



John Holmes II and Donaghadee

John Holmes II owned several properties in Donaghadee along with several parcels of land. The properties were identified in many newspaper advertisements after his death. The following advertisement appeared on page 3 of the *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* at least eight times between Wednesday 25 January and Monday 13 February 1826, always on page 3:

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

At KELLY'S INN, DONAGHADEE, on TUESDAY,
the 14th day of February next, at ONE o'Clock in the Afternoon,

- No.1. – The ESTATE and INTEREST of the late JOHN HOLMES, Esq. in and to a TENEMENT in the main street in Donaghadee, held by Lease under ALEXANDER McMINN, Esq. for an unexpired term of 5 years from November last, and the joint lives of the said ALEX. McMINN and JOHN CAMPBELL, subject to the Yearly Rent of £5, and yielding a clear Profit Rent of £40 per annum Irish.
- No.2. – All that TENEMENT in the New Street, in Donaghadee, at present in the occupation of Miss Savage; together with the OFFICE HOUSES, now in the occupation of Mr. McAlister, held by Lease under DANIEL DELACHEROIS, Esq. for an unexpired term of 41 years from November last, and two young lives, subject to the Yearly Rent of £3, 10s. 10d. and yielding a clear Profit Rent of £20, 9s. 2d. Irish.
- No.3. – A small TENEMENT in Hunter's Lane, in Donaghadee, as now in possession of the Under Tenants of the late John Holmes, Esq.

For further particulars, apply at the Office of Messrs. GARRETT & CRAWFORD, York-street, Belfast.

Then in a subsequent advertisement in the *Belfast News-Letter* on Fridays 19 and 26 March 1830 (page 3) there was this (note that Main-street is nowadays known as High Street):

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

At KELLY'S Inn, DONAGHADEE, on SATURDAY,
the 3d April next, at the hour of ONE o'clock,

- No.1. – THAT excellent, capacious, and well built HOUSE, in the Main-street, in the Town of DONAGHADEE, now occupied by ALEXANDER MACMINN, Esq. containing comfortable accommodations of every description for a large and respectable Family, with a spacious well-enclosed rear, and Offices, held in Fee, subject to 13s. 7d. per year.

No.2. – That HOUSE in the Main-street, formerly occupied by the late JOHN HOLMES, Esq. built and fitted up by him in the most complete manner for his own residence, with an excellent walled Garden, and Offices, held in Fee, free of Rent.

No.3. – That convenient HOUSE adjoining the former, also built and fitted up by Mr. HOLMES, held in Fee, free of Rent.

No.4. – Those LANDS known as HUNT’S Parks, containing 10A ... etc.

No.2 was bought by Robert Hathorn Esq., a surgeon based in Donaghadee. He contributed a paper to the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal* in 1815 on a *Case of Extensive Wound of the Throat*. Not recommended reading for anyone of a queasy disposition!

Alas, Donaghadee Churchyard (info from the Ireland Genealogy Projects Archive, provided by Philip Crossle, Newry, ref. Page 252) has a flat slate slab with this inscription:

Here Are Deposited the mortal Remains of Robert HATHORN Esqr
who departed this Life on the 1st of February 1834, in the 41st year of his age.

And so, once again, the *Belfast News-Letter* for Friday 14 February 1834, page 3, carried an advertisement for John Holmes’s former house. I have given it in full here because it conveys a sense of its capacious style:

HOUSE IN DONAGHADEE

To be SOLD by AUCTION, in the MART. No. 7, CASTLE-PLACE,
on TUESDAY, the 21st April next, at TWELVE o’Clock, Noon,

THAT excellent and commodious HOUSE, in the Main-street, the property of the late ROBT. HATHORN, Esq. and formerly the residence of the late JOHN HOLMES, Esq. by whom it was fitted up with every convenience and accommodation, since when it has been still further improved; consisting of Dining-Room and Two Drawing Rooms, *en suite*; Six Bed Rooms, Cellars, etc., with Servant’s [sic] Rooms detached, altogether forming a most comfortable residence for a large and respectable family in that fashionable and improving watering place, where there are great facilities for public conveyance both by coaches and steam-vessels. There is a complete set of Offices, Coach-House, Car-House, and Stabling for Six Horses; inner and outer Yards; Flower and Kitchen Gardens, both walled in, and well stocked with Fruit Trees in full bearing. The Buildings are very extensive and spacious, are admirably adapted for a Boarding School, which is much required in that town, or could, without interfering with the Dwelling House, be easily converted into a Manufactory, Distillery, or Brewery, for which purposes they are well fitted, being bounded in one side by a stream of running water. Held for ever at £2. 13s. 4d. per Annum, late currency; – also, a Pew in Church. For further particulars, apply to ALEXANDER McMINN, Esq. of Herdstown, DONAGHADEE; or Doctor STUART, *Guardian Office*, Belfast.

The same advertisement ran in the *Belfast Commercial Chronicle* from 22 February 1834 to 18 April 1835, on at least 15 occasions! The housing market was clearly not very buoyant. Having failed to sell at the auction it was subsequently advertised as being “For Sale by Private Contract”. *Belfast News Letter*, Tuesday 21 April 1835, page 3:

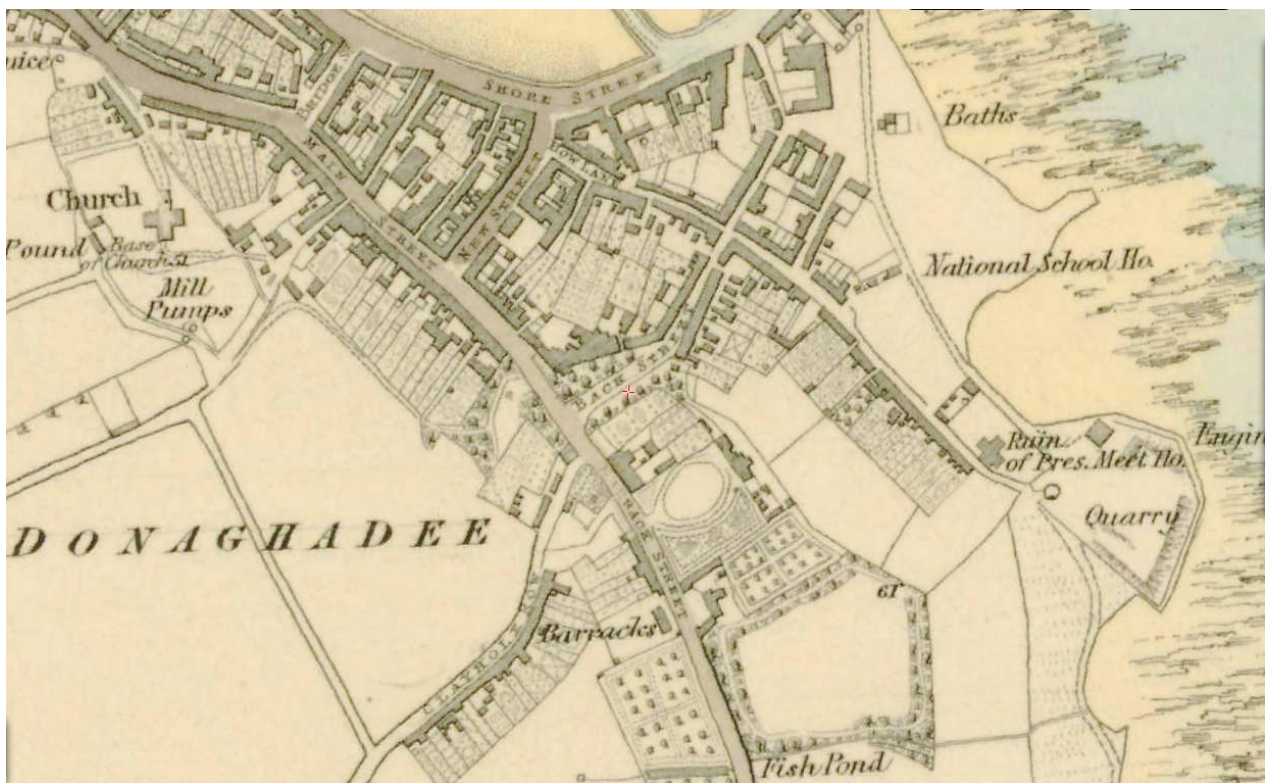
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For further particulars apply to ALEXANDER M. MINN, Esq. of Herdstown, DONAGHADEE; or Doctor STAURT, Guardian Office, BELFAST. (731)

Below is the 6 Inch Ordnance Survey historic colour map (1829-41) of part of Donaghadee. But which property was John Holmes's? Does it survive at all?



The photograph below was sourced online, but is clearly from the Lawrence Photograph Collection and so appears here courtesy and © of the National Library Ireland.

It was taken by Robert French (1841-1917), probably around 1865-1880. The Manor House is the building on the right with the railings. The Moat (1819) on top of Donaghadee's Norman motte is clearly visible.



David Byers, 29 December 2017