



**Name:** Mr. Dominick Duggan

**From:** Kiltroque, Claregalway

**Age:** 75

**Interviewers:** Brona Gallagher & Martina Hughes

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 1991

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**Brona** 1907, the house was built here and your father's from Montiagh?  
**Dominick** He came to live here in 1908... eleven families came from Montiagh that time. They were land commission houses and they thought they were millionaires when they got 20-25 acres of land after coming out of the bog.

**Brona** Was it all Duggans that were moved down?  
**Dominick** There was Moran's and Murphy's and Noone's and the Guinness's. The rest were Duggans ... my mother then is from the post office of Claregalway, she was Egan you know.

**Brona** So, she was one of the weavers, was she?  
**Dominick** Yeah, she was.

**Brona** Did she pass on any skills?  
**Dominick** No, she didn't do any weaving here at all.

**Brona** Did she give up the weaving when she got married?  
**Dominick** She did ... we saw none of that here anyway.

**Brona** Was she good at sewing?  
**Dominick** She was ... she was the most beautiful writer I ever saw .. she'd knit anything, I'd say and she'd great eyesight 'till she was very old.

**Brona** Did ye spin your own wool or did ye get it in Galway?  
**Dominick** No, we never did ... I think I saw my grandmother do it one time ... I can't remember when.

**Brona** Was it herself and her sisters that were weaving?  
**Dominick** There was three sisters in it and a brother. The brother went to America, he ran away with some girl from Montiagh ... he ran away with her. I think she was Duggan too. She was what you'd call Paitin Ban's sister. They had to call them by their father's names because they were all bloody Duggans in it .... He never came home ....I think it was in Indianapolis they were, as far as I know.

- Brona** Did her sisters continue on the weaving when you got married?  
**Dominick** I don't think I ever saw it in it.
- Brona** So it died down in the 20's and 30's?  
**Dominick** It did. Her aunt then got married to a peeler. He was a Roscommon man, and he was stationed in Loughgeorge. He was the man that arrested Darcy in Oranmore. He had to arrest him, or he'd be shot himself by the Black and Tans.
- Brona** What did he do so when he arrested him?  
**Dominick** Darcy was on the run from the IRA. He was from Headford, Killarin I think was the name of the village.
- Brona** What was the name of the Roscommon man?  
**Dominick** O'Rourke .. he had to arrest him or the Black and Tans would shoot him.
- Brona** What happened to Darcy?  
**Dominick** Darcy was executed. There's a song about Darcy. I remember twenty-one or twenty-two houses within in Montiagh.
- Brona** Do you know anything about the castle beside us?  
**Dominick** I think it was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century ... it's on our land. I think it's the Antiquarians in Dublin that own it. My cousin John Kenny, Lord have mercy on him, half his house was in the parish of Lackagh and half in Claregalway. His kitchen was in Lackagh.
- Brona** Where did ye go to mass?  
**Dominick** Lackagh mostly, but now we do go to Claregalway. There was no road that time from once you go across the bridge. As far as Bodkins house, there was no road at all, not even a boithrin, only a big wide turlough, that's all that was there. 1939, I think the road was built there.
- Brona** What about farming in the area?  
**Dominick** 25-27 acres.
- Brona** What about Montiagh?  
**Dominick** There was none at all in Montiagh. Cutting and selling turf, that's how they lived. They used to go to Oranmore nearly every second day with a load of turf. That was their market place, Oranmore. They'd sell a cart of turf. They'd go three days a week selling turf. That was their income. That's because there was no work to be got.

**Brona**            **They were poor?**

Dominick        Oh, sure they had nothin'. They used to be poaching salmon in the summertime.

**Brona**            **Did you ever go down there in the summer days?**

Dominick        I used to go down to the bog, that's all. That's where we've been going to mass (Claregalway) since the new road was built, and we're constant going since the new church was built. That was August 1975, I think. We'd go to Lackagh and Galway - horse and cart to Galway. It'd take three hours before we'd get to Galway. It could be spuds, turnips, hay, it could be anything.

**Brona**            **Do you know of the landlords in this area?**

Dominick        Lord Clanmorris was here anyway.

**Brona**            **This isn't an Irish speaking area, is it?**

Dominick        There's a lot to it, alright, from the Montiagh crowd.

**Brona**            **Was the Irish strong in this house when you were growing up?**

Dominick        I had nothin' but Irish ... the Lackagh crowd hadn't it. My mother came from the corner there (Hughes) and she had very good Irish.

**Brona**            **Was it a Hughes guy that married one of the sisters?**

Dominick        He was a 'ganger' on those houses when they were getting built and he was staying there. And that's how he fell in for the house. He came from Ballyglass, I think. He'd be a grandfather of the man who owns the shop now. PJ was his son ... it must be sixty years ago (when they got the post office), I know I wasn't very big at the time anyhow.

**Brona**            **When ye moved up from Montiagh, were ye accepted here?**

Dominick        I'd say they were ... I think that some of the crowd that went to Meath, they got a hell of a time there. This Moran fella from just below the graveyard ... he must have went to Nobber in Meath, he got a hell of a time. They boycotted him on everything. They wanted the land theirselves, they said. Two more from Connemara went with him as well, and all boycotted him for years and years.

**Brona**            **When was this?**

Dominick        'Twas after the Montiagh crowd ... about '62 or '63.

**Brona**            **Was it sad when people had to pack up and go?**

Dominick        They were going. It was an awful day back in Claregalway when they left. There was shouting and dancing and drinking and everything before they left. They were delighted to go. They were having everything going that they had, in lorries and everything.

- Brona**            **Were they sad in another way to leave?**  
Dominick        I suppose they were sad too going, and they were delighted at the same time. They'd have an easier life and something to live on. They had nothin', only the flat boats on the river.
- Brona**            **Do you remember the flat boats?**  
Dominick        I was on one of them.
- Brona**            **What were they like?**  
Dominick        'Twas dangerous. I'll never forget it. They used to bring the turf over home when they'd be a height, and they could go almost up to the turf in a drain. I went up with this old man, Val Duggan. His son is back in Cloon now, Willy Val Duggan. We went back, and it was sort of stormy and we were leaving and then he said we'd go in for a load of turf and he said he'd go back. When you come in the real? river, it started raining like hell and we had a load of turf in the boat. The water started coming in and he told me in Irish to hurry on quick, you can't row it because the boat was full of water, so I the end, we had to throw out the turf or else the boat would have gone down.
- Brona**            **Were ye standing up?**  
Dominick        Yeah, standing up ... we had to fire out the turf as quick as we could, or it would have us all wet.
- Brona**            **Did you ever go to matches (hurling)?**  
Dominick        I used to be gone every Sunday. I cycled one day to Ardrahan, that's 13 or 14 miles away. The local teams would be playing. Claregalway and Carnmore were the one team.
- Brona**            **Did you play handball and pitch and toss?**  
Dominick        We used to have a great time playing pitch and toss in the handball alley.
- Brona**            **Did the people come in from Lackagh to play?**  
Dominick        No, sure they played pitch and toss outside the church in Lackagh on a Sunday and the Canon would come out as well, Canon Lynch. I remember when I got married, I had to go to confession before I got married. Well the story goes like this ... I never learned my confession prayers in Irish and when Canon Moran heard me saying the confession in English, he started a row. I said to him that I wouldn't get married at all if he was going to continue like this. Canon Moran was a terrible man if you let him walk over you. Himself and Canon Lynch never talked to each other because they didn't like each other much. The only time they really talked was when Canon Moran was dying.

- Brona**            **What was the old church like?**  
Dominick        It was a beautiful church. There was three galleries in it, one in each wing and one at the back. The room was long with the main alter at the top. There was a small rope on it.
- Brona**            **Can you tell me about the races in Kiltulla?**  
Dominick        I don't know anything about the Kiltulla races. All I know is that there was golf played there.
- Brona**            **Do you remember the races in Loughgeorge?**  
Dominick        I remember some. They were held on Kelly's land. It was near the pub. There was a big open area for the racing, which met once a year.
- Brona**            **Did you hear about the pipe band?**  
Dominick        I heard of them. They were all Claregalway men. The Concannon's played, Michael and John, John played the bag pipes. The blow in bag pipes was what he played, not the blowers. I think they are there since. There was Quinn and Songways who were nailers and the Hessians, Arthur and Tom. I believe Canon Moran broke up the pipe band. They played in the old school where the post office box is now. He, Canon Moran didn't like it at all.
- Brona**            **Did you ever see the Banshee or Jack O'Lantern?**  
Dominick        No.

