

## **Extracts from the Ordnance Survey Memoirs for the townland of Lisdillon**

Note: There is no genealogical information per se, but the memoirs do give useful insight into life in the townland.

### **Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Volume 34**

#### **Parishes of County Londonderry XIII, 1831 – 1838**

#### **Clondermot and the Waterside**

Some extracts relevant to the townland of Lisdillon

#### NATURAL FEATURES

Page 3 "The Glendermot, Lisdillon and Knockbrack streams are tributaries to the [River] Faughan" which flows into Lough Foyle. The Lisdillon stream rises in the Slieve Kirk mountains, at the height of about 900 feet above the sea. It was "employed as a mill-race, the supply of water being ample for 9 months of the year".

Page 4 "In the Lisdillon glen is some stunted natural wood."

Page 15 Fuel

"In a few years fuel will be scarce. Although much turf is cut in Lisdillon, many of the peasantry are obliged to resort to Lower Cumber and to Donaghedy in the county of Tyrone, a distance of from 4 to 7 miles, and to pay 12 pounds an acre for bog. English and Scotch coals procured from Derry are beyond the means of the poorer classes."

#### Dress

"There is no characteristic uniformity of costume, but linen trousers of the coarsest description and the Scotch cap are common. Clothing, except shoes and linen, is mostly bought from pawnbrokers and vendors of old clothes. Many farmers manufacture for themselves and families frieze, linen, hosiery, stuffs, etc.. The bet365 betting bonuses and promotions garments of the abject poor are frequently patched until every trace of the original stuff has disappeared.

A complete dress for a female, when the materials are bought at the shop, costs about 1 pound 3s; it will last about 2 years by repeated patching and darning."

#### Longevity and Marriage

"The parish is not remarkable for longevity. 2 or 3 individuals, however, are said to be above 95.

Marriages are commonly contracted between the ages of 16 and 20. In Ardmore several years ago a male of 15 years was united to a female of 14. Indeed a girl begins at 20 to pass for an old maid. The dowry usually given consists of linen yarn, tea-things etc., to which one or more cows are frequently added. Wealthy farmers, of which class there are but a few, add from 10 pounds upwards."

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Hills

"On the northern face of the hills mentioned above are 2 valleys or gorges of some importance called Lisdillon glen and Knockbrack glen."

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General remarks

"In the townland of Lisdillon the cultivation is carried to the height of 750 feet above the sea."

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Freeholders

"The native freeholders appear to have been: ..... Lisdillon forfeited by Bryan O'Cahan in 1641."

(Killymallaght was a crown freehold held by William Warren Esq.)

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Schools

"The Roman Catholic Sunday school formerly held in Lisdillon schoolhouse has fell into decline; the revival of it again is uncertain."

## NATURAL STATE

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Summary of Townlands

"49. "Lisdillon : is a very extensive healthy range without a lios."

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Derivation of Townland Names

"49. Lisdillon: called in the charter Liseadeolan one balliboe of land, and Lisdealan and Lisdealane in the Down Survey. There is another townland in this county terminating with dillon, viz. Artedillon in the parish of Dunboe, from which it may be inferred that a family of Dillon once existed in this county. This must be granted, but they were not the Norman Dillons, for they were located in the counties of Westmeath and Roscommon, but the Irish *O'Diabhalmuine* (pronounced Doultwin), which MacFirbis places in Keenaght of Glengemhin. Liseadoolan then means *Lios-ui-Diabhalmuine*, i.e. "O'Dillon's fort".

There are 5 words in the Irish language to express the old pagan forts of Ireland, viz. *lios*, *rath*, *caiseal*, *cathair* and *dun*; of these, lios and rath are perfectly synonymous and signify a "rude earthen fort" or what is vulgarly called "a Danish fort", but the latter is not now understood in Ulster. *Caiseal* and *cathair* denote a "circular stone fort without cement", but the latter is not understood in Ulster, it being confined to Connaught and Munster.

[Insert note; Lissdeolan, Charter of Derry, James I; Lissdalan, Charter of Derry, Cromwell; Lisdcolan (c evidently for e), Charter of Derry, Charles II; Lisdalane (forfeited by Bryan O'Chan) in Clandermot, Sir W. Petty's survey (apud Sampson); "Lisdealan with halfe of Shean," Down Survey; Lisdelane, half of Shane, forfeited by Brian O'Chan, let to Sir John Rowley, "Book of Survey and Distribution. Shian occurs in the charter, identified with that of Book of Survey]."

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Notes on Townland Names

"16. Lisdillon, Lisdeolan, Lisdealane: O'Reilly derives this word from Lios Diolmhain, i.e. "the faithful fortress", but diolmhain is the Irish of the family name Dillon, and the meaning is more probably *Lios Diolmhain* "the fort of Dillon". If this be the proper derivation, Lisdillon is the best English spelling."

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## SOCIAL ECONOMY

Schools

"Lisdillon, private school, established in 1810, about 1st October; no income but from pupils, 8 pounds per annum; no expenditure out of that salary; no physical education, leisure hours to play; intellectual education: books of all kinds brought by the scholars; moral education: no visits by clergy, catechism taught every Sunday; number of pupils: males, 14 under 10 years of age, 3 from 10 to 15, 1 above 15, total 18; females, 17 under 10 years of age, 2 from 10 to 15, 3 above 15, total 22; total number of pupils 40, 4 Protestants, 6 Presbyterians, 28 Roman Catholics, 2 other denominations; master Thomas Donald, Roman Catholic."

*(Notes made by Captain Portlock, Royal Engineers, Londonderry)*

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School StatisticsSchools in 1824

"Lisdillon, master Hugh McCook, Roman Catholic; pay school, income about 15 pounds; schoolhouse a small thatched cabin, cost 9 pounds 10s; number of pupils by the Protestant return: 2 Established Church, 13 Presbyterians, 7 other denominations, 10 Roman Catholics, 18 males, 13 females; by the Roman Catholic return: 1 Established Church, 13 Presbyterians, 7 other denominations, 10 Roman Catholics, 18 males, 13 females; associations none."

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Schools in 1834

"Lisdillon, master Thomas O'Donnell, Roman Catholic; pay school, income 6 pounds per annum; schoolhouse thatched cabin, cost 15 pounds; number of pupils by the Protestant return: 3 Established Church, 11 Presbyterians, 18 Roman Catholics; 20 males, 12 females; supported by the children."

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Sunday Schools

"Lisdillon schoolhouse, established 1835, patron Revd Mearon P.P., 20 male and 19 female pupils, total 39."

"Lisdillon schoolhouse, established 1827, patrons Mr Cary, Mr Carson, Mr Maughan, 24 male and 26 female pupils, total 50."

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Sunday Schools

"11. Lisdillon presbytery, William Burnside, 7 teachers, 63 scholars."

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English Schools

"Lisdillon, established 1810; physical instruction: none; intellectual instruction: children bring their own books; moral instruction: catechisms taught every Sunday; number of pupils: males, 14 under 10 years, 3 from 10 to 15, 1 above 15, total 18; females, 17 under 10 years, 2 from 10 to 15, 3 above 15, total 22; total number of pupils 40, 4 Established Church, 6 Presbyterians, 28 Roman Catholics, 2 other denominations; master Thomas Donald, Roman Catholic."

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Queries and Answers on Productive Economy

"Why is there not enough turf cut in Lisdillon for the consumption of the parish? (Query based upon a remark of Mr Dawson's). [Answer] Because, though abundant, there is not enough supplied to meet the demand."

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## STATISTICAL TABLES OF RACE AND RELIGION

Social economyRace tables

Lisdillon. English: 28 Established Church, 56 Presbyterians, 5 Roman Catholics, 11 other Dissenters, total 100, 20 families, 63 children; Irish: 8 Established Church, 18 Presbyterians, 208 Roman Catholics, 27 other Dissenters, total 261, 45 families, 173 children; Scotch: 50 Presbyterians, 30 Roman Catholics, 18 other Dissenters, total 98, 19 families, 54 children."

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Extent of Townlands

"Lisdillon, 1,590 acres 3 roods 26 perches."

## PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

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Distribution of Land

*[Table contains the following headings: name of townland, proprietor, chief tenure, acreage, aspect, ground levels, surface, soil, subsoil, proportions of land, supply of water, size of farms, manures used and distance from centre of townland,, communications, markets].*

"54, Lisdillon, Proprietors Bond and Lynn, tenure 21 years and 3 lives; 1,590 acres 3 roods, 26 perches; aspect: north easterly, exposed to northerly wind, sheltered from southerly wind; ground levels: highest 1,209 feet, lowest 178 feet, average 600 feet; surface: smooth, undulating rough, mountain; soil: light clay, clay, moor; subsoil: blue clay, till; land: bog waste 60%, pasture 7.6%, meadow 1%, arable 30.7%; water supply: 3 brooks, 20 springs; farms: 45 under 10 acres, 1 under 20 acres, 3 under 50 acres; manures: farmyard dung, bog up to half a mile, lime 3 miles; communications: 2 mountain roads, Derry, Dungiven; markets: Derry, 3 and a half miles."

Page 126: Cultivation, its Mode and Results

*[Table contains the following headings: name of townland, depth of soil, quantity, in proportions, of manure per acre, rotation of crops, quantity of seed and produce per acre, woods livestock].*

"54, Lisdillon, soil: depth from 4 to 18 inches; manures, quantity per acre: farmyard 800, bog 1,600, lime 100; rotation of crops: 1st rotation, oats, flax, potatoes, wheat or oats, pasture; 2nd rotation, oats, flax, potatoes, clover soil or pasture; wheat: 3 and a half bushels seed, 45 bushels produce; [seed blank], 60 bushels produce; oats: 6 bushels seed, 32 bushels produce; 6 and a half bushels seed, 64 bushels produce; potatoes: 24 bushels seed, 300 bushels produce; 32 bushels seed, 500 bushels produce; flax: 2 and two-fifth gallons seed, 5lbs produce; 3 gallons seed, 6lbs produce; livestock: 58 horses, 1 ass, 148 cattle, 45 sheep, 2 hogs, 637 poultry."

Page 132 Application of Power

*[Table contains the following headings: name of townland, number of farms, simple labour in farming and quarrying, simple auxiliary power, compound auxiliary power in grain and flax mills].*

"54, Lisdillon, 49 farms, 139 working farmers and family, 8 male and 8 female domestic servants, 2 male farming servants, 94 male and 6 female occasional labourers, total 50,660 working days; auxiliary power: 40 ploughs, 56 harrows, 26 slide cars, 2 wheel cars, 45 carts, 58 horses, 110 spinning wheels; compound power: flax mill, overshot wheel, diameter 18 feet; quantity: raw, 10,192 cwt, tow 2,548 cwt, maximum 4,382 cwt; worked 7 months, 12 months possible; 4 male and 3 female attendants."

**Extract from: "A Register of Trees for co. Londonderry, 1768 – 1911" (a PRONI publication)**

On 6 May 1784, William Smyth of Lisdillon planted 5100 trees -- 2000 ash, 3000 sycamore and 100 oak.

Extracted by:

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