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69 Grosvenor Square
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25 June, 1991

Dr T E Starzl
Falk Clinic
3601 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh
Pa. 15213

Dear Dr Starzl,

I enclose report on our recent visit to Clonbullogue, together with photographs taken on the day.

The video film will follow soon - at present we are arranging to have this film transferred from the European to U.S. system in order that you can use it on your video player.

We hope you get much enjoyment from seeing the area where your grandparents once lived.

Your manuscript (pages 1-567) has arrived. We feel very honoured to be permitted this preview of your forthcoming book.

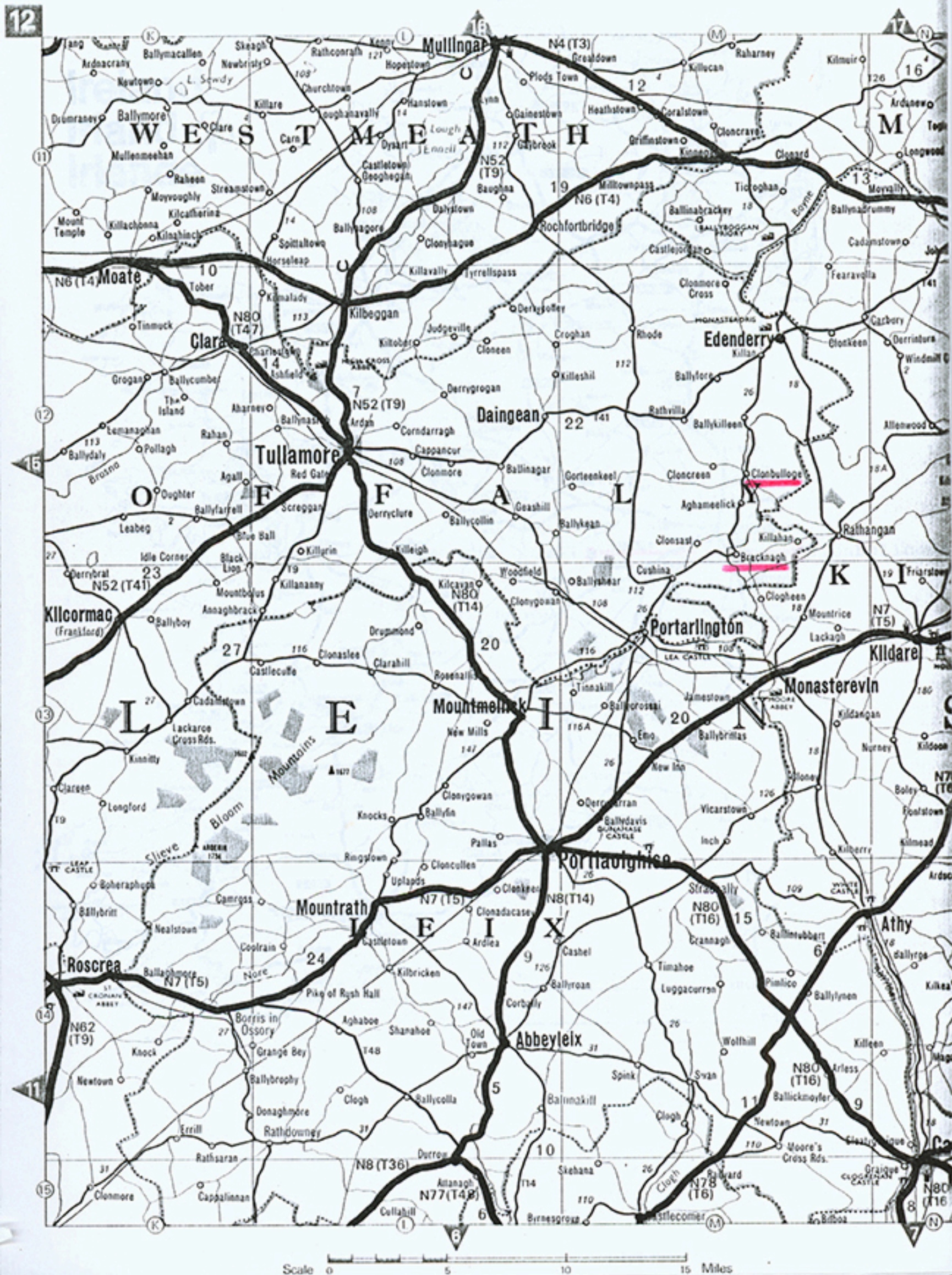
We have been totally absorbed in reading it since it arrived and, with each page, we become more and more grateful that you chose to devote your life to finding out the answers to so many seemingly unresolvable questions.

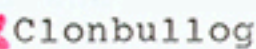
It is my aim to keep a copy of your published book for Colin, for when he is old enough to understand and be grateful for all you have done for him, and for us.

Best wishes with your endeavours to complete in time for the publishers.

Yours sincerely,


Margaret McStay





TO: DR T E STARZL:

On Monday June 3, 1991, we travelled to Clonbullogue (translation from Gaelic: 'The Meadow of the Hairy Warriors' - warriors of Irish folklore who dressed in animal skins). Clonbullogue, in County Offaly, is a small village approx. 35 miles west of Dublin City.

There were 5 in the party - Leonard McStay, Colin McStay, Mick Bourke (my brother, who agreed to act as video cameraman and photographer), Mick's girlfriend, Margaret, and me.

We travelled along the village main street, containing school, Catholic church, health offices, shops and private dwellings.

We located the parish priest's house approx. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the village. We were made very welcome there by Fr Michael Foyne and his housekeeper, Kathleen. We were shown the registers containing baptism and marriage certificates of **Thomas Fitzgerald** and **Catherine (Kate) Mangan**. (See attached photographs.)

Thomas Fitzgerald was baptised on September 14, 1862. There is no record on this register of his date of birth but most baptisms in Ireland at that time were carried out within one/two days of birth. Thomas's parents were **Thomas** and **Mary Fitzgerald** from the townland of Clonbrock ('The Meadow of the Badger'). It is likely (although I didn't check) that this baptism took place in the Catholic church at Bracknagh, a tiny village closer to Clonbrock than Clonbullogue, the church which the family would have attended for Sunday Mass and other occasions of prayer. The sponsors (godparents) were Pat Ryan and Julia Casey.

	Name	Parents	Residence	Sponsors	Date
1861	Joseph Wm. Donnelly & Eliza Allen	Clonsast	Bernard & Mary	15th	
Sept 14th	John Donnelly & Mary Wynn	Clonsast	Mr. Connor & Bridget	15th	
"	Eliza John & Mary Fitzgerald	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Julia	15th	
Sept 21	Catherine of St. Peter & Maria Curry	Clonsast	Mr. Farrell & Mary	15th	
28	John & Anne	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
Oct 2	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
Oct 5	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
"	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
"	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
Oct 19	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
26	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	
Nov 1	John & Eliza	Clonsast	Mr. Ryan & Mary	15th	

Catherine Mangan was baptised on August 29, 1870. Her parents' names are given as James Mangan and Catherine Kelly (maiden name), also of Clonbrock. This register is in a different format so I did not obtain details of godparents. (I will request a copy of the birth certificate from Fr. Foynes).

The marriage between Thomas Fitzgerald and Catherine (Kate) Mangan took place on 16 April, 1891 at the Oratory attached to the (then) Parish Priest's house at Clonmore ('The Large Meadow'), which is situated closer to the village of Clonbulloge than the church at Bracknagh. (See photographs).

The witnesses are named as Richard Mangan and Margaret Conlon. The register shows that a dispensation was granted by the Catholic Bishop of the day, allowing the marriage to take place, because the bride and groom were closely related. The register states that the dispensation relates to consanguinity in the 3rd degree. (Note: According to the Catholic Information Office in Dublin, this refers to second cousins).

Fr Foynes escorted us to the oratory at Clonmore. The building is approached from the main road by a tree-lined avenue. It is attached to the left of the former parish priests' residence which in turn is back-to-back with what was formerly the catholic curates' home. This housing arrangement was abandoned with the sale of the buildings and the surrounding land into private ownership in 1975. (The present owners are a family from Wales who breed horses in the surrounding meadows).

The oratory has fallen into a state of disrepair - with the owners' permission we entered through a window in order to open the door from inside.

ORATORY AT CLONMORE:

INTERIOR OF ORATORY AT CLONMORE:



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The Oratory measures approx. 60 ft. long by 25 feet wide, the altar rails are still in situ and much of the mural with a religious theme which formed the backdrop for the altar is still visible on the wall. To the left of the altar there is a small ante-room. This room was probably used by the priests for vesting and perhaps also for the bride and groom to complete the marriage register following the ceremony.

Our next stop was in the village of Bracknagh, about 3 miles from Clonbrock and equidistant from Clonbullogue, to see the church there. The original christening font is still there and still in use today for baptisms.

Fr Foyne then escorted us to Clonbrock to see the Mangan family home. He had arranged for us to meet Austin Murphy there. Mr Murphy explained that his mother, Kathleen Mangan, was a cousin of Catherine Mangan, their fathers being brothers. Kathleen went to live for a time with her cousins in Clonbrock on the death of her own mother. In time, she returned to her family home and later married a farmer from Co. Wexford, William Murphy. The couple moved to Dublin but, some time later, they returned to Clonbrock to nurse Richard Mangan (Mr Murphy thinks he was possibly a brother of Catherine), who had become ill. When Richard died, Kathleen and William Murphy took over the running of the farm and raised 8 children in the small thatched cottage. The cottage, where Austin continues to live, is now extended at both sides but much of its original character remains. He had a kettle suspended on a chain over fuel laid directly on the hearthstone. This form of heating water and cooking food is now almost non-existent in Ireland. In contrast, he had a modern television set and an electric radio in his parlour kitchen. The house, before extension, would have had just one other room.

AUSTIN MANGAN-MURPHY outside his home in Clonbrock
(birthplace of Kate Mangan)



Birthplace of Kate Mangan:



Austin Murphy is a man of approx. 60 years of age. He's very articulate but he also gives the impression of being quite nervous and highly-strung. He is a bachelor. He told us that the farm, which was originally 55 acres when his parents took it over, now extends to over 100 acres. His main interest appears to be in Charolais cattle, of which he has approx. 100. His brother, who lives nearby, shares the farm. He also has a sister living in a Victorian house in the area.

When we talked of **Thomas** and **Kate**, Austin Murphy described them as "childhood sweethearts" who went everywhere together and walked hand-in-hand to school. (Because of the 8-year age difference, this is unlikely but the story has presumably been handed down through the generations).

Mr Murphy was delighted to have news of his second cousin in the United States. (He had watched television coverage of Colin's illness and subsequent transplant during 1984). He opened a bottle of Irish whiskey in celebration of the occasion. Later, he brought us outside to view the farmyard. At this point he suddenly indicated a ruin across the road from the farmyard and told us that this was the former **Fitzgerald** family home. All that remains today is the sidewall of the house. We approached to take pictures but Austin Murphy appeared reluctant to spend too much time on this land.

We spent some further time talking in the Mangan farmyard before departing. Back in Clonbullogue we took some video-camera footage of the main street.

I hope that the above report on sequence of events will be an aid when viewing the video film of the area.

Birthplace of Kate Mangan



Birthplace of Thomas Fitzgerald




On Sunday, June 9, 1991, Leonard (McStay) received a telephone call from a former schoolmate of his, **Tom Fitzgerald**, who now works as an accountant and resides in Monasterevin, Co. Kildare (a short distance from Clonbrock).

He had heard locally about our visit and he wanted to inform us that his brother owns the farm across the road from Austin's farm.

Tom's grandfather was a brother of **Thomas Fitzgerald** and had emigrated to the United States some time before the wedding of **Thomas and Kate**. After the wedding, the family requested him to return home and run the farm. **Thomas and Kate**, according to Tom, were dispatched to the United States. (Fr Foynes' version of the story is that they eloped).

Tom understands that there was some degree of rivalry between the Mangans and Fitzgeralds of Clonbrock, stemming from the fact that there was a belief that the Fitzgeralds had more money than the Mangans.

Tom Fitzgerald has undertaken to provide as much information as he can glean from family and relatives if this is required in the future.


Margaret McStay

June, 1991.