O'Carroll CC 1855-1856

Father Redmond McHugh ADM 1895-1898 & 1899-1900

Father Malachy Eaton CC 1939-1941

Father James Larkin ADM 1944-1951 (P.P. 1951-1973)

Father John Duffy, died 8/1/1819, buried in Kilthomas.

Father McGleeson, died and is buried in Kilthomas.

Father Thomas Grealy, died 27/4/1874, buried in Kilthomas.

Father Patrick O'Connor is buried in the church where there is a tablet to his memory dated 28/4/1856.

Father Patrick Geraghty, died 12/10/1910, buried in church grounds.

Father John Burke, died 1941, buried in church grounds.

Father Denis Hehir, died 1951, buried in church grounds.

Father James Larkin, died 1973, buried in church grounds.

Father Vincent Jennings, died 1999, buried in church grounds.

Priests Who Were Native Of Peterswell

Father John Burke was born in Gardenblake. In 1681 he exiled to France and on his return was exiled to America where he died.

Father John Duffy and Father Michael Gleeson were natives of the parish of Peterswell, and both are buried in Kilthomas cemetery. Father John Duffy received his early education at his father's hedge school in Gortnagown. Father Larkin was A.D.M. and became Parish Priest later.

Father Laurence O'Loughlin was Parish Priest of Kilmacduagh at the time of his death about 1798. He is buried in Kiltartan.

Father Thomas Talmon was educated, perhaps, in Naples. He was appointed to Shanaglish parish. He died on the 10th of September 1816 and is buried with his brother, a doctor, in Kilthomas.

Father Patrick Mullins, born in Kilthomas about 1795. After schooling with Mr. Duffy, he entered Maynooth in September 1812 and was ordained in June 1819. In 1828 he became P.P. of Kilchreest and in 1837 transferred to Clarinbridge. He died on 24th of November 1852 and is buried in Kileely church.

Fathers Michael and James Duffy were brothers of John who was Parish Priest of Peterswell up to his death in 1819. James became V.G. and Parish Priest of Craughwell. He died on June 6th 1833. Michael V.G., and Parish Priest of Kilmacduagh, died on the 26th February 1837.

Fathers Laurence and Michael McGrath were nephews of the Duffy brothers. Laurence died as C.C. in Gort on April 1st 1883. Michael was born in 1821 and professed a Franciscan in Rome in 1846. He died in Ennis on June 24th 1891.

Father Andrew Fahy was born in Gardenblake, the son of Patrick Fahy and Catherine Moran. He was Parish Priest of Ballinderreen and died in 1836.

Father John Fahy was curate in Ennistymon, Kinvara, Craughwell and Kilfenora. He was educated in Rome.

Father John Sheehan entered Maynooth in 1820. In 1826 he was curate in Ardahan. From 1829 to his death on December 17th 1872 he was Parish Priest of Ennistymon and was for many years Vicar General.

Father Michael Kearns was born in Dunally, was Parish Priest of Carron and died in 1941.

Father Patrick Kerans, a cousin of Fr. Michael, was born in Gardenblake, served as Parish Priest of Ballyvaughan and died in 1925. He was a grandnephew of the three Duffy brothers.

Father John Keely, a native of Dunally, was C.C. of Kinvara and died in 1939.

Father Denis Glennon of Blackrock died as Parish Priest of Ballinderreen in 1957

Father Bernard Mulkerrins of Ballynabuckly was educated in Maynooth and ordained in 1931. He died in 1987 having retired as Parish Priest of Kinvara.

Father Thomas Mulkerrins, a brother of Bernard, was educated in Dalgan Park and was ordained in 1936. He was sent to Korea for 10 years, 3 of which he spent in prison.

After his release he was in a sanatorium in Canada for 6 months and for 3 years at home recuperating after his ordeals in a Korean prison. When he had recovered he went to Perth in Australia. Later he moved to Adelaide, where he died in 1991 and was buried.

Father Martin O'Connor was born in Gardenblake, educated in Maynooth and ordained in 1944. He spent most of his early priesthood as Chaplain in Galway Central Hospital. Later he was Parish Priest of Kilchreest. He now lives in retirement in Oranmore having spent his final years as P.P. of that parish.

Father Liam Power of Lissadoill was educated in Maynooth and ordained in 1958. He was curate in Castlegar, Craughwell, Gort and Parish Priest of Kilchreest, Castlegar and Kilallin. He is now retired.

Father Michael Larkin of Dromore was educated at St. Peters of Wexford and spent all of his Priesthood ministering in sunny Florida, USA.

Father Frank Larkin a brother of Father Michael was educated in Maynooth and was ordained in 1966 in Galway Cathedral. He was among the first ordinations to take place there. He is now Parish Priest in Kinvara.

National Monuments

There are 31 national monuments shown on the ordinance survey maps. Unfortunately many of them no longer exist. The stones of some were used to build walls when land was divided while others have disappeared for one reason or other. The most notable ones are Rahaly Castle (tower house), Dromore Ecclesiastical remains and a ring fort with souterrain. . Other places of interest are the children's burial grounds, Kilthomas graveyard and ecclesiastic site, mass rocks and lime kilns. Rahaly Castle was built by the MacHubertBurkes, Norman occupiers. Most of the features of the existing structure seem to date from the 16th Century although the castle was completely renovated in the mid 1970s. The area around the Dromore Ecclesiastical remains was used as a children's burial ground. There is another children's burial ground in Gorteenaniska. The last known burials in Gorteenaniska and Dromore were in the 1940s. The ecclesiastical

remains in Gardenblake are in Kilthomas graveyard. It is not known when this ecclesiastical site ceased to be a church. The oldest gravestone goes back to 1776.

Cemetery

The cemetery was in a very poor condition up to a few years ago. Great credit is due to Father Paddy Callinan and his band of voluntary workers who worked so hard to bring it to its present condition. It is a place to be very proud of. A book listing all the graves including inscriptions was produced as a result of this clean up. Mass has been celebrated there annually in the month of August for the last 2 years and is very well attended. Well done to all concerned!

There are 2 mass rocks, 1 in Gardenblake and 1 in Gardenblake Common, locally known as Calfhill. A mass has been said in recent years at the mass rock in Gardenblake.

There are the remains of some lime-kilns to be seen. The last man to burn lime was the late Jimmy Farrell of Shanvalley in about 1940.

Please see the table of the local listed monuments on page 16:

Ordinance Survey Map Number	Monument Number	Townland	Classification
GA114	010	Ballylahy	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	011	Ballylahy	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	26	Bullanagh	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	2601	Bullanagh	Souterrain
GA114	27	Bullanagh	Enclosure
GA114	28	Bullanagh	Earthwork unclassified
GA114	067	Cuillmore	Moated Site
GA114	068	Cuillmore	Holy Well
GA114	069	Dromore Hill	Ecclesiastical Remains
GA114	070	Dromore Hill	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle BiVillage
GA114	07001	Dromore Hill	Souterrain
GA114	077	Gorteenaniska	Souterrain
GA114	078	Grannagh	Barrow
GA114	081	Limepark North	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	10001	Kilcarrooraun	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	10002	Kilcarrooraun	Souterrain
GA114	10003	Kilcarrooraun	Standing Stone
GA114	102	Kilcarrooraun	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	111	Limepark North	Enclosure
GA114	113	Limepark South	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	116	Lissadoill	Enclosure
GA114	119	Lissadulta	Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA114	11901	Lissadulta	Souterrain
GA114	120	Lissadulta	Earthwork Unclassified
GA114	141	Newtownblake	Earthwork Unclassified

GA114	143	Rahaly Souterrain
GA114	144	Rahaly Tower House
GA114	145	Rahaly Enclosure
GA114	160	Skehanagh Enclosure
GA114	161	Skehanagh Ringfort/ Rath/ Castle
GA123	043	Doonally West Enclosure
GA123	046	Gardenblake Ecclesiastical Remains
GA123	049	Gorteenaniska Children's Burial Ground

Peterswell History

By Peter Fahy (A member of the last class of the old Peterswell School)

Kilthomas Church

The original church of the Parish of Peterswell was Kilthomas Church. It stood in the Kilthomas graveyard in Gardenblake.

Mr. John O'Donovan refers to the church in Vol. 11 of a publication that included letters containing information relating to the antiquities of Co. Galway. These letters were collected during the Ordnance Survey in 1839. The following is an extract from this publication:

Apparently a feature of the Kilthomas Church was an underground passage through which the people in the church could flee to a safe distance when the need arose. Judging by the fire marks on the wall and the history that is retold, this need did indeed arise.

The church was later used as a barn and then later again as the site of the original Peterswell School. This site has been used for many a function and is now home to the parish hall known as the Joe Cooley Memorial Hall.

Population of Peterswell in Famine Times

In Famine times the parish of Peterswell was more densely populated than today. The table below is an edited version of the records of families in the townlands of the parish from 1826 to 1856. It should be said that this is not an exhaustive list but does record some 39 townlands and approximately 300 families.

N.B. LANDLORDS NAMES ARE RECORDED IN BOLD LETTERING ALTHOUGH NOTE THAT SOME OF THESE NAMES MAY BE OF THE FOREMEN OR LANDLORDS' AGENTS

Townlands-1826

Ballylee Village	2 Families
Cuilmore	1 Family
Ballynabucky	2 Families
Dromore Hill Lesser	5 Families
Dromore Hill	1 Family
Loughinvadda	2 Families
Old Village Raheely	18 Families

Skehana Patrick Tierney, Thomas Burke, James Donohue, Nicki Whelan,
Martin Cofle & Co. , Martin Connell, Laurence Lynsky, R. Gregor.

Landlord Tenants

Jeremiah Ford Malachy Brennan, James Kelly & Co., Michael Prendergast & Mick
Kelly, N. Prendergast, James Larkin, James Glynn, John Quinn & Co., Martin
Leary, Thomas Derryrone & Co., Patrick Sheehan & Co., Blackr, Pat Cunniffe,
Richard Beaty of Bl., M. Leahy, Thomas Noila Raheely, John Kelly,
Ballymany, Charles Wallace, Limepark, Richard Gregory.
James S. Lambert-Raheely Thomas Healy, Thomas Gailand, Thomas Fahy, Martin
Fahy, Edward Kennedy, Thomas Finn, Peter Callanan, Michael Callanan. (8
Families)

James Lambert – Ballymony John Kelly, Thomas Huband, Thomas Healy

James Lambert – Gortillomond Michael Huband, Tommy Sheahan

Rob Persse James Burke, Mary Burke, Delia Burke

Rob Persse – Blackrock Michael Shehan, Patrick Shehan, Michael Boyle & Co.,

James Ford, Patrick Cunniffe, Richard Beaty,

Rob Persse – Licknabeg P. Cunniffe, Richard Beaty

Ulick Burke John Derryrow, Thomas Derryrow, Patrick Fallon, Andrew Quinn,

Michael Headd, Richard Beaty

Ulick Burke – Lisadultra Daniel Kilkelly

Peter Daly – Ballylaha Lyons, Bartley Car, Bartly Hinds, Thomas Lyons,

Peter Daly – Corballybeg Margaret Fallon & Co.

Peter Daly - Kilconuran Peter Daly

Francis Blake Thomas Callinan, Widow Callanan

Lisadill Francis Blake, John Furdon, Hubert Dolphin

Lisheen Hugh Connor, D. Persse

Garryblasken William Mullins

Gorthohoun Patrick Callanan, D. Persse

Caher Christopher Madden

Limepark Charles Wallace, R.P. Persse

Slieverue Charles Wallace

Lismore Charles Wallace

Bishopspark, Ballanruan, Granna Rob Persse

Bullanna Ornley Topdell, Eliza Nolan

Jockyhall Martin Mihasam, Shena Doyle, Patrick Shehan, John Ford, James

Quin, Denis Kealy, Martin Quin, Daniel Kelly, Patrick Egan, D. Kelly,

Michael Cahill, Patrick Flynn, John Rorke, Donlon, Hugh Connors, Martin

Finnerty, Framers Foster

Peterswell James Nagle, Richard Sweeney

Cruckowilliam Patrick Dealy, Michael Fahy

Drummin Patrick Mc Grath

Cappard Richard Galbraith, R. Galb

Bigmeadow John Hallanan

Peafield George Green, Brian Minogue, Fr. M. Gleeson P.P, Catherine Galbraith

Salmonshill Thomas O'Donnell, John Healy, Patrick Keleher
 Ballynahoun Patrick O'Brien, Laurence Gleeson, Patrick Fahy, Thomas Hayes, John
 Connor, James Healy, Robert Connell, James O'Donnell, Patrick Hanlon,
 Patrick Fahy, John O'Donnell, James Fahy, James Linskey, M. Kenny,
 Laurence Boylan, Widow Kealy, Michael O'Brien, Patrick Fox, John Linskey,
 Patrick Kearns, Richard Galbraith
 Gardenswall James McCooke
 Drumminohousan Patrick Hanlon, John Conroy, Catherine Collins, William Kenny,
 William Healy, Patrick Mahony, Timothy Mahony, John Kelleher
 Kilderry Thomas Fahy, Patrick Fahy, Michael Fahy, Michael Fitzgerald, Laurence
 O'Donnell, Laurence Linskey, Thomas Clune, John Linskey, William
 Linskey, William Currue
 Knockoura John Fahy, John Synnott, Owen Collins, Timothy MacInerney, Connor
 Walsh, John O'Donnell, Bryan Harps, Michael Cloran, Thomas Fahy, Thomas Malone
 Hollymount Lower Darby Hanlon, William Healy, John Healy, Thomas O'Donnell,
 Hollymount Upper Michael Burns, Patrick Burns, James Kenny, Patrick Geoghegan,
 John Lewis
 Knockanallen Darby Cunniffe, John Colgan
 Parraun James Kenny, Patrick Fitzpatrick, Thomas O'Donnell, Michael
 Hemming, Patrick Glynn, Patrick Healy
 Greenshill Michael McInerney, Thomas Fahy
 Coolowinnee James Connors, Michael Ryan,
 Gorteenagork Thomas Fallon, Michael Callagey, James Glynn, Laurence Scully
 (Richard Galbraith)
 Gorteenenisky Thomas Deely, John Fallon, Patrick Callanan,
 Knocknahyenne Michael Fahy, Michael Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Peter Daly)
 Poullough M. Fahy, M. Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Francis Forrester)
 Drimmanrae Michael McInerney, Patrick Fahy & Co.,
 Park Village Richard Kirwan,
 Gortnamaggo Peter Tully, Patrick Tully,
 Clooneen Patrick Tully, Peter Tully, James Fahy, Shady Fahy, (Edward Martin)
 Cluneen Bridget Madden
 Dunally West Jeremiah Kiely, John Moran, Patrick Currue & Co., Christopher
 Madden
 Cloughloul commonage or Michael Madden, Thomas Madden, Honor Fallon, Darby
 Fahy, Rod Mountain Kirwan, Catty Deely, Pat Glynn, William Glynn, Peter Glynn,
 Michael Shanahan, W. Glynn, Pat Fallon, Hugh Keefe, Edward Halloran,
 John Taylor & Co., (Edward Kirwan)
 Derrywee Patrick Moran, Michael Long, Mary Cooley, John Glynn, Honor O'
 Donnell, James Kelly, Owen Ward, John Sheehan, Widow Conneely,
 Michael Hehir, Patrick Kiely, Patrick Realy
 Greenshill Michael McInerney, Thomas Fahy
 Coolowinnee James Connors, Michael Ryan,
 Gorteenagork Thomas Fallon, Michael Callagey, James Glynn, Laurence Scully
 (Richard Galbraith)
 Gorteenenisky Thomas Deely, John Fallon, Patrick Callanan,

Knocknahyneen Michael Fahy, Michael Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Peter Daly)
 Poullough M. Fahy, M. Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Francis Forrester)
 Drimmanrae Michael McInerney, Patrick Fahy & Co.,
 Park Village Richard Kirwan,
 Gortnamaggo Peter Tully, Patrick Tully,
 Clooneen Patrick Tully, Peter Tully, James Fahy, Shady Fahy, (Edward Martin)
 Cluneen Bridget Madden
 Dunally West Jeremiah Kiely, John Moran, Patrick Currue & Co., Christopher
 Madden
 Cloughloulou commonage or Michael Madden, Thomas Madden, Honor Fallon, Darby
 Fahy, Rod Mountain Kirwan, Catty Deely, Pat Glynn, William Glynn, Peter Glynn,
 Michael Shanahan, W. Glynn, Pat Fallon, Hugh Keefe, Edward Halloran,
 John Taylor & Co., (Edward Kirwan)
 Derrywee Patrick Moran, Michael Long, Mary Cooley, John Glynn, Honor O'
 Donnell, James Kelly, Owen Ward, John Sheehan, Widow Conneely,
 Michael Hehir, Patrick Kiely, Patrick Ryan, Edward McMahon, Thomas
 Broderick, John Hogan, James Lahiffe, Thomas Kelly (Dudley Persse,
 Edward Kirwan)
 Kanespound Patrick Doogan, Patrick Egan, (Dudley Persse, Edward Kirwan)
 Bunnagloss Thomas Lahiffe, (Dudley Persse, Edward Kirwan)
 Gortardigan Patrick McDermott, Mary Loughnane, Nicholas Roache, Timothy
 Healy, James O'Donnell, (Peter Daly, Francis Blake)
 Poulanalla Peter Kirwan,
 Newtownblake Thomas O'Donnell,

(Lisheen otherwise Bunnaglass)
 Elizabeth Nolan
 1826 – approx 291/317 families in parish

Cappard House, Peterswell, Co. Galway
 Submitted by Fergus O'Donnell from "The Galbraith's of Cappard"

Cappard House was the ancestral home for generations of the Galbraith family who came to Ireland from Stirlingshire in Scotland in the seventeenth century with William III (otherwise known as William of Orange). They were granted lands in Cappard and the surrounding areas, which were originally O'Fahy property and the estate, comprised a total of 4,636 acres by 1878.

Cappard Demesne is the actual name of the townland and this is derived from the fact that the farm or parkland around the 'Big House' was called the demesne and farmed or used directly by the family in the house. The reasoning is that the views from all of the windows of the house would have a 'vista' or view unimpeded by tenants miserable

holdings and dwellings or so that no unpleasantness like evictions would occur in the locality of the house.

The house no longer exists but the Gate Lodge is still the home of John & Margaret Kelleher and their ancestors were gatekeepers to his estate. You will note that the gate lodge is on the opposite side of the road to the entrance and this was the case in the most impressive estates to show that they owned lands on both sides of the road.

Cappard Demesne is situated in the civil parish of Kiltomas, catholic parish of Peterswell, in the Poor Law Union of Gort, Barony of Loughrea in the county of Galway.

Major Hugh Galbraith who was the first to live in Cappard was stationed in Loughrea and he took a fancy to the daughter of the Very Rev. Dudley Persse (Dean of Kilmacduagh 1662-1700 and Archdeacon of Tuam 1662-1670 Persse's wife was the youngest daughter of John Crofton of Lissadorn Castle, Co. Roscommon. However Dean Persse would not give consent to the marriage so the Major surrounded Roxboro House with a troop of Dragoons and demanded the lady's hand. The lady agreed whereupon the Dean (her father) yielded to necessity and performed the marriage ceremony.

There were eight children born to this marriage of which the oldest male Andrew inherited the estate. He married Rose the daughter of Edward Dowdall and they had a son and heir Andrew Galbraith who died in 1770. His wife predeceased him in 1758.

Their son and heir also named Andrew married a Miss Runner from Athlone by whom he had a son and heir. This son was called James and he was High Sheriff for Co. Galway in 1778 and Major in the Gort Light Dragoons. He married in 1770 Rose daughter of Richard Trench, M.P., of Garbally, Co. Galway and a sister of William 1st Earl of Clancarty. James Galbraith died in Athlone in 1793. He had two sons Richard and John. The latter John was born 1787 educated in T.C.D and was Provost of Tuam from 1844 – 1850.

Richard who was born c. 1759 was married at least four times and one of his wives was a Roman Catholic. His third wife was Maria, daughter of John Wade, they married in 1818. She died in 1819. He married for the fourth time in 1820 to Lavinia daughter of Thomas Seymour of Ballymore Castle, Laurencetown Co. Galway. She was born in 1803 and died in 1832.

They had five sons and three daughters – Andrew, James, Thomas, Richard, Hugh, Rose, Jane and Lavinia. The oldest son Andrew died unmarried. The next son in line was James who was born in 1822 educated, in T.C.D., and inherited Cappard estate. He was High Sheriff of Co. Galway in 1857. He married his cousin Dora Frances daughter of Thomas Lancaster J.P, of Fortwilliam, Co. Roscommon and had four children, Richard Hugh, Thomas, James and Sarah.

This James barred his oldest son Richard Hugh from inheriting Cappard because of 'misalliance' with a peasant girl on the estate, for it went against the grain to have such a

‘chatelaine’ for the "Big House". (It is known that a child was produced from this alliance and their ancestors are still probably in Peterswell).

The property was devised to the issue of his sister Lavinia who had married her cousin James Galbraith. It is not clear what happened to the property after this but it may have been returned to the elder son Richard Hugh, as he is the last mentioned in the Galbraith pedigree. He was born in 1846 and he was married in 1890 to Margaret Pollok eldest daughter of John Gardiner of Lisbeg, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway and Barbara daughter of Allan Pollok, D.L., J.P., of Lismany, Laurencetown, Co. Galway. He died in 1908 and his wife died in 1922. So ended the Galbraiths in Cappard.

Cappard house was burned during the troubles in 1922. The land was later acquired by the land commission and the estate divided.

Little is known of the date of construction of the house as it has not been mentioned or described in any of the standard books on Big Houses or Landed Gentry Houses.

The best judgement on the date of the house is late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century.

Attached is a photocopy of an illustration of Frankfield House which is not too dissimilar and which also provides a ground floor and first floor plan of which Cappard is unlikely to be much different. Two photos are available from the Irish Architectural Archive and come from an album dated 1899 – 1904 at a cost of 20 Euros.

The Irish Folklore Commission
1937 – 1938
Some Peterswell Contributions
By Bríd O'Donnell

In the years 1937 – 1938 The Irish Folklore Commission initiated a project to collect folklore, i.e. customs, cures, stories, etc., before the memory of them had been forgotten. The old customs and methods of doing things were changing, with the introduction of machinery. Radio was being developed, so the era of the rambling house was ending.

In an effort to record these events schools all over the country were asked to collect whatever they could in their own districts. Children by questioning the old people of the area and then writing it down. This was a huge success and schoolteachers and pupils all over the country contributed an enormous amount of material. The contribution of the County Galway Schools is on microfilm in the County Library. The following are some of the contributions from the Peterswell area. They are taken down exactly as given. Judgement on the veracity of the statements or the accuracy of the memories is left to the reader. Remember that an 80-year-old then would have been born in the 1850's and their parents would have been alive before and during the famine. Some of the (family) names that appeared for the national school in Peterswell

John Broderick, Rahealy, Peterswell
Pat Burke, Ballinabucky, Peterswell
William Burke, Skehana, Peterswell
Mrs. Burke, Skehana, Peterswell
Mrs. Connors, Gardenblake, Peterswell
Pat Cahill, Ballinabucky, Peterswell
Mick Diviney, Ballycahalan, Peterswell
John Fahy, Lurgan, Gort
Michael Hassett, Dunally, Peterswell
Mrs. Hallinan, Ballycahalan, Peterswell
John Kennedy, Limepark, Peterswell
John Linnane, Coxtown, Peterswell
William McInerney, Hollymount Peterswell
Thomas Moloney, Rahealy, Peterswell
Martin O'Donnell, Hollymount, Peterswell
Pat Power, Lissadoyle, Peterswell
Mrs. Power, Lissadoyle, Peterswell
John Roche, Gortardigan, Peterswell

Stories:

Pat Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 13-12-1937

There was a man who used to travel miles every night card playing. One night as he was returning home across the field he saw a house where he thought he never saw one before. He went to see who lived there and he saw a lovely young man sitting at the table with a pack of cards. The man called him by his name and asked him to play a game, and sure, he said he would.

So they started playing until some cards fell. When he was picking them up he saw the man had cow's hooves. At that moment he fainted, and when he was right again, the house and the man were gone and he was sitting by the wall.

William McInerney (53) Hollymount, Peterswell; 5-2-1938

One day a man was sowing wheat in a garden. After having shaken it, he was about to harrow it but a thick mist came down so he went under the bushes from it. As he was filling his pipe he saw a ciarog come out along the headland and go out to the wheat and take a grain and go back under the hedge with it. He saw him come again and do the same thing. He watched him come out for the third time and when he was going with it the man caught him and put him into a match box and put the box into his waist coat pocket. He then forgot all about it.

That night there was a woman missing in the village. Rivers, lakes and land were searched but there was no trace of her anywhere. The search continued for three days. On the third night the man went to his pocket for matches and found the ciarog in the

box. He let him off. The same night, the woman came home and the man knew that it was that woman that was stealing his wheat.

Mrs. Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 1-4-1938

Two men from Peterswell when back to Ballycahalan one night to steal apples. When they were coming home one said to the other they would go into the graveyard to divide them. When they were going in they lost (dropped) one of the apples. While they were inside the graveyard it happened a man passed the road and he thought it was fairies who were talking, so he stood to listen. The way they divided the apples was, one said I'll take this one and you will take that one, I'll take this one and you'll take that one, until it came to the last one. And he said I'll take this one and you'll take the one on the road. When the man on the road heard that, he thought it was himself so he ran off as quickly as his legs could carry him and he fell in over the half door in dead faint.

William Burke (57), Skehana, Peterswell; 28-7-1938

One night a man named Patrick Linnane was going home from visiting one of his friends. He came to a lios and there he saw many small men dressed in red. They were hurling and they told him to take part in the game. They gave him a hurley and he joined them. They played for a long time and a last one of them told him to go home and he also told him that if one of them hit against him, he would have to stay with them. He watched his chance and he went home. He never saw the fairies after that.

Pat Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 13-12-1937

Once a man and his hound went out along the mountain hunting. After a few hours they saw a hare. They followed him into every lonesome place. There was an old cabin in the place and the hare leaped in the windows. Just as he was going in, the hound caught him by the hind legs. The man went in and there was nobody inside, only an old woman in bed. He asked her did she see a hare coming in she said no. He searched the house upside down but he could not find him. As he was searching under the bed he saw blood on the clothes. He looked to see where the blood came from, and the woman let a roar, she changed back into a hare again and leaped out the window.

John Fahy, Lurgan, Gort; 4-2-1938

One evening there was a man returning from work. On his way, he passed by a house where there was a little boy very sick. Suddenly he heard a noise as if the coffin lids would clap together. Then he saw a black shadow going in over the wall. He went along and he met another man and he said to him that the little boy must be dead, and he died that night.

One day when the people were coming from second Mass there were two of them going along together. A cousin of one of them died shortly between that. When they were going to part they stood a little while talking and they saw the dead person coming along with a basket of flowers in his hand and he dressed in monk's clothes. When he came near them he shook hands with the cousin and disappeared.

Register Names

In the following pages are the names of all boys and girls from the School Registers since 1944. I hope many readers will have some interesting times, pouring over the names and working out relationships.

1937

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Paddy Joe Larkin RIP	Dromore	Kathy Burke	Loughanunawadda
Toddie Kerins	Gardenblake	Margaret Mulcair	Dromore
Michael O'Donnell RIP	Hollymount	Emily Farrell	Dromore
Mick Power	Lissadoil	Aggie Kelly	Ballynabucky
Gerry Kerins RIP	Gardenblake	Patsy Collins RIP	
Cappard		Vera Nolan	Cappard
		Brigid O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch
		Philomena Callaghey RIP	Hollymount

1938

Patrick Donohue	Rattin, Ardahan	Brigid McDonagh	
Peterswell			
Eddie Kennedy	Limepark	Ann Deely	Gorteenaniska
Paul Healy	Rahaly	Mary Joe Hehir	Cappard
Noel Burke	Sekehanagh	Ann Callaghey	Hollymount
John Ellwood	Doonally	Kathleen Ellwood	Doonally
		Mary Bradley	Cappard

1939

Tom Prendergast RIP	Rahaly	Mary Ann O'Donnell	Drumnaloch
Paddy Burke	Loughanunawadda	Tearsa Healy	Rahaly
Frank Helly	Sekehanagh	Kathleen Kennedy RIP	Limepark
Paddy Power	Lissadoil		
Paddy Ellwood	Doonally		
Josie Burke RIP	Ballynabucky		
John James Healy RIP	Ballynabucky		
Frank Kelly	Ballynabucky		
Paul Healy	Rahaly		

1940

Willie Fahy	Doonally	Eileen Farrell	Dromore
Cyril Kelly	Ballynabucky	Bibi Burke	Loughanunawadda
Jack Prendergast	Rahaly	Monica Slattery RIP	Ballynabucky
Mick Larkin	Dromore	Peggy Larkin RIP	Sekehanagh
Michael Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Nora O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch
Eddie Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Peggie Cooke	Ballynabucky
Ned Deely	Gorteenaniska		

Tom Ellwood Doonally
 Paddy Joe Callaghey Doonally
 Sean Cooke Ballynabucky
 1941

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Desmond Cooke	Ballynabucky	Eileen Helly	Skehanagh
Michael Cooney	Peterswell	Margaret Healy	Rahaly
Johnny Power RIP	Lissadoil	Ann Kerins RIP	
Gardenblake			
Paddy Lally	Gortardigan	Annie Burke	Loughanunawadda
Vincent Collins	Cappard	Ann Glynn	
Ballylee			
		Marie Glynn	Ballylee
		Mona Glynn	Ballycahalan
		Peggy Moran	Newtown Blake
		Mary Moran	Newtown Blake
		Teresa Moran	Newtown Blake
		Peggie Helly	Skehanagh
		Eileen Collins	Cappard

1942

Mattie O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch	Mollie Prendergast	Rahaly
Kieran Furey	Sekehanagh (Oranmore)	Teresa Kelly	Ballynabucky
Paddy Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Julie Ann Healy	Rahaly
Mick Healy RIP	Rahaly		
Colie Galvin	Knockuaire		

1943

Mattie Kellehger RIP	Cappard
Bertie Fahy RIP	Doonally
Mattie Prendergast RIP	Rahaly
Brendan Mulcair	Dromore
Willie Kerins RIP	Gardenblake

1944

Michael Callanan RIP	Rahaly	Kathleen Collins	Skehanagh
Michael Kerins RIP	Gardenblake	Philomena Glynn	Ballyee
Eamon Burke	Loughanunawadda	Julie Ann Healy	Rahaly
Francis Larkin (Fr.)	Dromore	Eileen Kelly	Ballynabucky
Sean Collins	Skehanagh	Margaret Kelleher	Skehanagh
Bernard Prendergast	Rahaly	Maggie Deely	Gorteenaniska
		Ann Pat. Kelleher	Cappard
		Teresa O'Donnell	Drumnaloch
		Mairead Leary	Cappard
		Mary Callanan	Rahaly
		Mary Galvin	Knockoura

1945

Patrick Leary	Cappard	Mary T. O'Donnell	Hollymount
Martin Farrell	Shanvalley	Ann Walsh	Faraun
Joseph Power	Lissadoill	Christina Kelly	Ballynucky
John Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Teresa Kelleher	Cappard
Eugene Glynn	Ballyee		
Sean Dooley	Lecknabegga		
John Joe Callanan	Rahaly		
Albert Glynn	Ballyee		
Michael Flanagan	Lecknabegga		

1946

Patrick Mulcair	Dromore	Mary Lynskey	Rahaly
		Moira Farrell	Shanvalley

1947

Donal Fallon	Knockoura	Kathleen Lynskey	Rahaly
Tom Kelleher	Cappard	Maura Lucitt	Peterswell
Christopher Deely	Gorteenaniska		
Michael Mullins	Gortardagaun		

1948

Michael Galvin	Knocguaire	Maureen Kelly	
Skehanagh			
Laurence Fahy	Doonally	Noreen Lahiffe	Peterswell
Thomas Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Ann Callanan	Rahaly
Seamus Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Pauline Fahy RIP	
Doonally			
Michael Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Murray	Peterswell

1949

James Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Kelleher	Cappard
John James Curley	Cloone	Margaret Parker	Cloone
Michael Parker	Cloone	Bridie Callanan	Rahaly
Martin Lally	Gortardagaun	Elizabeth Kelly	Ballynabucky
Edward Lally	Gorteenaniska	Sabina Lewis	Ballycahalan
Michael Fahy	Doonally	Margaret Howley	Limepark
Pat Lahiffe	Peterswell	Anne Leary	Cappard
		Mary Mullins	Gortardagaun
		Maud Lahiffe	Peterswell
		Ann Murray	Peterswell
		Bernadette Horan RIP	Skehanagh

1950

Gerard Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Rosaleen Glynn	
Ballyee			
Stephen Kelleher	Cappard	Maura Carew	
Hollymount			
Thomas Hehir	Gortaloman	Gertie Burke	Loughanunawadda
Patrick Morgan	Skehanagh	Ann Mullins	Gortardagaun
Coleman Curley	Cloone	Mary Howley	Ballycahalan
Martin Howley	Doonally	Mary Hynes	Kilderry
		Julie Hynes	Kilderry

1951

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Frank Keely	Skehanagh	Bridget Howley	Limepark
Paul Keely	Skehanagh	Mary Hehir	Gortaloman
Michael Fitzgerald	Knockoura	Mary Collins	Knockoura
Sean Parker	Cloone	Carmel Leary	Cappard
Sean Murray	Peterswell	Noirin Carew	Hollymount
Fred Fitzgerald	Knockoura		

1952

John James Howley	Doonally	Teresa Hynes	Kilderry
Fintan Keely	Skehanagh	Maureen Fitzgerald	Kilderry
Brendan Collins	Cappard	Maureen Deely	
Gortardagaun			
Michael Morgan	Skehanagh	Maureen Hynes	
Ballylee			
Dermot Lahiffe	Peterswell	Mary Kerins	Gardenblake
John Lahiffe	Peterswell	Bridie Madden	Gortaloman

1953

John Howley	Limepark	Mary Farrell	Dromore
Michael Kelleher	Cappard	Maureen Hansberry	
Limepark			
John Mullins	Gortardagaun	Marian Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
Michael Lucitt	Peterswell	Mary Kerins	Doonally
Joe Sherry	Skehanagh	Ann Collins	Knockoura
Sean Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Josie Deely	Gortardagaun
Patrick Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Mary Sherry (Metta)	Gortaloman
Kevin Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Maureen Hughes	
Ballynabucky			
		Ann Carew RIP	Hollymount
		Bridget Hynes	Ballylee
		Kathleen Mulkerrins	Lissadoill

1954

Patrick Howley	Limepark	Angela Sherry (RIP)	Gortaloman
John Sherry	Skehanagh	Lilly Morgan	Skehanagh
John Fitzgerald	Knockoura	Julie Collins	Cappard
Martin Keely	Skehanagh	Carmel Hughes	Ballynabucky
Bertie Keely	Doonally	Carmel Farrell	Shanvalley
Eamon Keely	Doonally	Mary Galbraith	Faraun
John Leary	Cappard		
Larry Kearns (RIP)	Doonally		
John Dempsey(RIP)	Peterswell		
John Hynes	Kilderry		

1955

Jimmy Kerins	Doonally	Philomena Leary	Cappard
Martin Morgan	Skehanagh	Mary Margaret Keely	Rahaly

1956

Michael Connaire (RIP)	Kilthomas	Mary Kelleher	Cappard
Peter Fitzgerald	Kilderry	Mary Maloney	Faraun
Mathew Keely	Doonally	Attracta Dempsey	Peterswell
Sylvester Keely	Skehanagh	Geraldine Dempsey	Peterswell
Andy Lynskey	Skehanagh		
Tom Galbraith	Cappard		
Kieran Leary	Loughanunawadda		

1957

Paul Sherry	Gortaloman	Mary Connaire	Kilthomas
John Kelleher	Cappard	Eileen Fitzgerald	
Kilderry			
Martin Kerins	Doonally	Josephine Maloney	Faraun
Gerard Carew	Skehanagh	Mary Keely	Skehanagh

1958

Patrick Kerins	Doonally	Marion Carew	Skehanagh
Kieran Morgan	Skehanagh	Mary Teresa Cooney	Peterswell
Joseph Lynskey	Skehanagh		
John Patrick Fahy	Cappard (Kinvara)		

1959

Sean Carew	Skehanagh	Brigid Connaire	Kilthomas
Eamon Leary	Loughanunawadda	Mary Morgan	Skehanagh
Sean Hynes (RIP)	Gortardagaun	Mary Howley	Limepark
Michael Hynes	Gortardagaun	Noreen Fitzgerald	
Gortardagaun			
Gerard Farrell	Dromore	Mary Lynskey	Skehanagh

Thomas Farrell (RIP)	Dromore	Mary Hennessy	Gortardagaun
Gerard Skehill	Skehanagh	Mary Farrell	Dromore
		Bridget Carr	Dromore
		Elizabeth Farrell	Dromore
		Cathy Farrell	Dromore

1960

Gerard Keely	Doonally	Eileen Howley	Limepark
Bernard Leary	Loughanunawadda	Christina Leary	Cappard
Michael Niland	Skehanagh	Mary Callanan	
Lissadoill			
		Mary Roughan	Ballycahalan
		Vergina Burke	Skehanagh
	Mary Dolan	Rahaly	
		Ann Fitzgerald	Kilderry
		Teresa Niland	Skehanagh

1961

John Hennessy	Gortardagaun	Mary Lally	Ballynabucky
Pat Joe Keely	Rahaly	Josephine Hughes	Gortaloman
Michael Callinan	Lissadoill	Mary Teresa Fitzgerald	

1962

Fergus O'Donnell	Cappard	Ann Carew	
Skehanagh			
Joseph Cooney	Peterswell	Mary Connors	Kilderry
Lar Connaire	Kilthomas		
Michael Connors	Kilderry		
Michael Hennessy	Gortardagaun		
Gerald Maloney	Faraun		
James Fitzgerald	Knockoura		

1963

John Fitzgearld	Lecknabegga	Eithne Collins	Skehanagh
John Lynskey	Skehanagh	Geraldine Caulfield	Kilderry
Michael Caulfield	Skehanagh	Pauline Leary	
Loughanunawadda			
Paddy Skehill (RIP)	Skehanagh		
Packie Carew	Hollymount		
Sean Roughan	Ballycahalan		

1964

Martin Connors	Kilderry	Angela Carew	
Skehanagh			
Pat Farrell	Dromore	Philomena Roughan	Ballycahalan
Francis Lynskey	Skehanagh	Catherine Connaire	Kilthomas

Marie O'Donnell	Cappard
Paula Finn	Ballycahalan
Caroline Kelly	Ballynabucky

1965

Peter Caulfield	Kilderry	Mary Shaughnessy	Skehanagh
Liam Caulfield	Skehanagh	Winnie Fitzgerald	
Knockoura			
J.J. Leary	Loughanunawadda	Agnes Connaire	
Kilthomas			
John Walsh	Faraun		
Patrick Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga		
Noel Healy	Rahaly		

1966

Michael Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga	Imelda Farrell	Dromore
Oliver Healy	Rahaly	Brid Carew	Hollymount
Ciaran Connors	Kilderry	Rita O'Donnell	
Cappard			
Martin Carew	Skehanagh		
Sean McInerney	Cappard		

1967

John Healy	Ballynabucky	Patricia Hennessy	Gortardagaun
Packie Caulfield	Kilderry	Maureen Hynes	
Gortardagaun			
Peter Fahy	Knockoura	Rosaleen Roughan	Ballycahalan
Gerard Fahy	Calhill	Patricia Gardiner	
Cappard			
Patrick Hansberry	Reyrager	Mary Healy	Ballynabucky
Eamon Hansberry	Reyrager	Ann Healy	Rahaly
		Petula Fahy	Knockoura
		Catherine Fahy	Knockoura
		Patricia Moran	Bunnaglass
		Mairead Moran	Bunnaglass
		Mary Moran	Kanespound
		Angela Moran	Kanespound
		Monia Slattery	Ballynabucky

1968

Mathew Cunningham	Ballylaha	Pauline Connaire	Kilthomas
John Gardiner	Cappard	Helena Connors	
Kilderry			
Michael Finn	Ballycahalan	Mary Fahy	Knockoura
Anthony Hansberry	Reyrager	Rita Leary	Loughanunawadda
Oliver Walsh	Faraun	Fiona Mulcair	Dromore

Francis Walsh	Cuilmore	Patricia Connors	Kilderry
Martin Caulfield	Kilderry	Chris Fitzgerald	
Cappard		Mary Teresa Fahy	Doonally
1969			
James Fahy	Knockoura	Siobhan O'Donnell	Cappard
Oliver Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga	Geraldine Hennessy	Gortardagaun
John Fahy	Doonally	Eilis Healy	Rahaly
Vincent Collins	Skehanagh	Angela Hansberry	Reyrawer
Anthony Cunningham	Ballylaha	Mary Dooley	Lissadoill
Tim Gleeson	Gort		
Michael Howley	Gortaloman		
1970			
Kevin Collins	Skehanagh	Sarah Fahy	Doonally
J.J. Finn	Ballycahalan	Josephine Connaire	Kilthomas
Denis Farrell	Dromore	Gertrude Cooney	Peterswell
Gerard Fitzgerald	Cappard	Mary Kennedy	
Limepark			
Brendan Gleeson	Gort	Caroline Lally	Ballynabucky
Francis Larkin (RIP)	Dromore		
1971			
James Brady	Kilthomas	Nuala Healy	Rahaly
Donal Lynskey	Skehanagh	Olive Mulcair	Dromore
Gerard Gardiner	Cappard	Nora Dooley	
Lecknabegga			
Bartley Connors	Hollymount	Angela O'Donnell	Hollymount
Colm Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Brady	Kilthomas
Padraig Fitzgerald	Cappard		
1972			
Martin O'Donnell	Hollymount	Martina Healy	Ballynabucky
Gerard O'Donnell	Hollymount	Grace Cunningham	Ballylahy
Gerard Deely	Gorteenaniska	Dolores Larkin	Dromore
John Kennedy	Limepark	Mary Fahy	Hollymount
Christy Fahy	Doonally	Vicky Carey	Derrywee
Brendan Mulcair	Dromore	Evelyn Baker	Ballylee
Niall Farrell	Shanvalley		
1973			
Raphael Counihan	Streamstown	Bernadette Fitzgerald	Cappard
J.J. Counihan	Streamstown	Christina Kennedy	Limepark
Pearse Counihan	Streamstown	Ann Marie Coen	
Peterswell			

Colie McGarry	Peterswell	Mary Deely	Gorteenaniska
Martin Fahy	Doonally	Martina Brady	Kilthomas
Thomas Kilcooley	Carrabane East	Marlyn Quinn	Ballynabucky
		Martina Hansberry	Reyrager

1974

John Dooley	Lecknabegga	Emily Kennedy	Limepark
Martin Deely	Gorteenaniska	Ann Finn (RIP)	Ballycahalan
Paddy Connors	Hollymount	Roisin Farrell	Shanvalley
Michael Quinn	Ballynabucky	Avril Mulcair	Dromore
Richard Collins	Skehanagh	Alice Hansberry	
Reyrager			
Declan Prendergast	Rahaly	Una Gohery	Lecknabegga
Paddy Joe Fahy	Doonally	Breda Gohery	Lecknabegga

1975

Michael O'Donnell	Hollymount	Aisling Mulcair (RIP)	Dromore
Raymond Gohery	Lecknabegga	Regina Cunningham	Ballylahy
Damian Larkin	Dromore	Julanne Counihan	Streamstown
Martin Kennedy	Limepark	Bridget Collins	
Skehanagh			
John Prendergast	Rahaly	Helen Brady	Kilthomas
John Healy	Rahaly	Christina Gardiner	Cappard

1976

David Quinn (RIP)	Ballynabucky	Martina Dooley	Lecknabegga
Danny Fahy	Doonally	Helen Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
David Fitzgerald	Cappard	Mary Burke	
Ballynabucky			
Kenneth Larkin	Dromore	Monica Gohery	
Lecknabegga			
Enda McGarry	Peterswell		

1977

Justin Flannery	Blackrock	Michelle Howley	
Limepark			
Declan Deely	Gortinanuisce	Sharon Howley	Limepark
		Emer Farrell	Shanvalley
Anthony Counihan	Ballylahy	Marguerite Counihan	Streamstown
Anthony O'Donnell	Drumaloch	Marguerite Kilcooley	Carrabane East

1978

Kevin Gavin	Peterswell	Louise Flannery	Blackrock
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Paul Gavin	Peterswell	Sharon Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
John Weir	Druminaloch		
1979			
David Weir	Dromaloch	Sinead Lahiffe	Peterswell
Thomas Brady	Kilthomas	Patricia Fahy	Doonally
Coleman Fitzgerald	Cappard	Olive Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
Michael Howley	Limepark		
Robert Lahiffe	Peterswell		
Michael Curley	Cloone		
1980			
Enda Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Sylvia Farrell	Shanvalley
Nicholas Flannery	Blackrock	Breda Kilcooley	Carrabane
East			
Anthony Hynes	Gortardagaun		
1981			
Dermot Farrell	Shanvalley	Michelle Weir	Dromaloch
Enda O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Bernie Brady	Kilthomas
Adam McMullin	Kilderry	Deirdre Keely	
Peterswell			
		Ann Coleman	Loughanunawadda
		Sinead Hynes	Gortardagaun
		Rachael McMullin	Kilderry
1982			
Padraig Collins	Skehanagh	Siobhan Weir	Donally
Garvin Kearns	Doonally	Mary Teresa Flannery	Blackrock
Bernard Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Rebecca McMullin	Kilderry
Patrick Burke	Skehanagh	Orla Lynskey	Skehanagh
Stephen Quinn	Dromore	Neassa Lahiffe	Peterswell
		Fiona Finnegan	Gort
1983			
Michael Morgan	Skehanagh	Caroline Howley	
Limepark			
Joseph Lynskey	Skehanagh	Ann Holland	Rahaly
Colin Burke	Skehanagh	Louisa Howley	Limepark
Niall Keely	Peterswell	Sara McGarry	Peterswell
Martin Curley	Cloone	Karen Burke	Loughanunawadda
Aidan Glynn	Ballyee		
Mark Quinn	Domore		

1984

Ronan Kilkenny	Skehanagh	Valarie O'Leary	
Loughanunawadda			
Desmond Glynn	Ballyee	Lorraine Mulkerrins	
Lissadoill			
Beshlie Greville	Doonally	Aoife McGarry	
Peterswell			
Michael Holland	Rahaly	Bernadette Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
Brain Farrell	Blackrock	Ashling Fitzgerald	Peterswell
		Ashling Greville	Doonally

1985

Sean Burke	Loughanunawadda	Carolina Dooley	Lecknabegga
Michael Farrell	Blackrock	Ria Kilkenny	Skehanagh
Adrian Burke	Skehanagh	Jennifer Quinn	Dromore
Anthony Glynn	Drumminacoosaun	Olivia O'Leary	
Loughanunawadda			
Peter Howley	Limepark	Michelle Curran	Ballynabucky
Colin Lynskey	Skehanagh	Mary Curley	Cloone
		Edel Glynn	Ballyee
		Corena Mulkerrins	Lissadoill

1986

David Dooley	Lecknabegga	Niamh Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
Bernard Glynn	Calfhill	Colette Kearns	Doonally
Michael Fitzgerald	Peterswell	Marie Glynn	Drumminacoosaun
Richard Glynn	Calfhill	Karina Fitzgerald	
Cappard			

1987

Paul Kelly	Gortardagaun	Teresa Glynn	Ballyee
Darragh Lahiffe	Peterswell	Deirdre Lynskey	
Skehanagh			
Aidan Holland	Rahaly	Sharon Murray	Peterswell
Noel Farrell	Blackrock	Christina Glynn	Calfhill
Damian O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Susan Quinn	Dromore

1988

Alan O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Christina Connors	Kilderry
Barry Burke	Skehanagh	Sandra Lynskey	Skehanagh
Martin Hynes	Gortardagaun	Grainne Devine	Cappard
		Jacinta Cooley	Lecknabegga
		Stella Burke	Doonally

1989

Padraic O'Donnell	Kilbeacanty	Christina Hynes	Gortardagaun
Joseph O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Marie Fitzgerald	
Cappard			
Stephen Farrell	Blackrock		
John Hynes	Kilderry		
David Holland	Rahaly		
Michael Mulkerrins	Lissadoill		
Gregory Glynn	Calfhill		
Martin Kearns	Doonally		

1990

Luke McMullan	Kilderry	Susan Burke
Skehanagh		
Ben McMullan	Kilderry	Linda Murray
Peterswell		

Ailbhe O'Donnell	Kilbeacanty
Laura Cooney (RIP)	Ballynabucky
Edel Sherry	Gortaloman
Laura O'Leary	Loughanunawadda
Mary Ellen Mullins	Gortardagaun

1991

Tristan Crosbie	Skehanagh	Michelle O'Donnell	Peterswell
Joseph Crosbie	Skehanagh	Lisa Sherry	Gortaloman
Dulta Low	Calfhill	Emer Keely	Peterswell
Ciúnas Low	Calfhill	Patricia Hynes	
Gortardagaun			
Brian Regan	Ballynabucky	Caroline Mullins	Gortardagaun
David Connors	Gardenblake		
Martin Connors	Kilderry		

1992

Daniel Burke	Doonally	Deirdre Fahy	Doonally
Christopher Rock	Ballylahy	Caitriona O'Donnell	Kilbecanty
David Kelleher	Cappard	Martina Hynes	
Kilderry			
		Angela Kearns	Doonally
		Amanda Kilkenny	Skehanagh

1993

Raymond Burke	Doonally	Siofra Devine	Cappard
		Heather Cooney	Ballynabucky
		Edel Kerans	Gardenblake
		Sarah Fitzgerald	Cappard
		Caroline Keely	Skehanagh

1994

Adrian Sherry	Gortaloman	Ann Marie Forde	Loughrea
John Mullins	Gortardagaun	Louise Curran	Ballynabucky
Richard Curran	Ballynabucky		

1995

Donal Cooney	Ballynabucky	Clodagh Devine	Cappard
Tony Keely	Rahaly	Aoife Fahy	Doonally
Dermot Keely	Skehanagh	Caitriona Lynskey	Skehanagh
Eoin Burke	Doonally	Orla Keely	Doonally
Milo Barham	Hollymount	April Dooley	Lecknabegga
		Niamh Cooney	Peterswell

1996

James Regan	Ballynabucky	Ruth Keely	Doonally
Padraic Forde	Loughrea	Claire Quinn	Dromore
Paul Caulfield	Ballynahowna	Diana Mahon	Peterswell
Alan Ogbuka	Rahaly	Fiona Kelleher	Cappard

1997

Paul Brady	Cappard	Clodagh O'Leary	
Loughanunawadda			
James Fahy	Kilderry	Jessica Dooley	Lecknabegga
Conor Cooney	Ballynabucky	Finola Keely	Rahaly
David Quinn	Dromore	Una O'Donnell	Kilbeacanty
Alva Kilkenny	Skehanagh		

1998

Derek Gardiner	Cappard	Lorraine Coen	
Ballynabucky			
Brian Gardiner	Cappard	Michelle Caulfield	
Ballynahowna			
		Marie Caulfield	Skehanagh
		Sarah Mullins	Gortardagaun
		Noreen Mullins	Gortardagaun

1999

David Sherry	Gortaloman		
Ronan Devine	Cappard		
Shane Cooney	Ballynabucky		
Bryan Keely	Doonally		
John James McDonagh	Peterswell		

2000

John Coen	Ballynabucky	Niamh Mannion	Ballycahalan
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Brendan Farrell	Ballynabucky	Aine O'Donnell	
Kilbeacanty			
Stephen Mannion	Ballinacahalan	Claire Caulfield	
Ballynahowna			
Niall Connors	Gardenblake	Fiona Keely	Skehanagh
George Joyce	Castledaly		
Joseph Mahon	Peterswell		
2001			
Donncha Gutteridge	Drumacoosan	Amy Caulfield	Ballynahowna
Joseph Caulfield	Skehanagh		
Cathal Connors	Faraun		
Jonathan Dooley	Lecknabegga		
2002			
Robert Crosby	Skehanagh	Louise Carr	Gardenblake
Colin Devine	Cappard	Edel Gardiner	Cappard
Gary Finn	Ballycahalan		
Peter Fitzgerald	Cappard		
Darragh Fitzgerald	Cappard		
2003			
Thomas Joyce	Castledaly	Emer Walsh	Blackrock
Mark Caulfield	Ballynahowna	Kelly Shearer	Drumore
Ross Caswell	Limepark	Síofra Feeney	Gort
		Keeley Mannion	Ballycahalan
		Marie Farrell	

ealy

Greenshill Michael McInerney, Thomas Fahy

Coolowinnee James Connors, Michael Ryan,

Gorteenagork Thomas Fallon, Michael Callagey, James Glynn, Laurence Scully
(Richard Galbraith)

Gorteenenisky Thomas Deely, John Fallon, Patrick Callanan,

Knocknahyneen Michael Fahy, Michael Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Peter Daly)

Poullough M. Fahy, M. Roughan, John Shaughnessy, (Francis Forrester)

Drimmanrae Michael McInerney, Patrick Fahy & Co.,

Park Village Richard Kirwan,

Gortnamaggo Peter Tully, Patrick Tully,

Clooneen Patrick Tully, Peter Tully, James Fahy, Shady Fahy, (Edward Martin)

Cluneen Bridget Madden

Dunally West Jeremiah Kiely, John Moran, Patrick Currue & Co., Christopher
Madden

Cloughloulou commonage or Michael Madden, Thomas Madden, Honor Fallon, Darby
Fahy, Rod Mountain Kirwan, Catty Deely, Pat Glynn, William Glynn, Peter Glynn,
Michael Shanahan, W. Glynn, Pat Fallon, Hugh Keefe, Edward Halloran,
John Taylor & Co., (Edward Kirwan)

Derrywee Patrick Moran, Michael Long, Mary Cooley, John Glynn, Honor O'

Donnell, James Kelly, Owen Ward, John Sheehan, Widow Conneely,

Michael Hehir, Patrick Kiely, Patrick Ryan, Edward McMahon, Thomas

Broderick, John Hogan, James Lahiffe, Thomas Kelly (Dudley Persse,
Edward Kirwan)

Kanespound Patrick Doogan, Patrick Egan, (Dudley Persse, Edward Kirwan)

Bunnagloss Thomas Lahiffe, (Dudley Persse, Edward Kirwan)

Gortardigan Patrick McDermott, Mary Loughnane, Nicholas Roache, Timothy
Healy, James O'Donnell, (Peter Daly, Francis Blake)

Poulanalla Peter Kirwan,

Newtownblake Thomas O'Donnell,

(Lisheen otherwise Bunnaglass)

Elizabeth Nolan

1826 – approx 291/317 families in parish

Cappard House, Peterswell, Co. Galway

Submitted by Fergus O'Donnell from "The Galbraith's of Cappard"

Cappard House was the ancestral home for generations of the Galbraith family who came to Ireland from Stirlingshire in Scotland in the seventeenth century with William III (otherwise known as William of Orange). They were granted lands in Cappard and the surrounding areas, which were originally O'Fahy property and the estate, comprised a total of 4,636 acres by 1878.

Cappard Demesne is the actual name of the townland and this is derived from the fact that the farm or parkland around the 'Big House' was called the demesne and farmed or used directly by the family in the house. The reasoning is that the views from all of the windows of the house would have a 'vista' or view unimpeded by tenants miserable holdings and dwellings or so that no unpleasantness like evictions would occur in the locality of the house.

The house no longer exists but the Gate Lodge is still the home of John & Margaret Kelleher and their ancestors were gatekeepers to his estate. You will note that the gate lodge is on the opposite side of the road to the entrance and this was the case in the most impressive estates to show that they owned lands on both sides of the road.

Cappard Demesne is situated in the civil parish of Kiltomas, catholic parish of Peterswell, in the Poor Law Union of Gort, Barony of Loughrea in the county of Galway.

Major Hugh Galbraith who was the first to live in Cappard was stationed in Loughrea and he took a fancy to the daughter of the Very Rev. Dudley Persse (Dean of Kilmacduagh 1662-1700 and Archdeacon of Tuam 1662-1670 Persse's wife was the youngest daughter of John Crofton of Lissadorn Castle, Co. Roscommon. However Dean Persse would not give consent to the marriage so the Major surrounded Roxboro House with a troop of Dragoons and demanded the lady's hand. The lady agreed whereupon the Dean (her father) yielded to necessity and performed the marriage ceremony.

There were eight children born to this marriage of which the oldest male Andrew inherited the estate. He married Rose the daughter of Edward Dowdall and they had a son and heir Andrew Galbraith who died in 1770. His wife predeceased him in 1758.

Their son and heir also named Andrew married a Miss Runner from Athlone by whom he had a son and heir. This son was called James and he was High Sheriff for Co. Galway in 1778 and Major in the Gort Light Dragoons. He married in 1770 Rose daughter of Richard Trench, M.P., of Garbally, Co. Galway and a sister of William 1st Earl of Clancarty. James Galbraith died in Athlone in 1793. He had two sons Richard and John. The latter John was born 1787 educated in T.C.D and was Provost of Tuam from 1844 – 1850.

Richard who was born c. 1759 was married at least four times and one of his wives was a Roman Catholic. His third wife was Maria, daughter of John Wade, they married in 1818. She died in 1819. He married for the fourth time in 1820 to Lavinia daughter of Thomas Seymour of Ballymore Castle, Laurencetown Co. Galway. She was born in 1803 and died in 1832.

They had five sons and three daughters – Andrew, James, Thomas, Richard, Hugh, Rose, Jane and Lavinia. The oldest son Andrew died unmarried. The next son in line was James who was born in 1822 educated, in T.C.D., and inherited Cappard estate. He was High Sheriff of Co. Galway in 1857. He married his cousin Dora Frances daughter of

Thomas Lancaster J.P, of Fortwilliam, Co. Roscommon and had four children, Richard Hugh, Thomas, James and Sarah.

This James barred his oldest son Richard Hugh from inheriting Cappard because of 'misalliance' with a peasant girl on the estate, for it went against the grain to have such a 'chatelaine' for the "Big House". (It is known that a child was produced from this alliance and their ancestors are still probably in Peterswell).

The property was devised to the issue of his sister Lavinia who had married her cousin James Galbraith. It is not clear what happened to the property after this but it may have been returned to the elder son Richard Hugh, as he is the last mentioned in the Galbraith pedigree. He was born in 1846 and he was married in 1890 to Margaret Pollok eldest daughter of John Gardiner of Lisbeg, Eyrecourt, Co. Galway and Barbara daughter of Allan Pollok, D.L., J.P., of Lismany, Laurencetown, Co. Galway. He died in 1908 and his wife died in 1922. So ended the Galbraiths in Cappard.

Cappard house was burned during the troubles in 1922. The land was later acquired by the land commission and the estate divided.

Little is known of the date of construction of the house as it has not been mentioned or described in any of the standard books on Big Houses or Landed Gentry Houses.

The best judgement on the date of the house is late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century.

Attached is a photocopy of an illustration of Frankfield House which is not too dissimilar and which also provides a ground floor and first floor plan of which Cappard is unlikely to be much different. Two photos are available from the Irish Architectural Archive and come from an album dated 1899 – 1904 at a cost of 20 Euros.

The Irish Folklore Commission
1937 – 1938
Some Peterswell Contributions
By Bríd O'Donnell

In the years 1937 – 1938 The Irish Folklore Commission initiated a project to collect folklore, i.e. customs, cures, stories, etc., before the memory of them had been forgotten. The old customs and methods of doing things were changing, with the introduction of machinery. Radio was being developed, so the era of the rambling house was ending.

In an effort to record these events schools all over the country were asked to collect whatever they could in their own districts. Children by questioning the old people of the area and then writing it down. This was a huge success and schoolteachers and pupils all over the country contributed an enormous amount of material. The contribution of the County Galway Schools is on microfilm in the County Library. The following are some of the contributions from the Peterswell area. They are taken down exactly as given.

Judgement on the veracity of the statements or the accuracy of the memories is left to the reader. Remember that an 80-year-old then would have been born in the 1850's and their parents would have been alive before and during the famine. Some of the (family) names that appeared for the national school in Peterswell

John Broderick, Rahealy, Peterswell
Pat Burke, Ballinabucky, Peterswell
William Burke, Skehana, Peterswell
Mrs. Burke, Skehana, Peterswell
Mrs. Connors, Gardenblake, Peterswell
Pat Cahill, Ballinabucky, Peterswell
Mick Diviney, Ballycahalan, Peterswell
John Fahy, Lurgan, Gort
Michael Hassett, Dunally, Peterswell
Mrs. Hallinan, Ballycahalan, Peterswell
John Kennedy, Limepark, Peterswell
John Linnane, Coxtown, Peterswell
William McInerney, Hollymount Peterswell
Thomas Moloney, Rahealy, Peterswell
Martin O'Donnell, Hollymount, Peterswell
Pat Power, Lissadoyle, Peterswell
Mrs. Power, Lissadoyle, Peterswell
John Roche, Gortardigan, Peterswell

Stories:

Pat Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 13-12-1937

There was a man who used to travel miles every night card playing. One night as he was returning home across the field he saw a house where he thought he never saw one before. He went to see who lived there and he saw a lovely young man sitting at the table with a pack of cards. The man called him by his name and asked him to play a game, and sure, he said he would.

So they started playing until some cards fell. When he was picking them up he saw the man had cow's hooves. At that moment he fainted, and when he was right again, the house and the man were gone and he was sitting by the wall.

William McInerney (53) Hollymount, Peterswell; 5-2-1938

One day a man was sowing wheat in a garden. After having shaken it, he was about to harrow it but a thick mist came down so he went under the bushes from it. As he was filling his pipe he saw a ciarog come out along the headland and go out to the wheat and take a grain and go back under the hedge with it. He saw him come again and do the same thing. He watched him come out for the third time and when he was going with it

the man caught him and put him into a match box and put the box into his waist coat pocket. He then forgot all about it.

That night there was a woman missing in the village. Rivers, lakes and land were searched but there was no trace of her anywhere. The search continued for three days. On the third night the man went to his pocket for matches and found the cigar in the box. He let him off. The same night, the woman came home and the man knew that it was that woman that was stealing his wheat.

Mrs. Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 1-4-1938

Two men from Peterswell when back to Ballycahalan one night to steal apples. When they were coming home one said to the other they would go into the graveyard to divide them. When they were going in they lost (dropped) one of the apples. While they were inside the graveyard it happened a man passed the road and he thought it was fairies who were talking, so he stood to listen. The way they divided the apples was, one said I'll take this one and you will take that one, I'll take this one and you'll take that one, until it came to the last one. And he said I'll take this one and you'll take the one on the road. When the man on the road heard that, he thought it was himself so he ran off as quickly as his legs could carry him and he fell in over the half door in dead faint.

William Burke (57), Skehana, Peterswell; 28-7-1938

One night a man named Patrick Linnane was going home from visiting one of his friends. He came to a lios and there he saw many small men dressed in red. They were hurling and they told him to take part in the game. They gave him a hurley and he joined them. They played for a long time and a last one of them told him to go home and he also told him that if one of them hit against him, he would have to stay with them. He watched his chance and he went home. He never saw the fairies after that.

Pat Power (48), Lissadoyle, Peterswell; 13-12-1937

Once a man and his hound went out along the mountain hunting. After a few hours they saw a hare. They followed him into every lonesome place. There was an old cabin in the place and the hare leaped in the windows. Just as he was going in, the hound caught him by the hind legs. The man went in and there was nobody inside, only an old woman in bed. He asked her did she see a hare coming in she said no. He searched the house upside down but he could not find him. As he was searching under the bed he saw blood on the clothes. He looked to see where the blood came from, and the woman let a roar, she changed back into a hare again and leaped out the window.

John Fahy, Lurgan, Gort; 4-2-1938

One evening there was a man returning from work. On his way, he passed by a house where there was a little boy very sick. Suddenly he heard a noise as if the coffin lids would clap together. Then he saw a black shadow going in over the wall. He went along and he met another man and he said to him that the little boy must be dead, and he died that night.

One day when the people were coming from second Mass there were two of them going along together. A cousin of one of them died shortly between that. When they were

going to part they stood a little while talking and they saw the dead person coming along with a basket of flowers in his hand and he dressed in monk's clothes. When he came near them he shook hands with the cousin and disappeared.

Register Names

In the following pages are the names of all boys and girls from the School Registers since 1944. I hope many readers will have some interesting times, pouring over the names and working out relationships.

1937

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Paddy Joe Larkin RIP	Dromore	Kathy Burke	Loughanunawadda
Toddie Kerins	Gardenblake	Margaret Mulcair	Dromore
Michael O'Donnell RIP	Hollymount	Emily Farrell	Dromore
Mick Power	Lissadoil	Aggie Kelly	Ballynabucky
Gerry Kerins RIP	Gardenblake	Patsy Collins RIP	Cappard
		Vera Nolan	Cappard
		Brigid O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch
		Philomena Callaghey RIP	Hollymount

1938

Patrick Donohue	Rattin, Ardahan	Brigid McDonagh	Peterswell
Eddie Kennedy	Limepark	Ann Deely	Gorteenaniska
Paul Healy	Rahaly	Mary Joe Hehir	Cappard
Noel Burke	Sekehanagh	Ann Callaghey	Hollymount
John Ellwood	Doonally	Kathleen Ellwood	Doonally
		Mary Bradley	Cappard

1939

Tom Prendergast RIP	Rahaly	Mary Ann O'Donnell	Drumnaloch
Paddy Burke	Loughanunawadda	Tearsa Healy	Rahaly
Frank Helly	Sekehanagh	Kathleen Kennedy RIP	Limepark
Paddy Power	Lissadoil		
Paddy Ellwood	Doonally		
Josie Burke RIP	Ballynabucky		
John James Healy RIP	Ballynabucky		
Frank Kelly	Ballynabucky		
Paul Healy	Rahaly		

1940

Willie Fahy	Doonally	Eileen Farrell	Dromore
Cyril Kelly	Ballynabucky	Bibi Burke	Loughanunawadda
Jack Prendergast	Rahaly	Monica Slattery RIP	Ballynabucky
Mick Larkin	Dromore	Peggy Larkin RIP	Sekehanagh

Michael Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Nora O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch
Eddie Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Peggie Cooke	Ballynabucky
Ned Deely	Gorteenaniska		
Tom Ellwood	Doonally		
Paddy Joe Callaghey	Doonally		
Sean Cooke	Ballynabucky		

1941

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Desmond Cooke	Ballynabucky	Eileen Helly	Skehanagh
Michael Cooney	Peterswell	Margaret Healy	Rahaly
Johnny Power RIP	Lissadoil	Ann Kerins RIP	Gardenblake
Paddy Lally	Gortardigan	Annie Burke	Loughanunawadda
Vincent Collins	Cappard	Ann Glynn	Ballylee
		Marie Glynn	Ballylee
		Mona Glynn	Ballycahalan
		Peggy Moran	Newtown Blake
		Mary Moran	Newtown Blake
		Teresa Moran	Newtown Blake
		Peggie Helly	Skehanagh
		Eileen Collins	Cappard

1942

Mattie O'Donnell RIP	Drumnaloch	Mollie Prendergast	Rahaly
Kieran Furey	Sekehanagh (Oranmore)	Teresa Kelly	Ballynabucky
Paddy Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Julie Ann Healy	Rahaly
Mick Healy RIP	Rahaly		
Colie Galvin	Knockuaire		

1943

Mattie Kellehger RIP	Cappard
Bertie Fahy RIP	Doonally
Mattie Prendergast RIP	Rahaly
Brendan Mulcair	Dromore
Willie Kerins RIP	Gardenblake

1944

Michael Callanan RIP	Rahaly	Kathleen Collins	Skehanagh
Michael Kerins RIP	Gardenblake	Philomena Glynn	Ballyee
Eamon Burke	Loughanunawadda	Julie Ann Healy	Rahaly
Francis Larkin (Fr.)	Dromore	Eileen Kelly	Ballynabucky
Sean Collins	Skehanagh	Margaret Kelleher	Skehanagh
Bernard Prendergast	Rahaly	Maggie Deely	Gorteenaniska
		Ann Pat. Kelleher	Cappard
		Teresa O'Donnell	Drumnaloch
		Mairead Leary	Cappard

		Mary Callanan Mary Galvin	Rahaly Knockoura
1945			
Patrick Leary	Cappard	Mary T. O'Donnell	Hollymount
Martin Farrell	Shanvalley	Ann Walsh	Faraun
Joseph Power	Lissadoill	Christina Kelly	Ballynucky
John Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Teresa Kelleher	Cappard
Eugene Glynn	Ballyee		
Sean Dooley	Lecknabegga		
John Joe Callanan	Rahaly		
Albert Glynn	Ballyee		
Michael Flanagan	Lecknabegga		
1946			
Patrick Mulcair	Dromore	Mary Lynskey Moira Farrell	Rahaly Shanvalley
1947			
Donal Fallon	Knockoura	Kathleen Lynskey	Rahaly
Tom Kelleher	Cappard	Maura Lucitt	Peterswell
Christopher Deely	Gorteenaniska		
Michael Mullins	Gortardagaun		
1948			
Michael Galvin	Knocguaire	Maureen Kelly	Skehanagh
Laurence Fahy	Doonally	Noreen Lahiffe	Peterswell
Thomas Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Ann Callanan	Rahaly
Seamus Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Pauline Fahy RIP	Doonally
Michael Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Murray	Peterswell
1949			
James Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Kelleher	Cappard
John James Curley	Cloone	Margaret Parker	Cloone
Michael Parker	Cloone	Bridie Callanan	Rahaly
Martin Lally	Gortardagaun	Elizabeth Kelly	Ballynabucky
Edward Lally	Gorteenaniska	Sabina Lewis	Ballycahalan
Michael Fahy	Doonally	Margaret Howley	Limepark
Pat Lahiffe	Peterswell	Anne Leary	Cappard
		Mary Mullins	Gortardagaun
		Maud Lahiffe	Peterswell
		Ann Murray	Peterswell
		Bernadette Horan RIP	Skehanagh
1950			
Gerard Coleman	Loughanunawadda	Rosaleen Glynn	Ballyee

Stephen Kelleher	Cappard	Maura Carew	Hollymount
Thomas Hehir	Gortaloman	Gertie Burke	Loughanunawadda
Patrick Morgan	Skehanagh	Ann Mullins	Gortardagaun
Coleman Curley	Cloone	Mary Howley	Ballycahalan
Martin Howley	Doonally	Mary Hynes	Kilderry
		Julie Hynes	Kilderry

1951

Name	Townland	Name	Townland
Frank Keely	Skehanagh	Bridget Howley	Limepark
Paul Keely	Skehanagh	Mary Hehir	Gortaloman
Michael Fitzgerald	Knockoura	Mary Collins	Knockoura
Sean Parker	Cloone	Carmel Leary	Cappard
Sean Murray	Peterswell	Noirin Carew	Hollymount
Fred Fitzgerald	Knockoura		

1952

John James Howley	Doonally	Teresa Hynes	Kilderry
Fintan Keely	Skehanagh	Maureen Fitzgerald	Kilderry
Brendan Collins	Cappard	Maureen Deely	Gortardagaun
Michael Morgan	Skehanagh	Maureen Hynes	Ballylee
Dermot Lahiffe	Peterswell	Mary Kerins	Gardenblake
John Lahiffe	Peterswell	Bridie Madden	Gortaloman

1953

John Howley	Limepark	Mary Farrell	Dromore
Michael Kelleher	Cappard	Maureen Hansberry	Limepark
John Mullins	Gortardagaun	Marian Coleman	Loughanunawadda
Michael Lucitt	Peterswell	Mary Kerins	Doonally
Joe Sherry	Skehanagh	Ann Collins	Knockoura
Sean Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Josie Deely	Gortardagaun
Patrick Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Mary Sherry (Metta)	Gortaloman
Kevin Mulkerrins	Lissadoill	Maureen Hughes	Ballynabucky
		Ann Carew RIP	Hollymount
		Bridget Hynes	Ballylee
		Kathleen Mulkerrins	Lissadoill

1954

Patrick Howley	Limepark	Angela Sherry (RIP)	Gortaloman
John Sherry	Skehanagh	Lilly Morgan	Skehanagh
John Fitzgerald	Knockoura	Julie Collins	Cappard
Martin Keely	Skehanagh	Carmel Hughes	Ballynabucky
Bertie Keely	Doonally	Carmel Farrell	Shanvalley
Eamon Keely	Doonally	Mary Galbraith	Faraun
John Leary	Cappard		

Larry Kearns (RIP)	Doonally
John Dempsey(RIP)	Peterswell
John Hynes	Kilderry

1955

Jimmy Kerins	Doonally	Philomena Leary	Cappard
Martin Morgan	Skehanagh	Mary Margaret	Keely Rahaly

1956

Michael Connaire (RIP)	Kilthomas	Mary Kelleher	Cappard
Peter Fitzgerald	Kilderry	Mary Maloney	Faraun
Mathew Keely	Doonally	Attracta Dempsey	Peterswell
Sylvester Keely	Skehanagh	Geraldine Dempsey	Peterswell
Andy Lynskey	Skehanagh		
Tom Galbraith	Cappard		
Kieran Leary	Loughanunawadda		

1957

Paul Sherry	Gortaloman	Mary Connaire	Kilthomas
John Kelleher	Cappard	Eileen Fitzgerald	Kilderry
Martin Kerins	Doonally	Josephine Maloney	Faraun
Gerard Carew	Skehanagh	Mary Keely	Skehanagh

1958

Patrick Kerins	Doonally	Marion Carew	Skehanagh
Kieran Morgan	Skehanagh	Mary Teresa Cooney	Peterswell
Joseph Lynskey	Skehanagh		
John Patrick Fahy	Cappard (Kinvara)		

1959

Sean Carew	Skehanagh	Brigid Connaire	Kilthomas
Eamon Leary	Loughanunawadda	Mary Morgan	Skehanagh
Sean Hynes (RIP)	Gortardagaun	Mary Howley	Limepark
Michael Hynes	Gortardagaun	Noreen Fitzgerald	Gortardagaun
Gerard Farrell	Dromore	Mary Lynskey	Skehanagh
Thomas Farrell (RIP)	Dromore	Mary Hennessy	Gortardagaun
Gerard Skehill	Skehanagh	Mary Farrell	Dromore
		Bridget Carr	Dromore
		Elizabeth Farrell	Dromore
		Cathy Farrell	Dromore

1960

Gerard Keely	Doonally	Eileen Howley	Limepark
Bernard Leary	Loughanunawadda	Christina Leary	Cappard
Michael Niland	Skehanagh	Mary Callanan	Lissadoill

Mary Roughan	Ballycahalan
Vergina Burke	Skehanagh
Mary Dolan	Rahaly
Ann Fitzgerald	Kilderry
Teresa Niland	Skehanagh

1961

John Hennessy	Gortardagaun	Mary Lally	Ballynabucky
Pat Joe Keely	Rahaly	Josephine Hughes	Gortaloman
Michael Callinan	Lissadoill	Mary Teresa Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga

1962

Fergus O'Donnell	Cappard	Ann Carew	Skehanagh
Joseph Cooney	Peterswell	Mary Connors	Kilderry
Lar Connaire	Kilthomas		
Michael Connors	Kilderry		
Michael Hennessy	Gortardagaun		
Gerald Maloney	Faraun		
James Fitzgerald	Knockoura		

1963

John Fitzgearld	Lecknabegga	Eithne Collins	Skehanagh
John Lynskey	Skehanagh	Geraldine Caulfield	Kilderry
Michael Caulfield	Skehanagh	Pauline Leary	Loughanunawadda
Paddy Skehill (RIP)	Skehanagh		
Packie Carew	Hollymount		
Sean Roughan	Ballycahalan		

1964

Martin Connors	Kilderry	Angela Carew	Skehanagh
Pat Farrell	Dromore	Philomena Roughan	Ballycahalan
Francis Lynskey	Skehanagh	Catherine Connaire	Kilthomas
		Marie O'Donnell	Cappard
		Paula Finn	Ballycahalan
		Caroline Kelly	Ballynabucky

1965

Peter Caulfield	Kilderry	Mary Shaughnessy	Skehanagh
Liam Caulfield	Skehanagh	Winnie Fitzgerald	Knockoura
J.J. Leary	Loughanunawadda	Agnes Connaire	Kilthomas
John Walsh	Faraun		
Patrick Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga		
Noel Healy	Rahaly		

1966

Michael Fitzgerald	Lecknabegga	Imelda Farrell	Dromore
Oliver Healy	Rahaly	Brid Carew	Hollymount

Ciaran Connors
Martin Carew
Sean McInerney

Kilderry
Skehanagh
Cappard

Rita O'Donnell

Cappard

1967

John Healy
Packie Caulfield
Peter Fahy
Gerard Fahy
Patrick Hansberry
Eamon Hansberry

Ballynabucky
Kilderry
Knockoura
Calhill
Reyraver
Reyraver

Patricia Hennessy
Maureen Hynes
Rosaleen Roughan
Patricia Gardiner
Mary Healy
Ann Healy
Petula Fahy
Catherine Fahy
Patricia Moran
Mairead Moran
Mary Moran
Angela Moran
Monia Slattery

Gortardagaun
Gortardagaun
Ballycahalan
Cappard
Ballynabucky
Rahaly
Knockoura
Knockoura
Bunnaglass
Bunnaglass
Kanespound
Kanespound
Ballynabucky

1968

Mathew Cunningham
John Gardiner
Michael Finn
Anthony Hansberry
Oliver Walsh
Francis Walsh
Martin Caulfield

Ballylaha
Cappard
Ballycahalan
Reyraver
Faraun
Cuilmore
Kilderry

Pauline Connaire
Helena Connors
Mary Fahy
Rita Leary
Fiona Mulcair
Patricia Connors
Chris Fitzgerald
Mary Teresa Fahy

Kilthomas
Kilderry
Knockoura
Loughanunawadda
Dromore
Kilderry
Cappard
Doonally

1969

James Fahy
Oliver Fitzgerald
John Fahy
Vincent Collins
Anthony Cunningham
Tim Gleeson
Michael Howley

Knockoura
Lecknabegga
Doonally
Skehanagh
Ballylaha
Gort
Gortaloman

Siobhan O'Donnell
Geraldine Hennessy
Eilis Healy
Angela Hansberry
Mary Dooley

Cappard
Gortardagaun
Rahaly
Reyraver
Lissadoill

1970

Kevin Collins
J.J. Finn
Denis Farrell
Gerard Fitzgerald
Brendan Gleeson
Francis Larkin (RIP)

Skehanagh
Ballycahalan
Dromore
Cappard
Gort
Dromore

Sarah Fahy
Josephine Connaire
Gertrude Cooney
Mary Kennedy
Caroline Lally

Doonally
Kilthomas
Peterswell
Limepark
Ballynabucky

1971

James Brady	Kilthomas	Nuala Healy	Rahaly
Donal Lynskey	Skehanagh	Olive Mulcair	Dromore
Gerard Gardiner	Cappard	Nora Dooley	Lecknabegga
Bartley Connors	Hollymount	Angela O'Donnell	Hollymount
Colm Farrell	Shanvalley	Mary Brady	Kilthomas
Padraig Fitzgerald	Cappard		

1972

Martin O'Donnell	Hollymount	Martina Healy	Ballynabucky
Gerard O'Donnell	Hollymount	Grace Cunningham	Ballylahy
Gerard Deely	Gorteenaniska	Dolores Larkin	Dromore
John Kennedy	Limepark	Mary Fahy	Hollymount
Christy Fahy	Doonally	Vicky Carey	Derrywee
Brendan Mulcair	Dromore	Evelyn Baker	Ballylee
Niall Farrell	Shanvalley		

1973

Raphael Counihan	Streamstown	Bernadette Fitzgerald	Cappard
J.J. Counihan	Streamstown	Christina Kennedy	Limepark
Pearse Counihan	Streamstown	Ann Marie Coen	Peterswell
Colie McGarry	Peterswell	Mary Deely	Gorteenaniska
Martin Fahy	Doonally	Martina Brady	Kilthomas
Thomas Kilcooley	Carrabane East	Marlyn Quinn	Ballynabucky
		Martina Hansberry	Reyrager

1974

John Dooley	Lecknabegga	Emily Kennedy	Limepark
Martin Deely	Gorteenaniska	Ann Finn (RIP)	Ballycahan
Paddy Connors	Hollymount	Roisin Farrell	Shanvalley
Michael Quinn	Ballynabucky	Avril Mulcair	Dromore
Richard Collins	Skehanagh	Alice Hansberry	Reyrager
Declan Prendergast	Rahaly	Una Gohery	Lecknabegga
Paddy Joe Fahy	Doonally	Breda Gohery	Lecknabegga

1975

Michael O'Donnell	Hollymount	Aisling Mulcair (RIP)	Dromore
Raymond Gohery	Lecknabegga	Regina Cunningham	Ballylahy
Damian Larkin	Dromore	Julanne Counihan	Streamstown
Martin Kennedy	Limepark	Bridget Collins	Skehanagh
John Prendergast	Rahaly	Helen Brady	Kilthomas
John Healy	Rahaly	Christina Gardiner	Cappard

1976

David Quinn (RIP)	Ballynabucky	Martina Dooley	Lecknabegga
Danny Fahy	Doonally	Helen Coleman	Loughanunawadda

David Fitzgerald
Kenneth Larkin
Enda McGarry

Cappard
Dromore
Peterswell

Mary Burke
Monica Gohery

Ballynabucky
Lecknabegga

1977

Justin Flannery
Declan Deely

Blackrock
Gortinanuisce

Michelle Howley
Sharon Howley
Emer Farrell

Limepark
Limepark
Shanvalley

Anthony Counihan
Anthony O'Donnell

Ballylahy
Drumaloch

Marguerite Counihan
Marguerite Kilcooley

Streamstown
Carrabane East

1978

Kevin Gavin
Paul Gavin
John Weir

Peterswell
Peterswell
Druminaloch

Louise Flannery
Sharon Coleman

Blackrock
Loughanunawadda

1979

David Weir
Thomas Brady
Coleman Fitzgerald
Michael Howley
Robert Lahiffe
Michael Curley

Dromaloch
Kilthomas
Cappard
Limepark
Peterswell
Cloone

Sinead Lahiffe
Patricia Fahy
Olive Coleman

Peterswell
Doonally
Loughanunawadda

1980

Enda Mulkerrins
Nicholas Flannery
Anthony Hynes

Lissadoill
Blackrock
Gortardagaun

Sylvia Farrell
Breda Kilcooley

Shanvalley
Carrabane East

1981

Dermot Farrell
Enda O'Leary
Adam McMullin

Shanvalley
Loughanunawadda
Kilderry

Michelle Weir
Bernie Brady
Deirdre Keely
Ann Coleman
Sinead Hynes
Rachael McMullin

Dromaloch
Kilthomas
Peterswell
Loughanunawadda
Gortardagaun
Kilderry

1982

Padraig Collins
Garvin Kearns
Bernard Mulkerrins
Patrick Burke
Stephen Quinn

Skehanagh
Doonally
Lissadoill
Skehanagh
Dromore

Siobhan Weir
Mary Teresa Flannery
Rebecca McMullin
Orla Lynskey
Neassa Lahiffe
Fiona Finnegan

Donally
Blackrock
Kilderry
Skehanagh
Peterswell
Gort

1983

Michael Morgan	Skehanagh	Caroline Howley	Limepark
Joseph Lynskey	Skehanagh	Ann Holland	Rahaly
Colin Burke	Skehanagh	Louisa Howley	Limepark
Niall Keely	Peterswell	Sara McGarry	Peterswell
Martin Curley	Cloone	Karen Burke	Loughanunawadda
Aidan Glynn	Ballyee		
Mark Quinn	Domore		

1984

Ronan Kilkenny	Skehanagh	Valarie O'Leary	Loughanunawadda
Desmond Glynn	Ballyee	Lorraine Mulkerrins	Lissadoill
Beshlie Greville	Doonally	Aoife McGarry	Peterswell
Michael Holland	Rahaly	Bernadette Coleman	Loughanunawadda
Brain Farrell	Blackrock	Ashling Fitzgerald	Peterswell
		Ashling Greville	Doonally

1985

Sean Burke	Loughanunawadda	Carolina Dooley	Lecknabegga
Michael Farrell	Blackrock	Ria Kilkenny	Skehanagh
Adrian Burke	Skehanagh	Jennifer Quinn	Dromore
Anthony Glynn	Drumminacoosaun	Olivia O'Leary	Loughanunawadda
Peter Howley	Limepark	Michelle Curran	Ballynabucky
Colin Lynskey	Skehanagh	Mary Curley	Cloone
		Edel Glynn	Ballyee
		Corena Mulkerrins	Lissadoill

1986

David Dooley	Lecknabegga	Niamh Coleman	
Loughanunawadda			
Bernard Glynn	Calfhill	Colette Kearns	Doonally
Michael Fitzgerald	Peterswell	Marie Glynn	Drumminacoosaun
Richard Glynn	Calfhill	Karina Fitzgerald	Cappard

1987

Paul Kelly	Gortardagaun	Teresa Glynn	Ballyee
Darragh Lahiffe	Peterswell	Deirdre Lynskey	Skehanagh
Aidan Holland	Rahaly	Sharon Murray	Peterswell
Noel Farrell	Blackrock	Christina Glynn	Calfhill
Damian O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Susan Quinn	Dromore

1988

Alan O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Christina Connors	Kilderry
Barry Burke	Skehanagh	Sandra Lynskey	Skehanagh
Martin Hynes	Gortardagaun	Grainne Devine	Cappard
		Jacinta Cooley	Lecknabegga
		Stella Burke	Doonally

1989

Padraic O'Donnell	Kilbeacanty	Christina Hynes	Gortardagaun
Joseph O'Leary	Loughanunawadda	Marie Fitzgerald	Cappard
Stephen Farrell	Blackrock		
John Hynes	Kilderry		
David Holland	Rahaly		
Michael Mulkerrins	Lissadoill		
Gregory Glynn	Calfhill		
Martin Kearns	Doonally		

1990

Luke McMullan	Kilderry	Susan Burke	Skehanagh
Ben McMullan	Kilderry	Linda Murray	Peterswell
		Ailbhe O'Donnell	Kilbeacanty
		Laura Cooney (RIP)	Ballynabucky
		Edel Sherry	Gortaloman
		Laura O'Leary	Loughanunawadda
		Mary Ellen Mullins	Gortardagaun

1991

Tristan Crosbie	Skehanagh	Michelle O'Donnell	Peterswell
Joseph Crosbie	Skehanagh	Lisa Sherry	Gortaloman
Dulta Low	Calfhill	Emer Keely	Peterswell
Ciúnas Low	Calfhill	Patricia Hynes	Gortardagaun
Brian Regan	Ballynabucky	Caroline Mullins	Gortardagaun
David Connors	Gardenblake		
Martin Connors	Kilderry		

1992

Daniel Burke	Doonally	Deirdre Fahy	Doonally
Christopher Rock	Ballylahy	Caitriona O'Donnell	Kilbecanty
David Kelleher	Cappard	Martina Hynes	Kilderry
		Angela Kearns	Doonally
		Amanda Kilkenny	Skehanagh

1993

Raymond Burke	Doonally	Siofra Devine	Cappard
		Heather Cooney	Ballynabucky
		Edel Kerans	Gardenblake
		Sarah Fitzgerald	Cappard
		Caroline Keely	Skehanagh

1994

Adrian Sherry	Gortaloman	Ann Marie Forde	Loughrea
John Mullins	Gortardagaun	Louise Curran	Ballynabucky

Richard Curran

Ballynabucky

1995

Donal Cooney

Ballynabucky

Clodagh Devine

Cappard

Tony Keely

Rahaly

Aoife Fahy

Doonally

Dermot Keely

Skehanagh

Caitriona Lynskey

Skehanagh

Eoin Burke

Doonally

Orla Keely

Doonally

Milo Barham

Hollymount

April Dooley

Lecknabegga

Niamh Cooney

Peterswell

1996

James Regan

Ballynabucky

Ruth Keely

Doonally

Padraic Forde

Loughrea

Claire Quinn

Dromore

Paul Caulfield

Ballynahowna

Diana Mahon

Peterswell

Alan Ogbuka

Rahaly

Fiona Kelleher

Cappard

1997

Paul Brady

Cappard

Clodagh O'Leary

Loughanunawadda

James Fahy

Kilderry

Jessica Dooley

Lecknabegga

Conor Cooney

Ballynabucky

Finola Keely

Rahaly

David Quinn

Dromore

Una O'Donnell

Kilbeacanty

Alva Kilkenny

Skehanagh

1998

Derek Gardiner

Cappard

Lorraine Coen

Ballynabucky

Brian Gardiner

Cappard

Michelle Caulfield

Ballynahowna

Marie Caulfield

Skehanagh

Sarah Mullins

Gortardagaun

Noreen Mullins

Gortardagaun

1999

David Sherry

Gortaloman

Ronan Devine

Cappard

Shane Cooney

Ballynabucky

Bryan Keely

Doonally

John James McDonagh

Peterswell

2000

John Coen

Ballynabucky

Niamh Mannion

Ballycahalan

Brendan Farrell

Ballynabucky

Aine O'Donnell

Kilbeacanty

Stephen Mannion

Ballinacahalan

Claire Caulfield

Ballynahowna

Niall Connors

Gardenblake

Fiona Keely

Skehanagh

George Joyce

Castledaly

Joseph Mahon

Peterswell

2001

Donncha Gutteridge	Drumacoosan	Amy Caulfield	Ballynahowna
Joseph Caulfield	Skehanagh		
Cathal Connors	Faraun		
Jonathan Dooley	Lecknabegga		
2002			
Robert Crosby	Skehanagh	Louise Carr	Gardenblake
Colin Devine	Cappard	Edel Gardiner	Cappard
Gary Finn	Ballycahalan		
Peter Fitzgerald	Cappard		
Darragh Fitzgerald	Cappard		
2003			
Thomas Joyce	Castledaly	Emer Walsh	Blackrock
Mark Caulfield	Ballynahowna	Kelly Shearer	Drumore
Ross Caswell	Limepark	Síofra Feeney	Gort
		Keeley Mannion	Ballycahalan
		Marie Farrell	

The Joe Cooley Memorial Hall

By Bertie Keely

In 1974, shortly after the death of Joe Cooley the internationally known accordion player, a committee was formed in Peterswell to erect a monument to his memory.

Various suggestions were made and eventually it was decided that the most fitting monument would be to build a new Community Hall. This would have a two fold purpose: a) it would replace the 'old school' which was in need of repair and which had

served the parish well as a school up to 1944 and as a Community Hall for the next thirty years and b) it would act as a focal point in the local community, where the music, dancing and traditions of the Joe Cooley era could continue.

Many different people did great work in these early committees and many fund-raising events were held - some successful and some not. Eventually in 1980 it was decided to begin the work of building the new Community Centre. Fundraising and building continued together for the next five years.

It was always the intention of the Committee not to go into debt and it is a great credit to a rural parish as small as ours that this intention was always adhered to.

Eventually in October 1985 the dreams of the parish were realised when the then bishop of Galway, Dr. Eamonn Casey officially blessed and opened the Joe Cooley Memorial Hall.

In 1987, thanks to a grant from the National Lottery a heating system was installed. Down through the years, as in any building, small improvements and repairs were carried out and these were always done voluntarily by people from the parish.

In 2003 a major renovation of the kitchen/meeting room and toilets was carried out. At the time of writing this article a grant from Galway Rural Development for 50% of the cost of this work s being sought.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the generous grant given by Fr. Callinan from the Peterswell/Kilbeacanty Diocesan funds towards this latest renovation.

Continuous fundraising is necessary for the day to day running of the hall. These expenses amount to around 3,000 Euro annually – half of which is paid to insure the hall. The excellent support for the annual sale of work defrays most of this cost.

The committee is anxious to encourage the use of the hall. An open meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at 9.30pm from September to May and everybody with a contribution to make to our local community is welcome to attend. You will get a cup of tea and a biscuit and you will probably also get a job, but don't be afraid – its all to better our small and close-knit community.

Education in Peterswell before 1850
By Bríd O'Donnell

The hedge schools were an illegal network of mainly Catholic schools that had their own origin in the 16th century but really only took root in the 18th century, following the passing of the Penal Laws of 1695. Their laws prohibited Catholic education and prevented parents from sending their children abroad to be educated. Teachers were now forced under ground to engage in what PJ Dowling in his pioneering work *The Hedge*

Schools of Ireland (1932), called "a kind of guerrilla war in education". For the next 87 years teaching was done surreptitiously, in makeshift schools, hidden away from the public gaze. The safest area was considered to be on the sunny side of a hedge and it was from this location that they derived their name. So popular was the name that the masters retained it, even after the Penal Laws were repealed in 1782.

Chronic insecurity became a hedge schoolmaster's constant companion as RL Edgeworth noted in the early 19th century "the best teacher Soon attracts all the scholars and the inferior master is obliged to give way". Competition was therefore keen and professional rivalry acute, especially as there were 6 hedge schools per parish in Ireland, with an even larger number in the towns. Little wonder then that the master advertised his school in a most extravagant style, claiming expertise in a wide range of subjects, while referring to himself as either a professor or a philomath, the best of the mathematicians. Modesty counted for little, especially when a master's livelihood depended on his reputation. His immediate concern was to impress parents with his erudition. In conversations with them he was careful to use words which were "truly sesquipedalian", ones that were "dark and difficult to understand", often interspersed with Latin quotations. (Wm Carleton, Traits)

Hedge Schools in Peterswell By Frank Helly

The earliest record of a hedge school in Peterswell was in the latter half of the 1700s. It was situated in Gortnagowan in the Slieve Aughty Mountains. The teacher was Laurence Duffy of Gardenblake. Mr Duffy intended to become a priest and at that time those who intended to join the priesthood had to go abroad to study, but he missed the boat. Later, 3 of his sons, John, Michael and James became priests. On the 17th of September 1775, James was the first student from the diocese to enter the newly founded college of Maynooth. Bernard Hynes had a school at Gorteenkirkie and his pay was about £5 per annum, a description of his school says it was built with stone and lime. The second report of the Commissioners of Irish Education Enquiry, 1826-7, recorded that Eugene Kearns held a school in the chapel and his pay was £7 -15s per annum. The second report of Public Instruction (Ireland) 1835 states that a school in Kiltomas was kept by Edward Diviney in a chapel. It also records that support of 1/- to 2/- per quarter was paid. A school run in Ballylaha by Bryan Hynes is also recorded at this time with similar support, amounting to £4 per annum. Both of these schools taught reading, writing, arithmetic and catechism.

Peterswell First National School

In 1845 the Parish Priest Father O'Connor applied to commissioners for a building grant. At that time there was about 550 families in the parish and almost 200 children of school going age. The National School in Peterswell village was opened in 1848. The school was a single storey building with a small porch in front. It had 2 classrooms, 1 small room at the east end known as the "Missuses room" where infants and first class were taught. The other room was twice the size and a teacher taught at both ends, needless to say this caused a great distraction. There was a small room at the back where fuel was stored and it also gave access to the girls and boys dry toilet. There was a small walled yard out the front where the pupils played. In fine weather they went to Hayes' field to play hurling. Mr. Patrick Moylan became principal in 1902. His wife taught with him until

his retirement in 1934. Other teachers who taught with him were Mr. Anthony Monaghan, Mr. Tom Russell, Mr. Moynihan and Mr. Gaffney. After Patrick Moynihan's retirement Mr. Paddy Murray became principal. Mr. Martin Dolan and Miss Imelda O'Halloran who taught with both left in 1944.

Peterswell's Teachers

Paddy Murray (Principal) 1938-1965
Martin Dolan 1938-1944
Imelda O'Halloran 1937-1944
Mary O'Shaughnessy 1944-1947
Mrs. Mary Murray 1949-1965
Mary O'Halloran 1955-1957
Mrs. A Glynn 1960-1963
Mr. Tom McGarry 1965-1999
Mrs. Mary O'Halloran-Healy 1965-1989
Mrs. Mernie Gleeson 1967-1987
Mrs. Bríd O'Donnell 1987-to date
Mrs. Marie Keogh 1989-1993
Mrs. Kathleen Forde 1993-to date
Geraldine Nolan 1999-to date
Diane Kirk 2002-to date

Reyraver

Father O'Connor also requested a school for the Keane's Pound Area at the south end of the parish because there was no national school within a five-mile radius. Father O'Connor had passed away before the Reyraver one room school was opened in 1883. A Mrs. Kiely of Seehan, Kilmacduagh was appointed teacher and she walked to and from her home every day a distance of about 6 miles each way! At the time this school opened there were 2 local hedge schools nearby, one in Gardenblake Commons with 33 pupils and one in Gorteenboy in the parish of Kilbeacanty. When the school closed in 1967, the pupils were transferred to Peterswell School. The last teacher in Reyraver was Mrs. Mernie Gleeson Nee Cunningham of Ballylaha.

Mol An Óige

S.N. Naomh Thomáis Inniu
(Bríd O'Donnell)

Is iomaí athrú atá tagtha ar an gcóras oideachais ó thús an chéid seo caite. Thuigeann tuismitheoirí tábhacht an oideachais níos fearr anois. Ár ndoigh, níl an obair cheanna le déanamh sa mbaile anois is a bhí an uair sin. Caitfear a rá freisin go bhfuil tuismitheoirí níos rannpáirtí in oideachas a ngasúr sa lá atá inniu ann ná mar a bhí cheanna. Tá an lá

imithe go féidir na gasúir a fhágáil ag geataí na scoile as dearmad a dhéanamh ar chúrsaí scoile ina dhiaidh sin. Tá tuismitheoirí páirteach i mbainistíocht na scoile freisin. Airíonn siad go bhfuil ról acu in imeachtaí scoile. Gan amhras ní bheadh na háiseanna agus an chóiríocht cheanna againn sa scoil gan saothar na dtuismitheoirí thar na blianta. Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.

St. Thomas' N.S. Peterswell
(Bríd O'Donnell)

The location of the new school on the main Gort-Loughrea road was probably chosen because of the availability of the property. There was a lot of discussion at the time the new school was built about the fact that it was an extra mile to walk for the students from the "side above" of the parish. It was a mile closer for the "side-below"

The three roomed school was opened on the 4th March 1946. It was formally opened and blessed by His Lordship, the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Galway. Also at the opening were: Mr. O. Smith, Board of Works, Rev. Fr. Hehir P.P., Rev. Larkin C.C. and Mr. J. Burke, contractor. It is built on one acre and nine perches. Mr. Paddy Murray was principal. The newness of the building in comparison to the old school is still commented on by past pupils. It wasn't long before a certain boy made an attempt to knock part of it. After a disagreement between Mr. Murray and a certain boy, (J.P.) he kicked the wall with "Hobnail" boots and this gap may still be seen today, at the back of the school.

The state funded eight ninths (8/9) of the cost and the other ninth (1/9) was paid by local contribution. An amalgamation took place in 1967 between Peterswell N.S. (2 teacher) and Ré Ramhar N.S. (1 teacher). Mrs. Mernie Gleeson joined the staff of St. Thomas's N.S.: Mrs. Mary Healy and Mr. Tom McGarry.

The outer toilets were demolished and buried underground in the late 80's. The existing basketball court was built in the late 80's on this site. The school was extended to include two toilets, two cubicles for the boys and two for the girls. The urinal was replaced by toilets in the early 90's. The school wall was also moved in the late 70's.

A portacabin was acquired in 2002 to facilitate pupils who attend the Resource Teacher. These pupils who have special needs have two S.N.A's, one full time Mrs Mary Burke (2002) and one part time Mrs Bernie Caulfield (2003) to cater for their needs. A shared Learning Support teacher Mr. Gerard Mooney spends 4 weeks out of every eight dealing with children who require learning support.

The Board of Management under the chairperson Fr. Derek Feeney are responsible for the running of the school. Current members are Bríd O'Donnell, Geraldine Nolan, Mary Cooney, Geraldine Farrell, Francis Walsh, Teresa Mannion and Mary Craven.

Pádraig Ó Muirigh - Príomh-Óide

Le Máire Uí Chomhgháin --- Iarscoláire

Tháinig Pádraig Ó Muirigh mar phríomh-oide go dtí an tsean scoil i dTobar Pheadair i 1934. I 1946 osclaíodh an scoil nua ar an bpríomh bhóthar.

Sulár tháinig P Ó Muirigh go Tobar Pheadair, bhí sé ag múineadh i scoil "Ré Rabhair" in oir dheisceart an pháróiste agus ina ndhiadh sin i gCill Tartáin i nGort Inse Guaire. Is i nGort Inse Guaire, freisin a tógadh é.

Bhí sé ina shár mhúinteoir ó thaobh an Ghaeilge agus bhí gach ábhar á mhúineadh trí Ghaeilge ag an am sin ach amháin Béarla, ar ndóigh. Mhuscail sé suim sna scoláirí maidir leis an Ghaeilge agus bhí grá acu don teanga as sin amach agus bhí sin le h-áithint nuair a thosaigh said ag freastal ar scoileanna iarbhuinoideachais. An Ghaeilge a d'fhoghlaim mé uaidh, níor chaill mé ariamh agus tá an ghrá agam dí, i gconaí.

Bhíodh sé an chrósta cuid den am agus nuair a thógadh sé na cóipleabhair abhaile leis chun iad a cheartú, bhíodh a fhíos againn cén sort iúmar a bhíodh air agus é ag rothaíocht ar scoil, an maidin dár gcionn. Is iomaí uair a fuair mé an bata uaidh ach ní dhearna sé aon dochar dom. Ní mar sin a bhí an scéal ag gach duine.

Ní raibh mórán suime aige i gcluichí péile nó iománaíochta ach thugadh sé cabhair do daltaí a bhíodh ag treanail I gcóir "Spóirt Deanery". Thugadh sé cabhair freisin do daltaí tar éis am scoile chun iad a ullmhú don scrudú iontrála "An Martyn Scholarship" chun freastal ar Chólaiste Mhúire I nGaillimh.

Taobh amuigh den seomra ranga – fear difrúil a bhí ann. Bhíodh sé ag imirt cartáí agus beiriste agus bhí an suim aige sa ngailf. Bhí carr aige agus is iomaí uair a thug sé muintir na háite chuig cluichí. Ba mhaith leis bheith ag cur bláthanna agus glasraí ag a theach chónaithe agus is minic a thug sé bláthanna agus síolta dom le tabhairt abhaile.

Bhí a bhean Máire Bn. Uí Mhuirigh ag múineadh sa scoil freisin, na naíonán agus an chéad rang. Mhúin sí fuáil agus cniotáil do na cailíní sna h-ard ranganna chomh maith. Bhí tríúr clainne acu, Máire, Áine agus Séan.

D'éirigh sé as an múinteoireacht sa bhlian 1965 agus chaith sé an chuid eile dá shaol, i mBóthar na Trá i nGaillimh.

Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann.
Go ndéana Dia grásta air.

Recollections of Paddy Mulkerrins
Born 1914, 90th Birthday March 4th 2004

Paddy recalls a not too easy regime during his school days in Peterswell. Though excelling in Irish and impressive in the speed at which he could work out mathematical calculations ('mentals') in his head, he was far from being a forward student. He still believes that he would not have passed the leaving Cert though his family believe differently – as he still outwits them in every field. He continues to have a great sense of

humour enjoying the 'reference' given to him by his schoolmaster – namely that if his progress at school didn't improve his legacy from his father, Ned, would be an empty sack with a hole in it. Far from putting a dent in his self-esteem, this only served to strengthen his conviction that the Master was always in the wrong and he in the right, as he was regularly set in stark contrast to his clerical student brothers, Bernard and Tom. On the brighter side, his admiration for and love of the school mistress was equalled by his love for his mother whose favourite son he was and who taught him how to cook.

Fortune was not on his side either when with his brother, Eddie, he cycled to dances in Gort and discovered that Gort relations and friends of his parents cycled in the opposite direction to report his escapades to his parents.

Much as he and his brothers and sisters looked forward to Christmas, they always got money only from Santa, which they had to pay almost immediately as Free Offering in the Priest's Christmas Collections. He recalls going to the bog, cycling to the Galway Races and his assigned task in 1936 of driving his brother, Tom in a pony and trap to the station in Ardahan on the first leg of his journey as a Colombian Missionary to Korea.

He is still attached to Peterswell and the families he knew there and looks forward to a happy reunion.

Interview

Mrs. Molly Fallon,
Georges St., interviewed
by her son Jimmy Regan

Jimmy: Where did you live in Peterswell?

Molly: I lived in Shanvalley and started school in Northhampton. I moved to Cahercarna, following the death of my mother. I remained in Northhampton school until I was six. My aunt then brought me back to Peterswell. We went to school across the fields "where Sherry's is now".

Jimmy: How many were in your class?

Molly: There were seven in my class, Bridie Lynskey, Kathleen Lynskey, John-James Molloy, Nellie Mulkerrins, Fr. Bernard Mulkerrins and myself.

Jimmy: What were your days like at school?

Molly: I was six when I went to school. We spent 12 months in infants. We had three teachers. Mr. Sexton was my teacher at that time and I remember him giving me a present of a pencil and I spent a half-day looking and admiring it. I was in infants class, and I learnt my "ABC", and sums and addition. We used "cippins" (little sticks) to learn to count. When we were in first class we learnt "simple addition". We had big long desks with ink-wells. If you were bold the punishment was that you were made sit beside a boy. I got a punishment and was made sit between two fellas for talking, but I started crying so Mr. Sexton gave me leave, to go back to my own seat. They used a stick or a strap to slap you with if you were bold. I was a year in Northhampton school before I came to Peterswell, they were much kinder in Peterswell, so I soon settled down.

I was very good in first class and Mr. Sexton was always giving me a hand – but I was good. I was quiet, not like the rest of them. I sat at my desk drawing birds. I liked drawing but sure I wasn't very good at it".

Jimmy: When did you make your communion?

Molly :I made my communion when I was seven.For our Holy Communion we learnt the short catechism like "Who made the world". You had to have the "Hail Mary"and"Our Father" off by heart. The older scholars taught us our prayers in groups of sixes,as the priests had to go to the houses to say mass. Nearer our Holy Communion the priest would come and ask us questions.

When we made our Holy Communion, we had a blessed candle to light and held it in front of our new lovely white dresses, veils and what not. If we burnt our dress we would have to leave Ireland, it was dangerous you know, many the veil that went on fire.

Jimmy: What was new in second class?

Molly: In second class we were introduced to the stick of course and we got all we wanted of that. You got the stick if you had a blob in your copy and then your copy was taken from you and you were billed for a new one. We had exams at the end of every year and you couldn't move on to the next class if you did not pass.

Mr. Sexton taught us to third class.

Jimmy: Who taught you in Fourth class?

Molly: We had Mr. Moylan. In fifth class we had a body inspection. The doctor came to check to see if there was vermin in you clothes or hair. If you were unlucky to have vermin, the doctor prescribed something for you.I never had it,Thank God.

Jimmy: When did you learn to sew?

Molly: When I was in fifth class, we learnt sewing but none of the boys would come to that,so we had to go into the second room. We brought our own materials and she taught us how to knit and sew – it was very good. We had laundry classes on different Tuesdays. We learnt how to iron and burn.We did the laundry for the Moylans.We burnt bits of Mr. Moylan's tie – Elizabeth Cunningham did it because he slapped her the week before because she stayed home from school. We also learned to cook.We began to cook the dinner in the school and it was brought up to the house to be finished. We had to go below to Finnerty's house to go to the toilet and they didn't know how to use it. I had to teach them how to use it because I had seen one in Northampton school.

Jimmy: What did the inspector do when he came?

Molly: When the inspector came to the school, he checked through our copy books and asked us questions like "What job would you like to take up?"

In fifth and sixth class I did algebra and geometry. We did this so we would get positions in the colleges. I was accepted into the County Council (only two places) but Mr. Moylan wouldn't give it to me because there were only two in my family and it was free and they gave it to the bigger families. Someone else got it in my place. I burnt the books when I came home because he shouldn't have got my job.

Jimmy: Who taught you music?

Molly: Jack Mulcaire in Kiltartan taught us the fiddle. If you paid four pounds a year he taught you. Twenty of us went down to Labane; Babby Hayes, Mick and Jack Sherry, John-James Molloy from Dublin, and Mai Sherry. I loved music. The fiddle players were selected and went back to school for two evenings a week at four o'clock. There were four monitors to teach music.

Jimmy: Can you tell me anything else about your schooling?

Molly: My aunt from Galway came up and told Mr. Moylan that I had enough jobs at home and there was no use in teaching me. That was the end of my schooling, when I was sixteen. They were very happy days. I was trained up to be a farmers wife. They have more teachers today. I had no problems going to school but Jimmy did, he would go off to do this one's job and that one's job and I would bring his bread to school but he was never there to eat it. He got five shillings to draw Mr. Moylans turf from the bog in the morning and then he would go to school in the afternoon.

I also remember the black and tans, driving up and down the village. We were very frightened of them. They made us walk on rough stones and often pushed us into briars and made us walk on rough areas of ground. They beat Mr. Moylan. He was in bed for a week after the beating. His wife was very worried about him at this time. She brought his meals upstairs on a tray. The Black and Tans also urinated on us for no reason. Ah, they were very bad.

Teachers on the Edge!

Peterswell Teachers

Here we are in 2004 – a team of 4 - 3 Classroom Teachers and a Resource Teacher. Life in the classroom is ever changing.

The Junior Class Teacher is the one having her socks charmed off her at least 20 times a day with the children's innocence, comedic ways and their spontaneous displays of affection and their total belief in her invincibility. Way to Go – Superteacher!!! When the cry 'Superteacher!' goes up, she grits her teeth, squeezes out her J-cloth, praying it's a minor spill, swooping down and yet knowing there is no such thing when you're five years old.

Moving on to the Middle Room – Teacher here does not have to bend once to tie a shoelace. Not one nose needing a wipe. No drinks spilled at lunchtime. And not a sign of a crayon let loose on any of the walls or floor. Weird. They now have mastered the art of sitting in a chair for longer than five minutes. They can now write their names. Heck! – They can now write a whole sentence without help! It is now possible to turn her back on them for longer than thirty seconds without hell breaking loose. These little beings can now work in pairs and groups unsupervised. She can send them on a message to another room without wondering if they will find their way back.

However with all these little ‘blessings’ comes comedy in another form. Now First Holy Communion has to be reckoned with. Teaching of prayers brings a new language art into play – from ‘blessed art thou a monk swimming’ (can you picture him?) to ‘O my God, thank you for lovely me’. Yes, I am sure you are lovely, but you are thanking God for ‘loving you’

The third and last room on the Education Ladder in St. Thomas’ finds children (oops! – young adults) in the Senior Classes. They have graduated to the honour of Leaders – beings to be worshipped for their ‘Coolness’ and trendiness. – Forced into wearing a tie everyday! – A tie that somehow finds itself hidden beneath a ‘geansaí and only produced when the Principal pounces – Cá bhfuil do charbhat?

Media influences take their toll, now more than ever. Everyone is a budding candidate for ‘You’re a Star’, Celebrity Farm or ‘All Stars’. Relationships are now changing – Johnny is now beginning to look more appealing than ever before – why didn’t I take note of that cute smile before this, when I sat beside him in second class?

For those fortunate enough to escape the classroom for an hour or two there is the Resource Teacher waiting to welcome them with open arms. Once the steps of the Pre-Fab have been negotiated they come to a haven of individual attention in a tranquil environment. She then escorts them under duress back to the mayhem of the classroom.

We, as a team have now come to the conclusion, that teaching doesn’t necessarily involve the energy of a roadrunner, the patience of a Tibetan monk and the diplomacy of Saddam Hussein’s PR company. We still wouldn’t recommend it to anyone in need of destressing!

Teaching in an Era of Change

By Geraldine Nolan and Bríd O’Donnell

The changing nature of education poses many challenges to the teaching profession today. Contemporary society is undergoing a range of profound changes, the impact of which indicates that we are in a new era of civilisation. The teaching profession is the key mediating agency for society as it endeavours to cope with change and upheaval. Here in Ireland we are well-positioned to cope with the changes. The image of the teacher’s role is much higher in Ireland than in many countries.

Within schools significant improvements have been made in areas such as the provision of school libraries and ICT equipment. Other resources include telephones, fax machine, photocopier, access to email and the Internet.

A New Curriculum is currently being phased in, which emphasises oral language and active learning which in turn presupposes the motivation to learn. Science, History, Geography, and Environmental Studies are now being taught from Junior Infants, unlike

the 1940s, where schools only began teaching these subjects in the Middle Classes. However, in Peterswell in 1908, (as evident in the Progress Record of 1908). Progress Report on Pages 78 & 79

The schoolteacher taught elementary science – leaves, roots, flowers and their functions.

Our school nowadays has frequent visitors and a support system in place. For example, Heritage and Art Specialists, Visiting Authors, Music and Singing Teachers, Coaches for Basketball, Football, Hurling and Tag Rugby, Annual Swimming Lessons, Parenting Courses, Book Fairs and Annual Tours.

In contrast in the 1940s everything was the sole responsibility of the Schoolteacher. His only visitors were probably the Cigire, the Priest and the Bishop. There was no such thing as ‘Text-a-Sub’, children had to stay at home, often for long periods of time, if a teacher was ill. However, one of the perks of the job was having your laundry done and having your meal partially cooked under the Subject of Cookery and Laundry ! I’m sure they looked forward to their boiled bacon and cabbage, rice, cornflour mould and baked haddock!

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Peterswell National School – A Reflection

By Christina Kennedy, Limepark B.A., H.Dip. in Ed., M.Ed..

It is with fond memories I reflect upon my childhood education in Peterswell National School. I left there in the early 1980's. At that time we had three teachers Mrs. Mernie Gleeson, Mrs Mary Healy and Mr. Tom McGarry.

Mrs. Gleeson taught us for the first few years in primary school. We learned reading, writing, Religion, Irish and mathematics. We had many enjoyable art and craft classes. We loved the nature studies, singing and games classes. Mrs. Gleeson helped us prepare for our first Holy Communion.

Mrs. Healy taught the second, third and fourth classes. As well as Irish, Mathematics, Religion, English and general primary studies, we had fun sewing and knitting while the boys were out developing their hurling skills. We had a wide curriculum of studies. The daily rendition of "Our News" each morning facilitated the development of our writing and linguistic skills. The nature studies and geography classes were a personal favourite of mine.

Mr. Tom McGarry, who was principal taught us the fifth and sixth year curriculum. He prepared us very well for both our Confirmation and for entry to the second level education system. I feel that our Irish studies were at a particularly advanced stage on leaving primary school.

There are of course certain events that one recalls from primary school days. I recall the fun we had at breaktimes, the soccer matches, rounders, and red rover, skipping, three goals in, art and craft classes, plays, concerts, Irish Dancing lessons, visits to the school by our local Parish Priest, the busy weeks leading up to our Holy Communion and Confirmation and of course the well-loved sports days.

When the school bus stopped coming down to Limepark I remember our walks to school. During the spring, summer and autumn months it was great, smelling the flowers and picking the nuts along the way. We crossed up through Connaire's land with the Prendergast's and Collin's.

There were ten in my class in Primary School, five boys and five girls – Martin Fahy, Thomas Kilcooley, Niall Farrell, Colie McGarry, John Kennedy, Martina Brady, Mary Deely, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Martina Hansberry and myself. We all got on extremely well despite the occasional argument – nothing too serious and nothing we couldn't joke about now. Even though we all took different routes in life most of us have remained friends to this day.

I have always had a very strong interest in education, and a love of learning and reading was fostered in me in Peterswell National School. The education I received in Peterswell National School prepared me well for the second level education system. After my five years in the Mercy Secondary school in Gort I decided to go on to study for a career as a second level teacher in N.U.I.G. I have taught in Gort, Loughrea, Sion Hill in Blackrock, Dublin, in Killaloe and I spent over two years teaching in Japan.

I returned to University in 1995 to complete a Masters Degree in Education. I now teach Mathematics, Geography, Career Guidance and the Link Modules in Seamount College, Kinvara. I lecture part-time in N.U.I.G in the Higher Diploma in Education Course.

I am very proud of the education I have received and am thankful to the primary, secondary and tertiary level tutors and, of course, to my parents who have fostered my love of learning.

I believe that a good general base in education is vital. It prepares the students well in the basic essentials of reading, writing, and arithmetic and in general studies. It develops in children the powers of reasoning and rational thinking. It helps the young person to become a well balanced, multiskilled individual. A good primary school education prepares the child for the second level education system that is to follow and it instils in them many different skills, abilities and personal attributes which one needs for living, for learning and for one's own personal happiness. I feel that Peterswell National School has provided me with the solid foundation that has enabled me to advance through the education system and attain a successful career.

My Darkest Day
By Oilibhear Breathnach

It wasn't the time of the infamous raid on Quinn's orchard. Though I enjoyed the forbidden fruit, I hadn't been able to reach it for myself. 'Twas lads further up the mountain that took the heavy hit for that one. No names mentioned, MH, MC and ETC come to mind. Nor was it the day my mother scarcely recognised me as we all traipsed up through the village. The look on her face, as she was heading in Lahiff's door, and me looking like the original Chocolate Santy. She didn't even try to salvage the trousers, even though there was only the wan patch on them! There was to be no school as two of the teachers were ill and we immediately set sail for homeacross jockey hall. It was great fun hopping from clump to clump until I missed one. (Many thanks to all who assisted in recovering the missing two-thirds of me).

No, 'twas years later, 4th class, early June of 1974. There was a great buzz around the school all that day. I s'pose 'twas giddiness that got that dare game going while we waited for Vincent Harte to return from the first run home. I was 3rd or 4th up to walk the length of the school gates. I failed a little past halfway and next I was looking up at all the faces and suffering excruciating pain. Miraculously the unspeakable hadn't occurred, but I felt like my right leg was now positioned at a right angle to the rest of my prostate body. And though I didn't want to believe it I knew this was going to spoil this longed for day, the First Sports. I managed to get home and to hide my infirmity, being fearful I might not be allowed go at all. After a rest I gave myself a late fitness test. I found I could run, but the right leg wasn't keeping up like it should. I would usually be expectant of a top three finish, but the chances of any podium finish were fading fast.

But hope springs eternal and off I cycled to the meeting. That first venue was behind O'Donnell's house in the village side of the church, a somewhat undulating track. But oh the excitement, even the frequent showers of rain couldn't dampen my enthusiasm! Tom McGarry had a megaphone, the high jump was in place, the long jump had sand and was perfectly symmetrical. Brilliant! There was even a tape for the finishing line and the prizes for the victors... new hurleys, guns galore, footballs and best of all these great looking bow and arrow sets.... And stuff for the girls. I must have looked the biz toggled out in my hurling boots, maroon socks, white togs and "me shirt". There was to be no prize for the best dressed and an evening of honest endeavour under top weight was proving fruitless. Last chance, the 50 yards dash. I broke well but couldn't sustain the effort and when the photo finish camera i.e. Sean Dooley, couldn't separate me from Oliver Fitzgerald for third place; my despair was complete when we were immediately returned to the start line.

What was wrong with having a bow and arrow every second day?

Anthony Cunningham swept the boards that fateful evening and Fiona Mulcair cleaned up on the girl's side.

Nothing for it but to head for Farnane. And as I turned my aunt's old Raleigh outside the church wall, thankfully, the sun was doing me a great service way down on Galway Bay.

Memories of Childhood

By Colette Kearns

My first memories of primary school are that of being brought to school in 1986 on the back of my mothers bicycle by way of "the bog road", and getting a great thrill from going up and down over the bumps along the way.

Memories that come to mind are the classroom jobs. I always wanted to wipe the blackboard at the end of the day. It never dawned on me that I was the smallest in the class and I would hardly reach the board above the level of the teachers head...when she was sitting down!

Instead I seemed to get the job of bringing the rolla to the "master's" room. I shook with fear going up the hall, not fear of the master but of the big boys and girls in fifth and sixth class laughing at me. We all did it ourselves in sixth class. Does anyone remember knocking on the master's door and having to go back out and do it again if you knocked on the glass?

I was nervous on my first day in the master's room, but in fairness there was no need to be, unless I lost a "life" for speaking in a low voice and the class got extra homework (we never did).

In secondary school the boys and girls from St. Thomas' are known for having a high standard of primary education, especially in Irish. The tenses I did in fifth and sixth class weren't touched on again until I was doing my Junior Cert. I had a wonderful time in primary school with far too many memories to outline in such a short space. I wholeheartedly believe that my time in Peterswell is one of the main reasons I have chosen to pursue a career in childcare.

Finally I returned to the school a few years ago as a substitute for fourth, fifth and sixth class and I solved the one mystery of my time there...what the teachers used to talk about in the classroom at lunchtime. I'll take the answer to that to my grave!

Memories

By Fr. Mick Larkin

The older we get the more memories play a role in our lives. We remember the house or home where we started from. We have fond memories of the good times shared at the table and around the fire. The home and the parish in which we grew up formed us for life. The Primary School has memories that will never be erased. It would be difficult to think of Peterswell School without thinking of Paddy Murray. We were still in the old school when he married his beautiful bride. We had a bonfire right out in front of the school even though it was before 3pm or the end of the school day. I have read that the old school was built on the site of a Protestant church at one time. The new church in Peterswell was built in the 1830's on a site donated by Blake Foster. Robert Gregory is said to have donated £30 towards the cost of erecting the new Catholic Church. Most of

us growing up never gave a thought to the fact that the church in which we worshipped was over a hundred years old.

So the new school is sixty years old. Many of you like myself will scratch your heads and wonder where the time has gone. The location of the new school was probably chosen because of the availability of the property. Tom Connaire was the previous owner and being the kind man that we remember him as it was probably bought for the right price. It was very kind of Tom, even though unintentional, I'm sure, to sow turnips in the remaining half of the field. In season, the turnips served a dietary supplement to the two slices of brown bread, which was the daily ration or fare for the average student. Any student who showed up with meat between the slices was treated with great suspicion.

There was a lot of discussion at the time that the new school was built about the fact that it was an extra mile to walk for the students from the "side above" of the parish. It was a mile closer for the Ballinabucky, Loughinwadda, Skehana and Dromore folks. The mile –less of a walk was not the only advantage. We no longer were forced to eat the bitter tasting crab apples at the Barracks. Sheehan's apples tasted much better and again, in season, Larkin's and Kelly's plums were far sweeter for those who were lucky enough not to get caught.

From the perspective of a student who had come from the old school, the new one was state of the art. Paddy Murray was still the teacher, was later joined by his wife. Even at that young tender age it was hoped and probably prayed that she would have a calming influence on her husband.

Now that sixty years has gone by and we are told by the psychological profession that the mind has a tendency to reject the unpleasant, we have nothing but good memories from an era which will probably seem like ancient history to the younger generation.

There is no place like people. I remember each and every student with whom I went to school. I know that life and the passing years can change us but the values that we were taught we will carry to the grave. We received a good foundation in our education. We were taught a love and respect for our Catholic faith that has endured the test of time.

Peterswell and it's sixty year old school may only be a dot on the map between Gort and Loughrea but to those of us who grew up there it is the most important place on the face of the earth.

May God continue to bless everyone who reads this article and those in the parish who do not get a chance to read it.

Fr. Mick Larkin. Former Student

Peterswell
by Peter Fahy

The school that I went to is where the Joe Cooley Hall now stands. It was on the site of a church. That was the time before the present church was built in the 1830's.

Peterswell was called St. Peters Well and it had the status of being only a village near Coilmore in the parish of Kiltomas. It was noted for a miracle, which came about in the 19th century. A landlord whose name I do not know had a good spring well in his field down a bit behind the school. During the summer time the wells dried up and the people depended on the landlord's well, but he allowed cattle to drink from it. The local people were in a bad way for good water and they told the parish priest, whom I think was Fr. O'Connor, to talk to the landlord. Three times he asked him to fence around the well and he got no heed. One day the landlord's well dried up and a spring well appeared where it is now. When I was young, an old man told me he remembered people praying at the well shortly afterwards. The parish was thereafter known as Peterswell.

Mr. John Donnellan did a survey of Ireland in 1837 and he mentioned St. Peters Well in the parish of Kiltomas. He also mentioned Caislean na Callaigh Dubh in Dunally where O'Fahy had a castle in the 17th Century.

When I left school in 1945 there were six of us in the class. Miss Patsy Collins went to America. She was a first cousin of Kieran Collins, the famous musician, RIP. Kathy Burke worked in Dublin. Liam Power who was a Parish Priest. Tom Healy, RIP, who was a farmer in Rahealy. Josie Larkin became a bus inspector in England, and myself, Peter Fahy had many jobs and after my retirement wrote poetry, songs, recitations and history.

Now some of the boys and girls who have come after me in age and whom I remember are Fr. Michael Larkin, a priest in Florida. His brother, Fr. Frank, P.P. in Kinvara. Paddy Joe Larkin, RIP, farmer. Paul Healy, Rahealy. Noel Burke, worked in England. Eddie Kennedy, Limepark, Frank Helly, Sean Bradley, Mary Bradley and Michael Power, Lisadoyle, brother of Liam, Paddy, Josie and Johnny RIP Power. Emily Farrell who married in Castledaly. May Mulcair, RIP, Brigid Burke, Paddy Burke. Michael Coleman, his brother Paddy and sister Marion, some of the Kelly family, Ballynabrackey. Some of the Deely family, Gorteenaniska. Some of the Callagy family. John James Healy RIP, Ballynabuckey and Michael O'Donnell, RIP.

In the 17th Century there was a church in the site of the present cemetery. That was the time the Fahys had a castle in Dunally and their territory extended to Cregorostra, now known as Roxborough. The Fahy's domain was from Cloone to Cregorostra and up to the Derrybrien river. One Sunday Fed of the Hill came from the Castle of Dunally to mass in the church of Kiltomas. They even carried swords to Mass. When they came out from Mass they were surrounded by a mob from Clanrickard led by a man called DeBurgo. He demanded money from Fahy as he said he was taking over the land. He had the name of being a great sword fighter and a lot of Fahys' friends came running when they saw what was going on. Fahy said the land was his and he was not going to give money or anything. So Deburgo challenged him to a duel, as he said it would stop an all out fight. He didn't know that the Fahys had spent sometime in France, where

they learned sword-fighting skills. Fed of the Hill killed Deburgo and kept his land. They are supposed to be the last clan in Ireland to surrender to British Rule. Cromwell gave Cappard to the Galbraiths and Roxboro to Persse. The Galbraith family was from Scotland and the last one of them treated his tenants badly.

Some of the Peterswell people are said to have fought with Brian Boru in Clontarf in the 7th Century. Before that time, King Guaire who lived in Gort Castle and also Dun Guaire in Kinvara was King of Connacht and gave his name to Knockoura (King Guaire's hill - Cnoc Guaire). This is the point at which he began his deer hunt. The Deer are still found in the wooded Aughty Mountains.

Peterswell Parish extends from Coxtown to Derrywee. A story is told about St. Patrick who travelled by horseback from Lissadoyle in Peterswell to Derrybrien. In Derrybrien the horse got sick so he asked a woman for a bucket of warm water with a small handful of flour to give to the horse. She said she had no flour but she would scrape the losset to get a little. A losset is a wooden affair for making cakes. He gave his Blessing to the people of Peterswell and Derrybrien.

Gleanings

Proinsias Ó Lorcáin, Chinn Mhara

"While words of learned and thundering sound
Amazed the gazing rustics ranged around:
And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew,
That one small head could carry all he knew"

These lines from Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" depict the village schoolmaster, a person who influenced so many people, who had as many opinions about him as there were of children who sat before him in the classroom during his teaching career spanning 40 years.

There were many schoolmasters in Ireland in the past. The gender balance has now definitely tipped in favour of the female. The relationship between teacher and pupil has changed too and it is unlikely that Goldsmith would write the following lines today. But they were so apt in their time:

"Well had the boding trembles learned to trace-
The days disasters in his morning face"

A trail through the memory box tells me what life was like in Peterswell National School – the new school – from the late 40's to the early 50's. We were told so often that they were to be the best days of our lives. We never wanted to believe that and we would be foolish if we did. The Second World War was ending but we knew nothing about it then and cared less. Ireland was a relatively poor country at that time, without social welfare.

People in our locality worked hard to survive. They provided as much food and fuel as was humanly as possible, they survived well and nobody went hungry.

After the war, food supplies were scarce and to ensure a fair distribution households were furnished with Ration Books to enable them to get a definite supply of tea, sugar and clothing. It was not unknown for people to dry out the tealeaves and use them a second time or maybe more. Grated carrots were sometimes dried out to provide the ingredients for making "carrot tea", if you know what I mean.

People had the social outlet too, such as card playing in the houses – the game of "25" – pitch and toss, usually at the crossroads or junctions. Hurling was the game that was most prominent. The travelling film show seemed to come annually to the little field across from Sherry's Bar. This was often accompanied by a singing competition, an olden version of "Search for a Star" but never destined for Europe. The films were serialised with a view to getting you back the next night. I remember being present when someone held his cap in front of the aperture from the projector just at an exciting moment. Imagine the reaction!

The body seemed to be able to endure more then, in terms of work and walking long distances. It was the cheapest mode of transport but you were scarcely alone at it and it had its compensations. We walked to school initially – up across, but coming home it was always around the road – making the party last.

In the final years we graduated to the luxury of bicycles but they never got us there anything earlier, but on the return journey they were the means to many a detour. It was great to have a carrier for books, the lunch and a bottle of milk if you had one. In winter the open fire was fronted by milk bottles of varied shapes and sizes. Sometimes the cork was of newspaper but overheating often resulted in milk spillage and a dry lunch that day.

The new school was lovely, clean and bright. The classroom had the colours of the National Flag. We learned so much there. Visual Aids were at a premium – a map of Ireland and of the World. Knowledge of Irish was vital because all subjects except religion seemed to be taught through the medium of Irish. Present day Junior Cert standards were achieved in Irish and I remember having a joust with Algebra too.

A few years ago I visited a Primary School in India. Imagine the size of our classroom with at least 60 kids inside it with no chairs or tables. They sat cross-legged in rows looking at a worn down blackboard but the room was full of happy smiling faces. They sang songs for us, as we did for them. Children, will always be children the world over and Thank God for that.

I often recall proverbs, old sayings, statements, and questions of my late teacher Paddy Murray RIP –

Which would you prefer? To be nearly drowned or nearly saved!
Don't do what I do, do what I tell you.

Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise-
Said on the receipt of a really poor answer, and that was often.

Briseann an dúchas tré shúile an chait.
Má lubhann an chuach ar chrann gan duilliúr
Díol do bhó agus ceannaigh arbhar

If the cuckoo comes too early it will be a poor harvest.

All we needed was a good summer and that meant being able to go barefooted to school.
The roughness of the roads didn't seem to bother us but occasionally the "big toe" got
bobbed off something much harder than itself.

School has left us all with memories, memories of people, of events and especially of the
innocence of youth, which brings to my mind a statement I leave with you to ponder.

"Youth is often lost on Youth"
The Best Of Times
Bernard Mulkerrins

One fine morning back in 1982, my mother got me out of the bed early and took me to
the play school in Gort. My education was about to begin. Try as she might though,
there was no making me stay. So off we went – me mighty pleased with my victory –
back to the car, and home again. Or so I thought! of course Mammy had another trick up
her sleeve. We stopped at the big school in Peterswell and I was deposited with a lady
teacher called Mrs. Gleeson – no protestations accepted this time! At least my big
brother Enda was there – could have been worse. A kid called Stephen Quinn started that
day too – buddies ever since.

I was to spend the next nine years in the school. Every morning, we'd be the first to
arrive – around five to nine – dropped off by my mother on her way to work. Next in
would be the Keely's. Niall and I would chat away until the rest of the lads arrived.
We'd kick a ball around or have a few pucks of the sliotar. If we had neither, we'd just
walk around the school talking rubbish. We must have done a million laps of that school.
Other boys would start arriving and join us. By the time 9.30 came, there might have
been 15 of us in a procession.

The master would arrive at 9.30 on the button. Quick clap of the hands and we'd all pile
inside to start the day. We were lucky to have great teachers – though we didn't
appreciate it then! Many a happy hour we spent with our colouring books or the Márla
(everyone's favourite) in Mrs Gleeson's room. Funny the things you remember. Mrs
Healy would get us to put up our hands with the answers to questions. All the boy's
would have their hands up, chancing their arms. Sure if she picked you, "An bhfuil cead
agam dul amach" would get you out of it!

I remember the singing mostly from the Master's (Mr McGarry's) room. He would pull out the aul recorder and start to play. The words would be on the board, so no excuses. We'd all have to belt it out, crows like myself included. "The Rising of the Moon", "Will you go lassie go", "The wild Colonial Boy" – We learned them all. And I bet they're still stuck in everyone's heads – as they are in mine.

But it wasn't all singing. We learned a lot too. There wasn't many in the schools of Gort or Loughrea who knew their Tuiseal Gindeach or their Módh Coinníollach better than the Peterswell gang.

We would have a break at 11:00 and lunch at 12.30. The games were great. We played Red rover, statues, cowboys and Indians (no one wanted to be the Indians!), hide and seek and lots more. The girls would play hopscotch while the boys played soccer in the yard. Those pillars in the shed made great goalposts! Two captains would pick the teams. Hope they don't pick me last!

I started serving Mass in 1st class. All the boys (no girls then) would be split into groups of two or three, each having their own week. I started with Enda and Declan Deely. It was great hanging out with the "big lads". We loved serving – unfortunately not only for religious reasons. The hour off school in the morning was great too. And then there were the weddings and funerals. If one fell on your week, you were in the money! Two or three pounds on a good day – a fiver if you were really lucky.

I started off slow on the "easy side" of the altar, eventually graduating to the "hard side". As you went up through the ranks you'd do the water and wine, then the bell, then the paten. The big targets were carrying the cross and the tuirabel, or the gong at funerals.

I remember the special days at school, the days when the snow came, and everyone tried to get in early to have the ammo ready for the others. Or the sports days, when you'd boil an egg and bring it in for the egg and spoon race. And your father would give you a sack for the sack race. We'd get out the aul iron hurdles as well. Then there was the Christmas party every year. Everyone brought in their toys. If you had something cool, you were Mr. Popular for the day.

On Friday afternoons, it was time to clean up. Everyone got a job – Clean the blackboards, stack the desks and chairs, sweep the floor. The "big lads" got the best jobs – the fire and the bins. When I joined their ranks, I even got a go with the bins. The fire was an important job and we were warned to be careful – especially after Michael Howley set the whole hedge on fire.

When school was over, Daddy would pick us up (if he didn't forget!). He would arrive in whatever mode of transport he was using at the time. The tractor with the transport box, or the aul land rover maybe. We'd all pile in. The girls would feign embarrassment – but they loved it really. Grandma would be waiting for us at home. She would have the dinner ready – pancakes, real chips from spuds, whatever. She had us spoiled!

As you got older, you got on the school hurling and football teams. We had big footsteps in which to follow. Sure hadn't Peterswell won more county titles than most? My favourite football memory was the day we beat Kiltiernan down on the pitch. We thought we were world-beaters, at least until we got hammered the next day by some crowd called Gortanumere.

But hurling was number one in Peterswell. Our hero Anthony Cunningham was winning All-Irelands like they were going out of fashion at the time. And hadn't he gone to our school, if he could then maybe we could too? Our best day, in my time, came the day we beat the much feared Ballinderreen after a great battle. It was one over on the Kilchreest boys whom we had lost to a couple of weeks before!

We started training in the evenings after that match. Donnie Lynskey was our trainer. And was he passionate! National school team or not, we were to take it seriously. He had the psychological training going with us before Alex Ferguson did in the premiership! It was the best of craic. Unfortunately we didn't get much further that year, but we had set the scene for a heroic victory in the county final the following year.

It's hard to believe the days have passed by so fast since. My two serving mates are now engaged. Anne Coleman and Louisa Howley (our secret weapon on the hurling team) as well! Classmates are spread throughout the world. But you know, thanks to the times we had at Peterswell School, we'll remain friends for life. They were indeed the best of times.

Mr. Paddy Murray's Homecoming!!!
By Michael Coleman

The Principal teacher in Peterswell school in the early forties was Mr. Paddy Murray. During that period he got married and took time off for the wedding and the honeymoon. The teacher in charge while he was away was Mr. Martin Dolan and he organised a welcome home party. It was organised to take place at school closing time at around 3 o'clock. The bigger boys went and collected a massive heap of furz and sticks in the middle of Peterswell village. You must remember there was very few cars on the road then so one of the bigger lads at school was sent to the turn below the Post Office to give the signal when the newly weds were coming. He was only there a few minutes when he saw a car coming and he shouted 'He is coming sir' which gave the OK to light the fire. The furz in full blaze and Thomas Galbraith one of the lucky car owners from the parish, passed in his car wondering what the fire was about. A state of false alarm. Then there was a big rush back to the furz field for more material and the first fire was put out. The next car that came around that turn was the master and his new bride and the big blaze was at its peak. All teachers and pupils cheered and clapped as the car passed – no false alarm this time!!!

My School Days

By James Fahy. 1969 to 1977

I started school at the early age of five years .I remember for the first year we had to walk to school. From Knockoura that was almost 3 miles each way. Funnily enough, we were quicker getting home! In the summer time, (the summers always seemed to be longer and hotter than they seem now) we walked bare footed. It was nice to feel the hot,sticky tar on your toes!. However, I remember very much liking school. It seems an unusual thing to say now but back then, there were few other places to learn about the big bad world. Books were a luxury . Travelling somewhere, to buy them was out of the question. Not too many had access to a car and I certainly hadn't. I remember my first trip to the town of Gort; I was all of nine years old! Television didn't arrive in the parish for some time either. I remember the first few sets, they were in the homes of the Parish Priest and Paddy Walsh of Farnane (A place where I spent most of my youth)

I remember my first day at school. Mrs. Gleeson, as I always refer to her, was my teacher. She made me feel welcome by giving me some boiled sweets. Back in 1969, that was a real treat. I recall sitting beside Patricia Connors as she then was, and I think we fought over turns at some picture book or other. I remember it had lots of colour pictures of animals. I didn't have much grasp at that stage of what was expected of one in school so in somebody's wisdom it was thought better for me that I stay back a year in high infants. This meant that all the lads that joined with me, went on a year ahead of me. Once you were a few years left school however and out in the big bad world, it didn't really matter what class you had been in. I am happy to say that I have travelled a good bit in this world but no matter where I have wandered my best friends are those I spent my Primary school years with.

I remember when I progressed into Mrs Healy's class. (She was the only woman I knew then or since who could cough, blow her nose, unwrap a Fox's Glacier mint, and pop it into her mouth, all at the same time, and with only a white hanky as a prop!) My only transgression in Mrs. Healy's class was to be caught reading from a comic down at the back of the class supplied by J.J.Counihan."Bonanza ", if I remember correctly and it was worth every slap!

We were now considered, "big boys" and the Master's class always tried to get us fighting, for their own entertainment. For that reason you could find yourself fighting your best friend, and being determined not to let the side down, doing a good job of giving a good trashing to which ever one it was, on that occasion. That was the point really; whatever side you were on was the most important element of the scuffle. Invariably, it was the side above versus the side below!

There were occasions when the factions joined forces. However it never seemed to benefit me. My fighting days began unknown to me at a very early age. I recall "the big Lads" putting me fighting with all of my best friends, at some stage or other.

Other times the scuffles were just for our own entertainment. One such time stands out in my mind amongst the rest with clarity. Short trousers were the order of the day, more often than not.

Hurling, as ever, was the sport, and sliothars were in short supply. Sponge, multi-coloured marble like designed liathróidí were the best alternative.

When a new one appeared the owner had to keep a sharp eye on it or it could get lost in someone's pocket before the day was out! Vincent Collins, (now an eminent Member of An Garda Síochána in Co. Carlow) was my ally. Dennis Farrell and Francis Larkin RIP were like peas in a pod, inseparable and equally cunning. Vincent produced the ball that morning but it had disappeared by lunchtime and suspicions fell on the pair. I was reigned in to lead the search party. The ball was not to be found after a thorough search of the suspects. So to ensure no area of concealment was overlooked, we rolled the pair barelegged through a nettle patch!

I don't recall the exact words of Master McGarry but rest assured they didn't encourage an encore; in fact it was one of those situations where one could say that actions spoke more loudly than words!

One of my favourite classes in the Master's room was the comhrá in the mornings as gaeilge ar an clar dubh. We had to make up a story using the stick on pictures supplied with each lesson. We got to use our imagination for the story and it was the best excitement of the day. It was no wonder that by the time we got to Secondary school, St Thomas' pupils had a reputation as having a higher standard of Irish than any other National school in the South Galway area.

By the time we were in 5th and 6th class we were up to writing essays in English. I will never forget being singled out on one occasion for, no, something good this time, yes, for my essay. I couldn't believe it when he read it out to the entire class. I'd say it was the start of my interest in writing as a pastime.

Another event that stands out in my memory was the time the Master would bring a few lads from 6th class to his orchard and bring back to the school, boxes and boxes of delicious apples. I remember him dividing them amongst us. It was such a treat and of course they always tasted better than any other apple, because like anything else it is the way it is presented that adds to the impression.

I remember one evening, the Master had to leave early and we were given class work to do until the end of the school day. Some of the senior class girls were given the job to supervise. I do remember who it was but won't embarrass her by naming her here! My self and Vincent Collins got up to a bit of horseplay, knocking each other off the seat, much to her annoyance. We went home thinking nothing of it.

The next day there was a heavy fall of snow on the ground and Vincent Hart's' bus was unable to travel. I didn't want to stay at home that day, and didn't want to miss school so I braved the elements and walked all the way on my own to school, getting there some time after 10am. The Master praised my efforts and I was well pleased with myself!

My self-congratulation didn't last long however. After lunch, when he received the report from the previous evening, Master found a different way to warm my hands!

One of my fondest memories must be of the endless summer holidays, the long sunshiny days in school when we were brought outside, books and all to get the best out of the fine days. This was a pioneering move for a teacher and it was something I brought with me to every stage of my education from then on.

I can honestly recall bringing my books for the leaving cert to the riverside in Gort, mixing a dip between lessons. I can also recall, getting up early in the mornings (5 and 6 am) when stationed in Ardahan, going off to my caravan in Cregclare to get a couple of hours of study covered before my shift would start at 8am then the kids would be getting up for school and the tranquillity would be no more.

So, the best education, I conclude is the first, and everything you learn in life will be determined by the primary education one gets, if not determined, certainly influenced, in one way or another, ... this is not just from my personal experience, but is evident from the example of those very successful parishioners who only had the benefit of a primary education and not much of that. But, then there is an argument to be made for the quality of the teaching also. For my money I was lucky to have what I would have considered, the crème de la crème of educations at primary Level. I think I speak for many if not all, of the past pupils when I say we in Peterswell were lucky to have had a very high standard of education during our time there and I personally thank you one and all, Mernie, Mary and Tom, for making my school days, truly, the happiest days of my life.

James T Fahy BL

REFLECTIONS

Eamonn Burke

The period I spent in Peterswell National School co-incided very much with "The Rural Electrification Scheme" in Ireland. The ESB sent personnel around to each household explaining what would be involved and where ever a few neighbouring houses agreed to the proposals, before long poles and wires were in place. Up to this time, the sources of light were the candle, lantern, tilly-lamp and for outside use there was the hurricane lamp. I am speaking of the late forties and into the fifties. All the modern household appliances and gadgets which we take for granted today, were non-existent in rural Ireland of the late forties.

During my period at school, there was a schedule of work laid out for when we got home. During the winter months, this consisted mainly of putting in a fresh bale of straw for the stock that were housed, and giving them a supply of hay, turnips, mangels, ground barley or oats as the case may be. The cows, calves and horses were kept indoors in those times. As the winter months gave way to spring and summer, our work pattern changed also.

Now, all the family were out in the fields. There were times when there seemed to be no end to the amount of thinning and weeding that had to be done. It wasn't all drudgery, and nature was answering itself elsewhere on the farm – lambs were being born, cows were giving birth to calves and there was also the odd foal. While all this work was going on, people still found time to cut and save turf. We had a bank of turf in Gortardigan. Back on the farm sheep had to be shorn, branded and dipped and the maggot fly kept us busy during the summer months. As the root crops and corn grew "Braisteac" had to be pulled from the fields of wheat and barley.

As the year progressed into June/July the hay season came into full swing. It was cut either by scythe or with a pair of horses and mowing machine. Later on it was turned, rowed, trammed and brought into the fields hayshed or sheep cocks were made out in the fields or in the haggard. If the weather got bad at this time of the year, there was a lot of work involved in saving the hay. We used to take in all the tram-cocks, as the fields were about the house. This was done with a pair of horses and a wire rope. As the hay saving finished, barley, oats and wheat were beginning to ripen. Soon the scythe and mowing machine bar were in action, especially in the earlier years. After being cut the shaves were bound and stocked. Later on the reaper came on the scene and finally the combine harvester. The stocks were left in the fields for a few weeks and then gathered into the haggard where the stacks were made. Finally the day of the thrashing arrived and this was the big day of the year. We were usually kept home from school on this day. While the thrasher was being set up, "A meitheal" would have arrived and soon the whole operation got under way with everyone having a specific job to do. This included someone on a stack on either side of the mill pitching sheaves, a couple on top cutting them, another feeding the grain, two or three at the bags, a couple pitching straw and a couple were making a reek. There was always a couple of us clearing away the chaff and watching out for the odd rat. Dinner and tea would be provided in the course of the day and mugs of porter passed around at various intervals.

Finally in the autumn months of the year, the root crops had to be harvested. The spuds were dug, gathered and pitted, turnips were pulled and snagged and pitted and likewise mangels and fodder beet. The beet had to be crowned, brought to the side of the road from where it was taken to the Tuam factory in a beet lorry.

The farm year would not be completed without reference to cattle and sheep fairs in Gort. They were occasions, all of their own. As you can see the era that I speak of is before the advance of the tractor, - up until then it was all horse-power and man-power. Earlier on I made mention of rural electrification. It has brought many advantages since then, both inside and outside the home but one electric device that influenced us more than anything else, was the radio and through it the voice of Michael O'Hehir. Names still spring to mind of that period through his commentary. There was Ring, Willie John Daly, Mat Fahy and Tony O'Shaughnessy of Cork, Stakelum, Bannon and Jimmy Finn of Tipperary. Paddy Prendergast, Monzey and Mick Mulderrig of Mayo, Paddy O'Brien and Peter McDermott of Meath. Josie Gallagher, Sean Duggan, John Rolly, Mickey Burke, Joe Sammon, Billy Duffy, John Killeen of Galway and lastly Jimmy Langton and Billy Welton of Kilkenny. I often heard older people in the parish relate about a Sunday

in 1947 in Birr where Galway played Kilkenny in an All Ireland semi-final and Jimmy Langton scored the winning point at the stroke of fulltime. Quite a few cycled to Birr that day from Peterswell and I'm glad to say that one of those is still alive and well in our midst. I have mentioned hurling and football so far but our sporting interests were not confined to those sports alone. Again through the medium of radio, we heard how Roger Bannister was the first in the world to break the four minute mile at the White City. Lasey Viren of Sweden was the top middle distance runner in the world, and in the ring there were great world title fights that involved such names as Joe Louis, Barney Joe Walcott, and Rocky Marciano. As we go into the mid fifties the great Galway football team of 1956 emerged, in which Purcell and Stockwell starred. It was also the time that a powerful Wexford hurling team came through which included the likes of Rock, Morrisseys, Tim Flood, Nick O'Donnell and many more. 1956 was also the year that Ron Delaney won gold for Ireland at the Melbourne Olympics.

We worked hard on the farm but still made time for sport and leisure. Hurling was our game since we were young, although competition was very scarce in comparison to nowadays. We didn't have a hurling pitch as such and so we found ourselves practicing in the turlough and in fields belonging to Pat Lahiffe, Mrs Glennon, Lar Connaire and Paddy Burke. At various times the chief venue for matches in South Galway at that time was Ardahan. I remember great tussles between Peterswell and Clarenbridge and also battles between Kinvara and ourselves. Travelling to matches in those days was done on bikes and you could always tell the location of a group of lads going to a game by noting the fog of dust that rose into the sky. Roads were not tarred in those days. Apart from going to matches we also went to other sporting/cultured events. I remember well the "Feis" in Kilbecanty, held in at Russane. I can still picture the musicians and step dancers on stage with a 7 aside hurling tournament going on in the background.

Shanaglish sports were also a venue we used to go to in our youth. The six mile Junior Cycle Championship of Ireland used to be held then. Names of Athletes and cyclists that come to mind from that period are – the Egan brothers of Shanaglish, Willie Morris of Derrydonnel and the Mannions of Lought, to mention but a few. There was also another tournament I remember being at in those years Gort and Ardahan used clash at Ballinamonten sometime in June.

There are other events of that time which I will just refer to briefly –

The bonfire of "Cris" on St. John's Night, with music and dancing.

The "mummers" dance at Cunniffes and the way we used to all look forward to it.

The decoration of the "May Bush" with primroses, cowslips, daisies and ribbons. We used to have it in a barrel at the back of the house.

The Killing of a sheep for St Martins Feast Day. (I haven't referred at all to the role the pig played in households at those times).

The Christmas in late 1940's when my father and Kathy brought a gramophone and records home from Galway. It was the time of Delia Murphy, John McCormack, the Aughrim Slopes, followed a short time later by the likes of the Ballinakill, Richie Fitzgerald, the Tulla and Kilfenora etc.

The significance of a deck of cards in a house for the long winter nights and all the different games we had.

The summer evenings we used to go setting snares for rabbits and looking out for ash trees, for the making of hurls.

In the frosty weather we used to set traps for blackbirds.

The gathering of hazel nuts in Autumn for Halloween and also the bringing in of "Tráithín" full of fresh mushrooms from the field.

"Turloughnacloghdoo Commons"

By the 5th and 6th class of 2003-2004

Gordon D'Arcy Artist and Naturalist spent a day in St. Thomas' N.S. in March 2004 during which he ignited an inquisitive spark in the students. He took us, the Senior Classes on an environmental walk to the local turlough and whetted our appetites to know more.

This local turlough is called Turloch na Clocha Dubha, which means the 'turlough of the black stones'. Turloughs have a very distinctive appearance in summer due to the presence of the black moss *Cinclidotus* on rocks and other hard surfaces. This moss is aquatic, associated with periodic flooding and does not occur above the level of the flood zone.

Turloughs are unique to Ireland and are an important part of our heritage. They are among the most distinctive of Ireland's semi-natural landscapes. They are of interest because of their formation, means of flooding and their flora and fauna. Turloughs occur in limestone areas. Rain flows through the cracks and normally rises at springs. However with heavy rainfall the underground water level (or water table) rises, the underground flow routes to the springs cannot cope with the volume and the water appears back up at the surface through a hole in the form of a turlough.

Location

Turloughs are mostly found on the central lowlands west of the Shannon in Galway, Clare, Mayo and Roscommon, although a few are also found elsewhere e.g. Limerick, Sligo and Longford. Our turlough is to be found in the area of Blackrock, which is North West of Peterswell village.

Flooding

Most turloughs are lakes only in wet weather but some hold water permanently in their deepest parts. Flooding periods may be for days, weeks or months. This was clearly visible in 1995, resulting in the road being impassable during the winter months. The result of this was that students from the flooded areas had to be transported to school in army lorries. The rate of flooding can be very rapid, according to rainfall. Drainage rate varies from a few centimetres per day to 100 metres per hour. It depends on the surrounding soil structure. Flooding occurs to a depth of two metres but some, like Turloughnacloghdoo, are much deeper in winter.

Turlough Flora and Fauna

Vegetation

Turlough vegetation can be divided into different zones, according to the varying water level. In addition to flooding and heavy grazing, plants also have to survive drought during dry periods when the shallow soil may dry out completely.

Trees grow as a type of scrub near the upper edge. Below the tree zone there are sedges.

The shrubby Cinquefoil with its attractive yellow flowers often shows the high water mark. Just below, dog violets are abundant and in our turlough there is a dense covering of the rare sky-blue turlough violet further down. Other characteristic plants of turlough sides include orchids and speedwell. About half way down the sides and across the bottom of shallow turloughs, silverweed may blanket almost all other plants.

If the turlough has a marshy zone near the shallow hole, aquatic plants may occur, but most swallow holes when dry comprise a jumble of rocks, covered in the blackish mosses.

Turlough vegetation

(zoned in descending order)

- Ash, Whitethorn, Blackthorn, Buckthorn, Purging Buckthorn, Creeping Willow, Stone Bramble
- Carnation Sedge, Autumnal Hawkbit
- Shrubby Cinquefoil, Meadow Rue
- Common Dog Violet
- Dewberry + (Orchids)
- Birdsfoot Trefoil + (Speedwell)
- Ribwort Plantain
- Creeping Cinquefoil
- Turlough Violet (rare)
- Silverweed

Turlough when wet

- Mint, Water-cress, Aquatic Buttercups, Knotgrass, Floating Sweet Grass, Floating Fox Tail, Shoreweed
- Amphibious Bistort

Gordon also noted ridges in the turlough field, which he said may date back to Famine times when in desperation farmers sought new ground in which to sow their potato crop.

Fauna

Turloughs, which dry out entirely each year, have a less varied fauna than those in which ponds or small lakes persist during dry periods. Where the swallow hole water source is augmented by spillover from rivers or streams a third type of fauna occurs.

The alternation between dryness and flooding creates major problems for animals since, except for short periods, conditions suit neither aquatic nor dry land species. The speed at

which turloughs can flood without prior warning gives little chance to escape the rising water. Neither aquatic nor dry land animals can complete their life cycle in turloughs unless these take only a few months.

Fairy Shrimp

The fairy shrimp *Tanymastix* only occurs in turloughs. It can be found at our turlough in Peterswell. When full grown at nearly 2.5 centimetres in length, it is one of the largest aquatic turlough animals. It survives the dry periods as drought-resistant eggs, which remain in the soil. As soon as the ground floods the tiny fairy shrimps hatch and swim up into the water, where they grow within two months to their full size. They then produce large numbers of eggs, which sink to the bottom of the turlough and will not hatch until they have gone through a period of desiccation. The shrimps themselves die when the turlough waters recede.

Other Aquatic Fauna

Water fleas and other small creatures depend on livestock dung pats and plant remains. Winged adult water bugs and water beetles fly to the turloughs feeding on microscopic plant life and small crustacea.

Frogs and newts may spawn in turloughs, sticklebacks and waterlice may survive in larger turloughs, retreating into underground cracks in the rock when waters are low. Flatworms and snails are also often abundant, passing the dry periods in spring mouths or marshy areas.

Dry Land Animals

These are nearly all small, active carnivores. While the turlough is flooded in winter, they hibernate above the water level nearby and then as the waters recede, become active along the water's edge, feeding on dead and dying aquatic creatures stranded there. Most of these predators are ground beetles but also include wolf spiders and centipedes. The ground beetles include two of Ireland's rarest species *Agonum Livens* and *Badister Meridionatis*.

In summertime there is grass for grazing livestock. This land is commonage – locals have the rights to graze sheep, cattle and horses. The traditional grazing regime is necessary to preserve the characteristic sward. Without grazing, scrub and tress would dominate.

Fencing off stock and stopping grazing is detrimental.

Fieldfares and Red Wings feed on berries on the edge of the Turlough. The Blackthorn bushes in the area also support the brown-haired streak butterfly.

Waterfowl

The turlough is an important wintering grounds for waterfowl such as the golden plover, the wigeon and the teal.

Many birds from Eastern Europe, Iceland and Scandinavia come to our turlough to spend the winter there. There are two kinds of birds in our turlough, Wading Birds – golden plover, lapwing, snipe and Water Birds – Duck, wigeon, teal and mallard.

Wild swans come from Iceland. These are called Whooper Swans. Whitefronted Geese also arrive from Greenland

Traditional Music In Peterswell Parish Early 1920-2004 By Mary Kearns Coen

Many families have played traditional music since the end of the 19th Century in the parish of Peterswell. The most notable of these were Mike and Tommy Collins of Knockoura. They played tin whistles and their sister Bridget (Biddy) sang. John, Chris and Kathleen Collins of Cappard learned their music from Jack Mulcair. Nora Cooley, Licknabegga, played concertina and her family, Jack, Joe, Mick, Agnes and Seamus, would have learned from her. Kate Fahey, Knockoura, played melodeon and Jimmy Fahy and Pat Kennedy, Calfhill, played the accordion. Ellen Mulkerrins, Ballinabucky (aunt to Bridget Sherry) played melodeon. Her children, Eddie played mouth organ and Fr Tom and Gretta played fiddles taught to them by Jack Mulcair. When Fr. Tom was a prisoner in Korea he whistled the tunes to keep sane. Today his nephew Tom Mulkern carries on that family tradition.

Jack Mulcair of Kiltartan and Crusheen Co. Clare taught music to children and adults in schools, halls and private houses. He cycled over south and east Galway and north Clare imparting his knowledge to his pupils. In Peterswell village school some of his students included Josie Cooney, John Moloney, Ciaran Moylan, John Willie and Kathleen Fitzgerald, Josie Diviney, Bridget and Sr. Mary Farrell, John, Kathleen and Chris Collins, Molly Farrell and Eileen Cooney. See photograph on the next page of 28 people taken in the mid-1920s at Peterswell N.S. all with fiddles. This teacher is J. O'Meara This reflects (i) the importance of passing on our culture to the next generation and (ii) even though money was scarce, the community thought it was worthwhile to invest it in musical instruments.

A Ceilí Band was formed in Peterswell in the late 40s. The regular members were: John Moloney, Josie Cooney, Johnny Keane, Jack, Joe and Seamus Cooley, Teresa Gardiner, Kathleen Collins (Skehana), Joe Leary and Kit O'Connor. The band played for the Hop-Dances in the hall and many musicians used to drop in and play a few tunes with them. Milo Mullins, Mongan Murray, Tess Sheehan (Ryan), Martin Niland, Joe Burke, Kieran Collins, Peter Gardiner are some of those. Kathleen Collins(Skehana), Babe Keane and Paddy Keeley (Raheely) danced the three-hand fling. Paddy also danced the brush-dance, sang, did recitations and was a very fine actor.

Joe Cooley worked and played with Joe Leary and Charlie, Johnny and Kevin Doyle and Joe Howley in Clare and in Dublin. Joe Cooley played with the Galway Rovers Ceilí Band in Dublin. Paddy Burke and Sonny Mullins from Gort played with the Cooley's for house parties all over south Galway and Clare. Joe and Seamus Cooley played with the Tulla Ceilí Band until they emigrated to London and the U.S.A.

Joe went to San Francisco where he taught music to many young people of whom Patricia Connelly was one. Joe and Seamus played with many fine musicians all over America until they finally settled in Chicago. When the Cooleys returned home on

holidays many musicians came to Sherry's and Lahiff's pubs to have a tune with them, notably Joe Burke, Barney McKenna (The Dubliners), Tony McMahon, Micko Russell and Dr. Bill Loughnane to name but a few.

Due to ill health, Joe Cooley and his wife Nancy (McMahon) returned home for good in 1972. For the next 18 months Joe played with Des Mulcair (son of Jack, Crusheen) all over south Galway and north Clare until his untimely death on 23rd December 1973, aged only 49 years. Ironically the last place Joe Cooley played music was in Peterswell Hall with his long-time friend Dr. Bill Loughnane. Thosaigh sé agus chríochnaigh sé ina áit dhúchais. Ciaráin MacMathuna recorded Joe and Seamus Cooley. Tony McMahon and Cathal O'Shannon made a brief film for R.T.E. on November 29th 1973 in Lahiff's Pub, Peterswell.

Kieran Collins learned his music from his mother Maggie, who played the concertina, and later from the Cooleys. Kieran also worked in London and was very prominent in the Irish music scene there. He returned to Dublin and was recorded for R.T.E. by Ciarán MacMathuna. He also died in his mid-40s, in November 1983.

Growing up in the 50's and 60's, there were a lot of house dances and American wakes in our parish, Jimmy and Eddie Fahy's, Pat and Mattie Kennedy's, Pake Keane's and at Agnes Carew's (Cooley) house in Hollymount. Agnes taught us to dance the South Galway Set, the Brush Dance, the Fling and The Waltz to music of the old 78 records, played on the wind-up gramophone.

Traditional music has a very emotional effect on some people, none more so than immigrants who on hearing the music of their homeland has the effect of compounding their homesickness, especially for some who knew they would never return home again.

On the October Bank Holiday weekend, for the past 20 years, The Cooley-Collins Traditional Music Festival is held in Peterswell-Gort. This Festival endeavours to keep the music alive for many years to come.

Brendan Mulhaire (Galway City) taught music in Peterswell in the 60's. Karina Cahill, Coole Gort, (daughter of Rosaleen Glynn, Ballylee) has been teaching music for a number of years in south Galway. At present, Eilish Mannion is the music teacher in Peterswell, continuing the tradition started by Jack Mulcair over 80 years ago. Long may this tradition of passing on our heritage continue for generations to come.

Drama in Peterswell
By Michael Coleman

The first dramatic society to be formed in Peterswell was in the mid forties. Fr Eaton was Curate in the parish at the time and spotting some talent around he got a group together and set drama in motion. You must remember there was no electric light then and it must have been difficult to rehearse in a cold, badly lit hall. The school was the venue and the first Sunday in Lent was always the first performance. There were not many motor cars around in those days, just about five in the whole parish. So everyone went to the play on a bicycle or else walked. The best known play from those years was Mrs. Mulligans Millions. Those taking part were Paddy Keely, Tomo Fallon, Mick Hassett, May Kate Kelly, May O'Donnell. After two or three years Fr. Eaton was changed to another parish and drama came to an end for that era.

In 1954 Fr. James Larkin got drama moving again. One of the actors for the forties, Paddy Keely was brought on board. Rehearsals were held in the old school where the Cooley Hall now stands. We practised two nights a week for 8 to 10 weeks. The first year, there were two one act plays performed; one in English and one in Irish. You might wonder why one in Irish but there was an Irish class in the hall for the winter period and the teacher suggested we do one in Irish. Then the following year the players moved up a gear to a 3-act play which meant extra learning and rehearsing. The hall was always packed on the first Sunday night in Lent for the local show. There were supporting acts such as dancing, singing and the local ceili band. The play was performed in Labane Hall on the second Sunday in Lent and was held in Clarenbridge and Ballinakill as well. Those acting over the four years were Tom Healy, Teresa Healy, Teesie Burke, Paddy Keely, Kathleen Collins Christy Larkin, Mernie Cunningham, John Cunningham, Michael Cunningham, Babe Keane, Paddy Joe Larkin, Frank Larkin, Benny Mulkerinas, Michael Coleman, Eamonn Skehill, Chris Kelly. Fr Larkin our producer was invited to the Drama Festival in New Inn with the play "The Winning Maid." That was 1957. The following is a copy of the programme:

PETERSWELL DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENT

THE WINNING MAID

A Play in 3 Acts by John F. Fintan

Characters:

Aloysius Brophy/Former Farmer now in Business through the efforts of an ambitious wife: Christy Larkin

Fredrick Brophy (Son) – Michael Cunningham
Kitty Brophy (Daughter) – Kathleen Collins
Matty Moriarty (Gardener) – Michael Coleman
Maggie McGee (Maid) – Mernie Cunningham
Lord Eaisfall (President local horse show) – Eamonn Skehill
Paddy Nally (friend of Kitty's) John Cunningham

Act 1: Sitting Room in Brophy's House

Act 2 & Act 3: Excellent Comedy of Rural Life

Adjudicator: Gerry Darcy:

The adjudicator at New Inn pointed out a lot of faults in our production, which meant we weren't as good as we thought. During Lent of 1957 the play "Seán Mór" was put on and that was the last production in Peterswell. Plays put on in the fifties included: The Bell of Boolougue, The Green Linnet, The Journeys of Joshua, The Winning Maid, Out of his Senses, Seán Mor and Roadside.

All those who took part in the entertainment, acting, singing and dancing got great enjoyment from same. Those who played music were Josie Cooney (accordian), Tom Healy (piano accordian), Johnny Keane (accordian), Kathleen Collins (accordian) John Maloney (fiddle) and Jack Cooley (bodhrán).

1957 ended drama in Peterswell but hopefully it will be revived sometime in the future.

PETERSWELL DAZZLED BY CONTINENTAL JOURNEY Extract from Connacht Tribune, supplied by Pauline Connaire

Peterswell has been electrified by the presentation of the colourful pantomime, "Continental Journey", at the Parochial Hall. The cast composed mainly of children from the schools, but also included adults, acquitted themselves with great success on the four nights of the production. Patronage was not confined to the parish and, in fact, people came from many parts of South Galway to see the fine show.

There were seven scenes in the whole "Journey". In the first scene, entitled "Shannon Airport", these were the characters: Flight Captain (Peter Fahy), First Officer (J.J.O'Leary), Navigator (Peter Caulfield), Air Hostess (May O'Shaughnessy), Ground Hostess (Mairead Moran), Lord Mayor (Sean Leahy), R.T.E. Reporter (Francis Lynskey), Camera (Noel Healy), Connacht Tribune Photographer (Kieran Connors) and Aircraft Mechanics (Pakie Caulfield and Liam Caulfield). The Travellers were Anthony Cunningham, Oliver Walshe, John Gardiner and Kitty Callanan. First stop was the delightful Paris Street Café. The characters here were: Leader of French (James Fahy),

French Boys (Matthew Cunningham, Raphael Counihan, Michael Finn, and Francis Walsh), Newspaper Boy (Oliver Fitzgerald), Jolie Jacqueline (Fiona Mulcair), French Girl (Mary T. Dooley), French Husband and Wife (Anthony Hansberry and Helena Connors), Gendarmes (Pakie Carew and Bridget Carew), French Waiter (Michael Fitzgerald) and French Waitress (Ann Kelly).

The Travellers then went to Lourdes. Here the characters were French Priest (Gerard Moloney), Bernadette (Geraldine Hennessy), Marie (Ann Healy), Celine (Christina Fitzgerald), Tionette (Marilyn Quinn), Angels (Roisin Farrell, Ann Finn, Shelly Carey and Vicky Carey) and the Blessed Virgin (Imelda Farrell).

Fancy took the travellers to the Fairy Forest. In this exotc scene the characters were: Guide (Catherine Connaire), Maypole Dancers (Eilis Healy, Siobhan O'Donnell, Pauline Connaire, Mary Fahy, Patricia Gardiner, Rita O'Leary, Mary T. Fahy and Patricia Connors). Fairy Quinn (Ethna Collins), Fairies (Grace Cunningham, Martina Healy, Martina Brady, Mary Fahy, Bernadette Fitzgerald, Dolores Larkin, Joanna Quinn, Catherine Fahy and Angela Hansberry).

Then came the lovely tale, "Little Red Riding Hood". The characters were Little Red Riding Hood (Olive Mulcair), Granny (Tom Carty), Wolf (Michael Coleman), Leprechaun (Brendan Mulcair), Friends of little Red Riding Hood (Gertrude Cooney, Josephine Connaire, Mary Brady, Nuala Healy, Eilis Healy, Caroline Lally and Sarah Fahy).

The transition to the scene of Bethlehem took less than flying time. Here the characters were: Innkeeper (Sean O'Donnell), Rebecca (Maria O'Donnell), David (Vincent Collins), Shieks (Pakie Caulfield, Patrick Fitzgerald, and Pat Farrell), Saint Joseph (John Walsh), Blessed Virgin Mary (Imelda Farrell), and Singer (Kevin Collins). Finally, the travellers returned to Shannon Airport.

No trouble was spared in making the pantomime the big success it turned out to be. Costumes were designed locally and some were got from Dublin. Mercy Convent, Gort, supplied lighting and special lighting effects were brought down from Dublin. Martha Bawn choreographed. Some of the scenery was designed by Ms. A. Coen, Gort, while the rest came from Loughrea. Martin Tuohy of Galway was responsible for music and the sound effects were sourced from Dublin.

GAVIN SCHOOL OF DANCING PETERSWELL

By Marie Gavin

My name is Marie Gavin and I live in Blackrock, Peterswell. I'm known locally as Marie Gavin, Irish Dancing Teacher. I was born in England and learned Irish dancing, at the young age of 3 years, with the Tyrell School, London and then Maguire O'Shea School, also of London.

In 1978, at 11 years of age, my family moved to Peterswell and took up residence in the village pub, which became known as Gavins. My dancing life continued with many

performances in the lounge of our pub for Gort Ceolthas night and with many famous traditional Ceilí bands. I danced as a member of the McCreanor School of Dancing with many of the local girls and boys, where I held the Senior Connaught Champion title. I also danced at all Ireland Level.

Over the following years, I married and continued to teach dancing in the local Joe Cooley Memorial Hall, Peterswell. During the early years, when I taught with Ms. Maeve McCreanor, pupils came from local families such as Coleman's, Lahiff's, Fitzgerald's, Keely's, O'Leary's, Mulkerins, Dooley's and Cunningham's. With Maeve's help I took my T.C.R.G. examination with An Comhdháil and became a qualified teacher in January 1991 and established the Gavin School of Dancing.

The Gavin School is based in Peterswell and today's families include Caulfield's, Dooley's, Devines, Lynskey's, Cooney's, Mahon's, Keely's, Carr, Gardner's and Farrell's. My other pupils come from Castedaly, Kilbeacanty, Gort, Loughcutra, Derrybrien and Ballyglass. They range from 3-years up to 18 year olds. I love watching their progress as they all work so hard to improve. The Gavin School strives to keep dancing a friendly hobby. I have dancers who come for the social aspect, those who come to have fun, and those who take it extremely seriously. There is room for all. The Gavin School of Dancing takes part in the Connaught Championships and All Ireland International Championships and over the years have held many titles. All my local pupils take part and I am proud of all of them as they work so hard and do so well. The first solo Connaught Championship in the Gavin School was Heather Cooney, Peterswell, when she danced U/9. Heather has held the title U/12, U/13 and U/14 to date.

In 2000 Hazel Doorhy won first U/11, Shauna Fahy first U/12, April Dooley second U/12, Stephanie Broderick first U/13, Heather Cooney first U/14, Louise Fahy third U/14 and Olive Geoghegan U/18.

Every year, both myself and my pupils, put a lot of hard work into our dancing, inventing new displays and often performing at weddings, St. Patrick's Day parades and other important events. I get great pleasure passing on all my steps, creating new ones, putting teams together for figure dancing and putting on dancing displays.

The school has travelled to England and Scotland for Feiseanna where we gained lots of experience and had a wonderful time. We have travelled to Tralee, for the past three years, to dance for the Galway Rose at the Rose of Tralee Festival. In 2003 students in U.C.G. asked us if they could follow our class and make a documentary and in June 2003 we appeared on screen with a wonderful 25 minutes of "Buckle my Shoe".

To date the highlight of my dancing career would have to be April 2003, when we became all Ireland and International Freestyle Champions with a wonderful creation called "Saved by the Spirit of Celtic Hope". The excitement was fantastic and the people of Peterswell turned out that night to welcome us all home with bonfires, champagne and oceans of good wishes.

Our new freestyle is called "Truth of the Wishing Well". All these creations take a lot of time, thought, hard work and lots of dedication from everyone involved. I appreciate the

help and support I receive from all my pupils and their parents and especially my own family who see very little of me during the busy times.

The Gavin School of Dancing would not be what it is today without the help and support of my late mother, Mrs. Margaret Gavin R.I.P. who bought me my first pair of dancing shoes!

I would like to dedicate this article to her memory and to the memories of three of my dancers who sadly passed away in the past three years, Laura Cooney R.I.P., Ciara O'Donnell R.I.P. and Laura Madden R.I.P.
Aireoidh muid uainn sibh.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

A First for Peterswell School A Place in the Hurling Record Books

Recently founded Coiste Iomana na Gaillimhe organised national school competitions and St. Thomas' National School Peterswell was entered for a seven-a-side competition for 1965-1966 season.

The Team:

Paddy Kearns	Eamonn O'Leary	Josie Lynskey
John Kelleher		Syl Keely (Captain)
Kieran Morgan		Tommy Farrell (RIP)

Subs: JJ Cooney, Gerard Keely & P.J Keely

First match – Peterswell played Kilbeacanty and Peterswell won easily. A feature of this game was Tommy Farrell's kicked goals. Other matches played were against Killina, Kilamoran, Kiltiernan, Kileeneen and Kilchreest.

Peterswell qualified for the semi-final, which they won defeating Kileeneen in Ardahan. In the final Peterswell defeated neighbours Kilchreest in a closely contested game played at Ardahan refereed by All-Ireland Referee Aubrey Higgins.

Players brought extra sandwiches on match days, which were eaten with tea made in the school before setting off in two A40 cars for match venues.

Tom Sands a member of the famous Galway three in a row football team presented the medals at a Ceili in the local hall. The players were presented with Galway socks on the night.

9 A-Side Schools Hurling Champions 1992

Adrian Burke.

The year of '92 was a year to remember and one that Peterswell would cherish for many years to come. A success in the schools hurling championship had eluded us for Twenty-Five years and little did we realise that this was the year it was all about to change.

Drawn in Group Three of the 9 a-side championship, we had to overcome near neighbours Lough Cutra and Northampton of Kinvara. Both games proved tough encounters especially a bruising battle with Northampton. Northampton on that evening enjoyed home advantage in an very cold and wind swept Kinvara. Peterswell proved victorious on both occasions, which guaranteed a place in the last eight of the Championship. Then the serious work began with training been carried out on school grounds and also in the Cooley hall outside of school hours.

In the Quarterfinal we faced an unknown quantity in Castleblakeney where we faced stiff opposition. While Castleblakeney may have had the crowd that evening we certainly replied to them on the score board running out convincing winners 7 -8 to 2-4.

In the semi-final we met Kilglass, a side that were well fancied to go all the way in the championship. A very tight game ensued with Peterswell winning by the skin of their teeth on the evening. It was only in the dying moments that we scored a goal to settle the decider resulting in a thrilling finish to an epic encounter. The score line finished Peterswell 3-4, Kilglass 3-3.

The day of the final soon came about and the stage was set for an enthralling game in Kenny Park, Athenry. It was Aglish an east Galway side that we faced in the final. Conditions for the game were perfect and the team were in high spirits for the match. Peterswell emerged triumphant on the day and while the game was intensive our class shone through which led to a comfortable win for us. We beat Aglish 6-7 to 1-7 with our forwards in fine scoring form while our defence stood firm at the back. There were many heroes that day and in all the games preceding the final but it was the team effort with a never-say-die attitude especially in the semi final that brought glory to our parish that year.

Bonfires greeted the cavalcade of cars returning from the final and a great night of celebration was to follow that evening. Special thanks must go to Donnie Lynskey for his efforts and also to our teacher Mr. Tom McGarry for his commitment to the team. Pat Kilkenny and Colm Burke must also be credited for their contribution to the success. The Team that lined out for the final: Adrian Burke, Desmond Glynn, Ronan Kilkenny, Mark Quinn, Colin Burke, Peter Howley, Colin Lynskey, Brian Farrell, Luke Mc Mullan. Subs: Sean Burke, Damien O'Leary, Michael Holland, Michael Farrell, Tristan Crosbie and Daragh Lahiffe.

Third Time Lucky!!!!

By Donal Cooney

It was Saturday 14th June 2003 – the day of the Roinn 2 Dawn Dairies 7 a-side schools hurling final. For some of us this was our third final in a row and we'd been devastated to be beaten, on both previous occasions. This year we were determined and we worked very hard. We beat Ballinakill and Castlegar early in the year and then had a long break before we met Kilrickle, Bullaun and Derryoover and were victorious in all these games – we were feeling very good about that but our mentors Mrs. Forde, Peter Caulfield and Sean Regan warned us about getting too cocky!! We beat Derryoover in the semi-final and were now set to meet Ballinakill in the final.

It was a lovely sunny day and we were all nervous but anxious to get going – Ballinakill had the first attack but the ball went wide – our first score came from a free and James Regan scored a point followed by a goal from Tony Keely and soon after another goal, a point from James Regan. Ballinakill kept up the attack but only managed to score a point in the first half. The score at the end of the 1st half was Peterswell 3-3, Ballinakill 0-1.

The heat was hard on us all during the second half but everyone did their best. We scored another goal and 2 points; Ballinakill scored 2 goals and a point to leave a final score of 4-5 to 2-2.

By the end of the game all our subs had played for sometime and there were great celebrations when the final whistle was blown.

As captain I accepted the cup and made a speech to thank everyone. We completed a lap of honour and drove around the parish and ended up in O'Grady's for a victory meal. It was a great day for all the team and our families and for our school and a day that we will always remember.

History Makers!
Aoife Fahy, Dunally

Tuesday 17th June 2003 was a beautiful sunny evening in Ardrahan the venue for the Roinn A 7 a-side County Camogie School Final. We were excited to be in the final having beaten Kiltarnan, Leitrim and Kiltartan in our previous games.

Clodagh O'Leary was unable to play in goals as she had just had an operation for appendicitis so Jessica Dooley stepped in.

We were all very nervous and anxious to get out in the pitch and start playing. At last referee Joe Cooney blew the whistle and the game was on. The first score was from Finola Keely who got a point from a 30 and this was soon followed by a goal from Blaithin

Conroy from Raheen. Both teams worked hard but great scores from Finola gave us another goal and two points to leave a half time score of 1 - 3 to 1 goal.

We tried to stay calm at half time and started off the second half determined to keep up the attack. It took a while but then Caitriona Lynskey scored a great goal and Jessica Dooley saved the day with some outstanding saves. Then came a point from Claire Quinn and near the end came two great goals from Caitriona to leave the final score of 4 – 4 to 1-0 in favour of Peterswell N.S.

We could hardly believe it! We had won – the first time ever our school had won the schools Camogie Final. All the hard work put in by the team, subs and our mentors; Mrs. Forde, Martina Brady and Sean Forde had paid off.

After the presentation of the lovely big new cup and medals I made a speech. After all the photo's were taken and the momentous occasions recorded we set off for Supermac's. Later we went to the school to watch our victory on video. Then came the best bit. We ended a great day by doing a "Lap of Honour" in the cars around the parish to cheers and bonfires from all our supporters. It was a day we'll never forget.

Would They Say or Write These Treasures Today?

By (Tom McGarry)

1974-1975 - "He had the hoofing cough in the Garden of Get Some Money" (Gethsem'ane)

1977 – 1978 "I had the tea-cups" (hiccups)
"A sausages triangle" (isosceles)
"One summer my mother got a letter from her sister which would make her my aunt".

1978 – 1979 "The Angel of the Lord declared "Aunty Mary" (Angelus)
"The Pope came in St Patrick's Aeroplane"
"Gorm a hagat arsa Daidi" (Go raibh maith agat)
"He was born in 1920 when he was nine".
"The bottle is adin in me bag abroad in the cloakroom".
"W.B. Yeats spent the early years in his life in Sligo studying panting"(painting!!)

"At the sports he was very good at the "short" putt".

- 1979 – 1980 "We had Aunt Mary for the Christmas dinner"
"We turned up Fahy Cross"
"The jam fell and smaddered all my welltons"
"I brought a big can and my two sisters picking blackberries".
- 1981 – 1982 Sixth Commandment – "Thou shalt not admit adultery"
"After that we fathered the cattle" (foddered)
- 1983 – 1984 "There were dandy lions growing in the field"
"I know some mountains and rivers and some of the outside" (Coast)
"The Great Wall of China was built to keep out the mongrels"
- 1985 – 1986 "Autumn precedes summer and comes before winter"
"Direct speech is put in converted commas".
"Next morning I went riding with my aunts. One of them is having a foal".
"King William and the William Lights" (Williamites)
"The Mediterranean C"
- 1986 – 1987 "The duck and duckess of York"
"I heard you were in hospital with your appendix"
"A human bean"
"Ding a Ling a mhaistir" (Dia linn)
"Catholic imagination" (emancipation)
"The Sperm Mountains" (Sperrin)
"The knock me down mountains" (Knockmealdown)

Pupils aspirations, likes and dislikes.

By Tom McGarry

Vincent Collins liked English reading, History and Geography and disliked Irish reading, Sums and Irish writing.

Francis Walsh liked Irish, Geography and Spellings and disliked Singing, History and Nature. Francis wanted to be a farmer, carpenter, forestry worker or postman.

Oliver Fitzgerald liked sums, English and Spelling. He disliked Irish and History. Oliver wanted to be a farmer, mechanic, garda, and a shopkeeper.

Michael Finn liked English reading, Irish reading sums he disliked History, Writing and Spellings.

Marilyn Quinn liked History, Nature and Irish and disliked Geography and Sums.

Marilyn wanted to be Jockey, groom, and own a shop or a receptionist in a hotel.

Mary Dooley liked Spellings, Sums, Comhrá and disliked history Geography and English Eeading. Mary wanted to be a garda, shopkeeper, and work in a shop or a taxi driver

Siobhan O'Donnell liked Sums, Irish and Catechism. She disliked Frogs, English and Fish. Siobhan wanted to be a nurse, work in the bank, a nun or a teacher.
Martin Caulfield liked Sums, History and Reading. He disliked Spellings and Writing. Martin wanted to be a garda, shopkeeper, farmer or forest worker.
Raphael Counihan liked Reading, Writing and Sums. He disliked Poetry and History. Raphael wanted to be a mechanic, stunt driver, farm man or drummer.
Matthew Cunningham liked Geography, Maths and Reading and disliked no subject. Matthew wanted to be a mechanic, engineer, draughts man or plumber.
Pauline Connaire liked Writing, Reading and Sums. She disliked History and Geography. Pauline wanted to be a nurse, nun, waitress or dress maker.
Chris Fitzgerald liked Geography, Sums and Irish. She disliked History and English.
Fiona Mulcair liked Writing, Geography and History. She disliked Irish and Sums. Fiona wanted to be housewife, secretary, nurse or teacher.
Mary Teresa Fahey liked Writing, Singing and Sports. She disliked Sums, Geography and Poetry.
Anthony Cunningham liked Sums, History and Geography. He disliked English Spellings, Irish Spellings and Nature.
Peter Caulfield wanted to be a farmer, bus driver, train driver or a forester.
Mary O'Shaughnessy wanted to be a nurse airhostess, hairdresser or waitress.
Kieran Connors wanted to be a farmer, bus driver, fisherman or pilot.
Pat Farrell wanted to be a milkman, carpenter or soccer player.
Peter Fahy wanted to be a corporal in the army, pilot, bus driver or fisherman.
Mary Healy wanted to be a nurse, airhostess or policewoman.
Patrick Fitzgerald wanted to be a transport man, rally driver, carpenter or train driver.
Geraldine Hennessy wanted to be a nurse, garda, office worker or hairdresser.
Agnes Connaire wanted to be a nurse, dressmaker, airhostess or hairdresser.

A shady garret in Paris
By Bernie Brady

A shady garret in Paris
A sunny quarter in Spain
The Riviera in Italy
The smoky banks of the Lee
The wide roads threaded

Learning and growing

Finding the words and ways
to etch a life
on different roads

Sharing words

with the varied faces
of the world
Weaving the ropes of friendship
with a garden of cultures

All stitched through
with the germ of knowledge
the original grain coaxed forth
within three small rooms

The mucky field and wind swept sheds
the long path from the gate
that shortened to the waist high wall
The keeper of wafer communion practice
of saying and re-saying the hallowed
words for the cleric visit
Reciting wordsworth or tripping on arithmetic

The learning and growing

To the scent of Friday bonfires
the first words written
the white flag raised
to wave the utopia of learning
A wide runway laid
by the hands of three

Laying the possibility of voyage
here, there, beyond
Footsteps placed to travel from
this place
The corner stones
of knowing how
formed in our three small rooms

And would my feet
have wandered thus
If our village corner
had not me fed?

The A, B, C of sporting achievement in Peterswell...

Athletics By Bertie Keely

In 1948 – 4 years after the opening of the school, the Olympics came to London – as near to Peterswell as they have ever come. The main track events were seen in England by half a million people on the 80,000 TV's that were there at that time. Nobody in Peterswell saw those Olympics on TV – there were no TV's in Peterswell at that time.

We heard on the Radio that Ronnie Delaney won the 1,500m in Melbourne in 1956 and some time later, when the travelling pictures came to O'Donnells field we saw the race on Pache news.

The Olympics for school children at that time were the Denary Sports held in Gort each year. Our training and selection procedure was to run from wall to wall and back again in the school pitch during the lunch time of the sports. The first two ran the races – the rest competed in the long and high jump.

We competed against competitors from such far off places as Gort, Kinvara, Beagh, Kilbeacanty etc. When that feast of athletics was over, we went back to hurling at lunchtime.

By 1964 there were a few black and white TV's in Peterswell – the excitement generated by the first of Galway's football team, three in a row tempted people to splash out. In October of that year the Olympics were televised from Tokyo. Because of the time difference they were seen here at night. Space at any neighbour's house, who had a TV, was at a premium. Peter Small, an accountant from New Zealand won the 1500m in 3-38 (3-55 for a mile) from an all white field of athletes (think of the change today). Those of us gathered around the television on that night were not impressed – Nearly 4 minutes is a long time and a mile is not that far. On the following Sunday, we stepped out the mile in Connaire's field beside the school and made an attempt on the Olympic records – it wasn't broken. Such is the influence of TV and the innocence of youth.

Since those far off days the media in general and TV in particular, has greatly enhanced people's knowledge and interest in all sports.

During the early 70's local past pupils used the school shed as a training base. These past pupils won a county championship and were medallists at Connacht level (competing as Peterswell Athletic Club). One of them went on to win an athletic scholarship to America and had many great successes there.

During the 80's and 90's the establishment of South Galway Athletic Club helped to put a structure on the talent from Peterswell. A full list of County, Connacht and indeed all Ireland medal winners who are past students of the school would be very long and beyond the scope of this article.

The primary school sports day, the parish sports in Brady's, O'Donnells and Lahiffe's fields in different years and the St. Thomas's sports have all helped to ignite young

athletes' interest. The joy brought by the bag of Taytos for winning the junior infants 50m sprint can not be measured.

Great credit must go to the primary school teachers, past and present who have organised that first Olympics for any young boy or girl. Keep up the good work.

BADMINTON By Mary Kelleher-Hogan

Peterswell Badminton Club was founded in 1968 by Mr. Tom McGarry. First chairperson was Mr Thomas E. Lahiffe and secretary was Mr. Tom McGarry.

With the help of some members of Craughwell's Badminton Club, the hall was lined and play began. For the first season we did not play competitively, only arranged some challenge matches and Christmas competition. The following year we were affiliated to the county board and entered a team in Division 3. For the following five to six years we travelled the length and breadth of the county playing in tournaments and open competitions. The first success came in Loughrea 1974, when Breda McGarry and Mary Kelleher won Division 3 ladies doubles and Tom McGarry and John Kelleher were beaten in the division 3 final. In 1975 we had our biggest success. We won the county league division 3 and then went on to win the Connacht title.

The team was: Men – Tom McGarry, John Kelleher, Brendan Mulcair, M. Carey.

Ladies: Breda McGarry, Mary Kelleher, A Burke, M. Dolan.

Our annual event was to run the senior citizens party every Christmas. It usually took place in the hall the second Sunday in December. The ladies of the club looked after the food and the men arranged the hall and transport. The meal was hot soup for starters, turkey and ham, vegetables and potatoes and trifle for dessert. Fr. Larkin always came with a bottle of sherry for the ladies and a bottle of whiskey and bottles of Guinness for the men. Probably the most memorable time was in 1973 when Joe Cooley played, just a few days before he died. May he rest in peace.

During the early seventies we formed a junior club and they had great success. Catherine, Agnes and Lar Connaire won county titles.

My Memories

To Paddy Burke, our number one supporter who sourced "The Watering Holes" while we sweated it out. Many more years of health and happiness.

To those members who are gone before us, especially Tom Healy whose witty words inspired us. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

I have so many memories of our badminton days, some wise, witty, funny and unrepeatable, but all of them are unforgettable.

Basketball By Bríd O'Donnell

St. Thomas' National School, Peterswell has not traditionally been a forerunner in basketball. This year, however Peterswell is now on the map as the Winners of the South Galway Play-offs.

The tournament was organised in Gort by Pat Bourke (Coach) and took place in February 2004 at Gort Community Centre. The drills and practices since September 2003 finally paid off when St Thomas' took home the gold medals. Firstly the team was challenged by Gort Convent of Mercy – we showed no mercy! Next it was time to meet "Arch Rivals" Tiernievin, and once again we rose to the challenge, defeating them in style. As tensions mounted, it became clearer that the next step on the ladder to success was to play our local neighbours, Ballyturn, whose team included relations and rivals. It became evident, even by half time that it was a very close competition, as at this point the teams were neck in neck.

Following a pep talk at the interval by Peterswell mentors, Peterswell came back hungry for gold! We surged ahead and in the end were the clear winners. Claire Quinn, of Dromore, Peterswell also received the honour of Player of the Tournament.

Team members: Ruth Keely, Diana Mahon, Claire Quinn, Úna O' Donnell, Niamh Cooney, Fiona Kelleher, Jessica Dooley and Finola Keely

Boxing By Christopher Rock

Peterswell had a flourishing boxing club in the 1940's, managed by Martin Dolan (teacher) and coach Timmy Cleary (Gort Army F.C.A.). Throughout the 1940's, they won many county titles. Training was tough but the men were fit from the hard manual labour they endured everyday. Their arena was the old school in the village, no Caesar's Palace, I might hear you say, but many the exhibitions of strength, stamina and skill were produced from these gladiators of old. Boxing was to 'die its death' in the parish for nearly 30 years until young James Fahy of Knockoura was to show the rest of Ireland the fighting talents of the men from Peterswell during the period from 1980 to 1990.

Boxing out of the Gort club, James' talent was recognised by Jimmy Regan and within a short space of time was in the youths and under 19's All Irelands at the National Stadium in Dublin. James was the first man to represent a South Galway town in the All Irelands. He boxed Stephen Collins, (who went on to be World Middleweight Champion), in 1983 and went onto win 4 Connaught titles and 4 County titles a Light Heavyweight and 2 runners-up at National level. He joined the Gardaí in 1984 and became Irish Garda champion and represented them in 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989. London was the venue for the championships and he won 3 silver and 2 bronze in the process. In March of 1987, he was on the Irish Garda Team when he fought the NYPD's finest in the Downtown Athletic Club, New York. James' success came from hard work and years of

training. James went on to box clever and leave the Garda in 1994 and became the only Barrister-at-Law in the history of the parish –and who said boxing was bad for your health!

James hopes to revive the Boxing club in the Parish this year and we all wish him every success.

In the last few years I myself have taken up this gracious sport. In 1999, I approached the world famous trainer Chick Gillen. Chick immediately put me into training in his Olympic Boxing Club where I trained vigorously for 2 months before having my first fight in Ennis against Jimmy Delaney, a boy who was boxing for seven years and had a two-year advantage. He ‘bet’ me up and down the ring for two and a half rounds. This taught me a valuable lesson, to always look after myself and to be fit before entering the ring. After my defeat I trained harder and I won Heavyweight County Connaught Irish Championships in 2002. Chick and my parents were my inspiration. I have sparred with the Olympian Francis Barret who trains at my club. My boxing at the moment is at a standstill as a cruciate ligament injury forced me to stop in 2003.

Two other parishioners must not be forgotten for their pugilistic prowess, Mal Quinn who having boxed in England boxed out of Gort club on a few occasions and Brendan Mulcair had a bout or two, which were no idle affairs!

So there you have it. Peterswell has got its fair share of fighters from the early 1900’s to the new millennium.

1940/49 Peterswell Boxing Club
Old School

Members and Mentors

Manager: Martin Dolan

Coach: Timmy Cleary

Boxers: Jack Cooley
 Joe Cooley
 Jack Leary
 Ned Caulfield
 Sean Burke
 John Murphy
 Michael Kelleher
 Eddie Slattery
 Paddy Collins
 Malachy Carew
 Paddy Cunniffe
 Paddy Shaughnessy

FOOTBALL

By Peter Caulfield

For the first time in its history, Peterswell N.S has entered a team in this years Schools Football competition (2004) boys & girls, 5-a-side.

Due to the interest shown by the pupils, having played football at club level in the U-12 competition, it was decided to begin a school team.

The school was invited to take part in the Gort Garda Tournament in October 2003. Our first match was against Doorus N.S. We were beaten in the semi-final by Tiernievin. We had two very good performances and were very unlucky to lose out to Tierneevin by two points. Due to a club hurling match on the same day and a number of the panel being sick, we had to field a much understrength team. However, we all enjoyed the experience of taking part in the tournament. The nine pupils received medals.

We are looking forward to taking part in the Schools Championship this year.

Gun Club

By Joe Cooney

In 1967, a number of people from Peterswell and Kilchreest district came together for the purpose of forming a gun club. The need for this arose because of outside influences using the area for shooting game stocks indiscriminately. It was felt local people should have better control of their own, resulting in a more responsible code of behaviour towards farmers and their land.

After advice from Mr. B. Cronin, Loughrea, maps, list of townlands, boundaries etc. were submitted to the governing body concerned and thus permission was given to form a gun club.

Meetings were arranged and a Committee was formed. Early members included Fr. Martin O'Connor, Tony Kilcommins, Jack Cooley (RIP), Josie Cooney (RIP), Toddie Lahiffe (RIP), Johnny Keane (RIP), Fr. Liam Power, Christy Deely, Mick Power, Tom Egan (RIP), Martin Flaherty, Paddy Stewart, Jackie Howley (RIP), Tom Callanan (RIP), Michael Conroy, Mattie Tannian (RIP), Paddy Kilcooley, Jack Connors (RIP) and Eamonn Skehill (RIP).

The work of the gun club has continued over the years with the permission and co-operation of the landowners. Improvement of habitat and game conservation has been an important function of the club.

The club has welcomed new members over the years and continues to encourage an interest and respect for the environment.

Fishing has continued to be a leisurely activity for young and old. There was always an adequate supply of wild brown trout in the local rivers.

He stands on the field his heart beating fast. The whistle has blown; the die has been cast. Mum and Dad cannot help him; he stands all alone. A goal at this moment would send the team home. The ball nears his hurley; he hits and he misses. There's a groan from the crowd, some boos and some hisses. A thoughtless voice cries "Take off the Bum". Tears fill his eyes; the game is no longer fun. If ever you're tempted to shout or to groan remember, he's a boy who stands all alone. So open your heart and give him a break, for it's moments like this a man you can make. Keep this in mind when you hear someone forget, he's just a little boy, and not a man yet.

Hurling – extract from South Galway Board book

PETERSWELL'S HURLING HISTORY

Hurling history in Peterswell goes back before the foundation of the G.A.A., but the parish's most successful period in hurling came during the first twenty years after the foundation of the Association. During this time they were regarded as the top team in club hurling in the county with no less than seven Senior Championships and two Junior Championships to their credit.

The Senior success in 1889, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1904, 1905, and 1907 and the Junior triumphs were in 1908 and 1910. Many members of those teams wore the Galway jersey with distinction. The most notable were Jim Sexton and Thomas Keely at the Tom Larkin, Peter Fitzgerald and Pat Burke. Like most other aspects of Irish life, the "troubles" of the 1916-22 period severely interrupted the hurling life of the parish.

From 1922 onwards, and especially after Galway's historic win in 1924 of the previous year's All-Ireland, hurling flourished again. From this time until the last senior team of 1935 the men from Peterswell could hold their own with any team in the county. The most notable successes to come their way in the 1920's and 1930's were the South Intermediate Championship of 1927, the Junior Championship of 1938 and 1939 and several 7-a-side Tournaments.

During that period, Fred Keely and Martin "Kruger" Broderick were the Peterswell representatives in the county team. Due to emigration after the war years the number of potential hurlers in the parish dwindled and this is evident in the lack of success of parish teams. Some members of the club played junior and minor for Galway during this time, notably Josie Cooney, Fr. Matt O'Connor, the Fahy brothers, Tom Callinan and Fr. Liam Power.

The next hurling landmark in the parish is the South Junior success of 1954 but Abbeyknockmoy proved an obstacle to further glory in that year by beating Peterswell

in a replay. The next fourteen years were, indeed, lean ones for Peterswell with no team success coming its way and this prompted, in 1968, an amalgamation with Kilchreest to form St. Thomas' Club.

Rugby by Pat Lahiff

On the 9th January 1983 a Connacht Youth/U18's team took to the field to play a very strong Munster team. The well-known Mardyke in Cork was the venue. The Munster team consisted of Alan Quinlan who played wing forward for Ireland in the World Cup and also included three other players who were later to wear the famous red jersey for Munster at senior level.

Connacht were not short of talent either. They had to hardy boys from Peterswell, Thomas Brady at prop and Robert Lahiffe at wing forward. The end result was Connacht 3 – Munster 3. Connacht gave as good as they got in a hard fought match. Two weeks later on a windy day in Dublin, Connacht beat a strong Leinster team, 12 –10. A victory against Ulster in the sports ground in Galway on the 6th of February would have given Connacht a share of the Championship with Munster. But it was not to be.

The two Peterswell boys played in all three matches. They both went on to play a big part in helping Gort to win the Connacht U18 cut for the first time. They beat hot favourites Corinthians in the final. Robert, who also got a trial for the Irish Youths that year, captained the Gort team.

Robert went on to win an All-Ireland Colleges medal with Athlone IT and later AIL medal with Buccaneer. A serious knee injury put an end to Robert's career at an early age.

The story does not end there. Last year another past pupil played in all three matches for Connacht U18's. Padraic O'Donnell, Kibecanty reared but attended Peterswell National School, wore the number 5 shirt. Ulster just pipped Connacht for the Championship that year, Connacht beat Leinster and Munster but were beaten by Ulster. Well Done All.

Peterswell Tug of War Club By Eamonn Burke

In the autumn of 1998 a group of local lads, set the idea of a tug-of-war club in motion. The main driving force behind this, was Michael McDonagh who had experience in the sport. He was then the owner of the Village pub. Before long people from neighbouring parishes were attracted into the club and by 1999 the foundation for a men's and women's team were laid. The club competed at novice level in its first full year of existence and it progressed through Division III to Division II status by 2002.

Following is a list of achievements of men's teams;

Year	Weight Division	National Title Winners
2000	680 kg	Peterswell Div. III
2001	640 kg	Peterswell Div. III
	600 kg	Peterswell Div. III
	720 kg	Peterswell Div. III
	680 kg	Peterswell Div. III
2002	680 kg	Peterswell Div. II
Record of Women's team (1999 – 2000)		
Division I	2 Connacht Titles	
	1st and 2nd in National Finals	
Division II	2 Connacht Titles	
	1 National title	

C/wt 3 Connacht Titles and silver in national final. In the period covered above several Connacht the men's team also won titles.

While the pullers were competing at various venues around the country, the club itself took on the responsibility of running two Connacht Championships and one National event, the highlight being the latter. It was a glorious day; Sunday June 20th 1999. 32 teams (a record), from all over the country came to Peterswell that day to compete in the different divisions. As in all such events, the main focus of the day was the final of Division 1. - Leitrim (Glenade) against the Wexford team (Boley) with the Connacht team winning the title against the favourites.

Finally, the Peterswell tug-of-war club would like to thank the people of the parish for their support over the past few years and for the huge voluntary effort put in, for the running of the national championships. As a result the success of the day far outshone any event we have been at around the country. Equally we appreciate the great support received from the neighbouring parishes.

Anthony Cunningham -

interview by Michael Coleman and notes by Tom McGarry

MC: Welcome back to Peterswell, Anthony and thank you for coming. Have you many memories playing hurling for Peterswell School?

AC: Indeed, many. One in particular when I played in goals and I appeared so tiny with J.J. O'Leary who appeared a giant playing at full back.

MC: Do you remember the teams you played against?

AC: Labane, Kilbecanty, Ballyturn, Lough Cutra, and I remember in particular losing to Ballymana.

MC: Where did the teams train?

AC: Mostly in the school pitch with stones for goal posts but, we trained sometimes in Connaire's field beside the school

MC: A Long way from Croke Park! Any other memories?

AC: Choosing a hurley from a line of new hurleys placed in a line under the blackboard. Tom wrote the teams on the blackboard before each match and discussed tactics. I'll never forget those blue jerseys we wore.

MC: Any early influences?

AC: Listening to Micheal O'hEithir and the exploits of John Connolly and Bernie Forde and being quizzed after matches by Josie Cooney.

MC: You had a great minor career with the county?

AC: I first played in 1981 when I was 15 years of age. Kilkenny beat us in the final. In 1982 we beat Kilkenny but Tipperary beat us in the final. In 1983 we beat Tipperary in a replay and Niall Quinn's Dublin team in the final. I have a special memory of bringing the All Ireland Minor Cup to Peterswell and the bon fire and the big crowd that greeted us at the cross.

MC: Did you have other wins with the County?

AC: I won under 21 All Ireland in 1986 and that was followed by All-Ireland Senior wins in 1987 and 1988. By now I was forgiven for all the broken windows at home while practising.

MC: Did you ever spend some time abroad?

AC: I was 2 years in Paris and practised with a Carey from Tipperary in parks there. The locals regarded us with suspicion and looked at the hurleys as weapons.

MC: Did you enjoy other sports in Peterswell School?

AC: Yes, especially athletics and badminton.

MC: Well, Anthony thank you for taking time to share those memories.

AC: You're welcome and best wishes for the 60th Celebration.

Local Community Organisations

PETERSWELL ICA By Maresa Burke

Peterswell ICA Guild was officially opened on October 22nd 1986 by Ms. Rita Hannon, President of Galway Federation. This meeting took place in the meeting room of the Joe Cooley Hall (which originally was the classroom of the old school). There were over 30 women in attendance – so one can appreciate the amount of chitchat, tete a tete and consultation that took place. At that time the only heating facility was the open fireplace and unfortunately for us the chimney smoked, not very pleasant for us but we survived – plenty of passive smoke for the night!

However after a lot of consternation and attempted election of officers Sheila Farrell was elected first President. Sheila, with the support of her committee strove to familiarise all of us with the constitution of the ICA-”promotion of the lover of home and the arts of peace, preservation of local crafts and traditions, education, encouraging the use of the Irish language, instructions in hand crafts home making and gardening”.

ICA was good for all of us in a rural community. Each month it brought together a large proportion of women from Peterswell and adjoining area. It brought the community closer and women worked hard to maintain this structure so that all would benefit. The teaching of handcrafts, flower arranging and cookery classes were always well attended and proved most popular.

Over the years ICA showed special interest in providing classes for the school children. Crafts, painting, linedancing and Irish dancing were some of the summer camps organised and supervised by the women. We were very fortunate to have Brian Holroyd artist from Ennis teach the children skills of water paints and painting on canvas with oil paints. Brian has been very successful since and is now a renowned artist. Also in the summer of 1995 Seanchai Eddie Lenihan from Crusheen (who has made several RTE appearances) held a captive audience with his lovely technique of story telling-all about fairies in the village and leprechauns in the forest. The children loved him, the smaller ones not too impressed; yet he was a winner even with the mothers.

ICA continued to flourish. Some members had the opportunity to attend An Grianan for specialist courses. New presidents were elected, Maresa Burke, Breed Devine, Julie Fahy, Mary Cooney and Maggie Brady continued to serve with elected committees.

In the late 1990's times were changing and there was great demand for women to return to the workforce. This affected the time and commitment to ICA and membership decreased. It was with great regret that Peterswell ICA ceased in spring of 2001. After 15 years of happy membership we were no more.

The IFA and Farming in Peterswell

By Michael Coleman and Pat Lahiff

The first farmers' meeting ever held in Peterswell was held on 1st December 1950, under the name of the Young Farmers Club. Guest speaker was local agriculture inspector, Michael Lucitt. Officers elected were:

President:	Fr. Hehir PP
Chairman:	Fr. Larkin
Treasure:	John Redmond Glennon
Joint Secretaries:	Toddy Lahiff and Eamonn Skehill

Regular meetings were held up to 1955. In that year the National Farmers Association (NFA) was founded. Peterswell's first officers of the NFA were:

President:	Fr. Larkin PP
Vice President:	Sean O'Donnell
Chairman:	Michael Moloney
Vice Chairman:	John Finn
Treasurer:	John Redmond Glennon
Secretary:	Christy Farrell.

24 members attended this meeting

At the AGM of 1957, it was decided to join with other branches to send pigs to the factory:

John Cunningham agreed to send 4 pigs

Michael Coleman agreed to send 1 pig

John Redmond Glennon agreed to send 1 pig

It was also decided to hold a dance to raise funds. Four shillings admission fee was agreed.

In the early days of the NFA, the Peterswell branch was very active in getting quotations for fertilizer, gates, feedstuffs, seed potatoes, grass seeds etc for its members. In those years, farmers had to pay rates on their land. It was always a very controversial issue. Some of the poorer land of the county had a much higher valuation than some of the better land. There was a regular increase in the rates, much to the dismay of the NFA. Rates on land were done away with some time in the mid-seventies.

In the 50's and 60's, Peterswell NFA had between 46-62 members. The NFA in Peterswell played its part in setting up the new mart in Gort and the pig station in Cloon.

Peterswell NFA held a fundraising dance in Labane in February 1965. Profit on the night was £25-40-1p, about _32 in today's money - it would not go far today! A raffle was held on the night. Tickets were 3p each or 5 for 1 shilling. Profit from the raffle was £5-11-2p.

When it came to farming, Peterswell could always compete with the best and this was proved in the late '60's when John Cunningham and Tom Healy won prizes regularly at the Gort mart shows. The competition was very strong in those days with cattle coming from all over Clare and Galway. These cups were filled in the local pubs, causing sore heads the next morning!

In 1966, the NFA decided that the farmers of Ireland should stand up for their rights. The Farmers Rights Campaign was started under President Richard Deasy. Groups of farmers from every county in Ireland walked to Dublin. Peterswell NFA had a representative in the Galway contingent in Brendan Flannery. It took one week to complete the journey, walking 18-20 miles per day. A rally was held in Dublin on the day the walkers reached the capital. A bus left Peterswell crossroads at 7am with Michael Coleman, Jimmy Larkin, Mick Joe Leary, Michael Callinan, Paul Healy, Joe Kelleher, Patrick Farrell, Michael Joe Finn and Tommie Fahey on board. Those years were hard years in farming.

In 1976, the name was changed from the National Farmers Association to the Irish Farmers Association. In the '70's Peterswell had around 66 members.

Like every other area, farming has changed a lot in Peterswell since the '50's. Now there are very few full time farmers left. In the '50's, there were very few cars around and only a few phones. But most farmhouses were self-sufficient. They grew their own potatoes, vegetables and corn; made their own bread and butter, had their own eggs and some were even able to sell eggs and butter. Some reared geese and turkeys and some killed a pig or two in the year.

In the '60's and '70's, nearly every farmer was supplying milk to the creamery; now there are only four dairy farmers left in the parish. Nearly every farmer was sowing a lot of tillage of some sort or another. There is very little tillage sown in the parish now.

The late John Cunningham was Chairman for ten consecutive years from 1958 – 1968. Michael Coleman was Secretary for eight consecutive years from 1961 – 1969. These were the longest serving officers of the Peterswell Branch.

The other people who held the main officerships of the branch down through the years were: John Redmond Glennon, Christy Farrell, John Mulcair, Toddy Lahiff, P.J. Larkin, Michael Joe Finn, Tom Healy, Brendan Flannery, Pat Lahiff, Jack Lynskey, Michael Callinan, Patrick Fitzgerald, Michael Morgan, Eugene Glynn, Paul Sherry, Gerard Keely, Tom Devine and Dennis Farrell. The present officers are:

Chairman:	Patrick Fitzgerald
Vice Chairman:	Paul Sherry

Secretary:	Gerard Keely
Treasurer:	Pat Lahiff
Registrar:	Francis Walshe

In recent years, membership of Peterswell IFA is around 35-42.

To all those members who have passed away, May the Lord reward them for their hard work.

Never Say Die Attitude brings water to Peterswell Homes By Colm Burke

The official turning-on of the water in the new Peterswell Group Water Scheme at Lissadoyle, Peterswell, on Friday, 18th May 2001 marked the beginning of the essential service of 130 homes over a wide area , close to Slieve Aughty.

The event was also a symbolic one because the simple turning on ceremony at the reservoir and pump-house in the remote highlands had a message for communities similarly disadvantaged for too long – get together, do it yourselves and don't wait for others to do it for you.

It was a joyous event as the people celebrated the beginning of a new era. Over the years the Peterswell area had the particularly unpleasant experience of inadequate and imperfect water supply. The pump in the village displayed local authority notices regarding the use of the water. There were stories going around that the intensity of the septic tanks attached to newly built homes had caused pollution in the water table. The problem acquiring new water for homes for pure local wells appeared to be without solution.

Putting their heads together the people in the area came up with the fact that there was a supply of pure, clean water at a couple of springs in Lissadoyle, but the question as to its delivery around the parish was daunting. There would be need for 16 miles of water pipes. There would be the huge expense of digging up the road for the water pipes. The cost to the 130 householders and for the 300 connections to farms would be astronomical.

Looking back on their combined efforts, the local people had a justified feeling of achievement. No one was looking for praise. No one would ever be denied their equal legal shareholding in the Peterswell Group Water Scheme Company.

1990, the date of the first move in Peterswell to do something about the water supply, seemed a long way off from the May 2001 opening ceremony. The committees elected went about their work with a will but the difficulties were incessant. However chunks of light began to appear in 1999. A new committee of eight people were elected to perform

a rather onerous task. They were Colm Burke (Chairman), Tom McGarry (Secretary), Josie Lynskey (Treasurer), Martina Brady, Paul Sherry, Eugene Glynn, Patrick Fitzgerald and Liam Caulfield. The support of Eugene Glynn with his skills of divining water springs, led to the lands of Sean and Mary Mulkerrins at Lissadoyle with a successful outcome. After a lot of negotiation, lobbying and pleading with politicians, counsellors, ministers, and the support of National Federation of Group Water Schemes (notably Bernard Keely) Galway County Council finally granted permission to go ahead and helped fund the project.

Peterswell Group Water Scheme is now in operation since May 2001. With over 120 houses connected 170 land connections to farmers, a 60,000 gallon reservoir, 16 miles of piping at a cost of over 1 million euro, in which 140,000 collected locally from members. The remainder was funded by Galway County Council in the form of grants.

Abuses of, or a waste of water by a small number of members is very irresponsible on their behalf. The committee has to monitor these members on a regular basis to try to curtail the wastage of water. It is now proved to be the biggest problem facing PGWS committee. Quality of water is excellent as revealed in all our tests carried out to date. It is now up to every person in the community to ensure this continues and to prevent pollution. The water is tested on a regular basis by Galway County Council health inspectors.

The AGM is held annually in the month of May. At this meeting, the committee is elected from the members of the scheme. Their role is to set the:

- a) Rent for the year
- b) New connections and any other decisions that one has to make during the year.

The rent for 2004 is set at

- 50 Euro per house connection
- 100 Euro per land connection.

And should be paid to any committee members.

The committee elected in 1999 remain in situ today March 2004. They have been re-elected annually at the AGM unopposed.

They are Colm Burke (Chairman), Tom McGarry (Secretary), Josie Lynskey (Treasurer), Martina Brady, Paul Sherry, Eugene Glynn, Patrick Fitzgerald and Liam Caulfield.

PGWS IS YOUR SCHEME. IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION TO MONITOR AND REPORT ANY ABUSES OF THE SCHEME.

PETERSWELL COMMUNITY ALERT
Margaret Kelleher

Community Alert is Ireland's Rural Community Crime Prevention Programme set up in 1985 by Muintir Na Tíre following a series of attacks on the elderly in 1984. It is organised locally by volunteers together with Muintir na Tíre and the local Garda Síochána.

The Peterswell branch was formed at a public meeting in the Cooley Hall on the 30th March, 1998. The following committee was elected.

Patron:	Fr. V. Jennings (RIP)		
Chairperson	Pat Lahiff		
Treasurer:	Francis Walsh		
Secretary:	Margaret Kelleher		
	Tom McGarry	Michael Coleman	Mary Fitzgerald
	Michael Fahy	Josie Lynskey	Josephine Regan
	Martina Brady	Patrick Fitzgerald	

Liaison Garda: Pat Donoghue, Gort Gardai

The services available include :

- Installation of Sensor Lights and Door Locks
- Erection of Road Signs
- Installation of Telephone/Panic Buttons

In 1998, road signs were erected on all approach roads to Peterswell. Grant aid was received from 9 applicants for the provision and installation of telephone/panic buttons.

This year grant aid was received for a further 7 applicants and we are currently awaiting the engineer to install same.

Lighting in the village needed improvement. We approached all local politicians, the E.S.B. and the Co. Council for the erection of 6 extra street lights from the Church to the Parochial House and thankfully this work was completed in early March 2004.

Help make your community a safer place.