

Ballyoughter.ie - Presentation Outline

- From Concept to Launch – The Process
- The Ballyoughter Area and Maps
- The Past
 - Census Data
 - Historical Land Surveys
 - The Iron Well
 - The Tailor Brennan's Shop
 - Tubberneering Tan Yard
- Ballyoughter Church and National School
- Sources
- Q and A

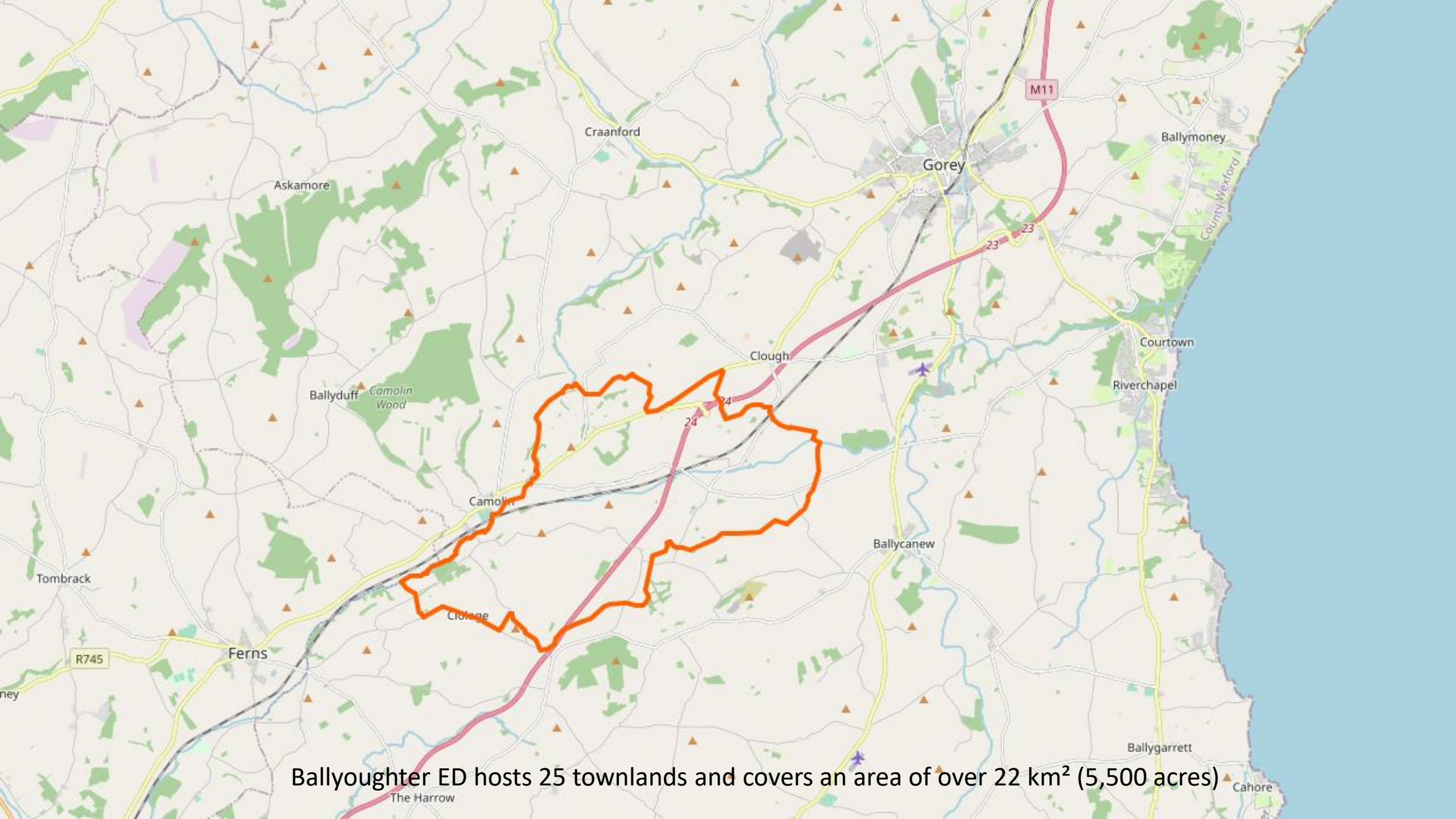
Ballyoughter Name

- Official English Name is Ballyoughter
- Official Irish name for Ballyoughter is 'An Baile Uachtarach' (Upper Townland/Hightown)
- An Electoral Division and a Townland in Civil Parish of Toome, Barony of Gorey
- A Mensal Parish until 1874
- A Parish until 1970
- Previous iterations
 - Ballyoughtre (Tithe Books 1823-37)
 - Balloughter (Griffith's Valuation 1853)
 - Ballioughteragh (Civil Survey in 1654-56)
- **Where is it?**

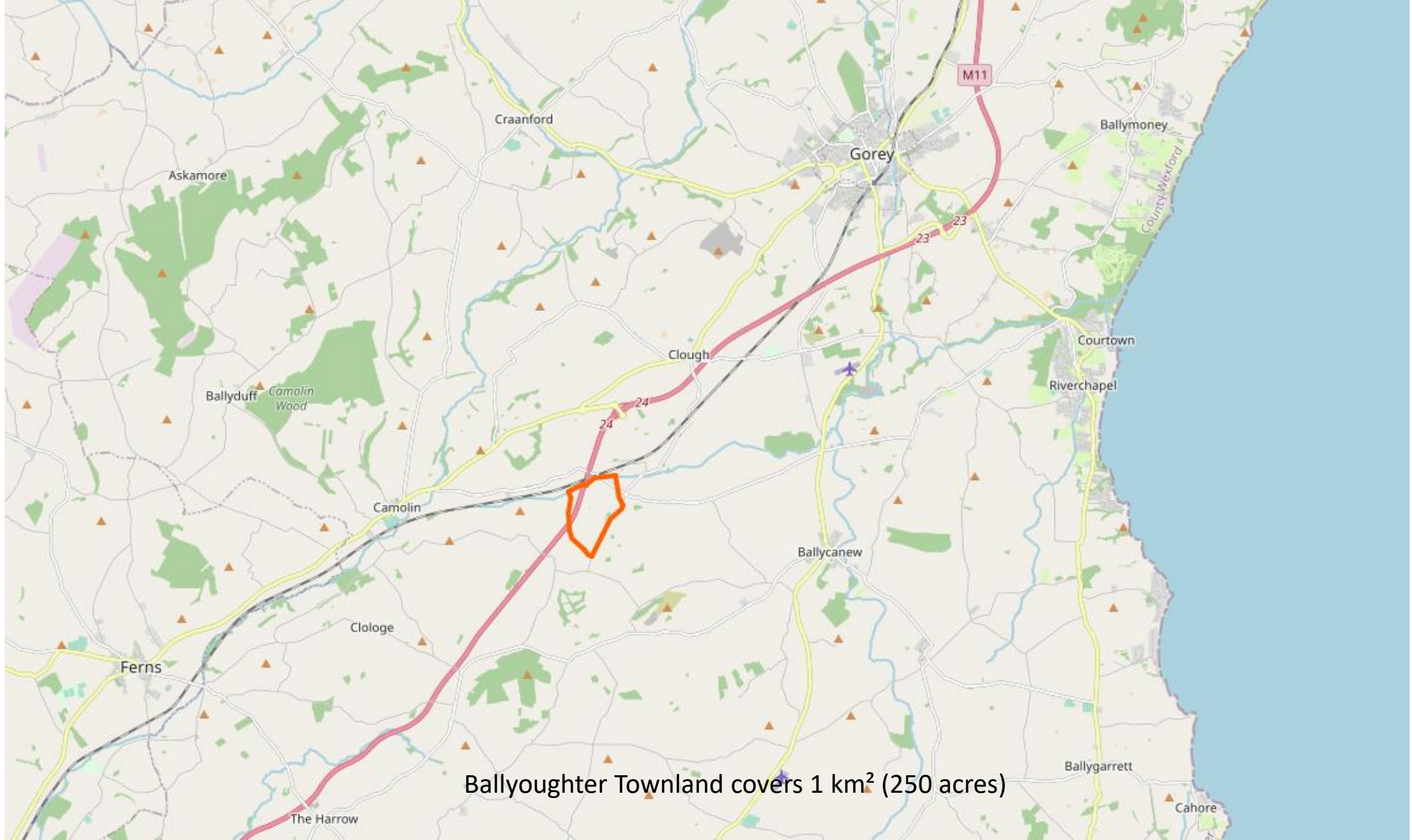
"What's in a Name?"

"That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

William Shakespeare



Ballyoughter ED hosts 25 townlands and covers an area of over 22 km² (5,500 acres)



Ballyoughter Townland covers 1 km² (250 acres)



Concept to Launch

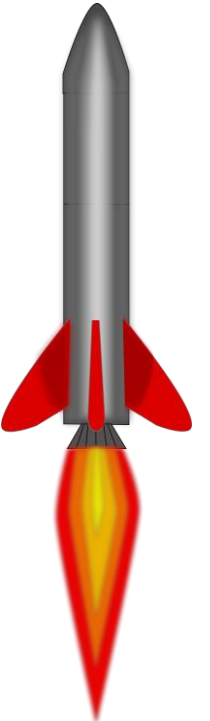
- Family association with Ballyoughter since early 1800s - Mother, grandmother and cousin taught in Ballyoughter NS
- Mother had a strong interest in family genealogy and local history
- Started as a 'Lockdown' project in 2020
- Finished phase 1 in December 2021, site was launched with article by Gorey Guardian
- **Website rationale** - Information on Ballyoughter's buildings, history, folklore, and people

Challenges

- Creating the Website
 - Domain Name, Website Design, Hosting – c.€100 per year
- Copyright Permission
 - Creative Commons license and Principle of Fair Use
- Covid19
- Infinite nature of the research! – 2 phases or more?

“Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.”

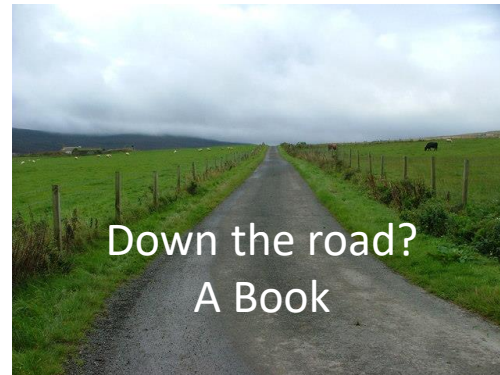
Joshua J. Marine



Concept to Launch

Website or Book

- Current, Ability to update, Interactive, Available globally
- Capacity to guide readers towards their own research
 - Examples:
 - [Map on Open Street Maps of Ballyoughter ED and its Townlands](#)
 - Down Survey Maps, Government GeoHive Application, Historic Environment Viewer, Census Records – later slides
- Interesting features for readers
 - [Google Earth -The Bracken River](#)
 - [Aerial View](#)
 - The 4 Roads (Home) – for the expats



Ballyoughter Maps

- Map on Open Street Maps of Ballyoughter ED and its Townlands – As seen in slide 2
- [Map on OSI Geohive Application](#)
- [Historic Environment Viewer](#)

A map does not just chart, it unlocks and formulates meaning; it forms bridges between here and there, between disparate ideas that we did not know were previously connected.

Reif Larsen, American author

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[Gorey Poor Law Union](#)

[Royal Post Box](#)

[Shopping In Bygone Days](#)

[The Clough Train Crash](#)

★ [The Iron Well](#)

[Jonathan Swift](#)

★ [The Tailor Brennan's Shop](#)

★ [The Tan Yard](#)

[The War Dead](#)

Census Data

- [1901 and 1911 Census Data](#) for:
 - Ballyoughter
 - Ballyclogh
 - Ballyeden
 - Ballygullen
 - Clonmore
 - Medophall
 - Medophall Demesne
 - Toberanierin Upper
 - Toberanierin Lower
 - Tullabeg
 - Worlough

Census Data

Census of Ireland 1851

- The famine appears to have decimated the population in some townlands while others remained stable.
 - Balloughter was one of the worst affected townlands with its population standing at 158 residents in 1841 but finishing with 54 residents a decade later.
 - Toberanierin Lower is an exception, showing an increase in the population over the decade from 46 residents in 1841 to 51 residents in 1851.

PARISHES, TOWNLANDS, AND TOWNS.	AREA.	POPULATION IN 1841.			POPULATION IN 1851.			NUMBER OF HOUSES IN 1841.				NUMBER OF HOUSES IN 1851.				POOR LAW VALUATION IN 1851.
		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Males.	Females.	TOTAL.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	TOTAL.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	TOTAL.	
Balloughter, . . .	246 1 15	76	82	158	30	24	54	28	1	.	29	10	2	.	12	148 12 6
Toberanierin, Lower,	257 3 39	24	22	46	29	22	51	5	.	.	5	6	.	.	6	183 12 6

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Census Data

Census of Ireland 1881

- The decrease in residents over the 40 over the period to 1881 is remarkable by any standard.
- Of particular note, is the sudden drop in residents from 1871 to 1881 after three decades of stability after the Great Famine. This may be linked to a famine in 1879/1880, mass emigration and evictions that happened at the time.

TABLE VII.—AREA, HOUSES, OUT-OFFICES and FARM-STEADINGS, and POPULATION, together with the

Baronies, Parishes, Townlands, and Towns.	Area in 1881.	Houses.										Population.						Valuation of Houses and Land in 1881.
		1841.	1851.	1861.	1871.	1881.				Out- offices and Farm- stead- ings.	1841.	1851.	1861.	1871.	1881.			
						Total.	In- habited	Unin- habited	Build- ing.						Per- sons.	Males.	Fem.	
Balloughter	246 1 15	29	12	11	9	10	7	3	.	37	158	54	47	58	25	11	14	176 15 0

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The Clough Train Crash

★ The Iron Well

Jonathan Swift

★ The Tailor Brennan's Shop

★ The Tan Yard

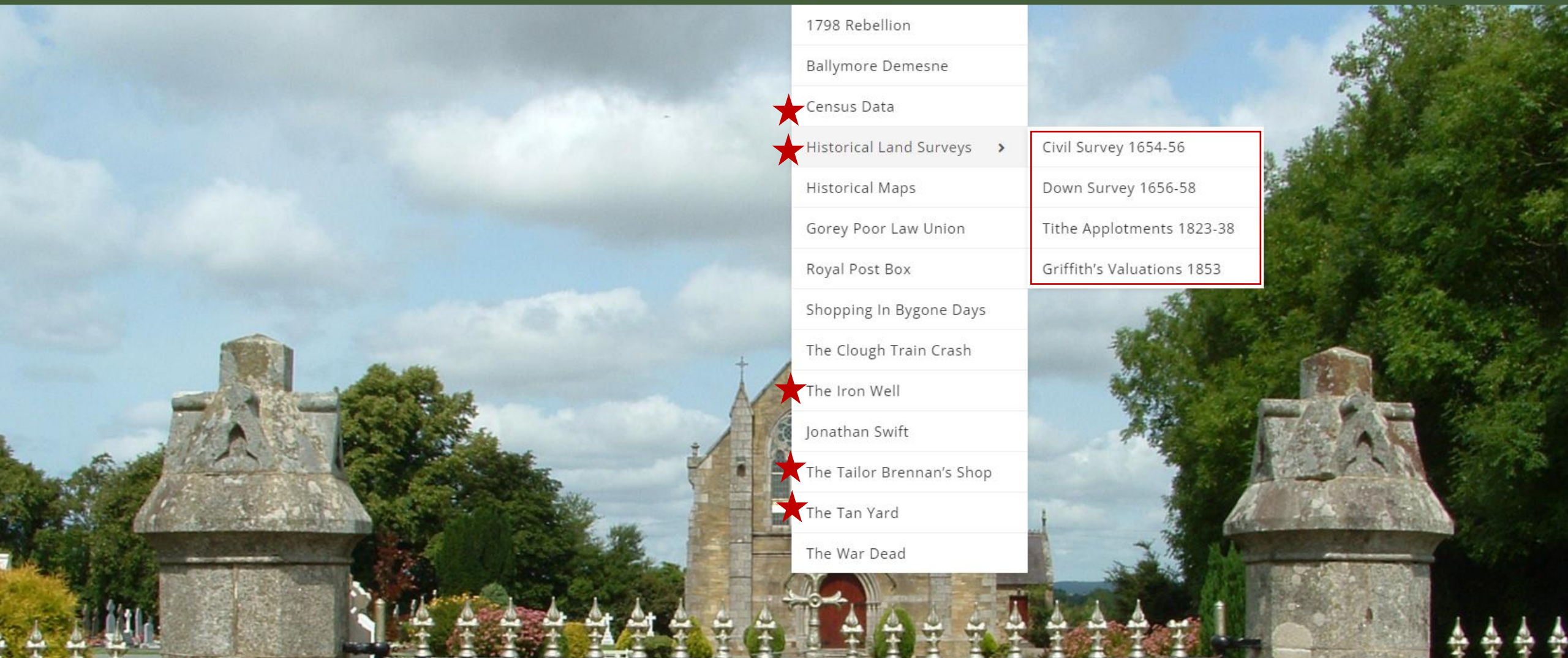
The War Dead

Civil Survey 1654-56

Down Survey 1656-58

Tithe Applotments 1823-38

Griffith's Valuations 1853



Land Surveys

- **Civil Survey (1654-1656)**
 - Land valuations of townland (at 23rd October 1641 - the outbreak of the Ulster Rebellion)
- The main landowners at the time in Toime Parish and Leskin Parish were Lord Mountnorris (Protestant), Henerie Masterson (Protestant), William Plunkett (Protestant) and Thomas Masterson (Papist)

Proprietors Names	Denomination of land	Number of Acres	Profitable Land	Unprofitable land	Value in 1640
Henerie Masterson Protestant	The halfe of Ballioughteragh & Cloumore	Two hundred and twelve Acres	Arab } 197 : 00 Past } Mead } 015 : 00		20 : 00 : 00
		212 Acres			

- **Down Survey (1656-1658)**
 - [Down Survey maps on TCD Webitse](#) - some errors - e.g., Thomas Masterson
- The curious case of the two 'Clonmores'
 - Townland separated when Baronies and Civil Parishes were established?
 - Both listed in the Civil Survey of 1654-1656, Tithe Applotments 1823-28 and in Griffith's Survey and Maps of Wexford in 1853
 - With the formation of the Poor Law Unions, both 'Clonmores' end up in the same Electoral Division and become a single townland

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VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

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Griffith's Valuations 1853

- Location of Ballyoughter NS

PARISH OF TOOME.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
	BALLOUGHTER. (Ord. S. 11.)			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	William Stacey,	Earl of Courtown,	House, offices, and land,	59 2 38	35 0 0	1 5 0	36 5 0
2	Denis Hamilton,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	65 2 15	44 10 0	2 5 0	46 15 0
3	James Finigan	Same,	House, offices, and land,	45 3 37	29 0 0	2 5 0	31 5 0
4	a William Coombes,	Same,	House and land,	1 0 35	0 15 0	0 13 0	1 10 0
—	b Catherine Gaynor,	Rev. William Purcell,	House and sm. garden,	—	—	0 15 0	0 15 0
—	c Sarah Mernagh,	John C. Pouden,	House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
—	d John Kinchela,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
5 A	} Rev. William Purcell,	Earl of Courtown,	Land,	1 0 8	0 10 0	—	} 4 5 0
— B			Land,	5 3 25	3 15 0	—	
—	A a		Ho. off. yd. & sm gar	—	—	7 15 0	7 15 0
—	b	R. C. Chapel,	R. C. Chapel & grave-yd.	0 2 20	—	4 15 0	4 15 0
—	c	School,	House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
—	d	Michael Redmond,	House,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
6	a James Loughran,	Earl of Courtown,	House, office, and land,	3 1 26	2 5 0	1 15 0	4 0 0
7	a John Warren,	Same,	Herd's-ho., off., & land,	62 3 11	42 0 0	1 10 0	43 10 0
—	b Vacant,	John Warren,	House and office,	—	—	1 5 0	1 5 0
			Total,	246 1 15	157 15 0	26 5 0	184 0 0
			EXEMPTIONS:				
			R. C. Chapel & grave-yd.	0 2 20	—	4 15 0	4 15 0
			School-house,	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
			Total of Exemptions,	0 2 20	—	5 5 0	5 5 0
			Total, exclusive of Exemptions,	245 2 35	157 15 0	21 0 0	178 15 0

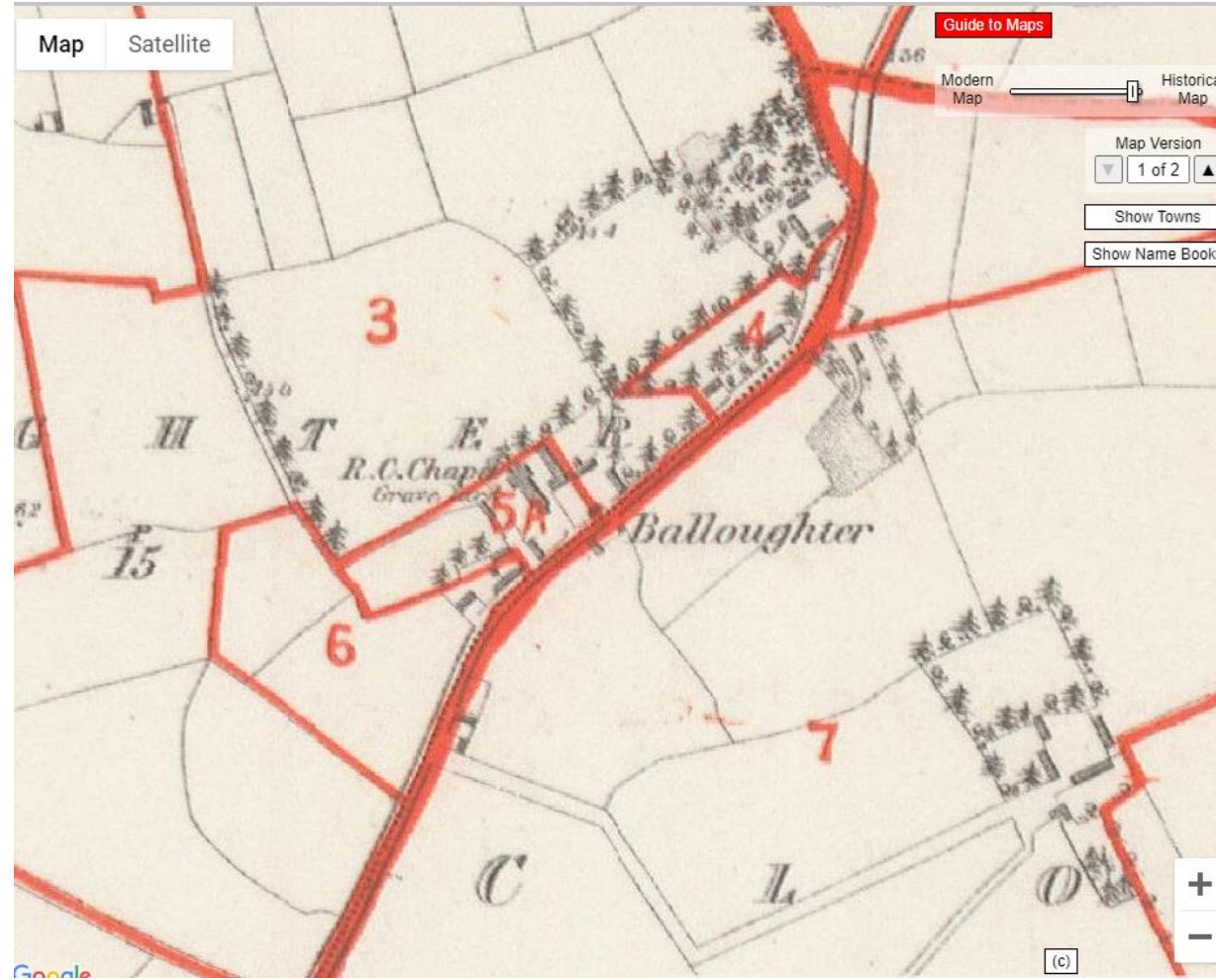
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Land Surveys

Griffith's Valuations 1853

- Location of Ballyoughter NS



Gorey Poor Law Union

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayana

- Smallpox vaccine
 - From 1849 – 1500 deaths per year
 - By 1867 – 20 deaths per year
 - Eradicated by the mid-1890s
 - All new-born babies vaccinated by law from 1863 – through PLU Dispensary Districts (5 for Gorey) – 1s per shot!
 - Alternative ‘treatments’ tried by sceptics included ‘bleeding out’, applying leeches to the body, drinking whiskey, taking herbal remedies and eating chalk.
- Minutes of the Board of Governors – forced emigrations for women and girls listing inmate’s name, ability to read/write, duration in the workhouse, etc. from Ballyoughter area.

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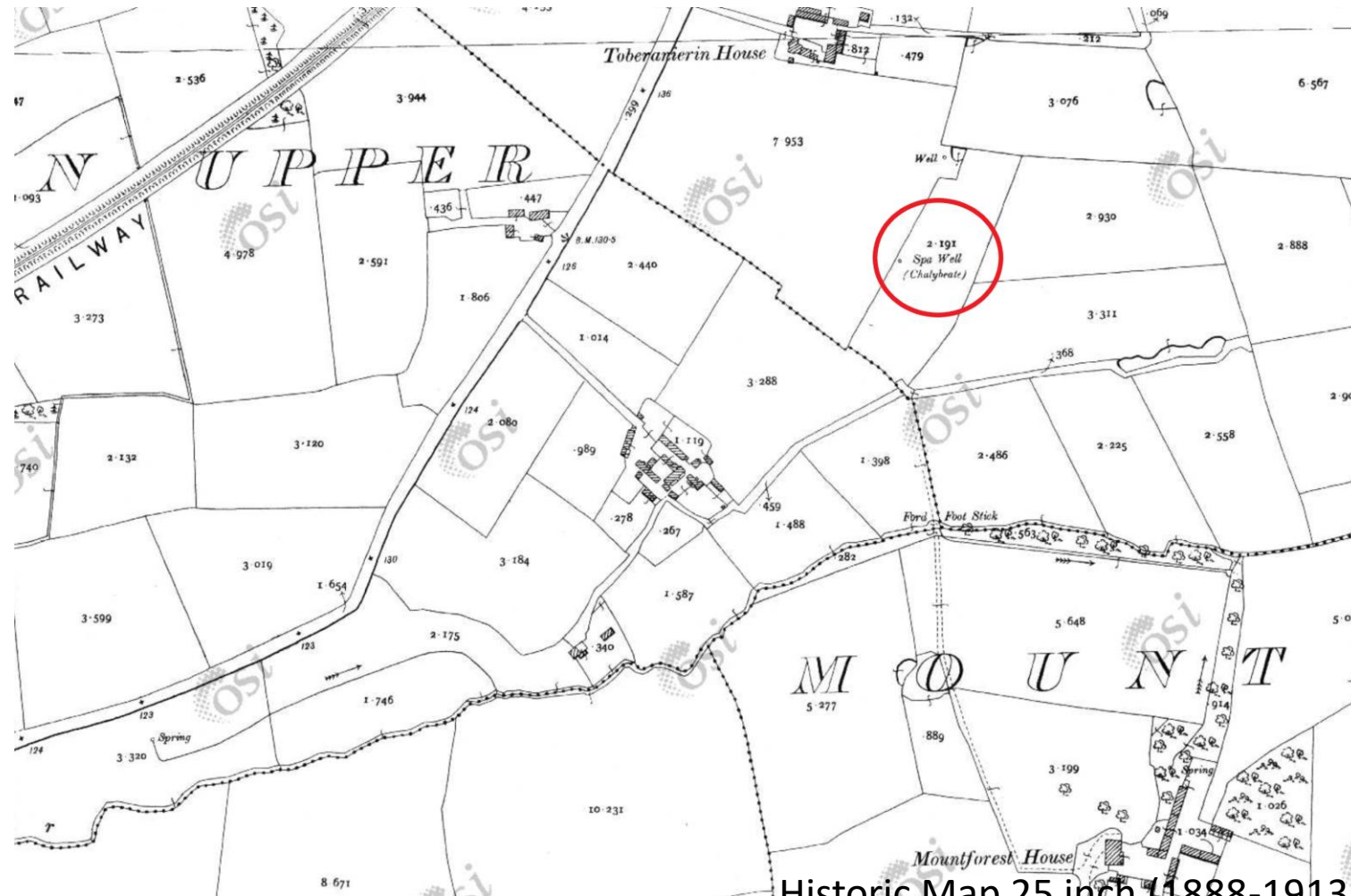
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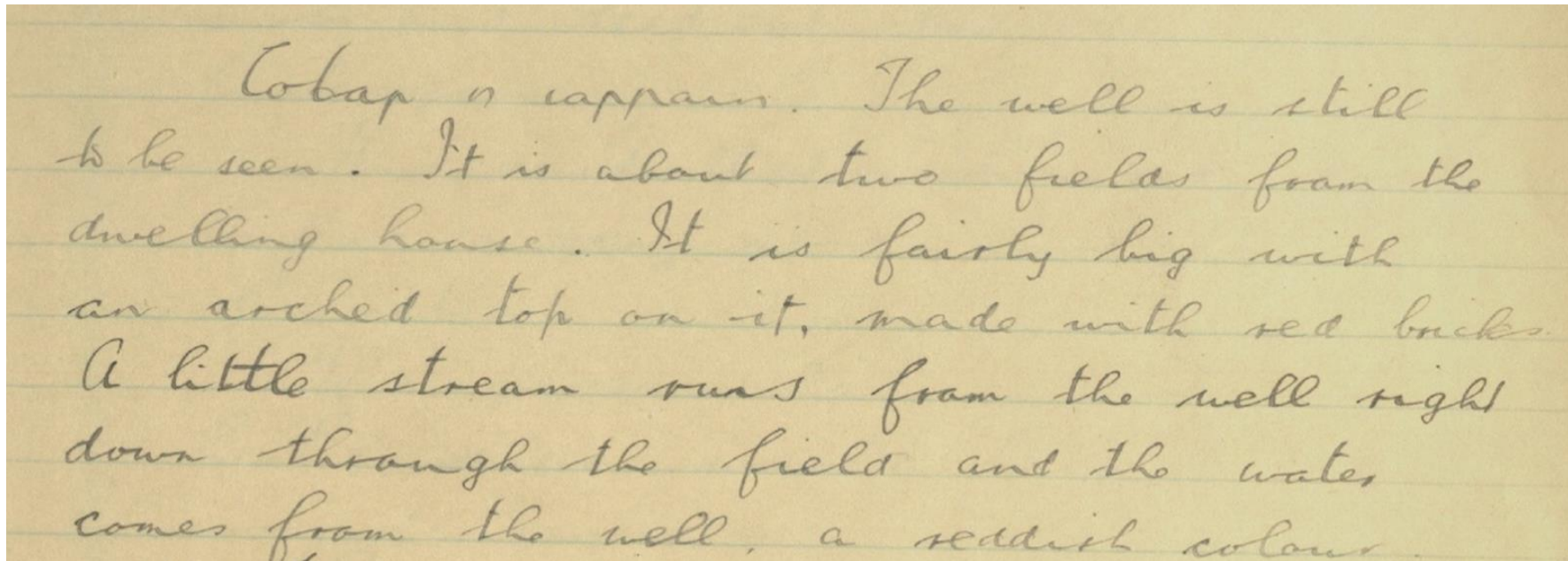


The Iron Well and Jonathan Swift



Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913)

The Iron Well at 'Tobar an Iarainn' and Jonathan Swift



Tobar an Iarainn. The well is still to be seen. It is about two fields from the dwelling house. It is fairly big with an arched top on it, made with red bricks. A little stream runs from the well right down through the field and the water comes from the well, a reddish colour.

The Iron Well at 'Tobar an Iarainn' and Jonathan Swift

The earth in the field where the well is, is very red also, very different from the other fields. The water has a taste of iron and is seldom used except when the ordinary well is dried up. This iron well is not kept in very good condition.

Nowadays, briars grow round it so that it is very hard to see into it. Some people say that the water from this iron well would cure sore eyes.

The Iron Well at 'Tobar an Iarainn' and Jonathan Swift

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I, Olive Steacy, Tobarneering,
remember a man by the name of
Mr. Dowling coming for some water out
of the iron well to cure his eyes.

Some of the cows drink out
of the stream that runs down from
the well.

The Iron Well at 'Tobar an Iarainn' and Jonathan Swift

- Iron Wells were very popular in the 1700s and 1800s
 - Chalybeate water
 - Served as Holy Wells in Penal Times
 - Tradition of Raggedy Bush/Rag Tree (often Hawthorn trees)
- Colour of the water
- Problem with Water
 - Blocked water pipes, reacts with tannins, stains laundry, gastrointestinal problems, dangerous for haemochromatosis sufferers



The Iron Well at 'Tobar an Iarainn' and Jonathan Swift

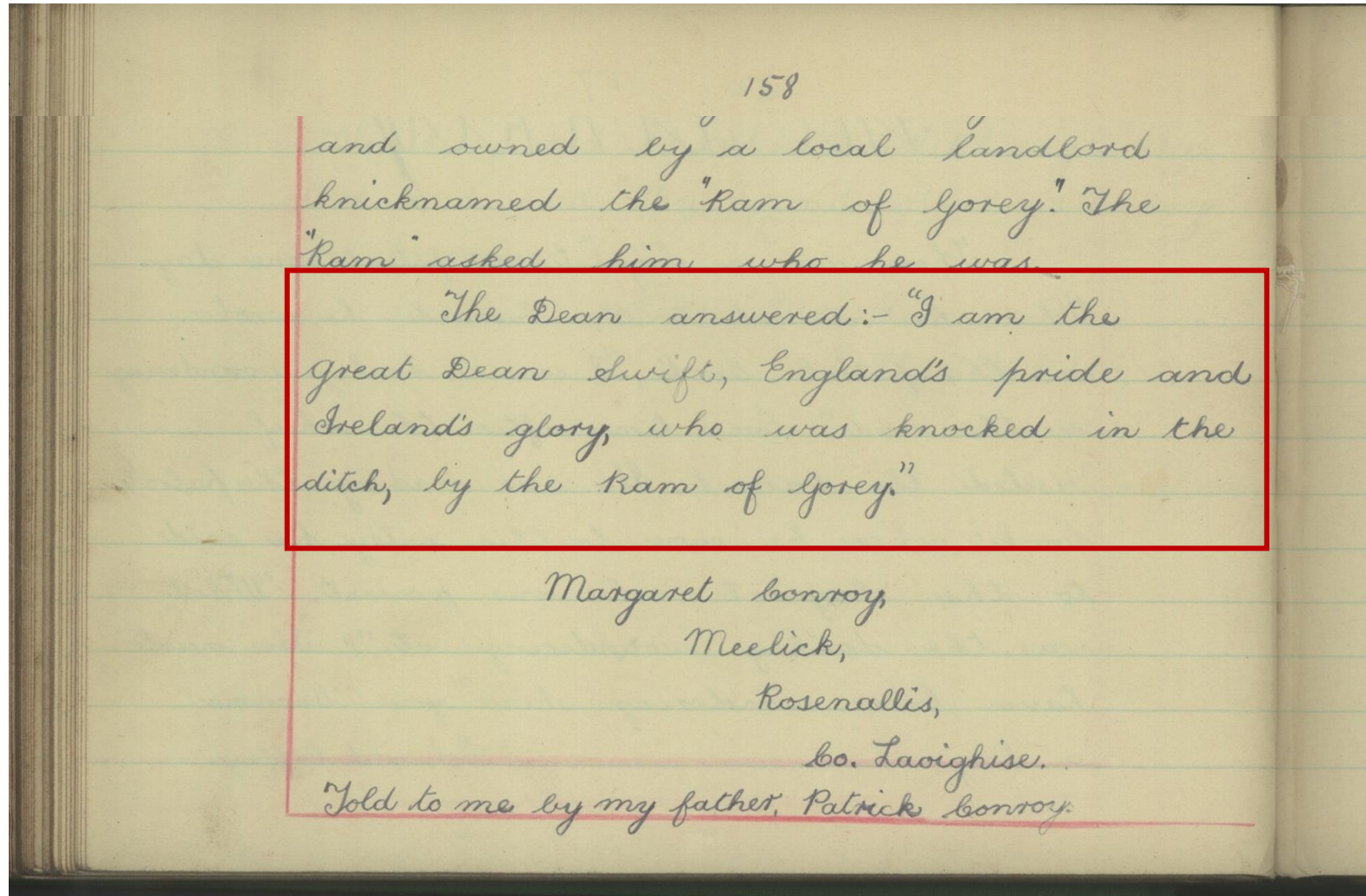
- Jonathan Swift (1667-1745)
 - Anglo-Irish author of Gulliver's Travels and a highly regarded political satirist and a poet.
 - Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin from 1713-1745, earning him the moniker 'Dean Swift'.
 - Developed Ménière's disease in his early 20s.
 - Jonathan Swift was a friend of the Ram family in Gorey and travelled there in 1728 to visit the Spa at Tubberneering.



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Well-known verses about Dean Swift's Visit



Well-known verses about Dean Swift's Visit

"We had rabbits young and rabbits old
We had rabbits hot and rabbits cold
We had rabbits tender and rabbits tough
We thank Thee Lord we had rabbits enough"

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The Tailor Brennan

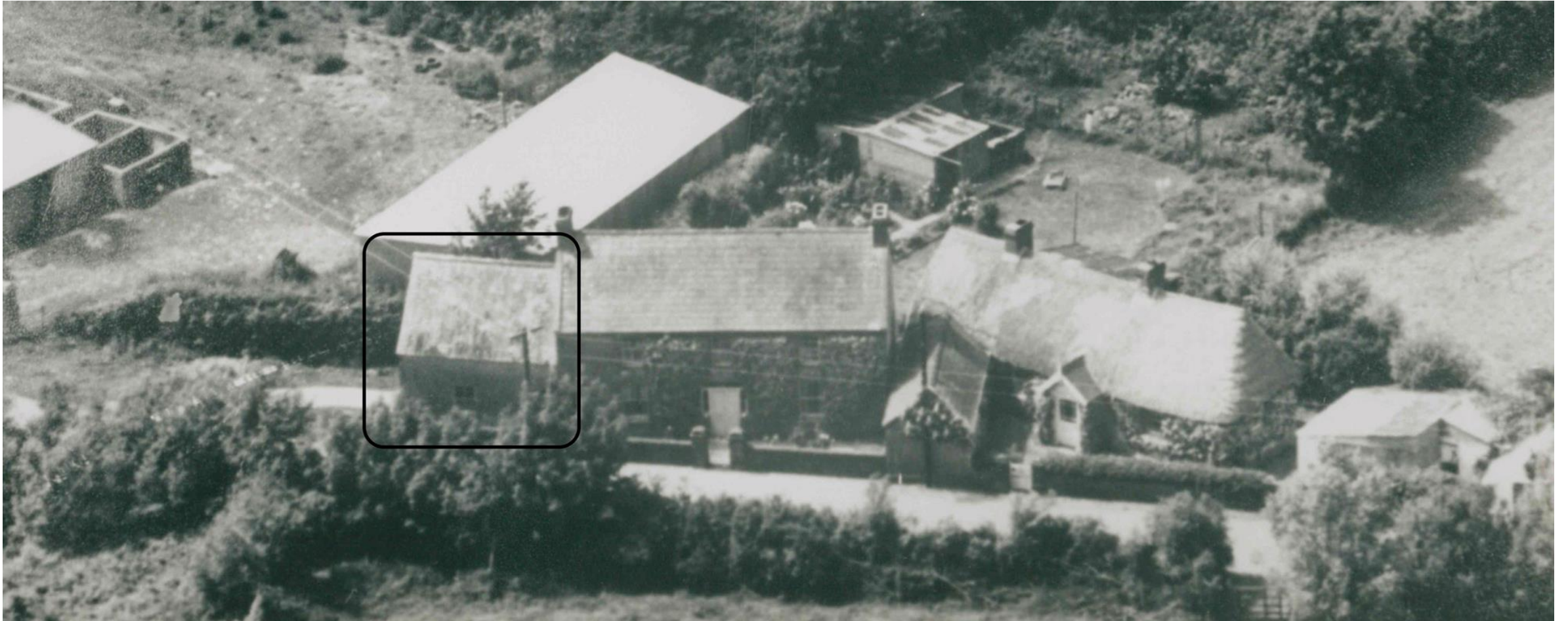
- A thriving Tailor's Shop in the latter half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century

FORM A. No. on Form B. 4

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.		SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Years on last Birthday.	Months for Infants under one Year.						
1	Richard	Brennan	Head of Family	R. Catholic	Read and Write	40		M	Tailor	Married	Wexford		
2	Elen	Brennan	Wife	R. Catholic	Read and Write	38		F		Married	Wexford		
3	Dora	Brennan	Mother	R. Catholic	Read	77		F		Widow	Wexford		
4	Richard	Brennan	Son	R. Catholic	Read and Write	16		M	Apprentice Tailor	Not Married	Wexford		
5	Dora	Brennan	Daughter	R. Catholic	Read & Write	15		F	Scholar	Not Married	Wexford		
6	Julia	Brennan	Daughter	R. Catholic	Read & Write	12		F	Scholar	Not Married	Wexford	Irish and English	
7	James	Brennan	Son	R. Catholic	Read and Write	9		M	Scholar	Not Married	Wexford		
8	Matthew	Brennan	Son	R. Catholic	Read and Write	7		M	Scholar	Not Married	Wexford		
9	Mary	Brennan	Daughter	R. Catholic	Read	5		F	Scholar	Not Married	Wexford		
10	Patrick	Brennan	Son	R. Catholic		3		M		Not Married	Wexford		

The Tailor Brennan



Brennan House c. 1970

Ballyoughter

The Tailor Brennan

- 1911 Census seems to corroborate the story of a thriving business as recounted in family folklore.
- Tailor Shop ceased to trade around the 1940s, not long after the death of Richard Brennan in 1937.
- Family folklore suggests that the Richard Brennan (Head of Family) was himself an apprentice to his father, Richard Brennan (born in 1822)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. _____

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Insert Age opposite each name:—the Ages of Males in column 6, and the Ages of Females in column 7.	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of:—		Whether "Married," "Widower," "Widow," or "Single."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.			Total Children born alive.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	
1	Richard	Brennan	Head	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	50	-	Tailor, Cutter	Married	28	8	8	Co. Wickford	-
2	Ellen	Brennan	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & write	49	-		Married	28	8	8	Co. Wickford	-
3	Richard	Brennan	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	27	-	Tailor	Single				Co. Wickford	-
4	Dora	Brennan	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	-	25	Dress cutter	Single				Co. Wickford	-
5	Sighe	Dr. Brennan	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	-	22	Widow	Single				Co. Wickford	-
6	Maire	Dr. Brennan	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & write	-	15	Schoolmistress	Single				Co. Wickford	-
7	Pádraig	O'Keefe	Maid	Roman Catholic	Read & write	13	-	Scholar	Single				Co. Wickford	-
8	Aidan	Brennan	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	8	-	Scholar	Single				Co. Wickford	-
9	Shiela	Bernie	Relative (niece)	Roman Catholic	Read & write	-	6	Scholar	Single				England	-
10	Denis	Lawlor	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write	24	-	Tailor	Single				Dublin	-
11	John	Keefe	Apprentice	Roman Catholic	Read & write	16	-	Tailor	Single				Wickford	-
12	Julia	Pender	Apprentice	Roman Catholic	Read & write	-	18	Dressmaker	Single				Co. Wickford	-



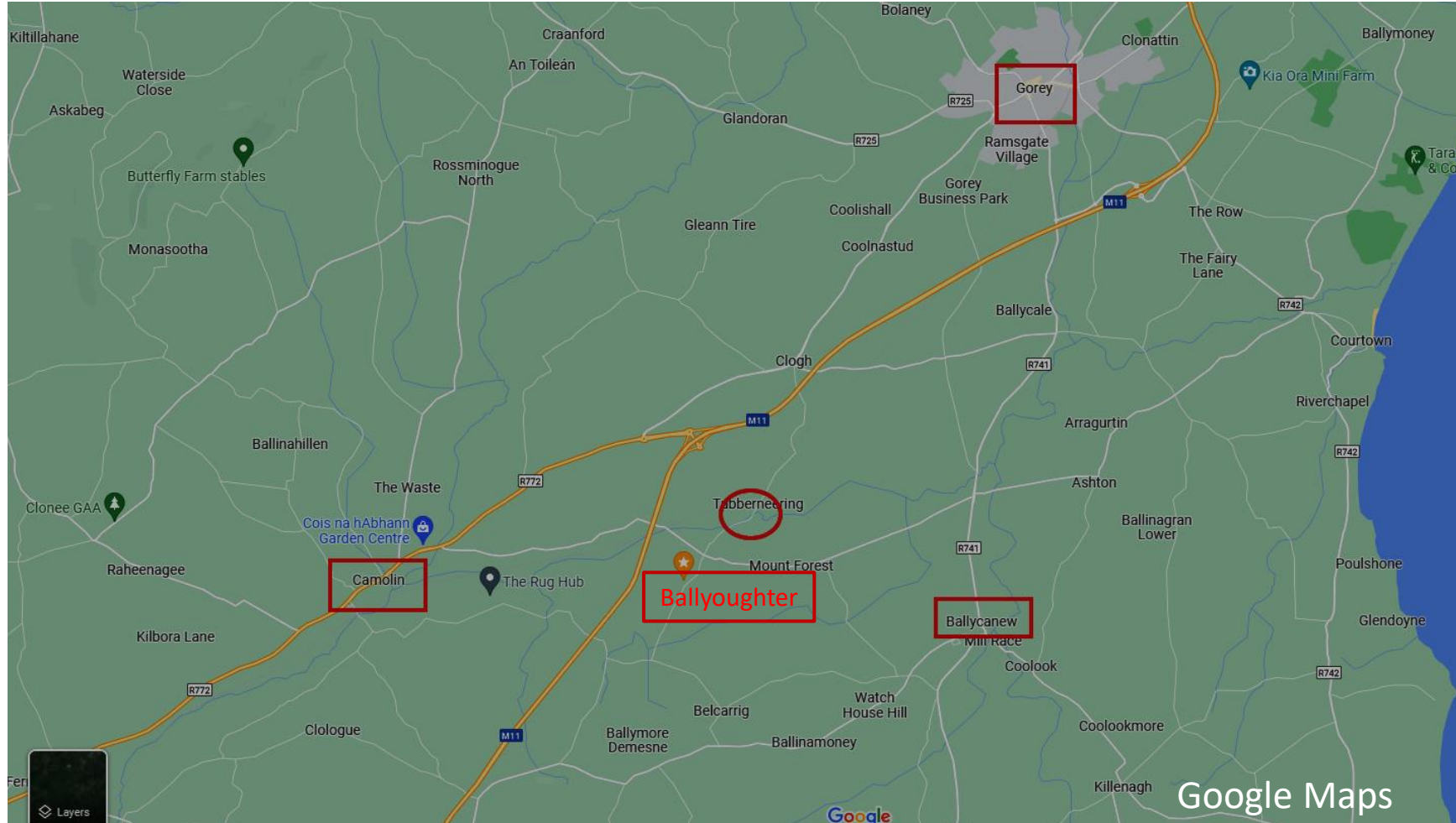
The Tailor Brennan

- Deliveries in the 19th and 20th century
- The Brennan that ran away to the Circus
- Denis Lawlor – more than your typical employee

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The Tan Yard at Tubberneering



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering



- The Tannery is located on the southern edge of the farm of local man, Thomas Hill.
- According to Thomas Hill, the industry was a thriving family business during the 1800s.
- He remembers his uncle, who was born in the late 1890s, reminiscing about the Tannery from his memories as a very young boy on the farm.
- The Tannery, like many others, appears to have ceased operations around the turn of the 20th century.

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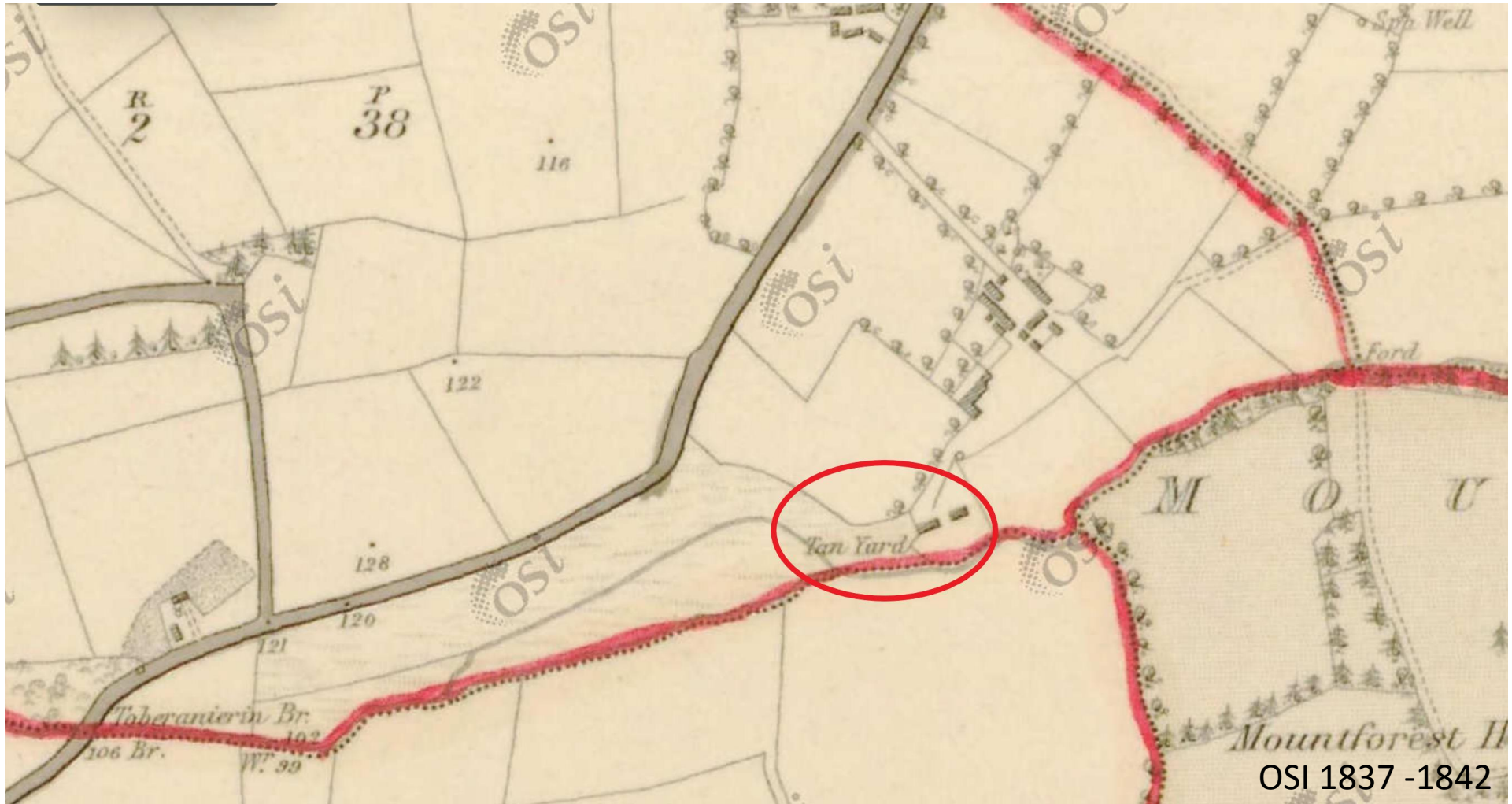
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The Tan Yard at Tubberneering



OSI 1837 - 1842

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The Tan Yard at Tubberneering



Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913)

The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Access Road to Tannery from Farmhouse



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Access Road to Tannery from Farmhouse



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Access Road to Tannery from Farmhouse



The Tan Yard Buildings at Tubberneering

- Early tanneries generally consisted of a couple of buildings
 - A covered shed (Mill House) for storing and grinding the oak bark
 - A separate building for fleshing, tanning, and working the hides
 - There are no remains of this building in evidence today.



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – The Bark Mill



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Bark Crushing Mill in the US



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Bark Mill House Wall



The Tan Yard at Tubberneering – Mill House Wall



The Tanning Process



- Rehydrating skins if they arrived salted and dried.
- The animal hides were brought to the Fleshing House - removal of fat and flesh.
- Tanneries often operated only during summer months in the early 1800s.
- By the mid-1800s, a typical Tan Yard operated all year round inside a large, sometimes heated, building.

The Tanning Process - Lime Pits or Soaking Pits



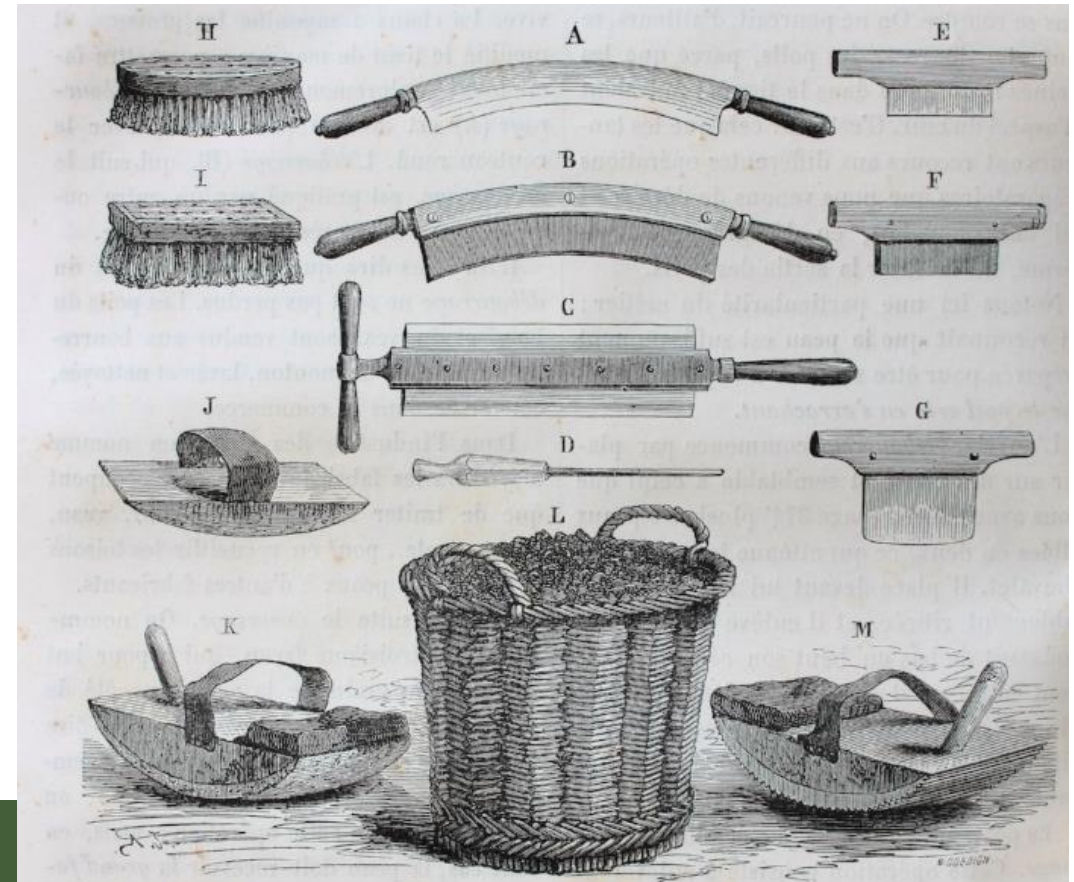
- Skins were soaked for 1-2 weeks in a caustic lime solution to remove the hair or fur.
- Note the disintegrating dividing 'wall' between the pits. The 'wall' was built of stone, mud and timber.
- Before availability of lime, a lye solution made from wood ashes and water was used. Urine was usually added to make it easier for tanners to remove hair and bits of flesh from the skin.
- During this soaking stage that rotting of living tissue took place resulting in a significant stench.

The Tanning Process – Hair Removal

- After soaking was completed, the skins were rinsed and washed in the river.
- Skins then stretched them over a large log and used a fleshing knife, called **Shiguers**, to remove the hair.
- Possible side industry
 - Collecting the hair and selling it to plasterers as the hair improved the adherence of plaster to a wall and prevented the plaster from cracking.

Various tools used by the Tanner

- A & B are knives.
- E, F & G are stretching tools (slate).
- H & I are brushes for hair removal.
- J, K & M are hand, arm and serrated cork covered tools respectively for 'graining' the leather.
- L is a basket for the oak bark.



The Tanning Process – The Tanning Vats

- After scraping off all the hair, the hides were placed into running water for several days to wash out any remaining lye. During this washing process, the hides were turned regularly to ensure that all the lye was removed.
- Once this thorough washing was complete, the hides were put into stone vats which were then filled with water saturated with tannin obtained from the oak bark.



The Tanning Process – The Tanning Bark

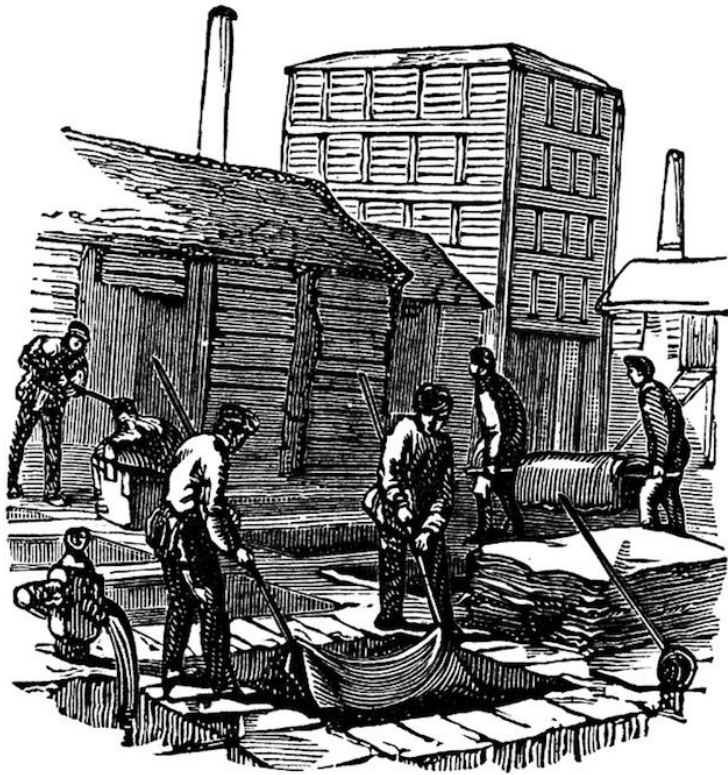
- The tanning bark was harvested from actively growing oak trees in the spring - using tools like crowbars to peel the bark from the trees.
- The bark was then flattened, ground, dried, and then sold to the Tannery.
- In many tanneries, like at Tubberneering Upper, the bark was ground on site by a bark mill driven by an animal, most likely a horse or donkey.



- There is no record of where the oak bark required for the Tan Yard in Tubberneering was obtained.
- It is possible that it came from the Earl of Courtown's estate.
- According to Thomas Hill, family lore suggests it may have been sourced from Courtfoyle Estate in County Wicklow.

The Tanning Process –The Tanning Vats

- A layer of crushed bark would be put in the bottom of a stone vat and covered with water. A layer of hides was added on top and followed with another covering layer of bark.
- This process was repeated until the vat was filled to the brim. The hides were left soaking like this for several weeks and then washed in running water for a week or more.



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The Tanning Process - The Drying Houses

- The hides were then allowed to dry during which time the workers added oil to the hide to soften them and, where the product demanded it, used colour treatments.
- The skins were stored upstairs in these building and the louvred windows opened to speed up the drying process.



The River Run

- Evidence of a River Run at Tubberneering Tanyard



Wonderful Irish Wit!

- Piss Poor
- Doesn't have a pot to piss in

Sources

- **Logainm.ie** - Placenames Database of Ireland - developed by Gaois, Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge (DCU) and The Placenames Branch (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media).
- **Internet Archive** – The Internet Archive is an American digital library with the stated mission of "universal access to all knowledge". It provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including websites, software applications/games, music, movies/videos, moving images, and millions of books.
- **JSTOR** - a digital library founded in 1995 in New York City. Originally containing digitized back issues of academic journals, it now encompasses books and other primary sources as well as current issues of journals in the humanities and social sciences. It provides full-text searches of almost 2,000 journals. E.g. **Irish Manuscripts Commission – Civil Survey of Wexford 1654-1656**
- **Dúchas.ie** – The Schools Collection
- **University of Southampton** – digital records of UK Parliament
- **Wexford County Council Archives**
- **National Library of Ireland**
- **National Archives**
- **Valuation Office Records**
- **Ballyoughter NS Records**
- **Ballyoughter Parish Records**
- **Maps from multiple sources**

What's Next

- Ballyoughter Oral History Project
- Phase 2



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