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JOHN CUNNINGHAM



John was born near Belclare, Co. Galway. He was educated in Castlehacket National School; St Jarlath's College, Tuam and University College Galway. John is Director of the MA History programme at NUI Galway, and a recent editor of *Saothar: Journal of Irish Labour History*. He has published several books on Irish labour and local history. He is currently writing the biography of Tom Glynn (1881-1934), the son of a herdsman of Gurteen, Co. Galway, who became a notable radical journalist and anti-war campaigner in Australia.

A CLASS QUITE DISTINCT ~ WEST OF IRELAND HERDSMEN IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

SYNOPSIS:

West of Ireland herdsman, according to one expert in the 1890s, formed *'a class quite distinct from any employed in any of the English districts, being neither shepherds nor bailiffs and yet a compound of both'*. Numerous in Counties Galway and Roscommon, where they were employed by landlords and large graziers, they were responsible workers, liable for damage to their employers' stock, whether caused by *'hogs, dogs, bogs, or thieves'*, in their own phrase. This illustrated talk will describe the anachronistic working conditions of the herds, and consider the efforts of their Herds' Associations through which they defended their position against employers and tenants' movements during the land war and after.

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2019 AT 8:30PM