

The Hull Hillfoot Farm in Northern Ireland in the Parish of Dungiven

In 1824 a house of Commons recommended and committed funds to do mapping and descriptions of the townlands of Ireland. The Duke of Wellington, then the Prime Minister, named these the First Ordinance Survey of Ireland. They were written in the 1830's as memoirs. This term, memoirs, describes topographical descriptions accompanying maps.

The Memoirs are a uniquely detailed source of the Northern half of Ireland immediately before the Great Famine. The memoirs were stopped in the 1839 to 1840's. The ordinance of Dungiven was recorded in 1833-5. It describes the town of Dungiven, on the west of the Sperrin mountains, and life in the surrounding countryside which is where the Hull family lived.

Memoir writing:

The Hills. The mountains in the area include Benbradagh---

The most striking, although not the highest, of these mountain features is Benbradagh, which stands in the centre of the parish and constitutes part of the Basaltic headlands which stretch northward in succession to the sea. It presents a steep face to the west.

Our family farm, the Hillfoot Farm, is located on the slope of Benbradagh.

A family that lived next to us on their farm, the Douglasses also called their farm the Hillfoot Farm.

Rain, rain and more rain.



*We are trying to walk up to the Hull farm
in the townland of Ballymakeever.
This is the Hillfoot Farm*

During the early 1830s it rained all spring and into the summer. After the seven years the potatoes had blight and over 250,000 Irish died of starvation. Thomas Hull the 2nd and most of the other Hulls had left Ireland to immigrate to Scotland, Australia and America.



Entrance to the 1 acre farm yard.



Garage for the house.

The last Hulls only had a small tractor and a bike.



*Kristen Hull Cook and Dan Hull in front of the
Hull Farm House.*



Back side of the Farm House.



View of the Mount Benbradagh from the farm house. The kids used to have races on Sundays to run from the house to the top of the mount and back. One of the neighbors said he did it in 20 minutes, which was the fastest time.



The family farm consisted of 5 fields of about 4 to 5 acres each. This is one of them and the Douglas family lived just to the far side of the field.



Farm shed



This is the chicken coop over grown after 40 years of no care and use.



Chicken coop for the farm.

Margaret(Maggie) and her brother Tom were the last Hulls to live at the farm and they supported themselves by raising some cows and chickens.



The attic of the house in 2004.

The roof was covered in Italian Slate but was originally covered with thatch.



Maggie must have liked red. This is the hearth where they would have burned peat bricks. The peat smells similar to pine when it burns.

Maggie's kitchen sink. I think they lacked for many conveniences. Tom had a TV in the 1950s but he had to use a generator.



Looking from the front porch everything is green here because it rains so much.





As we leave the farm and look back it is a lovely spot to have a house.

In 2007 or 2008 they tore down the Hull Farm house and built the house shown below. I think it listed for over a million dollars. I have included so many pictures because there is no more home to go home to.



121 Curragh Road, Dungiven
8,000 square feet on 1.3 acre,

In my many years of being an estate agent I have never wished to win the lottery so much. On seeing this fantastic home I instantly fell in love with it and its potential as well. Any serious buyer looking for a house to tick every box on the list, privacy, size, location, views and lay out. There is not many like this in N.Ireland, must be seen - Eddie O'Connor



This is the view to the west from the farm looking down over Dungiven.