



Searching for John Byers of Tievenaman, Co. Cavan, in the 1830s

From the surviving remnants of the 1821 census for Co. Cavan, it is clear that there are several well-established Byers families in different townlands. Sadly no records survive for the townland of Tievenaman in the Killinkere parish.

Many of these Byers families may well be related one to the other in various ways, but it seems most likely that the Tievenaman Byers families will be particularly closely related.

Regrettably there are few surviving church records prior to the 1820s or thereabouts.

‘The parish registers of Killinkere, Co. Cavan, from 1761 to 1877 in the case of baptisms and burials, and from 1761 to 1845 in the case of marriages, were destroyed in the explosion at the Four Courts [Dublin] on June 29th, 1922.’ (*Breifne Antiquarian Society’s Journal*, 1923, Vol.II, No.I, p.95)

So what do we know of the Tievenaman Byerses? Or, failing actual sources or facts, what might we reasonably surmise?

Robert Byers, of Tievenaman, was the only Byers registered with the Clerk of Peace to possess 2 guns and 1 sword on 3 July 1832. He had no pistols, blunderbusses or bayonets.

The Tithe Applotment Books became an important source for genealogists after the loss of the 1821-51 Census records. Available online now from the National Archives in Dublin, they were compiled between 1823 and 1837 ‘to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland (the main Protestant church which was established by the State until dis-establishment in 1871)’.

With a manuscript book for almost every civil (Church of Ireland) parish in the country, the listing supplies the occupiers’ names in each townland, the amount of land held and the sums to be paid in tithes. The books only give the names of heads of family, not other family members.

These (see next page) are the entries for the Byers families in Teevanaman [*sic*], dated 1833, though it has been mis-transcribed by cataloguers as ‘Tecvanaman’ – somewhat misleading for researchers!

Denominations and Occupiers' names	Quality of Land and area	Roads and waste deducted	No. of acres chargeable	Annual value thereof	Yearly tithe rent
2. Robert Byers	2nd quality, 17 acres	0a 1r 5p	16a 2r 35p	£20 1s 3d	13s 2d
3. John Byers	2nd quality, 15 acres	-	15a	£18	11s 10d
4. Joseph Byers	2nd quality, 12 acres	-	12a	£14 8s	9s 4½d

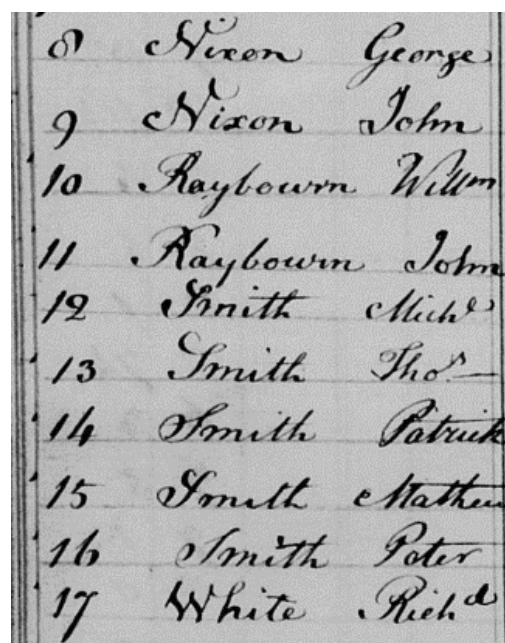
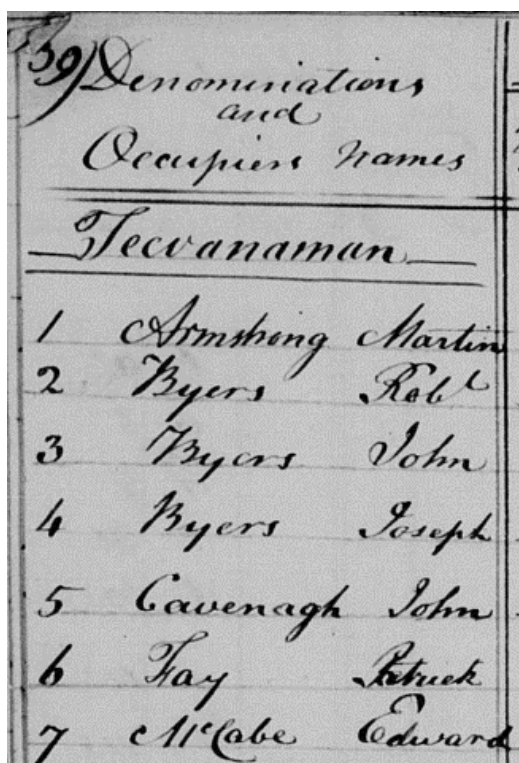
Second quality land was costed at 24 shillings per acre.

No. 1, Teevanaman, was occupied by Martin Armstrong.

The original Tithe Applotment manuscript may be viewed in full here:

http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/reels/tab//004625676/004625676_00049.pdf

Below is the first column of Occupiers from that manuscript. Note how the mis-transcription of Teevanaman came about!



A few years later, from the *Valuation Records*, dated 3 June 1837, Joseph seems to have moved on, leaving just Robert and John.

Maybe rashly, I reckon Robert to be the father, with two sons – John and Joseph.
Alternatively, they may be three sons to a deceased or retired father, Robert Byers.

This likely father might be the Robert Byers registered in 1832 in Co. Cavan and listed here:

COUNTY OF CAVAN / A LIST / of the / Arms Registered / with the / Clerks of the Peace, /
For said County, / To April Sessions, / 1833

There is only one reference in the list to someone named BYERS, who was registered at
Cavan on 3 July 1832:

Robert Byers, residing at Tievanaman [Tievenaman] in the parish of Killinkere and
Barony of Castleraghan, who possessed 2 guns and 1 sword. He had no pistols,
blunderbusses or bayonets.

Interestingly, my arguments (on the Byersfamilies webpage) about the naming traditions
doesn't seem to follow through with Joseph Byers, though perhaps there may be a missing
first son and first daughter, perhaps baptised elsewhere.

The Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church register lists:

Jos[eph] Byars and Mary Byars alias Mary Byars of Tivnaman
Jos[eph] [or James?], aged 8 days, baptised 03.04.1829
Sarah, born 16.04.1831, baptised 30.04.1831
Robert, aged 3 weeks, baptised 09.02.1833

So might this really represent

Jos[eph] Byars and Mary Byars alias Mary Byars of Tivnaman
Robert, who possibly died c.1831 in infancy/childhood ...]
Jos[eph] [or James?], aged 8 days, baptised 03.04.1829
Sarah, born 16.04.1831, baptised 30.04.1831
Robert, aged 3 weeks, baptised 09.02.1833

Suggesting that the mother Mary Byars was herself the daughter of another Joseph Byars and
his wife Sarah, née ???.

And then, just to confuse things, there are these two entries in the Ballyjamesduff baptismal
register:

William Byars & Sarah Byars alias Sarah Williamson of Tivinaman
Eliza, aged 1 fortnight, baptised 27.09.1840
Sarah Jane, born 19.09.1842, baptised 25.09.1842 (Sally Byars / Sally Williamson)
William, born 01.05.1854, baptised 07.05.1854
John James, born 29.06.1857, baptised 22.07.1857 (now Wm. and Sally Byers)
Margaret, born 09.05.1860, baptised 28.05.1860 (“of Tivnaman”)

Robert Byers and Sally Byars alias Sally Williamson of Tivnaman
Robert, born 17.07.1847, baptised 22.09.1847
Mary, born 07.02.1851, baptised 16.02.1851

NB: Might there be a confusion here with the Sally/Sarah Williamson in the previous entry.

On 18 September 1845, Anne Byers ('full age') daughter of Robert Byers of Tievenaman married Josias Wilson in Bellasis Presbyterian Church.

On 21 January 1846, Lydia Byers (just 15 years old) married widower Alex. Stafford jun., in Bellasis Presbyterian Church. Lydia was the daughter of Samuel Byers of Tievenaman.

On 8 March 1847, Sarah Byers, 20-year-old daughter of Robert Byers of Tievenaman, married her 22 year old neighbour, Martin Armstrong.

On 27 January 1853, Eliza Byers ('full age'), daughter of John Byers, farmer of 'Tivnaman', married William Vogan (aged 19) of 'Cornesass', the son of James Vogan, farmer. A witness was Anne Coote (an aunt or cousin?)

A birth record exists (Cavan genealogy) for William Vogan, born 23 January 1832. So perhaps that William died in his infancy and the next son was then baptised as William (a common enough practice). So the second William was likely born abt. 1833.

James is listed in Griffith's Valuation with 88 acres at Cornasus townland, parish of Kildrumsherdan (page 71). Next door is the townland of Cornanurney where George Deyell has 18 acres (see marriage of under-age John Byers to Elizabeth Deyell on 15 July 1854). Also in Cornasus is William Vogan with 40 acres.

So, a purely conjectural Tievenaman family tree might have Robert Byers as the grandfather.

He might well have had five sons:

Robert, John, Joseph, Samuel, William

Robert married ? ...

and likely had Anne, b.1824 (m.1845) and Sarah, b.1827 (m.1847)

John we believe married Martha Coote

and had Elizabeth, b.1828 (m.1853), Robert, James (or Joseph), Sara, John, Jane, Frances and Mary Ann

Joseph married Mary Byers

and had Joseph, b.1829, Sarah and Robert

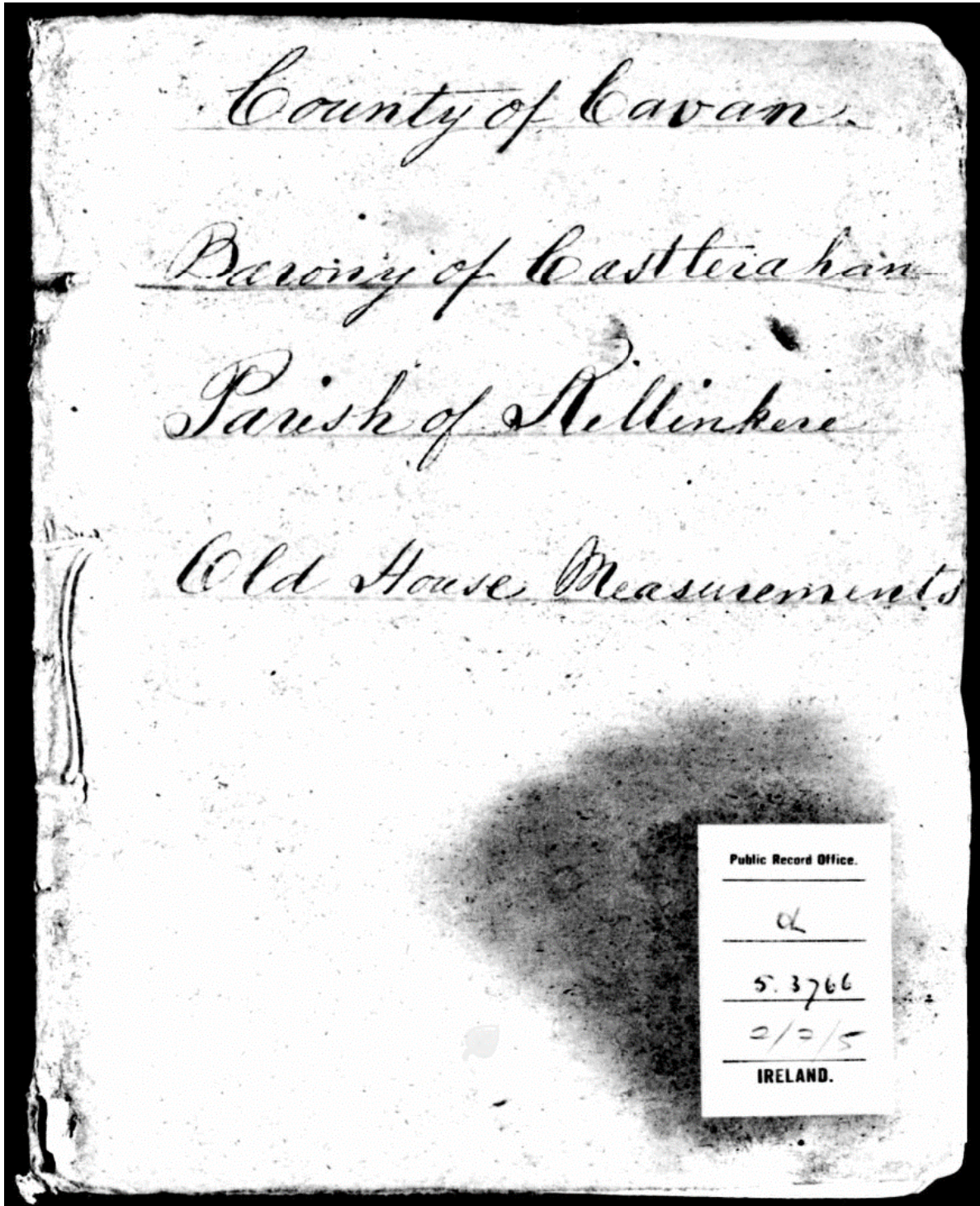
Samuel married ? ...

and had Lydia, b.1831 (m.1846)

William

The following results are from the *Old House Measurements* books for the parish of Killinkere, Castlerahan, Co. Cavan

They may be found in *Ireland, Valuation Records, 1824-1856*; those for Byers in Tievenaman are dated 3 June 1837.



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Houses in Townland of *Tivennahan* 3 June

No.	Name and Description.	Bar. Val.	1st Assist.	2nd Assist.	Quality Letter.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Measures.	Rate per Measure.	Amount.
74.1	Robert Byers Dwelling House					17 39.0	19.0	16.74	1.6	5 11 1/2	
74.2	Byers & Co. in the Mill Dwelling					23 52.0	13.66	0.70	28	15 8	
	24-4-03										
	24-4-03										
	24-4-03										
74.3	Martin Armstrong Dwelling					11 44	11.0	13.65	1.5	5 6 3	
	Deduct 3 for family parish									1 15 5	
										3 10 10	
40.0	John Byers Dwelling					2 14	17.0	10.67	10 3/4	3 8 11	
46.5	Bar					2 26	15.67	0.40	4	13 4	
	Byers					2 30	15.67	0.47	3 1/2	13 8	
										4 15 11	

Total

Checked by Length on 22 June 1874

Note the numbers in the left hand column (though crossed out!):
Robert Byers is No.1, Martin Armstrong No.2 and John Byers No.3.

One page earlier is a different John Byers - of Lateaster:

83

Houses in Townland of Lateaster 3 June

No.	Name and Description.	Bar. Val.	1st Assist.	2nd Assist.	Quality Letter.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Measures.	Rate per Measure.	Amount.			
1	John Byers						33							
16-4-0	Garbling	20	123	36	018	013	625	010	3		4	8		
100-0-0	return	20	23	16	616	015	626	0	32		12	1		
25-2-0	Timber stable	3	23	67	015	07	0100	0	32		1	9	2	
19-8	Pot House	4	23	19	613	05	625	0	23		5	2		
	Car house	4	23	11	018	07	020	0	4		6	8		
										5	5	17	10	
										Deduct		1	19	
										Amount		3	18	07
										Subt		3	18	0

L3-18-0

W. E. G. 50/

50/

5-16-9

1-18-11

3-17-0

e Sect ch Laugh on 22 June 1837

For information, there is a different Robert Byers at Cleffin on page 39 (4 May 1837) and a James Byers at Drummallaght on page 33 (8 June 1837).

It's interesting to compare the Tieveneman occupiers in 1833 with those listed in the same townland in *Griffith's Valuation* from 1857.

1833:

39 Denominations and Occupiers Names

Teevanaman

1	Armstrong	Martin
2	Byers	Robt
3	Byers	John
4	Byers	Joseph
5	Cavenagh	John
6	Fay	Patrick
7	McCabe	Edward

8	Nixon	George
9	Nixon	John
10	Raybourn	William
11	Raybourn	John
12	Smith	Michl
13	Smith	Thos
14	Smith	Patrick
15	Smith	Matthew
16	Smith	Peter
17	White	Richd

1857:

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

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PARISH OF KILLINEERE.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
TEIVENAMAN.							
<i>(Ord. S. 33.)</i>							
1	John Fay,	Lord Farnham,	House, offices, and land,	36 1 39	13 5 0	1 10 0	14 15 0
2	Richard White,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	31 1 38	12 15 0	1 10 0	14 5 0
3	a Alex. Stafford, sen.,	Same,	Herd's ho., offs., & land,	35 1 21	19 1 0	1 5 0	20 10 0
	b James Callaghan,	Alex. Stafford, sen.,	Bog,	4 0 0	0 4 0	—	
4	Jane White,	Lord Farnham,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
5	Hugh Owens,	Lord Farnham,	House, offices, and land,	35 0 36	15 0 0	1 10 0	16 10 0
6	a John Lynch,	Alex. Stafford,	Herd's house and land,	5 0 2	1 10 0	0 5 0	1 15 0
7	b Bernard Sexton,	Same,	House, offices, and land,	38 3 20	16 15 0	1 10 0	18 5 0
8	a John Wogan,	John Lynch,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
9	b Jane Stafford,	Lord Farnham,	House, offices, and land,	15 2 7	7 10 0	1 5 0	8 15 0
10	a Alex. Stafford, jun.,	Same,	Herd's house and land,	7 0 25	2 10 0	0 5 0	2 15 0
11	b Matthew Brady,	Same,	Herd's house and land,	44 2 10	19 0 0	0 15 0	19 15 0
12	c Patrick Fitzpatrick,	Alex. Stafford, jun.,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
13	d Patrick Smyth,	Same,	House and sm. garden,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
14	e Patrick Monaghan,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
15	John Byres,	Same,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
16	John Reaburn,	Lord Farnham,	House, offices, and land,	21 2 20	17 0 0	1 10 0	18 10 0
17		Same,	Herd's house and land,	18 2 17	8 10 0	0 5 0	8 15 0

For further research, it would be worth checking out the Farnham Papers in the National Library of Ireland – Collection List No.95. It consists of estate and family papers belonging to the Maxwell family, Barons, Viscounts and Earls of Farnham of Farnham House, county Cavan, circa 1600 - circa 1950.

The following might yield further information:

II.i Rentals and Rent Rolls

MS 41,154/1

A printed rent roll, “of part of the Earl of Farnham’s estates in the county of Cavan, to be sold pursuant to the will of Robert, late Earl of Farnham. Undated, but most likely circa 1799. Also abstract between John Elliott, Farnham estate agent and John James, 4th Baron relating to the rental income from the lands of Cormeen and Claddagh, parish of Castlerahan; Corryrourke, parish of Mullagh and Greaghadosan and Tievenaman, parish of Killinkere all in the barony of Castlerahan and Gortnamragher (*sic*) for the period ending 1 Nov. 1799.

II.iii Maps and Surveys

21. F. 116

/55 Part of Teevenaman [Tievenaman, parish of Killinkere]. Surveyed 1854, copied July 1855. Scale 20 perches to an inch. [By Robert Benister].

/56 A farm in Teveneman, [Tievenaman]. Surveyed by Richard Strong October 1858. Scale 20 perches to one inch.

/57 A Map and Survey of William Reaburn’s farm in Teveneman, [Tievenaman]. Surveyed by Richard Strong October 1858. Scale 20 perches to one inch.

/58 Part of Tievenaman. By Richard Strong 1871. Scale of 20 perches to one inch.

/59 John Fay’s Holding in Teevanaman, [Tievenaman]. By Richard Stronge 1875. Scale 20 perches to one inch.

/60 Part of Tievenaman. By Richard Stronge 1886. Scale 20 Irish perches to one inch.

/61- /62 Memoranda of Richard Stronge regarding extent of cutaway bog held by Benjamin Stafford at Tievenaman. 1892 and 4 May 1892.

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