

Moycullen Local History Quiz Number Seventeen– Answers

We hope you enjoyed this quiz.

1. **What have Slashwall Park, Shangrange and Gale House Plot got in common?**

Answer: They were all Moycullen Denominations/Townlands noted in Tithe Applotment of 1828, and like many other pre-ordnance survey territorial divisions, were not officially recognised after the 1840s. The townlands appear to have been in the vicinity of what we now know as Leagaun and were on the estate of Andrew Lynch Esq. The Tithe Applotment Books determined the amount which occupiers of productive agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tax (cess) to the Church of Ireland [as in the expression 'bad cess to you']. James Lynch Esq. occupied 21 Acres 3 Roods 21 Perch (Approx. 8.86 hectares) in Slashwall Park, John Davern 24 Acres 1 Rood 38 Perch in Shangrange (Approx. 9.91 hectares) and Patt Burke and James Clancy Marquis occupied the 2 Acre (Approx. .81 hectares) Gale House Plot. The Books show the breakdown of the occupier's land quality (from 1st to 5th grade), how much they paid in rates for each grade and how the paid rate was apportioned in this instance between the Rev James Daly (Warden of Galway) and the Rev John Marius Wilson (who was a Scottish writer and editor, ordained as a Congregationalist Minister working for a time in Co. Galway). Copies of the 1828 Applotment books for Co. Galway are available in the County Library at Island House, Nun's Island or online for Moycullen at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/pagestab/Galway/Moycullen/>

The image shows a page from a handwritten tithe applotment book titled "an applotment of the parish of moycullen". The page is organized into columns for land denominations, quality (1st to 5th grade), and tax rates. The entries include townlands such as Slashwall Park, Shangrange, Gale House Plot, and others, with their respective land measurements and tax amounts.

| Denominations | Land | Quality | 1 st | 2 nd | 3 rd | 4 th | 5 th | 1 st Rate | 2 nd Rate | 3 rd Rate | 4 th Rate | 5 th Rate | 1 st Cess | 2 nd Cess | 3 rd Cess | 4 th Cess | 5 th Cess | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Slashwall Park | James Lynch Esq. | 21 A 3 R 21 P | 10 | 15 | 30 | 50 | 36 | 1/9 | 1 | 2 | 1/2 | 1/4 | 1 | 9 1/2 | 9 3/4 | 1 | | |
| Shangrange | John Davern | 24 A 1 R 38 P | 10 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 1/9 | 1 | 2 | 1/2 | 1/4 | 1 | 2 3/4 | 7 3/4 | 2 | | |
| Gale House Plot | Patt Burke and James Clancy Marquis | 2 A | 5 | 5 | 10 | 30 | 1/9 | 1 | 2 | 1/2 | 1/4 | | | 6 7/8 | 2 2/8 | 4 | | |

2. **In which Moycullen townland is 'Gort Gearr'?**

Answer: Knockarasser. Gort Gearr was a clachan (settlement) of thatched houses in the center of the townland. Gort Gearr translates as 'short field'

3. **It was considered lucky to move into a new house on a Friday. The first Friday of which month was it considered particularly lucky?**
Answer: The first Friday in May.
4. **What was the purpose of Cloch Sgoilte (the split stone) located in the townland of Ballinahallia?**
Answer: It was used as a landmark to direct people who sought a priest in penal times. Messages were left under the stone.
5. **Why was October 28th (or the last Sunday in October) an important date in the calendar for the people of Tuairíní?**
Answer: This was the day of the Pattern which was held on the feast of St. Colman MacDuagh. The Pattern consisted of a procession to the blessed well. Lighted candles were carried and prayers recited. Afterwards there was a day of sport and festivities.
6. **What skilled traditional old time trade did John Sullivan and his son William of Killagoola carry out?**
Answer: John and William gave their profession as Wheelwrights on the 1901 census, building and repairing many of the parish's wooden cart wheels.
7. **Patrick Percy Kilkelly of Drimcong House was an accomplished sportsman, winning several National Championships in which sport?**
Answer: Cycling. Patrick Kilkelly (1869-1948) is listed as the first winner of the Irish National Cycling Championship for 5 Mile track racing – this he would have done on a High Bicycle or penny farthing. His successful cycling career was during his time as a medical student in Dublin where he was part of the University of Dublin (Trinity College) team.
8. **Where in Moycullen would you find Cathaoir an Rí (The Kings Chair)?**
Answer: The King's Chair is a stone structure near the bottom of Newtown Hill.
9. **What is the link between Moycullen and London's Billingsgate Market?**
Answer: In the 1940s, locals fished in Ballyquirke lake for eel. Each night lines were set and the caught eels were transferred to temporary tanks on the lake shore. They were then packed in ice and dispatched from Galway on the long train and boat journeys to fish merchants in London's Billingsgate market.
10. **The final question of our quiz series which we have run for the duration of 'Covid-19 Lockdown' could only be pandemic related.....
Which Moycullen resident have we seen regularly on television over the past 4 months, due to his significant post in the World Health Organisation?**
Answer: Dr Michael Joseph Ryan, a resident of Clooniff, is Executive Director of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Programme, leading the team responsible for the international containment and treatment of COVID-19.

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