

## **Ebor Hall**

**Michael J Hynes**

Ebor Hall is situated in the townland of Tumneenaun on the north side of the R345 about halfway between Clonbur and Cornamona. It is surrounded by mature trees and had a bamboo plantation. It overlooks the Carrick shoreline. It was built by General William Booth in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. General Booth was deputy Commissary and served under Sir John Moore and the Duke of Wellington in the Peninsular War and was responsible for organising the provisions for the army. He died in 1880 at the age of 83.

At the time of Griffith's valuation, William Booth held three townlands in the parish of Cong and a townland in each of the parishes of Kilmainbeg and Kilmainmore, barony of Kilmaine, Co. Mayo. Booth also held the townland of Tumneenaun from the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College. Booth sold Ebor Hall to Lord Mountmorres (William Browne de Monmorency, 5th Viscount Mountmorres) who gave the name 'Mount Morris' to it. He was murdered on the road between Clonbur and Ebor Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1880 as he was driving home from a magistrates meeting. He was shot six times at close range. (see <http://www.maggielblanck.com/Mayopages/LandIssues.html> for a detailed account of Mountmorres). When his horse and carriage arrived empty at Ebor Hall, his servants went looking for him. While the murder took place near a cottage owned by a Flanagan family, they refused to allow the body to be brought into the house and it still lay on the road two hours later. Indeed Flanagan and his wife were suspected of being involved in the killing and were arrested but later released.

Nobody was ever convicted of the killing. The reasons for the killing are vague, and while he was reputed to be a fair landlord, it was alleged that he was a spy and recruited for the Royal Navy.

Upon Montmorres' death, the property became neglected but was eventually purchased by an architect called Hamilton who renovated it. He appears to have sold it to a Dr. Joseph Boyd and his son. Locals knew the house and the woods as "Boyd's". Dr Boyd resided there until his death in 1932 and his son lived there until his death in 1976 whereupon the property was sold to its present owner.

Perch fishing was somewhat of a social event during the late summer in Cornamona. The tackle consisted of a short line attached to a long bamboo pole. A cork and hook were attached to the line and the hook was baited with worms. The line was cast out in a shallow bay known to be frequented by perch and a catch was signalled by a disappearing cork. The only source of bamboo poles was Boyd's and an excursion to there was usually fruitful in that one was given permission to take a single bamboo pole. In the event of a refusal, a subsequent night-time trip would be organised to secure the necessary poles.



Print collection of Maggie Land Blanck.

1. Ebor Hall; (2) site of murder; (3) Flanagan cottage.



Photograph of Vicount Montmorres, courtesy of Print collection of Maggie Land Blanck.

## Sources

Semple, Maurice (1981), By the Corribside p.152

Semple, Maurice (1974), Reflections on Lough Corrib, p. 158

<http://www.maggieblanck.com/Mayopages/LandIssues.html>

<http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/estate-show.jsp?id=507>