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Heritage Update

by Gerry Murphy
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Kerry Lane - Winter / Winters / Gardiner Family - WW1 Commemoration

(1) Kerry Lane

A few weeks ago in the Vale Star we explained the street numbering for George Street from number 1 which is the Parson's House to number 23 George St which is now Boss Murphy's. This numbering system is based on Griffith's Valuation of 1851. This week we will reveal the Kerry Lane numbering system which starts at the Community Centre / Old School which is number 1 Kerry Lane and finishes at the Pound Corner which was number 12 Kerry Lane.

The Market House is number 2 Kerry Lane and the two houses above it are number 3 occupied in 1851 by John Desmond and number 4 which was occupied by Emma Kent. In the 1920s this part of Upper Kerry Lane was also known as Hickey's Hill as both number 3 and 4 Kerry Lane were owned by Denis Hickey's grandfather David Hickey. David also owned number 8 George Street at this time. As an aside the former Churchtown National School (now the Community Centre) and the Market House on Kerry Lane was built from Windmill 'cut' limestone under the instructions of Sir Edward Tierney on behalf of the Earl of Egmont. These two fine buildings were completed in 1845 and 1847 respectively.

The numbering then cross the street and so Booney's is number 5 Kerry Lane and was occupied by John Laffen in 1851. Numbers 6 and 7 - now occupied by the Quinn family - were occupied by Anne Cullen and Johanna Rogers respectively in 1851. Of course, number 6 was for many years owned by the Costelloe family and more recently the late Sean Galvin lived at number 7 Kerry Lane.

O'Briens Bar is number 8 Kerry Lane and in 1851 the occupier was James Dennehy after whom we know Dennehy's Bridge is called. This bridge is over the Awbeg as you head to the railway gates at Shininagh near the entrance to James Roche's farm. This river / bridge is one of a number of river boundaries between Churchtown and Ballyhea.

Gaffney's Butcher Shop is number 9 Kerry Lane and in 1851 it was occupied by Sarah Webb. Number 10 is now Michael and Julia McMahon's and in 1851 the occupant here was Daniel Buckley. Number 11 now owned by Eleanor and Kieran Melican was then owned by Edmund Burns. The Pound Corner itself was noted as number 12 Kerry Lane.

(2) Winter / Winters / Gardiner Family

Following last week's story on the Winter and Gardiner families I was contacted by Noel Relihan from Philadelphia and Norma (Drinan) Bourke from Carrigeen / Altamira adding to our knowledge about the Winter and Gardiner families. There was also commentary about the article on Churchtown North's Facebook page from Denis Pat Costello and Nuala Grimshaw.

We have learned from Norma Bourke that "Charlie Winter had a brother and sister Ellie and Jimmy but Bob was not a brother but more likely a cousin. Jimmy fought in the War of Independence. I think he was quarter master with Charleville Brigade. Jimmy was captured in Carrigeen and imprisoned at Spike Island in Cork Harbour and he died shortly after being released. Ellie died in the 1950s. She is buried in Oldcourt cemetery near Doneraile. I presume Jimmy was buried there also. Charlie lived with the Drinan family in Carrigeen after Aghaburren was sold. He was a real gentleman a lovely person. He died on 15th October 1965 and is buried in St Bridget's Cemetery in Templemary. At his funeral his coffin was draped with the tricolour by Paddy O'Brien from Lisscarroll."

Noel Relihan recalls Ellie Winter lifting the Cheltenham Gold Cup in the village after one of Cottage Rake's victories in that race. "Cottage Rake was led up the village to the strains of *Come Back to Erin* played by the Buttevant Brass Band." Nuala Grimshaw in England explained on Facebook that: "I believe my grandmother was part of the Winter/s family. She was married to a Downey who died and she then married my grandfather Denis O'Leary of Walshestown. She was Katie Winters." Nuala also recalls going to primary school with Betty Gardiner. My colleague Noel Linehan has also reminded me that Albert Daly's mother was a Winter. Albert lives in Currymount and is great supporter of Churchtown Heritage events.

Denis Pat Costello also wrote on Facebook that: "The Winter Family lived next door to the Curate's house. In the early 1950s I used to run "messages" for them. Charlie Winters is also mentioned in the song about the Bomber that accidently landed in Aghaburren in 1942."

Noel Relihan wrote also about the Gardiner Family and explained: "The Gardiner family were friends of my family. The parents were Bob and Lily and the children were Robert (Robin), Nat, Ernie, Betty and Eddie. They were sadly missed when they left for Galbally area. I am in touch with them from time to time and Robin is now in Naas. In my youth the Duhallow Hunt always drew foxes from Gardiner's fox covert. Nat and I used to close the fox earths before the hunts. This covert was known as Roche's Gorse before the Gardiner's owned it. I also remember the Winter family at Aghaburren and the a short cut to their farm which they entered at Dooley's Height just above Simon Keane's (now Pat and Susan Daly's home) though a stile which was called Birney's Hole. I also remember them living next to Father Savage, who had a motor cycle and a horse which he rode in the Hunt. It has been said the Gardiner, Winter and my mentor Bill Sherlock were all related." Noel Relihan has also promised to send us a school photo from that era which we look forward to seeing and publishing in the Vale Star.

(3) WW1 Commemoration

The 11th November this year is the 100th anniversary of the ending of WW1 and there will be commemorations throughout Ireland remembering the huge number of volunteers from Ireland who died in WW1. At least nine local volunteers from Churchtown and Lisscarroll lost their lives in the war. Churchtown Heritage Society looks at history in an inclusive non-political way and so will be producing a booklet to remember those volunteers from Churchtown and Lisscarroll who died in WW1 and also those who served and returned which will likely number a further 30 locals. We will be assisted by Colette Collins from Lisscarroll in this task. If any readers have information to add or comments on this proposed booklet please contact us by email at heritage@bruhenny.com.

(4) Never a dull week!

It's never a dull week when it comes to Churchtown Heritage as there is always activity on the Churchtown North Facebook page and emails enquiries. Also with the rise of DNA testing for genealogical research more and more people are making contact. If you have any heritage points you wish to make or suggestions please email heritage@bruhenny.com.

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