

A SEARCH FOR THE CONAN HOMESTEAD IN IRELAND

By Michael F. McGraw

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A Jeremiah Coonan is found in the Griffith's Valuation (GV) for the townland of Foilagoule in Moyaliff parish in Co. Tipperary. Shown below is a section of the Griffith's Valuation published in 1851.

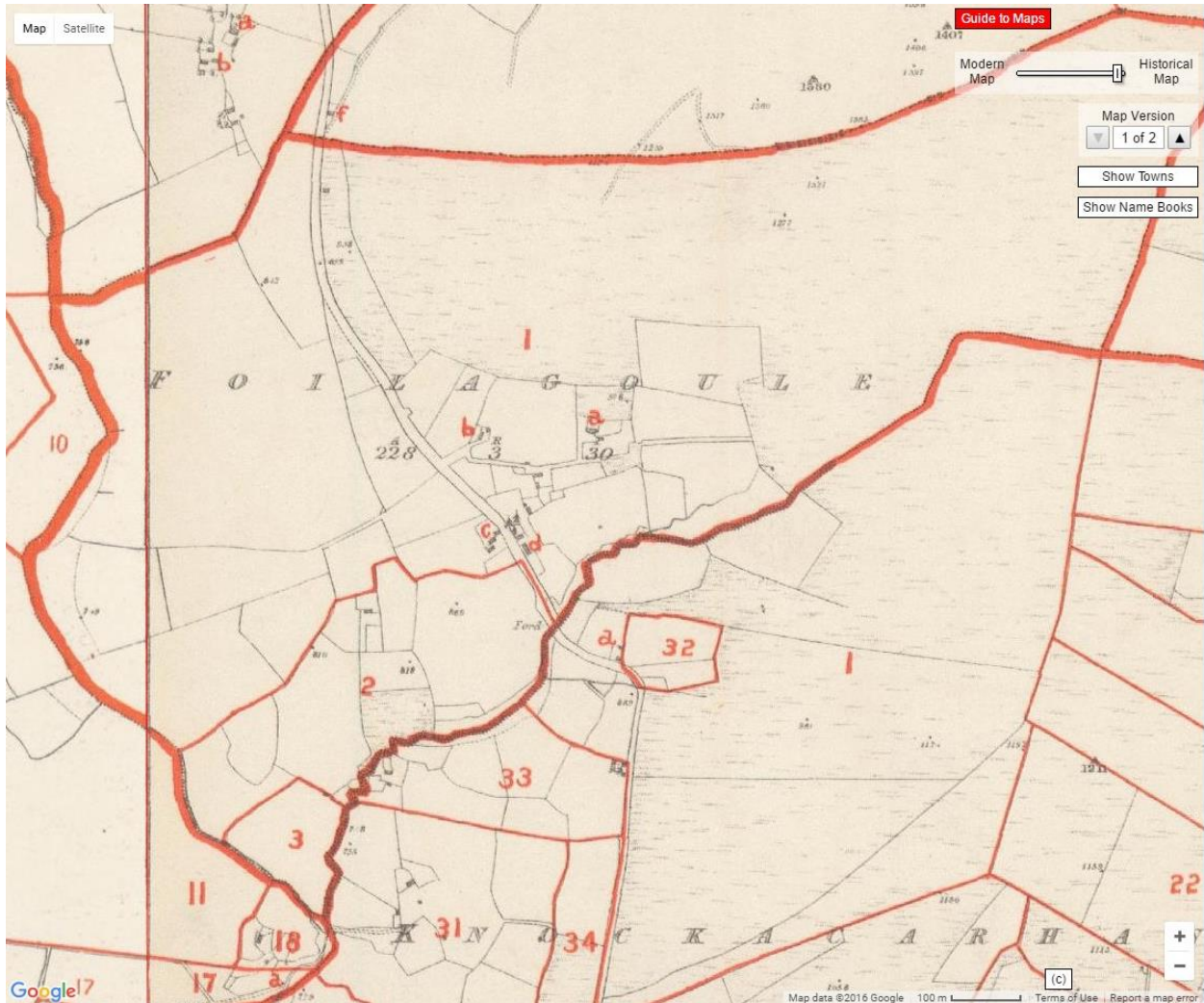
FOILAGOULE. (Ord. Ss. 39 & 40.)															
1	a	James Kennedy,	House, offices, & land,	201	0	10	13	15	0	0	10	0	14	5	0
	b	Michael Griffin,	House, office, & land,				7	0	0	0	5	0	7	5	0
	c	Margaret Phelan,	House, office, & land,				4	10	0	0	10	0	5	0	0
	d	Edward Shanahan,	House, offices, & land,				4	10	0	1	0	0	5	10	0
	e	Michael Shanahan,	House, office, & land,				9	0	0	0	15	0	9	15	0
	f	William Shanahan,	Land,				2	10	0				2	10	0
	g	Vacant,	House,							0	10	0	0	10	0
	h	Vacant,	House,							0	10	0	0	10	0
	i	Catherine Dwyer,	House,							0	5	0	0	5	0
	j	Bridget Dwyer,	Michael Griffin,							0	5	0	0	5	0
2		Edward Shanahan,	Michael Phelan,	3	2	17	1	10	0				1	10	0
3		Pierce Phelan,	Michael Phelan,	1	3	14	0	15	0				0	15	0
4	a	Jeremiah Coonan,	Michael Phelan,	7	3	3	1	18	0	0	12	0	2	10	0
	b	Jeremiah Coonan,	Michael Phelan,	4	2	16	1	10	0				1	10	0
5		Jeremiah Coonan,	Edward Ryan,	5	3	15	2	0	0				2	0	0
		Michael Phelan,	In fee,	0	0	9	0	1	0				0	1	0
		Edward Ryan,	Earl of Norbury,				0	15	0				0	15	0
6		Thomas Maher,	Land,	4	0	20	0	15	0				0	15	0
			Land,				0	15	0				0	15	0
Total, . . .				228	3	30	50	9	0	5	2	0	55	11	0

A portion of the Griffith's Valuation from the AskAboutIreland.com site.

The first column refers to an Ordnance Survey map that was marked up by the local valuation authorities which label the various parcels of land occupied by the persons in the second column. The persons in the third column are the "Immediate Lessors," i.e. the landlords. In some cases the same name appears in both columns. These are usually cases of an occupant sub-leasing land that he has rented from his landlord. The fourth column contains the description of the holding. The fifth column entries state the amount of land in acres, roods and perches. The last three columns contain the valuation of the occupants' holdings, in pounds, shillings and pence. The three columns are Land, Buildings and Total.

Overall this is a rather small townland, being only 228 acres. Of that total, just about all of it appears to be owned by the Earl of Norbury, and he has leased it to others who in turn have sub-leased a portion to yet another person. The one exception is a very small piece of land owned "In fee" by Michael Phelan in lot 5. This is listed as a "garden" and is only 9 perches (square perches) in size. This is 16.5 x 16.5 yards which is less area than two football teams would need to face off on the line of scrimmage. There are four other instances of Michael Phelan being an "Immediate Lessor" and these some 17.5 acres are also part of his "In fee" holding.

One of Michael Phelan’s tenants was Jeremiah Coonan who was listed as the “Occupant” on lots 4Aa and 4B. Coonan held lot 5 from Edward Ryan who was probably leasing it from the Earl of Norbury.



Map of the townland of Foilagoule from the AskAboutIreland site.

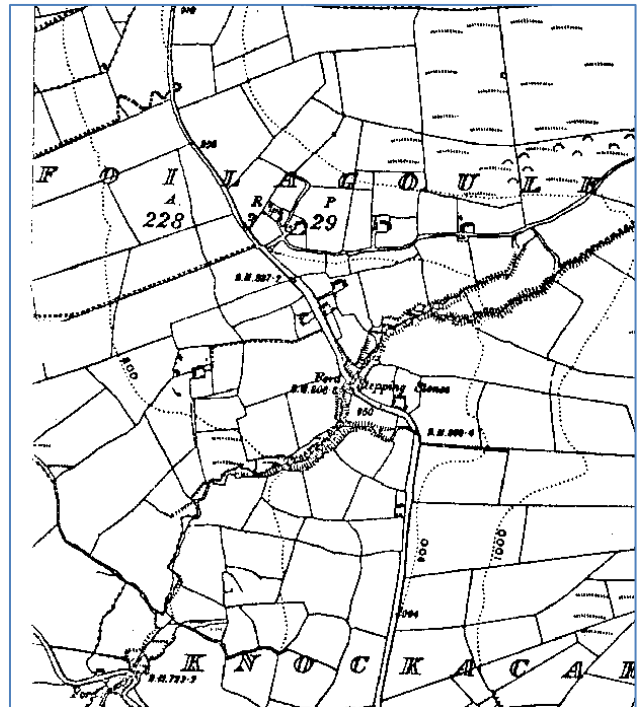
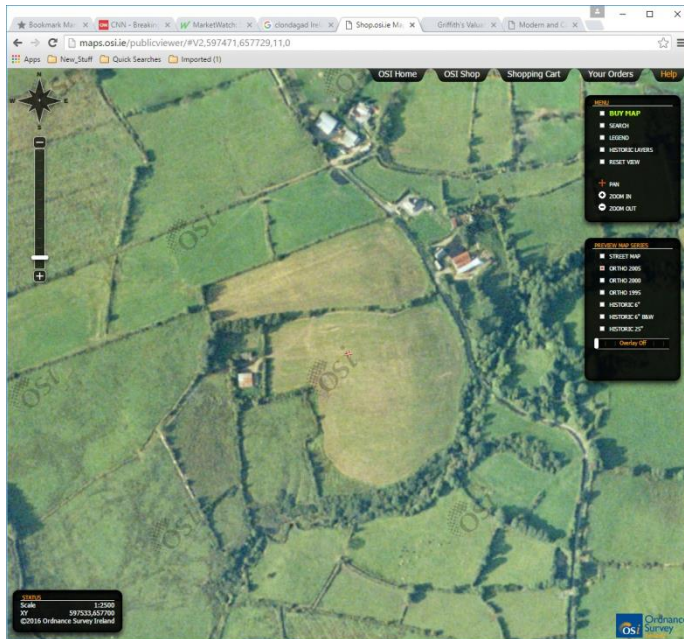
Shown above is a section of the Ordnance Survey map (original unmarked maps circa 1841) showing the townland of Foilagoule. The map is available from the AskAboutIreland site in connection with the Griffith Valuation listings. It only takes a few moments to realize that the map doesn't appear to be in sync with the GV listing above. The 1851 published version of the GV showed 6 lots in Foilagoule which were heavily subdivided. The map above only shows three lots and only lot 1 is subdivided. The answer to the discrepancy lies in the fact that the documents represent different time periods. The local valuation authorities would mark up new copies of the Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps to reflect the current status of land ownership in their jurisdiction. Based on past research these maps being offered by AskAboutIreland appear to reflect the status of land ownership about 15 to 20 years after the publication of the GV.

There is useful information to be found in the map. During the Great Famine and the following years many of the small farmers left and the larger land holders consolidated their holdings. As a result the number of lots displayed on the maps are reduced and the sub-division decreased dramatically and that is what is seen in the map above. However, the relative proportions remain largely the same. Based on the map Lot 1 is still the largest and lots 2 and 3 appear to represent about 10% of the townland total of 228 acres. This is about the same relationship between lot 1 and lots 2- 6 combined in the GV listing. It would seem that lots 2-6 have become lots 2 and 3 in the map. Therefore Jerimiah Coonan's land holding would have been in this small corner of the townland of Foilagoule.



This is an enlarged section of the Foilagoule map showing the southwestern corner of the townland where the Coonan homestead is believed to have existed.

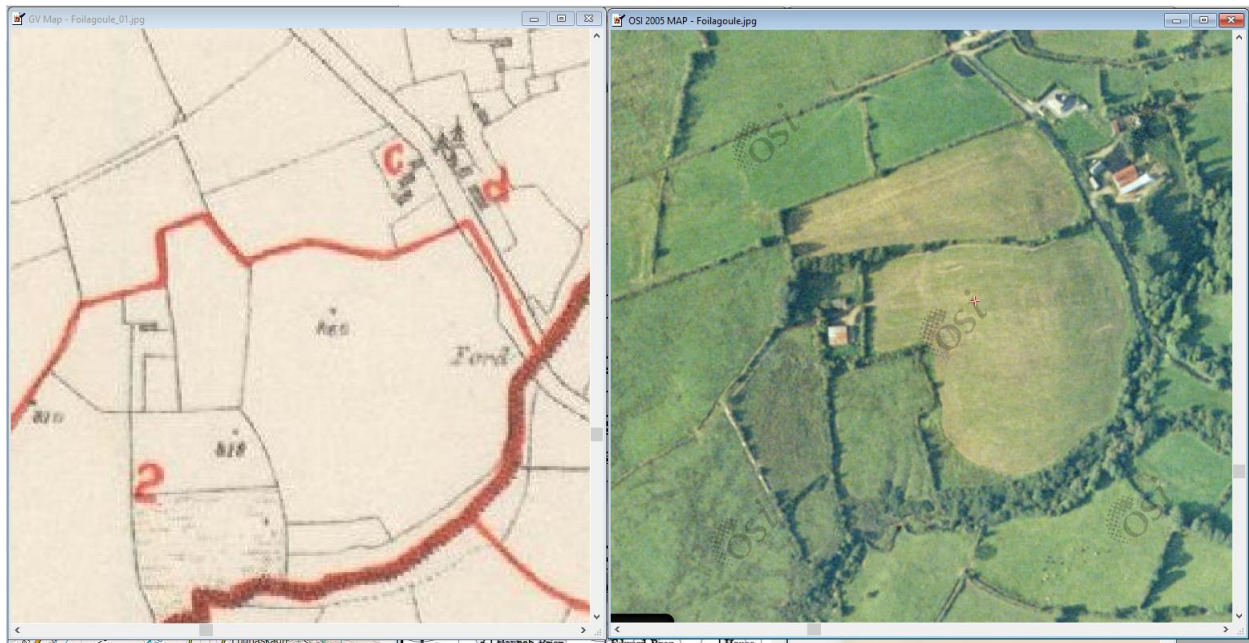
It is believed that the older lots 2-6 were located in the area represented by lots 2 and 3 in the map above. There aren't any structures seen in either of these lots. However, it must be remembered that on these maps only the red boundaries and numbering were updated by the local valuation officials. The basic features in the map itself date from circa 1841 when the Ordnance Survey Office published the maps.



On the left is a 2005 image of the town of Foilagoule from the OSI site and on the right is a OS townland map of the same area.

The amazing thing to notice in these two images, which represent a time difference of over 150 years, is that the field boundaries are very much the same. Where some have changed it is usually possible to determine which older boundary had been removed or modified.

The structures, surrounded by a border of trees, just to the right of the light green fields, are proposed to be the Conan homestead. An area of the same shape and size can also be identified on the townland map on the right.



A comparison of the same region of the GV map (circa 1870) and an OSI aerial photo from 2005.



Circa 1970 photo from Paul Conan, Jr. of the Conan homestead in Foilagoule.

Notice the landscape in the background rising to the right. In trying to fit this photo into the rest of the evidence it is assumed, due to the presence of the road on the left, that this is a view looking to the east.



Circa 1970 photo from Paul Conan, Jr. of the Conan homestead in Foilagoule.

This photo is supposed to be a view looking to the west, in which case the hill in the background is in the townland of Dooree Commons. Notice that in both pictures the homestead is surrounded by a rectangular border of trees, as seen in the 2005 aerial photo.



2016 aerial view of southwestern portion of townland of Foilagoule



Magnified 2016 aerial view of southwestern portion of townland of Foilagoule



Circa 1970 photo from Paul Conan, Jr. of the Conan homestead in Foilagoule.

Could these buildings be the same ones seen in the northern section of the recent aerial photos above.

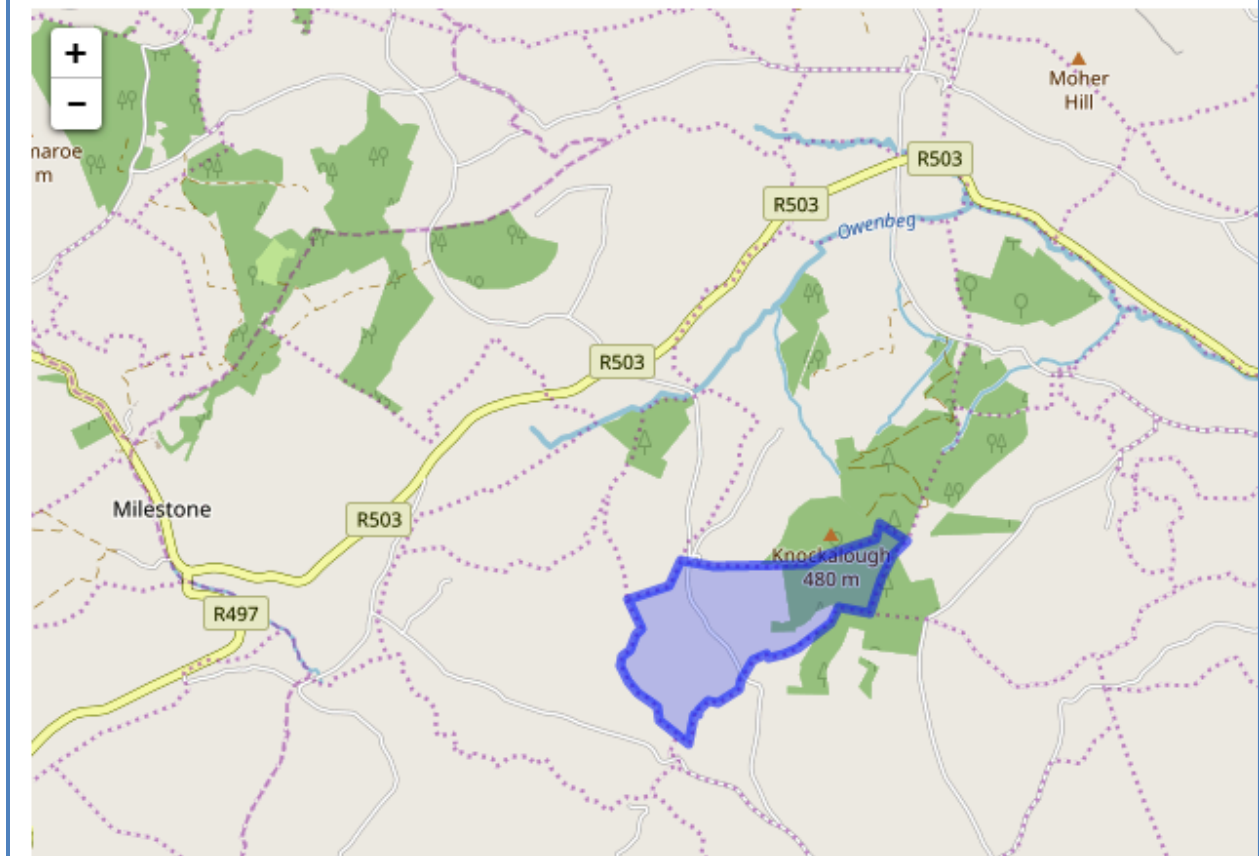


Foilagoule is not even listed in this OSI Discovery map (#66). The squares are 1 km on a side.

In the modern map above, the road to the Coonan homestead branches off to the west from the main road, about a half kilometer northwest of the “K” in Knockacarhanduff.

TOWNLAND OF FOILAGOULE

It is located at 52° 40' 23" N, 8° 2' 7" W.



Area

Foilagoule has an area of:

- 929,419 m² / 92.94 hectares / 0.9294 km²
- 0.36 square miles
- 229.66 acres / 229 acres, 2 roods, 26 perches

Nationwide, it is the 31129th largest townland that we know about
Within Co. Tipperary, it is the 1594th largest townland

Borders

Foilagoule borders the following other townlands:

- [Curraghduff](#) to the east
- [Curraghnatinny](#) to the west
- [Dooree Commons](#) to the west
- [Knockacarhanduff Commons](#) to the south
- [Knockalough Commons](#) to the east