The Townlands of Dromintee Parish

The idea for the townlands project initiated in 1998 whilst I was looking at an Ordinance Survey map of the Dromintee and Jonesborough area. I was curious as to where the parish boundaries were and the various townlands therein. Father Vallely was the Parish Priest at the time and he helped me determine the townland boundaries. I decided to draw a map to try to encapsulate this as the parish straddles the border in several places. This was a very time-consuming task as all of the work had to be done without the aid of computers - maps were not available electronically at that time! When I had finished drawing the map and added the place names, I wondered what some of the place names actually meant. I enlisted the help of a local historian who was able to provide the place names in Irish and translate the literal meaning for each place. I found the outcome fascinating and thought that other people may be interested in knowing this information about the local townlands.

I wanted to share the map that I had created with interested people far and wide. As we were preparing for the millennium, I thought it would be a good idea to design a Christmas card illustrating the townlands map for Christmas 1999. This way, local residents could also share the map with relations from the area who live in different countries and might like to find out more about their heritage. Working with the Jonesboro Luncheon club, we used the map to create a Christmas card to raise funds for the club. Many parishioners bought the cards and they were sent all around the world by people who had relatives living abroad. I was overwhelmed by the interest in the map and delighted at the number of requests I received for copies, hence I framed it and many people displayed a copy in their homes. I hope that you enjoy learning about the townlands.

Teresa Fearon