CATHERINE NOONE per *Tippoo Saib* to Sydney 29 July 1850

Catherine Noone was listed on the shipping as 15 years of age, reads only, a house servant from Boyle, Roscommon, daughter of John and Mary who were both dead. Catherine had no other relatives in the colony and was in good health upon arrival and had no complaints about the voyage or her treatment on board ship.

Her father, John, had been born in Knockglass in the barony of French Park around 1807 and is recorded as marrying Mary Egan (born c.1807) in the parish of Croghan on 13 April 1826. He was almost certainly a cottier subsisting on as little as three acres and may have shared other land with his in-laws, the Egans. Children of this marriage were Brigid baptised 20 November 1828 and died 1831/2; Catherine baptised 13 October 1830; Brigid baptised 16 May 1833: Martin baptised 5 December 1835; Michael baptised 12 September 1838 and Honor baptised 29 November 1840.¹

Unfortunately the disposal list of the *Tippoo Saib* does not appear to have survived so we do not know where Catherine went to work. However, it is clear that, initially, she did reasonably well because by 1856 she had managed to save £4 to deposit with the Government Immigration Office under the Remittance Regulations towards the passage of her brother, Martin. He arrived to Sydney on the 30 September 1858 per *Stebonheath* [see image of shipping below]

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This passenger list confirms their parents as John and Mary Noon (both dead), He was 18 and a farm servant but the extra information is that his native place is Croghan, Roscommon,

¹ Details sent by email on 20 January 2018, to Perry McIntyre from Peter Noone following research by Rua McDermot in Croghan/Boyle area of county Roscommon. If this is the correct family Catherine's age was closer to 20 than 15 as noted on the shipping list.

narrowing down the native place of both Martin and his sister, Catherine. Croghan is in the Poor Law Union of Boyle, confirming that Catherine would have come from the Boyle Workhouse as part of Earl Grey's Famine Orphan Emigration Scheme. Croghan is in Killukin (Boyle) Civil Parish.

The front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 June 1864 displayed the following advertisement:

If Martin Noon (last direction Dingo Creek, Manning River) will write to his sister, Catherine, Post Office, Parramatta, he will oblige. Anyone sending information of him to the same address will greatly oblige.

Martin, as a farm servant, had obvious found work about 200 miles north of Sydney and, by 1864, his sister had lost contact with him. The descendant of Martin Noon has not been able to find a marriage for Catherine and it appears that she remained single.

On 23 June 1880 the death of a Kate Noon, from Ireland, was recorded in the Hyde Park Asylum. She died of chronic meningitis. Her age is shown as 37 years, orphan. If this is the Famine workhouse emigrant from Boyle she would have been 45 by 1880 it seems that this was the sad end to a girl who began her voyage to Australia from the workhouse and ended in another institution, again in need of support in her later years. Her life in Australia remains a mystery but in time, hopefully, it will be revealed.

Research by Peter Noone, descendant of Catherine Noone's brother, Martin Noon. November 2012