OS200 – digitising the Irish Ordnance Survey Name Books

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- An Irish Research Council and Arts and Humanities Research Council co-funded project

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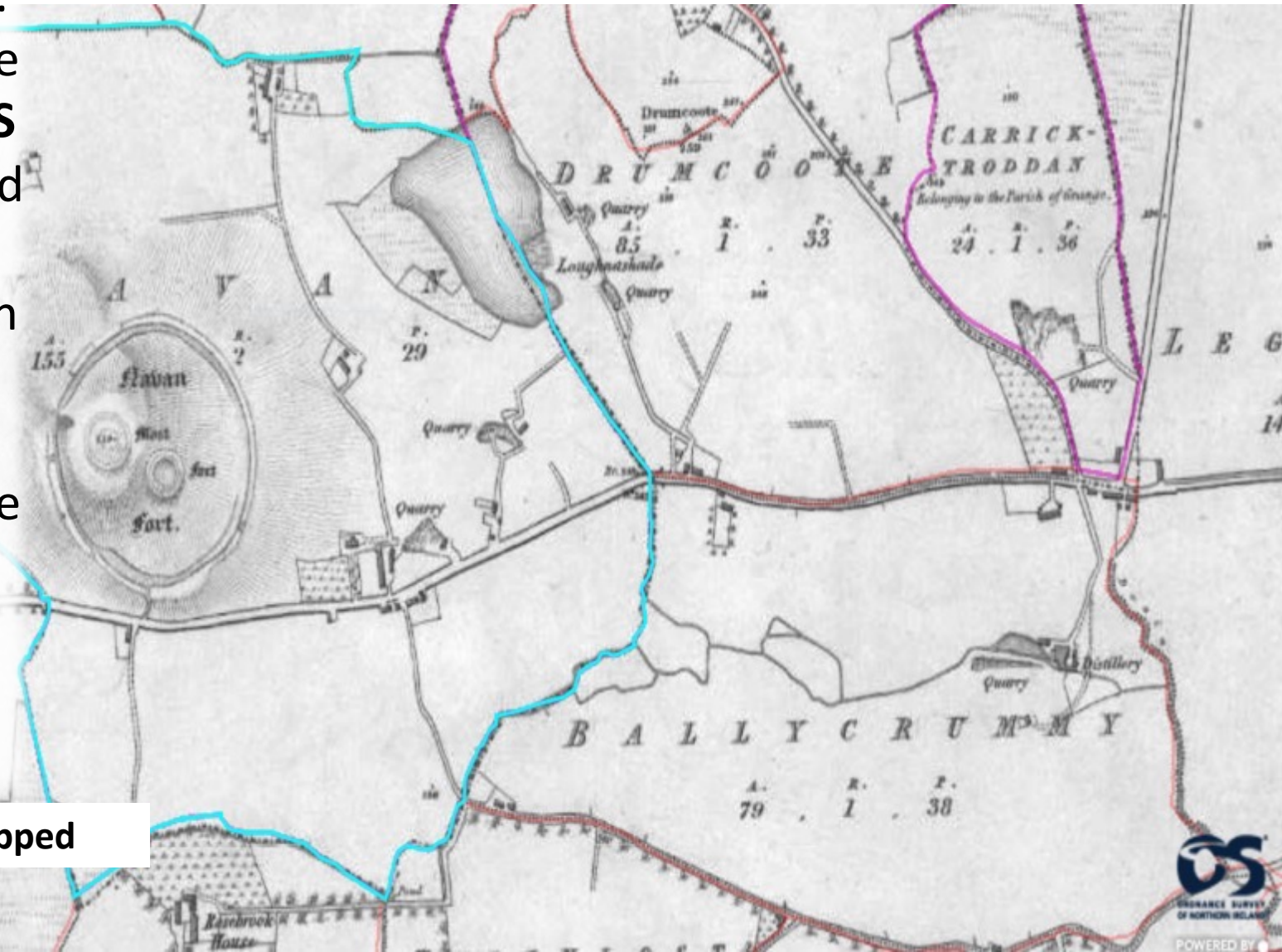Zenobie Garrett (UL)
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OS200 aims to gather historic **Ordnance Survey** (OS) maps and texts to form a single freely accessible **online resource** for academic and public use. This **digital platform** will reconnect the First Edition Six-Inch **Maps** with the **OS Memoirs**, **Letters** and **Name Books** and in doing so will enable a team of researchers from across Ireland - north and south - to **uncover otherwise hidden and forgotten aspects** of the life and work of those employed by the OS as they mapped and recorded **landscapes** and **localities**.

OS200 **Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage**

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

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UKRI
Arts and Humanities Research Council

IRISH RESEARCH COUNCIL
An Chomhairle um Thaighde in Éirinn

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ORDNANCE SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND
POWERED BY

The Ordnance Survey Parish Name Books (OSNB)

- Topographical information for every parish in Ireland, compiled c.1825-42
  - 13 parishes lost (Antrim 6; Down 5; Derry 1; Clare 1)

- Purpose: to establish the 'correct orthography of the names of places by diligently consulting the best authorities' (T. Colby 1825)

- Authorities: both written and oral

- Originals in the National Archives (some counties have been microfilmed)

- Typed transcripts for most counties by Fr Michael O'Flanagan (1876-42)

John O'Donovan & The Topographical Dept. 1833-42

- Thomas Larcom (1801-79)- 'to adopt not necessarily the commonest version but the version ... nearest to the original Irish...'

- John O'Donovan (1806-61):

1) to gather Irish-language forms in the field; consider historical forms from English- and Irish-language sources extracted by members of the Top. Dept. in Dublin; enter and Irish form of the name with translation to the OSNB

2) recommend an English spelling for the map, on the basis of the above

Co. Westmeath

1

BUNOWN

Westmeath

Situations.	Sheet 22	Descriptive Remarks.

This Townland is bounded by Killinure North, Killinure South. And Lough Ree

This the property of R. H. Temple Esqr who holds it under a lease for ever. It is situated about 2½ Miles N. East of Athlone. It contains 160 : 3 : 13

Class Not Known by this name by the B.C. Collector

Issued to Lieut Laucey
Royal Engineers
17th Nov. 1837

C

Situations					Descriptive Remarks		

Bunown Castle
Ballaleck
Kinnerean
Brawel River
Hare Island
The Pass
Temple...
Garrankesh
Park Gate
Grange...
St. Mary Tavern
St. Mary's Well Bridge
Killinure North
Killinure House
Killinure South
Killinure Point
Killinure...
Killinure Lock
Newtown Lock
Lough Ree Lodge
Lough Cottage
Lough Ree
St. Johns Island

Received Name.	Orthography.	Authority.
	Buaile an Cappaig, Spring bawn, or dairy of the spring	Local
Ballinarra	Ballinarra	Boundary Sketch
buaile in cappaig	Buobynara	Grand Jury Docket
	Buobynara	H.C.S. & Val. Report 1824
	Buolleneara	Down Survey
Bolinarra	Ballynra ?	Inquis. Temp. Jac

Crannall's Nook (*Crannall*, a surname [the *Cronnell* family were in the area until recent times]
< Mac Raghnaill or, poss. Ó Crónghaile

The O'Flanagan Transcripts

- Typescript of OS Letters for 29 counties, 1927-35

- OSNB: 74 volumes (76?) were reproduced and put on sale around the same time.
  - 'Bray 1931' (U. of Galway, Cat.)

- Usually found today in county libraries and other reference libraries

- R. Dudley Edwards (1966):
  - 'twenty counties were reproduced and put on sale. The remaining counties of Clare, Cork, Down, Fermanagh, Galway, Louth, Kildare, Kilkenny, Queen's, Tyrone, Waterford, and Wexford were typed but not duplicated ... **O'Flanagan did not attempt to emulate the scholarly work of Paul Walsh, and his reproductions should be checked against the originals'**
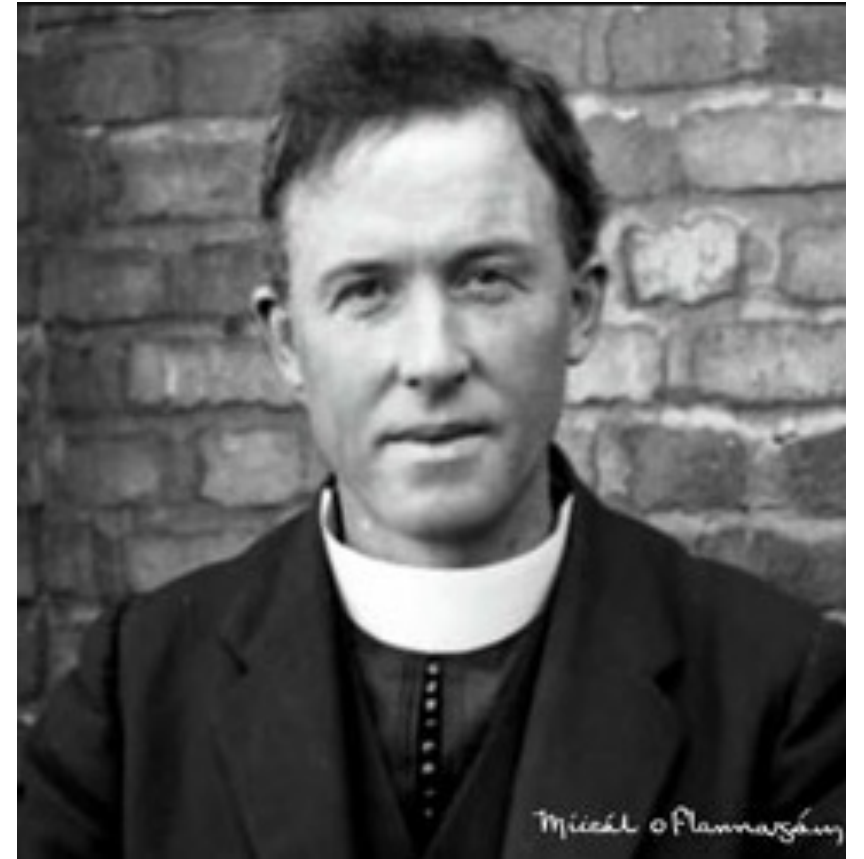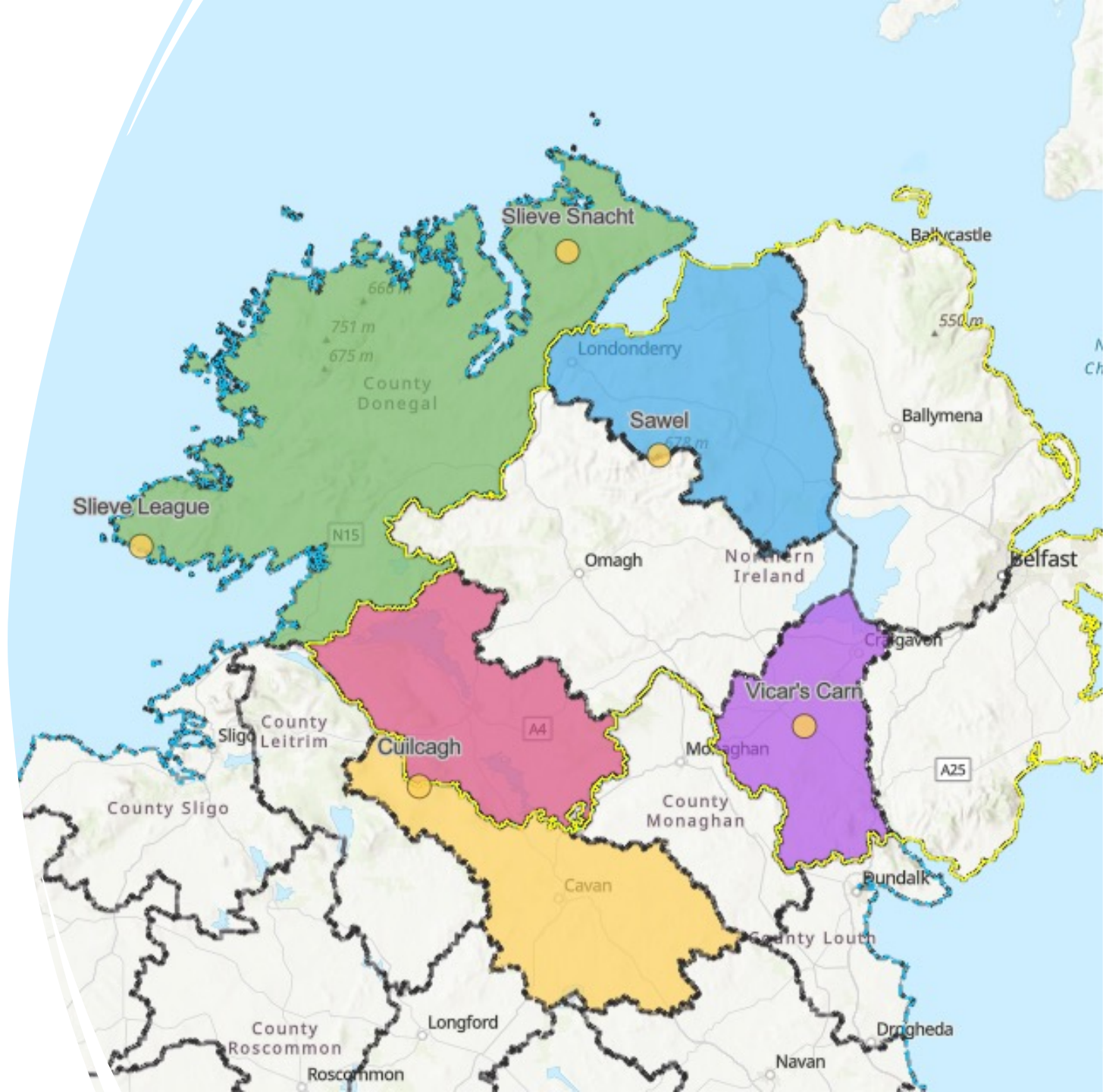

Photo: Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/
wiki/Michael_O%27Flanagan#/media/File:Fr._Michael_O'Flanagan.jpg

OS200 and the OSNB

- A sample of O'Flanagan's transcripts have been digitised
  - 4 counties, 8911 Received Names, 26777 Orthographies
  - Currently being added to the database

- Fermanagh: a transcript of the originals by Pat McKay has been digitised

Townland Names of Westmeath Project

- Since 2019 I have been photographing the OSNB Mss for Westmeath:

- 64 parishes (usually 1 volume per parish, sometimes as many as 4)

- 50 pages per volume

- I usually omit descriptive remarks & situation (-50%)

- 21 parishes photographed to date.
  - amount of names with local (pencil) Irish forms in OSNB varies considerably

How reliable is O'Flanagan's Transcript?

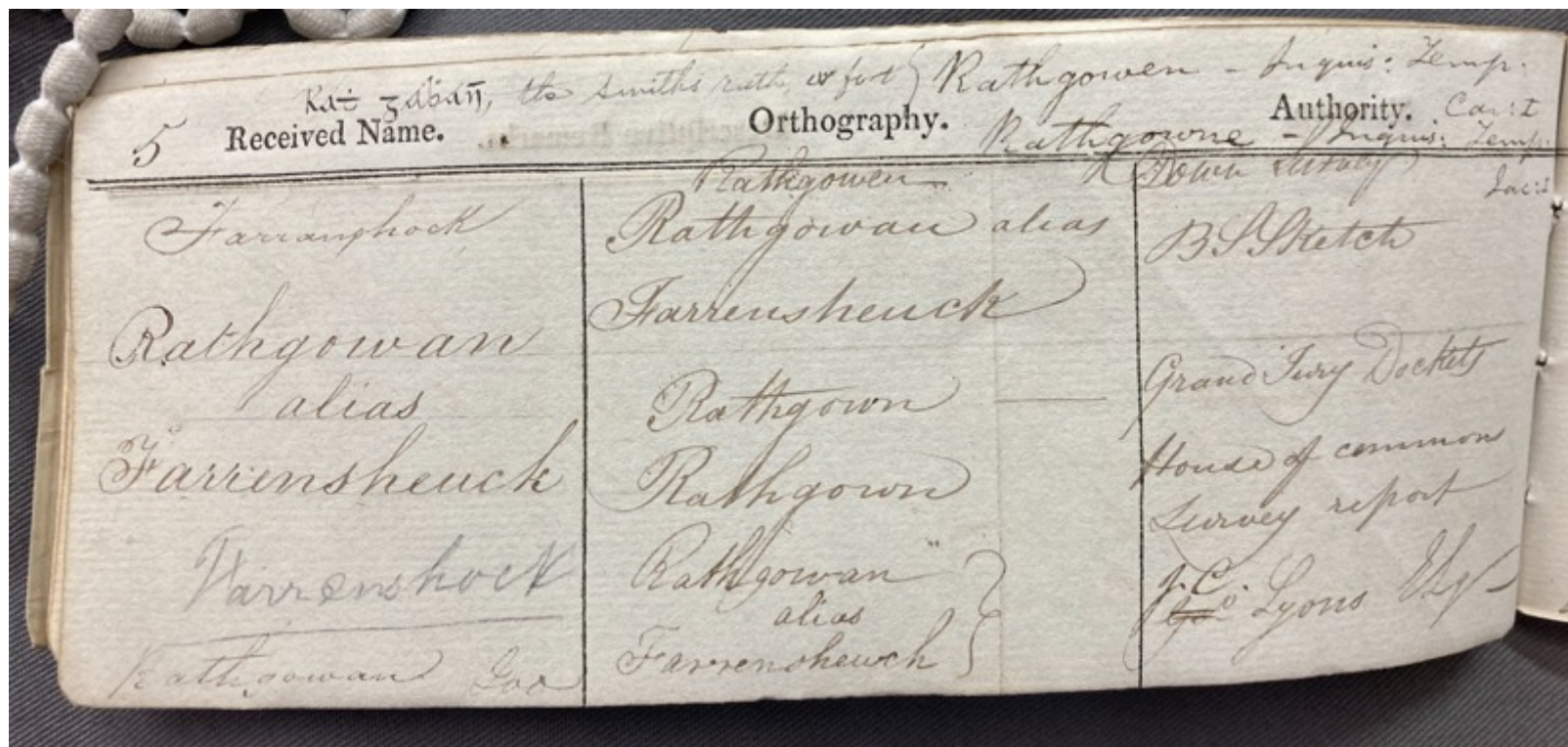'frosty' not used elsewhere by O'Donovan when explaining *sioc,* gen. *seaca* in placenames
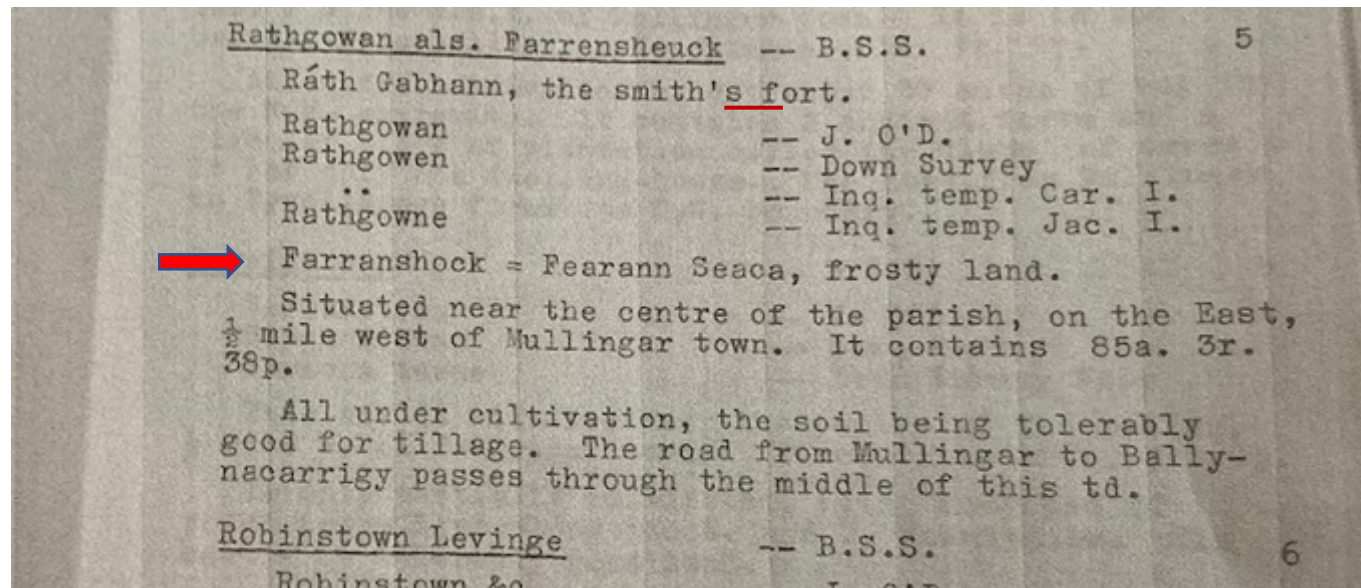
Thanks to Aindí Mac Giolla Chomhghaill for this ref.

Logainm.ie (2009):

Farranshock < Fearann Seac

"'*the land(holding) of Seac* **Seac** — apparently from the AN surname *Jack*"

Rathgowan als. Farrensheuck — B.S.S. 5
Ráth Gabhann, the smith's fort.
Rathgowan — J. O'D.
Rathgowen — Down Survey
.. — Inq. temp. Car. I.
Rathgowne — Inq. temp. Jac. I.
Farranshock = Fearann Seaca, frosty land.
Situated near the centre of the parish, on the East, ½ mile west of Mullingar town. It contains 85a. 3r. 38p.

All under cultivation, the soil being tolerably good for tillage. The road from Mullingar to Ballynacarrigy passes through the middle of this td.

Robinstown Levinge — B.S.S. 6
Robinstown &c

Questions?