

Explanation of this analysis

A re-checking of the 1821 Census of Ireland (very limited content, but the list included MEATH), resulted in a realization that an analysis could be made of the information. The site does not advise how complete the list of names included actually is for Co Meath. One early discovery was that the some names were actually duplicated. It appears that this occurred because some facts were recognized as possibly being indefinite. The best example is the Townland of Ongenstown in in Ardracran. This is its name today. It would appear that it had been spelt Onchinstown in the original Census record.

The 78 records were reduced to 47. These records included family units and a small number of individual records of people, who were out of family, working, or living in other situations.

After analysis, it would appear that there was one significant finding, particularly when the final map was created.

First it was recognized that a group of families resided within a definite area. This area was the town of Navan, or actually the parish of Ardracran, west of Navan. In 1821, 25 of the 47 Boylans lived in either Navan, Ardracran or Ongenstown. A late reassignment of another 4 meant that 29 of 47 Boylans lived in a very small area, in and west of Navan. A very final realisation also meant that all 47 Boylans lived within a few kilometres of a line between the OTHER group in Rathkenny and the group in Ongenstown. This line was 20 kilometres between the two locations.

There is no way of discovering whether the 47 Boylans were closely related or the result of 2 or 3 separate Boylan settlements. However, in rural Ireland, land tenure on Estates was usually for life, and there is one instance of this possibly being recorded in these records. Catherine Boylan, aged 80, was living alone, on an estate in Liscarton.

Before proceeding with this analysis, a possibly important piece of recognition needs to be included. In 1821, there is a James Boylan in Ardracran. In 1854, there is a James Boylan, in the Griffiths Valuations (mentioned before?), in the area of Dowth. In 1901, there is a Richard, aged 76, Birth 1825, with a son, named Richard, aged 24, living in Dowth. While there are 3 other James Boylans living in Meath by 1854, there is a possibility that this family may have come from the James of 1821, who was living in Ardracran. THIS HAS NOT BEEN PROVEN. However, Richard Boylan, of Dowth, had a daughter, named Bridget, born in Dowth in 1867. It appears his son, Richard, was born in 1877.

It is therefore possible for the 1821 James Boylan, the 27 year old, of Ardracran, to have had a son, whom he named Richard, in 1825, for him to have lost the tenancy of the Ardracran, when his mother, Margaret, may have died, and for him to have moved to Dowth, between 1825 and 1854.

“ the great nineteenth century Irish exodus to the New World (occurred) , especially, after 1815. Briefly these were an expanding population and economic recession in Ireland, and a Change in the Irish agriculture from tillage to grazing, resulting in consolidation of estates and evictions of small tenant farmers....” may explain why greater movement of residence took place.

There are a number of worthwhile points to make about the information in the 1821 Census, and the information which has survived.

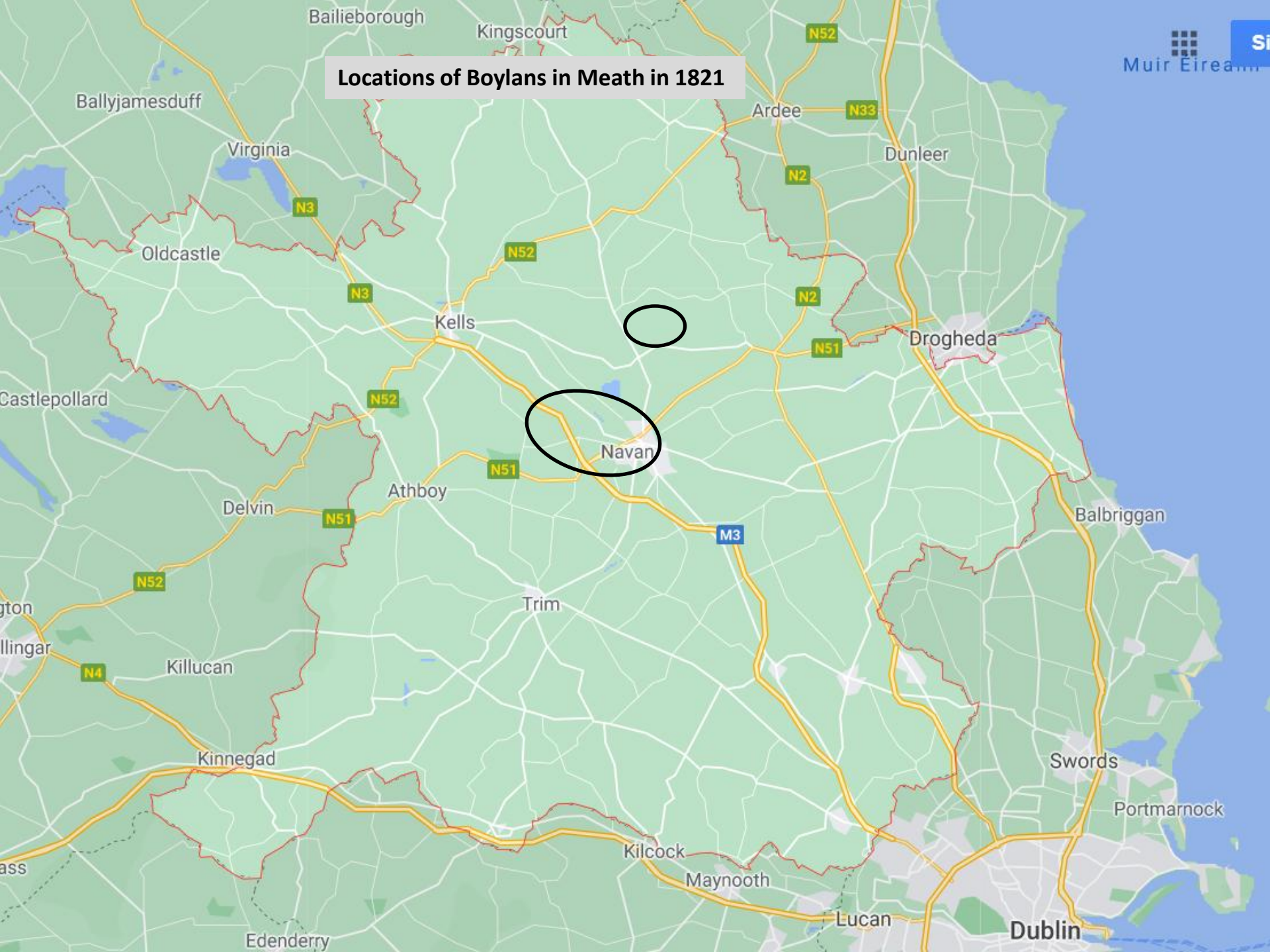
1. It would appear that BOYLANS existed around the town of Navan before this time. Whether they were one, two or three families is largely supposition.
2. The oldest member of the family is a Catherine, a pauper, aged 80, living in Liscarton. She was born around 1741, and may be the matriarch of the family. She could have been married to a Richard Boylan, who has died prior to 1821. But, in 1821, she is living on minimum rent, but only a short distance (less than 1.7 kms) from Ardraccon.
3. The closest family to Catherine is living at Ardraccon. This is the family of Margaret Boylan, aged 58 (born 1763). She is unlikely to be the wife of a Richard Boylan, born 1743, but could be the wife of a first-born son. This family is interesting. A son, James Boylan, aged 27, is recorded as the farmer in charge of the tenancy. There appears to be a degree of inaccuracy in the record. There are three listed as brothers. One is aged 40, and is a labourer. Two are 16 and 20, but no occupation is given. A sister, also named Catherine, aged 25, is a flax spinner. There is also a boy, aged 10, but no other information is given.
4. Other Boylan families are (male head only)
 - a. Boylan Owen ~~Onchinstown~~ (45) Ardraccon Meath age 68 Labourer
 - b. Boylan Henry Navantown (152) Navan Meath age 46 Labourer
 - c. Boylan Henry Navantown (220) Navan Meath age 30 Labourer
 - d. Boylan Patt Tankardstown (2) Donaghpatrick Meath age 24

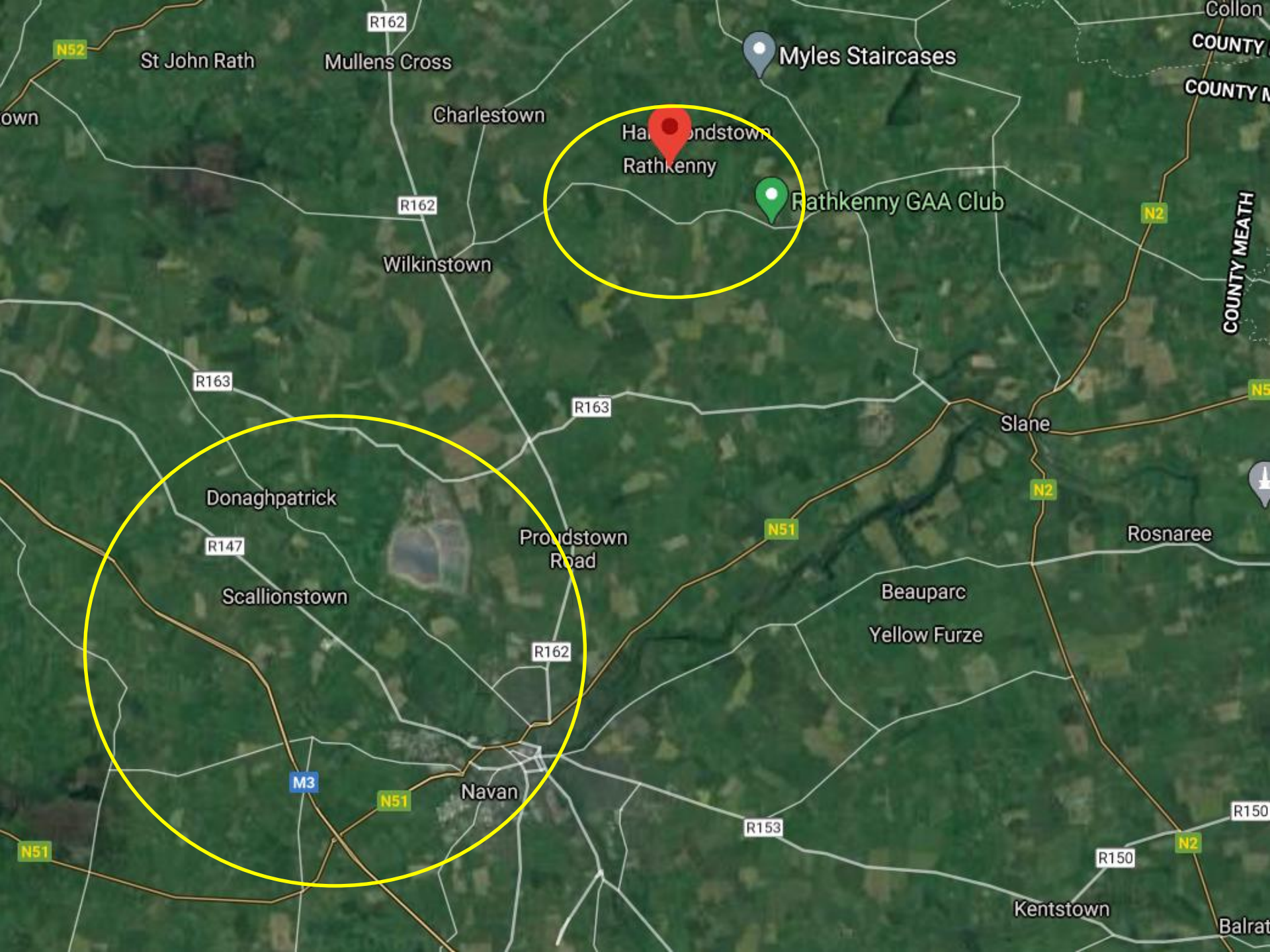
The other families in Meath in 1821 are :-

- a. Boylan John Rathkenny (57) Rathkenny Meath age 45
- b. Boylan Chas Rathkenny (58) Rathkenny Meath age 35 Labourer
- c. Boylan Thoms Rathkenny (72) Rathkenny Meath age 21 Labourer

Apart from these eight Boylan families, six Boylans, aged from 30 to 16 were individuals, living either within households, as servant employees, or working as labourers.

Locations of Boylans in Meath in 1821





Donaghpatrick
Tankardstown, Donaghpatrick is halfway on the road from Navan to Kells.

Tankardstown ?

Scallionstown

Proudstown
Road

R162

Proudstown Hill

M3

Coolfore Road

Clonmagaddan
Lane

R162

N51

Priesttown

Beaufort Place

Hill Grove

Liscarton

R147

Ardbraccan

Bohermeen

Navan
Retail Park

R147

R153

Leighsbrook

Ongenstown

Navan

Athlumney
Abbey

Scapemanus

R147

Navan to Ongenstown is a distance of 9 kilometres.

N51

Hanlonstown