

Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church

Updated 02.04.2012

A very old congregation going back to 1721. Original meeting place was said to have been at Oldcastle. Mr John King was installed in 1826 but he moved to become minister of the newly erected congregation of Bellasis in 1833. [*See Bellasis for another Byers connection*]

There was a succession of short-staying ministers throughout the late 1830s. Mr John Ritchie was ordained in September 1840 and died 10 March 1855. Ballyjamesduff united with Bellasis in 1925 and sermons ceased to be preached at Ballyjamesduff in 1980. The church has now been demolished.

PRONI has baptism and marriage records: baptisms from 1828 (with some gaps around the mid 1830s); marriages from 1845.

Some very limited records are held by the Presbyterian Historical Society at Church House, Belfast. These few pages seem to cover the initial years of the post John King era: all, even the witnesses names, in the handwriting of the Revd. John Ritchie. He always spells Byers as Byars.

Records from the Presbyterian Historical Society

(The Delap family were worshippers here - William Delap, his son John Delap, and daughters Ruth and Mary. See references in Griffith's Valuations)

Baptisms

Sara, 2nd daughter & 4th child of John **Byars** and Martha Coote of Tievenaman
Born 07 January 1835, baptised 02 February 1835

Jane, 8th child & 6th daughter of William **Byars** and Sarah Coote of Garnabragher
Born 26 January 1835, baptised 04 March 1835

James, 4th child & 2nd son of Samuel **Byars** and Jane Gibson of Garnabragher
Born 03 August 1835, baptised 13 August 1835

Marriages

29 November 1844 William Crawford & Jane Campbell
witnessed by Samuel Campbell & Elizabeth **Byars**

19 August 1845 John Brown & Ann Armstrong
witnessed by William Armstrong & Andy **McIlwaine**

More marriages follow on Page 11 below.

Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church

The following listing includes all the mentions of Byers (= Byars), along with some Coote, McIlwain(e) and Johnston listings (when they are in the husband's name). Coote has been included because of a belief that Robert Byers's father John (my great, great grandfather) might be the John who married Martha Coote. However, their son Robert was born in December 1830 which seems to be three years too early!

The list has been placed in family groupings, by date order, from the first-baptised child. Some baptisms seem to be missing – e.g. November / December 1833, plus longer gaps in 1834, 1835 and 1836 – and this coincides with the move of the Rev. John King to Bellasis. The three baptisms recorded by the Rev John Ritchie (see above) have also been included (and noted as such) in the following listings.

In amongst the baptismal records are the following two notes:

We John Hogg of Fintavin and James Byars of Drummallard agree to leave all matters in dispute between us to Mr. Rob. Morrow of Ballyjamesduff and Mr. Henry Stafford of Carrickmore. The Rev. John King to be called in as a third man if necessary.

Nov. 27. 1831 Signed John Hogg, James Byars [with a “e”!]
Cressarule

Lisafane, 18 April 1832

We Robert Henry, Aughalaghan, John Henry of Lisafane [or Lisafana?] and Robert Henry of same place hereby bind ourselves to give to James Henry, son to Robert Henry of Aughalaghan, the following quantity of land in the townland of Lisafane, viz. etc. ...

Baptisms (N.B. More have now (02.04.2012) been added, 1851–1875 and 1909–1979)

Jos[eph] McIlwain & Rachel McIlwain alias Rachel Wilson of Lisanymore

Mary, baptised 12.06.1826 [mother's alias not given for this baptism]

Anne, aged 4 days, baptised 26.12.1829 (mother “alias Rachel Wilson”)

Jane, aged 14 days, baptised 26.08.1834

Robert Henry & Margaret Henry alias Margaret Byars of Aughnalaghan, Ballyjamesduff

Fanny, aged 9 days, baptised 09.09.1826

Mary, aged 15 days, baptised 26.07.1828 (of “Aughalaghan”)

Henry Byars & Jane Byars alias Jane Hunter of Fintavin

Henry, aged 22 days, baptised 26.09.1826

James, aged 5 weeks, baptised 17.05.1829

Robert Harrison & Anne Harrison alias Anne Byars [no place-name given]

Thomas, aged 5 days, baptised 23.10.1826

Wm Henry & Sally Henry alias Sally [Sarah] Byars of Ballyjamesduff

Lydia, aged 5 days, baptised 05.11.1826

Sally, aged 4 days, baptised 18.02.1829 (now of Drumagolan)

Edward, aged 1 day, baptised 29.05.1831
(now Wm & Sarah Henry alias Sarah Byars of Drumagoland, Cong. Of Ballyjamesduff)

Additional note re. Edward:

“The infant was in a very poor state of health and little hopes
of its living were entertained.”

David, aged 7 days, baptised 28.12.1832 (Sarah Henry / Sarah Byars of Drumagoland)

George, aged 3 weeks, baptised 06.09.1835 (Sally Henry / Sally Byars of Drumagoland)

Thomas Coote & Jane Coote alias Jane Harrison of Cairne [looks like Cahn]

Robert, aged 4 days, baptised 17.12.1826

James, aged 6 days, baptised 13.04.1828 (now clearly “of Carne”)

Elizabeth, born 08.03.1830, baptised 21.03.1830

Isaac, born 21.06.1831, baptised 26.06.1831 (now looks like “Caine”)

Thomas Coote & Sarah Coote alias Sarah Byars of Killiduff

Sarah Anne, aged 10 days, baptised 18.02.1827

James Byars & Margaret Byars alias Margaret Clydesdale of Coronaden

Robert, aged 19 days, baptised 23.02.1827

Mary, aged 10 days, baptised 06.10.1829 (mother formerly “Clidesdale” & of Coroneden)

Archey [Archibald] Johnston & Betty Johnston alias Betty Byars of Lisanymore

Benjamin, aged 24 days, baptised 22.03.1827

Ja[me]s, born 10.06.1829, baptised 28.07.1829

(parents given as Archy & Eliza Johnstone alias Eliza Byars of Lisanymore)

Sally, born 22.09.1831, baptised 20.10.1831 (father now given as Arch^d)

William Coote & Sarah Coote alias Sarah Smith of Killiduff

Susannah, aged 2 days, baptised 26.04.1827

James, aged 12 days, baptised 14.04.1829

Robert Porter & Fanny Porter alias Fanny Byars of Denn [?], parish of Loghin [?], Co. Meath

Joseph, aged 2 days, baptised 04.05.1827

Hugh, aged 2 day, baptised 17.06.1829 (now of Dervee)

John* / [Joseph?] Byars & Esther Byars alias Esther Hogg of Lateaster

* (father’s name looks like Jov- ... but see next entries)

Samuel, aged 8 weeks and 6 days, baptised 09.05.1827

Thomas, born 14.01.1829, baptised 13.04.1829 (father’s name now given as John Byars)

Est[h]er, born 19.10.1830, baptised 01.12.1830 (again – John Byars is the father’s name)

David, born 06.09.1832, baptised 03.10.1832 (categorically John!)

Gordon, born 16.04.1835, baptised 26.04.1835 (yes, father is John Byars)

Esther, born 26.08.1836, baptised 04.09.1836

William Byars & Sarah Byars alias Sarah Coote of Gartnabraher

Esther, aged 14 days, baptised 20.05.1827

John, born 23.08.1829, baptised 30.08.1829 (mother given as Sally Byars / Sally Coote)

William, born 06.02.1832, baptised 11.02.1832

(given as Sally Byars / Sarah Coote of “Galnamragher”)

Jane, “8th child & 6th daughter”, born 26.01.1835, baptised 04.03.1835 (“of Garnabragher”)

(this entry from the notebook of Rev. J. Ritchie – see above)

James [Joseph?] Byars & Mary Byars alias Mary Harrison of Drummallard
Robert, aged 13 days, baptised 24.05.1827

Ben [Benjamin] Stafford & Jane Stafford alias Jane Byars of Cagahishee
Eliza, aged 3 weeks, baptised 06.07.1827

John Johnston & Anne Johnston alias Anne Johnston of Lisanymore, parish of Killincare
Anne, aged 12 days, baptised 03.08.1827
James, aged 3 days, baptised 06.10.1829 (father given as Jno Johnston; no townland given)
Mary, aged “about 1 month”, baptised 15.03.1832
Margaret, born 08.04.1834* [?], baptised 24.06.1834* [?]
(*Birth recorded as “8th April”, baptism as 24 June 1835 ... but by its placing this is likely
to be a misprint for 1834)
John, born 12.07.1836, baptised 23.07.1836
Archibald, [lacking birth details – my fault?], baptised 16.07.1838
Eliza, aged 4 months, baptised 12.03.1842

Samuel Byars & Sarah Byars alias Sally Gordon of Drumagolin
John, aged 7 days, baptised 10.11.1827
Ellen, born 02.04.1830, baptised 05.04.1830 (parents “Sally & Sam”, now of Drumagolan)
Margaret, born 17.08.1832, baptised 30.08.1832 (now Sarah Byars / Sarah Gordon of Drumagoland)
Sarah, aged 7 days, baptised 26.06.1835 (“of Drummagoland, cong. of Bellasis”)
Joseph, aged 4 days, baptised 24.12.1837 (“of Drumagoland”)

William Byars & Lydia Byars alias Lydia Porter of Gartnabraher
Lydia, aged 2 days, baptised 18.12.1827
Matthew, aged one fortnight, baptised 20.12.1829
Ja[me]s, [birth details missing or overlooked by me], baptised 19.10.1832

John Byars & Matty Byars alias Matty Byars of Lisgray
Robert, aged 3 days, baptised 11.01.1828
Joseph, aged 3 days, baptised 18.09.1836 (“of Lisgrey”)

Robert Byars & Sarah Byars alias Sarah Porter of Killiduff
Sarah, born 25.05.1827, baptised 04.06.1828

John Byars & Martha Byars alias Martha Coote of Tivnaman
Elizabeth, aged 4 days, baptised 22.07.1828
Robert, born 27.12.1830, baptised 08.01.1831 (of “Tievenaman”)
(*entry very faint – needs re-checking with original*)
James [or Joseph? Could be Jas or Jos!], born 25.12.1832, baptised 09.01.1833
(parents given as J^{no} & Matty Byars alias Matty Coote – no townland)
Sara, 2nd daughter & 4th child, born 07.01.1835, baptised 02.02.1835
(this entry from Rev J. Ritchie’s notebook – see above)
Jane, aged 1 day, baptised 06.12.1836 (Matty Byars / Matty Coote of Tivnaman)
Frances, aged nearly 3 weeks, baptised 07.06.1840 (John & Martha of Tivnaman)
Mary Anne, “aged 6 weeks on last Saturday” [sic!], baptised 25.12.1850
(parents given as as J^{no} & Matty Byars alias Matty Coote of Tivnaman)

Jos[eph] Porter & Betty Porter alias Betty Byars of Dervee
Sarah, aged 3 days, baptised 21.08.1828

Eliza, aged 2 days, baptised 23.02.1830 (townland looks like “Dacrewy”)

Thomas Coote & Eliza Coote alias Eliza Stafford of Killiduff, cong. of Ballyjamesduff
John, born 01.12.1828, baptised 06.12.1828
Sarah Jane, born 04.05.1833, baptised 26.05.1833
Julia, birth details not recorded (by me?), baptised 01.06.1835 }
Julia, born 01.02.1835, baptised 22.02.1835 } Why recorded twice ???!
Henry, born 23.04.1837, baptised 07.05.1837
Thomas, born 13.03.1839, baptised 10.04.1839
Eliza, no birth details available (my oversight?), baptised 24.04.1842

David Byars and Jane Byars, alias Jane Stephens of Claudagh
Jos[eph], aged 17 days, baptised 18.01.1829

James Coote & Isabella Coote alias Isabella Wight [Wright?] of Knocknaveagh
Isabella, aged 9 days, baptised 24.02.1829
John, aged 6 days, baptised 07.01.1831 (mother’s maiden name could be Wight or Might)

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

Samuel Byars & Jane Byars alias Jane Gibson of Gartnabraher
Mary Jane, aged 2 days, baptised 09.08.1829
Lydia, aged 3 days, baptised 12.02.1831
James, “4th child & 2nd son”, born 03.08.1835, baptised 13.08.1835 (“of Garnabragher”)

John Johnston & Mary Anne Johnston alias Mary Anne [xx]ill *indecipherable* of Gradum [?]
Henry, born 18.03.1830, baptised 09.04.1830

William Reilly & Sally Reilly alias Sally Byars alias Sally Porter of Galnaghan
William, born 23.07.1830, baptised 02.08.1830

Robert Porter & Fanny Porter alias Fanny Byers of Dervee
Eliza, aged 1 day, baptised 02.09.1830
Hugh, born 16.04.1834, baptised 16.04.1834 (“of Deaver [?], Co. Meath”)

Charles Coote & Bessy Coote alias Bessy Coote of Aston
Anne, born 03.10.1831, baptised 07.10.1831
John (shown as Jno), aged a fortnight, baptised 22.10.1833 – family now “of Cornagrove,
cong. of Ballyjamesduff”
Likely to be other children, not so far found in the records ...
Charles and David, twins, aged 4 days, baptised 02.04.1848 – family now “of Killaduff”
David, born 06.02.1851, baptised 23.02.1851 [presumably the twin called David had died]

Thomas Coote & Ellen Coote alias Ellen Buchanan of Killiduff, cong. of Ballyjamesduff
Sarah, born 11.12.1831, baptised 19.12.1831
John Robert, born 09.05.1833, baptised 22.05.1833
Jane, 17.02.1835, baptised 22.02.1835 (details of this entry are very unclear)
John Robert (shown as Jno Rob), born 09.04.1837, baptised 07.05.1837
Alicia, born 08.09.1839, baptised 27.09.1839

John Byars & Mary Byars alias Mary McFaddin of Galnamagher [*difficult to read*],
congr. of Ballyjamesduff
John, born 22.01.1832, baptised 25.01.1832

John Coote & Julia Coote alias Julia Martin of Killiduff
William, baptised Cavan 13.02.1832

Ballyjamesduff baptismal register, dated 17.03.1832 states: "Whilst visiting this day, I called on J^{no} Coote, son to Mrs Anne Coote of Killiduff, and he stated to me that his son William and the son of his wife Julia Martin or Julia Coote was baptised by Mr Denham [?] in Cavan on the 13th February."

Mary Anne, born 13.04.1834, baptised 26.04.1834
Sarah, aged 14 days, baptised 12.08.1835
Amelia, aged 3 weeks, baptised 08.07.1838

William Byars & Bell Byars alias Bell McGill of Drummallard
William, born 17.03.1832, baptised 18.03.1832

Joseph Porter & Eliza Porter alias Eliza Byars of Dervor, Co. Meath
John, aged 3 days, baptised 28.06.1832

William Byars & Sally Byars alias Sally Porter of Galnamragher
Mary Jane, born 05.02.1833, baptised 07.02.1833

James Johnston & Eliza Johnston alias Eliza Stafford of Lisanyore
Eliza, aged 3 months, baptised 10.05.1833

William Coote & Mary Anne Coote alias Mary Anne Wilson of Cairne
John, born 13.05.1833, baptised 25.05.1833

James Coote & Jane Coote alias Jane Pirrie [? or Perrin ?] of Killaduff, congr. of Ballyjamesduff
John, born 12.04.1834, baptised 26.04.1834
Julia, aged a fortnight, baptised 18.04.1836 (wife's maiden name looks like Perrin)

Jam[es ... page cuts off!] Byars & Margaret Byars alias Margaret Byars of Girsdon [?],
congr. of Bellasis

Margaret, born 15.01.1835, baptised 17.01.1835

John, aged 3 months, baptised 20.02.1842

(now of Coronaden, now clearly James ... presumably the same people?)

Sarah, born 16.02.1847, baptised 24.02.1847 (Coronaden)

James [shown as Jas], aged 1 month, baptised 25.09.1850 ("of Coronaden")

Atty [Arthur] Johnston & Maria Johnston alias Maria Tate of Lisanyore

Jos[eph] [*or Ja(me)s?*], aged a fortnight, baptised 24.08.1836

Maria, born 18.09.1838, baptised 23.09.1838 (but father's name given as "Arch^d")

Robert, aged 4 weeks & 4 days, baptised 02.03.1841 ("Atty ... of Lisnamore")

William, aged 13 days, baptised 17.05.1843

Mary Anne, born 01.09.1848, baptised 11.02.1849 ("Atty ... of Lisnamore")

William Byars & Susanna Byars alias Susanna Harrison of Drummagoland

Margaret, born 05.06.1836, baptised 18.06.1836

Jane, aged 3 weeks, baptised 04.11.1838 (now Susan Byars / Susan Harrison)

Mary, aged 5 weeks, baptised 09.06.1841

Susan, nearly 3 months old, baptised 26.07.1843 (Drumagoland)

Robert Byars & Margaret Byars alias Margaret Watson of Cornaneden
Anne Jane, born 23.10.1837, baptised 29.10.1837
Isabella, aged 1 month, baptised 01.08.1840 (family now “of Coronaden”)
William, aged about 5 weeks, baptised 01.02.1843
Eliza, aged 6 weeks, baptised 31.12.1850 (family now “of Drumagoland”)
Robert, born 01.03.1853, baptised 01.04.1853 (“of Drumagoland”)
John (“Jno”) and Margaret, born 25.08.1855,
“children of Robt and the late Margaret Byars alias Margaret Watson of Drumagolan”)

Henry Stafford & Jane Stafford alias Jane Byars of Bulavus [? Bellasis]
Anne, aged 8 days, baptised 13.06.1839
Mary, aged 1 month, baptised 09.09.1840 (family now “of Carrickmore”)
Robert, aged 3 weeks, baptised 10.04.1842 (still Carrickmore)
James, aged 6 weeks, baptised 20.05.1846
Hannah, born 11.06.1848, baptised 22.11.1848
Alex, aged 5 months, baptised 03.08.1850 (family now “of Shankill, parish of Ballymachugh”)

James Henry & Margaret Henry alias Margaret Byars of Drummagoland
Ja[me]s, aged 14 days, baptised 05.10.1839

John Byars & Sally Byars alias Sally Gordon of Drumagoland
Samuel, born 19.03.1840, baptised 05.04.1840

William Wilson & Judith Wilson alias Judith Condron of Balieaveagh
Joseph Byars, aged 12 days, baptised 19.07.1840 (so what is this Byers connection?)

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 with the Sally/Sarah Williamson in the previous entry.*

William Coote & Sally Coote alias Sally Brown [Bxxxx ?] of Lisanymore
William, aged a fortnight, baptised 16.07.1837

James and Jane Byars alias Jane Ritchie of Lisachapel [no alias given for the first birth]
John, born 22.05.1848, baptised 06.10.1848
Eliza, born 03.04.1850, baptised 22.05.1850
[same day as John and Anne Byars’s baby Anne – see below]

Robert and Sarah Byars alias Sarah Byars of Gallon [no alias given for the first birth]
William, born 11.07.1848, baptised 07.12.1848
William, born 14.02.[1850], baptised 03.07.1850 [presumably the first William had died]
Robert, born 18.02.1852, baptised 21.03.1852
Joseph (“Jos”), born 17.12.1853, baptised 22.02.1854 (“of Gallon, Killinkere”)

Sarah, aged 10 weeks, baptised 23.02.1856
Mary, born 02.10.1858, baptised 19.02.1859
Samuel, born 04.10.1860, baptised 12.03.1861
Esther, born 10.06.1862, baptised 28.02.1863 (mother's name spelt Byers)
[written as "born 10th June last" but could be "born 10th Jan last"?]
Eliza, born 26.09.1867, baptised 06.10.1867

Thomas and Lydia Byars, alias Lydia Byars of Fintavin

J^{os} [Joseph], aged 4 weeks, baptised 09.01.1849
Rob[ert], born 07.05.1851, baptised 16.09.1851
Jane, born 18.02.1854, baptised 26.04.1854
Sarah, born 13.11.1855, baptised 28.04.1856
Lydia, born 25.07.1857, baptised 04.10.1858
Samuel, born 15.09.1858, baptised (with Lydia) 04.10.1858 ("Lydia Byers")
William, born 29.03.1860, baptised 23.07.1861 (again "Byers")

Thomas and Jane McIlwain alias Jane Harrison of Lisnamore

William, born 11.03.1849, baptised 21.04.1849
Mary Anne, born 14.09.1851, baptised 24.09.1851
Thomas, born 21.12.1856, baptised 28.01.1857

John and Anne Byars alias Anne Fagan of Lisachople

Margaret, born 06.05.1848 [double check in case 1849!], baptised 09.06.1849
Anne, born 20.09.[1849], baptised 22.05.1850 [father given as J^{no}]
Sarah, born 27.06.1851, baptised 27.03.1852
John ("Jno"), born 02.06.1853, baptised 19.06.1853
Hugh, "aged 3 weeks", baptised 27.03.1855

George and Anne Wilson alias Anne Byars of Coronaden

Thomas, aged 3 months, baptised 23.08.1849
George, age 9 weeks, baptised 21.01.1852
(son to George and Nancy Wilson alias Nancy Byars of Drumagoland)
NB: my assumption that is the same family ...
George, aged 7 weeks, baptised 22.04.1855 ("to Geo. and Nancy") –
first George had presumably died.

Alex Stafford & Lydia Stafford alias Lydia Byars of Carrickmore

Alex, aged 10 weeks, baptised 02.11.1849
Samuel, born 20.09.1851, baptised ???? (father given as "Sandy")
Robert, born 05.09.1853, baptised ???? (father now Alex; and now "of Coraneden")
John, aged 8 weeks, baptised 09.02.1855 ("of Carrickmore")
Jane, born 01.09.1856, baptised ???? (father now Sandy; "of Carrickmore"; Byers now spelt as here)
Thomas, born 06.01.1858, baptised 19.02.1858
David, born 01.08.1859, baptised ???? ("of Carrickmore")
(*Griffith's Valuation* gives an Alexander Stafford renting land in Tievenaman townland in Co. Cavan, 1856.)
(I have a note from a web source* which stated that Lydia's parents were Samuel Byers and Jane Gibson.)
*Kim Reynolds on genforum genealogy.com re Staffords in Cavan, posted 12 Feb 2011

William and Eliza Jameson alias Eliza Byars of Killaduff

Sarah, aged 6 weeks, baptised 30.12.1849
Martha, born 29.06.1851, baptised 13.07.1851
Jane, "aged about a month", baptised 20.06.1853

William, born 21.06.1855, baptised 22.07.1855
Eliza, born 15.11.1858, baptised 28.11.1858
Ellen, born 20.10.1860, baptised 06.12.1860
Margaret, born 17.04.1865, baptised 26.05.1865

Thomas and Margaret Bertram alias Margaret Byars
Robert, aged 1 month, baptised 11.12.1850

Ed[ward] and Mary Byars alias Mary Williamson of Drummalland
Hugh, "a month old", baptised 03.09.1851
Mary Jane, born 03.04.1854, baptised 21.05.1854
James, born 18.10.1858, baptised 15.12.1858
Anne Eliza, born 25.12.1862, baptised 17.12.1863

Joseph and Rachel Byars, alias Rachel McElwaine of Coronaden
Thomas and William, baptised 16.05.1852
Mary Anne, born 26.02.1854, baptised 09.04.1854 (mother's alias "Rachel McIlwain")
Rachel, born 28.08.1856, baptised 28.09.1856 (mother's alias "Rachel McIlwaine")
Margaret Jane, born 27.08.1858, baptised 19.09.1858 ("Rachel McIlwain")
Joseph (Jos.), born 15.02.1861, baptised 08.03.1861 ("son of Joe & Rachel Byers ... McIlwain")
James, born 29.06.1869, baptised 14.07.1869 ("son of Joe & Rachel Byers ... McIlwaine")

William and Hannah Byars alias Hannah Burns of Cornaden
William, born 14.02.1855, baptised 12.04.1855

Thomas and Sally Watson alias Sally McIlwain of Fintavin
James, born 30.05.1855, baptised 24.06.1855

James and Jane Watson alias Jane Byars of Fintavin
Margaret Jane, born 06.01.1856, baptised 03.03.1856
Mary Anne, baptised 22.08.1858
Sarah, born 18.08.1860, baptised 28.10.1860
Esther, born 09.02.1863, baptised 18.06.1863 ("alias Jane Byers")
James, born 11.08.1865, baptised 08.12.1865 ("alias Jane Byers")
Thomas, born 22.06.1867, baptised 07.01.1868 ("alias Jane Byers")

John (Jno.) and Fanny McIlwaine[e] (page is cut off at this point) alias Fanny McGuire of Lisnamore
Rachel, "3 weeks old", baptised 11.10.1858
Mary Jane, born 03.01.1860, baptised 13.01.1860 (mother is spelt McIlwaine)
Mary Anne, born 03.07.1862, baptised 25.07.1862 (this time McIlwain)
Margaret, born 20.01.1864, baptised 27.01.1864
Joseph, born 30.04.1866, baptised 30.05.1866
Fanny, born 12.12.1868, baptised 17.03.1869
Eliza Anne, born 12.04.1870, baptised 24.05.1870 (now "McIlwaine")
Sarah, born 22.10.1872, baptised 19.12.1872 (still "McIlwaine")
Fanny Jane, "aged 10 weeks", baptised 24.12.1875

Joseph and Martha Byers (*sic*) alias Martha Gilmore of Coronaden

Margaret Jane, born 01.07.1860, baptised 22.07.1860

Martha, born 02.10.1861, baptised 01.11.1861

Mary Anne, born 26.02.1865, baptised 29.03.1865

John James, born 20.08.1870, baptised 09.10.1870

Eliza, born 24.02.1873, baptised 23.03.1873 (mother is spelt "Gilmir")

Joseph Henry, born 14.08.1875, baptised 05.12.1875 (mother is spelt "Gilmer")

NB: The Mormon FamilySearch website gives the birth of another son, Thomas, on 18.11.1877 – this would most likely be the future Rev. Thomas Byers (see 1st Bailieborough / Corglass Church).

James and Anne Doughty alias Anne McIlwain of Lisnamore

Mary Jane, born 02.05.1867, baptised 22.05.1867

Rachel, born 25.05.1868, baptised 05.08.1868

William, born 15.10.1870, baptised 30.11.1870 (now "McIlwaine")

John and Anne Jane Byers alias Anne Jane Barron of Stramawherthy

Mary Jane, born 03.01.1875, baptised 02.04.1875

1875-1909 gap to be filled eventually

Robert and Elizabeth Byers, née Johnson

Martha Jane, born 20.12.1909

Maria, baptised 02.05.1912

Robert, born 06.09.1913

Mary Ann, born 07.03.1916 (mother now given as "Johnston")

Henry and Mary Jane Byers, née Crookshank

John Samuel Mottram, born 26.11.1912

Emma Jane, born 26.02.1914

Thomas and Sarah Coote, née Byers

Elizabeth Jane, born 24.01.1914

David, born 14.04.1916

Thomas William, born 24.08.1920

Ada Martha, born 10.11.1924

Joseph and Katie E. Byers, née Pratt

William Francis Stuart, born 19.07.1917

Joseph and Jane Byers, née Mitchell

James Samuel Mitchell, born 27.11.1927

Denzil Joseph, born 19.05.1929

Audrey Frances Ellen, born 13.02.1934

Samuel and Martha Byers, [presumably née Byers?]

George Samuel Robert, born 17.10.1936

John Joseph, born 20.05.1938

William Henry, born 11.04.1941

I also have a few others, up to 1979, ... but probably too recent to list here.

Marriages – see also Page 1

These next marriages were traced through the Dublin Civil Registry Office. They were in Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church and the marriages were solemnised by Rev John Ritchie.

“Registrar’s District of Oldcastle. Marriage solemnized at Cressrule in the Parish of Castleraghan ...”

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father’s Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|----------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 05 February 1846 | Robert Byars | 20 | Bachelor | Farmer | Gallumna- bragher | Samuel Byars | Farmer |
| | Jane Byars | 22 | Spinster | - | Fintavin | Joseph Byars | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Witnesses were | Thomas Bertram Robert Byars |
|----------------|--------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father’s Name | Rank or Profession |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 15 January 1850 | James Byars | 25 | Bachelor | Farmer | Claudaugh | David Byars | Farmer |
| | Mary Ann Clarke | 21 | Spinster | - | Gradane | Robert Clarke | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Witnesses were | Catherine Gordon William Byars |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|

NB: the fathers’ names in the above registration are given in the wrong order in the Civil Register.

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father’s Name | Rank or Profession |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 31 January 1850 | William Byars | 22 | Bachelor | Farmer | Claudaugh | William Byars deceased | Farmer |
| | Fanny Byars | 18 | Spinster | - | Claudaugh | Robert Byars | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Witnesses were | Joseph Byars John Smith |
|----------------|----------------------------|

“Registrar’s District of Oldcastle. Marriage solemnized at Cressrule in the Parish of Castleraghan ...”

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father’s Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 20 March 1850 | Robert Byars | 20 | Bachelor | Farmer | Claudaugh | Robert Byars | Farmer |
| | Margaret O’Hara | 18 | Spinster | - | Seafin | Thomas O’Hara deceased | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Witnesses were | William O’Hara Joseph O’Hara |
|----------------|---------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 21 February 1853 | Joseph Byers | full age | Bachelor | Teacher | Claudaugh | David Byers | Farmer |
| | Isabella Strong | full age | Spinster | - | Cavanacolter | Oliver Strong | Farmer |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----|----------|--------|-------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 16 December 1853 | Thomas Newell | 25 | Bachelor | Farmer | Drumahollow | Thomas Newell deceased | Farmer |
| | Anne Byars alias Smyth | 29 | Widow | - | Derrylurgan | Robert Byars | Farmer |

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 07 February 1855 | John Byars | 24 | Bachelor | Farmer | Gallenma- bragher | William Byars | Farmer |
| | Ellen Kellet | 18 | Spinster | - | Farther Ailler (?) | John Killet [Kellet?] | Farmer |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Witnesses included | William Coote |
|--------------------|---------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 22 February 1855 | Mark McCanley | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Crosserlough | - | Farmer |
| | Elizabeth Coote | full age | Spinster | - | Carne | Thomas Coote | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Witnesses were | William Whyte John Coote |
|----------------|-----------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 26 February 1857 | Thomas Gordon | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Tullybog | Robert Gordon | Farmer |
| | Eliza Coote | full age | Spinster | - | Carne | William Coote | Farmer |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------|---------|--------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| 24 June 1857 | Joseph Porter | full age | Widower | Farmer | Derrylurgan | James Porter | Farmer |
| | Catherine [Byers alias] Weir | full age | Widow | - | Derrylurgan | Robert Byars | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| Witnesses were | Robert Hogg Hugh Porter |
|----------------|----------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 25 November 1858* | James Byers | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Cornagrove | William Byers | Farmer |
| | Sarah Richardson | 19 | Spinster | - | Mountnugent | M Richardson | Blacksmith & Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Witnesses were | John Smith John Coote |
|----------------|--------------------------|

* This month should be double-checked for accuracy

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 27 June 1867 | Thomas Byers | 'of age' | Bachelor | Farmer | Gartnabragher | William Byers | Farmer |
| | Ann Jane Coote | 'of age' | Spinster | - | Caran | William Coote | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Witnesses were | William Pratt Joseph Coote |
|----------------|-------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 29 January 1870 | Andrew Henry | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Aughaloughin | Robert Henry | Farmer |
| | Jane Byers | full age | Spinster | - | Gortnabraher | William Byers | Farmer |

See additional note on Page 18.

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|--------------------|----------------|----------|-----------|--------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|
| 14 July 1873 | John Byers | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Cornagrove | Henry Byers | Farmer |
| | Jane Coote | full age | Spinster | - | Parish of ???? <i>Indecipherable!</i> | Charles Coote | Farmer |

See additional note re this family on Page 18.

Note: Rachel McIlwaine (so signed) was a witness at the wedding on 27.05.1875 of John Watson, Fintavin, Parish of Lurgan, and Jane Heaslip, Moher, Parish of Denn

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 April 1876 | John Byers | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Gartnabraher Psh of Lurgan | William Byers | Farmer |
| | Jane Byers | full age | Spinster | - | ditto | Robert Byers | Farmer |

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Witnesses were | James Byers Jane Stafford |
|----------------|------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 (?) Sept 1879 | Robert Chambers | full age | Widower | Farmer | Carrickahester Psh of Killincare | William Chambers | Farmer |
| | Lydia Byers | full age | Spinster | - | Aughaloughin Psh of Lurgan | Robert Byers | Farmer |

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 27 Dec 1882 | Joseph Byers | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Derrylaghan Psh of Denn | Joseph Byers | Farmer |
| | Mary Jane Porter | 18 | Spinster | - | Glagah ? Parish of Castleraghan | Hugh Porter | Farmer |

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 02 June 1909 | William O'Hara | full age | Widower | Steward | Mullingar | Thomas O'Hara | deceased |
| | Katie Eleanor Byers | full age | Spinster | - | Ahalohan | John Byers | Farmer |

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 Oct 1912 | Thomas Coote | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Cornagrove | David Coote | Farmer |
| | Sarah Byers | full age | Spinster | - | Cornagrove | John Byers | Farmer |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Witnesses included | Martha Coote |
|--------------------|--------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 19 June 1918 | William Roe | full age | Bachelor | Farmer | Curraheel | Matthew Roe | Farmer |
| | Mary Byers | full age | Spinster | - | Ahagashel | Samuel Byers | Farmer |

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 Aug 1945 | Nathaniel Small | full age | Bachelor | Presb. Minister | Newry | James Small | Farmer |
| | Gladys Mary Byers | full age | Spinster | Doctor | Ballyjamesduff | James Byers | Merchant |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Witnesses included | Marjorie Virginia Byers |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 July 1948 | William Moore Boland | full age | Bachelor | Presb. Minister | Ballynahinch | William Moore Boland | Farmer |
| | Cora Jean Kathleen Byers | full age | Spinster | Almoner | Cornagrove | James Byers | Merchant |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Witnesses included | Marjorie Virginia Byers |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|

| When married | Name & Surname | Age | Condition | Rank or Profession | Residence at time of marriage | Father's Name | Rank or Profession |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 16 Aug 1951 | William John Fleming | full age | Bachelor | Civil Servant | Portadown | David Coote | William John Fleming deceased |
| | Marjorie Virginia Byers | full age | Spinster | Teacher | Ballyjamesduff | James Byers | Merchant |

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Witnesses included | J*** (difficult to read) Byers |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|

Miscellaneous notes from Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church Session Book

[On the] last Wednesday of October 1848 the Presbytery of Bailieborough met in Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church and ordained the following [five] elders ... Mr William **Byars** and Mr Samuel **Byars**.

03 August 1851

Session met and after prayer were present J Ritchie Modr., Wm. **Byars** and Wm. Coote. The names of credible persons were mentioned from whom members of session had heard of a statement to the effect that Mr Samuel **Byars**, Elder, had been guilty of the sin of drunkenness.

Revd. J. Ritchie and Mr Wm. **Byars** were appointed to converse with him during the week in accordance Sect.2 par.3 Code of Discip. Page 57 and report to Session.

Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church – graveyard listings

My wife and I visited Ballyjamesduff on Monday 17 September 2001 and met a GP's daughter, aged c.65 who remembered various Byers connections in the town. One shop-front then survived, the building derelict, with BYERS above the window (we returned in summer 2007 to photograph the shop, but, alas! it had gone).

She told us that "Old Mr Byers owned the hotel (presumably what was more recently, if not then, the Percy French Hotel), lots of property (houses, she said), and a grocery shop which also sold chips." All the family were long gone, the son John had moved to Dublin. She thought Mr Fosse, a member of Ballyjamesduff Church of Ireland, was an expert on local history, and might have more information. He lives at Killdorrigh.

Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church had closed in the 1980s; it was now a building site. Most burials had taken place at Bellasis Presbyterian Church – but there was a very old, now closed, cemetery at the top of Piggery Hill at a bad bend on the Virginia road out of Ballyjamesduff.

After a brief look around the few graves at Ballyjamesduff Church of Ireland (nothing relevant was found) we set off for the Piggery Hill cemetery, which we found behind old, locked, and very rusty gates. Sure enough there were some gravestones standing amongst the very long wet grass. There may well have been other stones under the grass and out of sight.

Several ditches (perhaps dug out in more recent times?) traversed the graveyard down towards a modern bungalow, whose occupant, a manic lady who walked very fast and incessantly mumbled to herself, showed us to the graveyard and said the gate was open before leaving us alone. Clearly it hadn't been opened in years.

I scrambled over the stone wall and immediately found some Byers graves. A couple were highly ornate and substantial, particularly that erected by James Byers of Derrylaghan House in loving memory of his father William Byers of Cornacrove House.

The details from the stones which I could decipher are listed below. Sadly there was much evidence of vandalism, though some of this may have been caused by falling tree branches. The place is gradually going to rack and ruin. There were some graves in the name of Morrow – and these:

1. Samuel Byers, Pollomalady, died 29 November 1960, aged 74 [born c.1886]
& his son William Henry Byers, died 17 May 1998, aged 57 [born c.1941]
2. William Byers, died 7 July 1936 [born c.????]
& his wife Sarah, died 20 March 1966, aged 89 [born c.1877]
3. Jane Byers, died 4 August 1961, aged 70 [born c.1891]
& her husband Joseph, died 25 February 1974, aged 76 [born c.1898]
4. “Erected by / James Byers / Derrylaghan House / in loving memory / of his father / William Byers / Cornaceore House / who died 5 June / 1875 aged 77” [born c.1798]
5. “Jane Byers / Cornaceore House / in loving memory of / father William Byers / who died 5 June 1875 / aged 77 years / and of Sarah, wife to / the above William Byers / who died 2 November 1891 / aged 73 years / also of my sons William / who died 12 November 1883 / aged 21 years / John who died [indecipherable number – like a capital L] February 1893 / aged 25 years”
[William born c.1798; his wife Sarah Byers, born c.1818; Jane’s sons William, born c.1862 & John born c.1868]
6. “Erected by James Byers / Cornacrove / in memory of his parents / John Byers, died January 1924 / Jane Byers, died June 1928 / their son John, died November 1912 / also James Byers, died March 1919”

There appear to be differing versions of Cornacrove, Cornaceore or Cornagrove. However, the stones in some cases are very difficult to decipher.

Also in this graveyard ...

Rev. John Ritchie, Presbyterian minister, died 10 March 1855, aged 42
(It was he who kept the Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church Session minutes for 1835 etc.)

Rev. Samuel Kennedy, ordained Ballyjamesduff 1793, died 12 June 1842,
& Elizabeth his wife
also Samuel, died 1884, his wife Elizabeth
Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel Kennedy etc.
(It was he who was listed in the 1821 census as having an Eliza Byers as a house servant)

Additional information/research – on the next page

Additional information/research

1.

Edwina Maiden (from Australia, 03.11.1998) was/is searching for the relatives of **William Byers**, who was baptised on 1 February 1843 at Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church. William went to Australia in 1868 with his sister Isabella but Edwina had been unable to locate any shipping records.

William's parents were **Robert Byers & Margaret Watson** in the townlands of Coronaden and Drumagoland. See Page 7 above.

Edwina had received information from a lady in Queensland, Australia, back in the early 1980s but was now unable to find her address. This lady was also tracing the Byers Family and had quite a lot of information about it. Edwina wrote, "I am also not sure where she got her info from, but I think she actually wrote to the church – she suggested I write to the Reverend Gentleman at Billis Ballyjamesduff Rectory if I wanted to find out more. This is the information the lady gave me:

"Reverend King spelt Byers as Byars. Baptisms performed by Reverend John King AM at the Presbyterian Church of Ballyjamesduff & Billis."

2.

Lyz Staman from Seattle, USA, writes:

"I am directly related to William Byars & Sarah Byars alias Sally Coote and their daughter Jane, '8th child & 6th daughter', born 26.01.1835, baptised 04.03.1835 ('of Garnabragher'). Jane Byers married my great grandfather Andrew Henry, of Aghaloughan.

"My grandfather John Morrow (1877-1954) was the son of William George Morrow and Elizabeth Morrison of Clare townland. He was married in Ballyjamesduff Presbyterian Church in 1897 to Lizzie Henry (1875-1967) who was the daughter of Andrew Henry and Jane Byers of Aghaloughan townland. John and Lizzie emigrated from Ireland to Winnipeg in 1902."

Her Morrow relatives are buried in 'The Piggery' cemetery in Ballyjamesduff.

3.

S.C. Matthews (in February 2007) was looking for more information on the family of John Byers and Jane Coote. The following children of John and Jane Byers were listed:

Henry, born 1873

David, born 1875

Martha, born 1877 (probably emigrated from Ireland to Australia)

Mary Jane, born 1879 (probably emigrated from Ireland to Australia)

John and James, twins, born 1881

William, born 1884 (emigrated from Ireland to USA, became a NYC firefighter; grandfather of S.C. Matthews)

Sarah, born 1886