

3.09 George Frederick Farrar, 1884 - 1972.

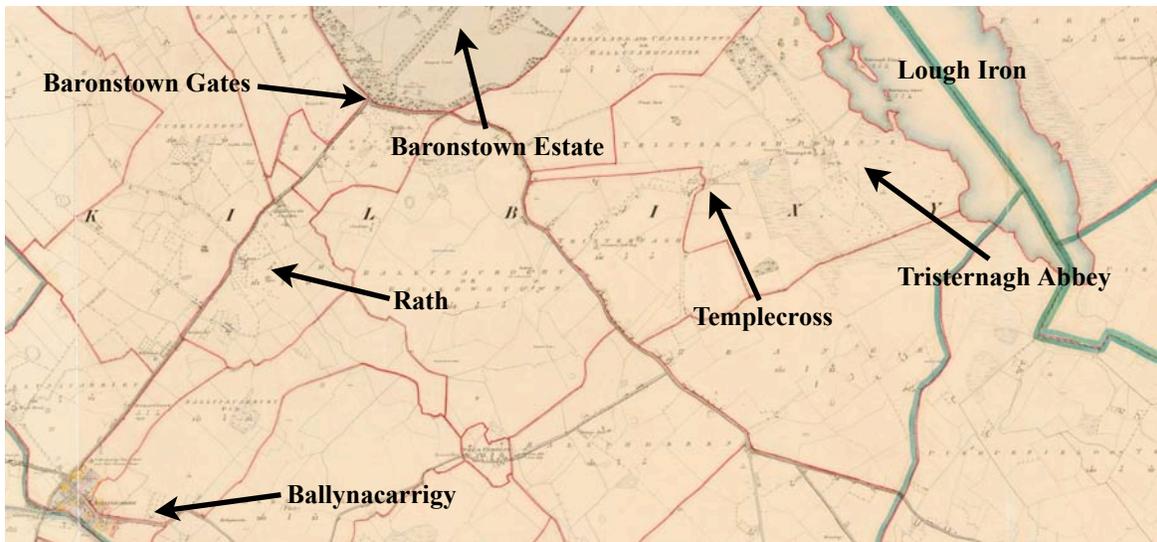
Clement Farrar

George Frederick Farrar was born in Baronstown, Co. Westmeath on the 23rd March 1884. A short time prior to George being born, his parents (John & Susan Farrar) had decided to move to Co. Westmeath, from Coolroe (on right), near Tinahely in Co. Wicklow, with their family for John to work as steward in Baronstown Estate, belonging to the Malone family. The Farrar family lived in the Gate Lodge beside the 'Large Gates' of Baronstown, which was located near the town of Ballynacarrigy.



Farrar Family

Farrar Home, Coolroe, Co. Wicklow



Reproduction of section of old OSI map in editor's possession

George went to primary school in Ballynacarrigy; however, he also worked when not in school. He worked in Baronstown as a kitchen boy and then a 'crow clapper' - this job consisted of running from one end of a field to another while clapping hands to frighten away crows and prevent them from eating the particular crop being grown in the field!



Farrar Family

Baronstown House



Farrar Family

Baronstown Gates

George started working in Loughrey’s foundry, which was near Baronstown Estate, when he was aged 7. At that time the foundry was run by Matt Loughrey and his son Pat. Pat thought the world of George and taught him everything he knew about his business. George used to spend evenings there and Pat would carry him home along the ‘Great Wall’ (Baronstown) at night. It was working here with Loughrey’s that he first established his affiliation with metal, which he was to retain throughout his life! Loughrey’s were also gun and lock smiths. George left school age 13 and commenced working in Loughrey’s on a full time basis. Then, in his late teens he set up his own small forge in Ballynacarrigy, and lived in Harbour Row, Ballynacarrigy.



Harbour Row, Ballynacarrigy

Ronan Browne

He later moved to Dublin, where he worked in the Hammond Lane foundry and John C. Parke’s Hardware. At that time Hammond Lane was the primary foundry in Ireland. It was here he gained a lot of knowledge about smelting and casting metal. He married Letitia Mealy (sister of Richard L. Mealy), also of County Westmeath and they had three children together, George, Louisa and Stephen. Letitia unfortunately died after the birth of their third child.



Farrar Family

Letitia, Stephen, George & Louisa Farrar & Kate Mealy



Farrar Family

George & Letitia, 1904

After Pat Loughrey died, his 2 sisters were left in the foundry and they asked George to come home and manage it. He moved back to County Westmeath with his children and worked there until 1922. During this time he married Margaret Louisa Timms from



Farrar Family

George, Harry, Stephen, Margaret, Jimmy, John, Sam, Lizzie & Suzie Farrar

Ardagh and again lived in Harbour Row, Ballynacarrigy, and they had 7 children together (Sam, Jimmy, Harry, May, Suzie, Lizzie and John). He also did the post run around a nearby area called Emper to make some extra money; however, this wasn't easy money as it involved starting at 3 o'clock in the morning and walking all around the locality delivering mail!

George then set up home in Rath, a townland beside Kilbixy Church and Baronstown, where he obtained his own house and a small piece of land. He also carried out some work in Baronstown as a ploughman.

In 1922 he started to build his own foundry beside his home in Rath. He bought a new Amanco 2½ HP (Horse Power) engine in 1923 to run the furnace, however, it was at its limit to drive the furnace and a stronger engine was required. He then made a deal for a 3½ HP Amanco engine - it was relatively new and had been in use in Grange Hall, a large farm nearby. However, it had stopped working and couldn't be got going, even after the efforts of many mechanics. The deal was, George bought it for 10 shillings for scrap, however, if he got it going he would have to pay another 20 shillings. George and his son Sam brought it home and read the manual; after breakfast they took it all apart, put it back together and had it going by dinner time! The engine was still a very good deal at 30 shillings, and it remains in the family to this day!



Farrar Family

George, churning, Winetown

The foundry continued successfully throughout the 1920s, 30s and 40's. Metal was very cheap, and there was a huge demand for new machinery parts, particularly plough and mowing machine, and also repairs to such machinery, and the yard was often full of ploughs and machinery waiting repair. George's sons delivered newly cast plough socks to shops all around Co Westmeath and Co Longford for sale, including Murtagh's in Ballynacarrigy, McGrath's in Ratharney, Egan's in Moyvore and Geraghty's in Ballymahon. George supplemented the foundry with a saw mill and also kept cattle. In addition he found time to manage the turf cutting and also the planting of potatoes and a number of vegetables.

George always had a great interest in new technology and bought a number of tractors, which were some of the first tractors to appear around Westmeath, including a brand new Fordson N Tractor, which he purchased in Ballynacarrigy on 19th Feb. 1945. He also bought a corn thrasher, which his sons (Sam, Jimmy, Harry and John) used to thrash for farmers all around Co. Westmeath and Co. Longford.

He was a regular attendee at the annual 'Spring Show' in the RDS in Dublin, which was an agricultural machinery exhibition, and would spend a week there exploring the latest developments in agricultural machinery and tools. He used to stay in the Ormond Hotel near O'Connell St.

George then bought a house and some land in Winetown, Rathowen in 1948 and moved



Farrar Family

George & Margaret Louisa Timms, Winetown

there with his wife and son John in 1949. It was at this stage that he learned about electric welding and other newer engineering technology as it became available. He set up a forge there where he continued to work well into his 80's. He developed a great interest in auctions, and accumulated many interesting and unusual acquisitions over the years, including clocks, paintings, books and many other artefacts.

His wife Margaret died in 1966 and George died in 1972 after a short illness.