

GILLESPIE PLACE TIMELINE

Pre-John Gillespie

First, I want to insert a story which may or may not apply to us, which I have mentioned before but it has stayed with me.

Tombstone and Monument Transcriptions in Mullabrack with some notes relating to some, copied by T.B.F. Paterson. This is a handwritten notebook, and on page 17-18 is the following:

In memory of Adam Bell of Druminnis County Armagh he died Dec 1775 age 56 years and Isabella Bell alias Gillespie his wife who died 22 Feb (?) 1826 age 93 years they are buried in the churchyard adjoining.

veined marble, black background (more description of the actual gravestone)

Adam Bell who was of Scottish origin settled at Killy_____dden in county Armagh at the end of the 17th century or in the very early years of the 18th. He and his family were in possession of most if not all of that town and the adjoining townland of Drumminis in the same county. There is not a trace of his residence nor are there any of his descendants residing at Druminnis. He had two sons, William and Thomas.

William had two sons, William and Jack. William who emigrated to Canada took the side of the Canadians in their resistance to England while Jack lived at Knappaugh county Armagh.

Thomas had 8 children, 4 sons and 4 daughters one of which Adam was the member whose death and burial are recorded above.

Adam Bell was a linen draper and married Isabella Gillespie by whom he had his children. He directed in his will dated in Sept. 1775 that he would be buried in Mullabrack. His wife was a daughter of Thomas Gillespie a son of John Gillespie who with his two maternal uncles Thomas and Robert _____ settled in the wastelands in the county of Armagh at the end of the 17th or beginning of the 18th century. They had previously _____

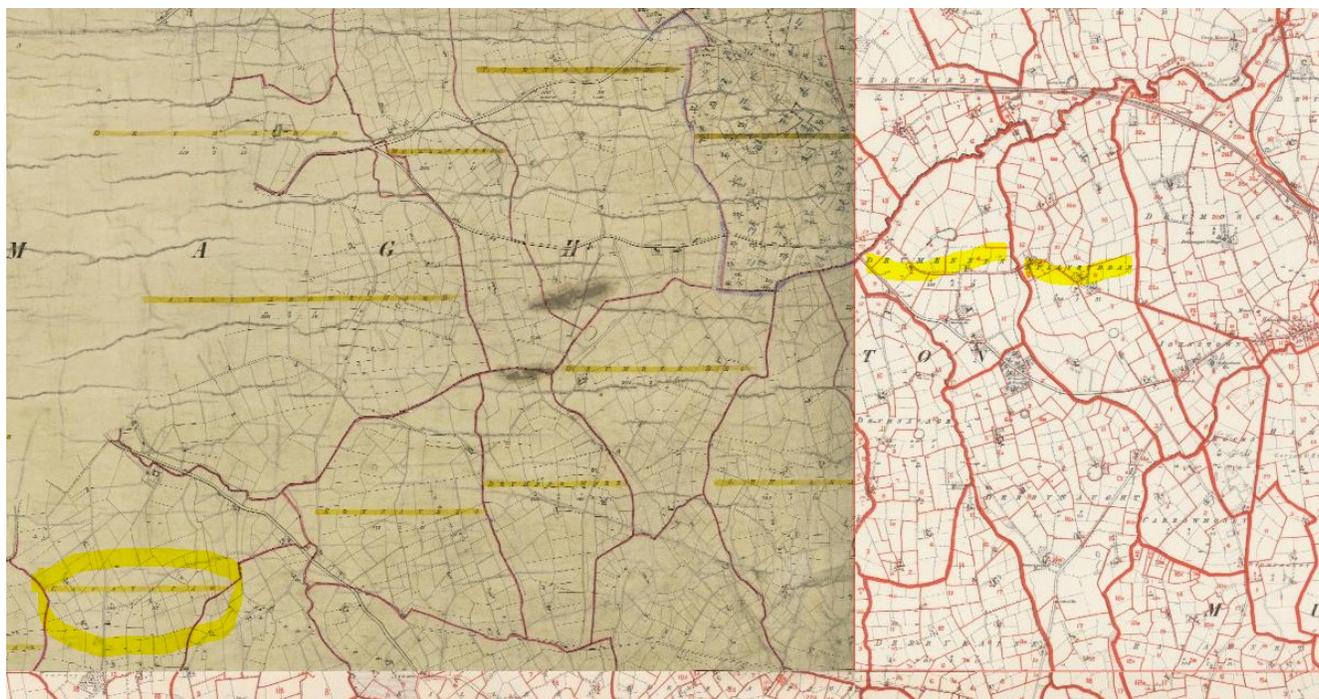
from a family sketch by T.W.B.

Many descendants of Adam Bell and Isabella Gillespie distinguished themselves in the legal and engineering profession.

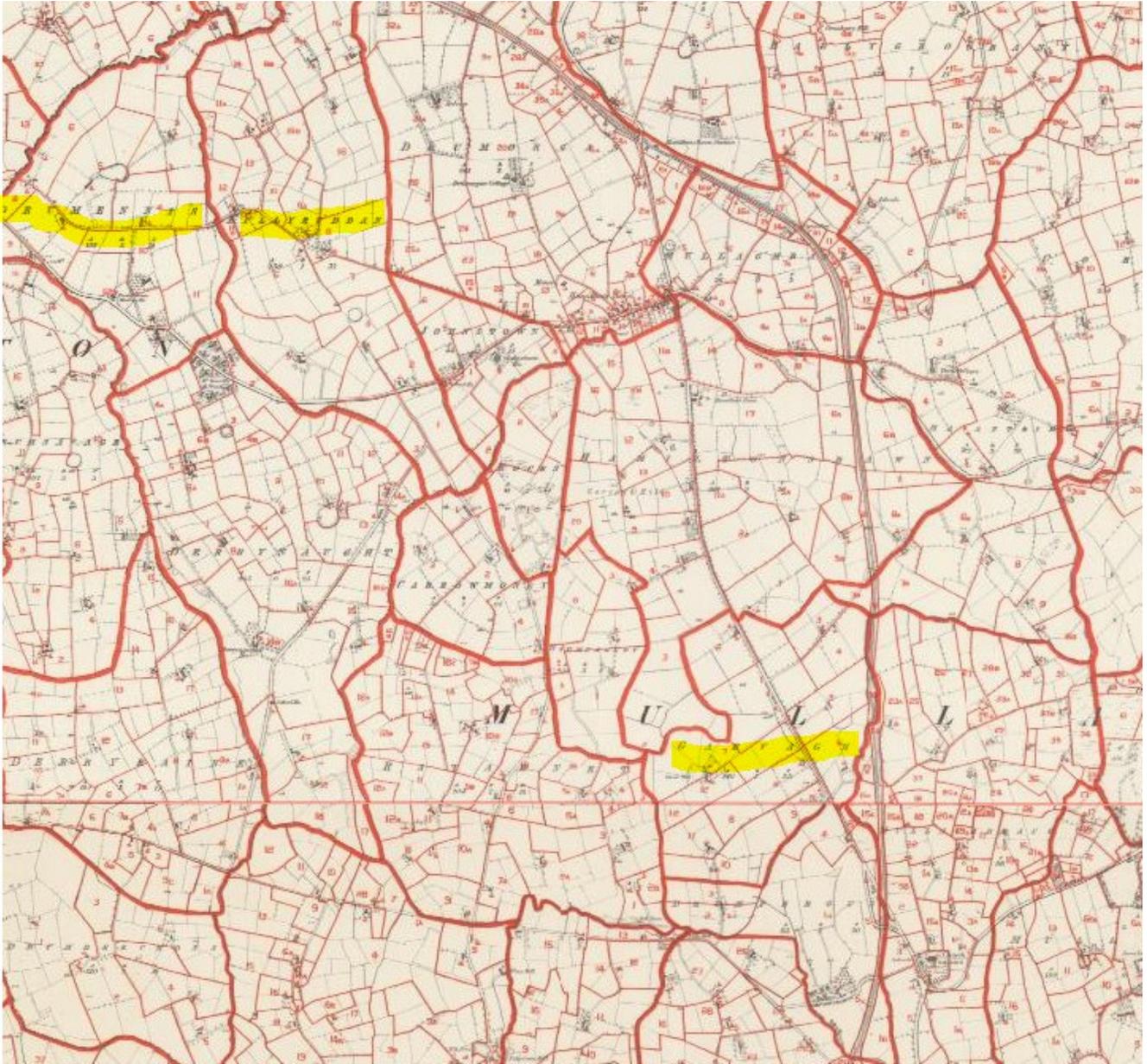
There were many Gillespie's, to be sure, but in this story, as late as 1826, there was a woman whose name was Isabella Bell, whose father had been Thomas Gillespie, and whose father before that had been John Gillespie. She was buried in Mullabrack parish, which is close enough to the area where our Gillespie's lived. I insert this story as possible lead for the origins of our John Gillespie, and his origins before that.

Additional Note: When looking at the GV in Mullaghbrack, I noticed that much of property was owned by the Earl of Charlemont or the Earl of Gosford. These are, of course, names associated with John Gillespie and the Rebellion of 1798.

Then I went to see if we can locate the places mentioned in this story. Mullaghbrack did have two townlands called Drumennis and Killyrudden, which according to the story were next to each other, and they were. The townlands highlighted on the right are Drumennis and Killyrudden, and Cavanacaw is circled on the left to give bearings.



Here is another view, zooming out a little. The townland at the bottom is Garvagh, which is where Henry Diffin lived, and which was apparently in Mullaghbrack parish.



JG Place Timeline

1780-1787: children from first marriage born: Nancy, Jane, Thomas, Elizabeth. Where were they?? Maybe in the Mullaghbrack parish?

1796: Flax Growers, John Gillespie

Armagh: Armagh, Loughgilly, Loughgall, Tynan. Of these, first choice Armagh, 2nd choice maybe Tynan (toward Monaghan county)

Monaghan: no Gillespie in parish of Donagh

1798: Rebellion -- supposedly some volunteers lead by John Gillespie. To be honest, I still can't figure out which side he was on – was he resisting the rebellion? The politics of that time were fuzzy to me.

1800: I estimate this is about when Nancy and Jane married the Greer's, and both couples started to have children. I suspect they lived in Derrynoose parish, possibly in or near a townland called Roghan. I say this mostly bcs of the newspaper clipping we found where a Greer was inquiring about a relation who left Roghan for Philadelphia. It should be noted, however, in the GV there were several Greer's in Mullaghbrack, land owned by Greer minors in chancery. Even one William Bell occupied some Greer property in Killyrudden. The GV was much later in time by several decades, but I have a feeling that the Gillespie's might have met the Greer's in Mullaghbrack, and then some of the Greer family moved to Derrynoose parish.

1805: John Gillespie of Drumgaw m. Jane Woods of Outlack (Mullaghbrack – another indication that the Gillespie's knew people from that parish)

1810: John's son, James Gillespie born in Emyvale¹, Monaghan. This is only five years after John's second marriage. Why was the Gillespie family suddenly in Monaghan county? Granted, it's really only 15 miles between Emyvale and Armagh, so really not that far. But there must have been some reason, and especially if we are presuming that John's son Thomas remained in county Armagh and settled in Cavanacaw. Then there's the question of whether John Gillespie stayed in Monaghan. I did find a John Gillespie in the GV (again later in time) for Lisgoagh, county Monaghan – just a bit southeast of Emyvale. Was that where our John grew old and died?

1812: Robert Greer and John's daughter, Nancy Gillespie and 3 children to NY

James Greer and John's daughter, Jane Gillespie and 4 children to NY

1828: John's son, Robert Gillespie m. Elizabeth Donaldson. All children born in Ireland up to 1845 (Irish famine started); Elizabeth brought them supposedly to Que but have not seen record of her or children in Canada. Where did Robert and Elizabeth live in Ireland? Where was our Alexander born?

1830's: NY families start migration to Michigan, including Nancy, Jane, and Elizabeth.

1832 & 1834: There was a John Gillespie of Drumconnell who paid tithes in both Lisnadill and Mullabrack parishes; Drumconnell is right next to Ennislare! We must remember, however, that John

¹ Look for the Donagh parish to find Emyvale records.

Gillespie was supposedly in Monaghan county in 1810 when his son James was born (if James was born there). There's no way to know if this John Gillespie was our guy, or maybe he was a son of Thomas.

1834: John's daughter, Sarah Gillespie and John Smith had their first child in Ireland, presumed m some time just before that. We don't know where they were living – maybe need to look for them in the tithe lists.

1835: John's son, James Gillespie m. Mary Jamieson at Lisnadill ch. (record?). Not sure exactly where they were living. Again, he might show up in the tithe lists?

1837: The James Gillespie family emigrates to Quebec.

1838-1847: The Robert Gillespie family emigrates, apparently first Robert and daughter MJ, followed later by Elizabeth and other children.

1840: John's youngest son, Alexander, dies in Quebec from typhoid.

1845-1852: Great Irish Famine: population reduced by nearly 25% due to famine and emigration.

1855: Robert Gillespie moves his family from Que to Oakland county, MI

1857: Elizabeth Gillespie dies in MI, and probate begins

1860: Thomas Gillespie of Cavanacaw sells his interest to JR Slater. Potentially this Thomas lived until 1875, making him 90 yo. Maybe he is the one remembered for living so long?

My Notes for More Research

I want to start looking in some Church of Ireland records. I've never done that, and from what I read, Presbyterians still used that church.