Parish of Saintfield, County Down

Fair Sheets by Messrs Tait and Williams, received July 1837

MODERN TOPOGRAPHY

Town of Saintfield

Saintfield is situated in the centre of the parish of that name and contains 199 houses, of which 28 are of 3-storeys in height, 160 are 2-storeys in height and the remaining 11 are cabins. It has also a church, a Presbyterian meeting house, a Seceding meeting house, a Roman Catholic chapel, a market house and hotel, and a schoolhouse.

The shops are as follows: 24 public houses and spirit shops, 17 grocers, 3 bakers, 7 cloth shops, 3 apothecaries, 4 tailors, 3 shoemakers, 2 watchmakers, 1 blue dyer, 2 ironmongers, 2 crockery shops, 2 reed makers, 2 blacksmiths, 1 spinning wheel maker and 6 provision shops, 4 carpenters, 1 chandler, 4 milliners, in all 88.

Church

Saintfield church is situated on the north side of the town, is 70 feet long and 36 feet broad, clergyman Reverend Joseph Grant. Church rebuilt 1776, cost [blank]. Oblong building with a small square belfry attached, was repaired in 1812, cost not known. Also in 1830, in which year a bell value 60 pounds was hung.

Presbyterian Meeting House

Situated at the eastern end of the village about 100 yards from the main street, was built 1777, Thomas L. Birch A.M., minister. Is 50 feet broad, 70 feet long, contains 900 people, is rather out of repair and by no means large enough for its rapidly increasing congregation. Reverend Henry Simpson, minister, receives regium donum 100 pounds, bounty of the first class, also 81 pounds 2s 9d Irish from the congregation. The average attendance is [blank]. The total number 900 families [insert marginal query].

Seceding Meeting House

A plain, oblong building 70 feet long, 24 feet broad, is situated in the Ballynahinch road opposite the Saintfield male and female schoolhouse, Reverend Walter Moffet, minister.

Meeting House in Bresagh

Meeting house in Bresagh townland, called the “Associate Secession Presbyterian” was built in the year 1813, is a plain, oblong building, whitewashed and slated and holds 560 persons, is 66 feet long and 42 broad. Mr John Downes is the clergyman. He receives 80 pounds per annum from his congregation and has no regium donum.

Parish Chapel

Built in 1785, is 45 feet long by 21 broad, having 2 galleries which, with the floor, are seated. Contains 300 and upwards, average attendance is 150, total congregation 300. The Reverend John Fitzsimmons, priest, receives 35 pounds per annum salary. Killinchy is attached to this charge.

Market House

Market house built in 1803 is 17 yards long, 14 yards broad; 2-storey with a small wooden cupola. Is situated in the centre of the village and contains 2 cells for prisoners.

Inn

Inn is large and in good order, built in 1802 by Mr Price; Alexander McRobert, proprietor.

Ballyknockan Corn and Flax Mills

Ballyknockan corn mill is situated in the townland of that name and belongs to David Orr. It was built in the year 1810. The wheel is of metal and a breast wheel. Its diameter is 13 feet and its breadth 4 feet and 1 inch.

Ballyknockan flax mill adjoins the above, is situated in the same townland and belongs also to David Orr. The wheel is 15 feet in diameter and 8 feet 8 inches in breadth.

Mills

Corn mill, situated in the townland of Glassdrummond, belongs to Alexander McBirnie, machinery principally wood. Diameter of the wheel 16 feet, breadth 5 and a half feet.

Flax mill, also situated in Glassdrummond, belongs to J. McBirnie, machinery principally metal, diameter of wheel 14 feet, breadth 5 and a half feet.

NATURAL FEATURES

Bogs

The bog of Ballygawly, situated at the distance of
1 and a half miles south-east of the town of Saintfield, varies in depth from 1 to 10 feet, the substratum consisting of clay and stones. A few fir and oak trees are found in it.

**SOCIAL ECONOMY**

**Deaths**

Chiefly aged persons; the prevailing disorders are pulmonary consumption and inflammation of the lungs.

**Illegitimates**

Illegitimate children and foundlings are quite common.

**Value of Vicarage**

The vicarage of Saintfield is worth 280 pounds 16s 1d ha’penny per annum. Held at present, 1837, by the Reverend Henry Wolsey, who pays a curate 80 pounds per annum.

**Schools**

[Table contains the following headings: name, situation and description, when established, income and expenditure, physical, intellectual and moral education, number of pupils subdivided by age, sex and religion, name and religious persuasion of master or mistress. No physical education]

Saintfield male and female school, a plain, oblong building, whitewashed and slated, with a small playground attached; is encompassed by planting and situated in a spacious area at the west end of the village, established in 1823 by Mr Price under the direction of John McBurnie, cost 70 pounds, half of which was raised by subscriptions, the other half from Kildare Place Society; income: none from benevolent individuals, 4 acres of ground free from Mr Price, from pupils 90 pounds per annum; intellectual education: classics, arithmetic, reading, writing, geography; moral education: the Bible is the only religious work used, with little or no attention paid to this branch of education; number of pupils: males, 30 under 10 years of age, 8 from 10 to 15, 4 above 15, 42 total males; females, 6 under 10 years of age, 2 from 10 to 15, none above 15; 50 total number of pupils, Protestants few, Presbyterians majority, Roman Catholics 5; master Alexander Calewell, Established Church.

Saintfield female school, a small, square building, whitewashed, slated and situated immedi-
ately in the rear of the other, established in 1825 by Mr Price; cost 80 pounds, raised by subscription; income: 10 pounds per annum from individuals, from pupils variable, 6 pounds per annum; intellectual education: the books of the Kildare Street Society are used, though not the exclusion of others; moral education: that of the Established Church; number of pupils: 24 under 10 years of age, 4 from 10 to 15, 18 above 15; 46 total number of pupils, 24 Protestants, 15 Presbyterians, 7 Roman Catholics; mistress Harriet Skillen, Established Church.

Saintfield infant school, a tolerable capacious loft in the rear of some cabins at the east end of the village, established in December 1835 by Mr Price; income: perquisites to the amount of 20 pounds per annum from Mr Price, no regular salary, from pupils 5 pounds per annum irregularly paid; intellectual education: reading, spelling; moral education: that of the Established Church; number of pupils: males, 20 under 7 years of age, 20 total males; females, 30 total; 50 total number of pupils, 10 Protestants, 36 Presbyterians, 4 Roman Catholics; mistress Elizabeth Gilmore, Established Church.

Doran’s Rock national school, a plain, oblong building much out of repair, situated on the Downpatrick road a mile and a half from Saintfield; income: 10 pounds per annum from the Board of National Education, from pupils variable and very trifling; intellectual education: the books are used which are published by the National Society on the elements of education, also others on mathematics, geography; moral education: though nominally a national school, the Bible is read and explained without any restriction, and its tenets supposed to be taught; number of pupils: 35 under 10 years of age, 10 from 10 to 15, 5 above 15; 50 total pupils, all males, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics prevail; master John Gourley, Presbyterian.

Saintfield old school, a small cabin with clay floor, unceiled and very much out of repair, situated in the suburbs on the Ballynahinch road, established from time immemorial; income: 1 pound per annum from the vicar, from pupils uncertain and very trifling; intellectual education: reading, writing, elements of book-keeping, arithmetic; moral education: that of the Established Church; number of pupils: males, 15 under 10 years of age, 2 from 10 to 15, 1 above 15, 18 total males; females, 10 under 10 years of age, 2 from 10 to 15, 1 above 15, 13 total females; 31 total number of pupils, [religion] could not learn; master William Reid, Established Church.

Tonnaghmore national school, a small slated house in good repair, on the road between Saintfield and Ballynahinch at the distance of 1 and a half miles from the former, established AD 1821; income: the annual salary received from the Commissioners of the National Board is 10 pounds, no subscriptions from benevolent individuals, the income from pupils is about 13 pounds per annum; expenditure in salaries none; the school is kept in repair by William Hanna Esquire, the landlord of the township; intellectual education: the books used in the school at present are those published by the National Board of Education; moral education is conducted by the teacher in catechising the pupils on Saturday and in reading the Authorised Version of the Scriptures from 2 to 4 o’clock on the other days of the week; number of pupils: males, 21 under 10 years of age, 33 from 10 to 15, 9 above 15, 63 total males; females, 22 under 10 years of age, 14 from 10 to 15, 1 above 15, 37 total females; 100 total number of pupils, 88 Presbyterians, 12 Roman Catholics; master’s name is Robert Stewart, a Presbyterian of the Secession Church.

Draft Memoir and Copy by Lieutenant G.F.W. Bordes and Another

NATURAL STATE

Name

The name of this parish is universally spelt Saintfield and it is pronounced according to its spelling generally in the country. Harris says that its Irish name is Tullach-na-neve: tullach “a hill”, na “of”, naïve “a saint”, i.e. Sainthill now Saintfield.

Locality

It is situated in the county Down, in the southern part of the barony of Upper Castlereagh, and is bounded in the north by the parishes of Drumbo and Comber <Cumber>, on the east by that of Killinchy, on the south by Kilmore and on the west by that of Drumbo, Killany and Magheradrool. Its greatest length is 7 English miles, its greatest breadth is 5 miles, its mean length is 4 miles and its mean breadth is 3 miles. It contains 13,277 acres. It is all cultivated with the exception of a few patches in different parts of the parish. The quantity of water is [blank] acres and its yearly value to the county cess is 966 pounds.
Parish of Saintfield

Natural Features

Lakes
There are lakes in the following townlands: Lisnasallagh, Ballyknoonan, Glassdrummond, Creevyloughgar, Leggygowan, Ballymacaramery and Tullyvesticonnaught. One is named Creevy lough, one the Long lough, one the Bow lough and one Ballysilly [or Ballygilly]. They are not deep. That of Creevy lough is about 12 feet and there is a small island in it. Pike, trout and eels are the chief fish caught but there is no boat in any of them.

Hills
The country is generally undulating with detached hills, but there is no particular range nor are they distinguished by names.

Rivers
There are no rivers of any note in the parish. There are some streams which connect the lakes and for mills.

Bogs
There are some bogs scattered through the parish; fir is found in them generally.

Woods
There are no natural woods. The principal plantations are in the neighbourhood of Saintfield, round the property of N. Price Esquire.

Natural State and Natural Features

Name of Town
The name of the town is Saintfield, the same remark applies to it as to the parish.

Locality
It is situated nearly in the centre of the parish and is built on a crossroads intersected at right angles leading to Comber, Killinchy, Downpatrick and Belfast. It is about a quarter of a mile in length and breadth.

Lakes
The names of the lakes are the Bow lough, Gill’s lough, Hogg’s lough, Montgomery’s lough, the Long lough, Greer’s lough and Creevy lough. Their depth varies from 4 to 75 feet but as there are no boats upon any of them, it is impossible to determine accurately. There is a small island in Creevy lough. Pike, trout and eels are occasionally caught in them.

Social and Productive Economy

Table of Townlands

[Table contains the following headings: townland, number of houses, number of families, inhabitants subdivided by sex and age, number of males 20 years or over, quality of land, size of farms, rent per acre, county cess paid half yearly, to whom belonging].

Glassdrummond: 27 houses, 27 families, 99 males, 94 females, 52 males 20 years of age, 193 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price, Saintfield.

Lisdalgan: 40 houses, 40 families, 105 males, 109 females, 45 males 20 years of age, 214 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price, Saintfield.

Carricknecessnah: 51 houses, 53 families, 136 males, 146 females, 56 males 20 years of age, 282 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price, Saintfield.

Ballyaghterey: 28 houses, 30 families, 66 males, 77 females, 33 males 20 years of age, 143 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietors: half Mr Price, half Mr Barnett, tanner, Belfast.

Carsonstown: 82 houses, 85 families, 215 males, 234 females, 112 males 20 years of age, 449 total males and females; best quality of land, from 10 to 30 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price.

Leggigowan: 110 houses, 115 families, 289 males, 302 females, 135 males 20 years of age, 591 total males and females; best quality of land, from 6 to 20 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Sir Isaac Bomberry [Bunbury].

Lisowan: 73 houses, 76 families, 201 males, 206 females, 104 males 20 years of age, 407 total
males and females; best quality of land, from 6 to 20 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Sir Isaac Bomberry.

Creelyvoughgare: 50 houses, 52 families, 121 males, 135 females, 56 males 20 years of age, 256 total males and females; worst quality of land, from 6 to 30 acres size, from 25s to 35s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 14 pounds 3s 8d farthing; proprietor Colonel Savage.

Lessons: 32 houses, 32 families, 96 males, 100 females, 48 males 20 years of age, 196 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price.

Lisdoonan: 36 houses, 37 families, 91 males, 104 females, 41 males 20 years of age, 195 total males and females; best quality of land, from 15 to 25 acres size, from 15s to 25s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price.

Killanure: 65 houses, 69 families, 176 males, 201 females, 74 males 20 years of age, 377 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Price.

Ballyknockan: 54 houses, 55 families, 140 males, 156 females, 64 males 20 years age, 296 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietors: three-quarters to Lord Dungannon, one quarter to Lord Northland.

Lisnasallagh: 5 houses, 6 families, 17 males, 13 females, 5 males 20 years of age, 30 total males and females; best quality of land, from 15 to 25 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Hamilton of Killeleigh.

Oughley: 63 houses, 66 families, 152 males, 174 females, 79 males 20 years of age, 326 total males and females; middling quality of land, from 20 to 30 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietor Mr Car [Ker] of Portavoe.

Saintfield: 195 houses, 211 families, 464 males, 592 females, 219 males 20 years of age, 1,056 total males and females; best quality of land, from 5 to 10 acres size, from 30s to 35s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 7 pounds 1s 10d farthing; proprietor Mr Price.

Drumaconnell East and West: 40 houses, 42 families, 94 males, 88 females, 52 males 20 years of age, 182 total males and females; middling quality of land, from 10 to 20 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 8 pounds 1s 10d; proprietor Mr Price.

Drumalig: 78 houses, 81 families, 188 males, 198 females, 87 males 20 years of age, 386 total males and females; best quality of land, from 20 to 40 acres size, from 20s to 30s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietors: Mr Gordon, Florida and Mr Leslie, Donaghadee.

Tonaghmore: 106 houses, 114 families, 260 males, 296 females, 118 males 20 years of age, 556 total males and females; worst quality of land, from 15 to 20 acres size, from 10s to 20s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 14 pounds 3s 8d 1 farthing; proprietor Councillor Hanna Poyntz <Points> Pass.

Ballymacaramery: 75 houses, 76 families, 203 males, 225 females, 94 males 20 years of age, 428 total males and females; best quality of land, 10 acres size, from 20 to 45s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings; proprietors Shaw, Hart and Potter.

Tullywesticonnagh: 53 houses, 54 families, 166 males, 156 females, 71 males 20 years of age, 322 total males and females; middling quality of land, from 15 to 20 acres size, from 13s to 20s rent per acre; county cess paid half yearly, 14 pounds 3s 8d 1 farthing; proprietor Mr Price.

Bresagh: 49 houses, 51 families, 135 males, 137 females, 62 males 20 years of age, 272 total males and females; best quality of land; proprietor Marquis of Downshire.

[Totals] 1,312 houses, 1,372 families, 3,414 males, 3,743 females, 1,608 males 20 years of age, 7,157 total males and females. [Subtotal] county cess paid half yearly, 483 pounds 5s 8d 1 farthing, [overall] a total of county cess paid half yearly 966 pounds 11s 4d farthing. [This hand is distinct from previous writer].

Carsonstown, Ballyagherty, Drumaconel West and Town Parks

The valuation to the county cess this year (1834) is 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings each for Carsonstown and Ballyagherty, Drumaconel West 3 pounds 10s 11d, Parks 7 pounds 1s 10d. The two Drumaconels and the Parks pay for half a townland. Each townland pays 28 pounds 7s 4d 3 farthings. The cess is very unequally levied in this parish. The people complain and wish for an equalisation. Ballagherty pays as much as Carsonstown.
though the area is much less. The depth of the lake through which the boundary of Carsonstown and Leggigowan passes is not known. It is said to be very deep.

Mr McBurney’s flour mills in Carsonstown: the wheels are metal, the water wheel measures 15 feet in diameter and is undershot. 43 58

Hand spinning is on the decrease. There are but few looms employed, no cotton manufactured. Each house has from 1 to 4 spinning wheels at work. The average quantity spun by 3 wheels in a week is 12 dozen. The quality as to fineness is from 4 to 12 hanks in the pound.

Mr Price is the proprietor of the above townlands. The common size of the holdings is 15 acres. They vary from 8 to 20 acres. The average rent of the land is 12s for the worst, 18s for the middling and 25s for the best quality, the Town Parks 2 guineas per acre. Lime is the manure chiefly used. It is drawn from Belfast or Lisburn. 2 crops of oats generally grown on lea fields, then a crop of potatoes, next a crop of wheat if the land be good, but wheat is not commonly sown as the soil is of a poor and light description. Wheat: seed sown 2 cwt per acre, produce 20 cwt. Oats: seed sown 2 cwt per acre, produce 18 cwt. Flax: seed sown 1 peck per rood, produce 8 stone of flax. Barley is very seldom sown.

Modern Topography and Social Economy

Town of Saintfield

The town is built upon crossroads which intersect each other at right angles. The houses are stone and well built. The streets are wide and the footpaths roughly paved.

One Protestant church, 1 Presbyterian meeting house, 1 Seceding meeting house, congregation 850 persons; 1 Roman Catholic chapel. 1 market house, 3 arches in front over which are 3 windows. A bench of magistrates sit here once a fortnight for the administration of justice. 4 schoolhouses, 2 of which, a male and female school, were built chiefly at the expense of Mr Price. There are 15 schoolhouses in this parish, 2 out of this number are connected with the Hibernian Society, all the rest except 3 or 4 are under the patronage of the Kildare Street Society.

The people are mostly publicans and grocers. There are 12 monthly fairs held, a market every Monday; potatoes, flesh meat, butter and yarn are the principal commodities sold at markets. The Downpatrick coach [no further information].

Natural Features, Modern Topography and Social Economy

Aspects of Saintfield

County cess: Tonaghmere, Ballymackeramerry and Tullywesticonaught at 28 pounds 7s 6d each.

Lakes: the Bow lough and Gill’s lough, Hogg’s lough, Montgomery’s lough, the Long lough, Greer’s lough, Crevy lough, depth from 4 to 15 feet (uncertain). Fish in them: pike, trout, eels.

Mills: none.

Hand spinning: Linen yarn is made in almost every cottage but the quantity is small, average 130 hanks. Generally from 3 to 12 hanks to the pound. No weaving.

Proprietors: Councillor Hanna, township of Tonaghmore, rent 8 to 20s per acre (statute), holdings 5 to 20 acres. Mr Shaw, township of Ballymackeramerry, rent from 20 to 45s per Cunningham acre, holdings average 10 acres. Mr Price <Pryce>, township of Tullywesticonaught, rent from 15 to 20s per Cunningham acre. Holdings average 14 [acres].

Manure: Stable, lime, marl or clay, bog mud.

Rotation of crops: potatoes, wheat, oats, barley and grass crops.

Seed and crop: seed per acre from 2 to 2 and a half cwt, crop per acre 17 cwt; this varies with the size of the acre.

Fishing: is not carried on in the lake.

Saintfield Parish

[Another draft which notes features of Saintfield parish].

1. The valuation to the county cess for 1834 is 8d to 10d ha’penny.

2. Crevy lough at the parish boundary of Saintfield and Kilmore.

3. Hugh McRoberts’ corn mill in Lisowen townland, breast wheel, 18 feet in diameter.

4. Hand spinning is on the decrease. Quality from 4 to 12 hanks in the pound, quite unprofitable. Very few looms, all linen for domestic consumption, no cotton manufactured.

5. Mr Isaac’s heirs (minors) proprietors of Leggigowan and part of Lisowen. Mr Price of Drumaconnal and part of Lisowen and Colonel Savage of Crevy-Lough-Gare. The average rent of the best about 25s [per acre], middling 20s and worst 15s.

6. Lime frequently made into a compost is the only manure in general use, drawn from Belfast, Comber and Lisburn. The land which from one
manuring would formerly have yielded 7 crops will now yield no more than 3. 3 crops of oats in succession, 2 of oats and 1 of wheat or 1 oats, 1 wheat and 1 flax with grass and clover seeds. Dung is manure generally used for potatoes.

Lime constantly used on the same soil loses its meliorating qualities (Davy's Agricultural Chemistry and the experience of every farmer).

PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

Killaney and Saintfield: Farm Size

Killaney:

Lisbane, 45 farms, from 4 to 27 acres, average 10 acres.

Killaney, 15 farms, from 3 to 26 acres, 10 acres average.

Carricknaugh, 43 farms, from 2 to 44 acres, 13 acres average.

Carricknaclew, 44 farms, 2 from 2 to 32 acres, average 10 acres. Saintfield:

Legagorn, 50 farms, from 1 to 80 acres, 16 acres average.

Caradorn, Ballymacranemey [bracketed together], 57 farms, from 2 to 25 acres, average [blank] acres.

Creevyloughgar, 40 farms, from 2 to 19 acres, 9 acres average.

Drumnaconnel, 58 farms, from 1 to 26 acres, 6 acres average.

Tonaghmore, 66 farms, from 1 to 45 acres, 14 acres average.

Lower Lisowan, 36 farms, from 2 to 30 acres, average 10 acres.

Drumalig, 27 farms, from half an acre to 53 acres, average 12 acres, English acres (all the rest Scotch).

Drumalig, 34 farms, from half an acre to 22 acres, average 9 acres.

Upper Lisowan, 21 farms, from 3 to 40 acres, average 15 acres.

Tullywesticonaught, 38 farms, from 2 to 30 acres, average 10 acres.

Lisdalgan, 32 farms, from 2 to 73 acres, average 10 acres.

Aughly, 51 farms, from 1 to 35 acres, average 10 acres.

Lisdoonan, 30 farms, from 2 to 39 acres, average 12 acres.

Killeniner, 38 farms, from 1 to 21 acres, average 14 acres.

Townland County Cess

County cess 1834: Saintfield Parks, 7 pounds 1s 10d 1 farthing. Drumaconnal West, 3 pounds 10s