## STREETE PARISH CENSUS

This is a transcription of a "census" of Streete parish, which has sometimes been supposed to have been compiled in 1855. It appears in the Roman Catholic parish register. At the top of the first page some unidentified antiquary has written the words "Written about 1855". At the end I shall present my reasons for reckoning that the actual year of compilation was 1856 .

Streete is a Roman Catholic parish within the diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, and is coterminous with the civil parish of Street. The majority of its territory, comprising 35 townlands, is in County Westmeath, but eighteen townlands are in County Longford.

This is a census in a specialized sense only, but, as it is an every-name census so far as it goes, it could be of great value to any researcher who is lucky enough to find a family of interest in it. It shows a high degree of correspondence with Griffith's primary Valuation of Tenements (dated 1854 for this parish), in the surnames and usually even in the full names found in the townlands covered, although for some of the smaller townlands the results are disappointing. Sometimes it even shows a surprising degree of correspondence with the Tithe Applotment book, compiled in 1826.

It was evidently conducted by or under the direction of the parish priest in order to enumerate his Catholic parishioners and determine which of them had not been confirmed nor had made their first communion. The procedures according to which the information was recorded are not spelled out, but from the notations at the end of the first three townlands it is clear that the age of children under 9 was recorded, and in addition the age of persons 9 or older was given if either the confirmation or the first communion was lacking. From a comparison of these notations with the individual data, it is clear that "over 9 years" means "having attained to their ninth birthday" (although in the third and last townland for which this notation is given, the totals are incorrect).

The enumeration is organized according to townland (sometimes, however, combining two townlands in one, and sometimes, it seems, treating as a separate townland what is really a place within a townland), and then by families, the families within the townland being clearly separated. Heads of families, or head couples, are identified as such for the most part, as are lodgers and servants; in addition, the record sometimes indicates that there was a married couple within the list of the head's relatives, or within a group of lodgers or of servants, although it is impossible to be sure that this was done consistently. So in several ways the information in this enumeration, as far as it goes, is superior to, for instance, that in the 1834 census found in the Roman Catholic register of Granard parish, which gives no ages, specifies no relationships, and does not show where each family begins and leaves off.

It should be borne in mind that because of the purpose for which this census was compiled, it is almost certain that only the Catholics in the parish were enumerated. (By way of contrast, in the 1834 Granard census just mentioned, aside from the townland in which they resided, the evident intention is to list every individual residing in the parish, and the only information given about individuals is for the purpose of distinguishing them as to religious denomination: Catholic, Protestant [i.e.

Church of Ireland], or Presbyterian.) The non-Catholics were probably not numerous, but it is certain that there were a few residing in some of these townlands.

Unfortunately the survey or at least the record of it that we have was not completed, and in addition an indeterminate number of pages are missing. The townlands that were enumerated were those in the southwest end of the parish, comprising perhaps half or less than half of the majority portion of the parish that was in County Westmeath, and none of the minority portion that was in County Longford.

Running totals of the townland population are usually given at the bottom of each page and brought forward to the top of the next. But there are no totals for the parish as a whole, and hence, when we get to where there are pages missing, it is impossible to estimate how many are missing and to be sure how many of the townlands that we have are incomplete. I shall add more on this and related points in my remarks at the end.

For what it's worth, I am setting up this transcription so that if it were printed out double-sided and put into a binder, left-hand pages would be on the left and righthand pages on the right. Anything in italics means that it seems to have been added by somebody, probably a researcher, at some later time, unless accompanied by
square brackets, in which case it means that I found the writing illegible or could not be sure of the correct reading. Where it is necessary to add a footnote, it is in roman type and in square brackets.

The manuscript makes extensive use of curly brackets, or sometimes mere wavy vertical lines, to link anywhere from two to eight names for one reason or another. If there is a way to make such multi-line curly brackets on this word-processor, I haven't been able to find it. As a makeshift equivalent I use columns of round end-brackets. Note that there is one place (Barradrum, family 3) where a later annotator used a curly bracket to join the names of a pair of twins so as to give their year of birth; accordingly, in this place the brackets are in italics. Where two persons are bracketed together and a single set of replies in the far-right columns applies equally to both (typically, the head of family and his wife), I have had to choose which line to type those replies on, and have consistently chosen the second.

John McDonald Pepper, December 2014
(revised July 2015)



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[Note: Family 9, 7th person: The word looks like "Elisha", but that seems improbable to me - am I wrong? Last 2 columns smudged (erased?).]

## Names and Town Lands



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[Note: in family 13, I think my transcription probably reflects the intention, but it is not certain, because the first four pairs of "yes" on the right are not well aligned with the names on the left $\&$ the number of entries on the right is one too few.]

Names and Town lands

| 113 | Correally Cont ${ }^{\text {d }}$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 16 James OBeirne $\mathrm{h}^{\text {d }}$ |  | yes | yes |
|  | Edward |  | yes | yes |
|  | Thomas |  | yes | yes |
|  | Cathrine |  | yes | yes |
|  | Jane |  | yes | yes |
|  | Christ ${ }^{\text {n }}$ |  | yes | yes |
|  | William |  | yes | yes |
|  | Pat ${ }^{\text {k }}$ | 8 | no | no |
| 16 | Ellen Givney |  |  |  |
|  | Anne M ${ }^{\text {chath }}$ |  |  |  |
|  | Anne Leavy |  |  |  |
|  | James Rae ) Servts |  | yes | yes |
|  | James McLoughlin |  |  |  |
|  | William Cullen |  |  |  |
|  | Pat Molloy |  |  |  |
|  | James Woods |  |  |  |
|  | 17 John Gavan ) |  |  |  |
|  | Anne Do ) |  | yes | yes |
|  | Cath |  | yes | yes |
| 7 | Mary | 11 | no | no |
|  | Anne | 9 | no | no |
|  | Eliza | 7 | no | no |
|  | Margt | $11 / 2$ | no | no |
|  | 18 Thomas M ${ }^{\text {cLoughlin }}$ |  | yes | yes |
| 2 | John Reilly | 21 | yes | yes |
|  | 19 John Gavan ) |  |  |  |
|  | Anne D ${ }^{\circ}$ ) |  | yes | yes |
|  | William |  | yes | yes |
| 6 | Cath. |  | yes | yes |
|  | John | 11 | no | no |
|  | Sally Roundtree Servant | " | yes | yes |
|  | 20 John Keirnan ) |  |  |  |
|  | Eliza Do ) |  | yes | yes |
| 4 | Ellen Gilchrist |  | yes | yes |
|  | Fanny Keirnan | 3/4 | no | no |

Name and Town Lands.



Names and Townlands

[Notes: In family 9, $4^{\text {th }}$ person, "Anne" seems the most likely reading, but "Ames" seems possible, if unlikely. In family $10,4^{\text {th }}$ person, the surname looks rather like "Galligan" or "Gulligan", although "Gilligan" seems likely, see families $7 \& 8$ in this townland; note, however, that the $1^{\text {st }}$ name in family 8 also looks like "Galligan" or "Gulligan", except that there is a dot over the 2 nd letter.]

Names and Townland

[Notes: The number of families noted at the top is wrong: there are 10 families in Clonkeen, but the last isn't numbered, which accounts for the error. In family 6 , the names \& other data are progressively smaller \& jammed in toward the bottom of the page, which accounts for the townland running total not having a dedicated line, but being jammed into the same line with the youngest child.]

[Note: In the $1^{\text {st }}$ family in Ruthall, in the last line $\&$ in the Age column, is the word "yes", smudged in an evident attempt to erase it.]

[Notes: In Barradrum, family 3, the MS. addition "born 1843" is clearly intended to apply to Ellen \& Margaret equally - they were twins, both born 1843. In Bottomy, family 1, I at first read the surname as "Hill", but "Hiel" is also possible \& seems supported by the MS. comment on Anne. (More on this name in the Remarks.)]


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[Note: In Bottomy, 3rd family, it is not quite clear whether the notations " 40 ... no ... no" refer to Michael McCormack or Biddy Fegan, although I'd guess that the latter is more likely. In Street, family 2, last person, I am not certain of " H ", but, after comparing it with every capital letter in the MS., in itself or in combination, can find no more likely reading.]


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[Note: In family 4, $6^{\text {th }}$ person, "Rail" could be read as "Raie". In family 7, it is not clear whether " $50 \ldots$ no ... yes" refers to Mary, Owen, or both. According to the logic of the record, it seems that it makes more sense if referring to both, in which case the 2 names ought to have been bracketed together.]


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[Note: In family 12, the policeman Peter Lawless is separated from the rest merely by drawing a line under the preceding name. It appears that this was an afterthought at some time after the names on this page had already been written \& the families had already been separated \& serially numbered. It seems to follow that the numbers of persons in each family were not added until after it was decided to separate the policeman as a "family" of one; by rights the serial numbers should then have been altered, calling Lawless family 13 \& increasing the remaining Street serial numbers by one, but this was not done.]

[Note: There are pages missing here; there is not enough information to determine how many. It seems more than likely that there was more to the census of Curnacausk than the 3 families above, for the page is not squared off with an additional line below the text, suggesting that the latter is a subtotal only $\&$ that the end of the townland has not been reached. And it is certain that at the beginning of Rath there are 4 families missing, comprising 21 persons. But I see no way of knowing for sure whether there were other townlands recorded between those 2.]
[See note on previous page.]


Names and Townlands

[Note: "Dunnomon" is a conjectural reading, which seems just possible \& is reasonably close to the townland name. My $1^{\text {st }}$ attempt gave "Dun onomon", but the 1 st " $n$ " is very faint, it is correspondingly unclear whether there is really a space after it, $\&$ in any case many apparent spaces in the middle of words are found in this document, none of which can be regarded as intentional; after the supposed space, it's not certain that the $1^{\text {st }}$ "o" was really intended as a separate letter.]


[Note that this is the only page where there is neither a running total nor a line at the bottom.]


## Names and Townland

Rendevin \& Clonconnell

[Note: "Rendevin": The intention could be "Rindevin", but "Rendevin" seems at least as likely, $\&$ there is no dot. There is a space in the middle of the word, as often in this MS., \& in it there is a slight indication of a horizontal tick or hyphen, as if the word were "Rin-devin" or similar. The " $R$ " is very vague \& could be a " $K$ "; there is no letter in the MS. quite like it, but there are 2 " $R$ "s a bit like it, $\&$ no " $K$ "s of which the same can be said. The surname in family 1 could be read as "Monoghon". The rest of this page, i.e. most of it, is blank. This is followed by 2 blank pages, $\&$ those by the beginning of the Marriages, in August 1820. Because the entry above is squared off less than halfway through a page, even more than because it is squared off with a total between 2 drawn lines, I think we can safely assume that 2 families $\& 11$ persons were indeed the totals for this unit.]

## REMARKS

The following are the "townlands" included in this enumeration (it might be more accurate to call them units of enumeration), with the numbers of "families" and of persons included in each:

| Correally | 25 families | 170 persons |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| (Culvin \&o) Garriskille | 12 families | 74 persons |
| Clonkeen | 9 families | 59 persons |
| Ruthall | 2 families | 13 persons |
| Barradrum | 4 families | 19 persons |
| Bottomy | 3 families | 16 persons |
| Street | 15 families | 88 persons |
| Curnacausk | 3 families | 10 persons |
| Rath | 13 families | 47 persons |
| Lisderry | 3 families | 20 persons |
| Dunnomon | 2 families | 7 persons |
| Burgesland | 3 families | 26 persons |
| Fermore | 7 families | 55 persons |
| Rendevin \& Clonconnell | 2 families | 11 persons |

These numbers need to be qualified somewhat. We have clear evidence that at least one full page is missing between Curnacausk and Rath. Before that point, there is sufficient information to assure us that nothing is missing. Afterwards, there is sometimes room for doubt, partly because of an increasing lack of adherence to system, both in the statistical information supplied and in the procedures used for setting forth the data. We can be sure that what appears on the left-hand or Verso side of a sheet was intended to follow directly what appears on the right-hand or Recto side; and when a unit ends part of the way down a page and is followed by the start of another, clearly that is the true ending of the first unit. Where such assurances are lacking, it is difficult to be sure whether what we have is complete.

One feature, unfortunately not quite reliable, provides an indication whether the bottom of a page coincides with the end of a unit: as a rule, at the bottom of each page a line is drawn under the last family, below which, on the left-hand side, is a number which is the running total for the unit; but if the unit ends there, a second line is drawn beneath this total, just as when the unit ends in the middle of a page. But this system begins only on the second page; at the bottom of the first page there is no line drawn at all and the running total is placed on the same line as the last name, yet we are in no doubt that the townland, Correally, is complete, because it continues into the fifth page and all the numbers add up. And subsequently there are two consecutive pages where the rule was not observed: (1) At the bottom of the first and only full page of Clonkeen, not enough space was left to present the running total normally, so it was merely written in the lower left-hand corner with a short line drawn above it; but since Clonkeen continues at the top of the next page and the numbers add up, we are in no doubt that Clonkeen is complete. (2) At the bottom of this second page, coinciding with the end of Ruthall, again no space was left to finish off properly, and this was dealt with in the same way as before, with no second line to indicate the end of the unit; but since this is a Recto and Barradrum starts at the top of the Verso, again we are in no doubt. It is when there is an unresolved uncertainty at the bottom of a Verso that a doubt remains and is aggravated by the irregularities just noted.

Therefore the following qualifications are necessary:

- After what we have of Curnacausk, it is certain that at least one page is missing, and it seems probable, although not certain, that there was more to the returns from this townland than the 3 families and 10 persons that we have.
- Assuming that there was no error in the totals, it is certain that the numbers for Curnacausk are complete and correct, although the names are incomplete because 4 families and 21 persons are missing.
- It seems likely that Dunnomon is complete, but there is room for doubt.

This census is nearly contemporary with the survey of this area for Griffith's primary Valuation of Tenements, dated June 1854. Nevertheless, there are challenges in identifying some of the named townlands in terms of the names found in Griffith's, which, I assume, are substantially the same as in the first Ordnance Survey of Ireland and the 1851 Census of Ireland. I have formed some hypotheses but lack the means to verify them. Below is the list of units, this time noting the units corresponding to them in the Tithe Applotment book (TAB, 1826; it has similar problems of its own) and in Griffith's (GVT). Where the identification is conjectural, I give it in italics; and I omit the reasoning behind my hypotheses so as not to prolong this discussion.

| Streete census | TAB | GVT |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Correaly | Correally | Correaly |
| (Culvin \&) Garriskille | Culvin, Garriskill | Culvin, Garriskil |
| Clonkeen | Clunkeen | Clonkeen |
| Ruthall | Ruthall | place within Bottomy |
| Barradrum | Barradrum | Barradrum |
| Bottomy | Bottomy | Boattand, Teenode [but see Ruthall] |
| Street | Curnecausk | Tinode |
| Curnacausk | Reath [paired with <br> Rath | Rath [but see Lisderry] |
| Lisderry | Lisderry [paired with <br> Reath] | place within Rath |
| Dunnomon | Dunammon | Dunamon |
| Burgesland | Burgess Land | Burgesland |
| Fermore | Fairmore | Fearmore |
| Rendevin \& Clonconnell | ? Ballikildeven, <br> Clunconnell | ? Ballykilldevin, <br> Clonconnell |

The enumeration can be roughly dated by comparing its data with information in the Streete parish records proper. When I first looked at this record several years ago, I formed an impression that it had probably been compiled in 1856, not in 1855, but until this year (2014) I didn't study the question carefully. I began by looking through the baptisms, beginning at first with January 1855 and going forward from there. Some of the young children enumerated in the census were not baptized until well into 1856. On the other hand, on 11 September 1856 Bernard Carrigy, a son of Patrick Carrigy and Mary Moran (see Rath, family 6), was baptized, and he is not among those enumerated, so he must have been born later than the enumeration, and this gives us 11 September 1856 as a terminus ante quem for its compilation. After that date, over the next six months there were three or four more baptisms of children of enumerated families who were not included in the census.

I then went back a year at a time, looking for the older children from the census. In the 1854 baptisms I noticed a couple of older sibs of the children I had been looking for; one of these was listed as age 3 in the census, but had been baptized barely two years before September 1856.

Generally, in records in which the informant is asked a person's age, the older the person the less reliable the estimate. Allowance often has to be made for honest ignorance or confusion, or for the tendency to under- or overestimate the age, and especially to anticipate the age that is coming rather than to state the age that has been fully attained. Such tendencies can result in errors of a year or more when the age is quoted only in full years. But in this census, the ages of seventeen children below the age of 4 are quoted in fractions as small as a quarter of a year. So I confined my investigation to those children, reasoning that such an attempt at precision would have tended to reduce the magnitude of the errors.

The following are the children whose ages are stated in quarters or halves, arranged in chronological order of birth, or at least of baptism. The information in the census has been collated with the baptismal records, and also with the marriage records for their parents where that was available within a few years previous. The impression I have gained from Irish church records is that as a rule children were baptized at no more than three days old, although of course there were exceptions. Where dates of both birth and baptism are available, I have found that children were often baptized on the day of birth, and most often on the first or second day after birth, and that a lapse of more than three days was extremely rare. Being uncertain whether parents could be expected to state the child's age at the last full quarter attained or to round up to the next quarter (which is what must have happened when the child was new-born, since none are given age zero), I assume a range up to three months before and after the hypothetical enumeration date. Therefore, given the census date implied by the baptismal date and the census age, I allow three months and three days before that date, and three months less a day after it.

| Child | Parents | Townland | Age <br> at census | Date of baptism | Implied date-range of census |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Marcella <br> Kiernan | John, Anne | Curnacausk | $31 / 2$ | 1 Nov 1852 | $\begin{aligned} & 29 \text { Jan } 1856 \text { - } \\ & 31 \text { Jul } 1856 \end{aligned}$ |
| James Lastley | Michael, Bessy | Fermore | $31 / 2$ | 5 Mar 1853 | 2 Jun 1856 - <br> 4 Dec 1856 |
| Michael Lastly | James, Anne | Culvin \& Garriskille | $2^{1 / 2}$ | 11 [4?] Dec 1853 | [?1] Mar 1856 [?10] Sep 1856 |
| Mary McGirr | Thomas, Catherine | Rath | $2^{1 / 4}$ | 15 Mar 1854 | 12 Mar 1856 - <br> 14 Sep 1856 |
| Margaret Gavan | John, Anne | Correally | $11 / 2$ | 10 Mar 1855 | 7 Jun 1856 9 Dec 1856 |
| Thomas Delamor | James (d. <br> 22 Apr <br> 1856), Anne | Burgesland | $11 / 4$ | [?8] Mar 1855 | [?5] Mar 1856 - <br> [?7] Sep 1856 |
| James Carrigy | Pat, Mary | Rath | $11 / 4$ | 23 Mar 1855 | $\begin{aligned} & 20 \text { Mar } 1856 \text { - } \\ & 22 \text { Sep } 1856 \end{aligned}$ |


| Catherine Lastley | Michael, Bessy | Fermore | $11 / 4$ | 19 May 1855 | 16 May 1856 - <br> 18 Nov 1856 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Maria Taffe | Joseph, Catherine | Bottomy | $3 / 4$ | 29 Jul 1855 | $\begin{aligned} & 26 \text { Jan } 1856 \text { - } \\ & 28 \text { Jul } 1856 \end{aligned}$ |
| Fanny Kiernan | John, Eliza (m. [?6] Nov 1854) | Correally | $3 / 4$ | 12 Oct 1855 | 9 Apr 1856 - <br> 11 Oct 1856 |
| Anne <br> Mulligan | Peter, Biddy (m. 17 Jan 1855) | Correally | 1/2 | 3 Jan 1856 | $\begin{aligned} & 31 \text { Mar } 1856 \text { - } \\ & 2 \text { Oct } 1856 \end{aligned}$ |
| Biddy <br> Kiernan | John, Anne | Curnacausk | 1/2 | 15 Jan 1856 | 12 Apr 1856 - <br> 14 Oct 1856 |
| Eliza McKan | Pat, Ellen (m. not found) | Dunnomon | 1/2 | not found | no data |
| John Lastly | James, Anne | Culvin \& Garriskille | 1/4 | 18 Jan 1856 | $\begin{aligned} & 15 \text { Jan } 1856 \text { - } \\ & 17 \text { Jul } 1856 \end{aligned}$ |
| Mary Anne Kelly | Michael, Catherine | Street | 1/4 | [?30] Mar 1856 | [?27] Mar 1856 - <br> [?29] Sep 1856 |
| Patrick Roddy | Thomas, Anne | Clonkeen | 1/4 | 14 Jun 1856 | 11 Jun 1856 - <br> 13 Dec 1856 |
| John <br> Newman | Patrick, Ellen (m. 20 Jan 1854) | Fermore | 1/4 | 22 Jun 1856 | 19 Jun 1856 - <br> 21 Dec 1856 |

It will be seen that although I have allowed an implied date-range of six months and three days for the census (ten days in one case where the date of baptism was so unclear that there was too wide a range of possible readings), all of these results fall within the calendar year 1856 - a greater solidity of result than I was expecting. Based on the latest of these, John Newman of Fermore, and on my assumption that his birthdate cannot have been more than three days before his baptism, the census, at least for his family, cannot have been taken earlier than 19 June 1856; so now we have a terminus post quem, and a tentative compilation-range extending from 19 June to 11 September 1856.

Based on the above figures, we could arrive at a much narrower range, because the latest date in the range implied by John Lastly's data is 17 July 1856, and this would give us a window of barely four weeks in June and July. And it is not incredible that within four weeks the parish priest could have collected and incompletely tabulated the data that we have. But I hesitate to give my six-month ranges the same weight as precise baptismal dates implying fairly precise birthdates.

Moreover, there is another source of solid information which, it turns out, allows us to slightly tighten our existing range. The Streete parish death records, unlike the baptism and marriage records until later in the $19^{\text {th }}$ century, while they seldom contain genealogical information, do usually state the townland of residence. Therefore, in conjunction with supporting information, they permit identification with a high degree of certainty. I looked in the death records for persons residing in townlands that are complete in the census. These two are of interest:

- Jacobus (James) Delamere (or Delamare?), of Burgesland, age 66, was buried on 22 April 1856. This is evidently the father of Thomas Delamore in the above list. He was not included in the census, where his family is headed by Anne, his widow.
- Daniel Smyth of Fermore (Fearmore), age 58, was buried on 10 September 1856. He was included in the census.

Based on these two facts, the census, at least as it concerns the respective families of these two men, cannot have been compiled much earlier than 22 April, nor any later than 10 September, or, more likely, two or three days earlier than that. And combining this with the baptismal evidence, we can say that arguably the maximum range of dates during which the Streete parish census could have been compiled extends from 19 June 1856 to 10 September 1856 (or maybe only to 17 July 1856?).

The one child in the list for whom I could find no data was Eliza McKan. Based on her stated age, presumably she, like Biddy Kiernan, was born early in 1856, or perhaps toward the end of 1855. The group in the census suggests a young family, with one elderly member, probably Pat's mother. I reckoned that Pat and Ellen were married in 1854 or 1855, but I went through the marriage records 1854-1856 without finding them. My guess is that they were married elsewhere, presumably in Ellen's home parish, and, as was often done, returned to that parish to have their first-born child baptized.

I apologize for the mistakes and misreadings I have made in the above transcription and have failed to catch. I know this must be so, because I have corrected many that I failed to catch at first. My excuse is that the handwriting is often indistinct and difficult to decipher, although by no means the worst I have seen. From the time I first looked at this census until I had finished my first draft this year, I consistently read the first townland name as "Concally". While striving to identify doubtful townland names with the help of Griffith's, I realized that my reading was impossible and that "Correally" was a distinct possibility. By the time I returned to the microfilm to check this theory, I had accumulated a long list of doubts and queries. While rereading the film, I also stumbled on other errors of mine that I wasn't looking for; e.g., originally I unhesitatingly read the name of the head of family 4 in Street as "James Gillan", but on my second look it was obvious that his name was Farrell Gillan.

I am consoled by evidence that record-keepers and typesetters in the 19th century had the same trouble reading one another's handwriting. I have noticed several examples of this, both in the Irish records already mentioned and elsewhere. An obvious instance is in Griffith's Valuation for this same parish - but on the County Longford side - where James Eannis appears in the substantial townland of Lisryan, whereas in the tiny adjacent Aghareagh and Ballaghgowla he appears as James Eamus. Now, thanks to the Streete census, I have found another error in Griffith's, this one not at all obvious in itself. While comparing the census with Griffith's for Bottomy and
testing the theory that Ruthall was a part of Bottomy, I was at first discouraged because Ruthall in the census and Bottomy in Griffith's had only one name in common, James McCormack. Then I realized that the Hiel or Heel family in Ruthall, headed by Thomas, is matched in the Bottomy of Griffith's by Thomas Steel. From what I have seen of Irish handwriting of the 1850s, I have no trouble imagining a Dublin typesetter misreading " H " as "St".

Finally, I beg the reader's indulgence for a remark that bears on my own family research but is only tangential to the subject at hand. While scanning the Streete baptisms, I noticed the following, with the very obscure date 19 [? Nov] 1854: "Marcellam F. Patriti[o ?] Newman et Ellionora Mc Cauly" ([I baptized] Marcella, daughter of Patrick Newman and Ellen McCauly). This child clearly corresponds to "Maggy", age 2, daughter of Patrick and Ellen Newman of Fermore (Fearmore), whose baby brother John played a crucial role in establishing the date-range of the census. This causes me to wonder: Could it be that girls and women named Marcella were
often known as Maggie? I ask this because of my great-great-grandmother, allegedly a native of County Longford, who married Patrick Pepper in 1836 in New York City. Her surname was Reilly and her given name appears in various records as Magdeline, Margaret, Margery, and Magie, and finally as Marcella on her tombstone (erected by her eldest surviving son, my great-grandfather) and in a local history published seventeen years after her death. Partly because I have never been able to find a satisfactory Irish or ship's record of a Marcella Reilly (whereas there are several records of a Margaret Reilly, but no basis for judging which [if any] of them is relevant), I have assumed that Margaret was her birth name and Marcella a fancy name belatedly imposed upon her. But now I have to consider whether, after all, Marcella was her true birth name. In the Streete census there is a Marcella O'Reilly in Street, but her age is not given; probably she was a generation younger than my ancestor, and who knows whether they were related?

Aside from this, while the census sheds no clear light on my family history, it includes a number of persons who were or may have been related to persons who were or may have been connected to my family by marriage; their surnames include Sullivan, Murtagh (with its variants), and McCabe.
J.M.P.

