



Enbarr of Ballybay: The Pursuit of the Stolen Mare [NotebookLM 3-2026]

The 7 sources supplied chronicle the legendary recovery of a prized racehorse named Enbarr, who was stolen from her owner, John Moffett, in Ballybay, Ireland. After a thief whisked the mare away toward Dublin, the dedicated roadmaker pursued them on foot, a journey covering approximately 103 kilometers. Upon reaching the city, Moffett collaborated with the local police to identify his horse at the River Liffey during evening watering hours. The narrative, captured in historical genealogy records and various literary adaptations, concludes with a triumphant return to Crievagh, where the duo showcased their deep bond. Accompanying maps and illustrations visualize the arduous route and the extraordinary athleticism of both the man and his loyal companion.

What are the mythical origins behind the horse's name Enbarr?

The name Enbarr is rooted in Celtic mythology, specifically drawing from the legend of Aonbharr of Manannán. According to the sources, the mythical origins of the name carry several magical connotations:

Extraordinary Speed: The mythical Aonbharr was described as being "quicker than the naked cold wind of spring".

Versatile Travel: The horse possessed the magical ability to "travel over land or sea with equal ease".

Magical Protection: Legend holds that Aonbharr granted invulnerability to anyone who rode upon her back.

[My fiction~jrh] *John Moffett chose this name for his mare to fascinate his children and imbue the animal with these "magical stories about her origins," hoping to instill a sense of wonder and possibility in their young minds. During his long journey to recover the stolen horse, he even found comfort in these stories, specifically the idea of the horse providing protection to its rider, though he ironically noted that this mythic protection was currently being enjoyed by the thief.*

Tell me about the family history of the Ballybay Moffetts.

The family history of the Ballybay Moffetts spans several generations of residents in County Monaghan, characterized by their roles as roadmakers, weavers, and farmers, as well as their ties to the local Presbyterian community.

Generation 1: The Patriarch

The earliest recorded ancestor is James Moffett (1). Little is known about him other than that he had at least two children: John and Isabella.

Generation 2: Establishing the Ballybay Connection

John Moffett (2), the son of James, is a central figure in the family's history. He originally came from Farney, near Carrickmacross, and moved to Ballybay.

Marriage and Land: He married Elizabeth Ritchie, the eldest daughter of Robert Ritchie. As a condition of the marriage, they settled on Elizabeth's dowry—a portion of the townland of Crievagh owned by her father. This land remained in the family for generations.

Occupation: John was a roadmaker by trade and reportedly helped build the very road he traveled to find his stolen horse, *Enbarr*.

Legacy: Known for his athletic prowess and skill as a rider, he lived to the age of 96. Both he and Elizabeth are buried in the Derryvalley Presbyterian meeting-house burying ground.

Siblings: His sister, Isabella Moffett, married a Mr. Martin and had at least one son, Archie.

Generation 3: The Six Children

John and Elizabeth had six children: James, Nancy, John, David, Elizabeth (Betty), and Ritchie.

James Moffett (3): Born in 1774 at Crievagh, he was a member of the Covenanting Church. He married Elizabeth McCall and later emigrated to Illinois, U.S.A. in 1842, where he died shortly after arrival.

Nancy Moffett (3): Married Archie Greer and had six children. While most of her family stayed in Ireland, two of her granddaughters eventually moved to New York City.

John Moffett (3): Born in 1783, he remained at the old homestead in Crievagh. He was a skilled hand-weaver of linen, a prosperous industry in the north of Ireland at the time. He was a respected elder and Sunday school superintendent at Derryvalley Presbyterian Church.

David Moffett (3): Described as having a "wild deposition," he lived a "dissolute life" and never married, though he was noted for being very strong physically.

Elizabeth Moffett (3): Married John Carson in 1822. She died in Ireland in 1845, after which her husband and children emigrated to Central Illinois, where many of her descendants remained.

Ritchie Moffett (3): Listed as one of the six children of John and Elizabeth.

Which Moffett family members eventually emigrated to America?

Several members of the Moffett family and their direct descendants emigrated from Ireland to the United States during the 19th century.

James Moffett (3): The eldest child of John Moffett and Elizabeth Ritchie, James emigrated to Edwardsville, Illinois in 1842. He lived there with his son, John, until his death in October of that same year.

Children of James Moffett (3): Of his six children, the sources specify that the "last four"—Martha, John, David, and Elizabeth—all emigrated to America.

Granddaughters of Nancy Moffett (3): While Nancy herself stayed in Ireland, two of her granddaughters (sisters) eventually moved to New York City.

The Carson Family (Descendants of Elizabeth Moffett): After Elizabeth Moffett (3) died in Ireland in 1845, her husband, John Carson, and their surviving children emigrated to Central Illinois in 1846. These children, who represent the Moffett lineage through their mother, included Thomas, Eliz. Ann, Nancy, John, Jane, Isabel, and Richard.

Why did David Moffett have a wild reputation?

David Moffett (the fourth child of John Moffett and Elizabeth Ritchie) had a reputation for being of a "wild deposition" and leading what the sources describe as a "dissolute life".

While the records do not provide specific anecdotes of his "wild" behavior, they highlight a few key characteristics of his life:

Physical Strength: He was noted for being "very strong physically".

Marital Status: Unlike many of his siblings who established large families, David never married.

Because he lived a life that contrasted with the more "just, honorable and trustworthy" reputation of his brother John (3)—who was a church elder and Sunday school superintendent—David's lifestyle was distinctly remembered as being more unconventional and unsettled.

Create an infographic (such as a timeline or family chart) to help to better visualize and organize this family tree.

NotebookLM created a comprehensive infographic to visualize the Ballybay Moffett family tree. This chart will map the lineage starting from James Moffett (1) down through the six children of John Moffett (2) and Elizabeth Ritchie. It will include details on the third generation—such as the nine children of John Moffett (3) and the seven children of Elizabeth Moffett Carson—while highlighting key historical context like the family's settlement in Crievagh and John (2)'s career as a roadmaker.

The Legend of John Moffett

Create detailed painterly style illustrations as described in the source material of the "Horse Thief" story. Each storybook panel in the deck should follow the narrative in the document. Use the images designated for use in the Source files. The setting is early 1800s Ireland

NotebookLM created a painterly-style slide deck that illustrates the dramatic narrative of John Moffett and his horse, Enbarr.

The slide deck follows the story chronologically, beginning with the peaceful life at the Crievagh homestead and moving through the theft, John's arduous 100km journey to Dublin, the recovery of Enbarr at the River Liffey, and their celebratory return to Ballybay. The visual style is designed to match the atmospheric, historical aesthetic found in your source materials to capture the spirit of early 18th-century Ireland.

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The Roadmaker's Pursuit

Create a similar version of the slide deck "The Legend of John Moffett" in the visual style of intricately detailed black and white woodcut engravings.

NotebookLM created a new version of the slide deck, this time utilizing the intricately detailed black and white woodcut engraving style you requested.

This presentation visually narrates the "Horse Thief" story, capturing the dramatic sequence of events from the initial theft at the Crievagh homestead and John's 103km trek to the recovery of Enbarr at the River Liffey and their celebratory return home.

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The 100km Rescue of Enbarr

Create a slide deck narrating the story of John Moffett and his horse Enbarr in the visual style of black and white line drawings of a coloring book. The narrative using the source document "Enbarr of Ballybay for Children.pdf" should follow the sequence: peaceful life at Crievagh, the sudden theft, John's 100km journey on foot to Dublin, the search at the River Liffey, reclaiming the horse with police assistance, and the celebratory return to Ballybay featuring the hat-trick stunt.

NotebookLM created the coloring book-style slide deck narrating the story of John Moffett and Enbarr. This version features black and white line drawings suitable for coloring, following the full narrative from their peaceful life in Crievagh and the sudden theft, to John's 100km trek to Dublin, the search at the River Liffey, and their celebratory return to Ballybay featuring the famous hat-trick stunt.
