

Gately Family

Marianne's family, Gately, came from Garrynagran in Co. Roscommon. This is 13 miles north of Ballinasloe, right along the border with Co. Galway and near Dysart. Her parents were Martin Gately and Bridget McManus. They had a farm in Garrynagran, Dysart and lived there with Marianne's siblings John (1870) and Rosanna (1876). Her father, Martin, died in the last quarter of 1904. Bridget died after 1911 census but I don't know when. Rosanna too might not have lived long after 1911 as her niece Marian Wurr never mentioned her.

Marianne's (Mary Anne) birth is recorded on 3rd April 1869 and her parents seem to still be living in Drum near Athlone at that stage. They must have moved to Garrynagran some time later. Martin, her father, is recorded as Farmer in the birth record. I could not find a record for any Martin Gately farming in Drum though there were plenty of possibilities in the Garrynagran/Dysart area.

Marianne's parents had married on 14th Sept 1865 in Drum Church in the Athlone district, though the civil registration was made in Brideswell, five miles east of Dysart. Martin's residence in the civil registration was Garrynagran, in the church record as Dysart. Though in reality this is the same place. Martin's father, Patrick, is recorded as a Smith and her father, James McManus as a farmer. It is interesting to note that in 1901 and 1911 there is no record of a smith in Garrynagran or Dysart. But the cottage they lived in had four outbuildings and perhaps this was because it had been a smithy but was no longer by 1901. According to the Estate Records of Sir Charles Compton William Domville Bart in 1864 Martin was a tenant from year to year and paid an annual rent of £7 5/-. He was renting 24 acres.



Possibly the remains of the Gately farm, Garrynagran, Dysart

There is a census record from this part of Ireland called the “Elphin Religious Census” and it was taken in 1749. In this census a record of the head of the household was made and what members of his/her family were under or over 14. The main record, and the entire reason for the census, was to record who was Church of Ireland and who was “Papist”. In the record for “Torpane” which is in Dysart there is a record for a Laurence Gately. His trade is recorded “Smith” and he had 3 children under 14. All are recorded as “Papists”. So perhaps the Gatelys were smiths over several generations though not into the 20th century. The same census records many Naughtens, Gatelys and so on in the Dysart district but none with a trade as specific as that of Smith so we cannot be certain of whether any of them are related though it is likely some are. So we probably are related to Laurence Gately who, if he had three children under 14 in 1749, was probably born around 1710. If we project forward to Martin's father Patrick who was probably born one hundred years later around

1810, we have about two missing generations, possibly three. I'm not aware of any records that might exist to link the two other than burial records.

Also in Garrynagran in 1901 and 1911 census return there are records in adjoining properties of two John Gatelys. They might have been related. Certainly Marian Wurr recalled that there were Gately relations down the road from her grandparent's house who were related but the two families never spoke due to some big falling out. She spoke of the relations living in a two story house but there is no record in either census of any two story dwelling belonging to a Gately in the district. Her grandfather, Martin Gately's residence was "*a long low building with buildings around and lots of stone paving*".

Martin Gately's spouse, Bridget McManus' address is Nure in both civil and church record. Nure is 18 miles from Dysart and right on the border of Roscommon and Offaly, but only 8 miles from Athlone. The full address is Ardnanure. I discovered that the McManus farm was just over the Shannon from the ruined Clonmacnoise Abbey. Was their marriage arranged. How did someone from Dysart meet someone from 18 miles away in the middle 19C? NB there are still McManus's in Drum to this day almost certainly very distant cousins.

We can only presume that after marriage they moved straight into the smithy in Garrynagran They were blessed with at least three children but I actually found records for four children. Marianne was actually baptised/registered as Mary Anne on 3rd April 1869. Her birth was also registered in Brideswell. She like her 3 brothers (Francis (1866), John (1870) and Thomas (1873)) and one sister (Rose Anna (1876))were baptised in St. Peter's Church, Athlone.

The other interesting thing to note is that Bridget's sister Margaret McManus married one Matthew Naughton around 1853. Matthew and Margaret Naughton had a large family and it is these Naughton cousins who lived in Dysart and other parts of Roscommon that Marian Wurr and others visited.

