

Father Francis Xavier Blake

(c.1757–1832)

Parish Priest & Scholar
Sagart Paróiste & Scoláire

Renowned as a 'scholar of more than ordinary accomplishments', Father Francis Xavier Blake was the parish priest of Moycullen from 1786 to 1825. Descended of a wealthy Galway family, Blake studied for the priesthood at the Irish College, Salamanca, Spain, where he was ordained in 1780.

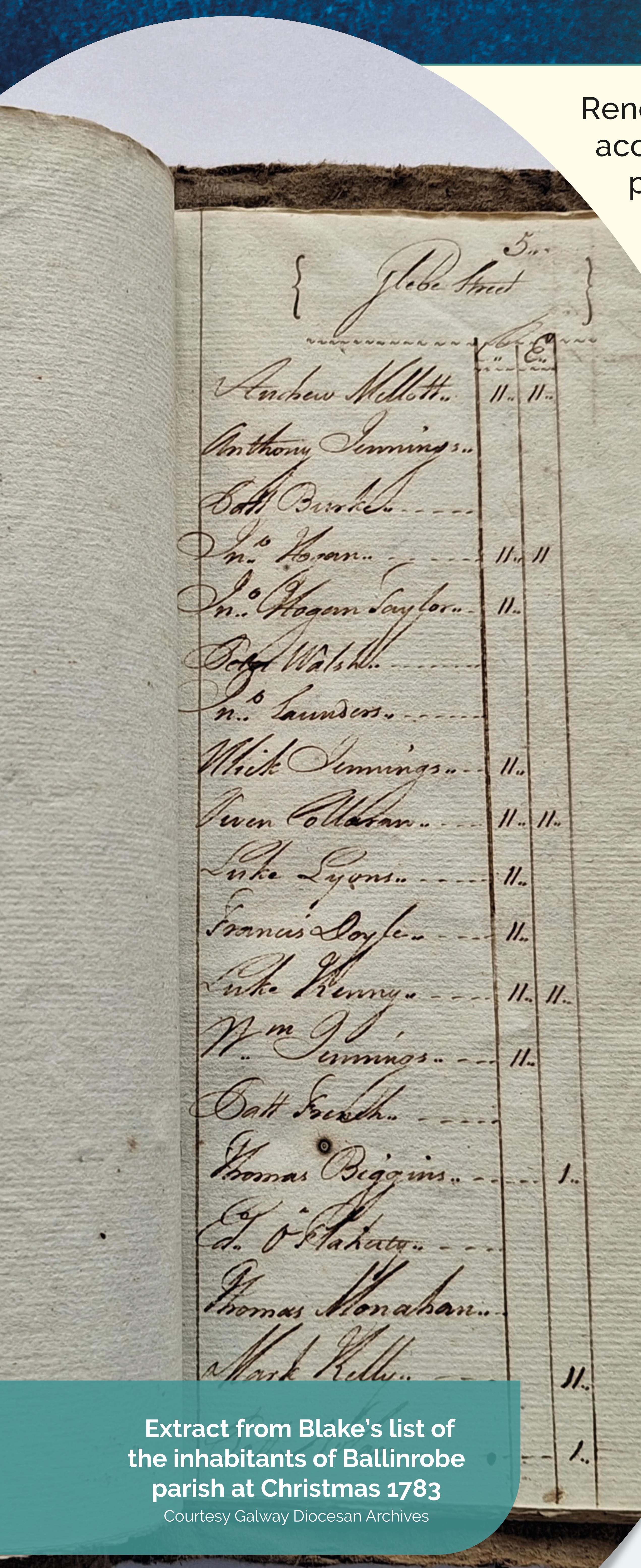
His first parochial assignment was in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, where he undertook a parish census, which became the precursor to his lasting contribution to Corrib history, his census of Moycullen. The 'Blake Census' today remains an invaluable resource for local historians and future generations.

At his death, he left £500 for the first national school in Moycullen, one of the first built in Ireland after introduction of the national system of primary education in 1831.

Bhí cáil ar Francis Xavier Blake mar 'scoláire thar an ngnách' a bhí ina shagart paróiste i Maigh Cuilinn ó 1786 go 1825. Shiolraigh sé de shliocht saibhir na Gaillimhe, agus rinne sé staidéar ar an tsagartóireacht i gColáiste na nÉireannach i Salamanca na Spáinne, áit ar oirníodh i 1780 é.

Ba é Baile an Róba, Co. Mhaigh Eo an chéad pharóiste a fuair sé, áit ar thug sé faoi dhaonáireamh an pharóiste. Ina dhiaidh sin, scríobh sé *Census of Moycullen* a chuir go mór le stair na Coiribe. Is acmhainn ríluachmhar, sa lá atá inniu ann féin é, Daonáireamh Blake do staraithe áitiúla agus do na glúine atá le teacht.

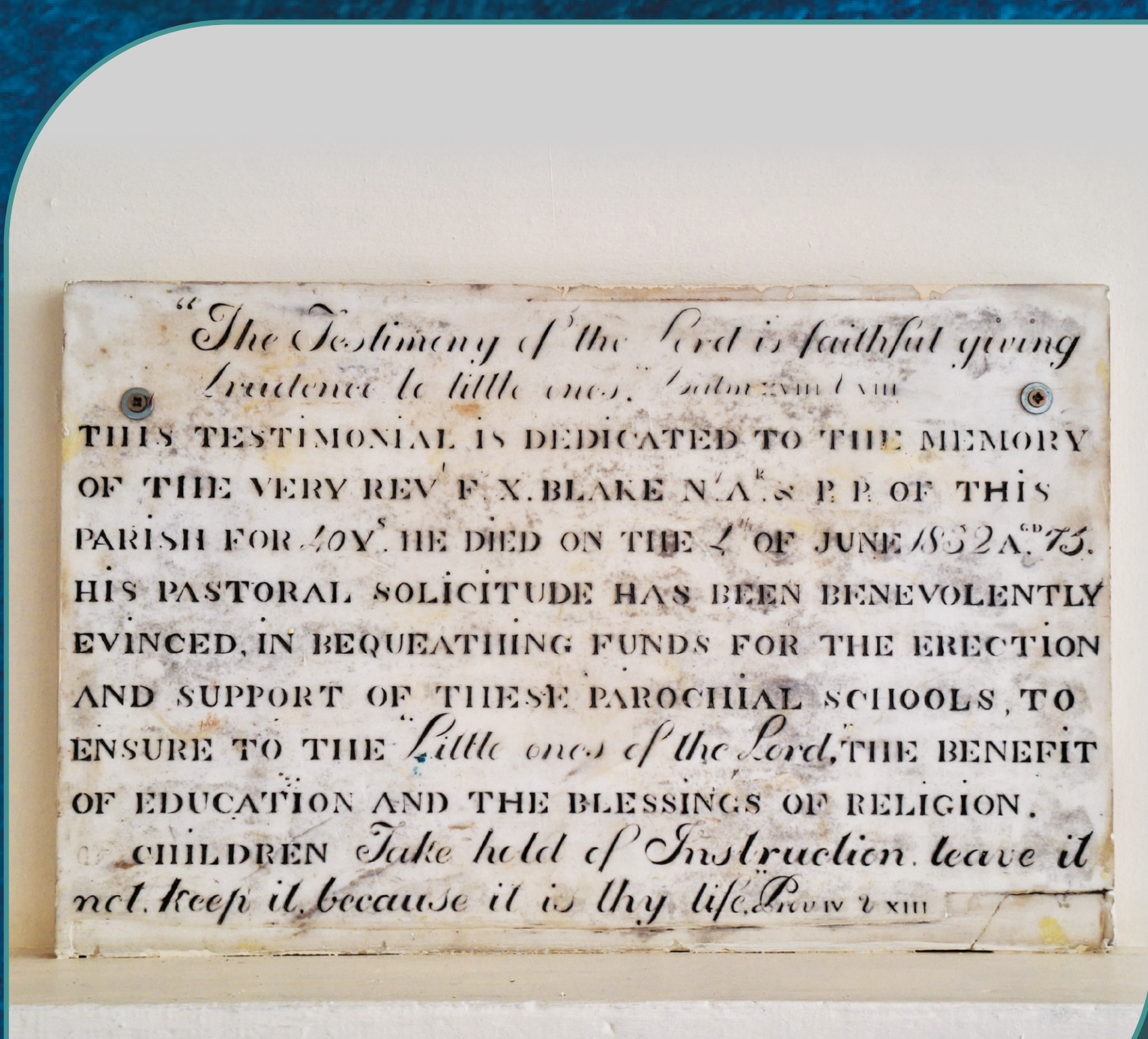
D'fhág sé £500 tar éis a bháis don chéad scoil náisiúnta i Maigh Cuilinn, ceann de na chéad scoileanna a tógadh in Éirinn ach ar tugadh isteach córas náisiúnta bunscolaíochta sa bhliain 1831.



Extract from Blake's list of the inhabitants of Ballinrobe parish at Christmas 1783
Courtesy Galway Diocesan Archives



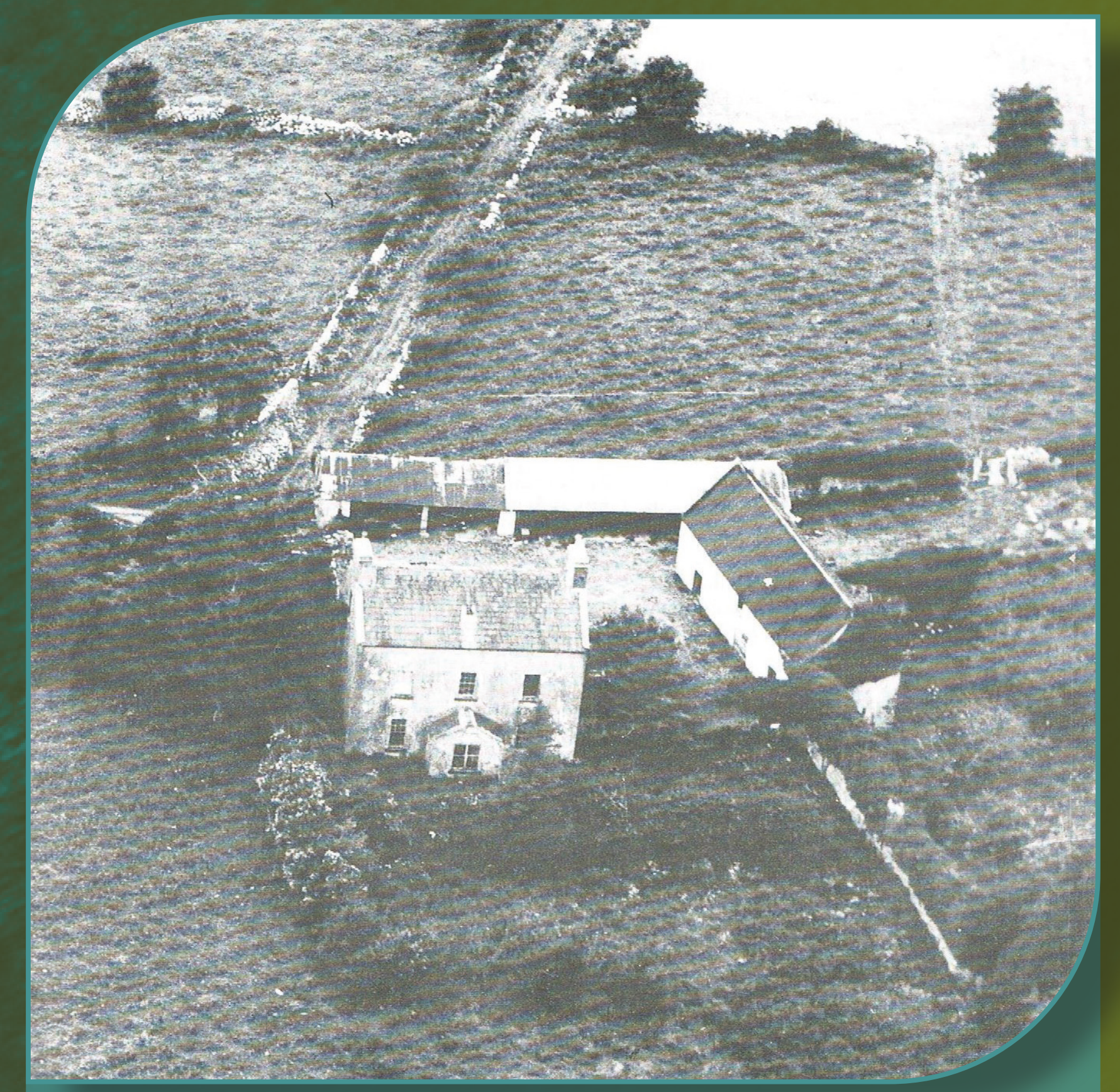
Find Out More



Blake appreciation plaque in Áras Uilinn, Moycullen
Photo Courtesy Moycullen Heritage



Blake's Grave at tSean Reilig Moycullen
Photo Courtesy Sean Lydon Photographer



Deerfield House, built by Blake as his Moycullen residence
Photo Courtesy Owen Kyne



MÚSAEM CATHRACH NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

