

Five Clare Families

A Memoir of the McDahons, Hennessys,
Killeens, Cahills and Lawlors of County Clare



Justin Cahill

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Contents

Introduction

I. The McMahons and Hennessys

II. The Killeens

III. The Lawlors and Cahills

Notes

Cover: The former Cahill family home near Grays Cross at the top of the Hill Road, near Bunratty.

Introduction

i

This is a short history of my father's family. He came from the southern part of County Clare, near the confluence of the Shannon and Fergus Rivers. If you were to sail there from the Atlantic, you would come up the Shannon, pass the town of Kilrush and continue on to Rineanna, near where the airport is. From there, the Fergus goes north, past the town of Newmarket-on-Fergus and on through Ennis. The Shannon continues east, past Bunratty and to Limerick.

History seeps through the land like water through a sponge. People began to arrive there after the end of the Last Ice Age. They built the famous Poulmabrone dolmen at the Burren about 5800 years ago. By the sixth century, the time of the earliest surviving written records, they spoke Celtic. They left Ireland “...a heritage of beauty in decorative art and in lyric poetry, of incandescent imagination in literature, of devotion to ideals rather than to material gain, of vitality and the will to survive.”

From the 430s, Palladius, St Patrick and other missionaries began converting these ideals into the Christian faith. During the Dark Ages that followed, their successors helped preserve Europe's cultural legacy, with Ireland becoming known as the 'Land of Saints and Scholars'.

For all these achievements, the Irish remained politically divided. Eventually, the land was split into several independent kingdoms. The land along the River Shannon in Clare and Limerick lay within the kingdom of Thomond, ruled by the O'Brien family.

Disunity brought civil wars and invasions. In 1014 Brian Boru, King of Thomond and High King of Ireland, blocked further Viking settlement. Then came the Normans, including Richard de Clare. They were followed by the Henry II of England. Most of the Irish kings submitted to him in 1171. But the O'Briens gradually regained power, leaving the Normans in only nominal control.

During the Reformation, Henry VIII broke England away from the Catholic Church. Fearing the Catholic states would ally against him, he invaded Ireland. Ultimately Murrough O'Brien, the last King of Thomond, was forced to submit. Henry VIII made him Earl of Thomond and Baron Inchiquin and allowed him to retain the family's seat, Dromoland Castle, and its estates at Ballynacragga. Dromoland Castle is still there, although it is now a hotel and conference centre rather than a place of government.

From this time, the English set out to colonise Ireland. James I despatched settlers for the 'plantation' of Ulster. They took most of the land, divided it into large estates and reduced most of the Irish to landless labourers. That, and Cromwell's brutal invasion, left a legacy of hatred and bitterness that lasts to this day.

Charles II returned some of the land granted to the settlers. But the Irish hoped to throw them out altogether, only to be defeated in 1691. It was not until Daniel O'Connell secured Catholic Emancipation in 1829 that Irish Catholics became full citizens of their own country.

While the English took control of Ireland, they were indifferent to the fate of its people. During the reigns of Henry VIII and his Protestant successors, Catholics were considered potential traitors and actively persecuted. Despite this, most of the Irish stayed loyal to the Church - and suffered for it. During the Great Famine of the 1840s, this indifference and prejudice contributed to the deaths of about 1.1 million people.

From this time, many of the Irish eagerly looked for a better life overseas. Hundreds of thousands left for the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, where they helped build new European societies partly based on their Irish heritage.

ii

You get a sense of the relative youth of these new societies behind my grandmother's house by Clonlea Loch. Near the Loch stand the ruins of the parish church. Inside is a headstone dated 1788, the year the First Fleet brought the first Europeans to Sydney. By then, the church was already about six hundred years old. It is a sharp reminder that European society in Australia is, in part, a sequel to an epic that began in another time and another place.

The map of south-west Clare is dotted with reminders of this distant past. There is a dolmen at Broadford, east of Clonlea. The ruins of a medieval castle stand near Kilkishen. At Quin, west of Clonlea, is a ruined friary. There is a late Bronze Age ring fort at Moghane, near Newmarket-on-Fergus. A horde of gold ornaments from that Age, including torcs and gorgets, were found nearby in 1854. What remains of a tenth century church still stand at Fenloe, Newmarket-on-Fergus. There are medieval castles at Kilmurry and Bunratty and another friary at Ennis, which was founded by the O'Briens.

Other legacies of Irish history persisted well into my father's days. He was born into an almost feudal society, where most of the land was still held in large estates and the Catholic Church dominated people's day-to-day lives. During the centuries of English colonisation, the Church helped the Irish to preserve their culture. Its word was law. There was no divorce and marriages between Catholics and Protestants were, for many, unthinkable.

In my father's time, the Inchiquin family still lived at Dromoland Castle. They stayed there until 1962, when it was sold by Donough O'Brien, the 16th Baron, usually referred to as 'Lord Inchiquin'. He features in some of my father's numerous stories about 'hard times' in Ireland. One day, a man was caught poaching on the Lord's estates and was brought before Inchiquin. "*Do you know who I am ?*" growled the peer. "*I am Lord Inchiquin and I own this estate.*" "*Oh*" said the man "*I thought there was just the One Lord*".

There were two other large estates near where my father lived. The Binghamms held several hundred acres at Kilkishen, where the ruined castle stands. The Fitzgeralds held a large estate at Newmarket-on-Fergus and a residence known as Carrigoran House.

iii

While Ireland has an ancient past, it can be a difficult place to research family history. Many people were illiterate, so they left few records. Some moved around from place to place looking for work. Many families scattered throughout Britain, the United States and Australia , making them difficult to trace. The families Dad is related to were all living in the vicinity of Newmarket-on-Fergus by 1901. But, apart from the McMahons, they all seem to have been recent arrivals to the district. Many left there for other parts of Clare, Limerick, England, the United States and Australia.

Few surviving public records dealing with ordinary people go back very far. The parish records for Newmarket-on-Fergus go back to 1828. Civil registration for Catholics only started in 1864, a generation after the Great Famine. These records usually do not include details of people's parents, making them difficult to cross-reference. Many valuable records, including census returns, were lost when the Public Records Office at the Four Courts in Dublin was destroyed in June 1922 during the Civil War. The first complete surviving census of Clare is from 1901. Many births, deaths and marriages went unregistered and so people were often uncertain of

their precise age. Many were also illiterate and so the spelling of their names varied depending on who wrote it down.

Further, it can be difficult to find material relating to a particular person or family unless you know the parish or townland where they lived. Nor was the spelling of their place-names standardised. The publication of material on the Internet, especially the 1901 and 1911 census records, has made research easier. So has the comprehensive collection of material on the County Clare Library website. Even so most people can only trace their family history in Ireland back to the time of the Great Famine, and are doing well to get back that far.

Fortunately Irish history is not only found in documents, but in living oral history. The challenge lies in finding someone to tell it. Personal history was not discussed in some families. It was considered private. Children didn't ask their parents about it as they were afraid of offending them. Chrissie Walsh, my grandfather's sister, once said "*we never sat down and talked about it ...it didn't happen back then.*" Others will happily chat away for hours about the past. Those who have passed on decades ago are warmly recalled as if they had never left.

I was able to put together this outline of Dad's family history from information provided by his relatives and visiting many of the places where they had lived during a trip to Clare in 2000. What follows is a short account of five Clare families from the generation after the Great Famine until 1938, when Dad's parents were married.

I

The McMahons and Hennessys

i

Dad's mother, Mary Hennessy, known to me as 'Gran', was the daughter of Margaret Hennessy and Patrick Killeen. Margaret Hennessy was the daughter of Catherine McMahon and Patrick Hennessy.

The McMahons were originally from one of the townlands near Newmarket-on-Fergus: Leamaneigh, Clonloghan or Knocknagun have all been nominated. The earliest available source, Griffith's Valuation, indicates they were living at Ballycar Road in the townland of Newmarket in Newmarket-on-Fergus in the 1850s. A Thomas McMahon leased land there from Lord Inchiquin at that time.

The parish records and census returns note Catherine's parents were Thomas ('Tom') McMahon and Catherine ('Kate') Ahern. Kate Ahern was born sometime between about 1836 and 1841. Tom was a labourer and made his mark: whether he was the same Thomas McMahon as that listed in the Griffith Valuation is uncertain. The family lived at Ballycar Road.

Tom and Kate had ten children between 1860 and 1878: John, Michael, Matt, James, Mary, Tom, Elizabeth, Anne and Margaret.

Catherine ('Kate'), Mary Hennessy's grandmother, was born at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 10 August 1875.

Tom McMahon died sometime between about 1878 and 1901. Kate was left to raise the children, working as a housekeeper and laundress to support them. While Kate was illiterate, the 1911 census records show that she was the only member of her family, and the four other families covered here, who spoke both Gaelic and English.

Kate made sure her children could read and write. Her son James, known as 'Jimmie', worked as a postman at Newmarket-on-Fergus. The house he lived in at Ballycar Road still stands. Anne, her daughter, moved to Kilrush. Catherine became a domestic servant. Her serene, stately nature and beauty convinced some that blue blood ran through her veins. Josie Keane, one of Catherine's granddaughters, recalled '*she was a real lady...she wouldn't say a bad thing about anyone*'. Catherine married Patrick Hennessy, a former soldier.

ii

Patrick Hennessy was born sometime between about 1861 and 1873. Little is known about his origins, except that he was from Tinahely, in the parish of Kilcommon in Wicklow and his family was Protestant. Patrick's marriage certificate gives his father's name as John and notes he was a farmer who had already passed away. Patrick probably did not go to school, as he made his mark. He seems

to have been uncertain about his past, as in the 1911 census he described himself as having been a Catholic born in County Wexford.

Patrick is said to have served in the Anglo-Boer War, which lasted from October 1899 to May 1902. Family tradition has it that he joined up aged only 16 and was decorated by Queen Victoria.

The Queen took a great interest in her soldiers. Although elderly and wheel-chair bound, she reviewed departing regiments and visited the wounded in hospital. *“I was wheeled up to the bed of each man”* the Queen recalled *“speaking to them, and giving them flowers. They seemed so touched and many had tears in their eyes. There were a great number of Irish soldiers...”*.

Astonished to find someone so young in the army, the Queen is said to have asked Patrick *“What’s a young man like you doing here ?”*. At least so the story goes: Patrick would have been anywhere from his mid-twenties to late thirties when he enlisted.

I have not been able to find any record of his service. There was a P Hennessy in the First Battalion of the Royal Munster Fusiliers, which recruited in Co Clare. But whether it is him is unknown.

iii

Patrick married at some point, but his wife died. He moved to Carrigoran, near Newmarket-on-Fergus, and met Catherine

McMahon. They were married in June 1904 at Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Patrick's father is said to have been dead against his son marrying a Catholic. Religious prejudice ran deep then and mixed marriages were frowned on. Patrick's father threatened to disown him if he went ahead with it. But Patrick's love for Catherine was greater than his love of money. He converted so they could marry.

Patrick and Catherine worked for the Fitzgerald family at Carrigoran. Catherine was a servant in Carrigoran House, the 'big house' occupied by the family.

The head of the family at this time was Sir George Fitzgerald, the fifth and last baronet. He was the son of Sir Augustine Fitzgerald, the fourth baronet, who died in 1893, and Lady Clara Fitzgerald.

Patrick looked after the cattle and worked in the gardens. They had four children at Carrigoran. Margaret was born in March 1905. Elizabeth, better known as 'Lizzy', was born in March 1906 and later married Mr Donnelly. When either Margaret or Elizabeth was born, Lady Fitzgerald gave Catherine a sovereign so she could buy things for the baby. John was born in 1917 and was a keen hand-ball player. Jimmy moved to Manchester, where he is buried.

Sir George Fitzgerald died without issue in 1908. After Lady Fitzgerald died in 1921, Carrigoran House was sold to the Sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, from Houston, Texas, who used it for

a training school. The 'big house' was demolished in the 1980s. There is now a nursing home on the site.

iv

When the Great War broke out, Patrick was over 40 and too old to enlist. It is said that his brothers enlisted, but were all killed, leaving him the last man standing. With his other sons dead, Patrick's father turned to him and offered to make his grandsons John or Jimmy his heirs so his property would stay in the family. But Patrick would have none of it. His father remained bitter. In his will, he left Patrick the token sum of one shilling.

I have not been able to confirm this. When Patrick married in 1904, he told the registrar that his father was dead. Further, there are no records of brothers named Hennessy from Tinahely serving in the War. I have found some records of a William Hennessy, the son of Thomas Hennessey of Riverview, Tinahely. But I have not been able to confirm William was Patrick's brother.

This William was born in 1894 at Kilcommon. Along with hundreds of thousands of other young men, William volunteered to serve in the War. In October 1915 he enlisted as a private in the 11th Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, a regiment formed by volunteers from counties in Northern Ireland. The 11th Battalion left for France in October 1915 as part of the 36th Ulster Division.

On 1 July 1916, Allied forces launched a massive offensive against the Germans along the River Somme. It was one of the largest battles of the War and perhaps the bloodiest military engagements in history. By the end of the day, the British Army had suffered about 60,000 casualties. They included William. Eventually he was commemorated at the memorial near the village of Thiepval and posthumously awarded the 1915 Star, the British War medal and the Victory medal.

v

After working at Carrigoran, the Hennesseys moved to Weavers Road in Newmarket-on-Fergus. This road, incidentally, was once split in half. One half was named Weaver's Road because a number of weavers lived there. The other end was named Ballycar Road. Today, the weavers are long gone and the whole road is known as Ballycar Road. The Hennessy's house has since been demolished. A butcher shop stands on the site.

The family moved again in the late 1930s or early 1940s from Weavers Road to a house at Ballynacragga. During this time, they may have worked for the Inchiquins at Dromoland Castle. Josie Keane recalls Patrick worked as lady Inchiquin's gardener and Catherine worked as a house-keeper. But they are not mentioned in the list of the Inchiquin papers held at the National Library of Ireland.

Patrick Hennessy died at Ballynacragga in March 1943 aged 70 and was buried at Clonloghan. My father remembers attending his funeral.

Patrick was laid out at his house wearing his medals - Dad thought they were pennies and tried to pull them off.

Catherine outlived two of her children. Her son John suffered from dizzy spells and “... *had a habit of staggering a bit when walking.*” On Easter Monday 1967, as he was walking to Ballycar Road to visit his mother, he was knocked down and killed by a drunk driver at Ballynacragga. Margaret died at Kilrush on 13 August 1967.

Catherine stayed at the Ballynacragga house until the late 1950s, when she moved into 7 Ballycar Road with her daughter Lizzy Donnelly. She remained active and still climbed the stairs up to her bedroom when in her 90s. Catherine died at the Ballycar Road house in March 1973. The parish register notes she died aged 91. But family tradition and the Registrar General say Catherine was 97. She was buried with Patrick at Clonloghan. There is a flat stone over their graves, although the inscription has worn off. It is located on the right hand side of the cemetery as you walk in through the gate.

The old family home at Ballynacragga is still there. The home at 7 Ballycar Road is still in the family.

II

The Killeens

The Killeen, '*O'Cillin*' in Gaelic, family are said to be from Moohane near Newmarket-on-Fergus, in the parish of Tomfinlough.

Thomas Killeen was born sometime between about 1865 and 1869. His father was Thomas, a labourer, who was born in County Clare sometime between about 1824 and 1831. His mother died before 1901.

Mary Killeen, his sister, was born in between about 1857 and 1859 and married Martin Guerin, a labourer. They lived at Granaghan near Lake Finlough, east of Newmarket-on-Fergus. They had seven children: Michael, Daniel, John, Patrick, James, Mary Ann and Nora. One of the daughters married a Devanney. Their son James may have been 'Jim' Guerin, the famous hurler who scored 3 goals in the All-Ireland final in 1914. He died in December 1918 during the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Thomas, Thomas and Mary's father, lived with the Guerins in his old age. He died in 1912 aged 87.

Another relative, Mary, married Thomas Kiely, a labourer. One of his brothers went to America.

ii

Thomas, nicknamed 'Larkin', grew to be about six feet tall. He married Mary Skehan, known as 'Polly', in April 1890 at Ennis.

The Skehans were from Scariff, a small town in east Clare. Polly was born at the Ennis Workhouse in October 1868. Bridget Ronan, her mother, was born in about 1831. John, her father, was a weaver. Polly had at least one brother. But he went to Australia and she never saw him again.

Polly's father, John, died when she was about a year old. Her mother married a cousin who had been in the Indian Army in the Anglo-Boer War and lost an arm. He worked as a customs and excise officer. He made sure Polly could read and write at a time when many people were illiterate (although she made her mark on her entry in the register of marriages).

Polly became a weaver. Although she had a reputation as a hard woman, she often read out or wrote things for people, including Thomas, her husband, who was illiterate. She was also a great storyteller.

Thomas and Polly settled at Newmarket-on-Fergus. They had twelve children between 1891 and about 1910. They were: Mary, Michael, known as 'Mike' or 'Miko', Patrick, known as 'Pat', Bridget, Delia, known as 'Della', Teresa, known as 'Tess', Ann, Katie, Thomas, known as 'Tom', Christina, known as 'Chris', Eileen, known as 'Eilo' and John. The family was joined by Polly's mother, Bridget, lived with them in her old age. Bridget seems to have died in infancy, as she is not listed in the 1901 census returns.

The family lived in half a double cottage at 2 Ballycar Road, the same street as Jimmie McMahon the postman and the Hennessys.

The Killeen's cottage was built out of grey bricks, with the windows and doorway being edged in red bricks and a slate roof. The rooms inside included a living area with a fireplace, a kitchen and two bedrooms. A ladder in the living area led up to a loft, where some of the children slept. It must have been a tight squeeze: in 1901 there were nine in the family living there and by 1911, there were thirteen.

The family had the right to take turf from one of the local bogs. Turf, also known as peat, is highly compressed plant material. When dried out, it burns well - giving off a pungent, smoky smell like strong pipe tobacco. It was widely used for cooking and heating. The Irish collect turf during spring and summer, from late March-early April, to the end of August, or later if the weather is fine. It is cut out of the bogs with a spade-like tool known as a 'slane', plied up and left to dry in time for the coming winter.

Thomas worked as a 'slanesman', or turf-cutter. A typical day for a slanesman would start at about nine in the morning. From then until about 12 noon, they would cut turf. There would be a lunch break until about one or two in the afternoon, with lunch usually being sandwiches and cold tea. After lunch, they cut more turf before finishing up at about five o'clock. Sometimes the whole family worked in the bog together, with the women boiling up cabbage and potatoes for everyone to eat. The Killeen men would have cut the turf, while Polly and the daughters cooked lunch.

Thomas also worked on the roads for the local council and may have worked on the railways. Polly worked as a weaver. She also helped local farmers during harvest time to earn extra money. She would follow the reaper or binding machine and ‘stook’ (pile up) the oats, wheat or barley.

iii

Thomas Killeen, like Patrick Hennessy, served in the Anglo-Boer War, in the Lancers. Sometime during his war service, Tom was staggering down the street drunk. He was arrested by two mounted gardaí (police), who grabbed him by his epaulets. Thomas resisted, punching the gardais’ horses. As they reared up, he broke free and hauled himself up and over a wall near Dromoland Castle. But in his rush to get away Thomas left behind his cap, which had his serial number on it. The gardaí picked him up soon afterwards.

I have not been able to find any record of Thomas’ service. A Thomas Killeen served in the Orange River Colony Scouts and was awarded both the Queen’s and the King’s South Africa Medal. But whether he is the same man is unknown.

In about 1905 Thomas had a stroke. He survived. But his right shoulder sagged so much that after his photo was taken the photographer had to paint on a right shoulder, tie and shirt to make him look normal.

Patrick, Thomas and Polly's son, was born in 1894. Standing five feet nine inches tall, Patrick had fair hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. In April 1914, about four months before the Great War broke out, he enlisted at Ennis in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, an Irish regiment in the British Army (his serial number was MGC 19148).

What motivated Patrick to enlist is unknown. It was likely a combination of patriotism, a sense of duty and the prospect of adventure. There were also sound economic reasons to take the 'King's shilling'. Jobs were very scarce and veterans, their widows and children were eligible for pensions – a rare entitlement for working class people. One veteran, Mr Honan of Kilrush, recalled in 1985 that “....*there was nothing in Kilrush only poverty in 1914. I joined for no other reason than to have a job...the county people would come to Kilrush, tie-up their donkeys at the dock and board a boat bound for America, it was the only way – there was nothing here.*” It gave many working class families a regular income for the first time.

Patrick may have been part of the contingents landed at Gallipoli by the ill-fated *SS River Clyde* at 'V' Beach at Cape Helles on 25 April 1915. But this is uncertain, as only the 1st Battalion was involved in this landing and I do not know which battalion Patrick was in. He later served with the Machine Gun Corp (Infantry) in France.

Before leaving for the front, Patrick posed for a photograph. It shows him in his dress uniform, pointing out at the camera. Shell-shock (neurasthenia) and a gun-shot wound to his right foot promptly reduced him from a handsome twenty year old into a haggard wreck with a deeply lined face, as a later photograph of him standing next to a nurse shows.

John, his son, later recalled: “[m]y father never talked about the War. He actually joined before the War was declared in 1914 he lied about his age and made himself 3 years older. I do know he was wounded and shellshocked.”

Patrick recovered at Glamis Castle in Scotland. Glamis is the estate of the Bowes-Lyon family. Claude Bowes-Lyon, the Earl of Strathmore, and Nina, Lady Strathmore, had five sons and two daughters, Elizabeth and Rose. When World War I broke out, Strathmore offered the Castle to the government as a convalescent hospital and had it fitted out to accommodate 16 officers. Rose, a trained nurse, took care of the men. Elizabeth and David, their brother, used to help out in the wards by running errands for the soldiers, writing letters and making sure they had enough tobacco, cigarettes and candy. Elizabeth also kept them entertained by playing cards and billiards with them or singing songs and generally kept their spirits up. Patrick kept himself occupied by grooming the horses. A group photo taken in 1916 shows Nina, Rose, Elizabeth and Patrick with other soldiers who were recovering at Glamis.

After the War Elizabeth married George, the Prince of Wales and future King George VI. Patrick was honourably discharged on 25 August 1919 and granted a pension. He returned to the family home Newmarket-on-Fergus and nailed his leather dog tag to the ladder that led up to the loft, where it remains today.

Patrick struck up a relationship with Margaret, the daughter of Patrick and Catherine Hennessy. These were the days of ‘the Troubles’. Irish nationalists longed to get the British out of their country. During Easter 1916, they rose up against British forces in Dublin. The British defeated them, then arrested and executed many of their leaders.

The survivors, led by Michael Collins and Eamon DeValera, and the newly-formed Irish Republican Army, continued the struggle against Britain. It responded by recruiting ex-servicemen to fight the nationalists. Issued with uniforms cobbled together from whatever was available, they became known as the ‘Black and Tans’. It also recruited men for the Auxiliary Division of the Irish Royal Constabulary, better known as the ‘Auxies’.

Patrick joined the Irish Republican Army. This would have made him and his family a target for arrest or reprisals from the Black and Tans and the Auxies.

It was a guerrilla war, with the IRA ambushing conveyances and messengers and attacking IRC Barracks. Clare did not escape the violence. On 5 August 1920, the IRA's East Clare Brigade attacked the Royal Irish Constabulary's barracks at Newmarket-on-Fergus. There, it seized guns, ammunition and official documents. At Glenwood on 21 January 1921, members of the East Clare Brigade shot up a motorised RIC and Black and Tan patrol going from Sixmilebridge to Broadford. The retribution was severe: the Black and Tans and RIC terrorised the locals, burning their homes and destroyed their stores. The last British soldier killed in Clare during the War drowned near at Bunratty Bridge, near Durty Nellies on 10 July 1921. The bridge collapsed as the IRA had undermined it. The truce between the IRA and British Army started the next day.

During the truce the parties negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which was signed on 6 December 1921. It provided for the establishment of the Irish Free State. It also gave Northern Ireland the right to opt out of the Free State, which it later exercised.

Tragically, the Irish then turned on themselves. Between June 1922 and April 1923, there was civil war between those prepared to accept the partition of Ireland and those who opposed it.

Gran, Margaret Hennessy and Patrick Killeen's daughter, was born just before the civil war broke out in February 1922 at the Hennessy

house in Ballycar Road. Gran was brought up by Margaret's parents at Ballanacragga and went to school at Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Around the time Gran was born, three of the Killeens left Ireland for the United States. Miko, who worked as a labourer, left first. Mary Hickey, a cousin of his living at Kemp Square in Brooklyn, paid his fare to the United States. Miko sailed from Queenstown for New York on board the *Caronia* in April 1921. He moved to Boston in Massachusetts, where he joined the local hurling team.

Anne, who worked as a domestic servant, left next. Miko paid her fare. She sailed from Cherbourg in France on board the *American* and arrived in New York in October 1923.

Patrick was the last to leave. Miko sent him the fare. He sailed from Queenstown in Cork on board the *Republic* and arrived in New York in October 1924 with \$25 in his pocket. On reaching Ellis Island, Patrick declared he was single and that he intended on settling in the United States permanently and becoming a United States citizen. He may have moved in with Miko, who was then living in 330 East 50th Street in New York City.

vii

There were sad times ahead for the family. Thomas and Polly's daughter, Christina died from tuberculosis in October 1925. Her sister Eileen also died from tuberculosis two months later. Their brother John died of heart trouble in November 1929.

Thomas himself died from heart failure at Newmarket-on-Fergus in June 1932 aged 63. He was buried near the ruins of the tenth century parish church at Fenloe cemetery in the same grave as his daughters Eileen and Tess (and Mary Kiely and Thomas Kiely, whose relationship to him is uncertain).

As for the others, Tom Killeen Jnr married Anne. They moved to London and lived at Bracey Street in Finsbury Park. Tom worked as a policeman. After World War II broke out, he became a constable in the Police War Reserve. He was killed on 19 March 1941 during the Blitz.

That night, 479 enemy aircraft raided London. Their main target was the docks area. But their bombs hit several other places, including the Hornsey Road Police Station, killing eight people. Police Sergeant Caplen later recalled: "*...[a]t 10.35 pm...the station was hit and completely demolished...A squad of a Pioneer Corps stationed in the School, together with the A.R.P. assisted us in the rescue operations. The Sub Division Inspector (MacAlan Gibson) and a P.C. to whom I had spoken a few minutes earlier were found dead. The P.C. was still sitting at the table where he was employed taking messages...other bodies were recovered but it was the next day before all persons were accounted for...The S.D. Inspector, together with his wife (Sarah Gibson) and daughter (Joyce Unwin) who resided in quarters over the Station were all killed...*" About 630 other Londoners were killed that night.

Delia and married a Mr Brennan and moved to London in the 1930s. They had three daughters, including Marguerite, who became an actress and studied under Ria Mooney of the Abby Theatre. Marguerite starred in seven movies during the early 1950s and early 1960s. She played a receptionist in *Lady in the Fog* with Cesar Romero. She starred as Miriam, a single mother, in *Twilight Women* in 1952. It was about a woman who ran a boarding house for unmarried mother and sold their children for adoption. Its controversial subject matter resulted in *Twilight Women* being the first movie in the United Kingdom to receive the new 'X' rating.

Although she was encouraged to lose her Irish brogue to further her career, in *The Broken Horseshoe* she used her native accent to great effect to play an Irish nurse. She was also in film *The Musical Dream*.

Miko died in the 1960s. Mary married a Mr McCaull and died in 1962.

Polly lived into her nineties. She spent her days sitting in the sun outside the house on a large stone bench. The bench is still there, although it has been moved from the street to behind the front gate. Polly died at Ennis in April 1962 aged 96. She was buried in the Catholic section of the Church of England cemetery at Kilnasoolagh with her daughter Christina and her son John.

Anne married a Mr White and died in about 1986. Katie married Joe McCarthy from Kilrush and died in about 1992. Tess never married

and stayed in the family home at Ballycar Road. Tess was the last to live at the family home. She died at Ballycar Road in June 1966 and was buried with her father at Fenloe.

viii

After Patrick Killeen died in February 1945, Margaret Hennessy moved to Kilrush and worked as a housekeeper for Doles, the jewellers and married Michael Russell. Michael is said to have been born in August 1894.

Michael worked as a carpenter and served in World War I. It appears he was a private in the Royal Munster Fusiliers and served in France, Egypt and India. Dad thinks he may have also served at Gallipoli.

In recognition of his war service, the government granted Michael a pension. He was also given a cottage at 2 Ballynote Road at Cappa in Kilrush, a street known to the locals as '*Shell Shock Road*' because of the World War I veterans living there. This cottages was one of eight built there by the Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust for veterans. There was a water pump across the road.

Michael had been married before to Margaret Hogan, who died in July 1930. After Michael married Margaret Hennessy he worked as a manager for Wimpys, the hamburger franchise. They had seven children.

ix

Gran was brought up by her grandparents, Catherine and Patrick Hennessy, at Ballynacragga.

Michael Russell died at the Ballynote Road house in July 1962. After his death, Gran went into mourning for a year and a day. She wore only black and stayed away from social occasions. Margaret died at the Ballynote Road house in August 1965.

Michael and Margaret were both buried at the Old Shanakyle in Kilrush in the same grave as Margaret Hogan, Michael Russell's first wife, and Margaret's aunt Anne McMahon, Catherine McMahon's sister, who had lived with the Russells. The grave also holds Mickey Russell, Michael and Margaret's son.

III

The Lawlors and the Cahills

i

Dad's father, John Cahill, known as 'Jack', was the son of Patrick Cahill and Catherine, 'Kate', Lawlor (sometimes spelt Lalor and 'Leathlobhair' in Gaelic). The Lawlors are said to have come from Ballygirreen. The tithes records and Griffiths Valuation indicate the family was original from the parish of Kilchrees and later moved to Ennis and nearby townlands, such as Ballyvonnavaun.

Kate's family moved to North Rineanna in the parish of Kilconry, where Shannon Airport was built. Parish records and census returns indicate Kate was the daughter of Michael Lawlor, a farm worker, and Mary Power, a housekeeper. Michael was born sometime between 1848 and 1851. He and Mary married in about 1878. Mary was born sometime between about 1845 and 1856. They were both illiterate.

Kate was born in February 1894 at Ballycalla, next to North Rineanna, and was also illiterate. Apart from Kate, Michael and Mary Lawlor had six other children from between about 1878 and 1894: Patrick, Peter, James ('Jim'), Mary, Bridget, Patrick and Anne. Michael, their father, died in 1908.

The 1901 census indicates three of the Lawlor children, Peter, Jim and Mary, were working for James Reidy of Rineanna South as 'servants'. Mary married a Mr Darcy in about 1909. They had a son, Michael, about two years later.

Bridget Lawlor married Patrick McMahon, an agricultural labourer, in about 1907. They lived at Ballymurtagh House at Clonloghan. Patrick worked for the Butlers of Castle Crine, an estate at Sixmilebridge. They had a daughter, Bridget, in about 1910. Bridget moved to England.

Annie married John Sheedy, an agricultural labourer, in about 1910 and lived at Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Linda O'Reilly, a grand-daughter of Peter (Kevin) Cahill, recalls being told Kate had a shop in Shannon before she met Patrick.

ii

One of the Lawlors was responsible for preserving much of the local myth, legend and history. Her name was Anne ('Áine Ní Leathlobhair'), who went to the school Baile na Cloice in Kilconry. In 1937, the Irish Folklore Commission, Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers' Organisation launched a project in which school children were encouraged to collect and document folklore and local history by interviewing family members, neighbours and elders.

Anne Lawlor dutifully filled two exercise books with accounts of the district's folklore. Whether Anne was related to Kate Lawlor is uncertain: but Lawlor is a rare surname in the district so it is possible Annie was Kate's cousin or niece.

Either way, such things were rarely written down, making Anne's work an exceptionally valuable source material for local history. She provides details of daily life, including the crops and herbs they grew, the types of bread they made, their homes and their trades (such as candle, wheel and basket-making) the toys they made and the games they played, their schools, traditional cures, the local poets and beggars, the names of local fields and location of holy wells, and fragments of history from the Penal Times and the Great Famine.

During the Penal Times, Anne noted in one entry, there were mass rocks in Knockane. *“There was mass said there in the olden times. There was also a church in Rhinanna. One day a priest was saying mass there, and the English came on him but he escaped. Another time a priest was baptising a child in Rhinanna. The priest saw the English coming and he got a pair of shoes and began to mend them. The English thought that he was a shoemaker, and they passed on.”*

“There were very hard times in our district long ago” Anne notes in another entry. *“The potatoes that the people had sowed rotted in the ground and in the pits. The people sowed the shoots of the rotten potatoes to have potatoes for the following year. Mr McNamara who lived in Rhinanna had a garden in which the potatoes grew well. Many people came to that man for potatoes. He helped the people during the time of the famine.”*

iii

The Cahill's origins are uncertain. One account has it that Jack's grandfather was named Michael and worked near Sixmilebridge. Another is that his name was John and he is buried at Fenloe. It is said one of Jack's grandmothers was blind and was buried in the family grave at Bunratty, indicating they lived nearby.

The 1901 and 1911 census returns indicate the Cahills may have been from County Limerick. A John and Ellen Cahill left Limerick some time before 1901 and moved to Gortatogher, in the parish of St Patrick on the border of Co Clare and Co Limerick. Both John and

Ellen were literate, with John working as a shopman and ‘van-man’, a delivery man. They had six children, all born in County Clare: Patrick, born about 1888, Michael, Tessie, John, Francis and Thomas. It is likely this was Patrick’s family, but I will not be able to be more certain of this until the 1920 census returns are released.

iv

Patrick, his daughter Chrissie Walsh recalls, was “*very popular*” and “*a gentleman*” who smoked a pipe. He was born in about 1888. Where and when he met Kate Lawlor is unknown and I cannot find any record of their marriage.

Patrick and Kate moved into one side of a double cottage in the Hill Road at Clonmoney, near Bunratty. It stands near Grays Cross, the intersection between the Hill Road and highway to Shannon Airport. Chrissie Walsh recalls they were married there.

The cottages were built in about 1914 on land owned by John Brennan for the workmen hired by the local farmers. The interior was similar to the Killeen house at Newmarket-on-Fergus. The Cahills also had about half an acre of land on which they could grow food. Water came from a pump not far up the road from the house.

Patrick worked for Lady Annie Morice at her estate, Springfield, near Sixmilebridge. He and Kate lived in a lodge on the Morice estate. He also worked for Martin Corbett, a wealthy ex-pawnbroker who

owned Bunratty House, the *Castle Hotel* across the road from Bunratty Castle and extensive land holdings.

Patrick also worked for the local council. As he had a horse and cart, Patrick was contracted by it to cart stone.

v

Patrick and Kate had thirteen children between 1915 and 1932. They were Jack, Michael ('Mike'), Patrick, Denis, Peter (also known as Kevin), James ('Jimmy'), Ellen ('Ellie'), Joseph ('Joe'), Mary, Nancy, Chrissie, Anne Frances and Brendan.

Jack was born at Clonmoney on 23 May 1915. He was probably named after his grandfather. He was baptised at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 30 May 1915, with his sponsors being Patrick Lalor, probably his uncle, and Bridget McMahon.

Some of the children through the Hill Road house was spooked or 'unlucky'. They would hear pot and pans rattling in the night. But when they got up in the morning, nothing had been touched.

Sadly, by the early 1930s Patrick had developed cancer. An operation to remove the growth was unsuccessful. He lingered for about six months and died in November 1933 at Clonmoney aged only 46. He was buried near the ruined church at Bunratty. Shortly afterwards Nancy, Patrick and Kate's youngest daughter, died from asthma in February 1935 aged only four and a half

Jack Cahill grew up to be a handsome man, although he had ears that poked out like jug handles. Dad recalls he was always impeccably dressed, with starched collars and cufflinks.

Jack and Gran were married at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 30 November 1938.

Kate Cahill was very fond of Gran. After their marriage, they moved into the Hill Road house. But Kate was also fated to die young. She passed away at Clonmoney in June 1942, aged only 47 and was buried with Patrick and Nancy at Bunratty.

vi

The Cahill men were known as good workers. Everyone called for them when the hay was ready to cut. They would walk down the Hill Road to *The Pike*, the pub near Bunratty Castle, now known as *Durty Nellies*. Dad recalls his Uncle Mike taking him to *Durty Nellies*. “*It was the kind of place*” Dad recalls “*where there was sawdust on the floor*”. Mike used to buy him lemonade. Then Dad would go off to play in the ruins of Bunratty Castle, which were just next door, while waiting for his uncle.

The development of trans-Atlantic airline services brought more work to the district. The passenger aircraft of the 1930s and 1940s did not have enough range to cross the Atlantic in one flight. If trans-Atlantic flights were to become a reality the major airlines, such as

such as Howard Hughes' Trans World Airlines and its bitter rival Juan Trippe's Pan American Airline, needed fuelling stations at points between the east coast of the United States and Britain.

In 1936 the Irish Government announced it would build an airport for trans-Atlantic flights at Rineanna. Some of the Cahill men were employed to help build the Airport. Work started in October 1936. The first commercial airliner to make the flight, a Pan Am DC 4 from New York, flew into Shannon Airport in September 1945.

vii

As Patrick and Kate died young, their family scattered and didn't keep in touch. Mike Cahill is recalled as a nice man who was "very jolly." He worked for John Paul, a road builder. He worked on the first road to the Shannon Airport and industrial estate in the 1930s. Mike was the last Cahill to live at the Hill Road house. He died in December 1966 aged only 49 and was buried with his parents and sister Nancy at Bunratty. The house went to his widow. It was sold up after she died.

Denis married Nora Walsh in October 1941. They lived in St Flannans Road at Killaloe and had eight children. He died on 27 November 1988 and was buried at Killaloe. Nora passed away at Ennis on Christmas Eve 2009 and was buried at Killaloe.

Jimmy worked for Paddy Gleeson at his farm in Sixmilebridge. He was a man of many talents, being good at breaking horses, baking

bread and digging potatoes. He was also a great joker and “*a beautiful singer*.” There would always be a crowd of people around him as he told jokes while digging potatoes.

Jimmy joined the US Army and retired an officer. He married Margaret (‘Peggy’) Kirwin from Wexford in about 1960. They lived in London. He died in England in about 1992 and was buried at Monahan in Sligo.

Patrick, known as ‘Spuddy’, also worked for the Gleesons at Sixmilebridge. Quiet and easy-going, he was the scholar of the family and could ‘teach the teacher’. He joined the Irish Army, then went to the United States. He joined the US Air Force and served in Tokyo after World War II. He moved to Australia and became a commanding officer in the Australian Army. Patrick married an Australian and had a son and daughter. He died at Malvern in Melbourne in August 1983.

Brendan was brought up by Connellan family at O'Brien's Bridge in Clare. He later lived in England. Joe went to England.

Chrissie married Tom Walsh of Minster Cross. He worked for Air Lingus. They lived at Deerpark near Sixmilebridge. Chrissie made the pilgrimage to Lourdes in France - where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 and intercede on behalf of the faithful. Chrissie returned several times before she passed away in August 2002.

Mary married Patrick Hennessy and moved to Kilkenny.

Peter (Kevin) lived at Rathkeale and Askeaton. He was in the Army and stationed at Collins Barracks in Cork and discharged in 1945. He married Mary Sheehan in 1946. They met at Adare, just out of Limerick, while Peter was working for the Electricity Supply Board. Mary worked at Chalks Pub and Kevin used to drink there. They lived at Kilcolman, Ardagh in Limerick and had three daughters. Mary died in May 2009 and Kevin in January 2010 aged 88.

Ellie was at Thurles. She married and moved to England.

When I visited in 2000, the Cahills still had a reputation for being quiet, hardworking people. By then, the only physical reminders of the family were the Hill Road house and the family grave at Bunratty. The house has been renovated, with the exterior plaster being stripped off to show the original dark gold-coloured stonework. The family grave contains Patrick, Kate, Nancy, Mike and possibly one of their grandmothers.

Notes

Introduction

For general introductions to Irish history, see Beckett, J. *A Short History of Ireland*, Hutchinson and Co (Publishers) Ptd, London, third ed, 1966, McMahon, S. *A Short History of Ireland*, Mercier Press, Dublin, 1996 and Pašeta, S. *Modern Ireland: A Very Short*

Introduction, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2003. There are also three excellent documentaries available: Frank Delaney's *The Celts*, BBC, 1987, Robert Kee's *Ireland: A Television History*, BBC 1980-1981 and Fergal Keane's *The Story of Ireland*, BBC, 2011.

The description of the Celts is from Dillon, M. 'Celtic Religion and Celtic Society', in Raftery, J. *The Celts*, Mercier Press, Dublin, 1964, p.95. Also see Chadwick, N. *The Celts*, Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, 1979 and Cunliffe, B. *The Celts: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2003. For a detailed account of events up to the time the Normans came, see Ó Cróinin, D. *Early Medieval Ireland, 400-1200*, Longman Group Ltd, Harlow, 1995.

Many sources of Clare history have been collected together on the Clare Library website (www.clarelibrary.ie). They include Samuel Lewis' *The History and Topography of County Clare*, 1837 and Ryan, W. *A survey of monuments of archaeological and historical interest in the Barony of Bunratty Lower, Co. Clare*. On County Clare's historic sites, also see Harbison, P. *Guide to National and Historic Monuments of Ireland*, Gill and Macmillan Ltd, Dublin, 1992. Also see anon, 'The Great Clare Gold Find of 1854', *The Other Clare*, vol.2, Apr 1978, p.30.

On the big estates, see the entries on the O'Brien (Dromoland), Fitzgerald (Carrigoran), Studdert and Bingham (Kilkishen) and Morice (Springfield) families on the Landed Estates website

(www.landedestates.ie). Also see anon, 'Part of historic Dromoland estate goes up for sale,' *Clare Champion*, 8 July 2005.

On the Great Famine, see Woodham-Smith, C. *The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-9*, Hamish Hamilton Ltd, London, 1962 and Gray, P. *The Irish Famine*, New Horizons, Thames and Hudson Ltd, London, 1995.

On thatched cottages, see Kevin Danaher's *Irish Country Households*, Mercier Press, Dublin, 1999. Roberts, M and Noonan, J. 'Bunratty Folk Park and its potential as an educational centre', *The Other Clare*, vol.2, Apr 1978, pp.36-39. Visit to Bunratty Castle and Folk Village, 2000.

The main primary sources used are (a) the parish registers of Newmarket-on-Fergus, with access provided by courtesy of Canon Reuben Butler, (b) the registers of birth, deaths marriages held at the offices of the Registrar General, at Ennis and Roscommon, (c) Griffiths Valuation, available on the Ask About Ireland website (<http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie>) and (d) the 1901 and 1911 census return (www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

My other sources include interviews and correspondence with my father, Mary and Mike Shanahan, Josie Keane, Bernadette Russell, Patrick Russell, John Donnally, Buddy McMahon, Brendan McCaull, Tony Killeen, Bridie and Joseph Kiley, Esther Murphy, Tom McCarthy, John Killeen, Tommy Sheedy, Norah Cahill, Mickey Dwyer, Chrissie Walsh, Linda O'Reilly, Mary Crotty, Mickey

Kenney, Elizabeth Brady, Michael Cunneen, Steve Donnellan and Flan Gleeson.

I

Hennesy

The dates of the baptism and birth of the children of Tom and Kate McMahon, taken from the Newmarket-on-Fergus parish registers or indicated by the 1901 and 1911 census returns, were: John baptised, or born, on 18 Nov 1860, Michael on 27 Mar 1862, Matt on 4 May 1864, James on 22 Feb 1866, Mary on 15 Dec 1867, Tom on 19 Sept 1870, Catherine on 15 August 1875, Anne on 21 Sept 1877 (she died at Kilrush on 7 Aug 1948) and Margaret on 8 Jul 1878.

One of Tom and Kate's daughters married a Considine, as two of their grandchildren, John and Margaret Considine, are listed in Kate's 1911 census return.

Entry in the Register of Births for Catherine McMahon, born at Newmarket-on-Fergus 10 August 1875, no. 238 of 1875.

Patrick Hennesy's parents may have been John Hennesy of Knockatomcoyle, Mullinacuffe, just west of Tinahely, and Elizabeth Hughes of Aghold. They were married on 18 Oct 1860 and had a son, Patrick, in 1863. See parish registers for the Church of Ireland at Mullinacuffe.

The only other Protestant Hennesseys in the district were Thomas and Mary Hennessy of Coolafunshoge, right next to Tinahely. They appear in the 1901 and 1911 census. They had four children, twin boys William and John, born in 1895, Edward born in about 1897 and Gertrude born in about 1902. Their son William may have been the William Hennessy killed at the Somme. I am grateful to Catherine Wright of the Wicklow Family History Centre for this information.

On Queen Victoria visiting her soldiers during the Anglo-Boer War, see Massie, R. *Dreadnaught: Britain, Germany and the Coming of the Great War*, Pimlico, London, 1993, p.293.

On the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the Anglo-Boer War, see the Anglo-Boer War website (www.angloboerwar.com) and that the Royal Munster Fusiliers (www.royalmunsterfusiliers.org).

Entry in the Register of Marriages for the marriage of Kate McMahon and Patrick Hennessy at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 4 June 1904, no.4 of 1904.

Entry in the Register of Births for Margaret Patricia Hennessy, born at Carrigoran on 17 March 1905, no. 488 of 1905.

Entry in the Register of Births for Elizabeth Hennessy, born at Carrigoran on 10 March 1906, no. 64 of 1906.

William Hennessy' serial number was 15185. See his Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry (www.cwgc.org) and

World War I medal card, National Archives. Correspondence with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Regimental Museum at The Castle, Enniskilleen. I am grateful to Tom Burnell, the author of *The Wicklow War Dead* for providing me with information on the Hennessys from Wicklow who served in World War I.

The list of the Inchiquin papers held at the National Library of Ireland, collection list no.143, does not mention the Hennessys.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for the death of Patrick Hennessy at Ballinacragga on 23 March 1943, no. 22 of 1943.

On the death of John Hennessey on 28 March 1967, aged 49, see the *Clare Champion*, 1 April 1967. Mass card of John Hennessy.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for the death of Catherine Hennessey on 24 March 1973 at 7 Ballycar Road, Newmarket-on-Fergus, no. 235 of 1973. Mass card of Catherine Hennessy.

Visit to the former home of James ('Jimmy') MacMahon in Ballycar Road, Newmarket-on-Fergus and to the Hennessy's former family home at Ballynacragga.

II

Killeen

The parish register for Newmarket-on-Fergus lists only one Thomas Killeen born in the parish around this time. He was the son of Thomas Killeen and Mary Lynch and baptised on 20 Mar 1864 at Newmarket-on-Fergus. This Thomas had a sister Mary baptised on 25 Feb 1857 and two brothers, Pat baptised 3 Mar 1859 and John baptised 24 Apr 1861.

The register of births lists one Thomas Killeen with a father also named Thomas born in County Clare around this time. He was born on 10 Apr 1867 at Kilfarboy, the son of Thomas Killeen, a farmer from Kilfarboy and Margaret Curtin. See Register of Births, birth of Thomas Killeen at Kilfarboy on 10 April 1867, no. 241 of 1867.

See entry in the register of births for the birth of Mary Skehan at Ennis Workhouse on 2 October 1868, no.31 of 1868.

Entry in the Register of Marriages for the marriage of Thomas Killeen and Mary Skehan at Ennis on 14 April 1890, no. 53 of 1890.

Mary was born about 1891, Michael (known as 'Miko') baptised on 8 Oct 1892, Patrick on 14 Jan 1894 (and baptised 16 Jan), Bridget on 7 Mar 1896, Delia sometime between about 1896 and 1897, Teresa (known as 'Tess') on 3 Apr 1897, Anne on 26 Nov 1899, Katie in about 1902, Thomas in about 1904, Christina in about 1906, Eileen in about 1907 and John in about 1910. See 1901 and 1911 census returns and Parish Register for Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Bridget is not listed in the census returns. While she may have died before the 1901 and 1911 censuses were taken, the 1911 census return shows they had 11 children and 11 still living (ie) none died.

On James Guerin, see Joe O Muirheartaigh's 'Tragic three-goal hero from 1914 All-Ireland' on the ClarePeople website (www.clarepeople.com).

On Patrick's possible motives for enlisting, see the paper by Paul O'Brien, 'Provincial recruiting in the First World War: the Glynn's of Kilrush Co Clare' July 2013 available on-line at the website of the Military Heritage of Ireland Trust (www.militaryheritage.ie).

For the interview with Mr Honan, see the *Clare Champion*, 2 Aug 1985. It is quoted in O'Brien's paper.

There is an excellent summary of the involvement of Clare men at Gallipoli by Peadar McNamara, 'Clare Men and the Gallipoli campaign', on the website of the Clare Peace Park Initiative (www.clarepeaceparkinitiative.com). Also see the summary on the Royal Munster Fusiliers website (www.royalmunsterfusiliers.org).

On the hospital at Glamis Castle, see Shawcross, W. *Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother: The Official Biography*, Pan Macmillan Ltd, London, 2009. The group photo, photograph 12 between pp. 168 and 169, shows Nina, Rose, Elizabeth and Patrick Killeen with the other soldiers who recovered at Glamis. It is RCIN 2585074 from The Royal Collection and dated 1916. On Elizabeth and the soldiers, see

pp.53, 58-60, 67-68, 80-82, 87-90 and 96. Also see anon, 'Matriarch Emerged from Horrors of War', *Times*, 30 March 2002.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for the death of Thomas Killeen at New-market-on-Fergus on 17 June 1932, no.157 of 1932.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for the death of Mary Killeen at Ennis on 8 April 1962, no. 358 of 1962.

Thomas Killeen's grave also holds Mary Kiely and Thomas Kiely. The Kiely's relationship with the Killeens is uncertain. The 1901 census for the townland of Boheraroan, Newcastle-on-Fergus, lists the Kiely family and gives Mary's age as 40, indicating she was born around 1860. Thomas, her husband, was a labourer.

Mary and Thomas Kiely had two sons, Patrick and John. I can't find them in the 1911 census. Thomas died in September 1931. Mary Kiely died in September 1932 at Newmarket-on-Fergus aged 72. Entry in the register of deaths for the death of Mary Kiely at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 29 Sept 1932, no.169 of 1932.

Visit to the Killeen family home at 2 Ballycar Road, Newmarket-on-Fergus.

Visit to the grave of Mary (Polly) Killeen (formerly Skehan), Christine Killeen and John Killeen (two of the children of Mary 'Polly' and Thomas Killeen) at Kilnasoolagh cemetery.

Visit to grave of Thomas Killeen (husband of Mary Killeen, formerly Skehan), Mary Kiley, (formerly Killeen, the sister of Thomas Killeen), Thomas Kiley (the husband of Mary Kiley, formerly Killeen), and three of the children of Mary ('Polly') Killeen (formerly Skehan) and Thomas Killeen, being Eileen Killeen and Teresa ('Tess') Killeen at Fenloe cemetery.

World War I medal card of Patrick Killeen, National Archives. World War I discharge certificate of Patrick Killeen.

On the War of Independence, see Coffey, T. *Agony at Easter: The 1916 Irish Uprising*, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1969 and Bennett, R. *The Black and the Tans*, 1959, reprinted by Barnes and Noble Inc, 1995.

On the local history of the War, see Michael McNamara's booklet on the Glenwood Ambush on the Kilkishen Development Association website (<http://kilkishen.com>) and Padraig Og O Ruairc's War of Independence website (www.warofindependence.net)

For the Killeen's emigration records, see *List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States Immigration Office at Port of Arrival*, American Family Immigration Centre, Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation Inc, (www.ellisland.org): (a) list 28, arrival of Michael Killeen at New York on board the *SS Caronia* on 24 Apr 1912, (b) list 51, arrival of Annie Killenn at New York on board the *SS America* on 6 Oct 1923 and (c) list 10, arrival of Patrick Killeen at New York on board the *SS Republic* on 3 Oct 1924.

Mass card of Patrick Killeen.

On Thomas Anthony Killeen (died 19 Mar 1941), see his entry on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (www.cwgc.org) and the website of the Islington Remembrance Project (<http://bookofremembrance.islington.gov.uk>)

On Marguerite Brennan, see her entry on the *New York Times* Movies website (<http://movies2.nytimes.com>). On *Lady in the Fog*, produced by Hammer Film Production Ltd, see the entry on the Hammer Films website (www.hammerfilms.com).

Michael Russell is said to have been born on 22 August 1894, but his birth was not registered. The parish records show a Michael Russell was baptised at Kilrush on 31 August 1894. He was the son of Anne Russell.

They also show that a Michael Hennessy, the son of Lucy Hennessy, was baptised at Kilrush on 20 Aug 1888. This Lucy Hennessey may be the same Lucy Hennessey who married Michael Russell on 7 May 1896. They, in turn, appear to be the couple listed in the 1901 census returns. This seems to be confirmed by the 1911 census return, which lists Michael Hennessy, a cousin of Lucy's.

Assuming the couple married in 1896 and listed in the 1901 census return are the same, Michael, a boatman born about 1868, and Lucy, born between about 1865 and 1867, had five children: Patrick,

baptised on 2 Feb 1897, Henry on 25 Jan 1898, Mary on 30 Jun 1899 and Martin on 27 Jul 1900 and Patrick born about 1905. The family lived at Crofton Street in 1901 and Pound Street in 1911.

The 1911 census returns shows Michael Russell died sometime between 1901 and 1911 and that they had five children, with only two surviving. It seems Patrick, the eldest, had died and so they named their last child, born in about 1905, Patrick. It seems Mary and Martin also died sometime before 1911.

The 1901 census returns also includes another child, Michael, born about 1889. It could be that this is the Michael Hennessy was born in 1888 and that he was adopted by Michael Russell and took his adopted father's surname. I am grateful to Miriam Scahill and Paddy Waldron for assistance on this point.

Michael Russell is listed in Charles Glynn's *List of Kilrush men who served with the colours during the Great War 1914-1918*, Waterford, 1919. The list is available on the County Clare Library's website. The entry for Michael Russell gives his address as Pound Street and Hector Street, indicating he was the son of Lucy Hennessy. But Michael Russell called his eldest daughter Anne (not Lucy) and none of his three other daughters were called Lucy.

Visit to the former Russell family home at 2 Ballynote Road, Cappa, Kilrush.

Visit to the grave of Margaret Hogan (Michael Russell's first wife), Michael Russell (husband of Margaret Hogan and Margaret Hennessey), Margaret Hennessy (daughter of Catherine McMahon and Patrick Hennessy and wife of Michael Russell) Anne McMahon (sister of Catherine McMahon and aunt of Margaret Russell, formerly Hennessy) and Michael Russell, son of Margaret Russell (formerly Hennessey) and Michael Russell, at the Old Shanakyle Cemetery, Kilrush.

Mass card of Michael Russell.

III

Lawlors and Cahills

Entry in the Register of Births for Catherine Lalor at Ballycalla on 12 Feb 1894, no.157 of 1894.

The dates of birth for the children of Michael and Mary Lawlor, taken from the parish registers for Newmarket-on-Fergus and the 1901 and 1911 census returns were: Patrick born sometime between about 1878 and 1880, Peter, born about 1882, James was baptised on 17 Feb 1884, Mary on 28 Mar 1886, Bridget on 8 Apr 1888, Anne on 17 May 1891 and Catherine on 16 Feb 1894.

On the background to the Schools Folklore Scheme (1937-1938), see the University College Dublin website (www.ucd.ie). I am grateful to Jeannie Higgins, the Secretary of the National Folklore Collection

(‘Bealoideas’) at the University for proving me with a copy of Áine Ní Leathlobhair’s notebooks.

See the 1901 and 1911 census returns for the family of John and Ellen Cahill, parish of St Patricks, also known as the parish of Kilquane, townland of Gorthatogher.

A John and Ellen Cahill are buried at Kilquane Churchyard, which is in the parish of St Patricks. The headstone reads “*HIS In loving memory of my Dad and Mam John and Ellen Cahill also my sister, brothers, sisters in law, nephews and nieces. Erected by their loving daughter Teresa Kennedy. Another headstone there reads “HIS In loving memory of Edmond Kennedy died 24 Sep 1965 aged 77 years. Teresa Kennedy died 26 March 1978.”*

John and Ellen had a daughter Teresa/Tessie. While no other daughters are listed in the census records, the 1911 census return notes they had a total of 11 children, with 7 still living.

Martin Corbett and his wife, Susan, held Bunratty House. Martin died on 13 Mar 1913 aged 92. Mary died in Oct 1915 aged 70. They are buried near the Cahills at Bunratty.

Entry in the Register of Births for the birth of John Cahill at Clonmoney on 23 May 1915, no 449 of 1919. He was registered on 9 Apr 1919, with the entry noting Patrick, his father, was a labourer and made his mark.

The parish register at Newmarket-on-Fergus and mass cards give or indicate their dates of birth were: Michael ('Mike') was born at Ballynote and born on 18 Aug 1917, Patrick on 14 Jan 1919, Denis in about 1920 (he died aged 68 on 27 November 1988), Peter (Kevin) on 23 Sept 1921, James ('Jimmy') on 16 May 1925, Ellen (known as 'Ellie', she was probably named after her father's mother) on 18 Jul 1926, Joseph ('Joe') on 23 Apr 1928, Nancy in about September 1930 (she died aged 4 and a half on 20 Feb 1935), Anne Frances on 17 Oct 1930 and Brendan on 28 Nov 1932. Mary and Chrissie's dates of birth are unknown.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for Patrick Cahill at Clonmoney on 27 November 1933, no.211 of 1933.

Entry in the Register of Deaths for Katherine Cahill at Clonmoney on 10 June 1942, no.490 of 1942.

'Died in Australia – Patrick Cahill', *Clare Champion*, 16 Sept 1983.

Notice of Denis Cahill's death, *Clare Champion*, 2 Dec 1988.

Mass cards for Michael Cahill, Denis Cahill and for Kevin and Mary Cahill.

Visits to the former Cahill family home at Grays Cross, near Bunratty and to Cahill family grave at Bunratty churchyard.

Entry in the register of Marriages for the marriage of John Cahill and Mary Hennessy at Newmarket-on-Fergus on 30 Nov 1938, no.174 of 1938.

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