Report on the Foy Landholding at Derreennascooba

Date: 20th December 2007

Client: P. Biggins Search: 1-hour Search

Researcher: Dr. Robert Somerville-Woodward

Aims & Results

The stated aims of this Genealogical Search were as follows:

- 1. Search the *Cancelled Books* for Derreennascooba for the Foy and Kerrigan households and trace them forward. It is believed that the present occupant of the property is Kerrigan.
- 2. Make copies of all *Cancelled Books* pages that record any changes in the ownership/occupancy of the property.

We have traced the landholdings of the Foy and Kerrigan families at Derreennascooba and have provided copies of the relevant changes in occupation and ownership as recorded in the *Cancelled Books*.

The results of our searches are detailed below.

Search Results

Primary Valuation of Ireland Cancelled Books

The firsts cancellation of the *Primary Valuation of Ireland* for the townland of Derreennascooba in the Civil Parish of Ballintober, Co. Mayo, took place in 1858 (refer to Appendix 1 of our Report).

In 1858 there was only one occupier by the name of Foy in the townland of Derreennascooba. At lot 1 Thomas Foy leased a house, office and a share of 582 acres of land from Malachy Tuohy. Thomas's landholding was collectively valued at £3. 10s. 0d. per annum for rateable purposes.

In 1885 the occupancy of lot 1a was transferred from Thomas to John Foy. In the same year the first occupier by the name of Kerrigan appeared in the townland Austin Kerrigan became the occupier of lot 1g, which he took over from Michael Lavelle. Austin's landholding consisted of a house, office and share of just over 582 acres and was collectively valued at £2. 13s. 0d. per annum. In 1896 Austin Kerrigan's land holding was passed to Michael Kerrigan.

In 1915 John Foy's landholding was re-valued and described as a two-bay thatched house, with a thatched office and another small office and the rateable valuation was increased to £3. 13s. 0d. per annum. Three years later the occupancy of this landholding was transferred to Pat Foy.

Michael Kerrigan's landholding at lot 1g was also re-valued in 1915. His house was described as a thatched two-bay dwelling with a thatched office and another small office and as a consequence the rateable valuation of his property was increased to £2. 17s. 0d. per annum.

In 1939 Pat Foy's landholding came into the possession of the Irish Land Commission. At this time Pat's landholding was given the new lot no. of 7Aabc and the quantity of land was listed as 18. 0. 13 acres. The landholding was purchased from the Land Commission under the Land Purchases Acts in 1938 and in 1970 the owner-occupier of the landholding was recorded as Thomas Kerrigan.

Copies of relevant changes in occupation and ownership of the *Cancelled Books* are enclosed with our Report.

Appendices/Sources Consulted

1. Primary Valuation of Ireland Cancelled Books

Source: Valuation Office, Dublin.

Derreennascooba, Civil Parish of Ballintober, Co. Mayo, 1858-1970

The Valuation Office's *Cancelled Books* are a continuation of *Primary Valuation of Ireland*.* These are hand-written books which detail the changes that have taken place in land occupation and ownership since the *Primary Valuation* was conducted and completed. These books run concurrently from 1850s until the 1970s when it ceased to be compulsory for local authorities to centrally register landholders for rateable purposes.

*The purpose of the survey, conducted under the direction of Richard Griffith, was to assess the amount of tax every head of household should contribute towards the support of the poor and destitute in their parish. The *Primary Valuation* was completed and published between 1848 and 1864. Dublin City and County were the first areas of Ireland to have their valuation completed. The *Primary Valuation of Ireland* recorded the townland address, the name of each occupier, the names of the immediate lessor (the landlord's name), a brief description of the landholding, the number of acres of land in each holding, the value of buildings and land for taxation purposes, together with the overall valuation of each holding.

Due to the loss of the majority of Ireland's pre-1901 Census Returns, the *Primary Valuation of Ireland*, commonly known as '*Griffith's Valuation*', has assumed an importance far beyond that originally intended.

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