

# THE MYSTERY OF MARY HANNAWAY'S HOUSE



## Or why are some married women still known by their maiden name?

This house in Ballard, Lislea, Co Armagh is known locally as “Mary Hannaway’s house”, but no one knew who she was.

It appears that a “Mary Hannaway” really did live here; she came from a family in Slieve Gullion townland about a mile away.

The house in the photo was the home of Peter Murphy’s father, Patrick Murphy. Mary Hannaway had married Peter Murphy in 1867 in Mullaghban chapel so would then be known as “Mary Murphy”.

The land records show that when Mary’s husband Peter Murphy died in 1905 the house & land went to “Mary Murphy” until she died in 1919.

Recalling his great-aunt in a 1989 audio recording my late father Peter Hannaway (a bricklayer), recounted “Mary Hannaway’s? I put a new roof on her house 60 years ago”. All those in the discussion referred to her as “Mary Hannaway” - her name before she was married – just as the house is still known as “Mary Hannaway’s”.