

CARRUCAN ORIGINS

This document, put together by Jim Martin, is a compilation of material in two reports from the Clare Heritage Centre Corofin, Co Clare, Ireland. The first was commissioned by Mick Gooch [Reference 1989No 593], written by Naoise Cleary, the second by Antoinette O'Brien [Reference 1995 Ref 1`4060], successive Directors of the Centre.

Carrucan is a very rare surname.

Seeing that the Carrucan name is so rare, naturally, the question frequently comes to the fore - where did they originate! I find a Denis Kierucan and Anne Halloran had a son John baptised in St. Mary's Parish, Limerick City on 8/5/1787. I have no doubt but Anne Halloran was from East Clare - Hallorans were a sub-sept of the McNamaras.

On to Tulla in East Clare, the capital of the McNamara homeland, and I find one Mary Kerucan, baptised on 17/10/1819, to Michael Kerucan and Catherine McNamara.

In the post-Cromwellian land settlement 1652-1658, a prominent section of the McNamara clan were transplanted from East Clare into the North Clare area of Ballyvaughan and Doolin. I am convinced that the Carrucans came to that district with the McNamaras, but they never propagated there like other families.

Today, when people in Clare mention the name 'Carrucan' they immediately associate it with the Fanore area.

LAND RECORDS

The earliest available records which we have for the Ballyvaughan-Fanore area are the Tithe Applotment Land Records of the mid-1820's. Tithe was a tax on all agricultural land (originally a tenth of the produce) and it was paid by people of all religious denominations towards the upkeep of the Established Church of that day (Church of Ireland). The tax aroused much resentment on religious grounds as the country was four-fifths Roman Catholic and the distress that followed the Napoleonic Wars forced the Government to introduce the Tithe composition Act of 1823 which replaced payment in kind by payment in cash by local landlords. The information differs from parish to parish, but in most part gives the name of the tithe payer, the acreage of his farm subject to tithe, and the amount of tithe paid. Taken together the Tithe Applotment Books virtually form a census of land-holders around the year **1830**, a few years before the massive emigration resulting from the 'Great Famine.' These records do not include a list of the householders in rural or urban areas, they contain only the names of the those who occupied titheable land.

From a study of these early land records, we uncovered particulars on just one Carrucan holding at Fanore Beg at this early stage, the details being:

Denis Carrucan was shown holding 1 acre of first quality land and 2 roods of second quality land at Fanore Beg. This in turn brought his total land area to 1 acre 2 roods.

Doolin (otherwise Fisherstreet) is very close to Fanore Beg, but not in Ballyvaughan Parish. Patrick and Bridget were born in Clare, Patrick in Doolin, that he was a fisherman and a farmer, and that he died in Doolin. That Patrick must have been the registered tenant c. 1850 Griffith Valuation of just a house in the village of Fisherstreet (Doolin) valuation 12 shillings - one of ~3 tenants in houses there of similar value, who must all have been fishermen - as the name implies, including your Patrick. He was tenant of Capt. Francis McNamara. But he was also tenant of 17 acres 3 roods and 24 perches, £4-10-0 land valuation and 10 shillings house valuation, in the townland of Fanore Beg about two miles distant from Fisherstreet. It was there he farmed. He

held that tenancy from John McNamara. I note that a James, Anne and Eileen Carrucan are on the 1986 Register of Electors for Fanore Beg, and that Michael and Cissie Carrucan are living in the townland of Ballyconry. The Fanore Beg holding on Patrick's demise may have passed to Michael Carrucan on Patrick's widow's emigration.

CHURCH RECORDS

The Church Registers (Baptismal & Marriage) for the ecclesiastical Parish of Ballyvaughan which comprised of the old Civil Parishes of Rathborne, Drumcreehy, Gleninagh and Killonaghan do not commence recording until 1854, hence we have no information from that source on Patrick Carrucan - Bridget Gorman issue. From their commencement in 1864 up until 1900, there were 3 families of Carrucan's recorded in the Parish:

Other Carrucans in the church records are:

- Jude baptised 10-12-1865 in Murrough, the- next Townland to Fanore, to Denis Carrucan and Bridget Roche, her sponsor at baptism was Lady Mary McNamara.
- Denis Carrucan and his wife Bridget Rourke resided at Murrough (Murroghtoohey & Murrooghkilly) which is situated just north of Fanore. This couple were recorded having a son Jude, baptised 19-12-1865, sponsor Mary McNamara
- Martin Carrucan and his wife Mary Halvey resided in the village of Ballyvaughan, were recorded having a son who was Martin baptised on 29-10-1864. Address: Ballyvaughan. Sponsors: Thomas & Bridget Carrucan

The only gravestone inscription to the family is in Craggagh Cemetery 'erected by Denis Carrucan in loving memory of his wife Mary who died 1st Sept. 1942 - aged 57 years.'

Michael Carrucan and his wife Mary Droney, resided in the townland of Fanore Beg where they were recorded the following children's baptisms:

- Mary, baptised 15-10-1854, Sponsors Peter Carrucan & Ellen Woods
- Austin, baptised 20-07-1856, Sponsors Peter Carrucan & Francis Woods
- Bridget, baptised 11-10-1851, Sponsors Denis Carrucan & Mary Casey
- Mary, baptised 15-06-1861, Sponsors Patrick & Bridget Fitzpatrick
- Ellen, baptised 15-10-1863, Sponsor Mary McNamara
- Denis, baptised 26-09-1865, Sponsors John Woods & Mary Howley
- Catherine, baptised 14-06-1868, Sponsors John Woods & L'ora Dare
- Patrick, baptised 29-01-1811, Sponsors Michael & Bridget Droney
- James, baptised 09-03-1873, Sponsors John Linnane & Ellen Droney

The dates given above are baptismal dates. However, in those days because of the very high level of infant mortality children were baptised within a few days birth. So since Mary Carrucan was baptised on the 15th

October, 1854 it would be reasonable to assume that she was born sometime between the 10th and the 15th of that month.

Mary Carrucan, born in 1854, obviously died as a child as there was another Mary in the family in 1861. It was the custom in Ireland at that time that when a child died, the next born be given the same Christian name.

Apart from your family in Fanore-Beg and Doolin, there was none other of the name in Co. Clare in the last century. Today there are only two families of the name in the county and both are in Ballyvaughan Parish, one extended family in Fanore Beg and a related family in Ballyvaughan.

Michael Carrucan and Mary Droney had nine children in Fanore Beg and it is interesting to note that the sponsors at the baptisms of the two eldest children (1) Mary b. 15-10-1854 and (2) Austin 20-7-1856 were (1) Peter Carrucan & Ellen Woods and (2) Peter Carrucan and Frances Woods. That Peter is presumably a son of Patrick Carrucan and Bridget, and Hannah Woods whom he married was very likely a sister of the Woods girls mentioned and a brother of Michael Carrucan. But of course as the Church Registers for the Parish do not commence until 1854, we cannot be absolutely certain re same. You will further note that, at the baptism of the children of Michael Carrucan and Mary Droney, the Woods' acted on several occasions as sponsors (god-parents). From the Land Records of 1855, you will note that the Woods held property at Fanore Beg.

Denis was a 'tribal' name amongst the Carrucans. One Denis Carrucan from Fanore, very likely a brother of Patrick married on 1/9/1835 Mary Sexton from this Parish of Corofin and had four children here: Mary 1836, Thomas 1838, Patrick 1840 and Michael 1841. Mary married a man named Doube, a neighbour, originally of a Palatine family.

Church Registers during the last century did not record Deaths. In fact Deaths were not recorded until the commencement of Civil Registration in 1864, Here at the Centre over the past number of months, we have been indexing the Civil Death Registers from their commencement in 1864 up until the late 1930 period. Consequently I am now in a position to provide you with particulars on all recorded Deaths in the Carrucan family in the Ballyvaughan/Fanore area during the above mentioned timeframe

1. On 12th July 1861 an Ellen Carrucan died at Fanore Beg. Her age was given as 65. She was described as a cottiers wife. Heart disease, which she had for 4 months, was recorded as the cause of Death, one Pat Carrucan who signed his name with an "x" was shown to have been present at the time of the Death,
2. On 6th December 1903 Michael Carrucan brother of Bridgit, Patrick and Peter died at Fanore Beg. His age was given as 72. Cancer of the Lips which he had for 2 years was recorded as the cause of Death. His wife Mary Carrucan who signed her name with an 'X' was shown to have been present at the time of the death.
3. On 21st March 1919 Kate Carrucan, whom we believe to have been the daughter of Michael Carrucan and Mary Droney, died at Derreen. Her age was given as 48. Her occupation was listed as a domestic servant. She was shown to have been unmarried. Probably Phthisis was recorded as the cause of Death. One Kate Kerin was shown to have been present at the time of her Death.

See enclosed copy of said Death entries giving full particulars re same.

CENSUS RECORDS

The oldest official Census in Ireland dates back to April, 1901. This lists the following residing at the Carrucan home at Fanore Beg:

Michael Carrucan, head of the family. It was shown that he could read and write and speak both Irish and English. His occupation was given as a farmer while his age was given as 12 i.e, born c. 1828-1829, Living with him was his wife Mary and their children Denis, Kate and James. Also living in the house were their grandchildren Kate Kerin, Patrick Kerin and John Kerin.

The Census describes the Carrucan home at Fanore Beg as having stone walls, a thatched roof, 2 windows to the front and 2 rooms.

It was further shown that their farm contained a stable, cowhouse and piggery.

Clare Heritage Centre Corofin, Co Clare, Ireland