

The Donkey Road.

I got in touch some time back with Mr Tim Cowin regarding the pathway known as the Donkey Road. I explained to him that my father, [REDACTED] had grown up nearby. The house, I cannot remember it's name, is about 60 yds towards Kerroogarroo Chapel from the crossroads near to the Donkey Road. A good arm could probably land a stone on it from his front door!

An aside, he said when he grew up he could see all the way to Andreas from his front door, can't see anywhere for trees now. I think much of the fire wood was gleaned from the surrounding field hedges which kept them cut back!

As a kid, we were living firstly at Larivane in Andreas and later at the Garey, Lezayre. I used to go with my father to what was, at that time, a small cottage nearby to the entrance to the Donkey Road on the Bayr ny Hayrey. An old gentleman called Ceasar Crellin lived there alone and through being brought up nearby, my father had known Mr Crellin all his life. We would go down in the van to see him fairly regularly and my father would do odd jobs, cutting grass, trimming etc and occasionally I would help. He was generally keeping an eye on him. But lots of the time I would be free and I would go for wanders along the Donkey Road which at that time was fairly open and easy to walk along.

As far as I knew, it was a 'right of way', I have to say that I don't remember its validity as a pathway ever being discussed, it was, as far as I was concerned, judging by the way my father acted it was in his opinion just another road/pathway. Over the years it slowly became overgrown and it is many years since I walked it.

I hope this is of use to your investigation, as the eldest, I don't think my younger brothers were ever there or involved.

Just another aside, we had relatives living at Rhenwee Farm (Radcliffe's) on the road from Kerroogarroo Chapel to Regaby crossroads. I used to go there now and again and when I got to Ohio on what I think was then called 'The Belfast Road', I used to follow a pathway that went beside and between the fields and come out at Rhenwee Farm!

Further more opposite the Garey Road, about 20 to 30 yds towards Sulby is a gateway, with Private on it and it hasn't been open for years. A lad called Gordon Gale, who died young and lived nearby used to have a downhill bike race there. We would go through the gate along a pathway, past some houses and then follow a winding pathway that eventually led onto Lezayre tops. George Quayle told us it was a right of way and his daughter ? Murphy lives in George's old house first one on the Bayr ny Hayrey. I am sure she could confirm this. George used to farm the tops and he would use it to go up!

[REDACTED] 1/7/21