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Indirect Evidence Identifies A Mother for Honora (O'Grady) Moroney of Kilcraiga, County Limerick, Ireland

No extant record names Honora (O'Grady) Moroney's mother.¹ She was born before Catholic baptism registers began in her parish.² Civil birth records did not begin until after she was born.³ Civil marriage records when Honora married only recorded the name of the father.⁴ The Catholic priest in her parish at the time of her marriage did not record the names of parents in the marriage register.⁵ Civil death records when Honora died did not record the names of parents.⁶

However, indirect evidence found in the naming pattern of Honora's children, estate rent ledgers, the death of an elderly woman living in Honora's household, and the baptism of Ellen O'Grady proves that Honora (O'Grady) Moroney's mother was Mary Rea.

Honora O'Grady

Honora O'Grady, daughter of Denis O'Grady, was born from about 1846 to 1849 in County Limerick.⁷ She married William Moroney on 2 February 1871 in Glenroe Catholic parish,

¹ O'Grady surname variants include Grady, Gready, and Graddy. See, *Irish Ancestors* (<https://www.johngrenham.com/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025) > surnames > O'Grady. For consistency, the author has used the surname O'Grady in this case study. Footnotes contain the spelling found in the original sources.

² Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Baptisms, chronologically arranged; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 3. First baptism on 27 Jun 1853.

³ John Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Dublin: Gill Books, 2019), 1

⁴ *Ibid.*, 4-5.

⁵ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Marriages, chronologically arranged, 2 Feb 1871, Gulielmus [William] Moroney and Honora OGrady; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 79.

⁶ Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 3-4.

⁷ For father's name, see Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Marriages, 1871, vol. 5, p. 452, no. 170, 2 Feb 1871, William Moroney and Honora O'Grady; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/marriage_returns/marriages_1871/11340/8162241.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 2765318. Birth years calculated from age on 1901 Census of Ireland and her marriage record. For census, see 1901 census of Ireland, County Limerick, District Electoral Division (DED) Darragh, Ballynacourty, Form A, household 10, Hanorah Moroney; *National Archives of Ireland* (https://nationalarchives.ie/collections/search-the-census/census-record/?id=6921022&c20_year=1901 : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Birth location stated on 1901 Census of Ireland.

County Limerick.⁸ Honora died on 4 May 1902 in Ballynacourty townland, Darragh civil parish, County Limerick.⁹

Honora's father Denis O'Grady was identified on her civil marriage record, but her mother was not.¹⁰

Honora's husband William Moroney, son of William Moroney, was born circa 1844.¹¹ William was a laborer from Ballyshane townland, Darragh civil parish¹².

When Honora married in 1871 she was from Kilcruaig townland, Kilflyn civil parish.¹³ Kilflyn and Darragh parishes border each other.¹⁴ In 1871 there was no church in Kilflyn and the church in Glenroe served both Kilflyn and Darragh civil parishes.¹⁵ Glenroe is the name of a village and Catholic parish in Darragh civil parish, County Limerick.¹⁶

After she married, Honora lived in Ballyshane.¹⁷ Then about 1887 she moved to Ballynacourty.¹⁸ Honora was enumerated on the 1901 Census in Ballynacourty.¹⁹ This was the only census Honora was enumerated on as she died before the next census occurred in 1911.

⁸ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Marriages, 1871, vol. 5, p. 452, William Moroney-Honora O'Grady. The record stated Ballyorgan as the marriage location. Ballyorgan is a variant name for Glenroe. See, Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Registers; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Variants names include Ballyorgan, and Glenroe and Ballyorgan.

⁹ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1902, vol. 5, p. 225, no. 233, 4 May 1902, Hanorah Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1902/05691/4604086.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 4569373.

¹⁰ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Marriages, 1871, vol. 5, p. 452, William Moroney-Honora O'Grady.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ "Civil Parishes," *Irish Ancestors* (https://johnngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php#maps/ : accessed 11 Mar 2025) > Limerick civil parishes. See Kilflyn and neighboring Darragh on the south east border with County Cork.

¹⁵ "Diocesan Heritage Project: Glenroe-Ballyorgan Parish," database, *Diocese of Limerick* (<https://limerickdioceseheritage.org/Glenroe/textGlenroe.htm> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ballyshane was where Honora's first child was born. See, Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1872, vol. 15, p. 442, no. 388, 25 Jan 1872, Mary Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1872/03255/2192695.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 10945194.

¹⁸ Ballynacourty was where her tenth child was born. See, Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1887, vol. 5, p. 281, no. 327, 20 Nov 1887, John Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1887/02532/1938089.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 11791062.

¹⁹ 1901 census of Ireland, Co. Limerick, DED Darragh, Ballynacourty, Form A, household 10, Hanorah Moroney.

Honora probably could not write as she signed her marriage register with her mark.²⁰ William did the same.

Honora (O'Grady) Moroney and William Moroney had thirteen children. To keep a name alive in a family, when a young child died, that name would often be used for the next born child of the same gender.²¹ Honora and William reused the names William and Bridget in this fashion.

1. Mary Moroney was born on 25 January 1872 in Ballyshane.²²
2. Ellen Moroney was born on 3 June 1874 in Ballyshane.²³
3. Anne Moroney was born on 11 April 1876 in Ballyshane.²⁴
4. William Moroney was born on 30 May 1878 in Ballyshane.²⁵ He died a year later on 8 June 1879 in Ballyshane.²⁶ William died from mesenteric disease [a swelling of the abdominal lymph nodes].²⁷
5. Bridget Moroney was born on 23 August 1879 in Ballyshane.²⁸ She died at the age of two on 29 January 1882 in Ballyshane.²⁹ Bridget died from mesenteric disease like William.

²⁰ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Marriages, 1871, vol. 5, p. 452, William Moroney-Honora O'Grady.

²¹ Fiona Fitzsimons, "Traditional Irish naming patterns," *FindMyPast*, 29 Nov 2018

(<https://www.findmypast.com/blog/help/traditional-irish-naming-patterns> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

²² Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Births, 1872, vol. 15, p. 442, no. 388, 25 Jan 1872, Mary Moroney.

²³ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1874, vol. 10, p. 439, no. 27, 3 Jun 1874, Ellen Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1874/03143/2152570.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 8571218.

²⁴ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1876, vol. 10, p. 424, no. 4, 11 Apr 1876, Anne Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1876/03050/2118272.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 9220641.

²⁵ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1878, vol. 5, p. 423, no. 23, 30 May 1878, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1878/02959/2083925.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 9777449.

²⁶ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1879, vol. 5, p. 300, no. 127, 8 Jun 1879, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1879/06511/4875262.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 5972367.

²⁷ "Mesenteric lymphadenitis," *Mayo Clinic* (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mesenteric-lymphadenitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20353799> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

²⁸ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1879, vol. 5, p. 328, no. 301, 23 Aug 1879, Bridget Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1879/02901/2063092.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 11331301.

²⁹ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1882, vol. 5, p. 295, no. 470, 28 Jan 1882, Bridget Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1882/06408/4840253.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 6457913.

6. William Moroney was born on 17 December 1881 in Ballyshane.³⁰ He died when he was three on 3 November 1885 in Ballyshane.³¹ William died from chronic hydrocephalus.
7. Honora Moroney was born on 28 January 1883 in Ballyshane.³² Honora died on 19 March 1897 in Ballynacourty.³³
8. Denis Moroney was born on 11 April 1884 in Ballyshane.³⁴
9. William Moroney was born on 10 January 1886 in Ballyshane.³⁵ He died when he was ten months old on 10 November 1886 in Ballyshane.³⁶ William died tragically from burns which he suffered from for 7 days.
10. John Moroney was born on 20 November 1887 in Ballynacourty.³⁷
11. Bridget Moroney was born on 21 January 1890 in Ballynacourty.³⁸
12. Margaret Moroney was born on 12 May 1891 in Ballynacourty.³⁹

³⁰ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1881, vol. 5, p. 318, no. 293, 17 Dec 1881, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1881/02799/2027447.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 10835100.

³¹ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1885, vol. 5, p. 231, no. 477, 3 Nov 1885, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1885/06265/4794642.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 6508469.

³² Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1883, vol. 5, p. 356, no. 15, 28 Jan 1883, Honora Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1883/02741/2007993.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 10215609.

³³ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1897, vol. 5, p. 250, no. 237, 19 Mar 1897, Honoria Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1897/05869/4663944.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 4174828.

³⁴ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1884, vol. 5, p. 359, no. 231, 11 Apr 1884, Denis Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1884/02685/1989058.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 10415354.

³⁵ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1886, vol. 5, p. 327, no. 39, 10 Jan 1886, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1886/02608/1963290.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 11075261.

³⁶ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1886, vol. 5, p. 228, no. 109, 10 Nov 1886, William Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1886/06229/4782773.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 7062450.

³⁷ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Births, 1887, vol. 5, p. 281, no. 327, 20 Nov 1887, John Moroney.

³⁸ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1890, vol. 5, p. 302, no. 140, 21 Jan 1890, Bridget Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1890/02436/1906730.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 9589291.

³⁹ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1891, vol. 5, p. 313, no. 328, 12 May 1891, Margaret Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/cert_amends/cert_1891/1889345b.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 9703296.

13. Edmond Moroney was born on 23 April 1893 in Ballynacourty.⁴⁰

No other source exists that could provide information about Honora.

- The earliest surviving complete census is from 1901.⁴¹ Census fragments survive between 1821 and 1891 for some areas of Ireland but none for Darragh or Kilflyn civil parish where Honora lived.⁴²
- Local Catholic parish registers for Glenroe began in 1853.⁴³ As a result, no baptism record, circa 1846-1849, exists for Honora. No baptism record in adjoining Catholic parishes was found for her between 1840 and 1860.⁴⁴
- There is no headstone for Honora or her husband William.⁴⁵
- There are no wills that mention Honora.⁴⁶
- There are no deeds that mention Honora.⁴⁷
- There are no other property records that mention Honora.⁴⁸

⁴⁰ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1893, vol. 5, p. 296, no. 78, 23 Apr 1893, Edmd Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1893/02298/1862220.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 10832389.

⁴¹ Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 18.

⁴² Ibid, 23-27

⁴³ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Baptisms.

⁴⁴ The author searched "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Grady/Graddy/Gready/O'Grady last names in Ballylanders, Kildorrery, Kilfinane, Knocklong and Glenbrohane parishes.

⁴⁵ Anonymous, *Glenroe-Ballyorgan Parish: God's Acre* (n.p.: n.p.), Moroney and Grady/O'Grady entries in Abbey, Kilflyn, Darragh and Glenroe cemeteries.

⁴⁶ The author searched for Honora Moroney/Grady/Graddy/Gready/O'Grady in "Will Registers 1858-1900," database and images, *National Archives of Ireland* (<https://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/wr/home.jsp> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). And in "Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 - 1920," database and images, *National Archives of Ireland* (<https://willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). And in "Index Of Irish Wills 1484-1858," database, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-records/index-of-irish-wills-1484-1858> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁴⁷ The author searched for Honora Moroney/Grady/Graddy/Gready/O'Grady in County Limerick in "Registry of Deeds Index Project Search page," database, *Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland* (<https://irishdeedsindex.net/search/index.php> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). The Moroney and O'Grady families were poor farm laborers and probably did not own land.

⁴⁸ The author searched for Honora Moroney/Grady/Graddy/Gready/O'Grady in County Limerick in "The Tithe Applotment Books," database and images, *National Archives of Ireland* (<https://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). And in "Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

Honora's mother was probably named Mary

Irish parents often used a traditional naming pattern for their children.⁴⁹ This pattern was:

1 st son named for the father's father	1 st daughter named for the mother's mother
2 nd son named for the mother's father	2 nd daughter named for the father's mother
3 rd son named for the father	3 rd daughter named for the mother
4 th son named for the father's eldest brother	4 th daughter named for the mother's eldest sister
5 th son named for the mother's eldest brother	5 th daughter named for the father's eldest sister

Honora and William followed the traditional naming pattern for their first four sons.

- Their first son William, born in 1878, was named using the first son naming pattern. He was named after William's father William. However, William died in 1879 from mesenteric disease.
- Their next son, born in 1881, was then named William. As stated earlier, to keep a name alive in a family, when a young child died, that name would often be used again. This is what happened for the son born in 1881. He was named after William's father William.
- Their next son was named using the second son naming pattern. Denis, born in 1884, was named after Honora's father Denis.
- William, the second child by that name, died in 1885 from chronic hydrocephalus.
- Their next son, born in 1886, was then named William. Once again, the name was reused. William, the third by that name, was named after William's father William. Unfortunately, William died ten months later from burns which he suffered from for 7 days. After three sons were named William, and each died tragically young, the name William was not used again. Superstitions played a large part of many Irish lives.⁵⁰ Honora and William may have decided to let the name William rest in peace and not tempt fate again.

Because of the lack of early Irish records, all of William's siblings are unknown. Without a complete list of his siblings, in birth order, it is not possible to verify that Honora and William followed the naming pattern for their remaining two sons John and Edmond.

Because Honora and William followed the first and second son naming pattern, they probably used the traditional naming pattern for at least their first two daughters.

⁴⁹ "Ireland Naming Customs," *FamilySearch Research Wiki*

(https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ireland_Naming_Customs : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Traditional Naming Pattern.

⁵⁰ C. Anthony Ryan and Bridget Maher, "Pediatric pishogues," *Hektoen International*:

A Journal of Medical Humanities (<https://hekint.org/2017/03/04/pediatric-pishogues-2/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

Also Marion McGarry, "The weird traditions associated with pregnancy and births in Irish folklore," in *RTE Brainstorm*, 24 Apr 2024 (<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2024/0424/1445014-ireland-folklore-conception-pregnancy-births-babies-children/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Also Bridget Haggerty, "God Between us and All Harm - Irish Superstitions," *Irish Culture and Customs*

(<https://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/ACustom/Superstitions1.html> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

- Mary, born in 1872, was probably named using the first daughter naming pattern. Therefore Honora's mother was probably named Mary.
- Ellen, born in 1874, was probably named using the second daughter naming pattern. Therefore William's mother was probably named Ellen.

Honora and William did not follow the naming pattern for their next daughter. This was not unusual as the naming pattern for daughters was not as closely followed as it was for sons.⁵¹ In addition, if a close relative died, sometimes their name was used to honor them.⁵² Anne, born in 1876, should have been named using the third daughter pattern, or after her mother Honora. However, she was not named after her mother. The name Honora was not used until the fifth daughter was born in 1883.

CONCLUSION

Honora's mother was probably named Mary.

- Honora and William followed the first and second son naming pattern.
- They probably also followed the first and second daughter naming pattern.
- The first daughter naming pattern named a child after the mother's mother.
- Honora named her first daughter Mary.

Honora was the daughter of a woman named Mary who married Honora's father Denis O'Grady by about 1842

When Honora married in 1871, she lived in Kilcruaig. Her father Denis O'Grady certainly was the man of the same name, who lived there.

- Denis O'Grady was recorded on the census substitute Griffith's Valuation in Kilcruaig, published in 1852.⁵³
- Denis also appeared in the pre-publication records generated by Griffith's Valuation in 1849 and 1850.⁵⁴ In both records he was listed as leasing a small house on about 3 roods, or three quarters of an acre.
- No other Denis O'Grady was found in Kilflyn or Darragh civil parishes where Kilcruaig is located.⁵⁵

⁵¹ "Irish Naming Conventions and Baptism Traditions," *IrelandXO reaching out*, 8 Aug 202 (https://www.irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/irish-naming-conventions-and-baptism-traditions : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ "Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864," database and images, *FindMyPast* (https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864 : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Denis Grady, Kilcruaig, Kilflyn, Limerick.

⁵⁴ "Ireland Valuation Office Books," database and images, *FindMyPast* (https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-valuation-office-books : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Denis Gready, Kilflyn parish, County Limerick > 1849 Tenure Book Also, Ibid > 1850 House Book.

⁵⁵ The author searched for D*n* *Gr*dy names in Kilflyn and Darragh civil parishes in "Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864," database and images, *FindMyPast* (https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864 : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Only Denis Grady in Kilcruaig was found. The author also for D*n* *Gr*dy names in Kilflyn and Darragh civil parishes in "Ireland Valuation Office Books," database and images,

On Griffith's Valuation Denis O'Grady leased his land from Fred. Chas. Trench, Esq., and Miss E.O. Gascoigne. Frederic Charles Trench was the husband of Mary Isabella Gascoigne.⁵⁶ Along with her sister Elizabeth Gascoigne they were the heirs of the Richard Oliver estate of Castle Oliver, County Limerick.⁵⁷ Richard Oliver had taken the "additional name of Gascoigne when he and his wife became the successors to the Gascoigne of Parlington estate in Yorkshire."⁵⁸ Elizabeth later married Frederic Mason Trench, the second Baron Ashtown, and first cousin of Frederic Charles Trench.⁵⁹ Frederic Mason Trench was also known as Lord Ashtown.⁶⁰

Rent ledgers for Lord Ashtown's estate in County Limerick have survived and included Kilcruaig for the time period when Denis O'Grady leased his land.⁶¹ These ledgers detail receipt of rent paid, usually twice a year in the spring and fall, by a lessee. A careful examination of the ledgers provided information about the land held by Denis.

Lord Ashton rent ledgers			
Page	Name	Date	Description
662	Patrick Fleming & Partners	1850 to 1853	Leased about 43 acres of land in Kilcruaig. ⁶² The land was held "at will." In 1853 three tenancies were established on the 43 acres of land and described on pages 664, 665, and 666. ⁶³ One of these was for Denis O'Grady on page 666.
666	Denis O'Grady	1853 to 1861	Leased an unspecified amount of land "from year to year by proposal" at the yearly rent of 4 shillings. ⁶⁴ When the page held no more room for rent payments the rental agreement was continued on page 924.
924	Mary O'Grady	1861 to 1866	Leased an unspecified amount of land "from year to year by proposal" at the yearly rent of 4 shillings. ⁶⁵ A notation stated the rental agreement was continued in a new ledger on page 699.

FindMyPast (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-valuation-office-books> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Only Denis Gready in Kilcruaig was found.

⁵⁶ "Families," database, *Landed Estates* (<https://landedestates.ie/family/954> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Trench (Woodlawn) > Gascoigne/Trench (Castle Oliver).

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, *Tenants Ledgers, 1837-1884*; Rent ledgers of the estates of Lord Ashtown in County Limerick, MSS 5823-5825; National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

⁶² Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, *Tenants Ledger, 1850-1866*, p. 662; Rent ledgers of the estates of Lord Ashtown in County Limerick, MS 5824; National Library of Ireland, Dublin. Copy in author's file.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, *Tenants Ledger, 1850-1866*, p. 666.

⁶⁵ Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, *Tenants Ledger, 1850-1866*, p. 924.

699	Mary O'Grady	1866 to 1884	Leased an unspecified amount of land by "yearly agreement." ⁶⁶ The rent was increased to "1£ a year on getting 19 perches of garden late in possession of Honora Neile." A different notation stated, "let to son Thomas from 29 th September 1879."
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The Denis O'Grady who leased land in Griffith's Valuation from Fred. Chas. Trench, Esq., and Miss E.O. Gascoigne is the same Denis O'Grady named in the rent ledgers for Lord Ashtown's estate. Although the amount of land was not specified in the early rent ledgers, the small amount of 4 shilling for rent indicates a modest parcel of land probably the 3 roods listed in Griffith's Valuation. The rent ledgers demonstrated that the O'Grady family continued to occupy this land through 1884.

Denis O'Grady certainly died sometime between 1853 and 1861. He probably died closer to 1861 since no notation was made in the rent ledger until 1861 when Mary's name appeared. However, no record of Denis' death has been found. Glenroe Catholic parish burial registers do not exist.⁶⁷ No civil death record exists for Denis O'Grady.⁶⁸

Mary was certainly Denis O'Grady's widow.

- From 1853 to 1861 Denis O'Grady leased land in Kilcruaig.
- In 1861 Mary O'Grady became the responsible rent payer.
- In the mid-1800s a woman named in Irish land records was typically a widow.⁶⁹

On 29 September 1879 Mary let the Kilcruaig land to her son Thomas. Thomas O'Grady, son of Denis O'Grady, was born about 1842 and died on 7 December 1936 in Kilcruaig.⁷⁰ He married

⁶⁶ Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, Tenants Ledger, 1866-1884, p. 699; MS 5825.

⁶⁷ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Registers; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). No register found. Also, "Burial/Death Records for Ireland," database *RootsIreland.ie* (<https://rootsireland.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), County: Limerick, Parish/District of Glenroe & Ballyorgan (Roman Catholic). No records found.

⁶⁸ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). The author searched for Denis Grady/Graddy/Gready/O'Grady between 1864 and 1900. Civil registration began in 1864.

⁶⁹ Jane Halloran Ryan, "Ireland Land Valuation Records," *MyHeritage Wiki* (https://www.myheritage.com/wiki/Ireland_land_valuation_records : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁷⁰ Birth year calculated from age at death, see Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1936, vol. 5, p. 188, no. 317, 7 Dec 1936, Thomas O'Grady; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1936/04792/4288437.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 1431174. Father's name found in marriage, see Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Marriages, 1869, vol. 5, p. 426, no. 73, 9 Feb 1869, Thomas Ogrady and Margaret Kelliher; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/marriage_returns/marriages_1869/11416/8192895.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 3086621.

Margaret Kelleher on 9 February 1869 in the neighboring Kilfinane Catholic parish.⁷¹ After they married Thomas and Margaret lived in Kilcruaig where their first child Margaret was born on, or soon before she was baptized, on 20 November 1869.⁷²

Based on the year her son Thomas was born, Mary married Denis O'Grady by about 1842. However, no marriage record exists as Mary and Denis married before Catholic marriage registers began in the parish.⁷³

CONCLUSION

Honora (O'Grady) Moroney was the daughter of a woman named Mary who married Honora's father Denis O'Grady by about 1842.

- The rent ledgers provided information showing that Honora's father Denis leased land in Kilcruaig from 1853 to 1861. After he died about 1861 his widow Mary took over the land. Then in 1879 her son Thomas took over the land.
- Thomas was born about 1842. Therefore Denis married Mary by about 1842.
- Honora was born about 1846-1849 after her father Denis married Mary.

Honora's mother Mary died on 26 December 1878

On 26 December 1878 a woman named Mary (--?--) O'Grady died in Ballyshane.⁷⁴ She was 60-years-old, or born circa 1818, a laborer's widow, and died from chronic bronchitis. The informant for her death was Honora Moroney. Honora was present at Mary's death, was a resident of Ballyshane, and signed with her mark. No relationship between Honora and Mary was stated.

⁷¹ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Marriages, 1869, vol. 5, p. 426, no. 73, 9 Feb 1869, Thomas Ogrady and Margaret Kelliher.

⁷² Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Births, chronologically arranged, 20 Nov 1869, Margaritam [Margaret], daughter of Thoma [Thomas] O'Grady and Margarita [Margaret] Kelliher; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 41. For Kilcruaig location, see Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1870, vol. 5, p. 441, no. 309, 21 Dec 1869, Margaret Grady; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/birth_returns/births_1870/03354/2229530.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 7908280. Margaret was born in 1869, but her birth was not registered until 5 Jan 1870. Civil birth records are indexed by the year the birth was registered. Margaret's civil birth record stated she was born on 21 Dec 1869 rather than a date close to her 20 Nov 1869 baptism. To avoid a fine for late registration, it was a common practice to give a fictitious birth date close to the registration date.

⁷³ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Marriages, chronologically arranged; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 65. First marriage occurred on 2 Aug 1853.

⁷⁴ Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Deaths, 1879, vol. 5, p. 291, no. 57, 26 Dec 1878, Mary Grady; *IrishGenealogy.ie* (https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/deaths_returns/deaths_1879/06521/4878921.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 6920474. Mary died in 1878, but her death was not registered until 8 Jan 1879. Civil death records are indexed by the year the death was registered.

The informant Honora Moroney was certainly Honora (O'Grady) Moroney.

- The informant Honora lived in Ballyshane in 1878. Honora (O'Grady) Moroney lived in Ballyshane from 1872 to 1886 where she gave birth to her first nine children.
- The informant Honora signed with her mark. Honora (O'Grady) Moroney signed with her mark when she married.
- No other woman named Honora Moroney was found living in Darragh parish, where Ballyshane is located, in the latter half of 1800.
 - No one named Honora Moroney married in the parish.⁷⁵
 - No one other than Honora (O'Grady) Moroney had children born in the parish.⁷⁶
 - No one named Honora Moroney, other than Honora (O'Grady) Moroney in 1902, and her daughter Honora Moroney in 1897, died in the parish.⁷⁷

Mary (--?--) O'Grady's age made her a candidate to be Honora's mother.

- Mary was born circa 1818 making her about 28 to 31 years old when Honora was born between 1846 and 1849.

Mary (--?--) O'Grady was described as a laborer's widow. This information correlates with information known about Honora's father Denis.

- Denis was described as a laborer on Honora's civil marriage record.⁷⁸
- Denis died about 1861 making Mary a widow.

Mary (--?--) O'Grady death date corresponds to the implied death of the widow Mary named in the rent ledgers.

- When the widow Mary's son Thomas took over the lease on 29 September 1879 this was probably after his mother had died. Although the September date was nine months after Mary (--?--) O'Grady died on 26 December 1878, the discrepancy in dates can be

⁷⁵ The author searched civil marriage records in "Marriage Records for Ireland," database *RootsIreland.ie* (<https://rootsireland.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), County: Limerick, Surname: Moroney, First Name: Honora, Year: 1864-1904, Parish/District: Kilfinane district. Civil records began in 1864. Kilfinane was the local district office serving Darragh parish. The author searched Catholic marriage records in "Marriage Records for Ireland," database *RootsIreland.ie* (<https://rootsireland.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), County: Limerick, Surname: Moroney, First Name: Honora/Hanora, Year: 1853-1903, Parish/District: Glenroe & Ballyorgan (Roman Catholic). Glenore records began in 1853.

⁷⁶ The author searched civil birth records in "Baptismal/Birth Records for Ireland," database *RootsIreland.ie* (<https://rootsireland.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), County: Limerick, Surname: Moroney, Mother's First Name: Honora, Year: 1864-1904, Parish/District: Kilfinane district. Civil records began in 1864. Kilfinane was the local district office serving Darragh parish. The author searched Catholic births in "Baptismal/Birth Records for Ireland," database *RootsIreland.ie* (<https://rootsireland.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), County: Limerick, Surname: Moroney, Mother's First Name: Honora/Hanora, Year: 1853-1903, Parish/District: Glenroe & Ballyorgan (Roman Catholic). Glenore records began in 1853.

⁷⁷ The author searched deaths in "Civil Records," database *IrishGenealogy.ie* (<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), First name: Honora, Last name: Moroney, Civil Registration District: Kilmallock, Year range: 1879-1973, Event type: Death. Death records are available through 1973.

⁷⁸ Kilmallock Supt. Reg. Dist., Co. Limerick, Marriages, 1871, vol. 5, p. 452, William Moroney-Honora O'Grady.

explained. The last rent payment in 1878 was made on 15 October before Mary died.⁷⁹ The next rent payment was made on 1 July 1879.⁸⁰ This was probably when the estate agent was informed of Mary's death. A new lease was then agreed upon and Thomas formerly let the land as of 29 September 1879.

CONCLUSION

Honora's mother Mary died on 26 December 1878.

- Information in Mary's death record correlates with information known about Honora and her father Denis. These connections demonstrate that Honora was the informant for her mother's death and that Mary was certainly Denis' widow.
- Mary's death was implied by the rent ledgers where the last rent payment was made in October, two months before she died. Her son Thomas then took over the lease, made the next rent payment seven months later and soon after became the lease holder.

Honora's sister was Ellen O'Grady

On 22 April 1855 a girl named Ellen O'Grady, daughter of Denis O'Grady and Mary Rea, was baptized in the Glenroe Catholic parish.⁸¹ Other than her godparents, named as Michael Ryan and Bridget O'Brien, the baptism record provided no other information.

Ellen's father Denis was certainly Honora's father Denis.

- Ellen's father Denis lived in the Glenroe Catholic parish in 1855. Honora's father Denis lived in the Glenroe Catholic parish between 1853 and 1861 where rent ledgers showed he leased land in Kilcruaig.
- No other man named Denis O'Grady was found living in the Glenroe area in the mid-1800s.
 - Honora's father was previously found to be the only man by that name who lived in Kilflyn or Darragh civil parishes, circa 1850.
 - There was only one Denis O'Grady who fathered a child in Glenroe after baptism records began in 1853.⁸²
 - In the surrounding Catholic parishes, no one named Denis O'Grady was found.⁸³

⁷⁹ Frederic Mason Trench, 2nd Baron Ashtown, *Tenants Ledger, 1866-1884*, p. 699.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Births, chronologically arranged, 22 Apr 1855, Ellena [Ellen], daughter of Dionisii [Denis] O'Grady and Maria [Mary] Rea; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 8.

⁸² The author searched Glenroe Catholic parish for Last name: *Gr*dy and Father's first name: D*n* in "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁸³ The author searched Ballylanders, Kildorrery, Kilfinane, and Knocklong and Glenbrohane Catholic parishes for Last name: *Gr*dy and Father's first name: D*n* in "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Parish baptism dates range from 1827 to 1880 collectively.

Ellen's mother Mary was certainly Honora's mother Mary.

- Honora's mother Mary was about 28 to 31 years old when Honora was born. She would have been about 37 when Ellen was born. Mary was still in her child-bearing years and could be both Honora and Ellen's mother.
- No other woman named Mary, wife of Denis O'Grady, was found living in the Glenroe area in the mid-1800s.
 - There was only one Mary, wife of Denis O'Grady, who mothered a child in Glenroe after baptism records began in 1853.⁸⁴ This was Ellen's mother Mary (Rea) O'Grady.
 - In the surrounding Catholic parishes, no one named Mary, wife of Denis O'Grady, was found.⁸⁵

Further evidence supports Ellen being Honora's sister. Honora's daughter Ellen Moroney, born in 1874, had a godmother named Ellen O'Grady.⁸⁶ The godmother Ellen was certainly her aunt.

- Godparents were often close family members such as aunts, uncles or cousins and were to be "well-instructed in the religion,"⁸⁷ To be well-instructed implied someone had reached the age of confirmation and communion.⁸⁸ Few Irish Catholic confirmation registers from the 1800s exist, but in 1874 the median age of a confirmand was 14 years old.⁸⁹ Ellen O'Grady was 19 when Ellen Moroney was baptized, had certainly been confirmed, and was the appropriate age to be a godmother.

⁸⁴ The author searched Glenore Catholic parish for Last name: *Gr*dy, Father's first name: D*n* and Mother's first name: Mar* in "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁸⁵ The author searched Ballylanders, Kildorrery, Kilfinane, and Knocklong and Glenbrohane Catholic parishes for Last name: *Gr*dy, Father's first name: D*n* and Mother's first name: Mar* in "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Parish baptism dates range from 1827 to 1880 collectively.

⁸⁶ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Births, chronologically arranged, 27 May 1874, Ellenam [Ellen] Moroney; *National Library of Ireland* (<https://registers.nli.ie/parishes/0867> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), microfilm #02428/04, page 50. Ellen's civil birth record, registered on 18 June 1874, stated she was born on 3 Jun 1874. To avoid a fine for late registration, it was a common practice to give a fictitious birth date close to the registration date.

⁸⁷ James G. Ryan, *Irish Church Records* (Dublin, Ireland: Flyleaf Press, 2001), 123.

⁸⁸ The three sacraments of initiation in the Catholic Church are Baptism, Confirmation, and Communion, see "Confirmation in the Catholic Church," *Wikipedia* (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confirmation_in_the_Catholic_Church : accessed 11 Mar 2025).

⁸⁹ Analysis of 626 confirmands in 1874 found the average age was 18.36 years old and the median age was 14 years old. A significant number of the confirmands were in three age groups: 119 were 12 years old, 97 were 13 years old, 71 were 14 years old. For base data, see "Select Catholic Confirmation Registers, 1775-1923," database and images *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/9053/> : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Confirmation Date: 1874.

- The only Ellen O'Grady found in Glenroe or surrounding Catholic parishes was Ellen, daughter of Denis O'Grady and Mary Rea, baptized in 1855.⁹⁰

Ellen O'Grady also served as godmother to the daughter of Honora's brother Thomas. Margaret O'Grady was baptized on 20 November 1869.⁹¹ Ellen, her aunt, was 14 years old, an appropriate age to have been confirmed, and old enough to be Margaret's godmother.

CONCLUSION

Honora's sister was Ellen O'Grady. Honora and Ellen shared the same parents, Denis and Mary O'Grady. Ellen served as a godmother to her nieces Ellen Moroney, Honora's daughter, and Margaret O'Grady, Thomas' daughter.

Ellen O'Grady's baptism record also provided the maiden name of her mother. Her mother was Mary Rea. Therefore Honora's mother was also named Mary Rea.

Final Conclusion

Honora (O'Grady) Moroney's civil marriage named her father as Denis O'Grady but, as was typical in Irish records, did not name her mother. No other record named Honora's mother. Analyzing Honora's children's names and correlating them with Irish naming patterns hinted her mother was named Mary. Examining tenant rent ledgers established that Honora's father Denis was married to a woman named Mary at the time Honora was born. When Mary died, Honora was the informant for her death.

Honora had a sister named Ellen. Ellen was born after baptism registers began in the local Catholic parish, and her baptism record stated the maiden name of her mother. Honora (O'Grady) Moroney was the daughter of Mary Rea.

Author's Note. DNA evidence was considered as part of this case study. If descendants of Ellen O'Grady had appropriate matching segments of DNA with descendants of Honora, this could be further evidence that Honora was the daughter of Mary Rea. Honora's granddaughter is Mae (Kearney) Holland.⁹² Mae has tested her DNA and given permission to

⁹⁰ The author searched Glenore, Ballylanders, Kildorrery, Kilfinane, and Knocklong and Glenbrohane Catholic parishes for First name: El* and Last name: *Gr*dy in "Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms," database and images, *FindMyPast* (<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms> : accessed 11 Mar 2025). Baptism dates ranged from 1827 to 1878.

⁹¹ Glenroe, Diocese of Limerick, Parish Register, Births, 20 Nov 1869, Margaritam [Margaret], daughter of Thoma [Thomas] O'Grady and Margarita [Margaret] Kelliher.

⁹² Mae Kearney is the daughter of Patrick Kearney and Margaret Moroney, see Finbar and Mae Holland, "Family Background," created Aug 1997 by Finbar and Mae Holland, Cork City, Ireland; copy in author's files. Margaret Moroney is the daughter of William Moroney and Honora O'Grady, see Kilmallock Superintendent Registrar's District, County Limerick, Births, 1891, vol. 5, p. 313, no. 328, 12 May 1891, Margaret Moroney; *IrishGenealogy.ie*

have her DNA used in a study and the results published.⁹³ Analysis of her DNA matches has located six potential descendants of Honora, two potential descendants of Thomas, and no potential descendants of Ellen. Only one tester has given permission for their DNA to be published.⁹⁴ The lack of any potential descendants of Ellen O'Grady, a named daughter of Mary Rea, is a problem. A DNA study is not possible at this time due to an insufficient number of appropriate test takers to participate in a study. Targeted testing in the future may be a possibility.

(https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/files/civil/cert_amends/cert_1891/1889345b.pdf : accessed 11 Mar 2025), Group Registration ID 9703296.

⁹³ Copy of Mae (Kearney) Holland permission in author's files.

⁹⁴ Copy of Brian King permission in author's files.