

Families at Mosstown and Philipstown¹ in 1852

By NOEL ROSS

Sir Frederick Foster succeeded to the baronetcy and the Louth estate on the death of his father, Augustus, in 1848. Although he never became a resident landlord he devoted considerable time and attention to the housing of his tenants and the care of his estate.² A memorandum³ submitted to Sir Frederick in February, 1852 states: ". . . With respect to the townlands of Mosstown, Lismanus & Philipstown I consider them much overrented—particularly the last mentioned. The land generally is very bad—not at all suited to large tenants except at very depreciated value—therefore politic moderately to enlarge holdings of present occupants. . . ." Since the list³ here published is endorsed September, 1852 it can be assumed that it was drawn up with a view to implementing that recommendation.

Vere Foster, Sir Frederick's brother, had launched his major emigration scheme a few years previously⁴ and it is obvious from the list that the New World and remittances from relatives there had begun to play their part in the scheme of things. Emigration was not confined to America since a pencilled note says that one family was going to Australia.

The summary given at the end of the list is not precisely accurate, a common enough fault with such documents. The number of families is correct provided we count the two households in the Widow Flanagan's as separate units. The actual number of individuals is 198, 107 males and 91 females as opposed to 202, 108 males and 94 females, in the summary.

Although more or less contemporaneous with Griffith's Valuation⁵ the list has a number of names which do not appear in that work. It is given here exactly as in the original.

COPY OF A LIST OF THE FAMILIES AT MOSSTOWN AND PHILIPSTOWN

	<i>Age</i>	
Michael Nevin	50	This man supports his family by his farm, has latterly lost much cattle.
Anne	38 (?)	
Bridget	11	
James	9	
Elisa	7	
Silvester	5	
Philip	3	
Frank	2	
Pat	1	
Pat Nevin	43	This man supports his family by farming and is a rich man
Anne	38	
Mary	9	
Peter	7	
Anne	5	
Jane	3	
John	1½	
Catharine	1½	

1. Parish of Mosstown, Barony of Ardee.

2. Mary McNeill, *Vere Foster, 1819-1900* (Newton Abbot, 1971).

3. This memorandum and the list itself were among a number of documents purchased by the present writer at the Lisrenny sale 11th May, 1974.

4. Mary McNeill, *op. cit.*

5. General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland. Union of Ardee (Dublin, 1854).

Bernard McEntegart	50	This man supports his family by weaving and by his farm.
Jane	44	
Pat	53	
Pat, junior	15	
Christopher	13	
Mary	18	
Judith	16	
Anne	12	
Bridget	7	
Pat Tenanty	47	This family is supported by farming. Married last February.
James }	40	
Anne }	26	
Richard Tenanty	42	This man has nothing but house & garden and is a carpenter by trade.
Margaret	38	
Catharine	14	
Mary	11	
Bridget	9	
Pat	6	Going to Australia Spring /53. <i>(Note added in pencil)</i>
Anne	2	
James Cain	40	This boy has no family and is supported by weaving. Pat supports himself by his labor & by his small farm
Pat	47	
Bridget	40	
John	16	
Thomas	18	
Mary	12	
Richard Cooney	70	This family is supported by farming Married April 1850.
Pat	42	
Christopher }	32	
Rose }	36	
Mary	1	
James Cooney	45	This man was ejected out of his land and has a house & garden free of rent.
Anne	41	
Mary	12	
Pat	9	
Richard Cooney, Jr.	39	This man got compensation for his land & he has a free house & garden.
Margaret	35	
Pat	10	
Mary	8	
Elisa	5	
Richard Cooney	51	Supported by labor and by a small farm.
Pat	41	
James Cooney, Jr.	45	Has lost 4 acres of land for which he paid McQuaid £14 in 1847.
Jane	31	
Mary	11	
Richard	9	

Bridget	6	
James	4	
Elisa	1	
James McQuaid	45	This man gave up his land in 1847.
Mary	15	
Jane	13	
Elisa	11	
Owen	5	
Bridget McKenna	40	This house belongs to Pat Cooney.
John Brennan	12	
Widow Anne Ebbett	58	3 of her children sent to America Decr 1851, and doing well
John	25	at Dayton, Ohio. Offer to send £4 to their mother.
Mary	21	
James	17	
Bridget Mackin	45	This woman lives in one of widow Ebbett's houses.
James Mackin	15	
Pat Brady	60	This man is caretaker to Peter Flanagan.
Mary	45	
Michel	6	
Bridget	8	
Widow Anne Flanagan	60	This widow has two families in her house—her son-in-law &
Peter	25	his family.
Pat	23	
Thomas Dolahan	46	
Mary	30	
Anne	13	
Margaret	10	
Elisa	7	
Pat Ebbett	38	Farmer.
Anne	54	
Bryan Drew	40	Supported by labor and a small farm.
Bridget	36	
Terence	37	
Mary	9	
Bryan	7	
Catharine	5	
Pat	3	
Laurence	1	
George Duffy	26	Tenant from year to year to late Pat Jordan.
Anne	24	
John Cain	15	The mother is in America, sent for 2 daughters last July &
Thomas	12	will send for the rest.
James	4	

John Halligan	40	Supported by the farm & by labor.
Anne	34	
James	15	
Margret	13	
Alice	11	
Thomas	9	
Pat	7	
Mary	5	
Bridget	3	

Arthur Callan	37
Alice	66
Mary	12
Anne	10
Pat	8
Thomas	6
Alice	4

James Landy	60	Supported by weaving & farming.
Judith	56	
Michel	38	
John	22	
Peter	20	
Margret	18	
Pat	16	
Matthew	10	
Mary	35	

Widow Powderly	61	Supported by farming.
James	63	
Pat	61	
Pat	29	
Mary	20	
John	14	

Pat Halligan	55	Supported by labor and by a small farm.
Judith	50	
John	20	
Pat	18	
Mary	15	
Margaret	13	
Daniel	6	

Pat Byrne	70	Supported by a farm.
Bridget	72	
Bernard	38	
Anne	34	
Pat	7	
Margaret	5	
Thomas	1	

Pat Halligan	62	Supported by weaving and by a small farm.
Catharine	64	
Edward	34	
Nicholas	26	
Owen Byrne	75	Nich. Byrne left this man in his house when he went to America and he admitted the Dalys & keeps house & 2 acres forcibly.
Owen Daly	26	
Anne Daly	30	
Pat Murtagh	1	
Widow Lambe	61	Supported by labor & by money from America.
Pat	20	
Judith	22	
Michel	15	
Peter McCabe	37	Supported by a farm.
Bridget	22	
John	1	
Bernard McCann	47	Supported by a farm.
Catharine	48	
Margaret	10	
Peter	8	
Mary	6	
Mary Flinn	47	Tenant to John Keenan.
Mary Conroy	7	
Mary Carroll	28	
Thomas Keenan	36	Carpenter—has a small farm.
James	20	
Mary	18	
Pat Keenan	54	Weavers.
Mary	47	
Thomas	20	
Pat	18	
Peter	16	
Anne	14	
Alice	12	
John	10	
Mary	8	
Henry	4	
John Kenny	43	Supported by weaving & by a farm.
Anne	23	
Thomas	11	
Pat	9	
Mary	7	
John	5	
Catharine	3	
James	1	

Nicholas Grogan
Michael
Anne
Peter

32
30
28
24

SUMMARY

Families	38	
Males	108	
Females	94	202

*Philipstown list
Sept /52*

I send you this copy of the list you wished to have_____

Fredk Foster

Tell your brothers not to drink anything so good as Port Negus if he gets this epidemic. I have been put upon gruel for a day as the wine & stir about only made me worse_____

