

From Ballylosky To Blackhorse



**Who so ever asks me of my birth - I will tell
them I am born of Irish Princes who ruled in
Donegal a thousand years ago; that I am
descended from the High Kings of Ireland, and
my name is from the Clann O'Dochartaigh!' ---
Ar nDuthchas, Issue #27**

**Eileen and Roger Doherty
December 2001**

From Inishowen to Blackhorse



The Lough Foyle in Derry — the Gateway to the Atlantic Ocean for the Blackhorse Doherty's

Dedicated to the Grandchildren of
Bernard John Doherty and Mary Jane (Jerry) Casteel

Benjamin Doherty
Lisa Doherty
Megan Doherty
Theresa (Tess) Doherty
Dwight Moses Doherty
Celine Pettyjohn
Til Tullis
Drew Pettyjohn
Cyd Tullis
Eugene Doherty

December 2001

Based upon the trip to Inishowen by
Eileen, Roger and Eugene Doherty in July 2000

From Inishowen to Blackhorse

"Inishowen is Ireland's best kept secret"

John Hume MP MEP



getting here...

From: Dublin (250km); Belfast (130km); Larne (130km); Derry (5km); Knock (220km); Shannon (370km); Cork (470km); Rosslare (380km).

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Sir Cahir and the Rebellion

Sir John O'Dogherty, whose Irish ancestry can be traced back for thirty-five generations in Ulster, was knighted at Dublin Castle in May, 1585 by Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrott. He had five children — Cahir, John, Roderic, Rose and Margaret.

In 1588 Sir John was taken prisoner by the English government and was forced to surrender all of his lands of Inishowen to the Queen. He received them back again by letters of patent with the proviso that if he or his heirs should commit treason or rebellion, the patents would be void.

In 1601, Sir John died when he was in actual rebellion. Prior to his death Sir John had formed an alliance with the O'Donnell, who was a recognized enemy of the Queen of England. O'Donnell had seized Sir John's son, Cahir, and kept him as a pledge, so that he was not free to make his own decisions.

When Sir John died, there was a split between the O'Donnell's and the O'Dogherty's. Sir Cahir had the support of the McDavids, his father's goods, the castle of Berte, and a reasonably strong party of friends. Upset because Sir Cahir was deprived of his inheritance, the McDavid's promised that if Cahir were given his father's lands according to the patent letters, they would free him from the O'Donnell's hands.

Cahir was freed and became friendly with the O'Neil's. In 1603, Cahir became aware of the attempt to give away the Isle of Inch. On September 4, 1603, he went to England and was given the patent letters by the King's court to all of the lands which had been granted to his father. He came back to Ireland and married Mary, was created a justice of the peace, and was an alderman of the new city of Derry.

In October, 1607, he came under the suspicion of the government. During his absence, the Governor of Derry, Sir George Paulet went to Berte Castle to get information, but found the Castle well fortified with sixteen or twenty men on guard. Sir Paulet put out the story that Sir Cahir was planning a revolution and accused him of treason.

Sir Chair told a different story. Since he was being regarded as a traitor, Sir Cahir went to Chichester for guidance, however, he remained under suspicion. Regardless he was no longer trusted by the government, even though he had the second largest landholdings in the area next to the Earls, gaining him much respect.

Sir Cahir requested a place as gentleman of the Prince's Bed chamber. He received a favorable reply two days after the rebellion. On the day of the rebellion, the King directed that he be restored to his rights in the island of Inch, in consideration of his services, but the response came too late.

As the plan for the rebellion against the English gained momentum, Sir Cahir was responsible for taking Derry. On April 18, 1608, Sir Cahir marched to Derry in pursuit of Sir George Paulet, the governor. By morning Sir Cahir and his men had captured Derry with little resistance and loss of life. Within days, all of the buildings in Derry, (except the church), including Bishop Montgomery's library of two thousand books were destroyed by

Sir Cahir and the Rebellion

fire. Based on these successes, many people joined the rebellion. During the week, Sir Cahir proceeded to capture prisoners and guard them at Berte Castle. He continued to seize all the English property on which he could lay his hands. By May 20th, the English recaptured Derry and took over Culmore and Berte Castle at Buncrana on May 22nd. By June 15, the English had gained access to Berte Castle and released the prisoners that Cahir had been sheltering. With the loss of Berte Castle, Cahir's wife and son were taken in the attack and transported to Dublin by boat.

On July 5th, Sir Cahir and about 800 men engaged in a hand-to-hand battle along Loch Swilly, but Sir Cahir was killed, near the Grianan at Kilmacrennan. Although his supporters tried to get the corpse, the English divided the body into quarters to be hung in Derry and the head was placed before Newgate prison in Dublin. The rebellion did not end immediately, but with the loss of its leader, much of the effort was lost.

The English continued in pursuit of O'Dogherty's followers. On July 9, Sir Cahir's sister Rose was left to die in the woods while her husband was able to escape the English. By late February, 1609, Sir Cahir's brother Roderic was taken prisoner. By July, 1609, the rebellion was pretty much completed. The fate of the other leaders who died in prison in England and the death of Sir Cahir in battle gave rise to the belief that the rebellion was over.

There were many problems deciding who owned the land, but Inishowen which was thirty miles in length and twelve or thirteen miles wide, belonged to the King of England by the land patent that had been approved in 1603. It was in a strategic position, situated between the Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle. As such, it was easily protected from attack. The land was very rich. In 1607, it was estimated that O'Dogherty could spend 2000 pounds, if not 3000 pounds yearly based on the income from the crops.

In 1609, through an elaborate scheme, all of the O'Dogherty lands were claimed by the King of England for the establishment of the Ulster Plantation.

Sir Arthur Chichester was given title to the land in the same manner as Sir Cahir and his father. Chichester was to yield the same rent as the English and Scottish undertakers, and to plan one freehold for at least every twenty thousand acres, and to perform the other articles of the plantation as a servitor in that kingdom.

In addition, the city of Derry was rebuilt by the Londoner's plantation. Maps were drawn and more troops were sent from England to protect Ireland. As a result, the plantation was settled by the English, the Scottish, as well as the Irish. The great walls of Derry were built to protect the city from future attacks.

The hostility between the Irish and English, even though it was covered for a time by the obedience and submission of the Irish, it remained and was perhaps increased by the defeat of O'Dogherty. (McClain, Miriam Graham. *The Rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty and Its Influence on the Ulster Plantation*. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1930)

Carrick-a-Braghy Castle



Eugene stands atop of one of the side rooms at Carrick-a-Braghy Castle. The castle is referred to as "Doherty's Castle".

The first castle built on this rocky promontory with sea-sand mortar in the late sixteenth century was occupied by Phelamy Brasleigh O'Doherty. It had an oval bawn or stone enclosure and seven towers with a square Keep, which still stands today. Stairs lead to the second floor and holes in the wall show the position of the joists. Openings were made for muskets.

The circular tower which can be seen in a demolished state was built separately from the Keep. Most of the present structure dates from the mid-1600s.

Sir Cahir stayed here with Lady O'Dogherty and his daughter in 1607 after he lost Inch Island to the English nobleman, just before the rebellion. Sir Cahir felt safe at Carricka-braghy.

The castle sits atop a high point above the Atlantic Ocean. We visited this castle as part of the O'Dochartaigh Association Reunion activities. Several local actors performed a skit re-enacting Sir Cahir's plan for the rebellion against Derry.

Roger managed to bring a pebble home for the Doherty collections from this far north Doherty holding.

Carrick-a-Braghy Castle



Eugene in front of the musket holes at Carrick-a-Braghy or the Doherty Castle.



Roger wandered down the cliffs to look out over the Atlantic Ocean at Carrick-a-Braghy.

Berte Castle — An O'Doherty Castle



Eileen and Eugene making their way across the fields to Berte Castle.

Berte Castle is probably the best known castle because of its' position on a hilltop clearly visible from the Derry-Letterkenny Road. It is one of four castles guarding the southwest approaches to Inishowen, and in its' day was a place of great strategic importance. Today, it is on private land. A medallion found near the castle was dated 1525 and a coin of 1547 was found nearby. In 1587 two brothers, Richard and Henry Hovenden were in command here and they were ordered to resist the Spanish Armada.

In the town of Burt, all that remains today is a Presbyterian Church that has been converted to a restaurant. One quiet evening with the sun streaming through the stained glass windows, we had a quiet dinner, quite a change from the pubs we had been visiting in Derry.

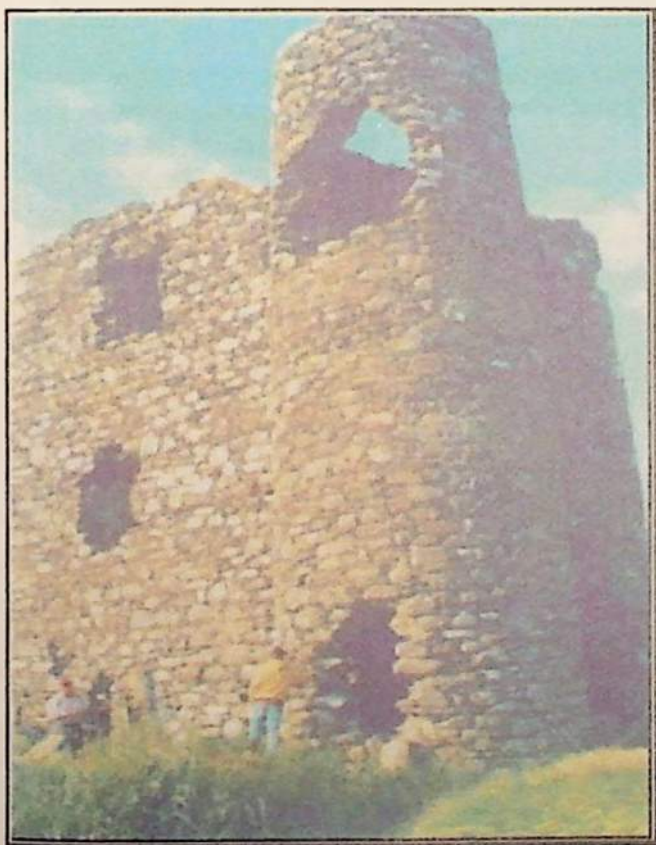
To get to Berte Castle, we had to hike across a field and up a hill about a half mile. We parked our car along side the road. A woman came walking down the road and we asked if we could go up the Castle. She remarked "Probably, yes, but don't go through the pasture because of the Charolais cattle". So we climbed the fence, headed for the metal gate and walked through the farm land. At the top of the hill, we encountered a stone wall filled with nettles and Russian thistle. Not to be discouraged, over the fence we went and across the field to explore Berte Castle.

At the top of the field, we found the three story castle. Using beach sand from the Lough Swilly as mortar, the building was in remarkable condition. From this view, we could again see the Grianan setting on the top of the next hill to the east and Inch Castle to the northwest. We could easily imagine how the O'Dogherty's had acquired land and built castles to protect their land holdings atop the hillsides. One couldn't help wonder the fate of Ireland, had Sir Cahir prevailed.

Berte Castle — An O'Doherty Castle

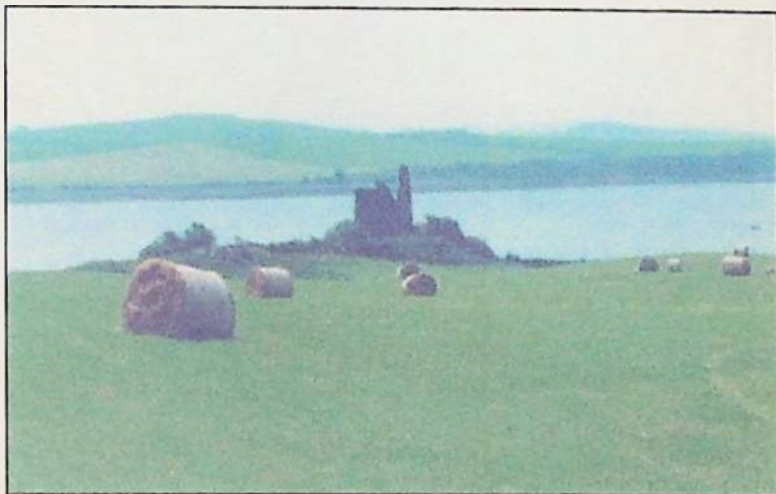


Eileen and Eugene climb through the nettles and Russian Thistles going over the stone wall to cross the farm field to Berte Castle.



Roger and Eugene look at the architecture of the Berte Castle

Inch Castle — Another O'Doherty Castle



Inch Castle is located on private land owned by Charlie Doherty on the Lough Swilly. Reminded of the Western influence, we felt very at home when we saw the round hay bales.

Inch Castle, built in the early part of the 15th century, was a stronghold of the O'Dogherty's. When the Castle was built it was considered very secure. It guarded the waters of the Lough Swilly and protected the heartlands of the O'Dogherty's. They resided at the castle at Elagh, about four kilometers from Derry and very close to the border until the year 1600. The lands between the Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle were rich in cattle. Access by land and sea was easy for potential invaders. Inch Castle was part of a network of O'Dogherty castles stretching from Carrigans to Derry all of which were designed to ward off anyone who threatened the lordship of the O'Doherty family. The Isle of Inch had over four hundred houses in the 1600s. It was the wealthiest district in Donegal. It was the loss of Inch Island that was the first step in driving Sir Cahir into rebellion against the state.

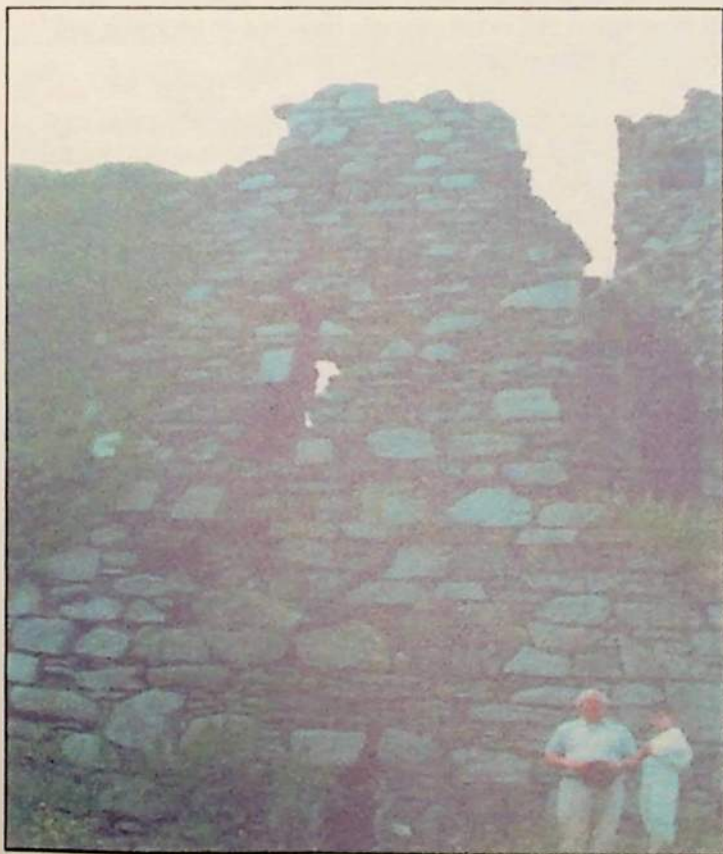
The Isle of Inch does not contain a circular drive, so we drove to the northwest side along the Lough Swilly. We knocked on Charlie Doherty's door, on whose property Inch Castle is located. No one answered. So we decided to walk across the hay field. Hearing gun shots, we ducked behind the hay bales and tried to decide whether to proceed or whether to head back. Determined we were here for an experience, we pressed on. Although we heard several more gun shots, we finally reached the Castle. Looking over the Lough Swilly, several young men were target practicing.

The castle was a three story building. The main room has curved walls showing the Roman influence on the architecture. A number of smaller rooms had port holes for protecting the land. We were able to climb the stairwell to the second floor, as well.

Berte Castle — Another O'Doherty Castle



Eileen and Eugene climb up Inch Castle on the Lough Swilly side.



Roger and Eugene
at Inch Castle

O'Doherty's Keep



The building in the forefront is known as the "jughouse", or the prison. In the background is the bridge over the Crana River to Doherty's Keep.

O'Dogherty's Keep is perhaps the oldest of the castles, having been built around 1400 AD or earlier. It is a medieval tower house that would originally have had an enclosing wall. Lady O'Dogherty spent much of her time in this castle.

The Keep is built on the site of the Norman foundation that was demolished. It was captured from the O'Dogherty's after the Rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Dogherty, and was granted to Sir Arthur Chichester. He leased it to Henry Vaughan. The Vaughan family name is linked to the development of the modern town of Buncrana. The Keep is a medieval tower-house with fortifications and gun-loops. The bawn or enclosure that surrounded the Keep was demolished and used to construct a townhouse opposite for the Vaughan family. Within the building, a fireplace and mural stairs can be seen.

To get to O'Dogherty's Keep, we had to cross a six arch bridge over the Crana River which was built in 1718. The water was murky and swampy. But out in the middle of the River sat a blue heron enjoying the afternoon. She would jump or fly from one grassy patch to another.

After exploring O'Dogherty's Keep, we took a walk along the Crana River through Swan Park. The River was stocked with trout that would jump from 18" to 24" in the air — quite a sight — even for those of us who don't fish.

On the walk, Eugene buddied up with a "lost" dog, who played catch with the rock that Eugene threw on the path. The dog would fetch the rock, bring it back, and beg for Eugene to throw it again.

O'Doherty's Keep



The Crana River runs through Swan Park in Buncrana.



O'Dogherty's Keep is located on the Crana River. Sir Cahir's wife spent much of her time at O'Dogherty's Keep during the early 1600s. Eugene and Roger examine the architecture of the building.

The Grianan of Aileach



Sir Cahir was killed near the location of the Grianan of Aileach. The Grianan is a stone fort with a commanding view over Lough Foyle, Lough Swilly, and Derry (which is about 8 miles to the east).

The Grianan of Aileach is located on top of the Grianan mountain. The massive stone wall is 3.9m (13 feet) thick and encloses an area 23.4m (77 feet) in diameter. In the walls are small chambers; a series of stairs at regular intervals inside the walls gave access to the wall-walk. The entrance is very long and narrow.

Legend says it was built by the ancient gods; the ring fort was known as the Sun Palace and was held sacred. Traces of ancient earthworks, dating to the early Iron Age, surround the fort, enclosing an area of about 5 acres. The fort itself was probably built in the early centuries of the Christian era. From the 5th to the 12th century, it served as the royal seat of the O'Neill sept of Aileach; it was destroyed by Murtoigh O'Brien, King of Munster in 1101. To make the demolition complete, the king ordered each of his soldiers to take away a stone from the fort. The Grianan of Aileach was reconstructed by Dr. Walter Bernard of Derry in 1870, but archaeologists are doubtful about the inner restoration. Surrounding the fort are three concentric low walls which formed part of the original fortification.

We attended a Sunday afternoon concert organized by the O'Dochartaigh Association featuring local talent. Despite the very cold north wind, the local talent included fiddles playing the background music for dancing Irish jigs. The afternoon ended with members of the community who "just happened to have their instruments in their automobiles", playing the closing numbers. In addition, flags from countries around the world and other states were displayed. Just by chance there were two flags we recognized, Oregon and Colorado.

We met the Eve and Arden Gremmert, as well as Rosie and Darrin Gremmert, and their families at this event. As we were leaving, the buses were full, so we rode the Irish Red Cross Society ambulance back to our car — a thing we could never have done in the

The Grianan of Aileach



The Isle of Inch as seen from the Grianan of Aileach looking north in Lough Swilly. This was a strategic point for Sir Cahir when he was in control of the lands in Inishowen.



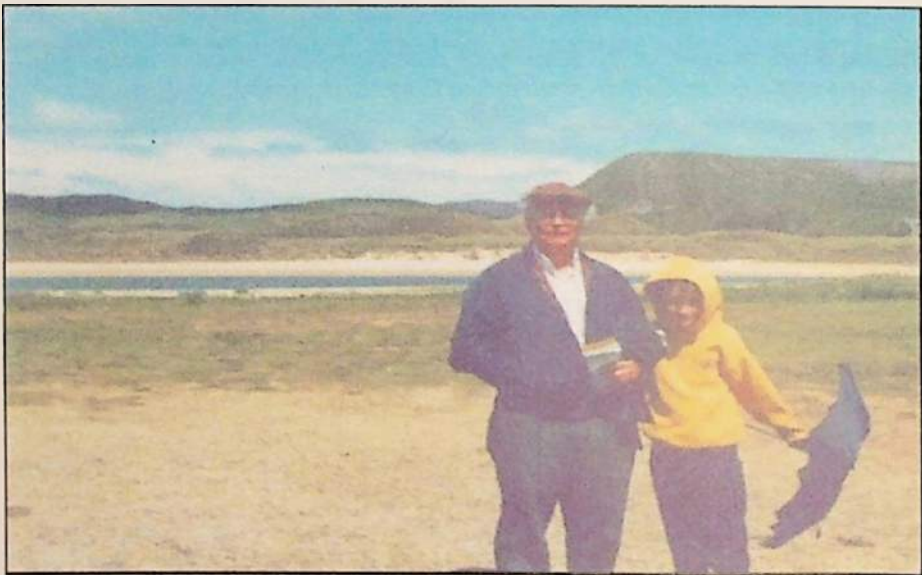
To attend the concert and festivities of the O'Dochartaigh Association, we parked our car at the base of the hill and rode buses to the Grianan. As we were leaving the Grianan, we were waiting our turn for the buses to return. The Irish Red Cross Society which had been on hand to provide assistance in case of a medical emergency announced they had "room for about 10 people on the ambulance". So we quickly boarded the ambulance for the ride back to our car.

Isle of Doagh Becomes Ballyliffin Golf Course

John Doherty, b. 1765 (Roger's great, great, great grandfather) was born in Ballymacmurty, Isle of Doagh, parish of Clonmany, on the western neck facing the Atlantic Ocean. Adjoining is a great sandy beach. According to Eva Gremmert's research and confirmed by the tour guide at the Isle of Doagh Visitor Center, a great sand storm completely covered the fields and forty or so farmhouses. Gremmert places this event in 1785. Other sources cite 1803.

The farm was located near the spot where the Ballyliffin Golf Course clubhouse stands today. These sandy dunes are now fully covered with grasses and vegetation, a beautiful scene.

John and his family moved to Ballylosky and there became known as the "Newman" Doherty's.



Roger and Eugene on the Isle of Doagh. Behind, to the east, and across Trawbrega Bay, is Malin Head.

Isle of Doagh Becomes Ballyliffin Golf Course



The Ballyliffin Golf Course looking to the northeast to Malin Head (on or near the site of John Doherty's home on the Isle of Doagh).

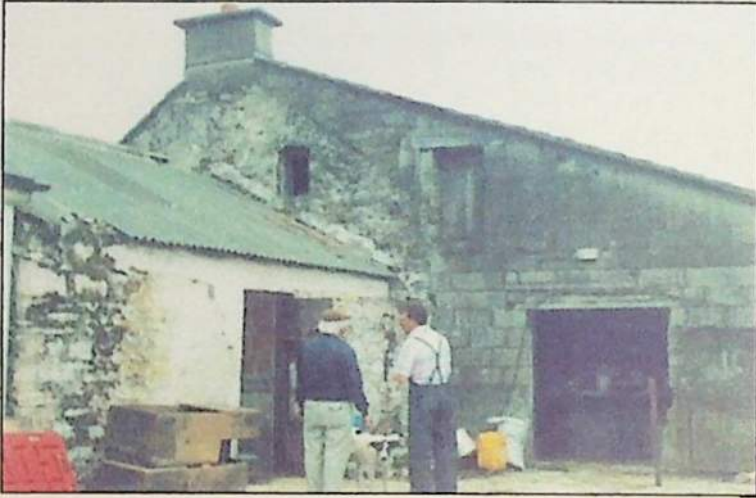
John Doherty moved his family to Ballylosky in the late 1700s or early 1800s. The family served as tenants of the English landholders with a share of the crops going to the English and the balance to the family for their livelihood.

The lineage from Ballylosky to Blackhorse are: John Doherty through his son Phillip, and through his son Patrick (Big Paddy), to Catherine. Catherine emigrated to Pendleton, Oregon in 1888 as single woman. She married James Grant Doherty on July 6, 1893 in Pendleton, Oregon.

The Ballylosky Farm is currently owned by Joe (Paul) Doherty who is the grandson of Catherine's brother Paul. This family line became known as the "Pauls". In the 1980s, when the European Union made funding available, Joe Paul converted the farm to a piggery.

The piggery is located in a series of buildings around the original home of John Doherty. The original home is used for storage. The piggery represents a modern day farm with automatic feeding chutes, records on which days the hogs were sired, a maternity ward for the "mama" pigs, and the exact amount of feed to be given each day to ensure that the pigs are taken to market at the exact time to guarantee a profit. In addition to the original farm, Joe Paul has acquired other land. He also raises sheep and hay.

Living in Ballylosky



Roger listens attentively to Joe Paul explain the original outline of the house just below the chimney, as well as the addition on the right.



Joe Paul and Roger discuss the architecture of the original stone farmhouse of the Newman Doherty's. Joe Paul's brother began to make some renovations in 1990s, however, they have not been completed. Roger was fascinated with the similarity between the floor plan of the Ballylosky house and the original farmstead house at Blackhorse.

Missing the Boat to Get Married in Ballylosky



In 1869, Mary (Hudie) Doherty, a Ballylosky girl was preparing to emigrate to Boston. After an all night walk from Ballylosky to Derry, her send-off party, including Big Paddy Doherty, were at the gangplank watching Mary as she was readying to board the ship. Having procrastinated as long as he could, Big Paddy summoned his courage and proposed to her. Fortunately for a long line of Blackhorse Doherty's, she accepted. They and their party returned to Ballylosky, leaving her trunk aboard ship. A year later, the trunk was returned with all of her belongings, including stale foodstuffs.

Patrick (Big Paddy) and Mary were wed. Their daughter Catherine came to America and married James Grant Doherty.

The trunk sits in the old stone house today, in need of refurbishing. Joe Paul is glad to show the trunk to Mary's descendents and relatives today.



Big Paddy (Newman) and Mary (Hudie) Doherty's 50th wedding anniversary, about May 10, 1919. Big Paddy died that autumn on November 10, 1919.

Carndonagh, the Ballylosky Market Center

Carndonagh was and continues to be the market center for Inishowen. With a road from the east, west, south and north, all coming together, the center of town is known as the Diamond. The Diamond serves as the meeting place. Most of the buildings on the Diamond house some type of commercial enterprise (many of them owned by Doherty's — some close family and some not so close). On the second floor of the commercial establishments, there are apartments.

Car, as it is known to the locals, has the largest community school in all of Ireland with about 1700 students due to a consolidation of three other community schools. The school is a modern building.

We were impressed with the level of commerce in the town. For example, there were four small grocery stores and three bookstores. The town boasted they had the highest number of pubs per capita in all of Ireland.



Joe Paul's daughter, Amy, and Eugene in front of Joe Paul's sheep.

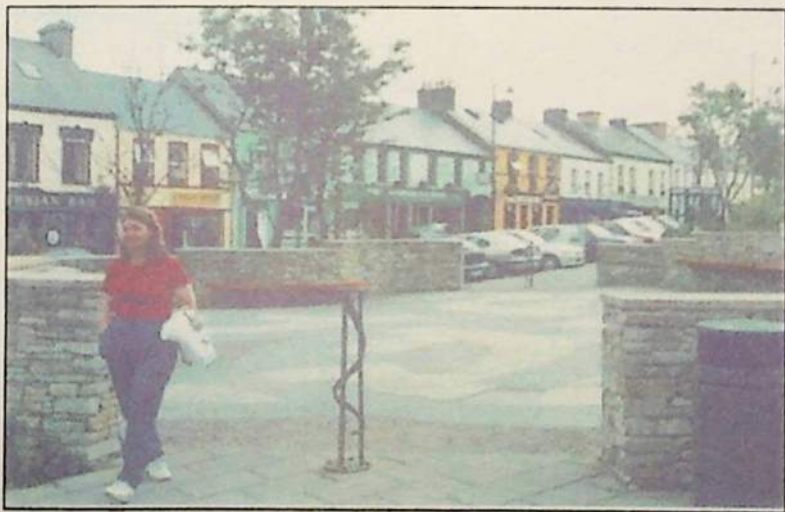
Cousin Paddy Paul (twin brother to Joe Paul) works at The Quiet Lady. We stopped several times to visit with Paddy.



The Diamond in Carndonagh



The Diamond in Camdonagh at approximately the turn of the century.



Taken from almost the same angle, the Diamond has been newly landscaped. As part of his undergraduate degree in urban landscape, Gary Doherty convinced the Council to construct a park with sitting areas around a Camdonagh cross of native stones with green grass and trees surrounding the walkways. Eileen is in the foreground. Doherty's are very active in the town's commerce.

Carndonagh's Hospital and Famine Cemetery



The hospital is located on the original site of the Inishowen Union Workhouse. It is housed in a very modern building. The hospital provides acute care, as well as hospice care, long term care (nursing home care), home care, and residential care for the developmentally disabled.



Famine cemeteries were seen in various communities throughout northern Ireland. The famine of 1848-1849 claimed the lives of thousands of people. In this cemetery, there is not a single tombstone, only two white crosses at the entrance. No one has since been buried at the famine cemetery except for a German pilot who got lost in World War II and crashed his plane near Carndonagh. John Doherty, a local merchant, helped to feed many of the people during the famine. A large monument in the cemetery honoring him has been erected.

Selected Standing Stones of Carndonagh



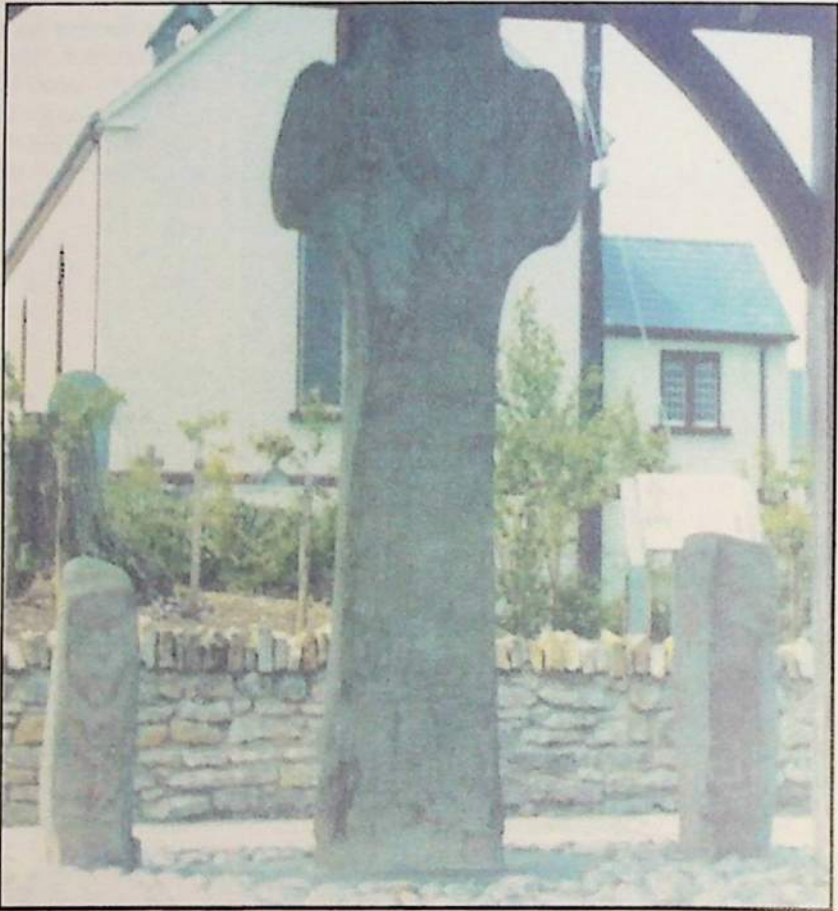
We learned from some of the literature there was a standing stone or pillar stone in Ballylosky, near the Workhouse (or the current hospital) with a cross on it. Pillar stones were used for a variety of reasons such as an object of worship, a battleground, or for marking boundaries. After talking with the hospital administrator, she remembered the stone down in the far corner of the property. Crawling through nettles and unmowed hay, Roger set out to find the standing stone. At the turn of the century, near this pillar stone, and beneath a portion of the Workhouse site, were subterranean caves somewhat similar to those at Grianan. Beside the stone, surrounded by a low wall and a few stunted thorns, is a small burying ground, known as Kilbride. This spot, therefore, was evidently regarded as sacred ground both in Pagan and Christian times. (*Inishowen Maghtochair* 1867, reprinted 1985)

In the cemetery of the Church of Ireland sits another standing stone or pillar stone, known as the Marigold Stone. It is most likely the oldest Christian monument in the North of Ireland and was probably set here before the Roman alphabet was used in Ireland, as there are no characters on it. It is 3 1/2 feet long, 11 inches broad, and a foot thick. The figures are allegorical. There is a bishop, with a pastoral staff, and a monster springing up to devour him. Behind this are two angels carrying a cross surmounted by a crown. The next figure appears to be a round tower, and, after, there is an Irish cross, with four points deeply indented. (*Inishowen Maghtochair* 1867, reprinted 1985)

In addition to the Marigold Stone, the bell at this Church is from an Armada ship, La Trinidad Valencera which sunk in 1588. It is inscribed "Sancta Maria, Ora pronobis."



The Carndonagh Cross



Located almost directly to the east of the Church of Ireland, the Carndonagh Cross, or the High Cross, is believed to have been carved in the eighth century during the time of St. Patrick. The Cross is cut from a single slab of sandstone similar to that which is found in local quarries. This type of stone was popular. The East face looks directly towards the town and is divided into a number of distinct panels; the lower end of this shaft features the three holy women coming to the tomb after the Resurrection; the center panel shows the Crucifixion; the head of the Cross has an interlaced design in the shape of the cross. The Cross has recently moved to its' current site.

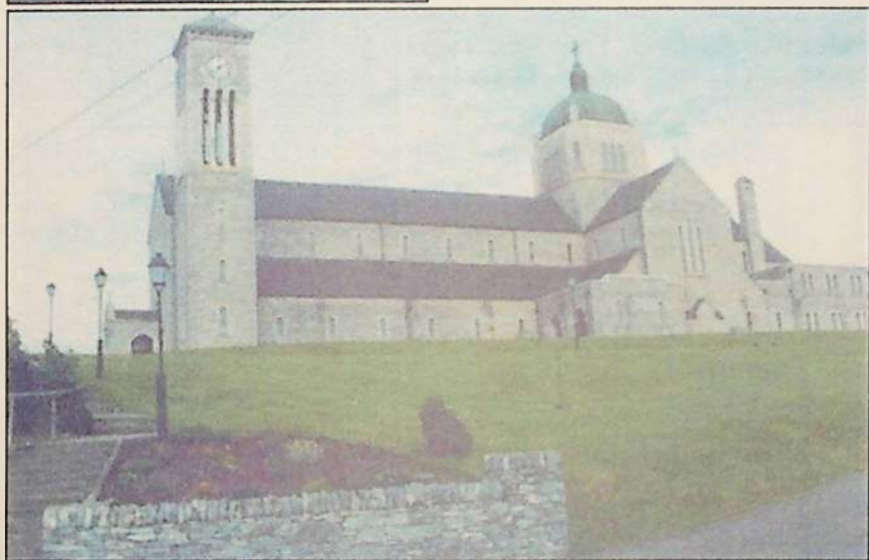
The Pillar Stones. Stone A is a figure of a human face. Three symbols are clearly identified: the bell which is a representation of the ancient Bell of Donagh that belonged to the monastery; a book which is probably the Bible; and a Crozier. Stone B has Celtic designs, as well as a figure representing David the slayer of Goliath. (*Ancient Monuments of Inishowen, North Donegal*. Sean Beattie, 1994)

The Catholic Church in Carndonagh



During penal times, Catholics were prohibited from practicing their religion. However, at times when visiting priests would come to a community, the Catholics would retreat to a safe place to celebrate the Eucharist. This Mass Rock was composed of massive rock in a quiet clearing surrounded by oak trees. Native grasses and trees provided a sanctuary for Catholics to worship.

The Mass Rock is now on land owned by Drew Doherty. The cross from the "old" Sacred Heart Church was erected on the Mass Rock when the new church was constructed.



Sacred Heart Church is the most prominent structure in Carndonagh. It was constructed from 1939 to 1945 with most of the materials being salvaged from other structures, as construction materials were rationed for World War II. Dedicated in 1946, the church holds 1600 people at five masses each weekend. The interior of the church has recently been renovated. Three stained glasses windows from the original church were found in someone's garage and have been incorporated into the "small altar". In addition, the townspeople donated enough gold from teeth, rings, and jewelry to build a two foot tall solid gold tabernacle.

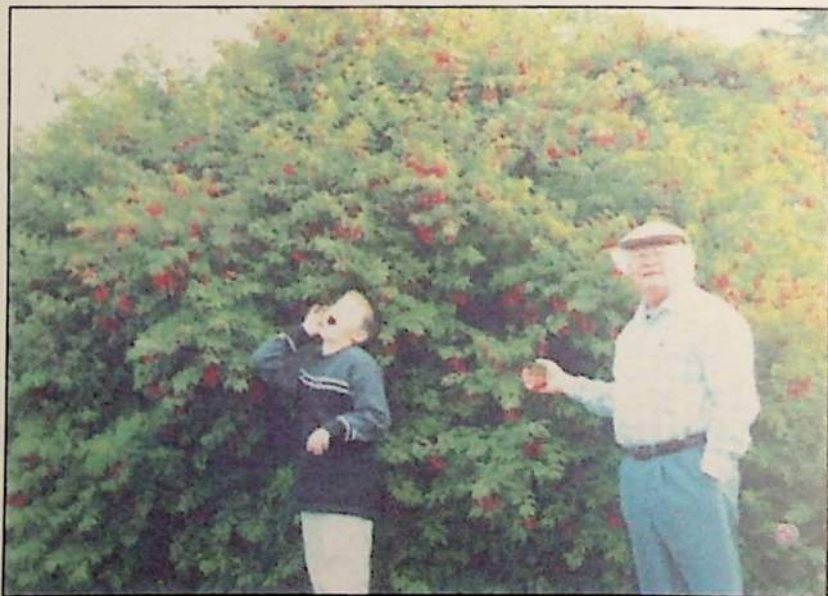
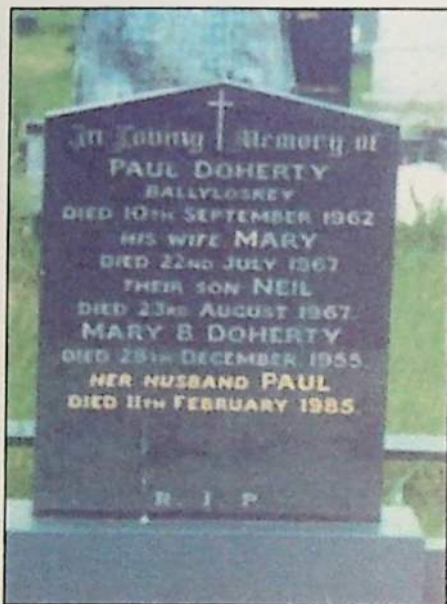
The Family Burial Plot

Cemeteries are adjacent to the church in Inishowen. Each family owns a burial plot. As members of the family die, they are buried on the same plot. Their names are added to the list of persons buried in the plot on the tombstones. It takes approximately 10 years for a body to deteriorate and for another body to be buried on the plot.

The tombstones are a native limestone that is polished black with gold lettering.

This is the "Paul" Doherty plot at Sacred Heart Church.

We visited numerous cemeteries in the villages.



Fuchsia were everywhere along the countryside on our walks, in yards as hedges around homes, as well as along the river banks. This extraordinary specimen is in front of the Catholic Church in Camdonagh.

Life in Carndonagh



The Camdonagh Community School (located on the right in the photo) is the largest school in the whole of Ireland with 1600 students.



Roger Doherty, Susan Josephine (Dolly Oregon) McLaughlin, and her nephew Albert (Oregon) Doherty. Her family came to Oregon, but returned to Carndonagh and is now known as the "Oregon" Doherty's. Albert teaches at one of the local schools and has been elected to the Donegal County Council as a Counselor. Slieve Snaght, the highest point in County Donegal is in the background.

Catherine (Grant) Emigrates from Iskaheen

Iskaheen, near Muff, is the homeland of Francis Doherty, father of James Grant Doherty. At St. Patrick's Church, we walked around the cemetery looking for the burial grounds of Francis Doherty to no avail. (Later, however, we talked with Eva Gremmert and the O'Dochartaigh Association and confirmed that his remains were buried in this area).

Iskaheen takes its name from the pure water of a holy well nearby. The ruins of an old Abbey and church are on the opposite side of the road from the existing St. Patrick's Church (built in 1782). The Abbey site is a very old one, thought to go back to the 5th century and to be a Patrician foundation. The ruins in the old grave yard are of a 17th century Plantation church, which apparently fell into disrepair in the early 18th century. Portions of the west gable and the side walls remain.

Eoghan, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, was baptized at the Grianan of Aileach. A plaque (shown below) commemorates the death of Eoghan, after whom the peninsula of Inishowen is named. He is buried at Iskaheen. By the 7th century, the descendants of Eoghan were in control of the area. His descendants included the O'Neil's. (Sam Mitchell, *Country Roads — Walks on the Foyle side and Inishowen*, 1998)

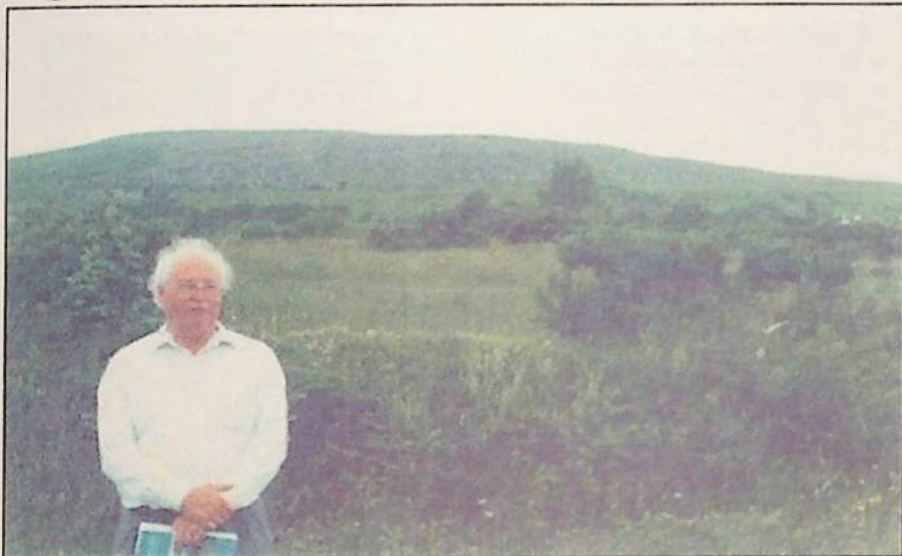
On October 8, 1883, Catherine (Grant) Doherty, sons, James G. and Bernard F. and daughter Mary, arrived in the United States aboard the steamship *Encoria*, to join their daughter Sarah (Doherty) Cunningham on Big Butter Creek in Umatilla County, Oregon. They arrived in late 1883 at the home of Catherine (Doherty) Nelson, a first cousin of Catherine (Grant) Doherty. (Edward M. Kenny, *Leitrim—Donegal Vanguard*, 1981)

From 1883-1887, James G. (or Jimmy Blackhorse) worked for Charles Cunningham in Big Butter Creek after his arrival from New York. In 1893, he married Catherine M. Doherty (a native of Camdonagh). He became known as Jimmy Blackhorse for his long residence and land holdings in Blackhorse Canyon in Morrow County. He was one of the first Irish to devote his full attention to raising wheat in Morrow County. Anthony Doherty owns the family farm in Blackhorse Canyon. (John F. Kilkeny, *Shamrocks and Shepherds*, 1968)



The plaque on the remains of the Abbey in Iskaheen.

Catherine (Grant) Emigrates from Iskaheen



From this high point outside of Iskaheen, we could see Derry and the Lough Foyle. Roger recalled being told by Johnny Kenny that his great, grandmother herded pigs on the hillsides. In selected areas, we were able to observe small wooded areas of conifers on our 3.6 mile walk around Iskaheen.



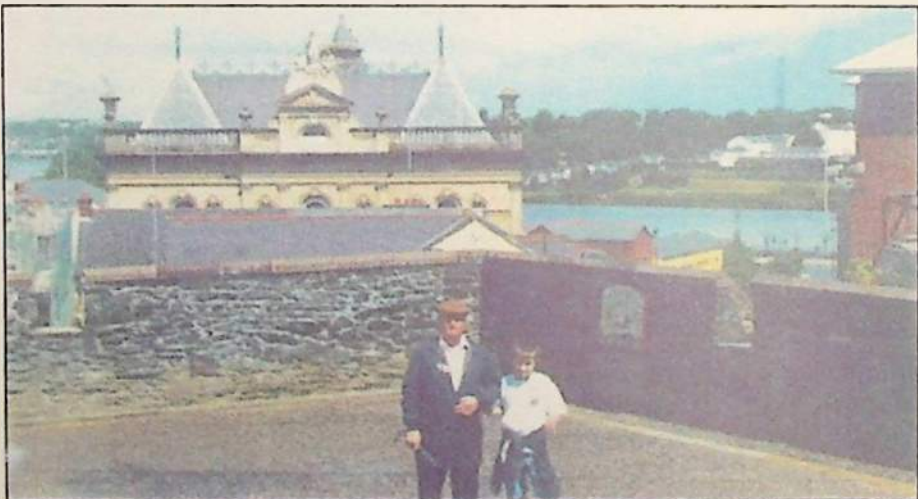
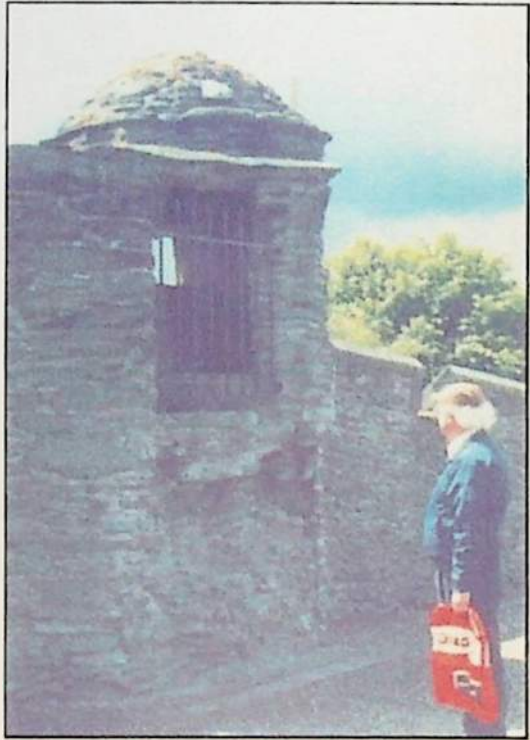
Hearing streams of water, Eugene climbed down to put his feet in the water. He got in his first tangle with nettles which resulted in a small case of the hives on our walk.

Derry — The Walled City

Sir Cahir was able to overtake Derry during the rebellion with little opposition from the residents in 1608. After Sir Cahir was killed, and the English returned to northern Ireland, a stone wall was built around Derry to protect the residents. At the same time, it was re-named Londonderry by the English.

The walls continue to be maintained by the government. The Doherty Museum is located inside the Walled City.

Today Derry is located in the Northern Ireland, while Inishowen is located in the Republic of Ireland. Thus one has to cross the borders when going from Derry to Camdonagh. In addition, the currency is different in both countries.

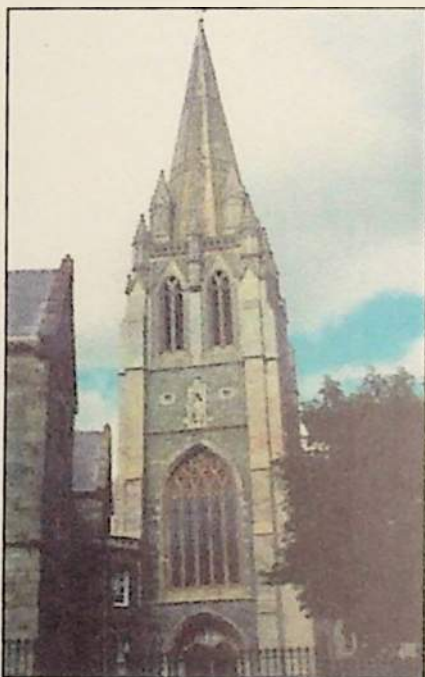


Inside the Walled City of Derry, Roger and Eugene discuss how the Lough Foyle (in the background) was the gateway for Doherty's to leave Ireland emigrating to Blackhorse Canyon in Morrow County, Oregon. Both maternal and paternal parents of Bernard (Roger's father) lived in Inishowen and migrated to America.

Derry Landmarks



The Doherty Bakery became our favorite stop in Derry. Eugene found the "best" cupcakes, while Eileen and Roger enjoyed apple fritters.



St. Eugene's Catholic Church (we were sure the Church was named for Eugene Doherty) in the walled city of Derry was completed in 1903. The Church was filled with very old statues. The church became the landmark near the lot where we parked when we went to Derry.

James G and Catherine in Blackhorse

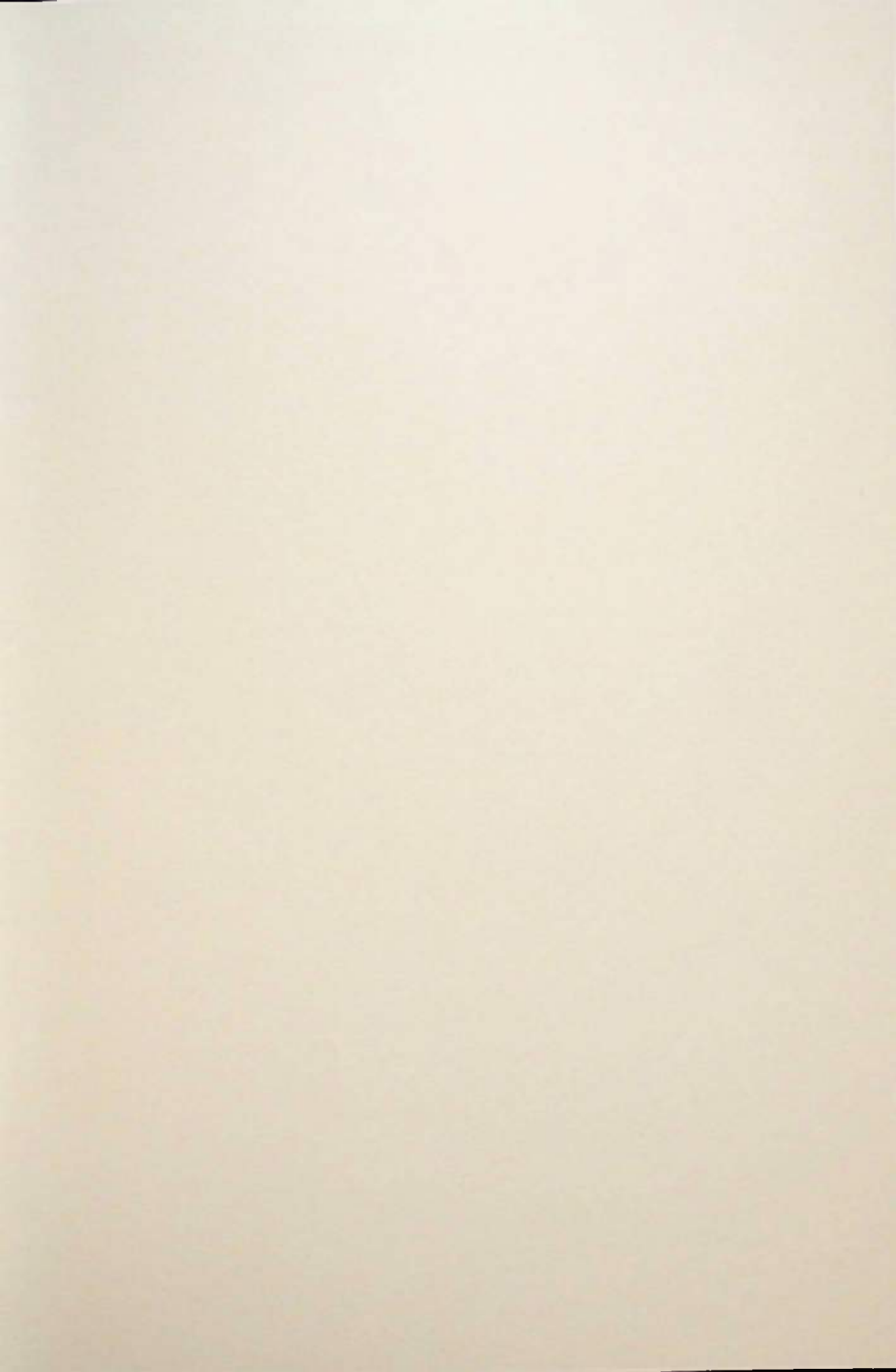
When James G and Bernard F came to America, they initially worked for Charles Cunningham, who was their brother-in-law, as he had married their sister Sara. In August, 1891, the brothers sold the sheep they received as wages and used the money to buy adjoining quarter sections in Blackhorse Canyon in Morrow county from Grant Buchanan and James and Ida Buchanan.

They moved there with their mother, Catherine Grant Doherty raising cattle and horses. This began the landholdings of the Doherty's in Blackhorse Canyon. In addition to purchasing land, Catherine filed a homestead claim on 160 acres and helped purchase other quarter sections until she had 900 acres of land in her name. On November 29, 1911, she deeded her land to sons Barney and James.

Ultimately, Bernard took over the farm and maintained it until his death. Today, Anthony Doherty farms the original landholdings, as well as some acreage of his own. (Martha Doherty, *A Bit of Irish Stew*, 1984).



James G and Catherine Doherty Family (about 1906): Standing, L to R: Nora, Mary, Sara. Seated, L to R, Ann, Christina, Francis and Margaret. Not pictured are Eugene, Bernard, Gertrude, Helen, Paul and Elizabeth (Betty).



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We spent our first night in Carndonagh at the Oregon Bed & Breakfast operated by Patricia (Monagle) Doherty and Joe (Oregon) Doherty. Patricia is the niece of Charles Monagle of Heppner, Oregon. — We felt at home immediately.