



Michael Keigher

1879-1950

*The Life & Family
of an Irish shepherd from
Lissacurkia, Tulsk, Roscommon, Ireland*

Research compiled by Melissa L. Keigher

Cover photo:

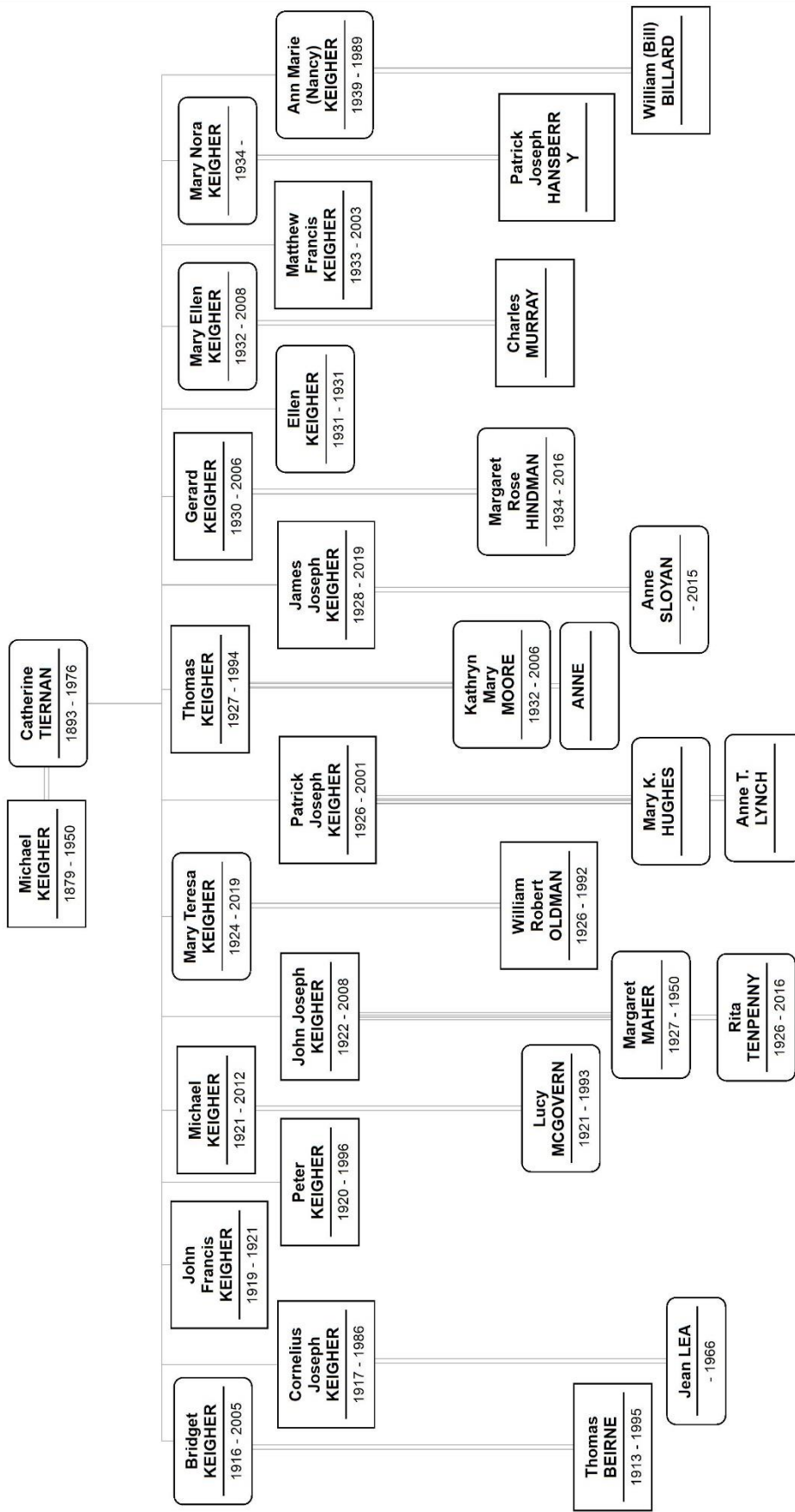
Photograph. Michael Keigher (1879-1950). Circa 1945. Photographer unknown. Location: likely Sandpark, Lissacurkia, Roscommon, Ireland.

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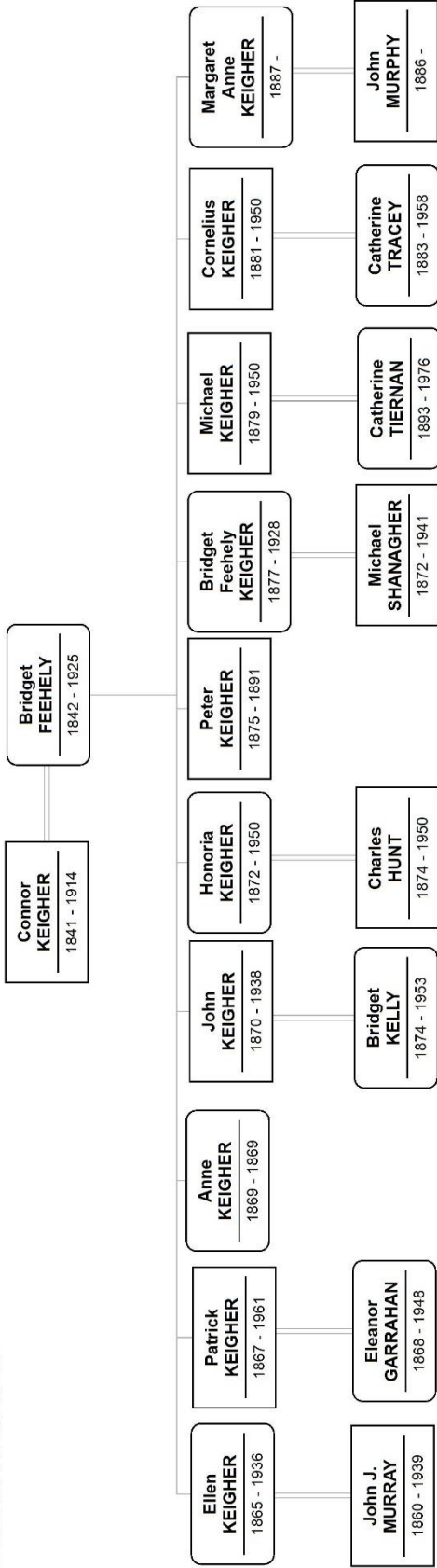
Biography of Michael Keigher (1879-1950)

Descendant Chart for Michael KEIGHER



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 August 20, 2021

**Descendant Chart for
Connor KEIGHER**



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Michael KEIGHER

(1879-1950)

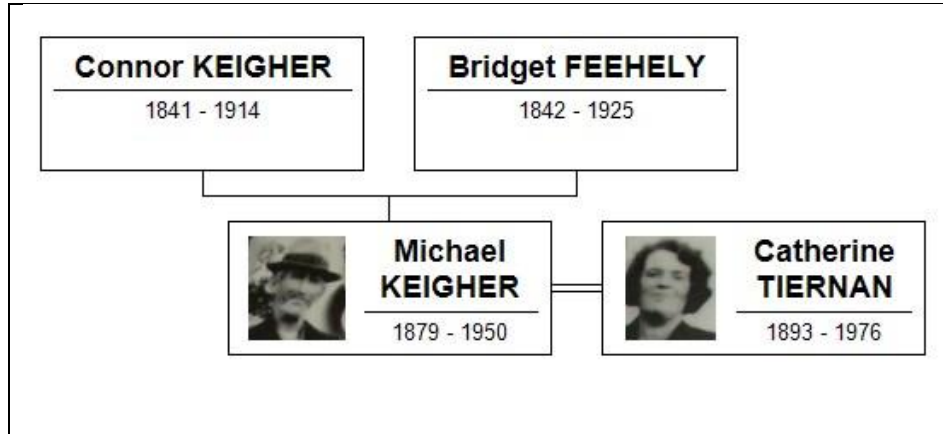


Figure 1. **Vertical Pedigree Chart** – *Michael Keigher*¹

In the early fall of 1879, likely at Ballybroghan, civil parish of Kilcooley, Roscommon, Michael KEIGHER was born to Connor and Bridget (FEEHELY) KEHER/KEEHER on 19 September.^{2 3}

Uncovered civil registration, census, and newspaper records inform us that his father, Connor KEIGHER, was a shepherd^{4 5} and quite politically active: a member of both The Labour League,⁶ the nationalist United Irish League,⁷ and also the Vice-President of the Tusk Shepherds' Association, County Roscommon.⁸ Michael followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a shepherd himself, and working the land at 'Sandpark', or in Irish, Lissacurkia, just south east of the village of Tusk.

The Beginning

Just eight days after his birth, Michael was baptised in Ogulla Catholic parish – within the boundaries of the civil parish of Kilcooley of his birth - by Father John WHITE on 27 September.⁹ Acting as infant Michael's baptismal sponsors were his named sponsors, or godparents, Michael BEIRNE and Maria KEHER.¹⁰

Of note, Michael’s surname was spelled slightly differently on both his birth and baptismal records, KEHER vs. KEIGHER. The reason for the spelling variations are numerous: firstly, we know that spelling was not as standardized then as it is now. Often, we find names spelled out phonetically. Secondly, it is known that there was an attempt by some to anglicize Irish surnames.¹¹ For instance, there is no “K” used in the Irish language, and as ‘GH’ is pronounced as “y”¹² the transcriber, whether through intention or just lack of knowledge of Irish language, often wrote out the KEIGHER name phonetically, as KEHER, KEEHER, KEHIR, KEEHIR, etc.

Also of interest was the date which had been recorded for Michael’s civil birth registration: 20 October 1879. This October date clearly conflicts with the declared 19 September 1879 birthdate which had been recorded on his Catholic baptismal record – which, you will remember, occurred on 27 September.

So, which date was correct?

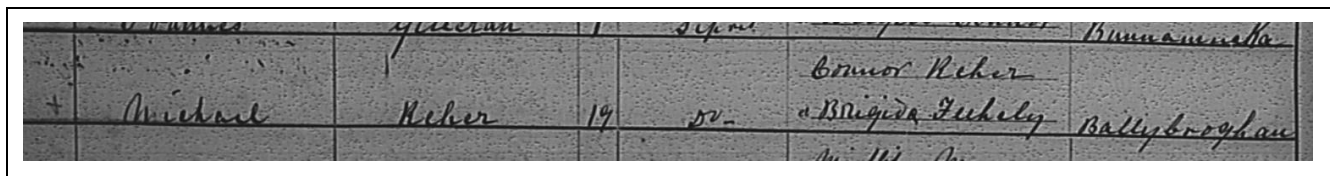


Figure 2. 1879 Ogulla Parish Catholic Baptism extract - Michael KEHER, son of Connor & Bridget (FEEHELY) KEHER of Ballybroghan, Co. Roscommon.¹³

The date the documents were recorded assists in providing the answer. Michael’s baptism was recorded at the time of his baptism: on 27 September 1879. Michael’s father, Connor, did not register his son’s birth until some two months later – on 19 November 1879.

Right off the bat we may be certain that Michael was not baptised before he was born – so we may confirm that his birth occurred before 27 September. Since the baptism declared his birth occurred just eight

days prior, on 19 September, this date would likely be accurate knowing the parents and sponsors would have a decent memory of what had occurred just the week prior.

So why the error?

It is very possible that his father simply made an error of memory when filling out the birthdate when registering the birth, but there is a more likely reason – Michael’s father Connor wanted to save money.

1879	Twentieth	October	Michael	Male	Connor Keeher Lisaquirka	Bridget Keher formerly Feely	Herd	Connor Keeher Father Lisaquirka	Nineteenth November 1879	Michael White Registrar.
1879										Registrar.

Transcription – 1879 Civil Birth Registration, extract – Michael KEEHER

Note: use of italics to represent handwritten, as opposed to type.

“First Page.

Superintendent Registrar’s District of *Strokestown*.

Registrar’s District of *Elphin*

BIRTHS Registered in the District of *Elphin* in the Union of *Strokestown* in the County of *Roscommon*.

No. (1.): 312

Date and Place of Birth (2.): 1879 *Twentieth October Lisaquirka*

Name (if any) (3.): *Michael*

Sex (4.): *Male*

Name and Surname and Dwelling Place of Father (5.): *Connor Keeher, Lisaquirka*

Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother (6.): *Bridget Keher, formerly Feely*

Rank or Profession of Father (7.): *Herd*

Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant (8.): *Connor Keeher, Father, Lisaquirka*

When Registered (9.): *Nineteenth November 1879*

Signature of Registrar (10.): *Michael White, Registrar.*

Baptismal Name, If added after Registration of Birth, and Date (11.): [blank]

Table 1. 1879 Civil Birth Registration – document image and transcription – Michael KEEHER¹⁴

You see, at the time, it had only been a few years since a new Act was passed, *The Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1874*. This Act enforced a late payment fee if births were registered more than 42 days after the event (in this case, birth) occurred. As Michael was born in mid-September, but his father Connor had not gone to town to officially register his birth until the third week in November, he would have had to face a late registration fee.

We know that Connor was a tenant farmer/shepherd, and money was likely tight for the family. By declaring his son Michael's birth had occurred later than it actually had - in October, rather than September - meant he would have been within the 42-day window, and no fee would have been incurred.

What was found to be consistent, for both Michael's civil birth and parish baptismal records, were that his parents declared their residence as *Ballybroghan*. This was a farmland property adjacent, and just southeast, to *Lissacurkia*, another farmland property which held the herd's house known as *Sandpark*.¹⁵

Sandpark would be the location recorded as the KEIGHER family residence for later Census records, as well as other civil registration documents. Both *Ballybroghan* and *Sandpark* house in *Lissacurkia* lie just south of *Tulsk*, County Roscommon, about a kilometre away from each other (see *Figure 3*).¹⁶

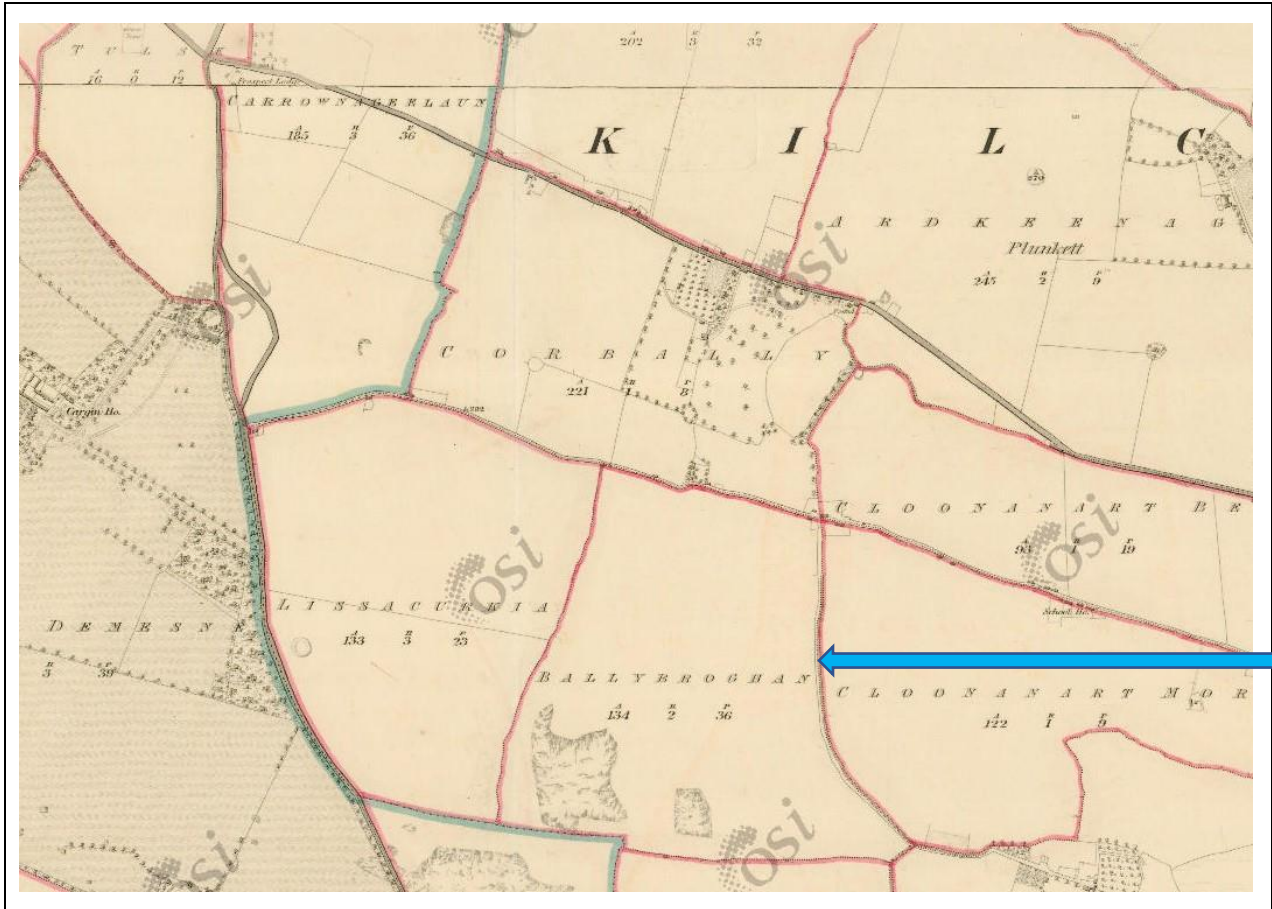


Figure 3. Map extract – **Lissacurkia** and **Ballybroghan**, just southeast of Tusk¹⁷

It is strongly suspected that at the time of Michael’s birth, the KEIGHER family had not been living at Ballybroghan long. In fact, based on the declaration of residence for all of Connor and Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER’s children, the family had moved quite frequently; only settling at the herds house at Sandpark in Lissacurkia abt. 1877 (see Table 2).

Residence declared on birth/baptism records of known children of Connor & Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER		
Name	Residence as per Civil Birth Registration	Residence declared as per Catholic Parish Baptismal Record
Ellen KEIGHER <i>b. 1865</i>	Lisnagard, <i>Roscommon</i> ¹⁸	Lisnagard, <i>Roscommon</i> ¹⁹
Patrick KEIGHER <i>b. 1867</i>	Lisnagard, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁰	Lisnagard, <i>Roscommon</i> ²¹
Anne KEIGHER <i>b. 1869</i>	Clogher, <i>Roscommon</i> ²²	Clogher, <i>Roscommon</i> ²³
John KEIGHER <i>b. 1870</i>	Tooliscan, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁴	Tooliscan, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁵
Honoria KEIGHER <i>b. 1872</i>	Clogher More, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁶	Clogher More, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁷
Peter KEIGHER <i>b. 1875</i>	<i>Record not located</i> ²⁸	Rossmore, <i>Roscommon</i> ²⁹
Bridget KEIGHER <i>b. 1877</i>	Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³⁰	<i>Record not located</i>
Michael KEIGHER <i>b. 1879</i>	Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³¹	Ballybroghan, <i>Roscommon</i> ³²
Cornelius KEIGHER <i>b. 1881</i>	Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³³	Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³⁴
Margaret Anne KEIGHER <i>b. 1887</i>	Sandpark, Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³⁵	Lissacurkia, <i>Roscommon</i> ³⁶

Table 2. Recorded residences of Connor & Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER family³⁷

As evidenced above, Michael came from a large family, the fourth of five known sons, and one of eleven surviving children of Connor and Bridget.³⁸

Adulthood

By the time of the 1901 Irish Census, Michael, then aged twenty-one and working as a shepherd's son and had been living with his parents and four siblings: older sisters Norah and Bridget, younger brother Cornelius, and younger sister Margaret Anne.³⁹

Census returns are incredibly illuminating – providing much depth into the lives of our ancestors. The 1901 Census informed us that the KEIGHER family home at Sandpark had been owned by S.T.W. FLANNAGAN,⁴⁰ not only confirming Michael's father Connor was a tenant farmer or herd, but telling us to whom he paid his rent and worked for. Connor had also signed the Census return – his signature viewable on the bottom of Form A (*see Table 3*).

Note, once again, the spelling of the family surname, written this time as KEIGHER. Connor's first name, however, was spelled 'Connor' by the Census enumerator, but 'Conor' by his own hand.⁴¹ When looking ahead to the 1911 Irish Census, you will see the reverse is the case.⁴²

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 2

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind only; or Lame.
	Christian Name.	Surname.	State whether "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," "Other relative," "Visitor," "Boarder," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious denomination, to which each person belongs. Members of Dissenting Denominations are requested not to describe themselves by the "single word" "Protestant," but to state in full the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Society, to which they belong.	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," "can Read only," or "cannot Read."	Years on last Birth-day.	Months for which past the Year.	State the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each Person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as scholars. Before filling this return you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.	Write the word "None" in this column opposite the name of each Person who speaks no Irish, and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the respective instructions opposite the name of the affected person.
1	Connor	Keigher	Head of Family	Catholic	Read and Write	59	M	Shepherd	Married	Co. Roscommon	Irish English	
2	Bridget	Keigher	Wife	Catholic	Read & Write	57	F		Married	Roscommon		
3	Norah	Keigher	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	25	F	Shepherd's Daughter	not Married	Co. Roscommon		
4	Bridget	Keigher	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	23	F	Dressmaker	not Married	Co. Roscommon		
5	Mich[ea]l	Keigher	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	21	M	Shepherd's Son	not Married	Co. Roscommon		
6	Cornelius J.	Keigher	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	19	M	Shepherd's Son	not Married	Co. Roscommon		
7	Margaret Anne	Keigher	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	13	F	Scholar	not Married	Co. Roscommon		
8												

Connor Keigher (Signature of Head of Family).

Tenant: Connor KEIGHER

Landowner: S.T.W. FLANNAGAN

Lissacurkia, Roscommon, Ireland
House no. 2

Name	Relation	Religion	Education	Age	Occupation	Marriage	Where Born	Language
Connor KEIGHER	Head of Family	Catholic	Read & Write	59	Shepherd	Married	Co. Roscommon	Irish English
Bridget KEIGHER	Wife	Catholic	Read & Write	57	-----	Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]
Norah KEIGHER	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	25	Shepherd's Daughter	not Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]
Bridget KEIGHER	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	23	Dressmaker	not Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]
Mich[ea]l KEIGHER	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	21	Shepherd's Son	not Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]
Cornelius J. KEIGHER	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	19	Shepherd's Son	not Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]
Margaret Anne KEIGHER	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	13	Scholar	not Married	Co. Roscommon	[blank]

Table 3. 1901 Irish Census – Family of Connor & Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER⁴³

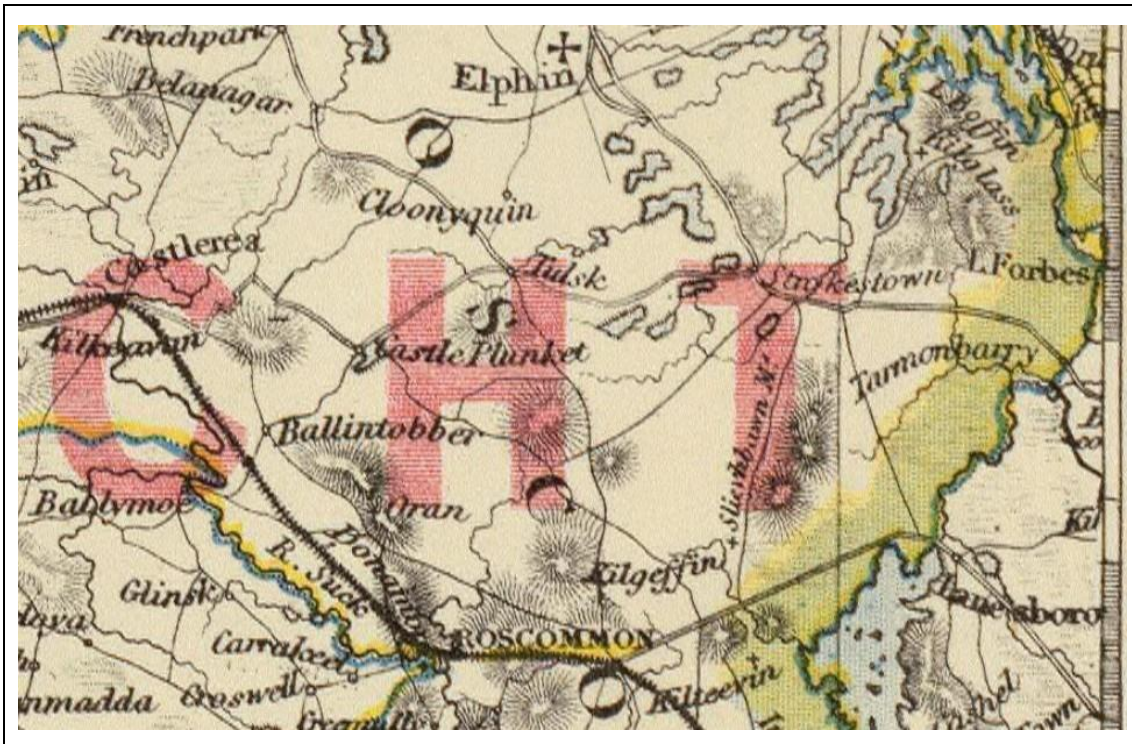


Figure 4. 1883 Irish Map extract - Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, Ireland.⁴⁴

By the time of the 1911 Census, Michael, then thirty-one and still single, had been Working as an assistant herd, likely working alongside his father Connor (see Table 4).⁴⁵ Michael and his parents were still living at Sandpark in Lissacurkia, their house enumerated as “house number 2”, which was not an address, but rather the second house enumerated. Their home at Sandpark was rented from landlord, Stephen W. Flannagan.

Michael’s 8-year-old nephew, Michael;⁴⁶ son of his older brother Patrick KEIGHER and sister-in-law Ellen (GARAHAN) KEIGHER,⁴⁷ was also recorded as an occupant. It is not yet known if Michael’s nephew was just visiting, or was a more permanent member of the household.

The 1911 Census also revealed more about the KEIGHER family living conditions. It was declared they had been living in a house that had somewhere ‘between 2-4 rooms’ and three windows in the front. Family memory, thanks to Tommy BEIRNE (son of Michael’s eldest daughter Bridget/Bridie), tells us it was a two-room house.⁴⁸ Enumerated as part of the house’s dwellings was also a coach house, cow house, piggery, and a shed – all, of unknown size.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 2

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

Number.	NAME AND SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Ages of Males.		Completed years the present Marriage has lasted. If less than one year, write "under one."	Children born alive to present Marriage. If no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.	Children still living.		Write the word "Irish" in this column opposite the name of each person who speaks Irish and the words "Irish & English" opposite the names of those who can speak both languages. In other cases no entry should be made in this column.	Write the respective infirmities opposite the name of the afflicted person.
1	Connor	Keigher	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & write	70	Caretaker's Herd	married 48	11	9	Co. Roscommon	Irish & English	
2	Bridget	Keigher	wife	Roman Catholic	Read & write	69		married 48	11	9	Co. Roscommon	Irish & English	
3	Michael	Keigher	son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	31	Assistant Herd	single			Co. Roscommon	English	
4	Michael	Keigher	grand son	Roman Catholic	Read & write	8	Scholar	single			Co. Roscommon	English	

Connor Keigher

Signature of Head of Family.

Tenant: Connor KEHIR/KEIGHER
Landowner: Stephen W. FLANNAGAN

Lissacurkia, Roscommon, Ireland
 House no. 2

Number of Rooms: 2, 3 or 4 [code 0]
Windows in Front: 3
Coach House: 1
Cow House: 1
Piggery: 1
Shed: 1

Enumerator: Myles McCarlie,
Constable

Name	Relation	Religion	Education	Age	Occupation	Marriage	Where Born	Language
Connor KEIGHER	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	70	Caretaker's Herd	Married -48 years-	Co. Roscommon	Irish English
Bridget KEIGHER	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	69	[blank]	Married -48 years- Children born Alive: 11 Children still Living: 9	Co. Roscommon	Irish English
Michael KEIGHER	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	31	Assistant Herd	Single	Co. Roscommon	English
Michael KEIGHER	Grandson	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	8	Scholar	Single	Co. Roscommon	English

Table 4. 1911 Irish Census – Connor & Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER family⁴⁹

At the time of that Census, Michael's mother 69-year-old Bridget (FEEHELY) KEIGHER had declared she had given birth to a total eleven children, with only nine having had survived by that year. Research into the civil death registration records revealed just one of the two deaths, their son Peter. Aged only 15-years old at the time of his passing in 1891,⁵⁰ Peter had died from sepsis after having sustained a knee wound which had become severely infected.⁵¹ Michael had been only 12 years old at the time, and older brother John, who was present at the time of Peter's death, was the informant for the death registration.⁵²

Marriage

It was not until the summer of 1915, just shy of Michael's 36th birthday, that Father Michael MONAGHAN solemnized the marriage between Michael and Catherine TIERNAN at St. Eithne & Fidelma Church in Tusk, Roscommon on 30 August (*see Table 5*).^{53 54} Witnesses to their marriage were Michael KEIGHER, a likely cousin, and Ellen KEANE.⁵⁵

Michael's new wife Catherine, known as Kate, was the daughter of Michael TIERNAN and Bridget BEIRNE.^{56 57} The TIERNAN's had been a neighbouring family of the KEIGHER family for decades, with Kate's father Michael TIERNAN having been a shepherd like Michael and Michael's father Connor,⁵⁸ living and working the land just a couple kilometres way to the west, at nearby Cargins Demesne.^{59 60 61}

1915: Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of *St Ethnea Tulsk* in the Registrar's District of *Elphin* in the Union of *Strokestown* in the County of *Roscommon*

No. (1)	When Married (2)	Name and Surname (3)	Age (4)	Condition (5)	Rank or Profession (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage (7)	Father's Name and Surname (8)	Rank or Profession of Father (9)
<i>242</i>	<i>August 30th 1915</i>	<i>Michael Keigher</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>	<i>Sandpark</i>	<i>Cornelius Keigher</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>
	<i>1915</i>	<i>Kate Tiernan</i>	<i>Full</i>	<i>Spinster</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>Cargins</i>	<i>Michael Tiernan</i>	<i>Shepherd</i>

Married in the Roman Catholic Church of *St Ethnea Tulsk* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me, *Michael Monaghan P.P.*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Michael Keigher* and *Kate Tiernan* in the Presence of us, *Michael Keigher* and *Ellen Keane*

Marriage No. *242* Registered by me, this *3rd* day of *September* 19*15*
S. B. Kelly
 Deputy Registrar.

Transcription – 1915 Marriage – Michael Keigher and Kate Tiernan

" Second Page. Superintendent Registrar's District of Strokestown. 05566696.

1915 Marriage Solemnized at the Roman Catholic Church of St. Ethnea Tulsk, in the Registrar's District of Elphin in the Union of Strokestown in the County of Roscommon No. (1.): 242.

- When Married (2.): August 30th, 1915
- Name and Surnames (3.) Michael Keigher
- Age (4.) Full
- Condition (5.): Bachelor
- Rank or Profession (6.): Shepherd
- Residence at Time of Marriage (7): Sandpark
- Father's Name and Surname (8.): Cornelius Keigher
- Rank or Profession of Father (9.): Shepherd
- Name and Surnames (3.) Kate Tiernan
- Age (4.) Full
- Condition (5.): Spinster
- Rank or Profession (6.): -----
- Residence at Time of Marriage (7): Cargins
- Father's Name and Surname (8.): Michael Tiernan
- Rank or Profession of Father (9.): Shepherd
- Priest: Michael Monaghan, P[arish] P[riest]
- In the Presence of: Michael Keigher and Ellen Keane."

Marriage No. 242 Registered by me, this 3rd day of September 1915, A. B. Kelly, Deputy Registrar"

Table 5. 1915 Civil Marriage Registration – Michael Keigher and Catherine TIERNAN⁶²

Legal Trouble

Just over a year after Michael and Kate's marriage, on a dark night on 06 November, Michael was charged with not having had a light on his cart. He was then brought into the Castlerea Petty Sessions Court on 11th November 1916⁶³ and then brought back again two weeks afterwards on the 25th for sentencing.⁶⁴ As of yet, no record has been located documenting what fee he had to pay for this offense, or if he had chosen time in the Gaol (jail), had he been unable to pay.

It would have been wonderful to have found Michael KEIGHER in the following 1921 Census, but due to the Irish War of Independence it had not taken place. The first census of the Irish Free State was not taken until 1926 – the results of which are eagerly anticipated to be released to the public in January 2027.

Politics

With no further Censuses to explore, newspapers were then examined – and thankfully Michael was found in the springtime of 1922 – recorded in the *Sligo Independent and West Ireland Telegraph* (see Table 6). The article states Michael had been stationed at Rooskey as part of his appointment as Provisional policeman with the Tulska I.R.A.⁶⁵

This finding led to a search within the Defense Forces Ireland Military Archives (*Óglaigh na hÉireann*), specifically, *The 1922 Irish Army Census Collection*, and *Military Service Pensions Collection (1916-1923)* for more information. No KEIGHER, nor surname variants, were located. As not all who participated applied for a pension: some remained fearful of reprisals for their involvement, this may explain his absence from their records.

SLIGO INDEPENDENT AND WEST OF IRELAND TELEGRAPH.

<p>Irish Postal ht that the matters in on and that</p> <p>the Galway sted super- and district td. He was rth-Western Dublin.</p> <p>a, Co. Sligo, gratulations the variety on behalf of rn National</p> <p>as lodged a Waterford from Clare-</p>	<p>It is reported that the Sligo R.I.C. are evacuating their barracks in the course of the next few days.</p> <p>Mr James Lee has given notice to the Galway Urban Council that he will raise the question of changing the names of the streets.</p> <p>After 33 years' service, Mr John Walsh, has resigned the clerkship of Ballinrobe District Council. Regret was expressed at his resignation.</p> <p>Michael Keigher, Thomas Tiernan, and Thomas Kearns of the Tusk I.R.A. have been appointed Provisional policemen stationed at Rooskey.</p> <p>Hay was sold at 12s per cwt. at Elphin market; eggs fell to 3s 8d per score; straw fetched 8s to 10s per cwt; pork, £5 17s 6d per cwt.; butter, 1s 10d per lb; beef and mutton, 1s 2d per lb.</p>	<p>Sligo Presbyterian Young People's Guild.</p> <p>THE FINAL MEETING OF THE SESSION.</p> <p>ENJOYABLE SOCIAL AND MUSICAL EVENING.</p> <p>The closing meeting of the Sligo Presbyterian Young Peoples' Guild, as usual, took the form of a social, which was held in the Lecture Hall, adjoining the Church, on Wednesday evening last, tea being served about 7 o'clock p.m. This was followed by an interesting musical programme and games. The good work carried on by this Guild is a great benefit to the young people of the congregation, the lectures delivered at each meeting being both interesting and instructive from the religious and educational point of view. The subject for this session was entitled, "How we got our Bible," and this was ably explained by the conductor—Rev Wm. Moore, M.A., who made the meetings a great success. In the course of his dis-</p>	<p>GRAND ANNUAL CONCERT</p> <p>Enjoyable Performance and Orchestral</p> <p>PROCEEDS IN FAVOR OF THE HALL</p> <p>SPLENDID ORGANIST BECKETT A</p> <p>Perhaps the most concert ever held took place in No. 17th ult. was to raise funds for monium. In these knowledge, a school date in its curricular happy thought ind</p>
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Newspaper article transcription – Michael Keigher

“Michael Keigher, Thomas Tiernan, and Thomas Kearns of the Tusk I.R.A, have been appointed Provisional policemen stationed at Rooskey”

Table 6. 1922 Newspaper article & Transcription - Michael KEIGHER, of Tusk I.R.A., appointed Provisional policeman⁶⁶

Although no other records involving Michael KEIGHER and the I.R.A. have been located, oral family lore suggests the neighbouring TIERNAN family – in particular Michael’s wife Kate TIERNAN’s brothers - were staunch Irish nationalists, with some, if not all, having been actively involved.^{67 68}

Of note, the 1922 newspaper clipping refers to a Thomas TIERNAN stationed alongside Michael KEIGHER.⁶⁹ It is strongly suspected that this was Michael’s brother-in-law, but has yet to be confirmed due the commonness of the TIERNAN surname in the area.

By the time this 1922 article had been published, Michael and his wife Kate had already had five children⁷⁰ and Kate was about four months pregnant with their sixth.⁷¹ This was merely the beginning of what was to be their very large family, even by Irish Catholic standards, as Kate (TIERNAN) KEIGHER were recorded as having given birth to a total of seventeen children.⁷² Of the seventeen born, sixteen children were found in the civil registration records⁷³, and fourteen survived until adulthood (*see Table 7; see Figure 5; see Descendant Chart*).

At the time of this writing, only one child of Michael and Kate (TIERNAN) KEIGHER remains living: their daughter Nora (KEIGHER) HANSBERRY, currently residing in Australia.

Children of Michael KEIGHER and Catherine (Kate) TIERNAN			
	Name	Civil Birth	Death
1	Bridget (<i>Briege</i>)	24 Sept 1916 ⁷⁴	29 Mar 2005 ⁷⁵
2	Cornelius Joseph (<i>Con</i>)	05 Sept 1917 ⁷⁶	26 Dec 1986 ^{77 78 79}
3	John Francis	17 Feb 1919 ⁸⁰	<i>Bet. 1921-1922</i> ^{81 82}
4	Peter	20 Jan 1920 ⁸³	24 Nov 1996 ^{84 85}
5	Michael (<i>Mick</i>)	1921 (<i>3rd Q.</i>) ⁸⁶	29 Dec 2012 ^{87 88}
6	John Joseph (<i>Jack</i>)	17 Aug 1922 ⁸⁹	28 Nov 2008 ⁹⁰
7	Mary Teresa (<i>Tess</i>)	09 Dec 1924 ⁹¹	21 June 2019 ⁹²
8	Patrick Joseph (<i>Pat</i>)	27 May 1926 ⁹³	June 2001 ⁹⁴
9	Thomas (<i>Tom</i>)	01 May 1927 ⁹⁵	01 Aug 1994 ⁹⁶
10	James Joseph (<i>Jim</i>)	23 Nov 1928 ⁹⁷	22 Oct 2019 ⁹⁸
11	Gerard (<i>Gerry</i>)	19 Feb 1930 ⁹⁹	08 Apr 2006 ¹⁰⁰
12	Ellen	<i>abt.</i> May 1931 ¹⁰¹	01 Oct 1931 ¹⁰²
13	Mary Ellen	1932 (<i>1st Q.</i>) ¹⁰³	04 June 2008 ¹⁰⁴
14	Matthew Francis (<i>Matt</i>)	29 Jan 1933 ¹⁰⁵	02 June 2003 ^{106 107}
15	Nora Mary (<i>Nora</i>)	05 Sept 1934 ¹⁰⁸	<i>living</i>
16	Ann Marie (<i>Nancy</i>)	23 Jan 1939 ¹⁰⁹	10 May 1989 ^{110 111}

Table 7. Children of Michael & Kate (TIERNAN) KEIGHER



Left to Right, Top to Bottom –

Top Row: Tom, Gerry, Matt, Pat

Second Row: Ellen Mary, Nora

Third Row: Jim, Michael Keigher (1879 – 1950), Kate (Catherine Tiernan, 1893 – 1976).

Fourth Row: Briege, Tess, Jack

Fifth Row: Nancy, Mick, Con

Figure 5. Photo Collage of Children of Michael & Kate (Tiernan) KEIGHER¹¹²

Later Years

Although limited records exist for Michael KEIGHER after 1922, we do know from family memory that Michael remained at Sandpark until his death¹¹³ at age 70 in the late spring of 1950,¹¹⁴ officially from an enlarged prostate and uremia (see Table 8, see Figure 6 - Obituary).¹¹⁵ As per Michael's wife Kate and son Jack, prostate cancer had also been suspected by the physician.¹¹⁶

262	1950... Sixteenth June Lisacurkia	Michael Keigher	Male	Married	70 year	Farmer	Enlarged Prostate Uremia Certified	Margaret Murphy Sister Present at Death Drinane	20th June 1950... T. Shannon Regist[rar]	CLÁRACÓIR (Registrar)
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Transcription – 1950 Civil Death Registration

Note: use of italics to represent handwritten, as opposed to type.

"04191897.

161.

1950. Deaths Registered in the District of Elphin, Superintendent Registrar's District of Roscommon, in the County of Roscommon.

No. (1.): 262.

Date and Place of Death (2.): 1950. *Sixteenth of June, Lisacurkia*

Name and Surname (3.): *Michael Keigher*

Sex (4.): *Male*

Condition (5.): *Married*

Age at last birthday (6.): *70 years*

Rank, Profession, or Occupation (7.): *Farmer*

Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness (8): *Enlarged Prostate, Uremia, Certified*

Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant (9.): *Margaret Murphy, Sister, Present at Death, Drinane*

When Registered (10.): *20th June 1950*

Signature of Registrar (11.): *T. Shannon ass[istan]t Registrar "*

Table 8. 1950 Civil Death Registration – Image & transcription – Michael Keigher¹¹⁷

RECENT DEATHS— Miss Mary Philomena McGarry was accidentally drowned when she had a seizure while reading on a river bank near her home. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael McGarry, Cloonacarrow, Kingland, and was aged 17. Her funeral took place to the local cemetery after the Inquest held by the Co. Coroner, Mr. T. P. Shannon where it was found she had met her death by misadventure. Mrs. Bridget Cryan, who died at her residence, Lisafooka, Tulsk, was a native of Killumod, Carrick-on-Shannon and had been in failing health for a number of years. Her funeral which took place to Killeoley Cemetery after Solemn Requiem Mass at Tulsk Church was unusually large and representative. Mr. Michael Keigher who died at his residence Sandpark, Tulsk, after a short illness was the father of seventeen children of whom fourteen are alive. A hard working industrious farmer, he was a kindly and obliging neighbour and his demise is much regretted in the area where he was a general favourite. The funeral to Tulsk Cemetery on Sunday evening was a striking example of sympathy with his bereaved widow and family. We also regret to announce the death of Mr. M. King, formerly of Derryfatten, Tulsk, who died in U.S.A. recently.

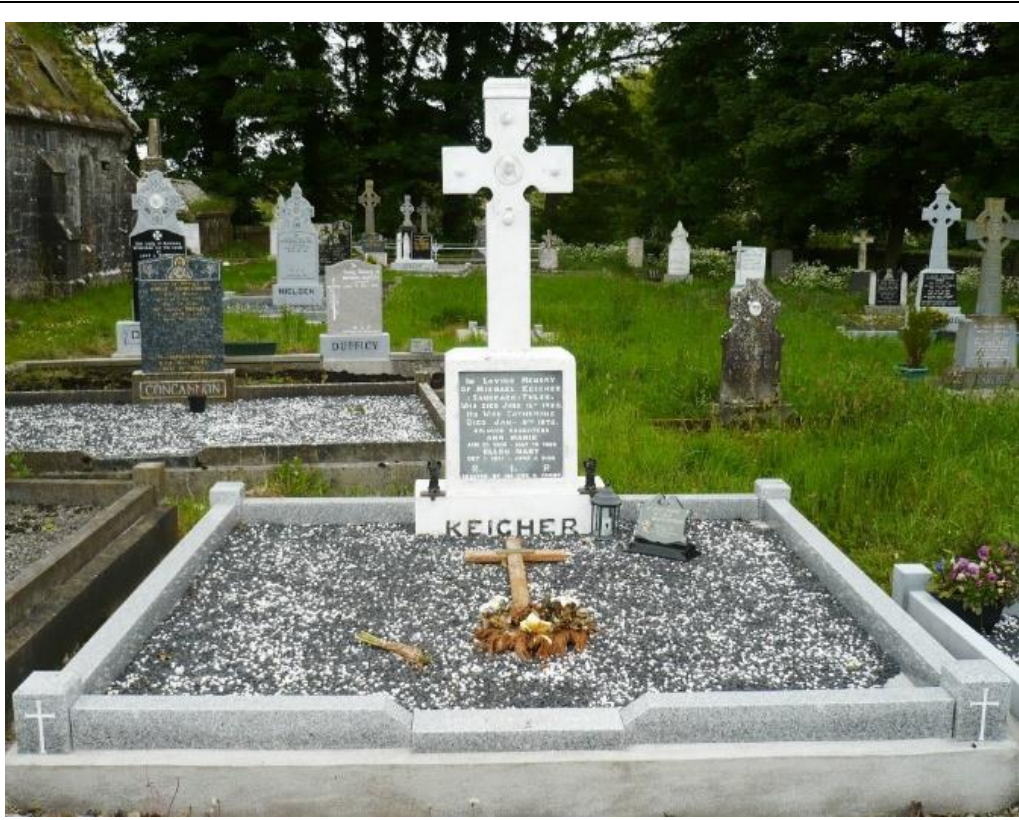
Figure 6. 1950 Obituary. *The Longford Leader*. Michael Keigher.

After his death, Michael KEIGHER was buried at a family plot in Tusk Abbey Cemetery, Tusk, Roscommon (see *Figure 6; Figure 7*).¹¹⁸

More than two decades later, his widowed wife Kate who died in Toronto, Ontario Canada 09 January 1976,^{119 120} was interred next to him. In later years, their daughters Ann Marie (Nancy) and Mary Ellen, would also share the family plot.¹²¹



Figure 7. Photo of Tusk Abbey Cemetery - Tusk, Co. Roscommon.¹²²



Monument Transcription - Tulsk Abbey Cemetery, Tulsk – Keigher family

“In Loving Memory
 Of Michael Keigher (Sandpark) Tulsk
 Who died June 16, 1950
 His Wife Catherine
 Died Jan 9th, 1976
 Beloved Daughters
 Ann Marie
 Jan 23, 1939 – May 10, 1989
 Ellen Mary
 Oct 1, 1931 – June 4, 2008
 R.I.P.
 Erected by his Wife & Family”

Figure 8. Photo & Transcription of Keigher family monument - Tulsk Abbey, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon.¹²³

Rest in Peace

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- ¹¹² Image: Photograph Collage. Collage of Michael Keigher, wife Kate Tiernan, and their fourteen children. Collage created circa 2016. Collage artist: Michael John Keigher, using family photographs provided by his Aunt Tess (Keigher) Oldman.
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¹²² Images: Photograph. Tusk Abbey Cemetery grounds. Circa Spring, 2013. Photographer: Melissa L. Keigher. Personal collection of Melissa L. Keigher. Copyright of Melissa L. Keigher.

¹²³ Images: Photograph. Keigher family monument at Tusk Abbey. Circa Spring, 2013. Photographed by Melissa L. Keigher. Location: Tusk Abbey Cemetery, Tusk, Roscommon, Ireland. Personal collection of Melissa L. Keigher. Copyright of Melissa L. Keigher.