

# O'Donnells in Ballypatrick

## 1 Introduction

This document presents the family descended from a Edmond O'Donnell of Ballypatrick. Ballypatrick is in Kilsheelan Catholic Parish for most reasons. Regarding Civil Parish, Ballypatrick is in Temple-etney Civil parish. It was in Kilcash district in the 1901/1911 censuses. It is immediately adjacent to Kilcash townland, and often records for a family interchange between Kilcash and Kilpatrick even living in the same house.

The document is part of an effort I am undertaking to compile family trees for all O'Donnells in Southern Tipperary, whether related to me or not. The sparsity of information for family history prior to 1850 means that it is often difficult to follow one's own ancestors backwards. By compiling a record of all O'Donnells upwards from whatever records exists makes it easier for a family researcher to find where their ancestor might fit in.

### 1.1 A note on date estimation

Where exact birth and marriage dates are not available, I estimate them in relation to other available dates.

- Years preceded by "a." (e.g., "a.1766") indicate that the year was calculated from a known date and an age at that date, e.g., if someone was 76 on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1876, then their birth year is given as a.1800, but they may in fact have been born a year earlier or later.
- Years preceded by "c." (e.g., "c.1766") indicate that the year is a rough estimate using simple metrics:
  - Women are assumed to marry at 22, men at 24.
  - Couples are assumed to have their first child two years after marriage.
  - Births are assumed to be spaced two years apart.
- While these metrics are often not true in the individual case, they do provide a means to get a ballpark date for births and marriages. In most cases, I have found the calculated date to be fairly accurate.

## 2 Edmond O'Donnell born a.1809

**Edmond O'Donnell** was born a.1809.<sup>1</sup> He was either born in Ballypatrick, or moved here after marriage. However, The Tithes lists (1827) does not hold any O'Donnells/Daniels for Ballypatrick. Nor does the 1846 Griffiths House Books show any O'Donnell household in Ballypatrick. But the 1852 Griffiths Fields Book does show Edmond O'Donnell holding land in Ballypatrick, and his ancestors held a house and farm there in the 1901 Census.

The 1846 Griffiths House Book shows a **John Hayes** holding a very large house (121 measures) and the published version of Griffiths (1852) shows him holding this house and 46 acres of land, identified as Lot 31.<sup>2</sup> However, the 1852 Fields books (which seem to have been ignored for the published version) show Lot 31 with 46 acres in the hands of Edmond O'Donnell.

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<sup>1</sup> From age at death.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Tipperary/Kilcash/Ballypatrick/1712082/>

To make sense of this, church baptism records for Kilsheelan Parish (which includes Ballypatrick) show that an Edmond O'Donnell was married to **Catherine Hayes** from at least 1840 (the first baptism). They were probably married some time before this, but church records for Kilsheelan only start in 1840. They may also have had more children before 1840.

Given the Griffiths records linking Edmond to the Hayes farm, it seems evident that Edmond O'Donnell took over John Hayes farm when he retired, somewhere close to 1852. It is probably that Edmond and Catherine were living on the Hayes farm before this. It was quite common in those days for a son-in-law to take over a farm when the Farmer had no surviving sons.

So, we can hypothesise that Edmond O'Donnell married Catherine Hayes in c.1836.

It is not clear where Edmond came from before Ballypatrick. He was probably from not too far away. One possibility is that the 1901 Census mentions that a cousin, Ellen Tobin, was visiting from Ballylooby (possibly a sister of Edmond married a Tobin, note she was unmarried, so a Tobin by birth). So it is possible Edmond came from near Ballylooby.

Another set of clues come from the sponsors at the baptisms of Edmonds children. These are often brothers and sisters of the parents, particularly when the surnames match those of the parents. Godparents are most commonly brothers, sisters, spouses of brothers and sisters, or parents. We need to find a family with brothers Edmond, Joseph, James, and sisters or sisters-in-law: Anastasia, Margaret, Joanna and Bridget, all born 1810-1820 or so. One possibility is Edmond born 1796, son of Andrew O'Donnell of the Ballyclerahan line. Edmond had brother Joseph, and sisters Margaret and Bridget, and cousins Anastasia and Johanna, all of similar age. Only James is missing.

Edmond and Catherine had several children (all baptised in Kilsheelan parish, which included Ballypatrick at that point):

- **John**, baptised 25 Jul 1840.<sup>3</sup>
- **Mary**, baptised 1 Nov 1844.<sup>4</sup> Sponsor: Anastasia O'Donnell.
- **Catherine**, baptised 27 Jul 1848.<sup>5</sup> Sponsor: Margaret O'Donnell.
- **Ellen**, baptised 15 Feb 1852.<sup>6</sup> Sponsors: Joseph O'Donnell and Joanna O'Donnell. Baptised by a Father M. O'Donnell.
- **Margaret**, baptised 1 Oct 1854.<sup>7</sup> Sponsors: James O'Donnell and Bridget O'Donnell. Baptised by a Father M. O'Donnell.

**Catherine** the mother died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 1873, aged 54.<sup>8</sup> Residence given as Ballypatrick, Temple-etney. She was a Farmer's Wife. Death recorded by Judy Dempsey, Ballypatrick.

**Edmond** died 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1884, aged 75, still in Ballypatrick.<sup>9</sup> This means he was born 1809. Kate O'Donnell, granddaughter, was present at death. His wife died before him, he was recorded as a widow.

The 1899 Bassets directory lists 4 major farmers in Ballypatrick, one of whom was John O'Donnell. This suggests that John son of Edmund took over as head of the family farm.

By the 1901 census, there was one household of O'Donnells in Ballypatrick:

#### **Residents of a house 1 in Ballypatrick (Kilcash, Tipperary)<sup>10</sup>**

- O'Donnell, John, 52, Head of Family, Farmer, not married, born Ballypatrick.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/4768012>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/6106530>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/6680780>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/6106685>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/6443993>

<sup>8</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths\\_returns/deaths\\_1873/020705/7264644.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1873/020705/7264644.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths\\_returns/deaths\\_1887/06202/4774205.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1887/06202/4774205.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Tipperary/Kilcash/Ballypatrick/1712082/>

- O'Donnell, Mary Anne, 48, Sister, Assistant, not married, born Ballypatrick.
- O'Donnell, Margaret, 42, Sister, Assistant, not married, born Ballypatrick.
- Tobin, Ellen A, 48, Cousin, Visitor, not married, born Ballylooby.

This shows that of Edmond and Catherine's children, John, Mary and Margaret were still at home, all of them unmarried at this point. Daughters Catherine and Ellen were dead or elsewhere.

I note the ages of the siblings are not a good match to their baptism years (although the order is correct). However, people often understated their age in the censuses. I note that John's age at death did match his birth year.

**Mary Anne** died on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1902, aged 53 (recorded as Mary Anne).<sup>11</sup> She was specified as a spinster, which matches the census, and 53 years old, half-way between the 1901 census age, and her baptism record. Her brother John O'Donnell was present at death.

By the 1911 Census, only John is in the house. Margaret either died or moved elsewhere.

#### **Residents of a house 21 in Ballypatrick (Kilcash, Tipperary)<sup>12</sup>**

- O'Donnell, John, 63, Head of Family
- Gibbs, Joseph, 17, Servant

**John** died 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1927.<sup>13</sup> Residence given as Ballypatrick. His age was given as 87, which puts him born 1840, which matches his baptism year. He was recorded as a bachelor, which matches his single status in the 1901 and 1911 censuses. Note also that John's cousin Edmond O'Donnell was present at death. This implies that Edmond born 1807 had a brother who had a son Edmond.

There is a grave in Kilcash Cemetery for this family:

*In loving memory of my father and mother  
Edmd & Catherine O'Donnell  
Ballypatrick House  
Their children  
Hannah Marianne  
And their son John  
Erected by their daughter Ellen O'Donnell 20th April 1934*

This provides support to the connection between Edmond of Ballypatrick and the marriage to Catherine Hayes (at least confirming her first name). In naming Edmond's residence as "Ballypatrick House", we know it must be a large house, which corresponds to the large house (121 measures) owned previously by the Hayes in the earlier Griffiths books. And the children Ellen and John at least were children of Catherine Hayes. Hannah Marianne is probably daughter Mary Anne (died 1902), but may be another daughter not so far identified. It also shows that daughter Ellen was still alive in 1934, with John and Hannah Marianne dying before 1834 (which matches above details).

## 3 Loose Ends

### 3.1 Katie O'Donnell, granddaughter

Edmond's death was registered in 1884 by Katie O'Donnell, Ballypatrick. As John was unmarried in 1901, it is not his daughter, and as far as parish records go, he was the only son of Edmond and Catherine.

<sup>11</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths\\_returns/deaths\\_1902/05684/4602070.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1902/05684/4602070.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Tipperary/Kilcash/Ballypatrick/908803/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deathsreturns/deaths1927/04970/4353466.pdf>

One possibility is that there was another son. Baptism records for Kilsheelan Parish (where the children were all baptised) are only available from 1840, the year John, the eldest, was born. There may have been other children, including a son, before this. From their death records, Edmond was born a.1809, and Catherine a.1817. They could have easily have had two children before 1840. There are however no obvious baptism records for a Catherine (or variants) born in Kilsheelan Parish from 1857-1869. It is also hard to explain why a son born before John did not inherit the farm (John held it from 1889) and was not mentioned on the family grave.

Another alternative is that Katie was an illegitimate child of one of the daughters. There is a birth record for a Catherine Daniel, daughter of Maryanne Daniel, born on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1864.<sup>14</sup> One daughter of Edmond was called Maryanne, so it is possible. She would have been 20 when giving birth. The child was born in the Workhouse hospital Clonmel, so no detail of her residence is given.

### 3.1.1 Catherine O'Donnell, daughter

What happened to daughter Catherine born 1848 is not clear, but she probably married and moved elsewhere., or died young.

One marriage possibility for Catherine is that she moved to Clerehan at some point, where: Catherine O'Donnell resident in Clerahan, daughter of Edmond O'Donnell, married Michael Broderick on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1897.<sup>15</sup> One support for this is that one of the witnesses was Ellen O'Donnell, potentially the sister of Catherine mentioned above. However, this has her marrying at 49, not that common.

### 3.1.2 Ellen Tobin, Cousin of John

The 1901 Census mentions a cousin, Ellen Tobin, was visiting from Ballylooby. This could be where Edmond came from, and one of Edmond's sisters there married a Tobin (note, Ballylooby is not a townland in current Ireland: the village is split between various townlands of Tubbrid and Templetenny Civil Parishes in Iffa and Offa West). Alternatively, there were Tobins in Ballypatrick, potentially a sister of Catherine Hayes married a Tobin and the couple moved to Ballylooby. The cousin then would have been back visiting the house where her mother was born.

One possibility is for Ellen Tobin, born 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1844 to Michael Tobin and Alice Daniel, in Mullinahome Parish (North East of Ballypatrick, not too far).<sup>16</sup>

### 3.1.3 Judy Dempsey

When Catherine wife of Edmond died in 1873, her death was registered by Judy Dempsey, Ballypatrick. A likely death record for this woman was the death of Johanna Dempsey (Judy is an alternative name for Johanna) on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, 1884, aged 66, a widow.<sup>17</sup> Residence given a Ballypatrick, which supports that this is the same woman.

Now, this woman was born a.1818, so not a daughter of Catherine, but possibly a sister (or sister-in-law). She may have thus been a Hayes, possibly an O'Donnell.

From the death record, Judy Dempsey had a daughter Bridget Dempsey, also of Ballypatrick. No record of her birth, which would confirm the mother's maiden name.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth\\_returns/births\\_1864/03593/2324685.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/birth_returns/births_1864/03593/2324685.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage\\_returns/marriages\\_1897/10456/5807906.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/marriage_returns/marriages_1897/10456/5807906.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=IRE/PRS/BAP/0086826>

<sup>17</sup> [https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths\\_returns/deaths\\_1884/06322/4812998.pdf](https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/images/deaths_returns/deaths_1884/06322/4812998.pdf)

#### 3.1.4 Patrick O'Donnell of Ballypatrick

Guys directory of Munster lists a Patrick O'Donnell in Ballypatrick. Note however it also lists Vincent and Thomas, who are in fact in Kilcash. Seems "Ballypatrick" in this guide is the district, which contains Ballypatrick, Killurney and Kilcash townlands.