

Ireland Visit 2010

Finding the Family Farm



More photos at

- <http://www.hargadonfamily.com/photo/albums/relatives-1>
- <http://www.hargadonfamily.com/photo/albums/doherty-farmhouses>
- <http://www.hargadonfamily.com/photo/albums/hargadon-farmhouses>

29 May 2010, Saturday:

We have arrived in the morning, and having previously arranged to meet with Brian Hargadon, he and his brother, Gerry, come to our hotel in the afternoon. Brian (whose actual name is Bernard) has created a family ancestry chart for his Hargadon line which goes back to an Owen/John Hargadon, but we've never been able to find a connection between our families. It's fun to meet them, but our ability to connect our families limits us to talking in generalities about the name and the Hargadons in general. Brian and Gerry's oldest brother, Tom, lives in Sligo, and I've arranged to meet with him on Sunday.



Brian and Gerry Hargadon

30 May 2010, Sunday:

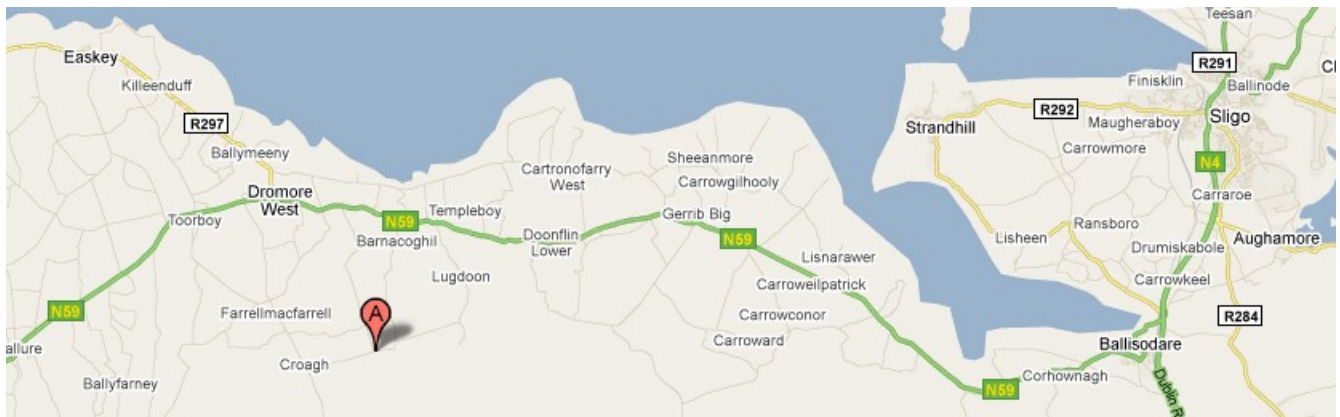
Janna and I leave midday and drive to Dublin, which is a 2.5 hour drive. We stay at the Pearse Lodge, and call Tom Hargadon, who lives close enough to walk over and visit us at the lodge. With him we make several calls. First, we call Joe Hargadon, who had years before given me family information but with whom we were also not able to establish a direct family tie. He had been out and seen the farmhouses and is able to give us some directions to getting there so we could make an attempt the next day. Then, with Tom's help, we use the phone book looking under "Hargadon" and also "Dunleavy," since I'd spoken in 2004 with Peggy Dunleavy who had given me a lot of family information and who "lived across from the family farmhouse." I have a phone number for Peggy, but we weren't able to reach her, but in calling a Kevin Dunleavy in the book I reach Kavina, Kevin's daughter, who tells me that they are related to Peggy, but that Peggy has passed away just a few weeks ago. Kavina's parents aren't home, and she recommends that we call her dad's sister Mary, but there was no answer there. I can't remember exactly how it happens, but we end up connecting with Kavina mom, Patricia Dunleavy, who turned out to be an incredible gold mine of information and help. She says she will meet us the next day and take us to see the family farm. We then drive with Tom into Sligo and take photos at Hargadon Brothers pub (no known direct connection, and no longer owned by Hargadons).



Tom Hargadon

31 May 2010, Monday:

Janna and I drive toward Dromore West and call Patricia's home, get one of her daughters again, who gives us Patricia cell phone. We call the cell and she doesn't answer, so using the directions given by Joe Hargadon, we find the Flying Horse pub, which is supposedly only 100 yards from Doonbeakin (sometimes Doonbeakin) road, and we try to figure out which way to go to the farmhouse.



Sligo (right) to Dromore West (left), with the A marker at Doonbeakin (according to Google)



The Flying Horse Pub

Luckily, Patricia calls back, she comes and meets us and takes us up Doonbeakin road to her home,

where we meet Kevin and two of their daughters, Donelle and Ashling. We get out all of my family history papers and start to compare my notes with Patricia's brain (not a fair match—her brain having access to more information and much faster!



Studying the family documents: me, Patricia, and Kevin Dunleavy

From my information and research, and from the Hargadon family reunion in Delaware in 2000, I was pretty sure that John and Margaret (Doherty) Hargadon lived on a farm, in one of two adjoining farmhouses, with Michael and Brigit (Welsh) Hargadon living in the other. Many of the attendees at the 2000 reunion were descended from Michael and Brigit, while my great-grandfather John Hargadon who emigrated to the US and ultimately settled in Wayne, PA, was the son of John and Margaret (Maggie). Kevin Dunleavy (Patricia's husband) and Peggy Dunleavy (who had passed away) both descended from John and Maggie as well, but through their oldest son, Thomas (John's brother). Thomas (Tom) Hargadon married Bridget Rowlette, their daughter Bridget married Dan Dunleavy, and these are Kevin's parents. Tom and Bridget's son Johnny married Alice Queenan, and their daughter Peggy married Patrick Dunleavy, and this is the Peggy I talked to in 2004. (Tom and Bridget's children, among whom are Bridget and Johnny, are therefore my grandfather Bernie's cousins.)



Photo of Peggy Dunleavy, who had just recently passed away.



Kevin Dunleavy, whose mother Bridget was cousin to my grandfather Bernie.



Bridget Dunleavy with her children, Kevin, Mary, Sally, Amelia, and Eamon.



Bridget Dunleavy (right) with her sisters Mary (deceased) and Sarah (still living) (order unknown)

Once we established the family ties, however, the mystery at this point is that there are two farms that the Hargadons lived on, quite close to each other, and it's not clear which one is “the family farm.” We drive with Patricia and Kevin to the farm directly across the street from Peggy Dunleavy's home (her husband Patrick, or Paddy, I haven't been able to talk to yet and is not home). This is a picturesque setting, and I want it to be the family home, but they take us to a second farm just a short distance away which they feel is more likely to have been the actual family home, as it's where they are pretty sure Tom and Bridget lived—and my notes say that Tom and Bridget inherited the family farm. (Note: these families were all likely tenant farmers, but the families then were given the land in the early 20th century after political changes.)



Left off of Doonbeakin Road, the drive and buildings of the first farmhouses. To the left two “outhouses” for cattle/animals, to the right what we assumed were two modern additions—the first of which is oriented so that we are seeing one end, with the stone rubble farmhouse extending the same direction immediately behind it.



Two views of one of the adjoining farmhouses



From inside



From the high side, same farmhouse



What we assumed was second house



The second farm and house, the front view on the left, and the back view on the right. The home is now owned by a pilot as a vacation home, but the property is owned by Paddy Dunleavy. The back view shows how the original stone buildings are still there, just plastered over. In this case, these are also adjoining farmhouses, but seamless when seen from the front.

We drive to ? cemetery, where Tom and Bridget are have a plaque (but are buried in Grangemore cemetery), and has the actual gravesites of their sons James and Willie, their daughter Mary (and her husband James Feeny), their son John (and his wife Alice, and their children Mary and Theresa), James Hargadon (died 1954, age 75, likely John and Tom's brother who I have as born in 1878 and listed as never having had children), Kevin's grandmother Ann Dunleavy and her sons Daniel (Kevin's father) and Thomas, and Kevin's mother and Dan's wife Bridget Hargadon Dunleavy.



We then drive to Lee Harlow church, which is where the Hargadons and all those nearby would have attended church and have been married.



Lee Harlow church, in the process of being renovated (and our snappy small rental car)

We head back to Kevin and Patri house, where Patricia calls and arranges for a different Gerry Hargadon, Kevin's cousin and the son of Tom and Bridget's son Patrick, to meet us that night when he is off work. Janna and I return to Sligo for the rest of the afternoon, and then drive back in the evening to meet with Gerry Hargadon at Patricia and Kevin's home.



Steve Hargadon, Gerry Hargadon, and Kevin Dunleavy (Gerry and Kevin are cousins)



A photograph of Ed Hargadon and family, Ed being brother to Tom and John, and having moved to Philadelphia and been a successful saloon operator. Not sure if Gerry or Kevin produced this photo.

In what turns out to be a great “aha” moment with all of us talking, we realize that when Tom Hargadon inherited the family farm (which Peggy Dunleavy had originally told me and which the rest of the gang also agreed on), it was the family farm from *Maggie Doherty's side of the family*—so that while Tom raised his family in the second farmhouse, he and my great-grandfather John would have been born and raised on the first farm. [This ends up being confirmed in a dramatic way later in the Sligo Heritage Foundation offices when we find the 1848 valuation map and it shows the first farmhouse with Patrick Hargadon as the tenant (father of John Hargadon and grandfather of Tom and John and their siblings) and the other farmhouse has John Doherty (presumably Maggie's father) as the tenant farmer.]

Gerry drives us first to his son's house and take a picture with the Hargadon Brother's van for the business his sons run.



We drive to St. Joseph cemetery in Temple Boy, where Tom and Bridget's son Patrick (and his wife Mary Kilgannon) are buried—these are Gerry Hargadon's parents. Then to Grangemore cemetery, where Tom and Bridget are actually buried but the slab for them is so worn down as to not be legible. Interestingly enough, they are not listed on the relatively modern gravesite listing—likely since their tombstone is not legible.



Gravesite slab for Thomas and Bridget (Rowlette) Hargadon

They tell us that John and Michael and their spouses would have been buried in the Doonbeakin cemetery, but which is completely overrun and you can't even get into; even if you could, the stones would be all covered and worn.

1 June 2010, Tuesday:

Janna and I travel to Dublin, then Belfast, before deciding to head back to Sligo for another day, now that we know the first farm is the actual one, with me wanting to make another visit there.

2 June 2010, Wednesday:

Before going out to the farm again, we first go into Sligo and go to the Visitors Center where there is the genealogy/heritage office, which should be open but is dark. We wait until someone comes back from break, and a nice young man Adrian takes me through the online resources to show the Griffith's valuation from 1858, which shows a map of Doonbeakin with a building where we think the first farmhouses are, and it's listed with Patrick Hargadon. I tell him about the second farm, which if I'm right would be in the listing for the next townland (Ballyglass) just a field or two over, and would be for Doherty--and it turns out to be the exact parcel I've suggested! Wahoo! This also gives us the name of what we assume is Maggie Doherty's father, Tom, who's listed as the tenant on the second

farm. So now we know for sure that we have the farmhouses correct. It's in the afternoon now, and Janna and I finally drive toward Doonbeakin and go up Doonbeakin road. We stop across the street and see Paddy Dunleavy (Peggy's husband), whom we've not met before, working in the garden, he takes us over and gives us all kinds of history about the home. Turns out the plastered home we thought was a new addition is actually one of the original two farmhouses, he tells us, with plaster over the original. This makes perfect sense, as the plastered home is pretty much identical in size and shape to the rubble outlines of the other farmhouse, and the two sit end to end lengthwise. The other buildings are outhouses for the animals—one set at the far end of what we now recognize as the “second” farmhouse” (the initial stone building we've focused on), and the other set separate and sitting at 90 degrees across the small yard. He is able to find the key to the farmhouse still in use, and gives us an inside, look, helping give a sense of the size.



Paddy Dunleavy in a doorway that I'd have to stoop to go through...



The main room with a doorway to the second room. While it may be hard to tell, this is the exact same layout as the stones in the other farmhouse.



A look that gives the view of the two farmhouses—the first plastered over, the second in line with the first, extending the same direction (to the left), and you can see the stone walls which extend back into

the overgrowth there.



Views from the “backyard” or high side of the home, toward the hills and away from the sea. The sea, going back down Doonbeakin road, is only a few miles away.

Paddy says that he had heard that at one time the two families living there had 31 children running around. He also has a lot of knowledge of the buildings' uses, and owns much property around there including the land on which the second farmhouse is. Today is the one month anniversary of Peggy's death, and his kindness on this day seems particularly poignant. Janna and I take a few stones from the home to bring home with us, and leave greatly satisfied at having brought 20 years of family history work to this one lovely spot, and having made friends with lovely and generous relatives.