

# The Lost Townland of Moymolane

Hi All,

Well last night's talk (*Feb 27th*) at the local Heritage Inchicronan meeting was certainly informative and amusing with Gerry Kennedy regaling us with stories of former parishioners and their "goings on" around the 1800's in our local area.

In the first part of the talk, he told us of the disappearance of a townland called Moymolane, and it probably happened because of the building of three large houses: Glenwilliam House, Brodagh House and Abbeyview.

The locals began to call the area where these houses were built by the name of the house itself so Glenwilliam and Brodagh became common names and eventually townlands in themselves, reducing the size of the original townland Moymolane.

The area near the local national school was referred to as *croisín* (the little cross) - now Crusheen - as it was the crossroads between Quin, Limerick, Ennis and Galway, making that area very busy and built up with a local inn called Uniake Inn where travellers found clean beds and a hot meal.

This area also encroached into the townland of Moymolane, and eventually it just disappeared as a used name. A local girl called Martha Liddy and her new Australian husband Adam have built a house in what would have been an area in Moymolane and are going to resurrect the name again by calling their new house "Moymolane."

The second part of Gerry's talk dealt with a breach of promise case, which made the headlines, in national and international papers. It was taken by a relative of his own called Mary Kennedy against a local man called John Hehir. The lady in question was pregnant and the gentleman promised to marry her, she had established herself in a thriving local business running a pub and owning 4 farms.

He on the other hand earned 90 pounds a year, lost the case and was ordered to pay one thousand pounds in compensation, affecting his own farm lands. The man eventually married but 2 years later his wife and child died in childbirth. Eventually however, he managed to claim back his farms by marrying Miss Kennedy, proving that she was a forgiving woman, and land rules all heads and sometimes hearts too.

Another case Gerry managed to resurrect in his searchings, involved a man of the Tubridys who murdered a man by the name of Forde in a fight.

He was sentenced to prison but later turned Crown's Evidence, by proclaiming that he was a member of the local Republican Brotherhood, and was willing to name 8 other local men also in the outlawed organisation. Gerry's own grandfather was one of the men named. They were arrested and imprisoned and while the investigation was being conducted they had to remain in prison (over 6 months). However, no other corroborating evidence was produced, and they had to be released.

As we all know the census of 1821 was burned and is of course a terrible loss especially to local historians, but as luck would have it a sample of how the census figures should be compiled was recorded and 2 townlands in Crusheen were preserved and are available to us. The evening ended with the usual chat and a cup of tea, and it was nice to see some new faces there last night as well as our usual crew.

Anne