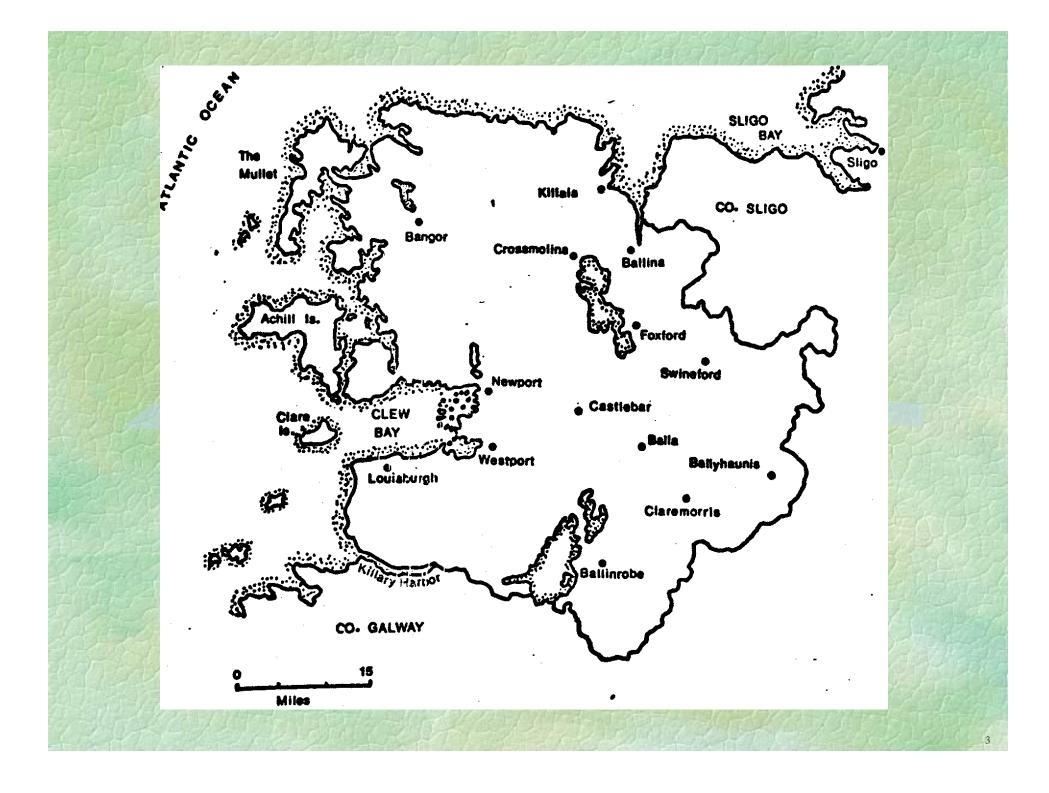
THE EXPANSION AND DECLINE OF THE OØDONEL ESTATE NEWPORT, COUNTY MAYO 1785-1852

Peter Mullowney





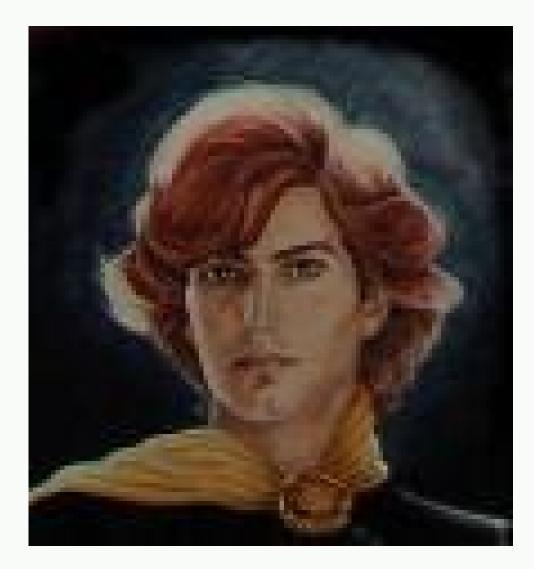
### Lewis on Newport (1837)



### Lewis on Newport (1837)

### OøDonnells of Donegal







#### Factors in the decline of the estate

- The O'Donels originally from Donegal.
- Transplanted to the Ballycroy district of Mayo, around 1654.
- Neal O'Donel, held title to Kildavnet and Achill Beg in 1776.
- In 1781 he purchased the fine estate of Cong.
- Four years later he was able to purchase the Burrishoole estate from John Thomas Medlicott for £33,589 in opposition to John, third earl of Altamont, afterwards first marquis of Sligo.

#### Purchase of the Estate

The estate was purchased by Sir Neal OØDonel on 17 July 1774 from John Thomas Medlicott and Thomas John Medlicott for £33,589 19s 4d. This was equal to nineteen years and a half purchase of the rental income minus the head rent amounting to £1722 11s 3d per year.

#### Purchase of the Estate

#### NLI, PC264 (2)/22

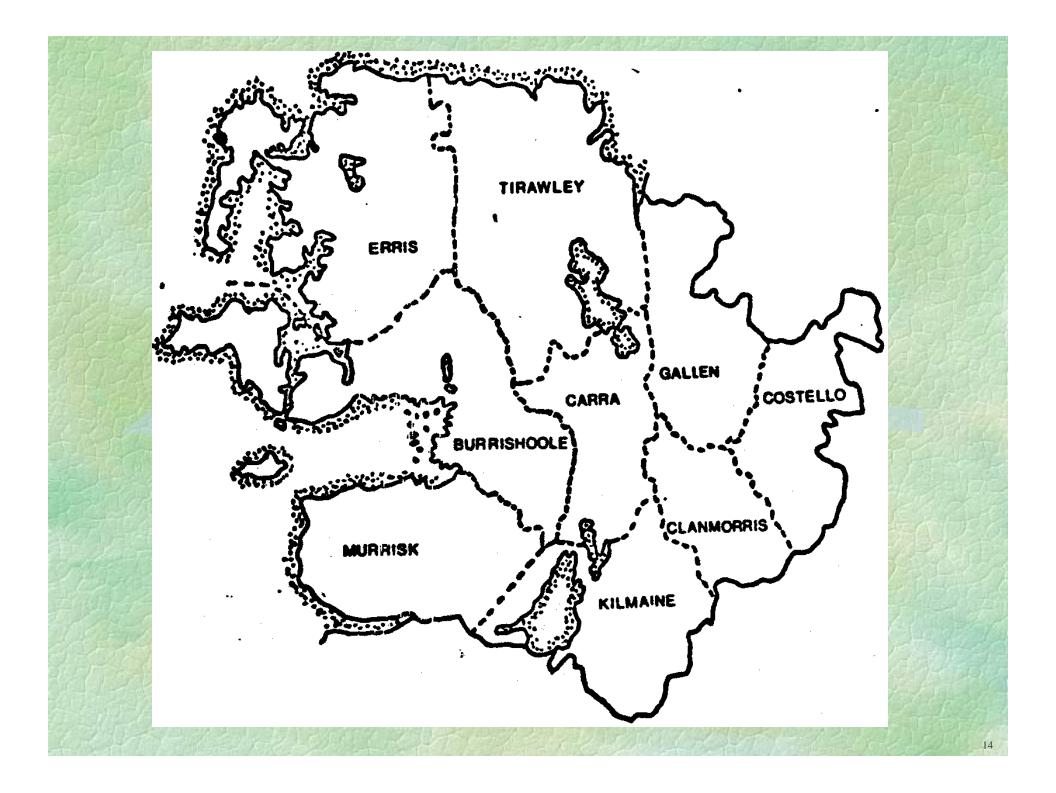
Document from Court of Kings bench marking agreement between Sir Neal OøDonel and John Thomas Medlicott and Thomas John Medlicott where in exchange for the Newport estate described therein John Thomas Medlicott was given £33,589 19s 4d and Thomas John Medlicott one sparrow hawk.

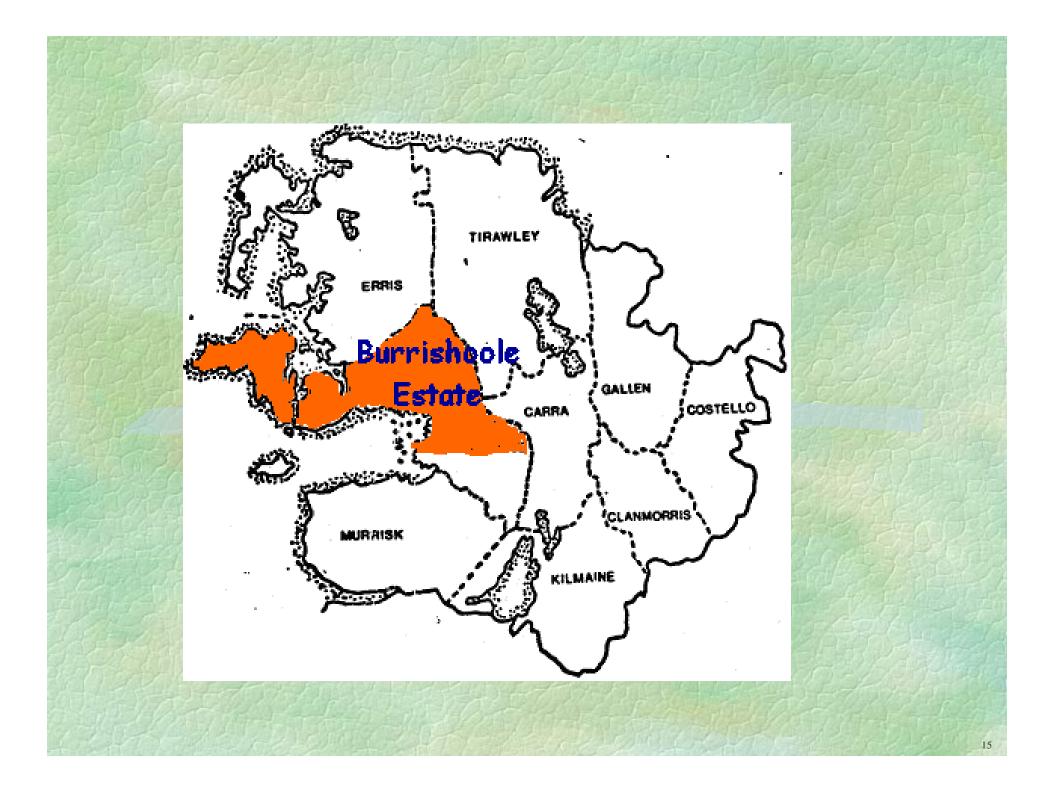
#### Extent of the Estate

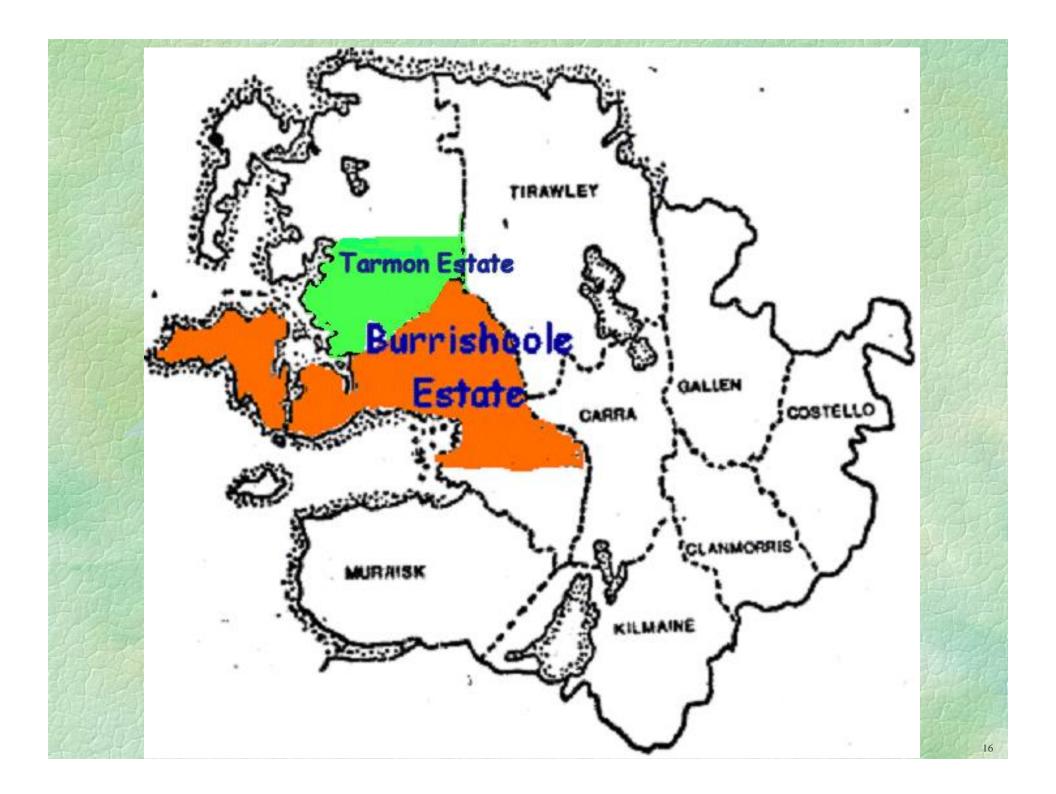
## The OøDonels owned land in three baronies of Mayo.

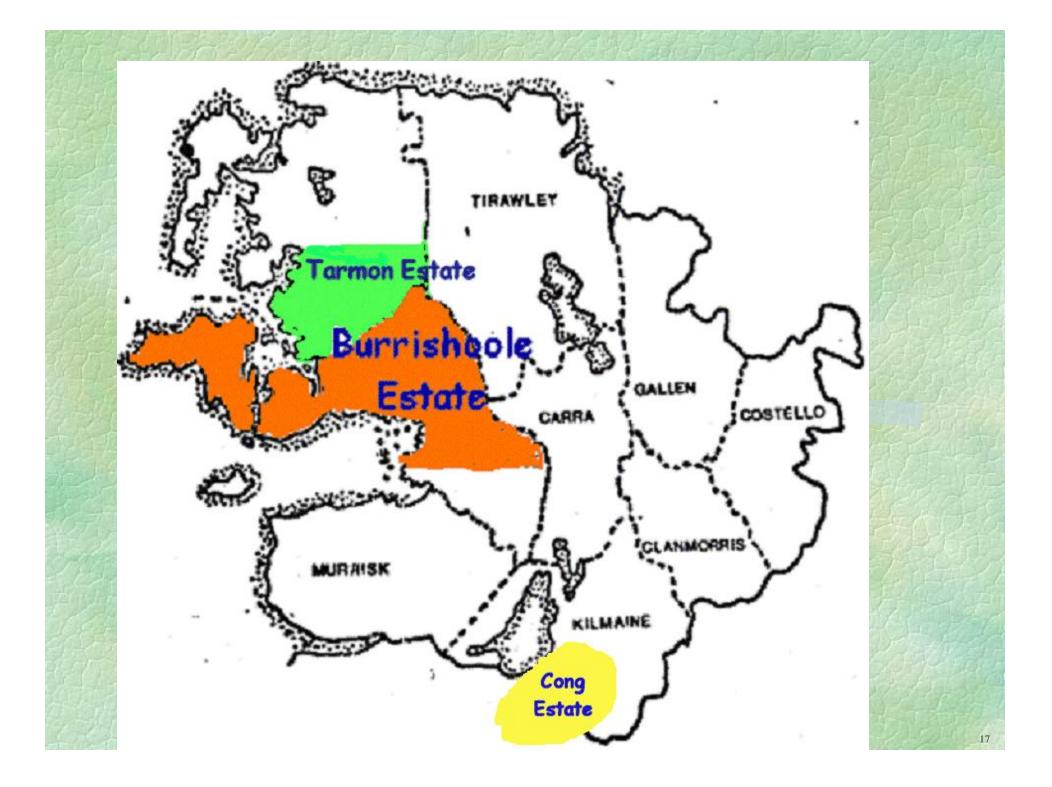
Tarmon estate in the barony of Erris,
Cong estate in the barony of Kilmaine
Newport estate in the barony of Burrishoole.

Included in the sale of lands by the Medlicotts was also land in Counties Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford but this was probably disposed of almost immediately.









#### The Burrishoole Estate

- Centred on the town of Newport made up of 70,000 acres.
- The land is generally poor consisting in a large part of mountain grazing.
- The part of the property that was arable, consisted of acidic peaty soils. Crops that grew there were buffeted by winds coming in from the Atlantic Ocean.
- The soil and climate were ideal for the cultivation of potatoes and linen.

### **OøDonel Family Tree**

- Hugh of Melcomb
- Sir Neal the Elder d. Jan 1811
- **1798** 1800 1828
- Hugh James Moore Sir Neal the Younger Connel 1828
  - Hugh James Moore

Sir Richard

Sir George

19

#### õTHE REMAINDER TO IN TAIL MALEö

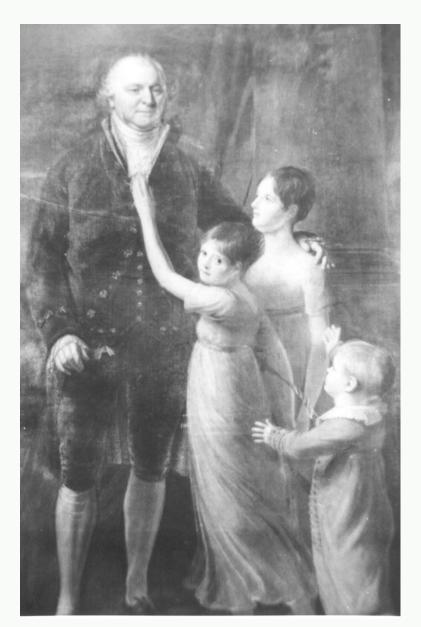
#### THE INHERITANCE OF THE OØDONEL ESTATE

#### Factors in the decline of the estate

- Extensive borrowing
- Settlements made on marriages of daughters and to younger sons of the family.
- Not matched by a corresponding growth in income over time.
- Decline in agricultural prices following the ending of the Napoleonic wars.
- Decline of the linen industry in the parish.
- Payment of rent by the tenants more difficult.
- Difficulties were massively accentuated by the occurrence of the Great Famine in 1847.

#### Factors in the decline of the estate

- Annuities were paid to widows of landlords or potential landlords.
- Over the period of sixty-seven years covered by this study annuities were paid to five widows and to two daughters of deceased heirs.
- A large number of deeds were executed to secure these annuities and this further added to the burden of debt.
- Wills were often used to disburse the wealth of the estate rather than consolidate it and place it in a more financially viable position for the inheritor of the estate.



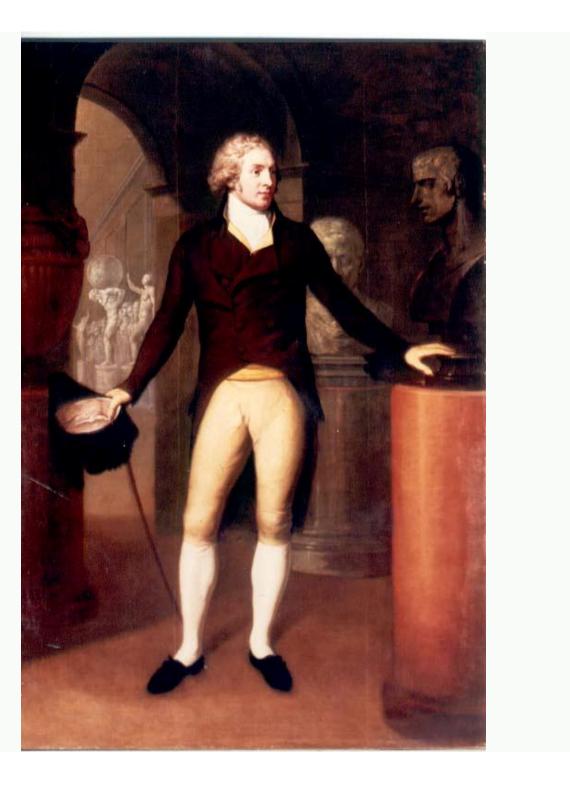
#### Sir Neal OøDonel

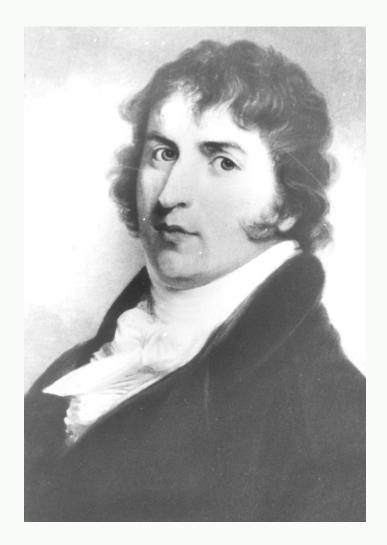


Sir Neal OøDonel (II)



#### Sir Hugh OøDonel





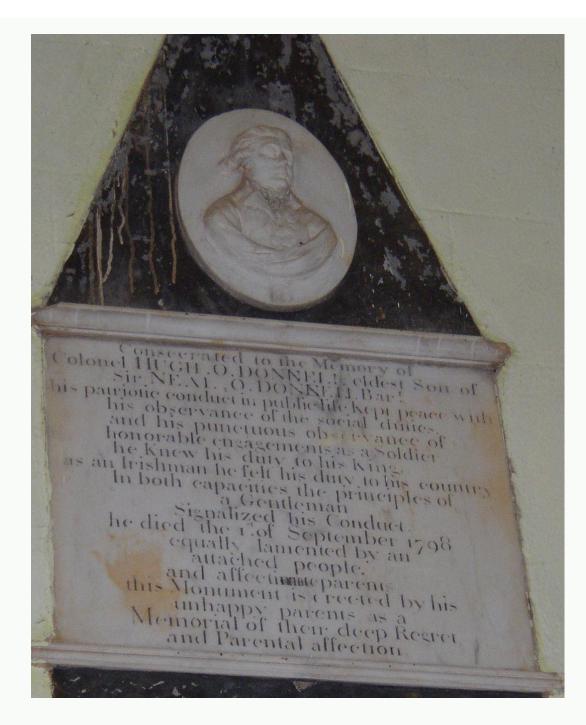
James Moore OøDonel

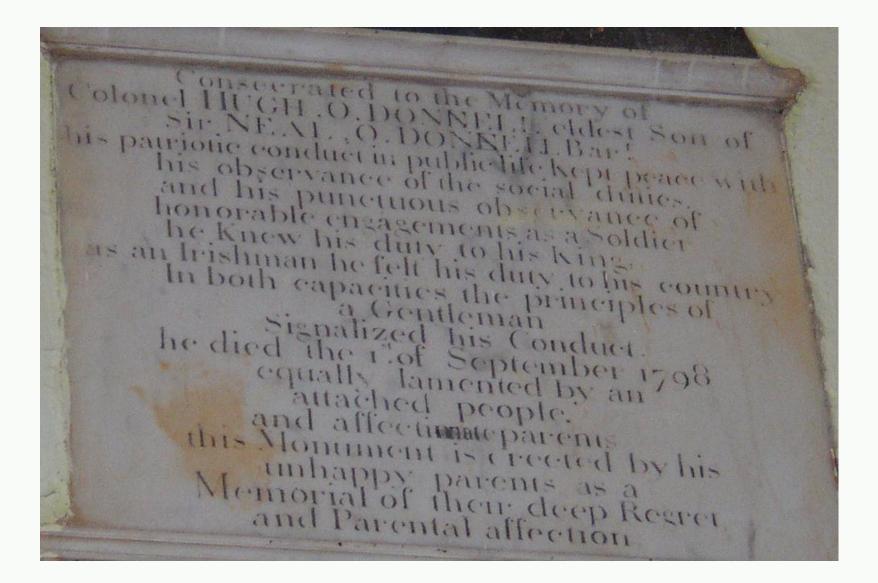
#### Factors in the decline of the estate

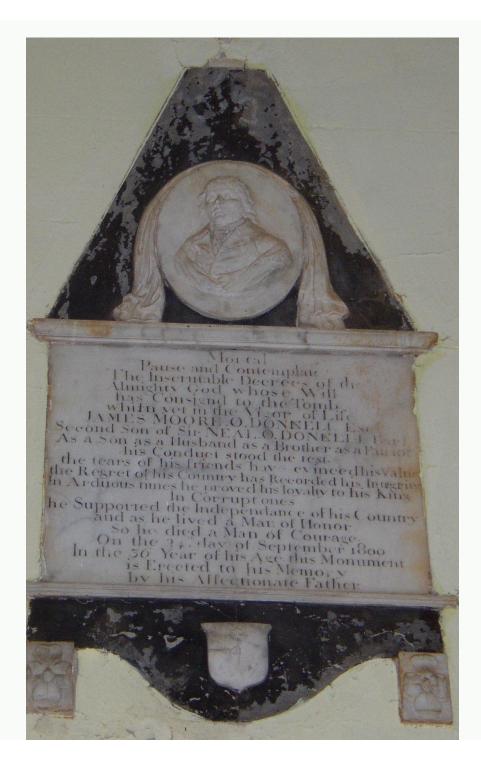
- Duelling
- Loans
- Marriage Settlements
- Court cases
- Legal fees
- Church tithes
- Quit rent
- Poor rates

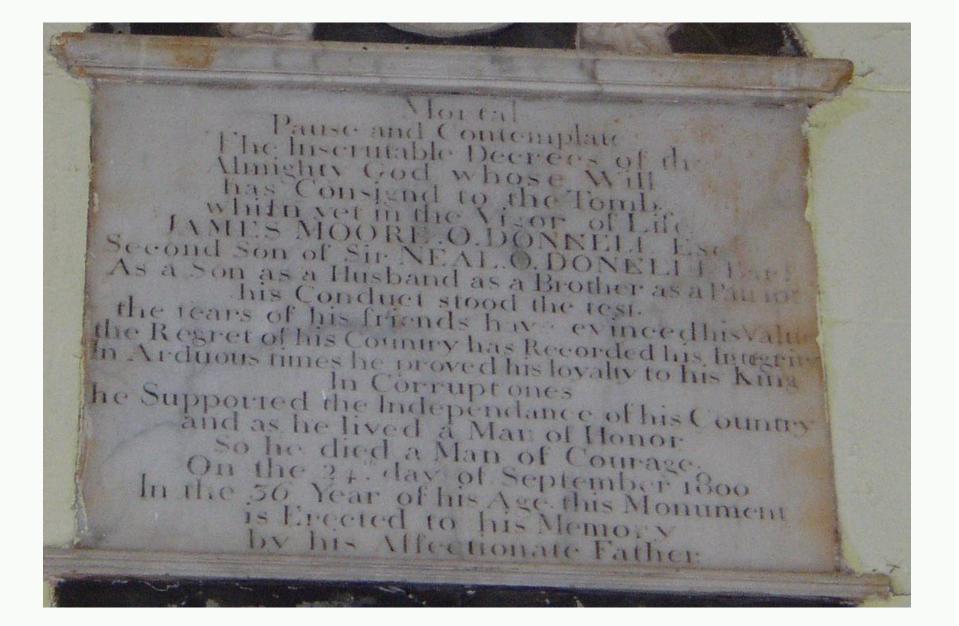
# Factors in the decline of the estate (duelling)

- Hugh OøDonel.
- James Moore OøDonel.
- Richard OøDonel









# Factors in the decline of the estate (duelling)

34

Hugh OøDonel.
 É May 11th 1790
 É Died Sept 1798

- James Moore OøDonel.
   É Sept 14th 1801
- Hugh James Moore OøDonel.
   É Died Jul 28th 1828
- Richard OøDonel É Jul 14th 1828 É Feb 28th 1830

# Factors in the decline of the estate (loans)

- 1774 : loan to Medlicotts from John earl of Altamont £16,333 6s 8d at 6 per cent interest.
- 1781: loan to Sir Neal OøDonel from Sir Rowland Hill £13,700.
- 1825: loan to Sir Neal OøDonel the younger from William Browne £16,700.

# Factors in the decline of the estate (Marriage settlements)

- 1766 : Settlement on marriage of Neal OøDonel £2600
- 1793 : Settlement on marriage of James Moore
   OøDonel annuity £400 year to wife Deborah from Tarmon estate.
- 1798 : Settlement on marriage of Hugh OøDonel £3000 per annum.
- 1798 : Settlement on marriage of Hugh OøDonel for £14000 to children of Sir Neal.

# Maria OøDonel Browne



36a

# Factors in the decline of the estate (Court cases)

- 1777 : £892 19s 0d to James McDonnell
- 1785 : £4550 to Elizabeth Medlicott.
- 1785 : £4550 to Susanna Medlicott.
- 1785 : £4550 to Frances Medlicott.
- 1785 : £1000 to General Manus OøDonel.
- 1789 : £3600 to Reverend Moone Johnston

#### Factors in the decline of the estate

1774, the Medlicotts were in severe financial difficulty and applied for a loan to John late earl of Altamont who accordingly agreed to lend them £16,333 6s 8d at 6 per cent interest. As there were many annuities and other debts affixed to the Medlicottsøestate it was agreed that as security for this loan they would convey to the earl of Altamont most of the estate for ever.

#### Factors in the decline of the estate

- Sir Neal OøDonel had received a baronetcy in 1780.
- This was associated with his change to the Protestant faith in 1763.
- Hugh married Alice Hutchinson.
- James Moore OøDonel married Deborah Camac.
- Neal married Catherine Annesley .
- The fourth son was Connel.

# Maintaining Honour

- Duelling
- Marriage settlements
- Sale of land
- Bequests to younger children

40

Status in community

### Maintaining Honour (Status in community)

- 1795 Hugh OøDonel Lieutenant Colonel South Mayo Militia
- 1798 James Moore OøDonel Captain South Mayo Militia
- 1798 Connel OøDonel Lieutenant South Mayo Militia

### OøDonel family (religion)

- 1763 Neal and his father became Protestants
- Parish of Burrishoole
  - Church of Ireland
  - Roman Catholic
  - Methodist
  - Presbyterian
  - Darbyites

### Maintaining Honour (Status in community)

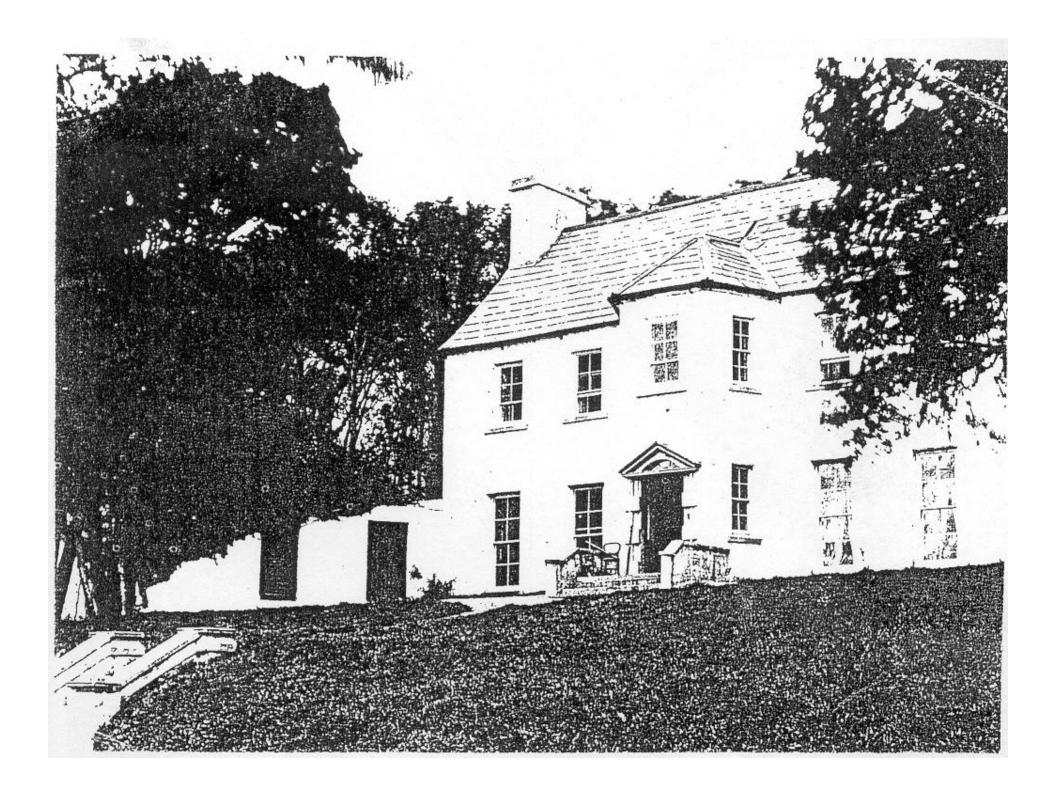
- 1795 Hugh OøDonel MP Donegal
- 1795 James Moore OøDonel MP Rathoath
- 1798 Hugh OøDonel Earl of Achill?
- 1815 Connel OøDonel High Constable Barony of Burrishoole

Marriage settlement of Hugh James Moore OøDonel

- Made 30th May 1828.
- HJM OøD died 28th July 1828.
- £1000 per annum to widow
- £10,000 for a younger child or children

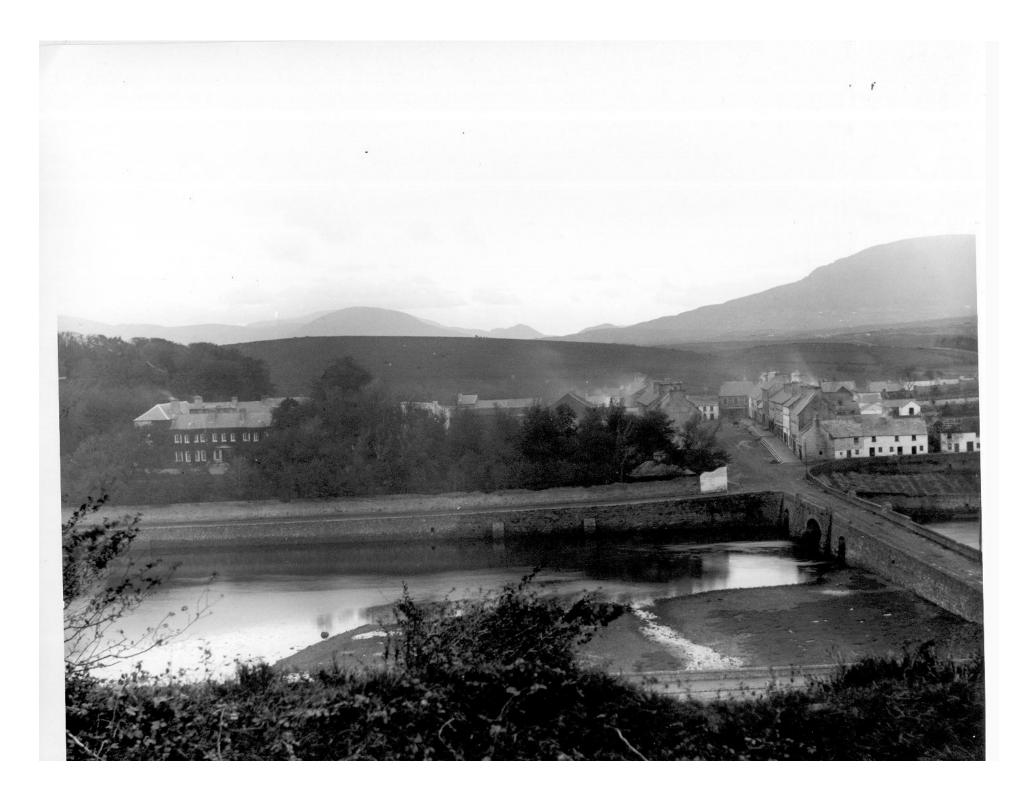
# House Building

- Melcomb House or Seamount
- Newport House
- Improving the town



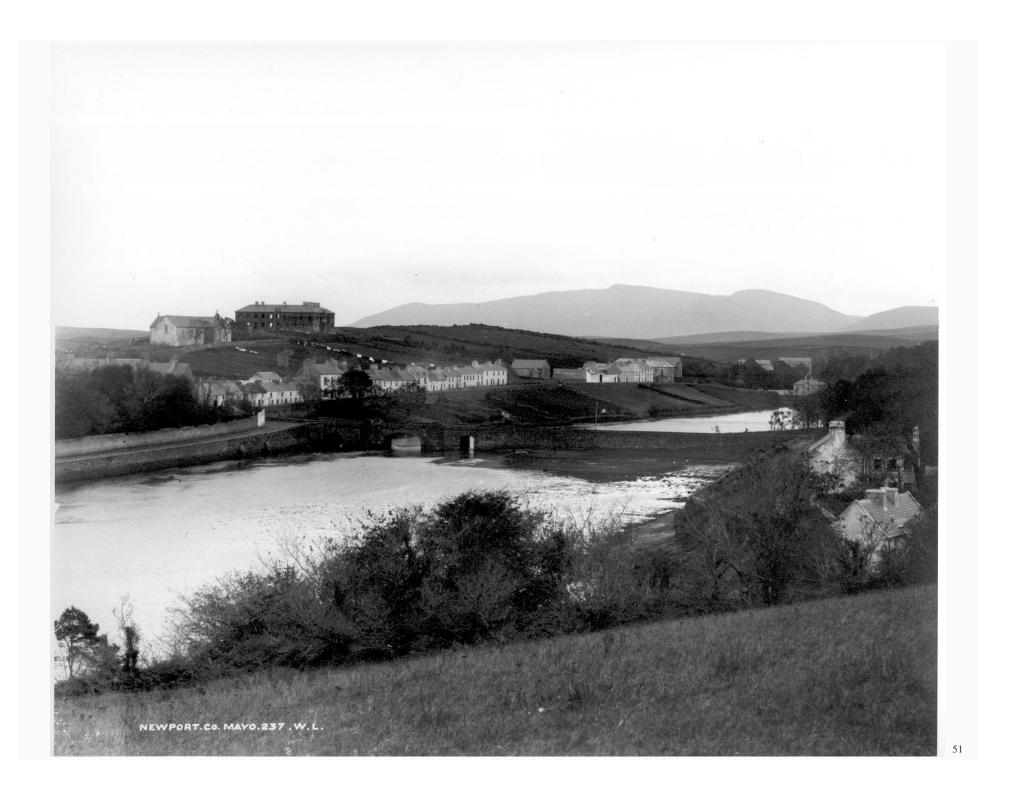
### Melcomb House

- Hugh OøDonel
- Samuel OøDonel
- Connolly Coane
- James Moore OøDonel
- Connel OøDonel
- Richard OøDonel
- Captain John Nugent
- Sir George Clendenning OøDonel









Estate Income (1843)

Newport Estate
Cong Estate
Clogher Estate

£6879 12s 10d £2500 17s 3d £459 8s 7d

#### THE LAND AND ECONOMY OF THE ESTATE

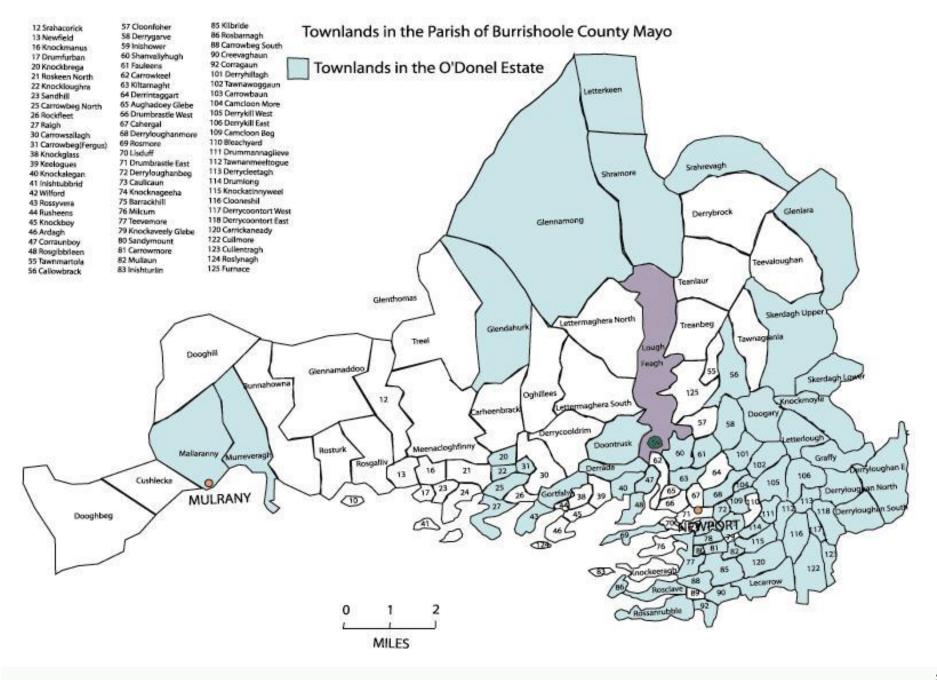
53

#### THE LAND AND ECONOMY OF THE ESTATE

- Decrease in prices after Napoleonic War
- Decline in Linen industry
- Agricultural produce
  - Livestock
  - Corn
  - Potatoes
  - Flax

### Parish of Burrishoole (1841)

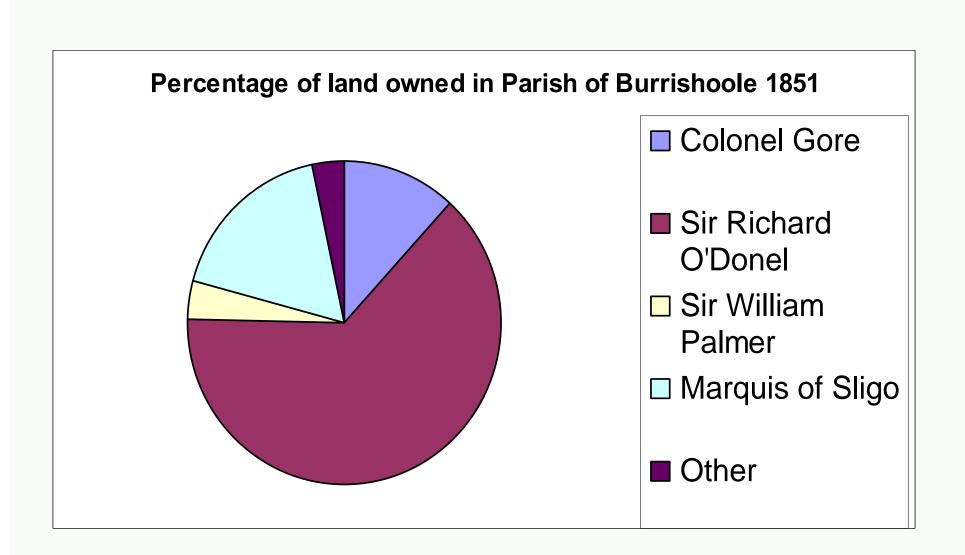
- 125 townlands total
- Sir Richard OøDonel 69 townlands
- Marquis of Sligo 15 townlands
- Sir William Palmer 15 townlands
- Colonel Gore 12 townlands



# Parish of Burrishoole (1841) acreage

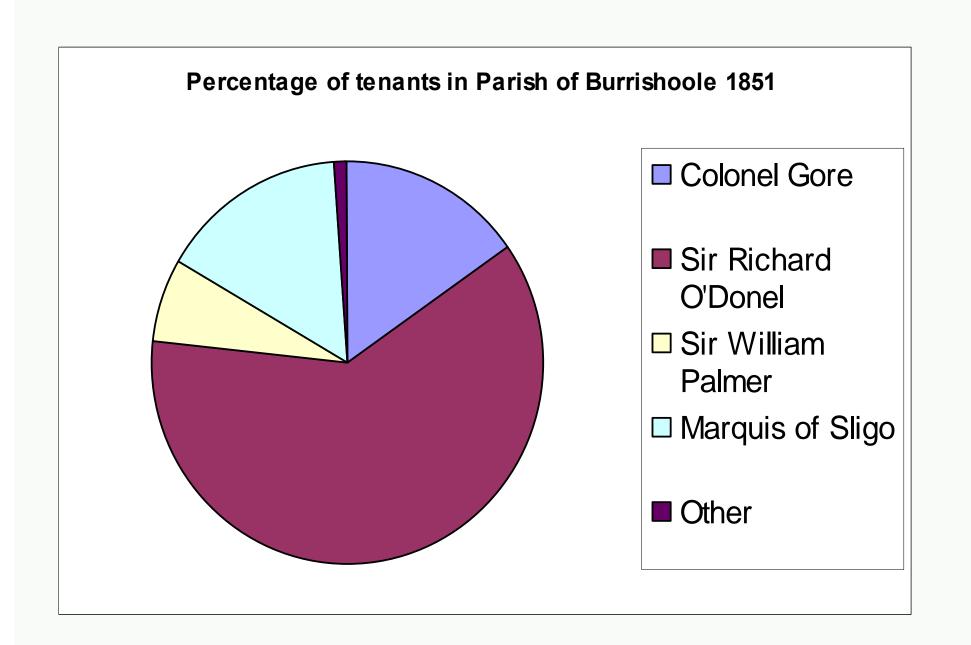
57

- Sir Richard OøDonel 29,787
- Marquis of Sligo 8135
- Sir William Palmer 1914
- Colonel Gore 5496



# Parish of Burrishoole (1841) tenants

Sir Richard OøDonel 6413
Marquis of Sligo 1637
Sir William Palmer 695
Colonel Gore 1585



# Population per acre (1841)

Townland	Acres	Population	Value per acre
Carrowkeel	87	173	38
Corraunboy	76	129	40
Camcloon	83	125	22
Oghilees	842	6	1.2
Derrybrock	1309	9	2.6
Glennamong	4453	22	0.4

61

### Pattern of land usage

- Rundale system (44 townlands in 1839)
- õThe parish has 11,000 inhabitants living in 100 hamletsö de Tocqueville (1835)
- Newport town population 1285

Parish of Burrishoole (1851) Agricultural Census

- 3445 holdings
- 63 % less than 15 acres
- 700 less than 5 acres
- 1197 horses
   718 donkeys
- 10906 cattle
- 1611 pigs

718 donkeys7165 sheep21232 chickens

Parish of Burrishoole (1851) Agricultural Census

- 10906 cattle
- majority on 5 15 acre holdings (62%)
- 1834 on 100 to 500 acre holdings (2.7%)
- Farmer 5 acres or less 1 cow
- Farmer 100 acres ten cows
- 17 landholders greater 500 acres 48 cows

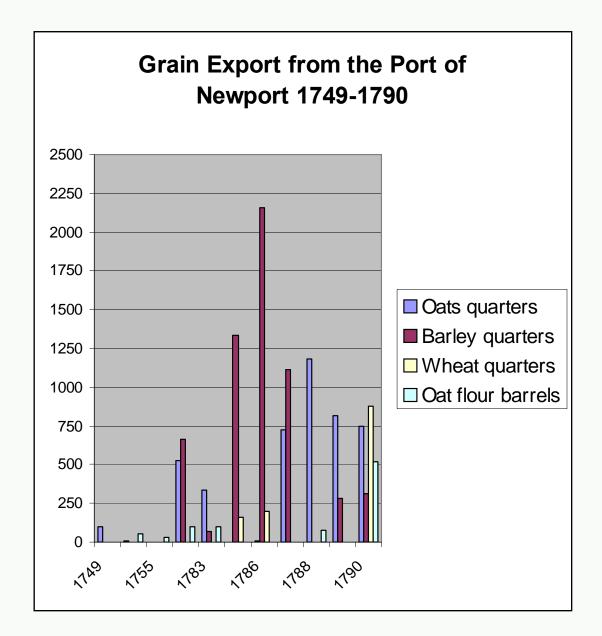
# Parish of Burrishoole (Milling)

- 1706 lease to Owen O
  Malley
- 1777 Richard Lendrum
- 1792 John Arbuthnot
- 1811 William Ivers
- 1838 Jonas Swain
  - Corn
  - Flax
  - Flax and potatoes fertilised with seaweed



### The port of Newport

- • These two small places, Newport and Westport, share the poor trade of Clew Bay. Newport being the more advantageously situated since its river can take ships of 500 tons.øCoquebert (1791)
- the pier was erected at the expense of Sir R. A.
   O'Donel and some of the merchants of the town; the quays were extensive and commodious, and accessible to vessels of 200 tonsø*Lewis (1838)*



### Linen industry in Newport

- 1720 Captain Pratt settled Quakers
- Linen sent northwards for spinning
- 1790 Linenhall set up in Castlebar
- Immigrant weavers from Ulster
- 1847 700 employed by Mr Gildea
- Decline 1820s 30s machine made goods in Ulster

### Linen industry in Newport

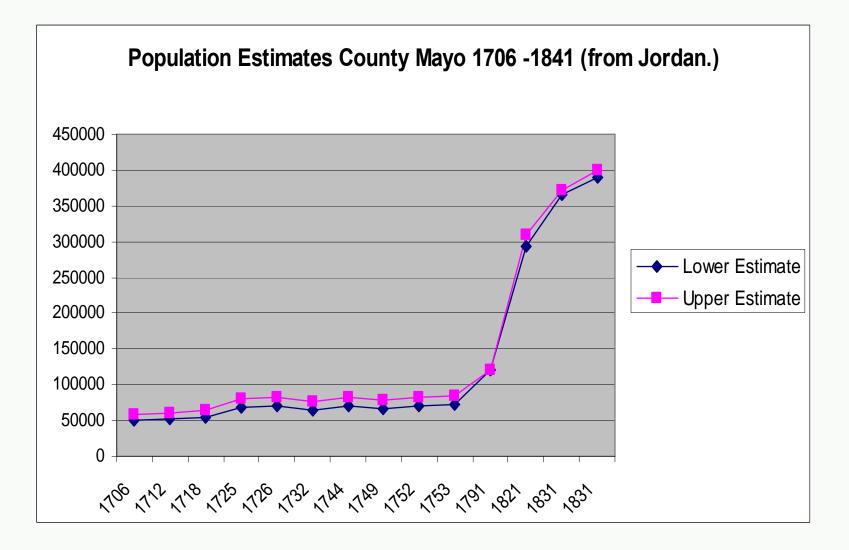
- Partial revival at the time of the famine
- 50 acres Mayo (1844) 2499 (1847)
- Seed 25s acre, labour 28s, manure, paid tenants £5 per acre
- 1000 workers harvesting
- 1847 700 employed by Mr Gildea in processing

Arrears of rent

- 0 per cent in 1805
- 40 per cent in 1816
- 85 per cent in 1823
- 103 per cent in 1824.
- The amount of arrears varied between townlands and there were some townlands where the arrears were 299 per cent in 1816, 320 per cent in 1823 and 420 per cent in 1824.

# Increases in rent 1777 - 1788 0.3 % per annum 1788 - 1805 2.7 % per annum 1805 - 1814 3.5 % per annum

## Õa little thing will help a poor manö LANDLORD TENANT RELATIONS



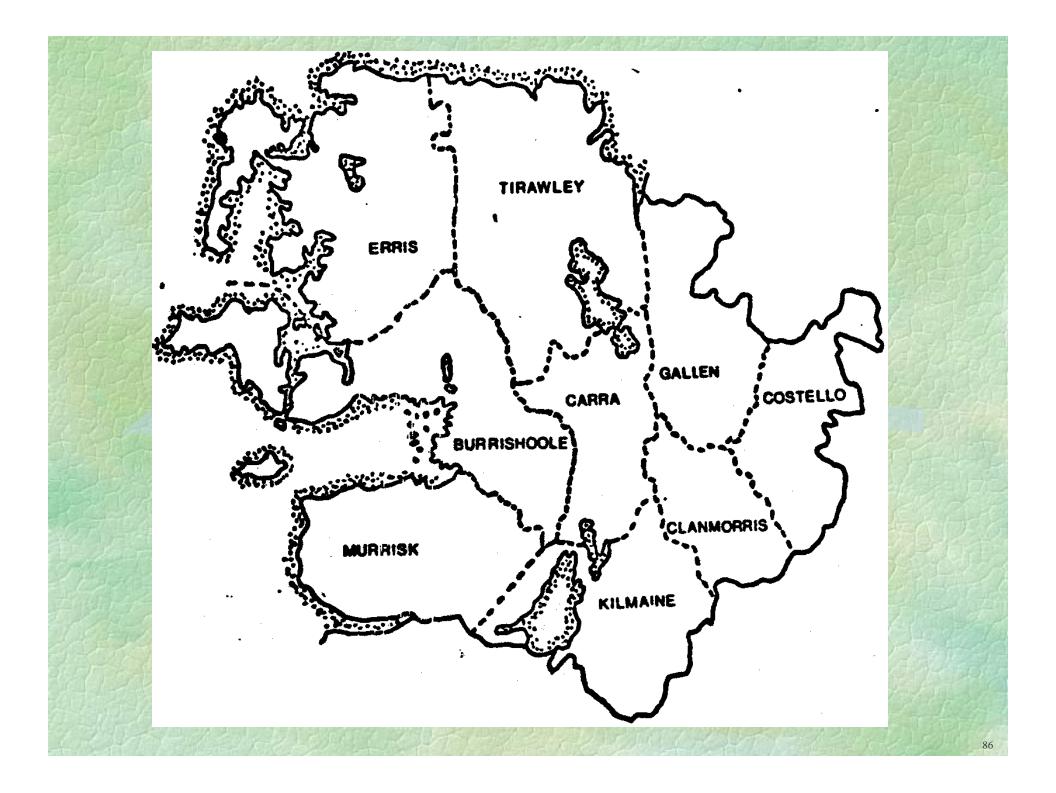
## Condition of better off families

- Examination of leases
- Davis family
- Nixon family
- Most land let to poorer tenants on year to year basis and no leases made but names are in rent rolls.

## OøDonel Estate: Rent rolls

- MS 5821 Rent Roll 1774-1814
- MS 5736 Rentals and Tithes Applotments 1774-1830
- MS 5745 Sept 1826-Sept 1831 Rental
- MS 5742 Accounts O'Donel Estate and Relief Funds 1837-40
- MS 5740 Rental of Newport Estate March and Sept 1855
- MS 5741 Abstract of rental of Newport Estate 1/2 year ended 25th March 1862

- Parish of Kilmina and Kilmaclasser (12,444)
- Parish priest Myles Sheridan
- Cabin without land
   10s
- Cabin with half an acre
   30s 40s
- Rent paid in cash not in exchange for labour
- Often only one room 12øby 18ø



- Parish of Kilmina and Kilmaclasser (12,444)
- Beds made of straw placed on poles
- Often only one bed in cabin
- Roofs thatched straw or potato, often leaked
- Roof tied down with reed ropes or stones
- Hole left in roof for smoke

- Parish of Kilmina and Kilmaclasser
- Linen trade and herring fishery both declined
- Winter 1831 calls for rent reductions
- Population increasing rapidly
- Subdividing principal cause of poverty

- Standard clothing not good
- £1 Annually for clothes for family
- Suit and shoes to Mass and fairs
- When at home dressed in rags
- Coats of frieze woven locally
- Not sufficient warm clothes to leave cabins in winter

## Linen industry in Newport

- Loan from Central Relief Committee
- Purchase 100 lbs. flaxseed £300
- 5,000 acres suitable growth of flax
- 14 men employed cultivation of one acre

NLI, MS 8669, Pim correspondence. Sir Richard OøDonel Newport May 1 1847 to William Todhunter

### Linen industry in Newport

 Sir Richard in his closing statement to Todhunter said -: a little thing will help a poor man and I do believe that a few quarts of flax seed would help many a poor creature from ruin but let us not forget that not one moment should be lost.ø

NLI, MS 8669, Pim correspondence. Sir Richard OøDonel Newport May 1 1847 to William Todhunter

## Employment on the OøDonel estate

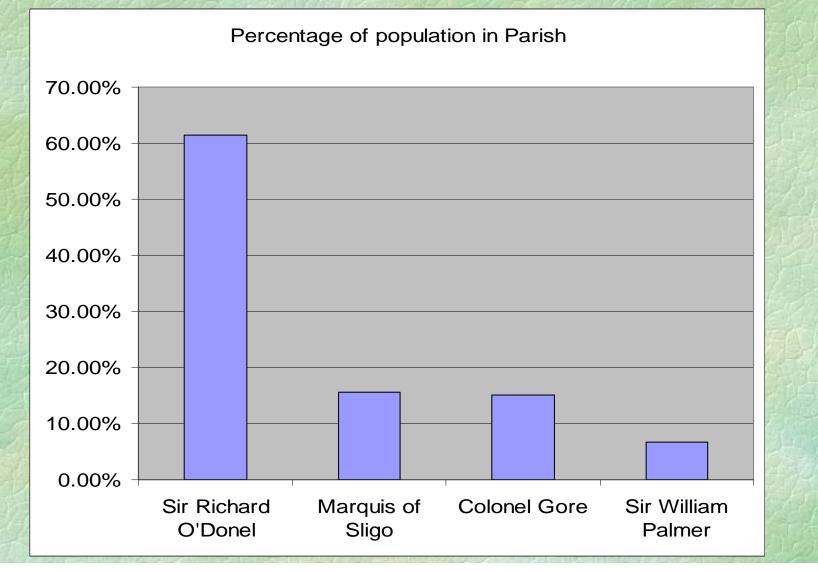
- Farm overseer
- Bailiffs
- Farm managers
- Labourers
- Gardeners
- House servants

## Population decline on OøDonel estate

Rep 2019 ALTON	<b>Population</b>						
	1841	1871	Decrease				
Mayo	388,887	246,030	37%				
Barony of Burrishoole	39,873	20,601	48%				

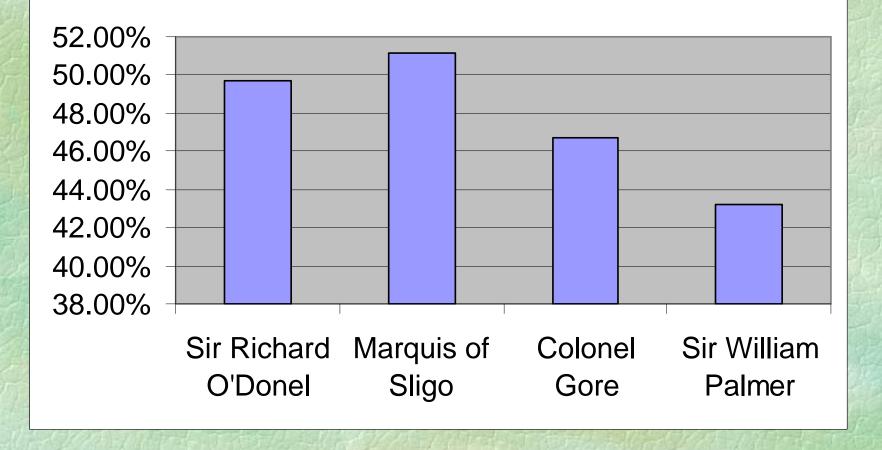
## Population decline on OøDonel

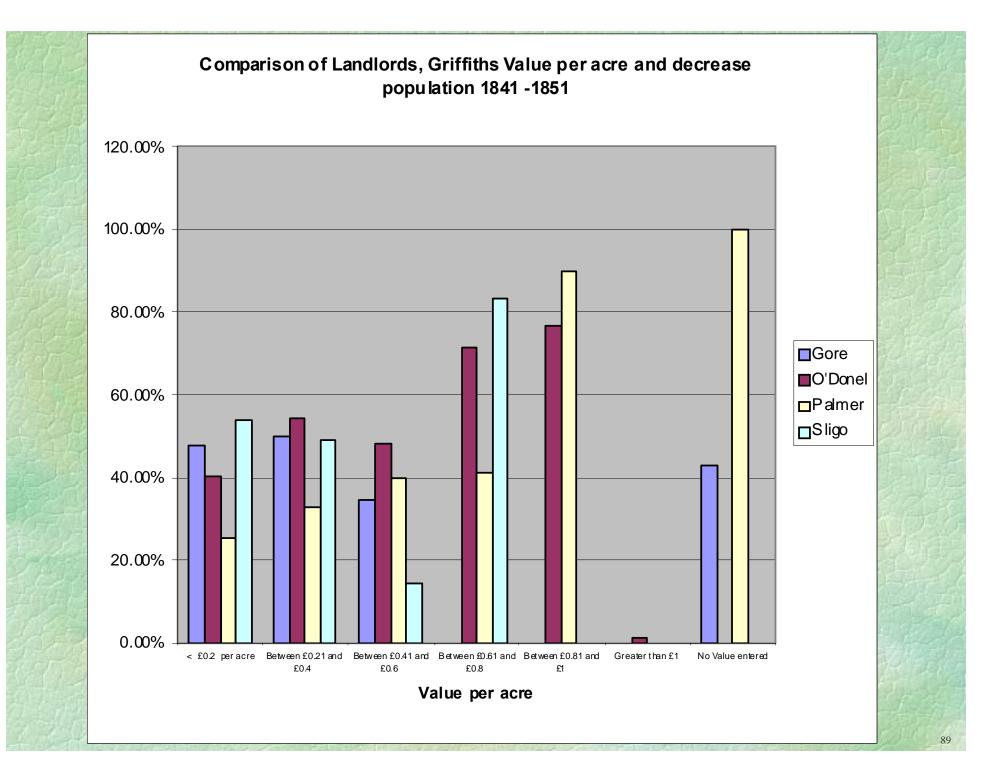
#### estate

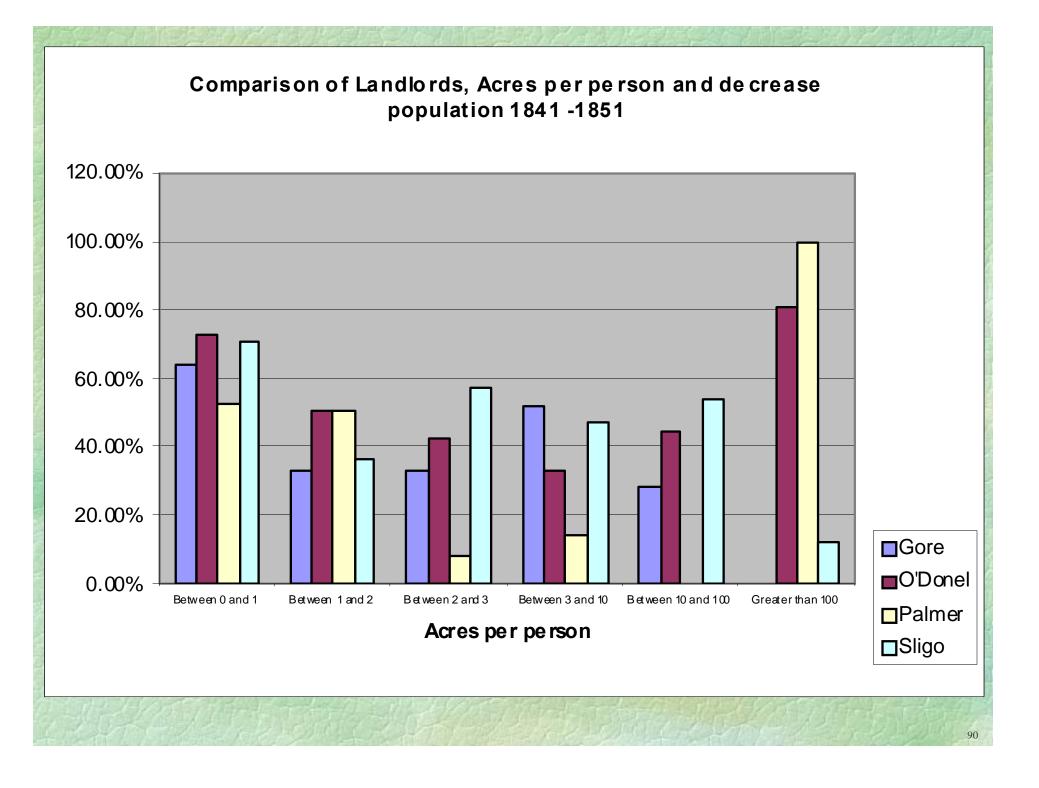


## Population decline on OøDonel estate

Decrease in Population 1841 -1851





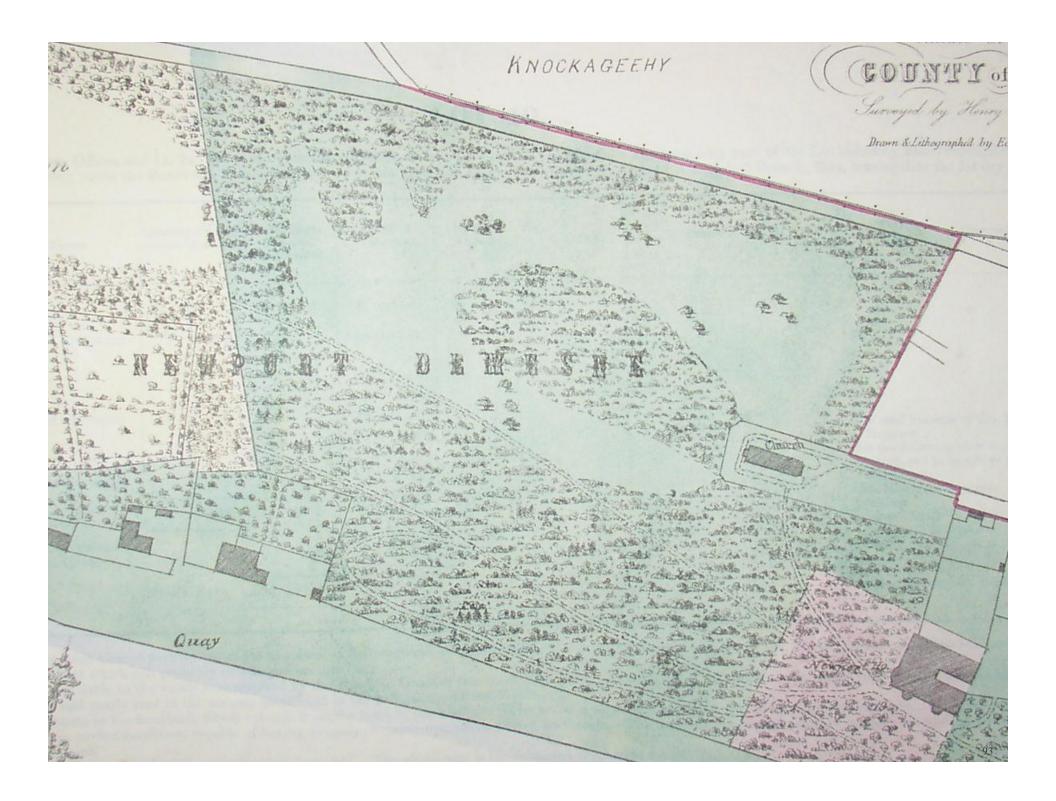


## Famine on the OøDonel estate

- Evictions
- Stealing from the landlord
- Religious divisions
- Contrast between lifestyles
- James Caine
- Encumbered Estates Court

## The Incumbered Estates Act

- Passed in 1849.
- Incumbered Estates' Commission was established.
- Any estates to be sold had to be incumbered.
- Could only be sold without the consent of the owner if the level of debt was greater than half its annual income, or the estate was in receivership.



#### LOT 40.

Denominations.	Tenants' Names.	Quantity of Land Statute Measure.	Yearly Rents or Value, if untenanted.	Griffith's Valuation,	Mr. Brett's Valuation.	Gale Days.	Tenure of Tenants.	Observations.
NEWPORT HOUSE, Offices, and Land	In possession of the owner	A. R. P; 1 2 19	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 55 10 0	£ s. d.			
Part of Newport Demesne	In possession of the owner	16 1 27		$\begin{array}{cccc} 15 & 1 & 6 \\ 6 & 3 & 0 \end{array}$				A. B. The total contents of this Lot, as per Map, are
RAHEYWORON called in Fee-farm Grant Ravorane therwise Raghivorane	Deduct probable amount )	7 3 13 25 3 19	81 5 0	76 14 6	81 5 0	-		John Malley's holding con- taining 0 2 27 Dominick Quinn's and Ar- thur Rose's holdings con- taining 0 2 32
	of Tithe Rent Charge ∫	Profit Rent	£80 16 3					Leaving the contents included in this Lot

Part of this Lot, viz., Newport House, Offices, and 1A. 2R. 19P. of the Demesne attached thereto, are held in Fee Simple. The remaining part of the Lot including Raheyworon, forms part of the Lands comprised in the Fee-farm Grant, under the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act, from the Marquis of Sligo to Sir Richard Annesley O'Donnell, Bart, bearing date the 1st day of May, 1852.

Normart comprising Lots 94 and 40 s 18s 9d per annum, which has not yet

#### **Newport House Offices and Land**

This Lot is delightfully situate in the headland, which extends from the town to the harbour. The house is large and commodious, in the best possible order and not requiring the outlay of a shilling. The offices and yard are in perfect condition, capable of having extensive farming operations carried on therein. The demesne garden and pleasure grounds are most tastefully laid out and planted, and kept in the best state of preservation.

## Review main points of build up

- Change to Protestant faith.
- Acquisition of land.
- External income?
- Willing to experiment with new ideas.

## Review main points of decline

- Death of five landlords or heirs between 1811 and 1828.
- OøDonels wanting to maintain a certain lifestyle.
- Drop in agricultural prices after end of Napoleonic wars.
- Potato famine.
- Decline in linen industry.

### Lands of OøDonel Estate sold in Encumbered Estates Court 1852-1856

Lot No 2967	Achill	Reverend Edward Nangle	10,500
	Dooega and		
Lot No 2968	Carrowgarve	Samuel Holme	2333
日本出	Carrickkildavnet , Dereen ,	影响	
Lot No 2993	Shraheens	William Pike	2333
	Achillbeg Island , Cloughmore , Claggan and		
Lot No 2994	Saulia	Thomas Brassy	2333

## Achill Rent Roll of Sir Neal O'Donel Bart 1801

No.	Townland	Tenants Name	Yearly Rent
1	Achill Beg	Edmund Kilbane	IR£60.00
2	Currigarrif	Brian Henry	IR£50.50
3	Dukinella	Terence Thewles	IR£54.55
4	Dunkinella	Edmund Calfey	IR£54.00
		Neil Lynchehaun and Patrick	
5	Cashel	McNally	IR£50.00
6	Doogort	Pat and Owen O Malley	IR£72.27
7	Keel	Thady Mangan and Co	IR£150.15
8	Cloghmore	Brian Kilbane and Co	IR£30.00
9	Dereen Kildavnet	Martin and Mathew McHugh	IR£60.80
10	Saile	Pat Cafferkey	IR£30.00

## MS 5821 Rent Roll 1777 (James Mooreøs Accounts)

Townland	First Name	Surname	Years rent 1777		
15276744	CARE L		£	S	d
Achillbeg	Neal	O Donel esq	276	3	0
Doocanella 1 moiety	Dennis	Sweeny	26	5	0
Doocanella other moiety	John	McLoughlin esq.	26	5	0
REFERRED	12630	C. S. B. B.	1 del		Aler -
Dooega	Francis	Sweeny and partners	58	16	0
Doogorth	Owen	O Malley and son	34	0	0
	EXES	14210 5 12	140		11 C
Doomore	John	O Malley and partners	68	5	0

### MS 5744 Leases on Medlicott Estate

Strain a					for lives of said Pat McLoughlin	
	93101	Dooniver	Pat McLoughlin	IR£0.00	and Thomas McLoughlin see 101 renewable for ever	Sir Neal O'Donel Bart
	0.4404	<b>T</b> . (			<b>3</b>	Sir Neal O'Donel
ALL I	94101	Tontanvalley	Pat McLoughlin	IR£0.00	101 renewable for ever	Bart
ないない	95101	Tonlagee	Pat McLoughlin	IR£0.00	for lives of said Pat McLoughlin and Thomas McLoughlin see 101 renewable for ever	Sir Neal O'Donel Bart
					for lives of said Pat McLoughlin	
11	96101	Currane	Pat McLoughlin	IR£0.00	and Thomas McLoughlin see 101 renewable for ever	Sir Neal O'Donel Bart

	DELLE RELEASED S		1. Trade	APT LA				
Griffiths Valuation Achill 1855								
Townland	Landlord	Area	Value	Buildings	Total			
Dooniver	Marquis of Sligo	767 3 25	49 15 0	20 15 0	70 10 0			
Tontanvally	Marquis of Sligo	2068 1 14	111 9 0	760	118 15 0			
Maumnaman	Marquis of Sligo	569 2 29	2100		2100			
Cashel	Marquis of Sligo & Trustees Achill Mission	1687 3 0	69 18 0	16 12 0	86 10 0			
Bunacurry	Rev John MacHale DD	1126 3 0	50 9 0	16 19 0	6780			
Salia	Thomas Brassy	1898 2 13	56 19 0	1020	6710			
Pollranny	Marquis of Sligo & Trustees Achill Mission	897 0 31	38 5 0	640	44 9 0			
Tonregee East	Marquis of Sligo	566 0 13	2000	2 18 0	22 18 0			
Tonregee West	Marquis of Sligo	762 1 20	39 11 0	6 16 0	48 1 0			
Pollranny	Marquis of Sligo & Trustees Achill Mission	1104 2 23	34 17 0	25 14 0	65 11 0			
Owenduff	Marquis of Sligo	2023 2 11	4210	3 17 0	45 18 0			
Belfarsad	Marquis of Sligo	695 0 22	1250	2100	14 15 0			
Bunanioo	Marquis of Sligo	1809 2 2	5570	10 12 0	65 19 0			
Gubnahorsalia	Marquis of Sligo	159 0 21	30 12 0	950	36 17 0			
Mweelillin	Marquis of Sligo	1284 0 29	4290	280	44 17 0			
Srahmore	Marquis of Sligo	353 2 26	300	THE FEAT	300			
Cartron	Col. Knox Gore	1886 2 19	13 10 0	27 6 24 12	13 10 0			
Boliglana	Marquis of Sligo	2930 2 12	5520	940	6460			
Culloughin	Marquis of Sligo	1432 3 14	1800	0 18 0	18 18 0			

## Newport Historical Society



http://townlandhistory.netfirms.com/histsoc/