

TULLY HOUSE

(notes from Alice and Arthur Douglas 1965)

Tully was a pleasant country house with a farm and about 90 acres of land attached - ideal, no doubt, for the early years of Uncles and Aunts, and in later times the "Mecca" of our family holidays. There, while our Grandparents lived, we ran wild each summer, helping (hindering) the farm hands under the watchful eye of the yard man, Tom Connolly.

After the second youngest son, John Robert died in 1889 and the other sons left home, Margaret (Aunt Maggie) and Mary lived on with their parents until Grandmother died in 1900. Grandfather died in 1903, during which time he became practically blind. He accepted this affliction with quiet courage, but could not conceal his inward satisfaction when informed of the frailties of friends still only in their sixties or seventies.

After their parents' death, both aunts left Tully, Maggie going to live with her nephew Roderick in South Africa and Mary to begin her wandering life in Africa and England, which ended in the care of Alice in Dukinfield, Cheshire in 1940.

For a period Tully was empty until Uncle Charlie, after serving for a time as a medical officer with the Cunard line, and on the high Veldt in Africa, came home and took up practice in the Killeshandra district.

He was a wise and much loved doctor. He married late in life his cousin Annie Douglas (as mentioned above). After the "Irish Troubles", Tully was sold, and they settled in Abington, where he died in 1938 and Annie in 1948."

It is pleasant to record that the brothers and sisters of Grandfather Douglas's large family, in spite of the differences of age, character and country, remained friendly and interest in each other's welfare - a family characteristic which, happily seems still to be existing in their widely scattered descendants. "

(A record of the disciplines in the Douglas house as recorded by his son William Magee Douglas)

Iron discipline was exercised in the home by the head of the household, whom the children always addressed as "Sir." Corporal punishment was meted out for two things only - disobedience and untruthfulness. The whole family would be assembled, the culprit's name called out and the offence stated. A solemn admonition and a severe whipping, if deserved, followed. Only once could William Magee remember being the culprit, and the lesson thus impressed was learned once for all. Perhaps it was this early training which wrought that absolute truthfulness in his character. He would relate the same stories time and again without the slightest deviation in detail, with no addition, or subtraction,

and, when memory failed him on any particular point, he would say, "Of that I am not perfectly certain." How greatly would the people of God benefit by such strict adherence to fact when things are related.

The stem rule exercised over the family was blended with a concern for their spiritual welfare. In a letter accompanying the gift of a mercy, may crown your life with such a humble copy of her as you could expect. I have not a doubt as yet but that He will."

William's letters from his mother were always full of tender anxiety for his welfare, and it was said that he inherited from her much of the kindly nature of the Magees, softening the sterner tendencies of Greek New Testament, William's father wrote: "I trust we are all resolved to dwell in the house of the Lord for ever - our circle is yet unbroken. Surrounded by trifling cares and boundless mercies may we all at last rejoice together before our Heavenly Father's Throne, to be forever with Him, our Triune God, no wanderers but a family in heaven."

His letters would usually contain a transcription of some poetry or prose, for he was endowed with literary gifts, and at an advanced age, could quote poetry by the hour. This was one of his consolations in later years when afflicted with blindness. He retained his physical strength until late in life. On one occasion the old gentleman attempted to jump a ditch, but failing eyesight caused him to fall short, and provide the awestruck farm hands with the unusual task of hauling up their master from the ditch with ropes.

For his wife he had nothing but the most unstinted praise. Writing about the time of their leaving the old farm at Freamemount, where they had lived for twenty - nine years, he says, "Mamma has remained with me all throughshe is a glorious creature. You all have a wondrous woman for a mother, no matter what else you lack of earthly good - she is the great antitype of the portrait of the good wife for all time - What think you? How devoutly I pray and every pulse of my heart beats in accord with the thought, that God in His infinite the Douglas strain.

When she entered her eighty - first year, William was spending Christmas at Tully House, Co. Cavan, where the old people were then living. On the evening of her birthday while in excellent spirits, she complained of feeling unwell, and later in the night her husband came to call William's sister. The old gentleman, then eighty - seven years old, missed his footing and fell downstairs, sustaining cuts and bruises, but was still able to walk. Mrs. Douglas got a shock from which she did not recover, and the next morning, the doctor confirmed the opinion that it was a stroke of paralysis on the left side.

William relates that while coming home from an errand the following Thursday in sleet and snow, a sudden and clear realization of his mother glorified came upon him, so strong, that had not someone else been in his company he would have shouted. As it was he sang to himself. On his arrival at home he found that the dear mother had indeed passed within the veil, and at the very moment when he had received the strange intuition.

(The good Fight of Faith by R K Frost, BSc. (Eug.)

A mention must be made of "The Gate Lodge." This is part of the Historical Preservation of Ireland and is mentioned as such:

The Gate Lodges of Ulster

I.A.K. Dean, 1994

"The Gate Lodge - Tully, Killashandra - pre 1835

A tiny, standard, two roomed, single storey building with a steeply hipped roof, its eaves decorated by paired scrolled brackets. A semicircular-headed door opening in brick walls with stone groins. Two square, squat ashlar piers.

Built for Major Randall Stafford.

This is at the entrance and to the left of the gate at Tully.



So many pictures and paintings have been presented to us on Tully house. We share the following with you.

early picture of Tully House



sketch

Painting that hangs on the wall of Tully House.

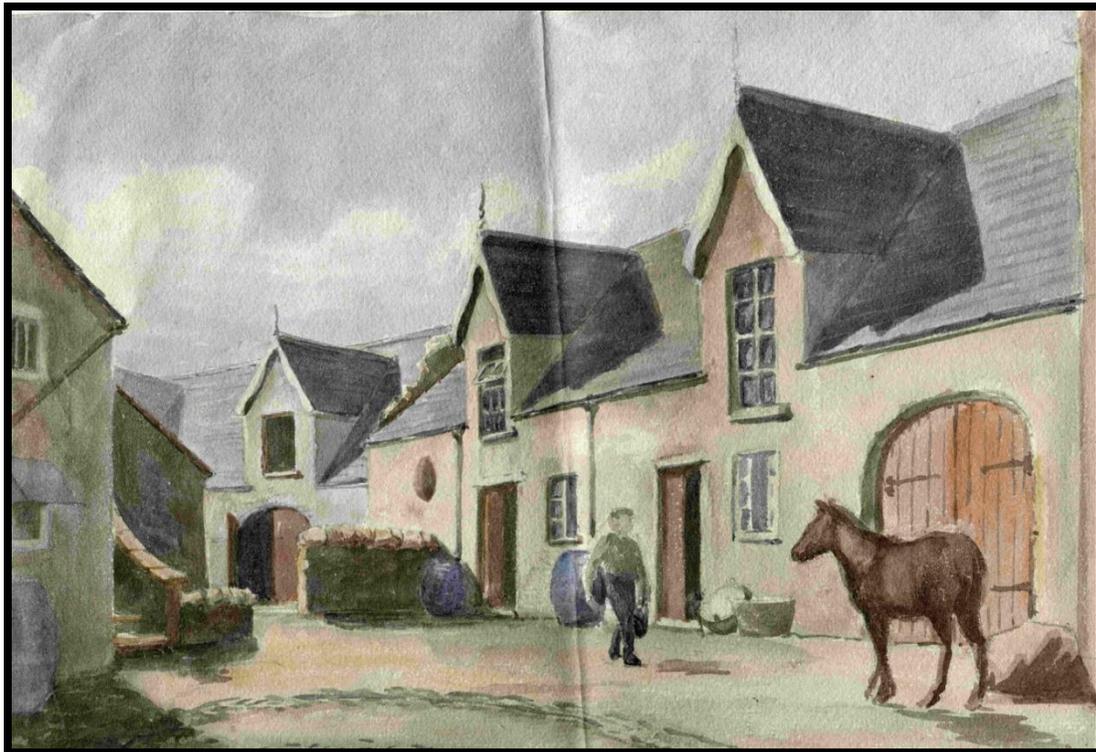


Photo taken by Cuthbert Sholto Douglas of Cousin Willa (Wilehlmina) Roderick Hawksley Douglas and Aunt Maggie (Margaret Douglas) in 1899 - and with Mavis and Jenni in 2002





Stable and house painted by Alice Douglas in the early 1900s





Date of 1832 on the beam in the kitchen.

Aerial view of the Tully estate.



Entrance hall

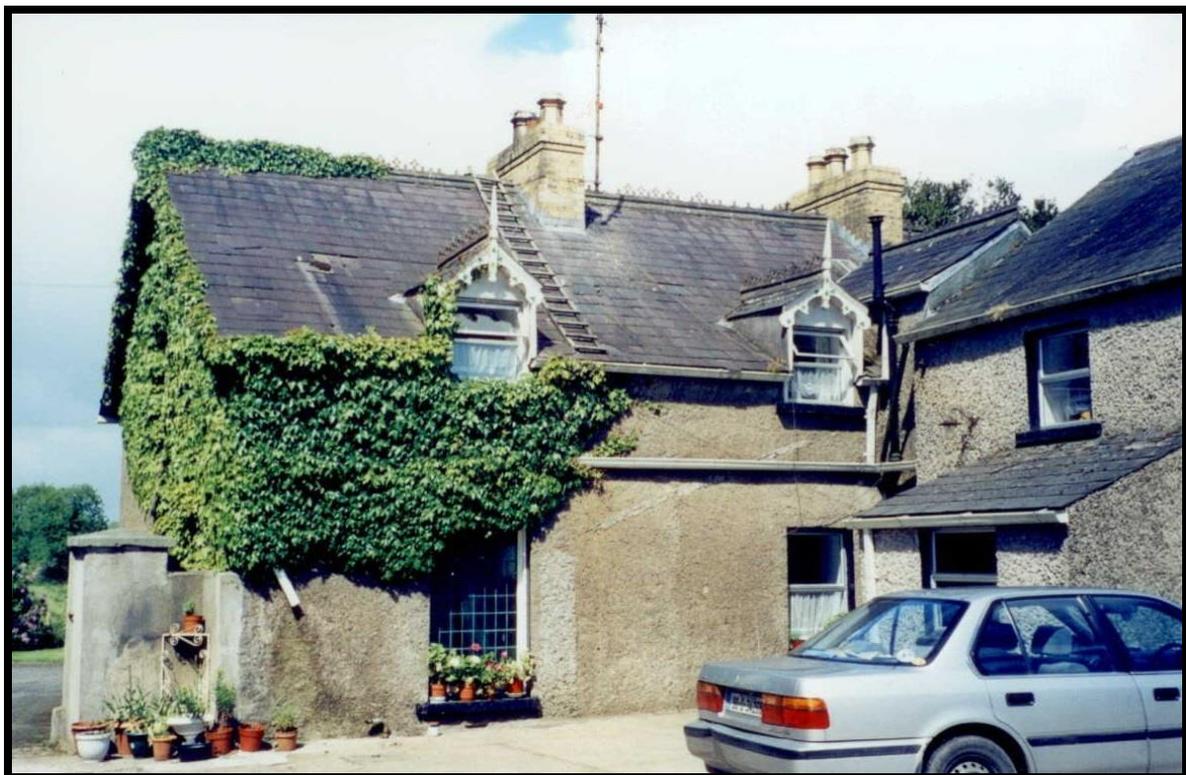
*Decorative window added by Mrs. Douglas for
Privacy for the ladies*



Stables in the year 2002.



Entrance and back of Tully House.



Tully House today.



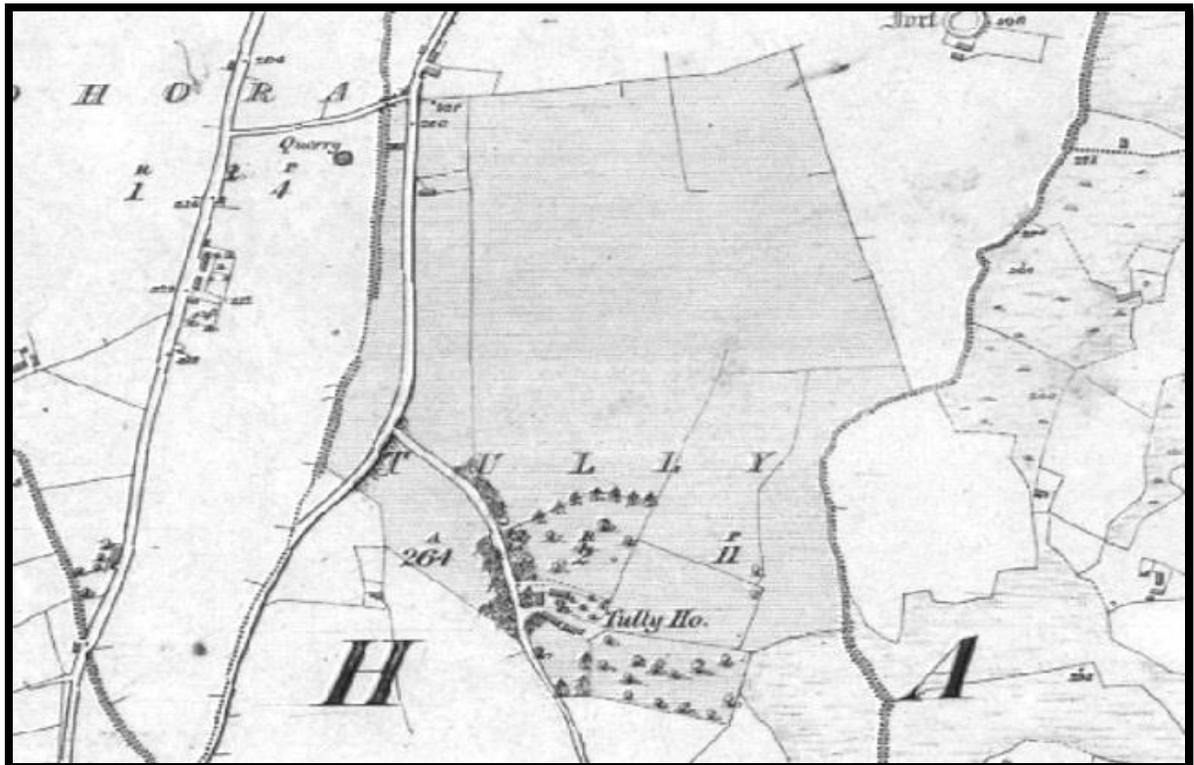
View from front door.



William Henry Douglas was living in Killeshandra, Co. Cavan in 1880, as a reform movement gained traction to improve the lives of the country's tenant farmers.



Tully House Ordinance map



County Cavan.—Lot 13.

The Lands of Upper Tully and Lower Tully, situate in the Barony of Tullyhunco and County of Cavan, held in fee farm, subject to a fee farm Rent of £16 16s. 0d. late currency, being £15 10s. 2d. present currency.

| No. on Map | DENOMINATIONS. | Tenant's Names. | Quantity of Land Irish Measure. | Quantity of Land Statute Measure. | Yearly Rents. | Gale Days. | Tenure. | OBSERVATIONS. |
|------------|----------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--|---------------|
| 2 | Upper Tully, | Charles Magee, | A. R. P. 62 0 26 | A. R. P. 100 2 31 | £ s. d. 35 8 11 | 25th March & 29th Sep | Lease for ever made 20th July, 1810, between George Keen, of Hockley, in the County of Leitrim, Attorney at Law, of the one part, and Miles Sherman, of Carrigallen, and County, of the other part, at the yearly rent of £38 8s. late currency, or £35 8s. 11d. present currency. The original of this Lease cannot be procured, but it is Registered, and a Copy of it furnished by the Tenant will be handed to the Purchaser. | |
| 1 | Lower Tully, | William Magee | 51 0 38 | 83 0 0 | 44 13 6 | 25th March & 29th Sep | Lease for lives, renewable for ever, made 20th July, 1810, between the above named George Keen, of the one part, and Charles Magee, the elder, of Tully, in the County of Cavan, farmer, of the other part, at the yearly rent of £48 8s. late currency, or £44 13s. 6d. present currency, with a fine payable on the fall of each life of 47 Irish, being 40 Os. 3d. present currency. The last Renewal bears date the 21st of April, 1829, and is made between Hugh Walsh, of Drumma, of the one part, and Charles Magee, of Tully, of the other part. Two of the lives are still in being, viz.—James Magee and Charles Magee. A Copy of this Renewal has been furnished by the Tenant, and will be handed to the Purchaser; the original Renewal and the original Lease of 1810 are not forthcoming. | |
| | | | 113 1 24 | 183 2 31 | 80 2 5 | | | |
| | | Deduct Head Rent, | | | 15 10 2 | | | |
| | | The Tythe Rent Charge is payable by Tenant. | | | | | | |
| | | Profit Rent, | | | £64 12 3 | | | |

