

Are you interested in

TRACING YOUR MAYO ROOTS?

If you are interested in professional help to research your family history or are curious about your ancestry, why not contact us?



The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre

See what some of our recent clients
had to say about us.

Client Testimonials

I have been reflecting on our trip to Ireland one year ago, and it meant an enormous amount to both of us! Thank you for the beautiful green books which we have poured over and over, and the lifelong memories. It was such a thrill to physically stand where their homes once stood imagining a time even before John Healy's recollections. The books you recommended very much placed us within that time. "No-One Shouted Stop" and "Nineteen Acres" really provided a thorough backdrop.

So thank you, thank you, thank you! And for the family research, it's the continuation of a legacy that my father was unable to complete but which I feel like somehow I have been able to continue because of you. We are ever so grateful!

Carol Morrill (Ohio)

(ancestors were Battle and Carney from Charlestown)

Last year with the prompting of one of our children, I began a search of my Irish lineage. This was a search made possible with the diligent efforts of Brendan Walsh at the North Mayo Heritage Centre. I was interested in basic fact information which was provided. Through his extraordinary efforts my entire family gained so much more.

Sometimes I think in terms of passing down money and valuables. Handing down the history of a family is a uniquely valuable gift. When I first spoke to Brendan, I knew very little of my father's family history. Nonetheless, my starting point was valuable. I had the ability to provide Brendan with some basic names and dates.

From the little bit of information, I provided Brendan he was able to very fully expand upon my knowledge and provide my family with accurate insightful information on our heritage.

Brendan made it a delightful experience to learn of my paternal grandmother, a woman I never met. I now know the city where she was born. I know that she was the sixth child in a family of seven, and the names and the siblings she had. I know about her parents and how they provided a livelihood for their family. It isn't just about the dates for me now, it's about the people and how their efforts impacted on mine. Their path became mine.

The pricing for the research was very reasonable. The time efficiency in Brendan's research was astonishing. I am very grateful for the efforts he made and the research I was able to share.

Mary Franey Mattern (Kingston, PA)

Cover image: Ballina, 1841

(Image courtesy of www.antiqueprints.com)

The Rocky Road to Dublin, Crossmolina!

The townland of Enagh More (*Aonach Mor, a big marsh*) lies a few miles west of Crossmolina and about a mile north of the N59 road linking Crossmolina to Bangor Erris. The townland comprises 410 acres, 2 roods, 24 perches and today is home to only a handful of houses. It wasn't always like this.

In 1841, the Census recorded 172 people living in 36 houses there. Three years before that Census was taken the Ordnance Survey paid the townland a visit, in the course of their work of mapping Ireland at a uniform scale of six inches to one mile.

Like every other townland the Surveyors entered, they defined Enagh More's boundaries, and then began mapping it. There were two hamlets in the townland; Ballyglass in the north eastern corner, and Dublin, along the western boundary. Dublin was far larger than Ballyglass. The land produced 'oats, flax, rye and potatoes'. The inhabitants lived in stone built houses and many were described as 'very poor' by the Surveyors.

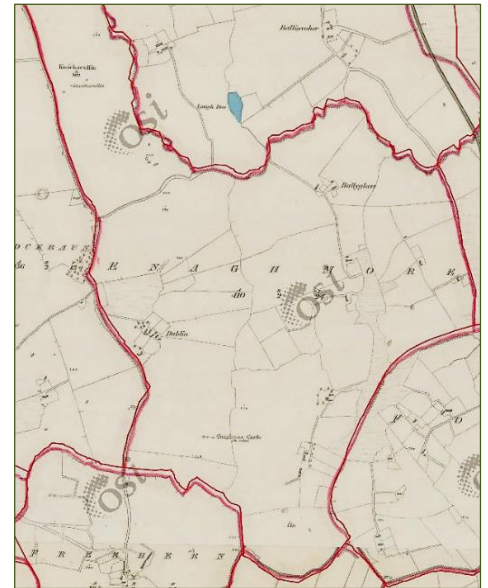
There are, if not literally 'Dublins', thousands of long lost hamlets like Dublin all over Ireland. Their names are sometimes recorded on the 1838 Ordnance Survey map. They are always situated in townlands which were given some other name by the map makers.

These little hamlets and their names faded from use, and eventually, from memory. In his book 'History of Crossmolina' the late Tony Donohoe never tired from stressing the catastrophic effect the famine of 1845-49 had on the parish. The population of the parish was halved.

Many little villages and clocháns like Dublin were abandoned, and their memory eventually followed. Some were the scenes of forced evictions. Others were literally abandoned. Others still, including many townlands west of Killala, were turned into cattle grazing farms after 1850, with their former occupants (those who had survived) left to fend for themselves elsewhere.

The Crossmolina parish baptismal register tells us that only three children were baptised with the address of 'Dublin'. These children were born to William Barrett and Catherine Jackson, James and Biddy Flynn, and Timothy O'Hara and Bridget Monnelly, and their baptisms date to between 1833 and 1841.

Right: The townland of Enagh More as drawn in 1838 by the Ordnance Survey. Dublin is highlighted along the western border of the townland.
(Image from osi.ie)



When Griffith's Valuation of Tenements was published for the parish of Crossmolina in 1856, there were 16 houses in Enagh More, and there was no more mention of Dublin, even though some of those houses were in the actual hamlet whose name was now rapidly sliding out of use. There are many other such cases in Crossmolina parish itself, one example being Moranstown.

Today, there is no trace of Dublin. No doubt, the foundations of the houses are beneath the surface. In some other townland close to where you are now, there are other forgotten hamlets which were once the centre of our ancestor's lives and which have now faded into history, only to be found on old maps and records.

Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1838

A brief history of the townland of

ENAGHMORE

(*Aonach Mor, big marsh*)

A central townland. Bounded on the north by Rathmore and Ballaghmuck; east by Tooreen and Fotish; south by Cloonawillin and Freeheen; and west by Knockbaun.

It contains 410 acres, 2 roods, 24 perches. The property of William Orme, Esq., Millbrook. Let to tenants at will at 21 shillings per acre. Soil, gravelly clay, producing oats, flax, rye and potatoes. Houses are of stone, and many of the inhabitants are very poor.

In the south of the townland stands the ruin of Enaghmore Castle, said to have been built by a family of the Barretts, and to have remained in their possession until Cromwellian times, when it was destroyed during the wars.

Left: A view of Dublin today with Nephin in the background on the right (image from Google Streetview)