

-----Original Message-----

From: Damien Hynes [mailto:djh@alphalink.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2000 11:19 AM
To: CMumofthree@aol.com
Cc: Damien John Hynes
Subject: # Donovan family history

Catherine,

In going thru some old corres lately I rediscovered a copy of a letter dated 12 March 1965 handed on to me by my late uncle. This was written to Mrs Lorraine Ackerly a first cousin of my uncle's/and of course my late father. Lorraine at that period was quite active in tracing family history and had letters published in the Cork newspaper. She is still alive and of a good age and she lives here in a suburb of Melbourne. The letter was written by Mr Tadhg o Donnabhain of Cill Crochin, Bantry and he says where the Blairs lived and that Catherine o Donovan's parents lived at o Donovans Cove on the other side of Dunmanus Bay about 4 miles west of Durrus and they were also landlords in a small way. Both families are now extinct locally according to Tadhg and he says that he should have some information in re to o Donovan births etc but could not when writing put his hands on this. It seems obtaining this info was never followed up by Lorraine unfortunately. Of course I would be more than interested to now obtain this detail and as it appears you will be across to Ireland before our next visit I ask if you please try and follow this lead by way of Tadhg or his family and tell me your results. One especial date I am seeking is the burial date/place of Catherine Blair, nee O Donovan who I think I must have referred to in the message you have from me. I have no idea when she died but Richard Blair her spouse had died in/by 1855 as there is index to his will for that year. I suspect Catherine was of younger age and he likely predeceased her. As I remember the catholic church at Durrus is not much and its Church of Ireland dominates but Bantry has a catholic church which is more notable in my mind. For a lead for local historical information when you get to Bantry try Michael Carroll who has the second hand bookshop and he is an historical author also. The pp may be helpful if you can get to peruse the church records. I was fortunate in doing this 3 times in other towns 2 being helpful catholic priests.

When I sent this other message to you I also sent similar to a Molly Hobins Alfes, MoAlfes@aol.com but have had no reply. [As to that message you have from me maybe you could send it back for I did expand and do not know which version you have and if detail is lacking for that reason?] Continuing, I was especially interested in Molly's note as her lead was definite for the o Donovans Cove family. She said if you missed that message that Timothy O Donovan, born in Durrus in the 1840's was married to Julia Calahane in Rhode Island in 1876. They settled in Iowa not far from Council Bluffs in SW Iowa where descendants remain. I presume Molly lives in this area and would like to write to her or otherwise contact her so ask if you are able to obtain her postal address from your directories and you may already be in contact with her. I note again from perusing my older material lately that I noticed a dead end search for a Boulahan surely now it was meant to be Calahane. I do believe one unidentified photograph I have among old Blair memorabilia and in the home at Yackandandah (which is located in NE Victoria) is of a Julia and I recall talk of a family connection in America. Beside the point there are a number of letters written from Yack. to family in Durrus and which were returned to me recently with family snap photos taken at the Blair home in the 1930's. On our own trip to Ireland I never utilised any effort to trace out the O Donovans although I actively chased up Blair and other sides but coming down from Connaught, homeground of my other links paternally, our time remaining was very short.