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Mr Sean O'Brien,  
Gaulanes  
Bantry, Co. Cork  
Ireland.

Dear Mr O'Brien,

**Enquiry re Blair and ODonovan families formerly of Durrus, Co Cork**

A year or so ago I wrote to Mr Michael Carroll of the bookstore in Bantry as I have dealt with him on number of occasions and first came across him on our visit in March 1997.

The easiest way to bring you to the point of my letter is to refer you to a copy of what Michael kindly sent over to me and in which he provides yourself as a person who may be able to add that little extra that I am chasing please. I will need to add other background and before I begin I have the idea you are involved in aspects of the local history.

In 1827 Richard <sup>W</sup>Levy Blair married Catherine O'Donovan of O'Donovans Cove and she came with generous dowry. In 1855 there is record by way of Index of the Will of Richard Blair but the Will itself I have been led to believe does not survive. However that may be I am not sure for one person supposedly with knowledge of these things suggested that assets may be listed in an obscure document presumably in Cork or Dublin. I do not want to sound mixed up on this but I am. I should say now that in an earlier letter to my request Michael had provided me a short list of researchers of West Cork history but only one replied and that woman, whose name I cannot immediately give, was very experienced and had the right background but she was then in remission for cancer and whereas she wrote she would contact me in a year or so I never heard more from her. I wish her well should she have passed this awful test. Information I do have was mainly researched in the mid-1960's by the late Paddy O'Keeffe of Bantry and he did that work for a late uncle of mine and it has passed to myself. It is a good basis for I have copies of old Deeds and a fair assortment but of course am missing items, there is really zilch re the O'Donovan's, and the records of Bantry House arouse me, so when they might become available as Michael has indicated, is one matter I have to follow. If you know of that it is an immediate question please?

X Coming to your own publication Michael has referred to I am not familiar with it and enquire more about it. Perhaps as you read my other information following you could inform me of its possible assistance to my interest please and its availability? The little copy Michael has sent is limited to the Blairs so if it encompasses any thing about the O'Donovans I would not know.

From my playing around at the edges from this distance I learn that in Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1833 and in the book as to Land Owners in 1876 (in excess of 1 acre) that Tim ODonovan JP and Richd. Blair were subscribers of the first publication and that indeed O'Donovan was landed many times over in comparison to the size of estate of the Blairs. I have attempted to trace descendants of O'Donovans and an Internet family search site I stumbled across indicates that the Durrus family moved and settled in a part of Iowa, US and I am presently attempting to contact descendants by post and similarly with a Mr T. ODonovan of Gurnakilla, Bantry. My reason for the latter attempt is because I have a letter of March 1965

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Michael. died suddenly 7 least at all  
- was author + had bookshop in Bantry. 20