

## Tony Mooney's

### Notes for talk at the Mooney Reunion in Doolin Co. Clare

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013

#### Dublin nonsense poem:

Ladies and Gentlemen  
I come before you to stand behind you  
To tell you something I know nothing about.  
Last night, early this morning  
An empty lorry loaded with bricks  
Ran over a dead cat and nearly killed it.  
And now it's in the Mater Hospital in the best of health  
Ready to die in a minute.

#### Introduce myself

#### How I got involved

Lourda found my website

Emails and phone call from Niamh

Working with Niamh

#### Doing my family history

Getting started / Ruth / 13 / Thelma / Yorkshire / Cornwall

The Master Genealogist

Second Site

Visits to Ireland / Lila / notes and letters

Discovering New York House

Coughlans / Files / Address / Dermot / Visit / Mooney / Family history

How the 'New York House' got its name

Dermot's Book

## The Mooneys

### Patrick Mooney

Ballyfin / Grennan Estate / settled in a house overlooking River Nore

Known as Mooney's Gardens / still called that now

Dermot now pasture / but probably found foundations under grass

Not known what happened to him except

m. Margaret Coffee who lived on a farm nearby

Two sons are known

William - my ancestor – 2 x great grandfather

Andrew - Niamh's ancestor – 3 x great grandfather

Niamh and I are 4th cousins once removed

### William Mooney

b. 15 May 1803

Griffith's Valuation 1852

C. 1843 moved house nearby / ¼ mile / built by William / one room

20 acres on

m. Lizzie Butler

d. 1885 / Lizzie survived him and appears to have carried on the farm

5 children

Andrew (died young)

William - DMP

John – my great grandfather

Mary

Judith

First known principal of Girl's School

taught her own nephews and nieces

Dermot's father knew her well / rapped pupils / head with  
/ ruler

m. Edward Dowling

### **John Mooney**

b. May 1830

Joined RIC in 14 Sep 1852

Left RIC in 1882 as a Sergeant after 30 years' service

Returned to live on the family farm at Attanagh

m. Elizabeth McCabe

9 children

Mary (died an infant)

John (died an infant)

William - RIC

Elizabeth Mary

Catharine

Judith Esther who married John Dorgan

Patrick Joseph (my grandfather) - RIC

James – stonemason who probably built most of the walls in

Attanagh

Andrew Martin – RIC

Elizabeth died in 1907 when her husband John was 77

Farm / sons / Land Laws / tenancy / daughter/ John Dorgan/  
in exchange for free maintenance for the rest of his life / 1909 /  
Ballouskill / family erected headstone

At some point the Land Laws changed and the Dorgans were able to  
buy it.

The land eventually passed to Dermot Dorgan who farmed it until about  
6 years ago when he found a tenant.

### **Patrick Joseph Mooney (my grandfather)**

Grew up in Attanagh

RIC career becoming a Head Constable

Forces to retire in 1922 when the RIC was disbanded as part of the  
agreement negotiated by Michael Collins

Lived in New Ross and I knew him and my grandmother / visits / walks /  
chocolate tree

She was a Kennedy and family tradition has it that she was connected  
to the American Kennedys / Kennedy Homestead nearby / Pres John F K  
/ visited New Ross and Homestead in 1963 / so we live in hope that the  
connection is found

(Story)

During the troubles he was stationed at Rosbercon just across the River  
Barrow from New Ross. As a policeman his job was to seek out and  
arrest wrongdoers of all kind but he never caught anyone connected  
with the troubles at all. His wife, my grandmother, who was a staunch  
supporter of all things Irish, would have them hidden in the house  
whilst granddad was out about his duties. I'll never know now but I like  
to think that they had worked out what to do between them.

### **Wind up**

Recap

Draw attention to charts / especially Niamh's / contrast / photos

Website and contact book

Ask me for my details

I'd love to hear from you and share what I have and know about our family history

## **Thanks**

Lots of people / see my website

Now includes Niamh in the list of credits / pleasure to work with / nothing too much for her / forever grateful to her

Lourda found me whilst googling / I'm also grateful for her lucky find and for passing it along to Niamh / else I would have been able to come and meet you all

I also want to thank Bill. Niamh's father / some more / and for his kind and generous hospitality

## **Blessing**

Wherever there is happiness,

I hope you are there too.

Wherever there are friendly smiles

I hope they smile on you.

Wherever there is sunshine,

I hope it shines for you,

To make each day you live

As bright as it can be.