

The Corr Family of Ireland

The origin of the name Corr is lost in antiquity. Some Corrs are said to be descended from Gilla Corr mentioned in the Annals of Ulster (1186) and some are from the O'Corra sept of Tyrone and Fermanagh counties. Family tradition is that our Corr family was originally from County Tyrone and had their land taken by the English. The family separated and went where they could find land, some to County Down. The name Corr was numerous in the 17th century Hearth Money Rolls, a sort of census of the people that counted the number of fireplaces in their houses - just another way to tax the people.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
BENAGH—continued.							
				A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
40	38 a	Henry Harpur, . John Wharton, . Joseph Wharton, .	John Horon, . Same, . Same, .	Curataker's house, House, offices, and land, House, offices, and land, Offices, & land,	— 21 3 25 22 1 35 —	— 1 5 0 2 5 0 1 10 0 5 0 0 1 5 0	— 1 5 0 14 15 0 13 10 0 — —
68		Tyrone,	William Thomson,	House, offices, and land,	14 3 00	—	1 5 0
69		Isaac Parsons,	William Thomson,	Land,	3 0 30	—	3 5 0
70				Bog (no value) & water,	9 0 25	—	—
Total, .				004 0 35	377 15 0	72 0 0	449 15 0
CROBANE. (Ord. S. 47.)							
1		Rose Meagher, .	William Thomson, .	House and land,	4 0 30	3 5 0	3 15 0
2		James M Gullagh, .	Same, .	Land,	4 2 35	4 0 0	4 0 0
3		Owen Quinn, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	7 0 10	4 15 0	6 10 0
4		James Hanaway, .	Same, .	House and land,	2 3 5	1 12 0	0 10 0
5					1 3 25	1 8 0	—
6		Sarah M'Alinden (Pat),	Same, .	House and land,	5 0 35	3 10 0	4 0 0
7		Anno Hanaway, .	Same, .	House, office, and land,	3 2 25	2 10 0	3 0 0
8		Daniel M'Ginerty, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	7 2 10	6 5 0	7 5 0
9		Patrick M'Anulty, .	Same, .	House, office, and land,	8 0 15	0 15 0	8 0 0
10		Mary Keenan, .	Same, .	House, office, and land,	3 0 35	2 15 0	3 5 0
11		William M'Anulty, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	10 3 25	10 5 0	11 10 0
12		James M'Anulty, .	Same, .	House, office, and land,	5 2 15	5 15 0	6 15 0
13		Jas. Cunningham (Jno.),	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	20 2 5	25 10 0	4 10 0
14		George Wharton, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	16 2 4	16 5 0	1 5 0
15		Patrick Cunningham, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	11 2 30	11 15 0	1 0 0
16		Jas. Cunningham, sen.,	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	17 2 30	17 15 0	1 5 0
17		Catherine Fearon (Pat),	Same, .	House, office, and land,	4 1 10	3 10 0	1 0 0
18 a		Elizab. Fearon (Owen),	Same, .	House, office, and land,	7 0 0	6 5 0	0 15 0
18 b					0 2 10	0 5 0	—
19		Arthur Fearon, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	8 1 0	7 10 0	1 0 0
20		Hugh Fearon, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	7 2 15	7 10 0	1 0 0
21		Owen Corr, .	Same, .	House and land,	4 2 5	4 5 0	0 10 0
22		William Corr, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	8 3 0	8 5 0	1 0 0
23		Michael Corr, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	7 3 30	7 10 0	1 5 0
24		Benjamin Wilson, .	Same, .	House, offices, and land,	12 0 20	11 15 0	1 15 0

The list shown above is extracted from what is called Griffith's Valuation. It was a survey of the occupiers of the lands, head of household only, and was for the purpose of determining the amount of tax to be paid to the Poor Law Union which was the agency responsible for the poor and indigent of the area. This survey was taken about 1850 and since census records of that period were destroyed in a fire in Dublin in 1922, it is one of the few sources available showing what families lived there. Note the names of the Corrs - Owen, William, and Michael. The McAnulty families were neighbors and married into our Corr family in the nineteenth century. The "hated" landlord of all the properties in Crobane at this time was William Thomson.

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

After checking the deed records for County Down it appears that the Corrs finally received title in 1912 to the land on which they had lived for over two hundred years. We have no way of knowing when the first Corr family occupied the farm called Clancorra in the Townland of Crobane, near the town of Newry, County Down, North Ireland. We did find a record in The Belfast National Archives showing Patrick Corr on rent rolls for the townland of Crobane for 1756-1763.

We also found a petition to the landlord from Michael and Owen Corr to use an additional meadow because times were hard and their crop had failed several years. It was not dated, but was probably from the late 1700's. This petition also reveals the circumstances of the time when the English landlord had complete control of the land and therefore the lives of his tenants.

Clancorra, pictured here, has been occupied by the Corr family for at least two hundred and forty years, and at this writing is owned and occupied by Mabel (Corr) McCrink, age 87. It consists of four small rooms plus a small add-on kitchen. The main room has a small fireplace where it was our pleasure to sit before a peat fire and listen to stories told by Mabel about the Corr and MacAnulty families and enjoy her wonderful scones and tea. The walls of the house are about twenty inches thick and are filled with branches and mud and although the house is small by American standards, it is



Rose (Morgan) Corr, mother of Mabel, at the back door of Clancorra about 1910

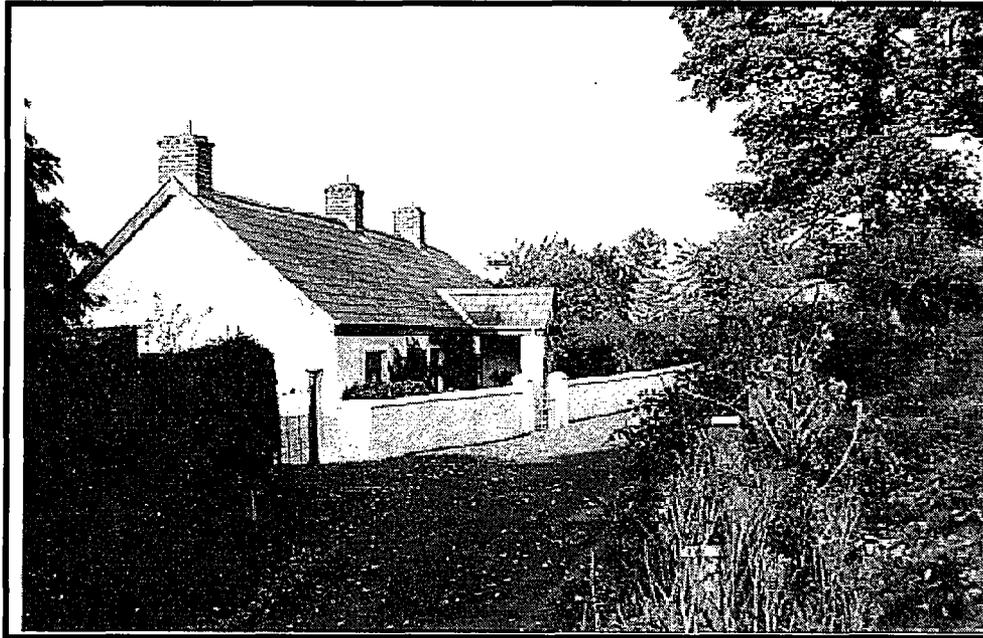
comfortable and substantial and occupies a lovely setting in the countryside on an impossibly narrow lane called Crohill Road. The thatched roof has been replaced with a more modern one, and only in 1995 was electricity installed. Until then the lighting and cooking was by gas. Those of us who have been privileged to visit Clancorra will never forget the gracious hospitality and warm feeling of sharing the home of our ancestors.

Near the Corr family home in Crobane, just up the lane and hidden behind a fence row or hedge is the "mass rock", actually on MacAnulty land. In about 1703 the English rulers passed the Penal laws that forbade the practice of the Catholic religion. A few brave priests and some of the Catholic parishioners would not be denied their right to practice their religion and held clandestine masses wherever they could meet without being detected. The "mass rock" was one of these places where mass was secretly held and its presence was known by the Corr family for generations. In fact it was shown to us

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

with a great deal of pride by Mabel (Corr) McCrink. It was not until 1829 that the law was repealed and the Catholics could once again go to mass without fear of prosecution.

From that time on the Corr family attended mass at the St. Joseph's Catholic church in Sheeptown which is the townland adjacent to their home in Crobane and a short distance across the fields from their home, Clancorra. The church graveyard at this church contains stones dating back to 1800 and many of the Corr family are buried there.



Clancorra in 1985

The MacAnulty Family

The name MacNulty, or MacAnulty, is an old Irish name dating back at least to 1281 in the battle of Desertcreagh where a MacNulty was among the “distinguished slain” there. The Irish or Gaelic name was Mac an Ultaigh, i.e. son of the Ulsterman.

The earliest MacAnulty of which we know is William. He was born in Newry, Co Down, (North) Ireland. He married Bridget Moore, who was born in the parish of Savel, County Down, (North) Ireland. The MacAnultys were well to do cattle traders and had two servants according to family stories in Ireland. They owned forty acres just east of Clancorra, the Corr family home. One of their children was Catherine MacAnulty, mother of the Bridget Corr who emigrated to America in about 1883 and married John Carroll Dorcy. Catherine was born in Newry, County Down, (North) Ireland. She was gentle, dignified and a red-headed beauty and she married William Corr in about 1850. They lived at Clancorra where Bridget, one of eight children, was born. Catherine died in 1913 and they are both buried at Sheeptown, St Joseph cemetery, close to their home.

The Corr Family

Most of the information we have about the Corr family is from Mabel McCrink. We have verified only a few facts.

The Descendants of John Dorcy, Civil War Soldier

James, son of Patrick, was born in 1812 in the townland of Crobane, Co Down, (North) Ireland. He married Catherine Moore who was also born in Crobane. They both belonged to the Parish of Newry now known as Gaival. Catherine died very young in 1837. Her husband went to Liverpool, England after she died. He died there and is buried in "The Old Guam" cemetery. We only know of two of their children:

James Corr - we have no information about him.

William Corr was born in 1837 (North) Ireland. After his mother died, William was raised by his grandparents. He married Catherine Mac Anulty. He died in 1912 and is buried at Sheeptown, St Joseph Cemetery. (north) Ireland. Their eight children:

Michael Corr was born in 1861. He married and settled in England about 1887.

William Corr was born in 1864. He married Ann Rice of Cloughogue, Co Armagh. They went to Glasgow, Scotland to live and work and William died there.

Bridget Mary Teresa Catherine Corr. See her story starting on page 22.

Catherine Corr was born in 1866 and died in 1925. She never married.

Rose Ann Corr was born in 1868 and died in 1935. She married Michael Byrne and their descendants are the families, along with Margaret's family and Mabel McCrink, daughter of Patrick, with whom our family are in touch at this time.

Margaret Corr married Peter Cully and died in Newry in 1940.

James Corr was born in 1870 and died in 1925. His family called him Jem. He moved to England.

Patrick Corr was born in 1877. He married Rose Morgan, daughter of Arthur and Mabel (Keenen) Morgan. Patrick bought Clancorra, the Croban farm, from his sister Catherine. His daughter, Mabel (Corr) McCrink, still lives there in 1996. Rose died in 1937, and Patrick died 21 Jan 1934 at Crobane. He is buried at Sheeptown. Patrick and Rose had three children:

Mary Catherine Corr was born in 1903 and died in 1940.

Mabel Corr was born 1909 and married Patrick McCrink, who died in 1972.

Patrick Benedict Corr (known as Ben) was born in 1914 and married Anne Carson.

They had one child, Patrick Brendan Corr born in 1957.

The Byrne Family

Rose Ann Corr was a sister of Bridget Corr. Rose remained in Ireland and married Peter Byrne. Many of the descendants of that marriage still live in Newry, North Ireland and surrounding areas and were hosts to a group of descendants of Bridget (Corr) Dorcy in 1993. They put on a memorable party and family reunion which about one hundred of the Irish descendants and their families attended along with about twenty-five Americans. It was an unforgettable experience for all with most of the Americans being wined and dined in their homes. The Irish cousins have our undying gratitude for their hospitality.