

# The Irish Homesteads

By

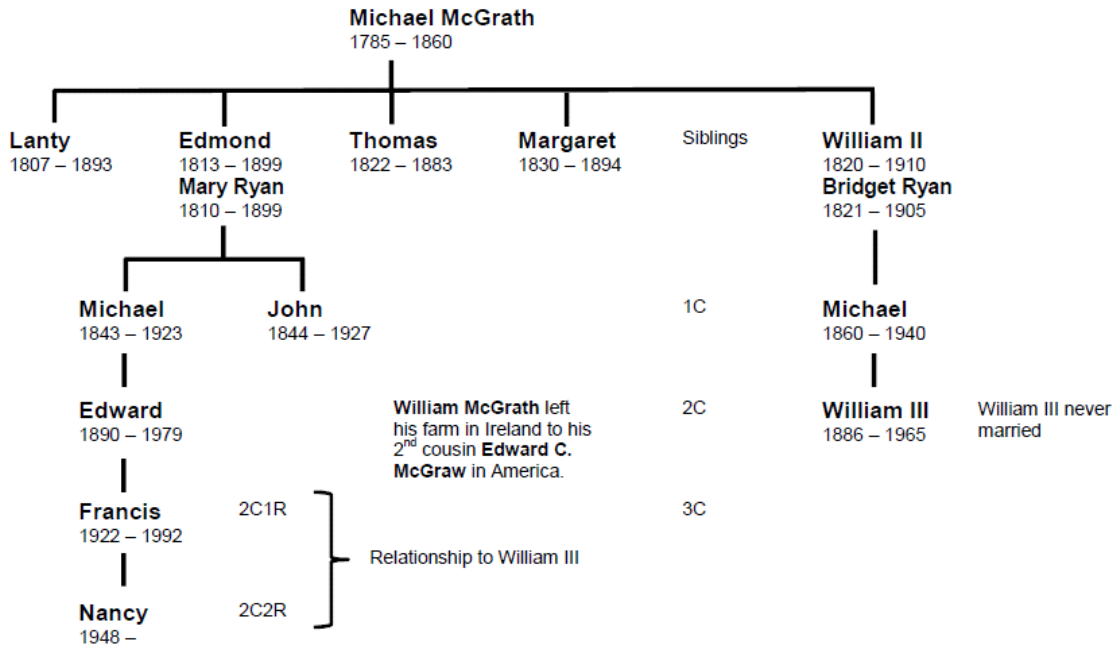
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## William McGrath's Family Tree

### The Extended McGrath Family Tree



The idea of William began as a mysterious family member who had remained in Ireland or one who had initially come to central NY and then went West and no one had heard from him again. That idea just sat there and didn't immediately turn into anything.

The idea of sending the girls to Ireland came up and originally they were going to be staying in a B&B and they would look around the Upperchurch and Thurles area for a mystery to solve. Then we thought about Nancy's grandfather, Edward, had inherited an Irish farm and William came back into focus. Michael's father was thought to be William so we gave the stay behind relative the name William II. For the inheritance to work William III had to have no relatives so he never married. This solved the problem of where the girls would stay when they were in Ireland.

We continued to examine possible Irish mysteries and then realized that for Nancy's grandfather to inherit William's farm then William had to die. What if the circumstances of his death were mysterious? And there we had our own home grown mystery. By staying in William's house the girls had access to the family's old diaries which would provide valuable information on more than just William's death.

## Michael McGrath's Homestead

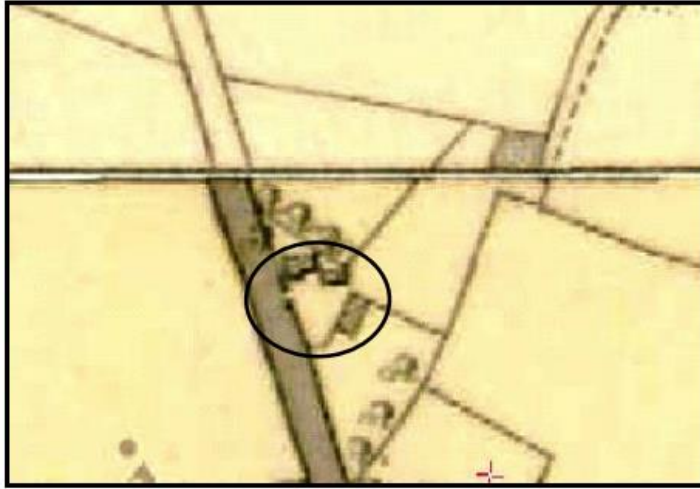


On the left is a 2017 Google satellite view. On the right is a copy of the same area on a circa 1841 OS map used for the Griffith's Valuation.



In the image above are the structures shown in the yellow circle on the satellite image on the left above. These structures are similar to the structures seen in the 1841 OS map on the right and are thought to have belong to Michael McGrath at Moyaliff in 1850.

Source: [Reaching Across the Penal Times](#)



The section of the OS 6'' map for Moyaliff shows the building on Michael Magrath's property.

*Houses in Townland of Moyaliff*

No.	Name and Description.	Quality Letter.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Measures.	Rate per Measure.	Amount.
								£ s. d.
3	Michael Magrath's House	2B	40.0	19.0	7.0	76 6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	2.2.9	
	Store House	2B	13.0	17.0	6.6	22 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	5.11	
	Barn	2B+34.0	19.0	8.0	6.4	4 1/2	1.4.0	
	Stable	2B	9.0	19.0	7.0	17 3/2	4.11	
	Cow-house	3C+	13.6	13.0	6.0	17.2	2.10	
								4.0.5

The above is copied from the Moyaliff House Book. It shows a detailed description of the buildings on the property of Michael Magrath of Moyaliff. A detailed description of the House Books (p. 14) and the Valuation in general (p. 10) can be found in *The Neighbors in Ireland*.

These were the pre-Griffiths records that Bob Conan was able to find in the archives in the Library of Ireland in Dublin.

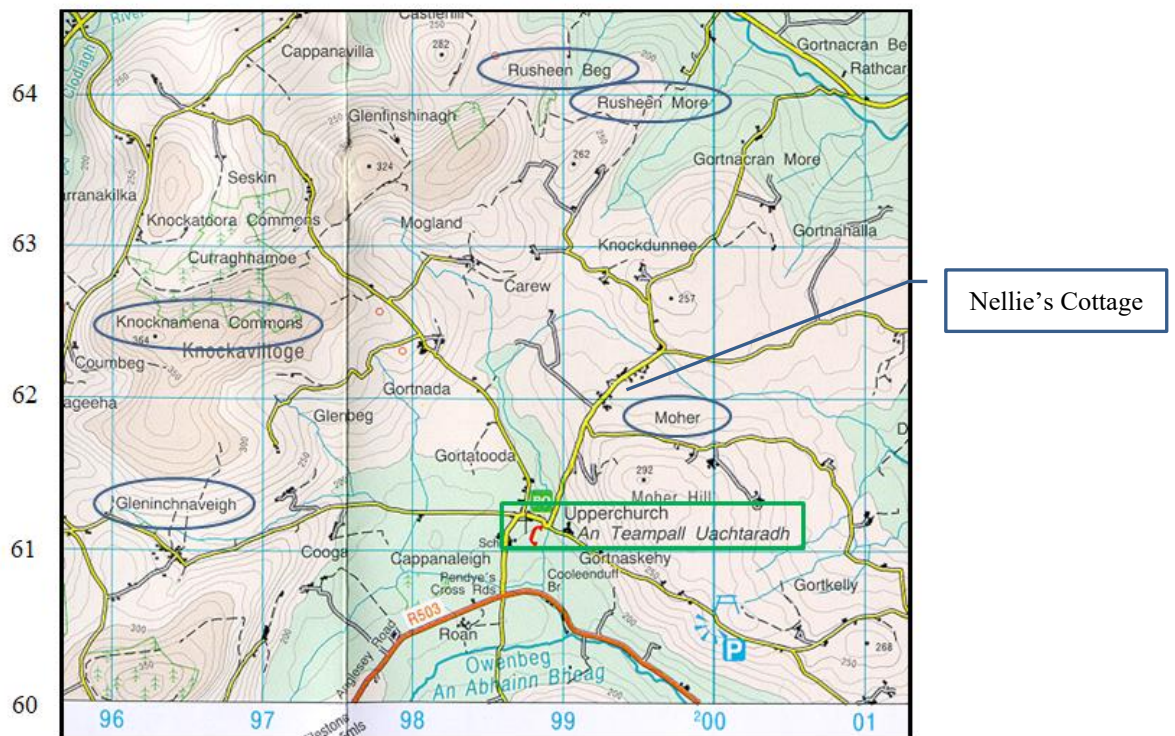


## Edmund and Mary McGrath's Cottage



This is the "old cottage" where my gg-grandmother Mary Ryan McGrath and her family were living in 1843 in the townland of Gleninchaveigh just west of the village of Upperchurch. The cottage actually belonged to Mary's brother Jeremiah Ryan. Today it is owned by Con Ryan's daughter Eileen (Nancy's 6<sup>th</sup> cousin) and her family. For well over 200 years this land has been in Ryan hands and that remains there today.

## Nellie Gleason's Fictional Old Cottage



OS Discovery Series Map #59 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition - 1997). This map shows the various townlands around the village of Upperchurch that will be involved in this story. The blue squares represent a scale of 1 km on a side. The two small red circles near the center of the map represent structures known as fairy forts. They are both in the townland of Knockamena Commons.