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## Land Surveys and the Robinsons of North Kildare (1769-1864)

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*Land Surveys and the Robinsons of  
North Kildare (1769 - 1864)*

By  
James Robinson

THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE AWARD OF

*M. PHIL.*

TO

*D.I.T. BOLTON STREET*

*NOVEMBER 2000*

THIS THESIS IS BASED ON THE WORK OF JAMES ROBINSON,  
POST GRADUATE STUDENT AT D.I.T. BOLTON STREET. IT  
WAS COMPLETED DURING THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1997 TO  
NOVEMBER 2000. THE RESEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT  
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF MR. GERRY WALKER - VICE  
PRINCIPAL D.I.T. BOLTON STREET.

I hereby certify that this material that I now submit for assessment in the programme of study leading to the award of M. Phil. is entirely my own work and has not been taken from the work of others save and to the extent that such work has been cited and acknowledged within the text of my work.

Signed: James Robinson

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003

# ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the National Library, Kildare Street, Dublin; the National Archive of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin; the Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin; County Library, Newbridge, Co. Kildare; the Russell Library, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; the Civic Museum, South William Street Dublin, D.I.T. Kevin Street College Library; the Gilbert Library, Pearse Street, Dublin, the Linen Hall Library, Belfast, the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin; the Royal Irish Academy, Dawson Street, Dublin; the Scottish National Library; the Spanish Chapel, London; and Larne and District Historical Centre, Co. Antrim.

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# *Index*

<b>Chapter I: Introduction and Contextual Material</b>	<b>Page 1</b>
Kildare – A Brief History; the Civil Survey, 1640; Maps of Kildare, 1752, 1783 and 1836; Estate Records.	
<b>Chapter II: Land Surveys (1769) by Moran</b>	
<i>Section A</i>	<b>Page 14</b>
Land Survey Maps regarding the Loftus Estate, 1769, by Nich. Moran; Loftus Family Tree.	
<i>Section B</i>	<b>Page 19</b>
Daniel Cribben (1690 – 1777); English Penal Priest – Fr. Patrick Shaw ( – 1742), Fr. Gerard Shaw ( – 1780); Ireland in the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> Century; The Evolution of the Name McRobin.	
<b>Chapter III: Land Surveys (1803) by Frizell</b>	
<i>Section A</i>	<b>Page 31</b>
Land Survey Maps regarding the Loftus Estate, 1803, by Charles Frizell; Loftus Coat-of-Arms.	
<i>Section B</i>	<b>Page 38</b>
James Cribben, (1734 – 1809). The Cribbens / McRobins / Robinsons in the early 18 <sup>th</sup> Century; Bishop Thomas Hussey (1746 – 1803); Thomas Terrell, 1803; 1798 Insurrection – The Battle of Clonard, July 11 <sup>th</sup> 1798; Colley Estate Map, 1744, by M. Byrn; Charles Frizell.	
<b>Chapter IV: Land Surveys (1817) by Brownrigg and Longfield</b>	
<i>Section A</i>	<b>Page 63</b>
Land Survey Map, 1817, by J. Brownrigg and J. Longfield.	
<i>Section B</i>	<b>Page 67</b>
Fr. John Robinson (1767 – 1822); Letter of a Penal Priest, 1785; 1798 Insurrection – Battle of Prosperous, 24 <sup>th</sup> May 1798; The Irish College, Salamanca, c. 1790.	

**Chapter V: Land Surveys (1819) by Longfield**

*Section A*

**Page 82**

Land Survey regarding the Loftus/Rich Estate, 1819, by John Longfield.

*Section B*

**Page 85**

Garret Robinson (1773 – 1849) and his diaries; Richard Robinson (1782 – 1855); Shipwreck – *The Lady Nelson*, 1809.

**Chapter VI: Tithe Surveys (1834) by Rait**

*Section A*

**Page 101**

Tithe Aplotments Survey, 1834.

*Section B*

**Page 108**

Garret, Richard (including his diary) and Daniel Robinson; John Robinson; Letter from Daniel O’Connell, 1828; Loyal National Repeal Association Membership Card, 1844.

**Chapter VII: Valuation Surveys (1853) by Griffith**

*Section A*

**Page 129**

Griffith Valuations, 1853; Richard Griffith (1784 – 1878); The Great Famine in Kildare, 1846/7.

*Section B*

**Page 136**

Robinson Families with Property at Ballyonan; Boyne Hill; Garrisker; Kilreany; Kilglass; Ballinlig; Kilrathmurray; Cornamucklagh; Ballivor; Kilballivor; Donore; Ballyboggan.

**Chapter VIII: Land Surveys (1864) by Hodges Smith**

**Land Surveys (1744) by Byrn**

*Section A*

**Page 142**

Land Survey Maps regarding the Rich Estate, 1864, by Hodges Smith; Land Survey Maps regarding the Colley Estate, 1744, by M. Byrn; Colley/Pomeroy/Wesley Families.

*Section B*

**Page 162**

Robinson Families at Boyne Hill; Hill of Down; Ballyonan; Kilrathmurray; Kilreany; Newberry Hall, Carbury; Land League Membership Certificate, 1881.

<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>Page 177</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A .	<b>Page 186</b>
Book Reviews:- The Robinsons of North Kildare – 300 Years of Family History	
Appendix B.	<b>Page 192</b>
Letters of John Robinson (October 10 <sup>th</sup> , 1785 – August 20 <sup>th</sup> 1796).	
Appendix C.	<b>Page 201</b>
Griffith Evaluations (1853)	
Appendix D-1.	<b>Page 209</b>
Ballinlig Tenants and Field Acreages (1834)	
Appendix D-2.	<b>Page 211</b>
Cornamucklagh Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)	
Appendix D-3.	<b>Page 213</b>
Kilrainy Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)	
Appendix E	<b>Page 215</b>
Charles Frizell (1738 – 1812)	
A Surveyor in Co. Kildare	
Appendix F	<b>Page 226</b>
Units of Measurement	
Bibliography	<b>Page 228</b>

## *Illustrations*

Photograph 1.1 The Robinsons of North Kildare – 300 Years of Family History	Page 2
Photograph 1.2 Map of Co. Kildare showing its baronies with Carbury in the northwest of the County.	Page 6
Photograph 1.3 Map of Kildare by Nobel and Keenan, 1752	Page 7
Photograph 1.4 Map of Kildare by Alexander Taylor, 1783	Page 8
Photograph 1.5 Map of Kildare by Samuel Lewis, 1837	Page 10
Photograph 2.1 Map of Daniel Cribben’s Holding i, 1769, Map No. 45	Page 14
Photograph 2.2 Map of Daniel Cribben’s Holding ii, 1769, Map No. 42	Page 15
Photograph 2.3 Loftus Family Tree.	Page 17
Photograph 2.4 Daniel McRobin’s Tombstone (Carrig Cemetery)	Page 23
Photograph 3.1 Survey Book Introduction, 1803	Page 31
Photograph 3.2 Loftus Coat-of-Arms	Page 32
Photograph 3.3 Map of James Cribben’s Holding, 1803	Page 33
Photograph 3.4 Map of James Cribben’s Holding with Details, 1803	Page 34
Photograph 3.5 Headstone (fallen) of James McRobin/Robinson, Carrig Cemetery	Page 42
Photograph 3.6 Headstone Inscription	Page 43
Photograph 3.7 Bishop Thomas Hussey, F.R.S. (1746 – 1803)	Page 46
Photograph 3.8 Kilrenny - The Holding of Thomas Terrel, 1803	Page 47
Photograph 3.9 1803, Map Site of Battle of Clonard	Page 51
Photograph 3.10 1744, Map Site of Battle of Clonard	Page 53
Photograph 4.1 Rev. Mr. Robinson’s Holding, 1817	Page 63
Photograph 4.2 Letter 1, John Robinson, October 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1785	Page 68
Photograph 4.3 Beads and Knife set	Page 72
Photograph 4.4 Fr. John Robinson’s Headstone with Inscription	Page 74

in Passlands Cemetery, Monasterevan, Co. Kildare	
Photograph 4.5 Irish College, Salamanca	<b>Page 76</b>
Photograph 5.1 Map – Cornamucklagh and Ballinlig, 1819, by J. Longfield.	<b>Page 82</b>
Photograph 5.2 Dublin Linen Hall in the 1780’s	<b>Page 88</b>
Photograph 5.3 Advertisement for ‘Delphini’, 1829	<b>Page 92</b>
Photograph 5.4 Receipt from the Marquis of Lansdowne	<b>Page 93</b>
Photograph 5.5 Headstone (on right) of Garret and Johanna Robinson, Carrig Cemetery	<b>Page 98</b>
Photograph 6.1 Richard Robinson’s Diary, 1823	<b>Page 110</b>
Photograph 6.2 Letter from Daniel O’Connell to Rev. Michael Flanagan, 1828	<b>Page 118</b>
Photograph 6.3 Loyal Repeal Association Card, Side 1	<b>Page 120</b>
Photograph 6.4 Loyal Repeal Association Card, Side 2	<b>Page 120</b>
Photograph 6.5 John Robinson’s Letter, c. 1830’s	<b>Page 122</b>
Photograph 8.1 Map – Ballinlig 1864	<b>Page 142</b>
Photograph 8.2 Table of Ballinlig Tennants and Field Acreages	<b>Page 143</b>
Photograph 8.3 Map – Cornamucklagh 1864	<b>Page 145</b>
Photograph 8.4 Table of Cornamucklagh Tennants and Field Acreages	<b>Page 146</b>
Photograph 8.5 Map – Kilrainy 1864	<b>Page 148</b>
Photograph 8.6 Table of Kilrainy Tennants and Field Acreages	<b>Page 149</b>
Photograph 8.7 Map – Kilglass 1864	<b>Page 151</b>
Photograph 8.8 Carbury Castle 1999	<b>Page 152</b>
Photograph 8.9 Carbury Castle 1799	<b>Page 153</b>
Photograph 8.10 Map of Castle Carbury 1744	<b>Page 153</b>
Photograph 8.11 Arthur Wellesley KB	<b>Page 158</b>
Photograph 8.12 Map of Kilrathmurray 1744	<b>Page 160</b>
Photograph 8.13 1798 Monument of Clonard	<b>Page 163</b>
Photograph 8.14 John Robinson, Ballyonan (1816-1876)	<b>Page 165</b>
Photograph 8.15 Kate Robinson (1827-1900)	<b>Page 166</b>
Photograph 8.16 The Memorial Cards of John & Mary Robinson, Kilrathmurray	<b>Page 167</b>
Photograph 8.17 Seal of Commissioner of the Peace: Edward Robinson	<b>Page 168</b>

Photograph 8.18 Edward and Bridget Robinson and Family – Kilrainy	<b>Page 169</b>
Photograph 8.19 Richard J Robinson (1853-1912)	<b>Page 171</b>
Photograph 8.20 May Robinson (1856-1941)	<b>Page 172</b>
Photograph 8.21 Land League Membership Certificate – 1881	<b>Page 173</b>

## *Summary*

Between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the prosperity of Irish Catholic Tenants ebbed and flowed with the prevailing economic, political and social climate. The objective of this work is to illustrate that process by reference to the Robinson Family of North Kildare.

Specifically, the dissertation will:

- Review the surveys undertaken in 1769, 1803, 1817, 1819, 1834, 1853, 1864 and 1744.
- Establish the status of the Robinson Family as demonstrated by these surveys and other social and economic information, much of it previously unpublished.
- Record, where relevant, the contribution of the family to the social, economic and political developments in Kildare, in the broader national context and in a small number of cases, in the international area.

Following an introduction, the methodology adopted involves a chapter on each of the relevant surveys. Each of these chapters will comprise two parts: Part A describes the survey and the surveyor while Part B focuses on the Robinson Family property, which they tenanted.

The concluding chapter summarises the earlier work and clearly shows that the Robinson Family generally prospered during the 95 years under review. However, it is also evident that some members of the family were less fortunate and lived in virtual poverty. It may be concluded, therefore, that the Robinson Family were not a typical of the Catholic tenantry of the time.

Appendix E concerns a paper on Charles Frizell, the surveyor who executed the 1803 survey, which the writer is scheduled to read at a forthcoming meeting of the Old Dublin Society. Frizell was a leading surveyor of his day and this paper on his work, life and family gives an insight into a member of a profession who are largely discreet, anonymous and non-controversial.

Finally, a significant outcome of this study is the Robinson Family Genealogy Line, which has been prepared to correlate with each of the seven surveys.



# CHAPTER I

## Introduction & Contextual Material

# *Chapter I: Introduction & Contextual Material*

This thesis consists of seven Chapters outlining the changing property of the Loftus/Rich Estate and the people who were tenants on these lands.

Section A of each Chapter details the nature of the land holdings and is based on available survey maps and other records starting from the first of the series in 1769. Section B of each chapter references the tenants, the extended Robinson family, who leased this property in North Kildare. It traces their evolution and relationship to the land and provides insights into the life, activities and connections of the family over a span of ninety five years.

Chapter 2 is based on the Loftus Estate 1769 map surveyed by Nich Moran, while Chapter 3 references the 1803 Estate map surveyed by Chas Frizell. Chapter 4 details the Brownrigg and Longfield survey of 1817 which although outside the ownership of the Loftus/Rich family nonetheless refers to a member of the Robinson family who is of particular interest as details of the lives of ordinary people in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century are rare. Chapter 5 references the Rich Estate survey maps of John Longfield in 1819. Chapter 6 is based on the Tithe Applotment books of 1834 while Chapter 7 refers to the Griffith Evaluations (1848 - 1864). The final Chapter 8 details the 1864 survey map which was published by Hodges Smith & Co.

The Tithe Applotments and the Griffith Evaluations augment the Loftus/Rich private surveys and are included to show the evolving consolidation of the Robinson holdings. Adjacent properties which subsequently became occupied by the Robinson family are also referenced.

## *1. The Robinson Family History*

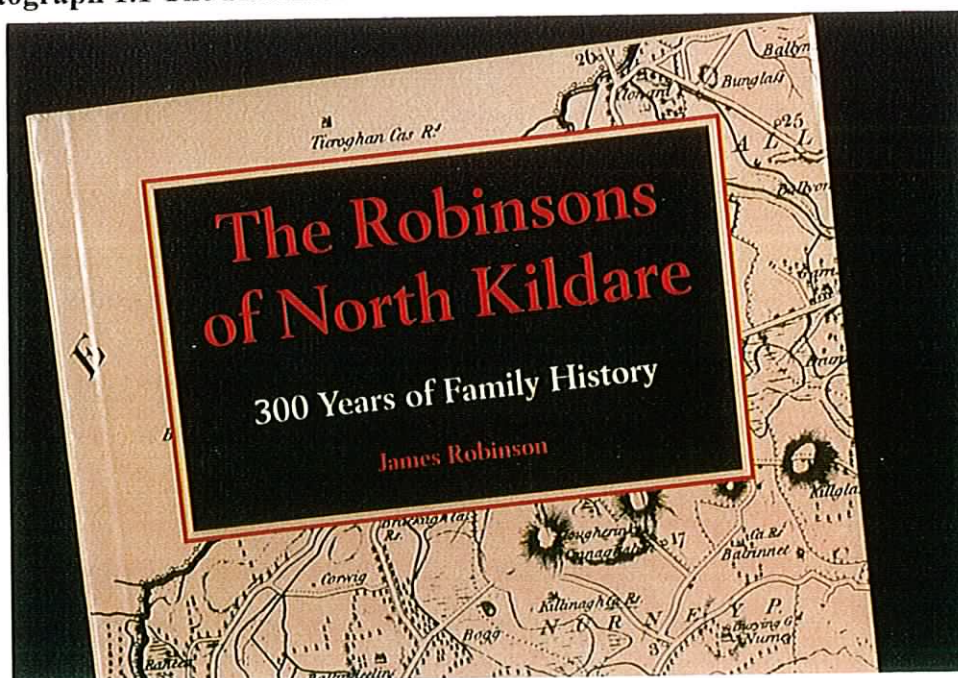
Research into the Robinson family history commenced in 1993 and four years later in February 1997 "The Robinsons of North Kildare - 300 Years of Family History", was published by this writer. This book consists of some 400 pages including 160 photographs and is a history which references nine generations of the family from 1690 to the present. It is a history of family and place. It's details include photographs of seven generations, farm diaries from the year 1800, letters from penal times, starting form 1783, family wills, emigrant letters and documents showing political involvement as well as the antiquity of this region.

The publication received favourable reviews in national and local newspapers and the research was the subject of the R.T.E. Radio Genealogical Programme entitled 'The Family Tree', broadcast on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1996. Indeed an extract from this programme featured on 'Play Back', which replays the best of the previous weeks broadcasts. An item regarding a shipwreck in the family, 'The Lady Nelson', which sank off the Skelligs, Co. Kerry in October 1809, was broadcast on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1997, on 'Seascapes', the maritime programme on R.T.E. Radio. An article concerning the bi-centenary of the 1798 Insurrection was published in the annual North Kildare parish publication 'Balyna 1998'. It was entitled 'A shipwreck, a Rebellion and a Grand National Winner', and was written by the present author. Appendix A contains some of the reviews regarding 'The Robinsons of North Kildare'.

Subsequent to publication of the book the existence of the Loftus/Rich Estate Survey Maps referenced in this thesis was discovered. The common denominator was the fact that the tenant in each survey map was an ancestor of the Robinsons. The 95 years covered by these surveys show four succeeding generations of the family and their tenancy of this Loftus/Rich Estate.

This then is the study of these land surveys of North Kildare and the people who lived on the lands from 1769 to 1864.

**Photograph 1.1 The Robinsons of North Kildare - 300 Years of Family History.**





## 2 *Kildare - A Brief History*

In the province of Leinster, the County of Kildare is 42 miles from north to south and 26 miles from east to west. It derives its name from Cill Dara, the Church of the Oak, which is said to have been built in the fifth century. In pre-Norman times it was the territory of Hy Kaelan the territory of the O'Byrnes and Hy Murray, the territory of the O'Tooles.

During the peak of their power in the tenth century the Vikings extended their territory to include the north eastern portion of Kildare. The town of Leixlip for example, meaning Salmon Leap in old Norse, derives its name from the Vikings.

Following the Norman invasion in the twelfth century, the county was granted to the Fitzgeralds. The O'Tooles and O'Byrnes were displaced to County Wicklow from whence they continued to raid the Norman occupied territory called the 'Pale', for centuries. Other Norman families of the county include Berminghams, Aylmers, Wogans, Sherlocks and Eustaces. The Fitzgeralds were the major force in Ireland in the Middle Ages. Their base was Maynooth Castle. The Fitzgerald power was reduced by the ill-fated rebellion of 'Silken Thomas' Fitzgerald in 1536.<sup>1</sup>

Following the defeat of the Catholic Confederation Rebellion of 1641, Cromwell confiscated the lands of many Norman families in Kildare in 1654. A survey, 'the Down Survey', was undertaken to define the confiscated lands and William Petty was given charge of the project. The survey owes its name to the fact that data was reported "down" in map form. Some families were restored to their property in 1662/64 by Charles II but following the Williamite Wars of 1689/91 many again lost their lands, some of which was planted by settlers. The Loftus family who owned the lands referred to in this thesis, were granted these lands by King James I on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1610.

### 3. *The Civil Survey 1654/5*

The Civil Survey 1654/5, referenced in the previous section on the history of County Kildare, contains some of the earliest written mention of this part of Kildare and the people who lived on the lands. The barony of Carbury in the county of Kildare lists the following entries.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1**

<i>Proprietor &amp; His Qualification</i>	<i>Name of Towne &amp; Lands</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Value in 1640</i>
<i>John Bermingham</i>	<i>Dunfiert</i>	<i>3,400 Acres</i>	<i>£300</i>
<i>Roger Moore Balyna - Papist</i>	<i>Ballina - Caddinstowe 1/2 Plow Land</i>	<i>580 Acres</i>	<i>£100</i>
<i>Dudley Colley Carbrie Esq. Protestant</i>	<i>The Mannour Towne and Lands of Carbrie, Clonkeane, Kilmore, Cassavaine, Ballinane, Ffreagh, Ballehagan.  2 Plow lands and the quarter</i>	<i>1300 Acres</i>	<i>£220</i>
<i>Sir Luke Fitzgerald, Ticroghane, Knight Irish Papist</i>	<i>Kilrathmurray And Ballinmackay</i>	<i>155 Acres</i>	<i>£13</i>
<i>Oliver Lynagh Irish Papist</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>33 Acres</i>	<i>£10</i>
<i>Pierce Lynagh</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>33 Acres</i>	<i>£10</i>

*There is a Chief Rent of Seven Shillings and Sixpence payable onto Dudley Colley Esq. out of the land of Kilrathmurray and Ballinmackay.*

**Table 2**

<i>John Bermingham Irish Papist</i>	<i>Carrig</i>	<i>292 Acres</i>	<i>£60</i>
<i>Ed Bermingham</i>	<i>Grange</i>	<i>88 Acres</i>	<i>£20</i>

*Returned a Protestant by ye jury thee having been a papist by some of us who did know him.*

**Table 3**

<i>John Bermingham</i>	<i>Grange &amp; Kinnefad</i>	<i>128 Acres</i>	<i>£40</i>
<i>Ed. Bermingham Grange</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>128 Acres</i>	<i>£30</i>

*Said he was a Protestant*

*There is a demolished castle belonging to John Bermingham (with an orchard) valued at £30.*

**Table 4**

<i>Dudley Colley</i>	<i>Clonmeene Ballygibbon Ranachan</i>	<i>360 Acres</i>	<i>£40</i>
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*The total Carbury Parish composes 1359 Acres - 1027 Acres Profitable Land - 152 Acres Unprofitable Land.*

**Table 5**

<i>Also Thos. Loftus Of Killion Protestant</i>	<i>Killriennie Kilglasse and Ballinlug 1/2 and 1/2 quarter of prime land</i>	<i>320 Acres</i>	<i>£80</i>
--	--	------------------	------------

*2/3 of the titles of the Parish of Kilrennie belong to Sir Robert King, Knight and yielded in the year 1640 ten pounds per annum. The other 1/3 part of the title in 1640 in the Parish belonged to Lieut. Col. John Huetson - valued at 5 pounds per annum.*

An entry with interesting comment in this locality was:

**Table 6**

<i>George Aylmer</i>	<i>Cloncurry</i>	<i>460 Acres</i>	<i>£125</i>
----------------------	------------------	------------------	-------------

*Returned a Protestant but known to have continued with ye rebels in ye first yeare of the rebellion and to have gone to Mass with them. Died a Papist and bred his children all Papists.*

These entries show:

- 1) Thomas Loftus - (Table 5) the ancestral surname of the landlord referenced in Chapter 2. They do not show his tenants who were probably earlier ancestors of the Cribben/McRobin/Robinson family - the tenants referenced in Chapter 2.
- 2) The tenor of the 'Down' Survey was unmistakably anti-catholic and reflected the new social order following the defeat of the Royalist/Catholic alliance by the Parliamentary forces led by Oliver Cromwell. The execution of King Charles I on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1649, ended the monarchy and showed the power of the new Puritan government. It would take

many years as this thesis shows, before Catholics would again regain power and privilege. The Robinsons of North Kildare are an example of such tenantry. This conquest of Ireland lasted from August 15, 1649 until May 10<sup>th</sup> 1650 and was followed by the Cromwellian settlement,

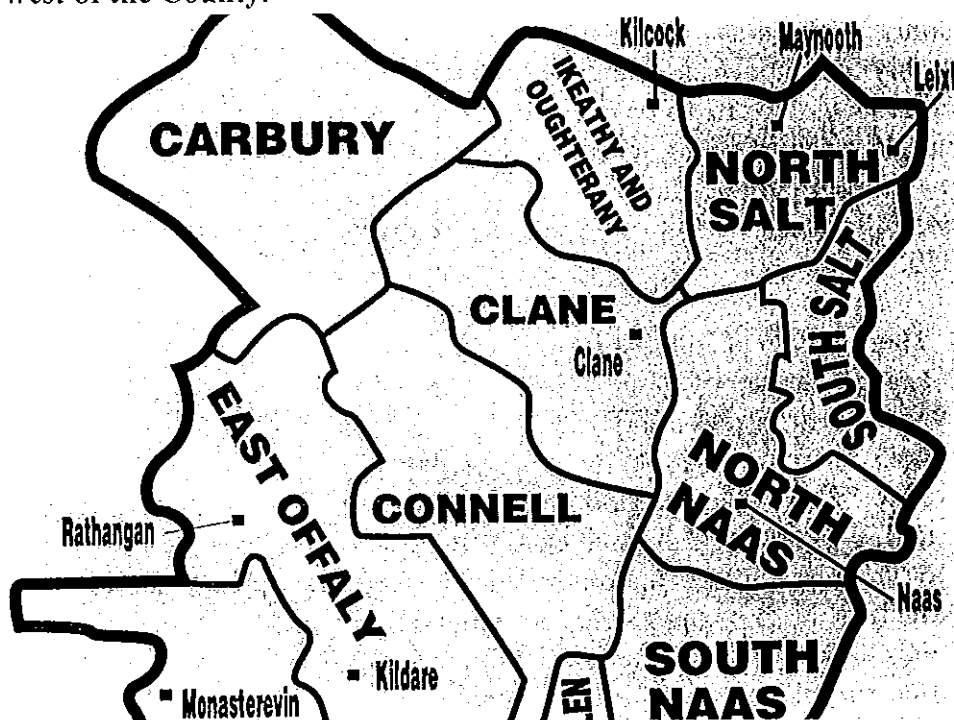
*"The claims of the adventurers who had lent money for the campaign and of the soldiers who had taken part in it were met by wholesale confiscation of Irish land. The dispossessed were provided for by grants in the desolate wastes of Connaught. It took six years to complete the formal settlement. Ireland lost one-third of her population and the best of her native leaders were in exile. Two-thirds of the soil passed to new owners. Catholic rites were proscribed and priests were hunted down and imprisoned or exiled".<sup>3</sup>*

- 3) The spelling of three of the principle townlands (Table 5) referenced in this study is somewhat varied but still recognisable as the property of Thomas Loftus and known today as Kilrainy, Kilglass and Ballinlig.

#### 4. The Maps of Kildare.

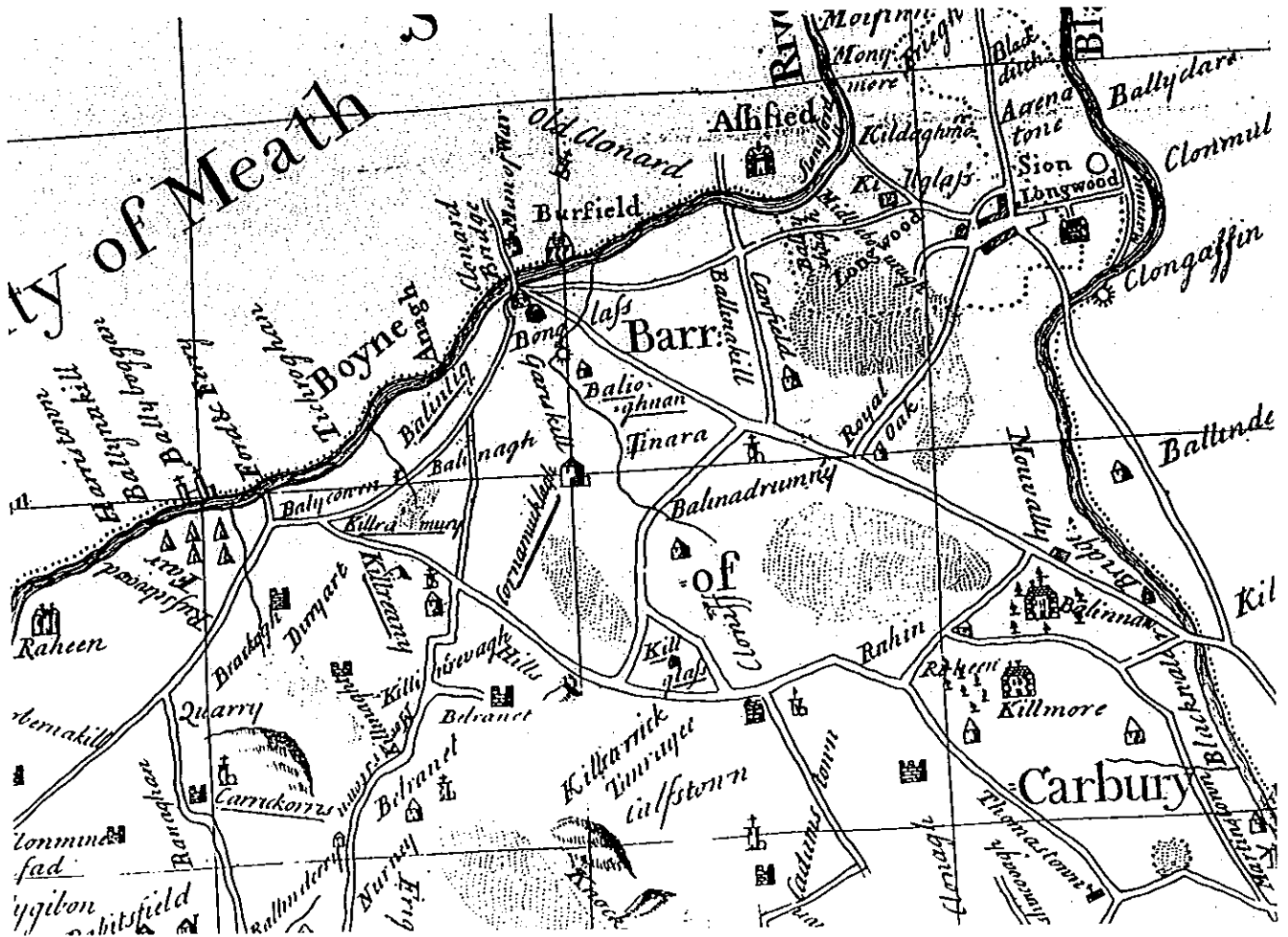
The maps of Kildare are of particular importance as they show the townlands examined in this thesis. Photograph 1.2 shows the 14 baronies that comprise County Kildare with the barony of Carbury situated in the northwest of the county.<sup>4</sup>

Photograph 1.2 - Map of County Kildare showing its baronies with Carbury in the north-west of the County.



The earliest map of County Kildare referenced in the course of this research was by Nobel and Keenan, published in 1752. This map is reproduced as photograph 1.3.

Photograph 1.3, Map of County Kildare, Nobel and Keenan 1752.



Scale 1" to 1 1/4 statute miles.

It was produced by John Nobel from Carlow and James Keenan from Castledermot, Co. Kildare, county surveyors.

This map is the largest of an Irish county yet to have been seen in print. Underlined are the townlands which feature in this thesis: Cornamucklagh, Balinlig, Balioghnan (Ballyonan), Kilramury (Kilrathmurray), Killglass, Kilrenny (Kilrainy) and Carrickorris (Carrig). The map features, in the margin, a horse race on the Curragh and it's redeeming aspect is the intimate knowledge of this territory displayed and the freshness and freedom with which the authors interpreted it. Items such as long stones, a manor pound and a bleach pond are itemised. Indeed individual houses at Kilglass and Killreany, which this study details, are shown.



The area of the County of Kildare is listed in Irish acres at 47,360 Acres. This map is dedicated to the 'Right Honourable James Earl of Kildare', 'The Right Honourable and Honourable the nobleman and gent of the County of Kildare.'<sup>5</sup>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> county map in the series is from 1783 and was executed by Alexander Taylor. This map is reproduced as photograph 1.4.

Photograph 1.4 Map of Kildare by Alexander Taylor 1783.



Photograph 1.4 shows a section of a Map executed by Alexander Taylor in 1783, of the County of Kildare. This was a prosperous county by Irish standards, rich not only in potential map purchasers but also in willing informants on such delicate topics as place names and boundaries. Amongst the wealthy landlords and Dublin ex-urbanities who had their hearts in Co. Kildare was Ireland's premier nobleman the Duke of Leinster. And so this map was dedicated to him.

Alexander Taylor, a Scot, grew up in Aberdeenshire where his father was probably William Taylor, who worked as a surveyor at Fort George in 1750's. The demand for estate surveyors diminished and Taylor joined the army when there was a sudden expansion of British Forces following the outbreak of war in America. He married Elizabeth Bonnar of Naas sometime before 1801 and although he held property in Naas, he lived in Mespil, Dublin. He died 15<sup>th</sup> April 1828 aged 82 years and is buried in the cemetery adjacent to Naas Race Course on the Dublin road.

This section of the Map shows the townlands referenced in the thesis by underline e.g. Cornamucklagh, Ballenleg, (Ballenlig), Kilrathmurray, Ballyonan, Kilreny (Kilrainy), Kilglass and Carrig. They are in the barony of Carbury. As in the County map of 1752, individual houses are shown at Kilreny and Kilglass.

In the margins of the map, Taylor has noted that Carbury has Bog - 10,000 acres and Arable - 20,907 acres - Total 30,907 acres. It is the largest barony in County Kildare.

The scale of this map is 1 inch to 2 Irish miles.

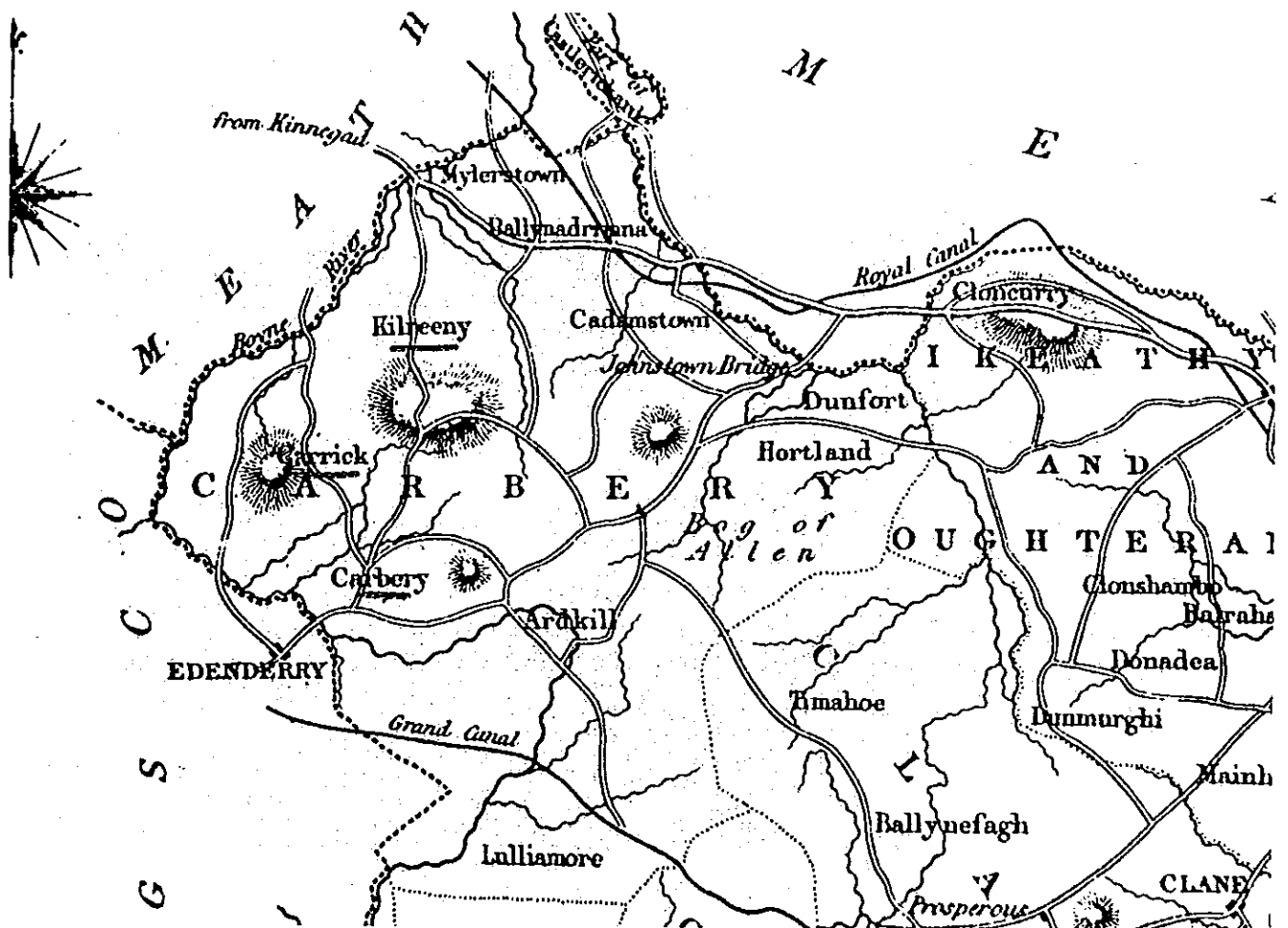
The title is thus:

*A Map of the County of Kildare*  
*Leu' Alex' Taylor*  
*Of*  
*His majesty's*  
*81<sup>st</sup> Regt. (Aberdeen Highlanders)*  
*1783.<sup>6</sup>*

The third and final map of the barony of Carbury in County Kildare, is taken from *Lewis's Topographical Dictionary and County Maps (1837)*. It shows underlined the following places represented in this thesis; Kilreeeny (Kilrainy); Carrick and Carbury. This map is reproduced as photograph 1.5.<sup>7</sup>

*The scale of the map is one inch to 6 Irish miles.*

Photograph 1.5 Map of Kildare by Samuel Lewis 1837.



Each of these three of the early maps of County Kildare show the area referenced in this thesis. It is surprising that the two earlier maps (1752 and 1783) show greater detail regarding the townlands of this barony of Carbury.

## 5. *Estate Records*

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the vast majority of the Irish population lived as small tenant-families on large estates, owned for the most part by English and Anglo-Irish landlords. The administration of these estates produced maps, tenant lists, rental and survey books, account books and lease books. Over the twentieth century as the estates were broken up and sold off, many of these records found their way into public records. It was quite rare for a substantial landowner to have individual rental or lease agreements with the large number of small tenants on his land. Instead he would let a significant area to a middleman, who would sublet to others, who in turn rented out parts to the smaller tenants. It is rare then for estate records to document the smallest landholders, since most of these had no right of tenure. They were simply 'tenants at will'.

Chapter 2 of the thesis details such a tenant. The deeds of the Loftus family, the landlords in this case, show no record of transactions with the Robinsons but instead reference various middlemen (i.e. between the Loftus and Robinson families) in their legal documents.

Large scale maps, as we know them, were not available in the seventeenth century, so landlords of large estates commissioned surveys of their properties for many reasons including:

- 1) To portray their importance to their peers. This factor was certainly evident in Chapter II of this thesis, where the family crest and motto of the Loftus family was added by Charles Frizell as an embellishment to his survey.
- 2) As an aid to management of their property. This is evident from the references in Chapter II, where the exhortations of Frizell, the surveyor regarding leasing practice were the words of someone who had seen mis-management of estates in the course of his professional work.
- 3) For the sale of the property. While these properties were not sold by the Loftus family during the time-span of this series of surveys, they must have aided their evaluation when eventually sold.<sup>8</sup>

The surveyors referenced in the following chapters make no mention of their method of operation, of other people employed by them while the surveys were being carried out of the instruments used or the fee charged for their work. Details of some of these surveyors from other sources are included in the relevant chapters.

## ***Chapter I:***

### ***References***

- 1 Ryan J. C, "Irish Records - Sources of Family and Local History", Ancestry, Dublin, 1997, p305.
- 2 Simington R. C, "Civil Survey 1654/56 Vol. III", Stationary Office, Dublin, 1952, p182-189.
- 3 Buchan J, "Oliver Cromwell", Reprint Society Ltd, London, 1941, p297.
- 4 Kildare County Council "Lest We Forget - Kildare and The Great Famine", 1997, Naas, p9.
- 5 Irish Georgian Society and Richard Robinson Newberry Hall, Carbury, Co. Kildare.
- 6 Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Merrion Square, Dublin 2.
- 7 Lewis S, "Atlas of Ireland / Topographical Dictionary of Ireland", Lewis & Co, London, 1837.
- 8 "Ordnance Survey of Ireland - An Illustrated Record", Ordnance Survey, Dublin, 1991.



# CHAPTER II

Land Surveys

(1769)

by

Moran

## Chapter II: Land Surveys (1769) by Moran

In section A, this chapter covers maps produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century for the landowner Thomas Loftus and in section B the tenant on this surveyed land is referenced - Daniel Cribben.

### SECTION A

Two of the earliest maps of the Loftus properties are those of 1769. They are two of a number of loose survey maps (approx. 80 maps) which reference a survey of the property of Mr. Loftus of Killyon, Co. Meath. They are accessible at the manuscript section of the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street. Each tenant's land is outlined in green with the tenant's holding numbered in red. Daniel Cribben had two tenancies. The holding or 'outfarm' where he did not reside is shown as photograph 2.1.

Photograph 2.1 - Map of Daniel Cribben's Holding (i) 1769. Map No. 45



Transcription: Map No. 45 The text at the bottom of the map reads as follows:

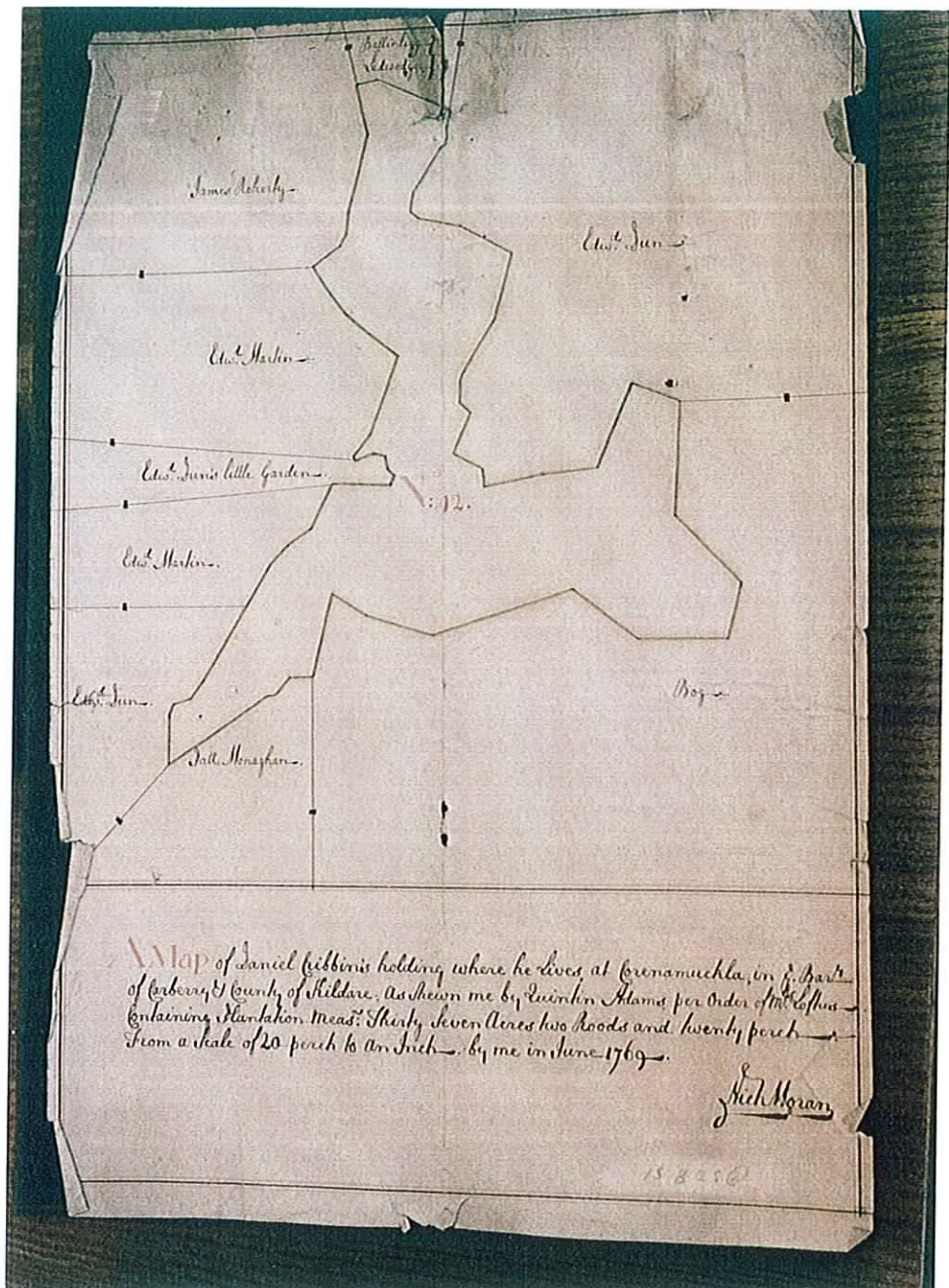
"A map of Daniel Cribben's holding next Kilreany, at Cornamuckla in the Bar of Carberry and County of Kildare as shown me by Quentin Adams, per Order of Mr. Loftus containing plantation meas. Twenty Six Acres and Twenty Perch. From a scale of 20 perch to an Inch by me in June 1769".

Nich Moran.



The second of Daniel Cribben's holdings, where he resided is shown as photograph 2.2.

**Photograph 2.2 - Map Daniel Cribben's Holding (ii) 1769 – Map No 42.**



Transcription: Map No. 42. The text in this case reads:

*"A map of Daniel Cribben's holding where he lives at Cornamuckla, the Bar of Carbury and County Kildare as shown me by Quintin Adams, per order of Mr. Loftus containing plantation meas. Thirty seven Acres, two roods and twenty perch. From a scale of 20 perch to an inch by me in June 1769".*

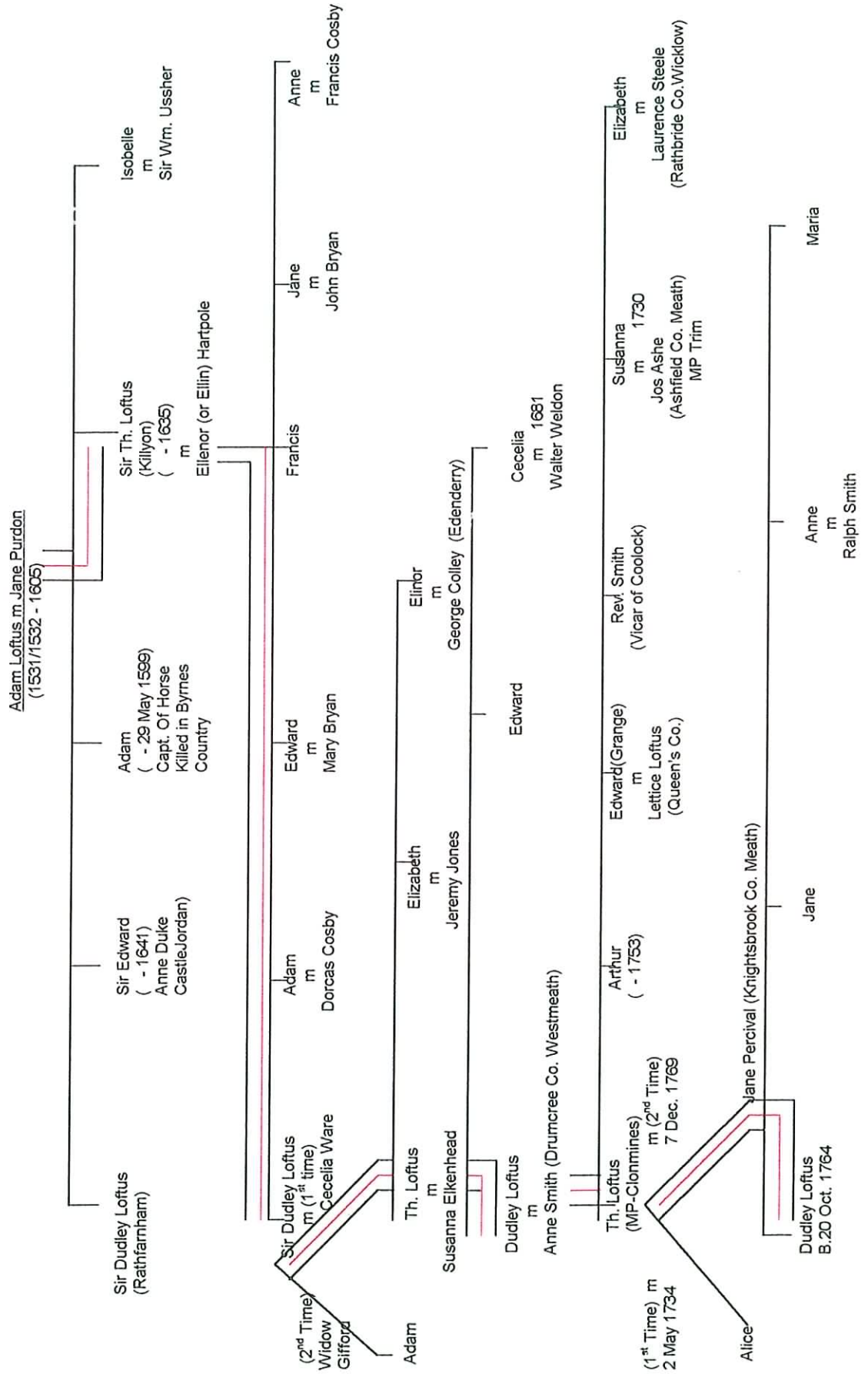
*Nich Moran*

The total acreage of Daniel Cribben's holdings is 63 Acres, 3 roods, 0 Perch.<sup>1</sup>

A famous monastery at nearby Clonard was founded by St. Finian in 549. It's last abbot was Gerald Walsh in 1540. In 1546 King Henry VIII granted it's possession to Sir William Birmingham. King James I granted it to Sir Thomas Loftus on December 12, 1610. The site of Clonard Monastery was commonly called St. Peter's Abbey, and it included: Kilclass (Kilglass) - 60 acres arable pasture; in Ballinilique (Ballinlig) - 20 arable acres and in Kilrene (Kilrainy) 60 acres arable and pasture. Prior to this, Dr. Loftus, who was the 4<sup>th</sup> son of Adam Loftus (Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Chancellor of Ireland) was made Constable of the Castle of Wicklow on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1596. He was knighted in 1599 by Robert - Earl of Essex. Sir Thomas Loftus married Ellenor (or Ellen) daughter of Robert and sister of Pierce Hartpole of Carlow. He died in 1635 and is buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. His son, Sir Dudley Loftus, was his successor. Thus did this Loftus family acquire the Killyon Estate. The partial genealogical tree of the Loftus Family, traced from the arrival in Ireland (Adam Loftus, Chaplain to the Earl of Essex) to the sixth generation (Thomas Loftus, the landlord for the property), is detailed overleaf. The direct descendant of this (Killyon) branch of the Loftus family is outlined in red. This lineage is shown as photograph 2.3 Loftus Family Tree.<sup>2</sup>

Photograph 2.3 Loftus Family Tree

LOFTUS FAMILY TREE



The year of this land survey (1769) was also the year of Thomas Loftus' 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage (to Jane Percival) from Knightsbrook, Co. Meath. His first marriage to Alice Rochford had no issue.

The pedigree of Loftus of Killyon and of Rathangan is referenced in the Lyons - Rathangan (Co. Kildare) lineage *"with descent through Digby, Fitzgerald, Browne, Sage, Bolney, Bake and Archmial from Alice - long aunt of William of Wickham - Bishop of Winchester c1200"*.<sup>3</sup>

These estate maps are in a fragile condition and had to be handled with great care. Map No. 42 was particularly fragile as it had been folded down the centre and was in a greater state of disintegration.

This survey does not show the individual fields that comprise each numbered section, as did later surveys. Neither does it comment on the quality of the land or show the amount of rent paid by each tenant. Regrettably also - this survey does not show the position of the residence of each tenant on each map - in this case map no 42. It may be assumed that Quintin Adams was the agent for Mr. Loftus.

On the positive side, the map does show the neighbouring tenants' holdings. In this case Daniel Cribbin's neighbours were (with each relevant acreage):

<i>Relevant Acreage:</i>	<i>Acres: Roods: Pers:</i>	<i>Map No:</i>
<i>Ed. Dun</i>	<i>23 - 3 - 5</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>James Doherty</i>	<i>34 - 1 - 0</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Patt Monaghan</i>	<i>13 - 0 - 10</i>	<i>44</i>

J. H. Andrews refers to Nicholas Moran, who in 1764 surveyed a farm in Co. Offaly.

*"The usual custom was for the acerage of a farm to include the whole width of a road inside it and half the width of any road along its edge. The process of bisecting being shown in map form logically enough, by sandwiching the denomination boundary between the edges of the road. The subordination of topography to proprietorship in such cases was portrayed by the use of "pops", or broken lines for the verges on the ground. "Popping the lines of a map... is generally done to represent where there are roads. Nowhere else". As one surveyor (Moran) put it rather too sweepingly in 1764"*.<sup>4</sup>

These comments suggest that this surveyor is the same Nicholas Moran who surveyed this Daniel Cribben holding in 1769. Interestingly Andrews has no other reference to Nicholas Moran thus giving this survey added significance.

## *Chapter II*

The 1769 maps detailed in Section A refer to tenants who are the earliest ancestors traced by the author of this thesis. They are detailed in this section.

### **SECTION B**

#### **B.1 The Cribbens/ MacRobins in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century.**

Daniel Cribben (1690 - 1777) was Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Grandfather of the author of this dissertation. He was 79 years of age when this survey was conducted, a very old man by the standards of his day. Daniel married Catherine Shaw (1701 - 1764) and lived with his son James at Cornamuckla in a mud cabin-like abode before moving to Ballinlig (See Chapter 3).

Catherine had two brothers who were priests in penal times, - Rev. Patrick Shaw (died October 29<sup>th</sup> 1742) and Rev. Gerard Shaw (died 27<sup>th</sup> February 1780). Both were educated at St. Gregorie's College - the English College, Seville and were afterwards posted to St. James' Church, Spanish Place, London. Patrick was administrator of Baptisms in London and upon his death his brother Gerard wrote in the baptismal register after Patrick's last entry 'OBIT FRATER MEUS PREDILECTUS 29 DICTI MENSIS'. This translates as:

*'My beloved brother died 29<sup>th</sup> of the above mentioned month'.*

Rev. Gerard was Chaplain at the Spanish Place Chapel, London from 1734 until his death in 1780, thus serving 46 years and was an influential figure during English penal times. He was recorded as a 'dangerous papist' in a certificate of papist recusants dated 10 Jan 1746.<sup>5</sup>

Catherine's sister married a man named Hussey, a flax merchant. Their son, born in the neighbouring parish of Castlejordan, was Thomas Hussey (1746 - 1803), who became the founder president of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1795 and died as the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore (see Chapter 3).

Born the same year as the Battle of the Boyne, Daniel Cribben lived the earlier part of his life through one of the darkest periods of Irish history, as far as Catholics were concerned. After the Siege of Limerick in 1691, some 12,000 fighting men were allowed to go into exile, mainly to France. This had the effect of removing from Irish Society a large body of

potential insurgents who throughout the years had been at war or were preparing to do so. Most people were retainers of great men and/or local chieftains in Ireland of the seventeenth century and after the Williamite settlement in Limerick, commercial activity and trade became the norm instead of war. Tenancies and sub-tenancies of land together with gentlemen farmers became the accepted way of life.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 1692, two years after Daniel's birth, a list of Jacobite sympathisers indicted for high treason, contains the names of the following from this area where Daniel lived: Richard Tyrell and Edward Tyrell, Longwood, Co. Meath; Capt. Richard Tyrrell and Charles O'More, Balyna, Co. Kildare; Garret Birmingham, Carrig, Co. Kildare; and Capt. Pierce Bermingham, Garrisker, Co. Kildare. Their family names recur throughout the Robinson family history.<sup>6</sup>

Contrary to popular opinion, Catholics were entitled to engage in commercial activity. As early as 1728 it had been observed that *'An Irish Papist is much abler to pay rent for a farm than a Protestant of equal ability with the Roman, by reason that a Roman and his whole family can live on potatoes and buttermilk the whole year through for to make a rent, which the Protestant cannot do. For the Protestants must have beef and bread and much better clothes than a Roman'*. This was a reference to Wexford Catholics.<sup>7</sup>

Eventually the competitive Catholic edge in bidding for leases was to undermine the Protestant tenants on many estates once landlords adopted a strictly commercial approach. Throughout the 1700's as produce prices grew - so did rents and the landlords were compelled to cash in on the boom by leasing to Catholic tenants - thereby removing the predominant Protestant middleman. With this prosperity came an increase in the agricultural landowner population, thus creating a Catholic middleman class who were subtenants. The Robinson family were an example of this phenomenon as these land surveys testify.

The force of the Penal Laws declined as the eighteenth century progressed - they became an irritant to many Catholics and an embarrassment to Protestants. Slowly but surely Catholics rose from humble origins as this family show. Three quarters of the Catholic population, William Petty claimed in 1672,

*"Lived in brutish nasty conditions, as in cabins with neither chimney, door, stairs nor windows (and) feed chiefly upon milk and potatoes"*.

Mrs. Delany, the noted diarist, writing of her first visit to Ireland in 1732 wrote,

*"The poverty of the people as I have passed through the country has made my heart ache!  
I never saw greater appearance of misery".*

A survey of Co. Kildare in 1683 describes a 'very mean and sparing diet consisting of milk, roots and coarse unsavoury bread. A few years later Stevens noted the high consumption of milk,

*"which they eat and drink about twenty several sort of ways". Otherwise the main foods were oats and barley, coarsely ground by hand and cooked in flat cakes rather than baked as loaves in the oven". The "meaner people", meanwhile content themselves with little bread, but instead thereof eat potatoes, which with sour milk is the chief part of their diet, then drink for the most part water, sometimes coloured with milk".*

Connolly in his book, 'Religion, Love and Power', states that the late 1720's brought a succession of bad harvests - estimates suggest that the population was slightly lower in 1732 than it had been some years before. During 1739 - 40 a sequence of wet summers and winter frost destroyed both grain and potatoe crops causing the most serious crisis of the eighteenth century. An estimated 13% of the population died of fever and starvation. In 1728 it was noted that the bulk of the farmers

*"have but four, six, eight or ten acres and a farmer of twenty acres is a great farmer".*

The great majority of the rural poor it was claimed in 1735, lived off the produce of the holdings,

*"without perhaps touching a piece of money from year's end to year's end. They pay the rent in stock or else in labour".*

Some of the catholic landowners at the end of the eighteenth century, had incomes of more than £500 a year. At this level they were equalled or surpassed by wealthy catholic leaseholders...after 1750, leasehold wealth increased sharply and to a greater extent than in the protestant community.... From the 1770's there was a transfer of wealth from great estate owners to their tenants, the leaseholders.

A long price rise for farm produce from the 1740's to the 1810's laid the basis for a solid, secure and increasingly rich farming class. Even as early as 1810 this embraced a farmer



whose holding was large enough that his farming role was merely supervisory. From 1800 onwards subsistence farming gave way to commercial farming which was helped by rising prices for farm produce and low prices of labour. The farmers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century usually had acquired holdings long-associated with the locality where they lived. They often had an uninterrupted occupation of the same holding and they intermarried repeatedly into a handful of other families in the same or neighbouring parishes. They provided portions of land for their sons and daughters and dowries provided for the latter ensured good marriages. A logical outcome of economic prosperity was the interest in education by the rise of the big farmer. They were the keen backers of the diocesan colleges such as Clongowes and Castleknock. Many sons entered the church which did not threaten the economic rise of their families – as would have happened if the sons had remained at home.<sup>8</sup>

It was only in the 1750's that the boom in demand for agricultural goods became unmistakable and it extended because of the Napoleonic Wars which continued into the Nineteenth Century.<sup>9</sup> Nearly all wealthy landowners exploited their land indirectly through their tenants. They saw their properties, not as profit-making enterprises, but as sources of rental income. Rent was the centre of all calculation. ... In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, a significant part of the peasant population made this easy to do as land hunger grew and competition for leases increased. Ireland's population was increasing by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century and the price of agricultural commodities had begun to rise, together with the development of the linen trade. In 1785 at nearby Edenderry, Kings County, a Downshire estate tenant who held some 155 acres paid £147 – nearly £1 per acre. Regarding the collection of rents, the almost universal practice of Irish landlords at this time was to allow half a year's rent to remain owing. In May rent was due the following November and the November rent was due the following May. In practice, more than six month's credit was given. The six months credit was known as the 'hanging gale'. It was the chief instrument by which an Irish landlord kept his tenants in a state of subjection and in the case of freeholders, ensured that they did their electoral bidding.<sup>10</sup>

These extracts give an idea of the conditions and status of the rural poor. It is estimated that Ireland's population in 1687 was 1.97 million and by 1821 it had risen to 6.80 million, almost a four-fold increase in a span of 120 years. These are the times through which Daniel Cribben lived. His holding of 63 acres when compared against general tenant size, was relatively large.

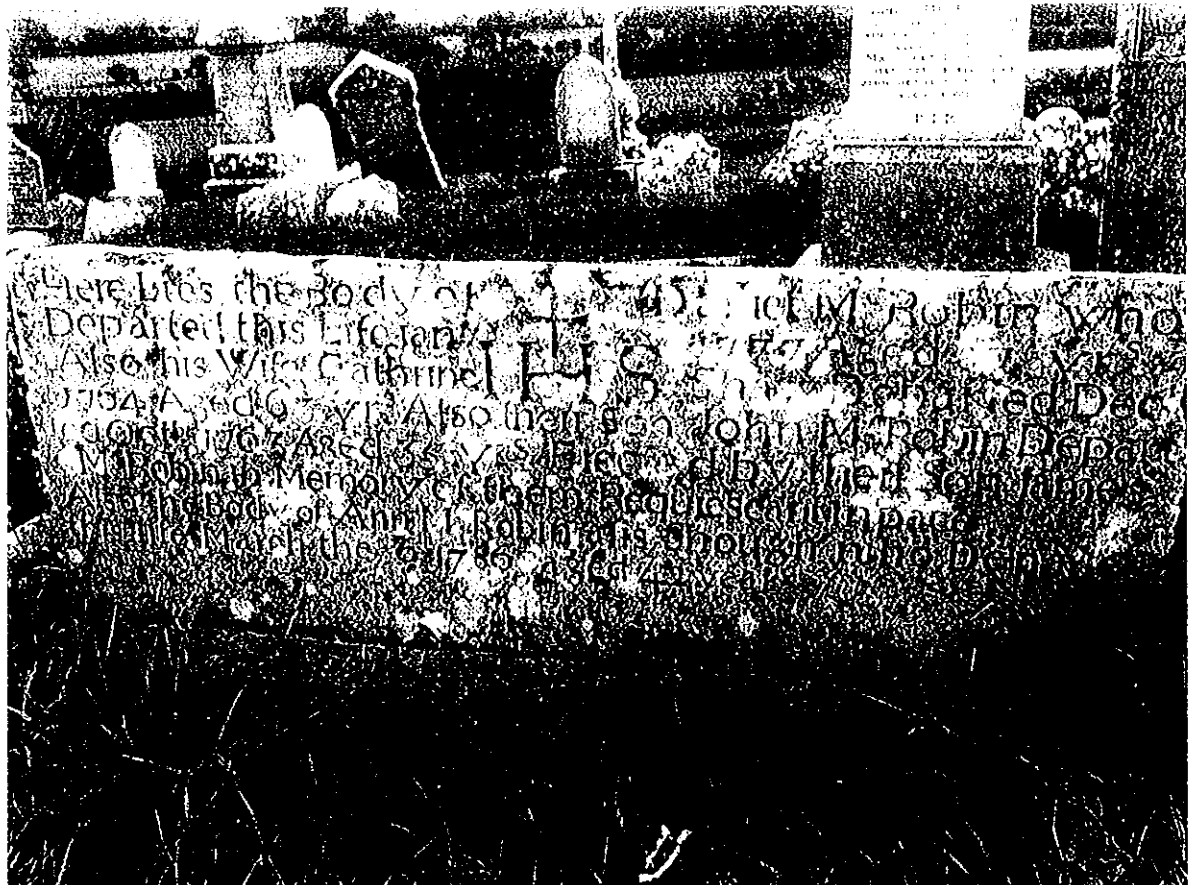


The martyrdom of Irish penal priests, which included Bishop Oliver Plunkett in 1681 only ended with Fr. Daniel McEgan in 1731, when Daniel Cribben was 41 years of age. Given the Robinson family's religious involvement, it is reasonable to presume that Daniel's life was one of frugality, apprehension and survival.

Daniel's tombstone of 225 years amazingly still stands in Carrig graveyard - situated about four miles from Edenderry.

The tombstone of Daniel Cribben/McRobin is shown as photograph 2.4.

**Photograph 2.4 Daniel McRobin's Tombstone (Carrig Cemetery).**



The inscription reads as follows:

*Transcription:*

*HERE LIES THE BODY OF  
DEPARTED THIS LIFE JAN  
ALSO HIS WIFE CATHERINE*

*1764 AGED 63 YEARS. ALSO THEIR SON JOHN MCROBIN DEPARTED 29  
OCTOBER 1763 AGED 35 YRS. ERECTED BY THEIR SON JAMES MCROBIN IN  
MEMORY OF THEM. REQUESCANT IN PATE. ALSO THE BODY OF ANN  
MCROBIN ALIAS SHOUGH WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MARCH THE 6<sup>TH</sup> 1786,  
AGED 42 YEARS.*

+

I H S

*DANIEL MCROBIN WHO  
1777 AGED 87 YRS.  
SHAW DEPARTED DEC*

It is unusual that the inscription is parallel to the long side of the tombstone. Also the maiden name of his wife Catherine Shaw is inscribed. This observation also applies to his daughter-in-law Anne Shough (Shaw). The longevity of Daniel is counter balanced by the relatively early deaths of his son John (Aged 35 years) and wife Catherine (Aged 42 years).

Whilst researching the earlier book it was found that the family name was McRobin - as above. It changed to Robinson circa 1783 - (see chapter 4).

The evolution of the name is traced in the following section.

## *Mac Robin*

### **B.2 The Evolution of the name McRobin.**

The origin of the McRobin name (and hence Robinson) and the relationship to the Cribben family name is central to this research and is therefore explained in the following paragraphs.

*According to Black:- "In gaelic 'MacRobin', son of Robin. A highland border name from Robin, Scots diminutive of Robert and C.F. Dunrobin (= Fort of Robin). Perhaps so named from Robert Earl of Sutherland in one of whose charters the name first appears in 1401. A remission of sentence was granted to Patrick McRobin, one of those holding the Castle of Dunbertane against the King in 1489".<sup>11</sup>*

The Sutherland Clan takes its name from the highlands of the far-north of Scotland which is known as 'Sutherland' because to the Norsemen it was the 'Sutherland' that lay to the south of their settlements in Orkney and the Dales of Caithness.

In 1340 William - 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sutherland - married Margaret, the eldest daughter of King Robert Bruce. Their son was about to be made heir to the Scottish throne when he died of the plague in 1361. The Sutherlands are the most ancient surviving title in Britain, which has existed, in the lineal course of succession for over 700 years. Dunrobin Castle is the original nineteenth century red sandstone home of the Sutherlands. The McRobins were retainers of this influential Scottish family and despite enquiries to Lord Strathnaver, the present Earl and the National Library of Scotland, it has not been possible to unearth any further references to McRobins in the Sutherland records. It is likely that McRobins were sub-tenants who were not recorded in their archives, as they were not landholders.

The McRobins probably came to Ireland early in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century as retainers with the Sutherlands who supported Edward Bruce - brother of King Robert Bruce. Thousands of Scottish mercenaries or gallowglasses traditionally came to Ireland via Antrim, including some 6,000 who came with Edward Bruce. Edward's defeat at Faughart on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1318 by John Bermingham from Carrig, (ironically where Daniel McRobin is buried), probably led to the Scottish warriors taking up with the local Irish Chieftains and their assimilation into Irish society.

Certainly, McRobins were indigenous to Co. Antrim in the 1600's where "*a note of all true natives of Kilulta include - The Magillrealories, McShanes, Lauries, O'Malhalous, McQuaids, McRobins and others*".<sup>12</sup>

Amongst references to McRobin in Irish history, the following might be noted:

In 1604 on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at New Ross, Co. Wexford, according to an Inquisition, under commission, in which those attained had their lands seized into the kings hands was Murragh McRobin of Kittagh, who had 12 acres at Ballemeanagh, Ballaghenegy and Cowlneferry. Dudley Loftus of Kilclogan in 1616 and Adam Loftus in 1624 are mentioned in this same Inquisition. Also Eady McRobyn, (Edward Robyn) of Killanaronow had an unspecified quantity of land and was 61 years of age when the Inquisition was conducted in 14<sup>th</sup> June 1625 at Maryborough, Queens County. In the same paragraph there is mention of Adam Loftus of Raheenduff.<sup>13</sup>

These references suggest a possible migration of the Loftus family (with McRobin as retainers) from Wexford to Queens Country (now Co. Laois) and then to Kildare as the survey in this section details.

A particularly interesting reference is dated 20<sup>th</sup> November 1633. It states that "*Philip Bushin relator in forma pauperis in Co. Kildare (accused of) conspiracy pursued on four occasions in the last year of King James... to attain him for murdering his wife(Grace)... treason in that county and for taking Bushin out of the hands of the Sheriff. George Mackrobin prosecuted by Bushin for felony and executed. Edy Mackrobin, his brother vowed to kill Bushin. The Sheriff Sir Henry Beling sends for Bushin and undertakes to prosecute him*".

*"On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1633 Walter Weldon deposed that Bushin had been charged with murder owing to the malice of Edy Mackrobin. Bushin had got another Mackrobin executed for stealing his sheep. The evidence of Sara Smith, who had seen the dead body, was considered sufficient to show that there had been no violence and Bushin was freed by proclamation. Also William Eustace deposed that Edy Mackrobin had sworn before the grand jury that on the night before the first Mrs. Bushin had died, her husband had thrown a trencher at her."*<sup>14</sup>

These extracts show that Mackrobin (McRobin) was indigenous to Kildare some two generations (57 years) before the birth of Daniel McRobin and as such are his possible kinsmen.

Regarding Cornamuckla (220 acres), the area where Daniel lived, the following is relevant. A lease from 1690, the year of Daniel's birth also includes the adjacent townlands of Ballinlig (230 acres) Kilglass (220 acres and Kilraney (360 acres). These other townlands also passed to the tenancy of the Robinson family as later chapters will show.

These four townlands were leased by Thomas Loftus of Killyon to Robert Rochford, City of Dublin,

*'His Majesties Attorney General and speaker of the Honary House of Commons of Ireland'*.

The area concerned totalled some 1300 acres and were leased for a peppercorn rent of 5 shillings Sterling per year.<sup>15</sup>

A perusal of the deeds of the Loftus family shows no reference to McRobin, Robinson or Cribben as tenants. This is not unusual. As indicated earlier (chapter I, section 5) there were usually middlemen between the landlord and tenant and the Robinsons were no exception.<sup>16</sup>

Of particular interest is the revelation that the survey shows that the landlord and his agent called the earliest known ancestor of the Robinson family Daniel Cribben. However, as his tombstone shows, Daniel called himself McRobin. Interestingly too, members of the family who joined the religious life adopted the English form of the name Robinson (see Chapter 4).

It is not surprising therefore, to find Cribben as a variation of the family name given the following definition:

Mac Roibin:- McRobyn, McRoben, Mac Robin, Robinson as Cribben, Cribbon, Cribbins, Robinson, Robbinson, Robbins 'Son of Robin'. (Du of Robert).<sup>17</sup>

An index of monumental inscriptions in Carrig graveyard where Daniel Cribben/McRobin is buried, shows a family of Cribbens from Grange including Joan Cribben died 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1925 aged 58 and her husband Mark - died 27<sup>th</sup> October 1927 aged 61 and Ml. Cribben - died 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1975 aged 75.<sup>18</sup>

Also the Balyna Roman Catholic Parish Register shows:

<i>Parents</i>	<i>Date of Baptism</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Sponsors</i>
<i>James Cribben</i> <i>Anne Shaugh</i>	<i>6.3.1786</i>	<i>Daniel Peter</i>	<i>Walter Monaghan,</i> <i>Betty Daniel</i>

This entry shows that James Cribben referenced in Chapter 2, was called Cribben by his fellow parishioners, as noted earlier, this was the name used by the landlord and his agent when referring to James' father Daniel even though Daniel himself had used the name McRobin.

The same register also shows the following entries:

<i>Parents</i>	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Child</i>	<i>Sponsors</i>
<i>Mark Cribben</i> + <i>Anne Coney</i>	<i>13-05-1809</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Ml. Cooney &amp; B. Boylan</i>
<i>" "</i>	<i>13-02-1811</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>Thos. Donoken &amp; Beis Seery</i>
<i>" "</i>	<i>23 -4-1818</i>	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Bridget Donoken &amp; B. Cooney</i>
<i>Pat Cribben</i> + <i>Catherine Nevin</i>	<i>04-05-1820</i> <i>09-05-1866</i>	<i>Mark</i> <i>Mark</i>	<i>James Donoken &amp; B. Cooney</i> <i>John Nevin &amp; Mgt. Gelligain</i>

Finally, the register gives details of the following marriages:

<i>Edward Dunne married Rose Cribben 22-08-1836 Wit. Pat Cribben &amp; Ed Dundy.</i>
<i>John Mulvin, Edenderry married Mary Cribben (Balundy) 11-07-1842 Wit. Jonathan Nugent, Pat Cribben.</i>
<i>John Nugent married Anne Cribben 31-1-1853 Wit. Pat Nugent and Anne Cooney</i>

These Balyna latter parish record entries show other Cribben families in the locality who are probably related. Extensive enquiries to Cribben's living in this area revealed that none of them could trace their families as far back as the Robinsons. Therefore it was not possible to

prove that the two branches are in fact the one family. It is reasonable to assume however that Cribben and McRobins are kinsmen, on account of these findings.<sup>19</sup>

The real merit of this 1769 land survey is that it shows that it was Daniel Cribben who worked this holding. This further embellishes the family history with his exact acreage. It also shows another variation of this family surname.

This chapter then references the County Kildare land holding of Thomas Loftus of Killyon and his tenant Daniel Cribben/McRobin (1690 – 1777) and his wife Catherine Shaw (1701 – 1764).

**Daniel Cribben/McRobin – Catherine Shaw**  
**(1690 – 1777) (1701 – 1764)**

# *Chapter II*

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# CHAPTER III

Land Surveys

(1803)

by

Frizell

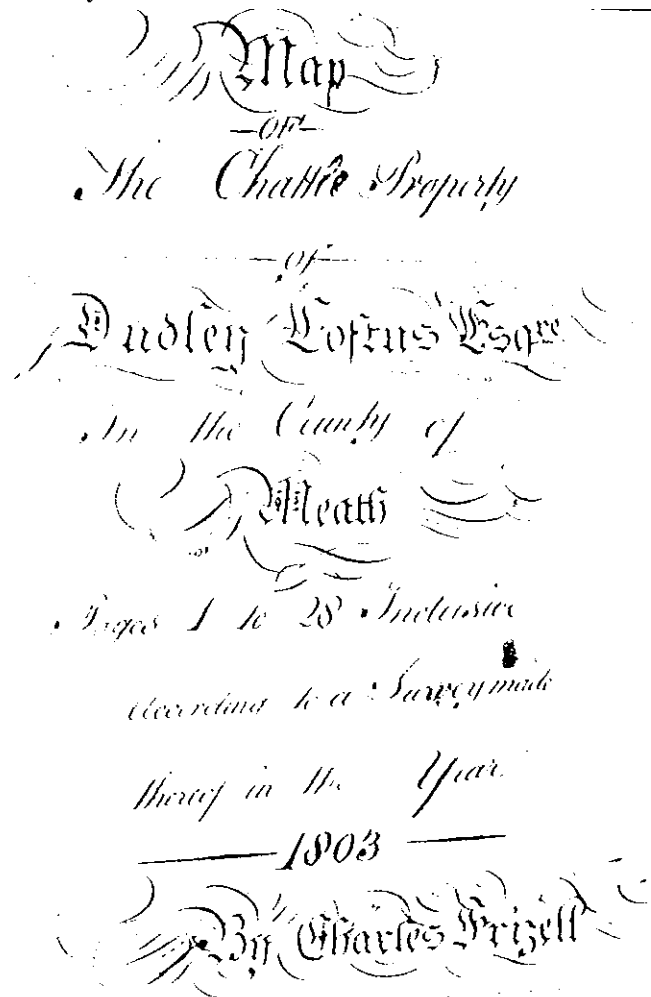
## ***Chapter III: Land Surveys (1803) by Frizell***

The early nineteenth century land maps surveyed for Dudley Loftus - son of Thomas Loftus (Chapter I) are the subject of this chapter.

### **SECTION A**

The following are extracts from a book of maps surveyed by Charles Frizell for Dudley Loftus in 1803. The introduction in the book is as shown as photograph 3.1.

#### **Photograph 3.1 Survey book Introduction 1803**



The text reads as follows:

*Transcription: - Map of the Chattle Property of Dudley Loftus Esq. in the County of Meath. Pages 1 - 28 inclusive according to a survey made thereof in the year 1803 by Charles Frizell.*

Also in the book is a Loftus Coat of Arms. This is shown as photograph 3.2

Photograph 3.2 Loftus Coat of Arms





The Coat of Arms is described as follows by John Lodge:

*"2 Eagles pearl with beaks and legs topaz each charged on the breast with a trefoil, flipped emerald".<sup>1</sup>*

The inscription on the motif is as follows:

*Prend moy tel que je sui. That is old French which in modern French would be written "Prends moi tel que je suis". The translation of the phrase is "Take me as I am".*

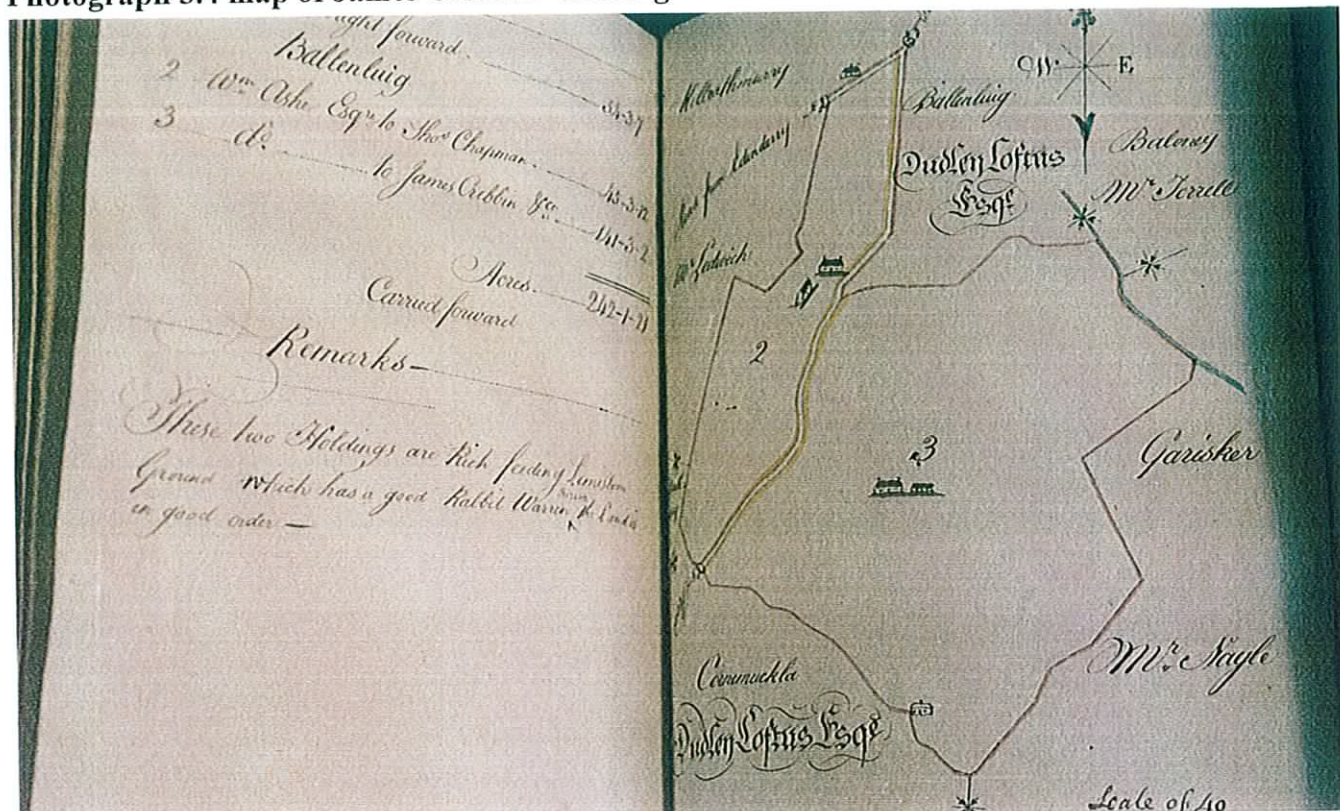
Among the maps included is this survey is one of James Cribben's holding in 1803. This is shown as photograph 3.3 and is numbered 58 in this book of survey maps.

**Photograph 3.3 Map of James Cribben's Holding 1803**



Adjoining page 57 gives additional details of the holding of James Cribben (No. 3) and it's adjacent holding No. 2. These details with the relevant map are shown as photograph 3.4.

**Photograph 3.4 map of James Cribben' Holding with details 1803.**



The text reads:

Transcription:-	Ballenluig	Acres	Roods	Perches
2	Wm. Ash to Thos. Chapman	45	3	12
3	do to James Cribben	141	3	2

**Remarks**

*These two holdings are rich feeding limestone ground which has a good rabbit warren thereon the land is in good order.*

The Scale of 40 means 40 perches to one inch. The rent roll of the real estate of Dudley Loftus in the County of Kildare for this 1803 survey taken from the same book of survey maps shows:

Ballenluig	No of: Acres	Roods	Perches	Present Yearly Rent Each Farm	Tenure	Rent Per Acre
To James Cribben	141	3	2	£169-12.0	31 Years from 5 <sup>th</sup> June 1788	1 - 6 - 0

Unlike the map (No. 2.2 – p15) shown in Chapter 2, this survey shows the location of the dwelling house of James Cribben on his holding. It doesn't however show the individual fields comprising the tenancy, as later surveys indicate. Also it does not detail the quality of the land in each field. As this tenancy did not expire until 1819 this survey was conducted mid way through it's lease. It should be also noted that Wm. Ash was the immediate lessor to James Cribben thereby creating another layer of income takers from the actual tenant. The mention of a rabbit warren in this holding infers that this is a positive asset, with it's extra food option apart from the quality of the land. Contemporary surveys may not take the same view. The expression that "the land is in good order", suggests that James Cribben showed good farm husbandry and that when a renewal of the lease was being considered this factor would encourage the landlord to renew the lease.

Dudley Loftus, the landlord at this time is the 7<sup>th</sup> and final member of this family referenced in Chapter 2 Section A where the family tree of the Loftus family is outlined. He was born 20<sup>th</sup> October 1764 and was 39 when this land survey was conducted. His siblings were Jane, Ann - who married Ralph Smith, and Maria.<sup>2</sup>

As the Napoleonic Wars were in full swing and England demanded Irish produce, it may be assumed that James Cribben was attaining new found prosperity. His holding of some 141 acres was a significant increase on that of his father Daniel Cribben who held 63 acres some thirty four years earlier in 1769, as referenced in Chapter 2.

According to Donnelly and Cullen, in 1804, the year after this survey was conducted, the total population of Ireland was estimated at 5.4 million people. It was also estimated that only 8,000 to 10,000 persons ranked as landed proprietors. Land ownership then was a privilege enjoyed by an extremely small minority of the population in early nineteenth century Ireland.

Besides being the privilege of the select few, land ownership was almost exclusively a Protestant monopoly. The earlier confiscations of Catholic owned property under Cromwell, Charles II and William III had already by the end of the seventeenth century, placed three quarters of the land of Ireland in the hands of Protestants of English or Scottish origin. In addition, during the eighteenth century, the enforcement of the Penal Laws against Catholics brought the Protestants further gains. It was estimated that by 1775 Protestants owned 95 per



cent of the country's total acreage. Thus, at the time of this Frizell survey of James Cribben's land, Irish landowners were divided from the mass of the local population by religion and ancestry.

Almost the whole period from 1750 to 1815 saw a time of relative prosperity in agriculture with a strong foreign demand for produce and a steep rise in prices over this time span.<sup>3</sup>

As noted above, this property in Ballenluig was sublet via Wm. Ash to James Cribben, and not directly, as in Chapter 2, where Daniel Cribben leased from Thomas Loftus. This may be explained by the following: Susanna Loftus (aunt of Dudley) married Joseph Ashe, Ashfield, Co. Meath and (M.P. for Trim) on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1730. It would have been usual for Susanna to have been given the rights (leasing) of some of her family's property as a dowry when she married. Wm. Ash is probably her son and beneficiary of the income from this property.

Killyon Manor, the residence of the Loftus family was known as 'Killion House' in 1644. At that time, it was in the possession of Sir Dudley Loftus, who was regarded as a 'protestant' with an estate of 172 acres around the house. The manor was in a ruinous condition at this time and a small castle, a mill and a weir were recorded in the vicinity. Another Dudley Loftus owned Killion at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and on his death in 1807, the property passed to his daughter Georgina (Eliza). She first married Thomas Lowther Allen of nearby Kilmer and after his death, married secondly William Henry Magan, known as 'The Magnificent' of Clonearl, Co. Offaly. The property thereafter became associated with the Magan family who continued to divide their time between Killion and Clonearl. When the latter residence was burnt in 1846, Killion became their principal seat. In 1880 Augusta Elizabeth Magan inherited the house from her mother, Eliza Loftus. Her brother, the heir to the Magan estates, was known as 'William The Bad' and after leading a dissolute life, he died childless in 1860.

Apparently, after the tragic death in Mullingar of the man to whom she was betrothed, Augusta Magan confined herself to a lonely existence in just one of Killion's many rooms with a photograph of her lover and the trolley used to transport his body along the platform of Mullingar station. She mismanaged the estates, buried the family jewels and spent lavishly on unnecessary goods which cluttered the rooms at Killion. By the time of her death in 1905, the Meath and Offaly estates were considerably reduced. Members of the Loftus family

continued to reside at Killion until the 1960's. William Magan, whose parents were the last of the family to reside at Killion, recalled life there during his childhood in his family history entitled 'Umma-More'. This was recently republished as 'The Story of Ireland'. This venerable home of great character has survived into this century virtually unscathed and continues to be well cared for today.<sup>4</sup>



## *Chapter III*

This chapter chiefly references James Cribben/McRobin/Robinson and his wife Ann (Shaw). James was a son of Daniel Cribben/McRobin and his wife Catherine (Shaw) who were the subject of Chapter 2. In family tree form they are represented thus:

Daniel Cribben/McRobin (1690 - 1777)	-	Catherine Shaw (1701 - 1764)
<b>James Cribben/McRobin/Robinson</b> <b>(1734 - 1809)</b>	-	<b>Ann Shaw</b> <b>(1744 - 1786)</b>

The 1803 Land Survey by Charles Frizell for Dudley Loftus, which detailed his Robinson tenants in Section A of this Chapter, is augmented by the social history of his tenants, their families and their times.

### **SECTION B - The Cribbens/McRobins/Robinsons in the Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century.**

James Cribben (1734 - 1809), the son of Daniel (Chapter 2) was 69 years of age when this survey was conducted. He probably erected the headstone in Carrig Cemetery to his father, mother, brother and wife, referenced in Chapter 2. James married Ann Shough (Shaw) (1744 - 1786) see photograph 2.3. They were probably related as Daniel, the father of James had also married a person named Shaw. Judging from the letters of his son Fr. John Robinson (Chapter 4), James became an indifferent correspondent whose reluctance to build a new home exasperated his family. The early deaths of his brother John, at 35 years, and his wife at 42 years, must have depressed him and they both may have died from a tuberculosis-like condition, due to bad housing conditions. This certainly was the view of James' brother, Fr. Gerard Robinson (1729 – 1799) and also his cousin, Fr. Thomas Hussey (1746 - 1803). Both refused to assist him as well as not corresponding with him until he built a new home.<sup>5</sup> This, as his son John's letter shows, he did when he built a new house in 1796 at Ballenlig.<sup>6</sup>

James' brother was John McRobin (1728 - 1763) who died aged 35 years and is buried with Daniel and Anne (his parents - Chapter 2). James also had another brother - Christian name unknown, whose son Dan Robinson resided at 17 Thomas Street, Dublin (See Chapter 4).

Like his clerical cousin Fr. John Robinson (Chapter 4) - Dan in Thomas Street, changed his name from McRobin to Robinson.

James may also have had another sister (Christian name unknown who married a man named Moor) as his son Fr. John refers to her in his letter to his cousin Dan in 1787 (see Chapter 4) as "aunt Moor".

Yet, another brother of James was Fr. Gerard Robinson (1729 - Apr 14<sup>th</sup> 1799). Fr. Gerard was probably named after his clerical Uncle Fr Gerard Shaw (Chapter 2) and in whose footsteps he followed by becoming a priest. This phenomenon is known in Irish society as 'deflected succession', where a priest was succeeded by (and supportive of) a nephew becoming a churchman.

The Irish College, Seville Alumni lists refer to Gerard thus:

*Robinson Gerard: T & M 23 September 1752. He is described as from 'Pilepstown, diocese of Kildare and a student of the English college S & D for 21 September 1754.'*<sup>7</sup>

Pilepstown may be Philipstown (now Daingan), Co. Offaly - it is situated about 15 miles from the area to which this survey refers.

The following extract refers to Philipstown and an incident which occurred there just 38 years before Gerard's birth:

*"Philipstown :- In the winter of 1691, one O'Connor, a Kildare Reparee with 60 men on horseback and as many on foot, surprised 2 companies of grenadiers, whom they cut to pieces. They went to Philipstown where they killed 120 dragoons, burned the town, and carried away a great booty of horse".*<sup>8</sup>

Fr. Gerard served in the Spanish Chapel, London for 42 years and was an influential cleric in the survival of this chapel during English penal times. The local catholic community depended on the Embassy chaplaincy, whose numbers were deliberately expanded to provide a religious ministry for the community at large. 'Three priests seemed to have kept the chapel going, Gerard Shaw, Moriarty Lynch and Gerard Robinson. The register shows that in 1762

and 1763 there were "still 140 baptisms and nearly fifty marriages. Clearly the chapel was continued in some form".<sup>9</sup>

There are many references to Fr. Gerard in the Spanish Chapel Archives including the following:

*"Preaching is not so much practised as formerly ... ..Mr. Archer from Dunay, is looked upon as the best in London. Mr. Hussey is much esteemed also, and his cousin Mr. Robinson. I heard this latter in London and a very good seminar it was but Mr. Robinson had little or no action".*

Also

*"The extent to which the congregation remained loyal remains unexplored, but it is evident that without the efforts of certain priest in particular Gerard Shaw and Gerard Robinson there would have been no Spanish Chapel for Thomas Hussey to revive".<sup>10</sup>*

In the possession of a branch of the Robinson family is a seven decade Franciscan Rosary which has passed down from Fr. Gerard's time via his sister-in-law Ann Shough (Shaw) which the following letter confirms:<sup>10</sup>

The text reads:

*Transcription:-*

*This beads was given by the Rev. G. Robinson to his sister-in-law Mrs. Ann Robinson of Cornamuckla, Co. Kildare. Her maiden name was Ann Shaw: at her death it becomes the property of her eldest daughter Ellen Robinson, afterwards Rickard, in whose family it has remained until the last survivor of them Chris Rickard bequeathed it to John Robinson of Ballinlig, his first cousin, with an earnest request that it should be kept in the family for ever, and also the ring which belonged to the same person. The stock buckle belonged to her husband, my grandfather Jas Robinson, the seal belonged to Rev. John Robinson P.P. -*

*'On whose souls may the Lord God have mercy'.*

*Chris Rickard.*

These beads are shown in Chapter 4 as Photograph 4.3.

This letter shows that James and Ann Cribben/McRobin/Robinson lived initially at Cornamuckla and later moved to Ballinlig.

James changed his name from Cribben/McRobin to Robinson as the letter of his son Fr. John Robinson shows (See Chapter 4).

Unusually, James is not buried with his wife Anne. It was suspected that he was buried in an adjacent grave and after great efforts to raise a fallen tombstone, these suspicions were confirmed on finding the following inscription on the headstone (fallen) of James McRobin or Robinson (Photograph 3.5)

Photograph 3.5 The headstone (fallen) of James McRobin/Robinson, Carrig Cemetary.



The inscription reads:

*Beneath this stone  
Lie interred the bodies of  
James McRobin or Robinson  
Who died June 9<sup>th</sup> 1811 Aged 66 Years  
And of his son Richard Robinson  
Who died Aug 17<sup>th</sup> 1855 Aged 66 Years  
And his wife Mary Robinson  
Who died April 26<sup>th</sup> 1871 Aged 80 Years  
And also his son  
John Robinson  
Who departed this life 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 1876  
Aged 59 Years  
Also his wife Catherine Robinson  
Who died 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 1900 Aged 72 Years  
Richard J. J. Robinson  
Died 20<sup>th</sup> May 1900 Aged 17 Years.*

This headstone inscription is shown as photograph 3.6.

**Photograph 3.6 Headstone Inscription**



This inscription records James' death as June 9<sup>th</sup> 1811 aged 66, where as his son Garret's diary (Chapter 5) lists his death as June 11<sup>th</sup> 1809 aged 75 years. The latter is more likely as a birth year for James of 1734 falls nearer to that of his siblings, John (1728) and Gerard (1729). The tombstone inscription gives the year of birth for James as 1745 - some 16 years after the birth of his brother Gerard!

Unlike his landlord Dudley Loftus, James did not regard himself as Cribben as this inscription shows.

The fact that both McRobin and Robinson are recorded on the Headstone shows that James had reservations about the name change and in deference to these doubts - his son Richard inscribed both forms of the surname.

James' first cousin was Dr. Thomas Hussey (April 1746 - June 11<sup>th</sup> 1803). Hussey was educated and ordained from the English College Seville, which catered for an overflow from the Irish College in that city. His three years at the college (1766 - 69) were the last in its history, after which the Jesuits were suppressed. The college was then taken over by the Spanish Crown and Husseys' studies were paid for by the King of Spain himself. By the time he was 23, Thomas Hussey was a Doctor of Theology and a priest - 13 months short of the canonical age. He then joined the Spanish Chapel London, becoming part of a small community of Irish priests who were all former Seville College Students. His uncle, Fr. Gerard Shaw, the senior chaplain, had been at the Spanish Chapel since 1732. Hussey quickly established himself as a preacher and conversationalist, earning the approval and friendship of the aging Dr. Samuel Johnson. He became the confessor to the Spanish Ambassador to England, Prince Masserano and both went to Spain. In 1778, when he returned to London during the same year, he was not just a chaplain but also a confidential political agent. In 1779 Britain was fighting a colonial war in North America. France supported the rebels and Spain was under pressure to enter the war - eventually doing so in 1779. Thomas Hussey became the *de facto* Charge D'Affaires at the Spanish Embassy in London. He oversaw the coded information in fleet movements and passed this information onto the Spanish Government. In 1782 the British Government had Hussey discredited by having a dramatist named Cumberland lampoon the Irish cleric in a play "The Walloons". By 1784 Thomas Hussey was the principal chaplain at the embassy and was a familiar figure in diplomatic circles. In 1792 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, an unusual occurrence for a catholic – never mind a priest. In one of his many letters (Chapter 4, Section B - Letter 5) to Fr. John Robinson (his nephew) in Salamanca, he is noted as having supplied that college with astronomical instruments. As already referenced, regarding his cousin Fr. Gerard Robinson in this chapter, Thomas Hussey was a noted preacher. Many high church Protestants including Edmund Burke and Lord Westmeath<sup>12</sup> are believed to have travelled clandestinely to hear Hussey preach.

Dr. Hussey was the founder president of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1795 and the following year he was appointed chaplain to the Catholic Soldiers serving in Ireland. In 1797 he was appointed Bishop of Waterford and Lismore – the first Catholic bishop to reside there for 160 years. Upon appointment, he wrote to Edmund Burke, his friend, stating that there were “280,000 communicants in the diocese and 2,500 Protestants”<sup>13</sup>. His first pastoral letter exhorted soldiers not to attend Protestant services. This caused a furore. As a reaction, Hussey was ostracised by all his former political patrons (except Edmund Burke). He was totally isolated, left Waterford and withdrew to London. He still remained Bishop of Waterford and Lismore. In January 1798 he was removed from the presidency of Maynooth on the grounds of non-residency. He was not in Ireland for the rising of 1798. He went to France and successfully concluded negotiations with Napoleon which resulted in the recovery of the Irish Colleges which had been seized in the French Revolution of 1789.<sup>14</sup> He returned to Ireland in 1801 in failing health, and devoted the last two years of his life to the provision of catholic education. He was the patron and benefactor of Edmund Ignatius Rice and the Christian brothers. He died suddenly after early morning bathing in the sea at Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, at the age of 57.

Thomas Hussey met the great from all over the world including Napoleon in 1795. He also met Emperor Josef of Austria as well as George III, King of England on many occasions. In literary circles he was acquainted with Dr. Johnson and J. Boswell. As well as being a friend of Edmund Burke, he also knew Henry Grattan and was on good terms with Lord Portland (the Home Secretary) and Lord Fitzwilliam (the Viceroy).<sup>15</sup>

Throughout a busy life he constantly took an interest in the welfare of his family as the letters of his nephew Fr. John Robinson testify – see chapter 4.



Dr. Thomas Hussey is buried in Waterford Cathedral and the plaque outside this edifice reads:

*Thomas Hussey*

*Bishop of  
Waterford & Lismore  
1794 – 1803  
Diplomat and First  
President of Maynooth  
Is buried in this  
Cathedral  
Grounds.*

In a family focused research project such as the current study, it is particularly gratifying to locate a kinsman who was famous and Thomas Hussey certainly was. In the era that predated the invention of photography, fame invariably led to a portrait being painted and in this case, a painting attributed to Gainsborough of Thomas Hussey is reproduced as photograph 3.7.<sup>16</sup>

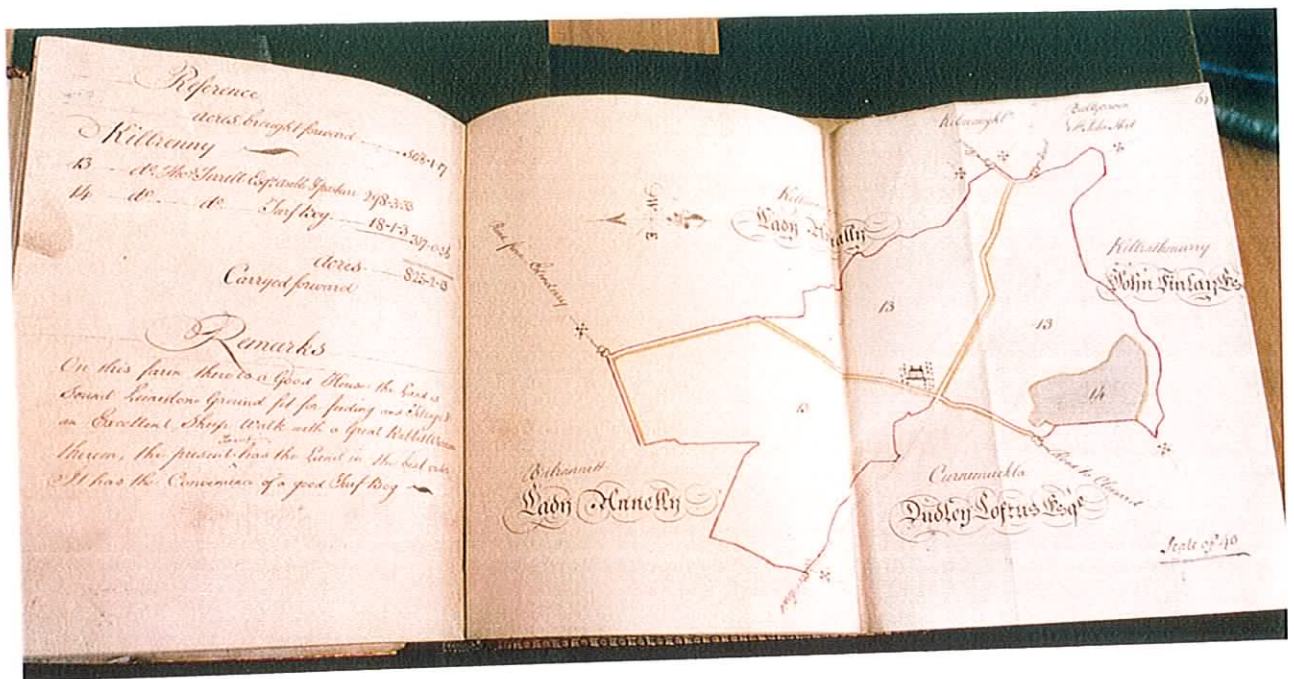
**Photograph 3.7 Bishop Thomas Hussey F.R.S. (1746 – 1803).**



BISHOP HUSSEY, F.R.S.

James McRobin/Cribben/Robinson may have lived in relative anonymity but his first cousin did not. The book of maps, surveyed by Charles Frizell, for Dudley Loftus in 1803 also contains the following map of the farm at Kilreany (Kilrenny) of Thomas Terrell – tenant. This tenancy passed from Thomas Terrell to Garret Robinson (son of James Cribben/McRobin/Robinson – Chapter 3) circa 1810 when the house was burned and Thomas Terrell returned to his ancestral home at Grange. Eventually this farm evolved to ownership by the Robinson family and remains so to this day. This map is shown as photograph 3.8.

**Photograph 3.8 Kilrenny – The holding of Thomas Terrell 1803.**



*The text reads:*

**Transcription**

*Kilrenny*

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>
<i>13 do Thos. Terrell Esq. Arable &amp; Pasture</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>14 do do do Turf Bog</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>
	<hr/> <i>317</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>36</i>

## **Remarks**

*On this farm there is a good house the land is sound limestone ground fit for feeding and tillage and an excellent sheepwalk with a great rabbit warren thereon, the present tenant has the land in the best order. It has the convenience of a good turf bog.*

## **Comment**

On this map the land numbered 13 denotes the arable pasture with the dark area – numbered 14 showing the turf bog. The dwelling house is shown (unlike the chapter 2 survey). Unlike James Cribben, Thomas Terrell rented this land directly from Dudley Loftus. The adjacent townlands and properties are denoted by their owners and not by the tenants.

This is a disadvantage in social terms, unlike the survey of Chapter 2, which shows the people living in that area. This survey was carried out just five years after the Battle of Clonard during the Insurrection of 1798, where the rebellion forces were defeated by the High Sheriff of Kildare, "*Thomas Terrill or Tyrrell*", the tenant of this holding. The events regarding this area and its involvement in the 1798 rebellion are detailed as follows:<sup>17</sup>

### ***Accounts of 1798***

*"5<sup>th</sup> June: About this time some matters of less importance happened in other parts of the kingdom. A party of rebels were surprised at Ardrass - a mile and a half beyond Celbridge. Some of them were killed, many wounded, and several of them made prisoners. Leixlip was also attacked for the last time and almost 20 of the rebels were cut off - a party of them also had taken refuge in the bog of Timahoe, near Kilcock, were surrounded and put to flight- they abandoned their camp and provisions and even their arms in their haste to seek for safety. A few days previous to the event about 800 of them assembled in the village of Carbery - five miles from Clonard where they burnt the Protestant Chapel, school and several houses. They then proceeded through Johnstown burning and destroying the house of every Protestant on the road. Having halted at a place called Gurteen, there they destroyed the home of Mr. F. Metcalf and committed many deprivations.*



*29<sup>th</sup> June: Lt. Tyrrell of the Clonard Corps, having received information that a body of rebels had stationed themselves upon a hill near his dwelling house at Kilrainy, assembled a force and proceeded to Foxes Hill where they were posted to the number of 600. An attack was commenced and they were routed with considerable slaughter.*

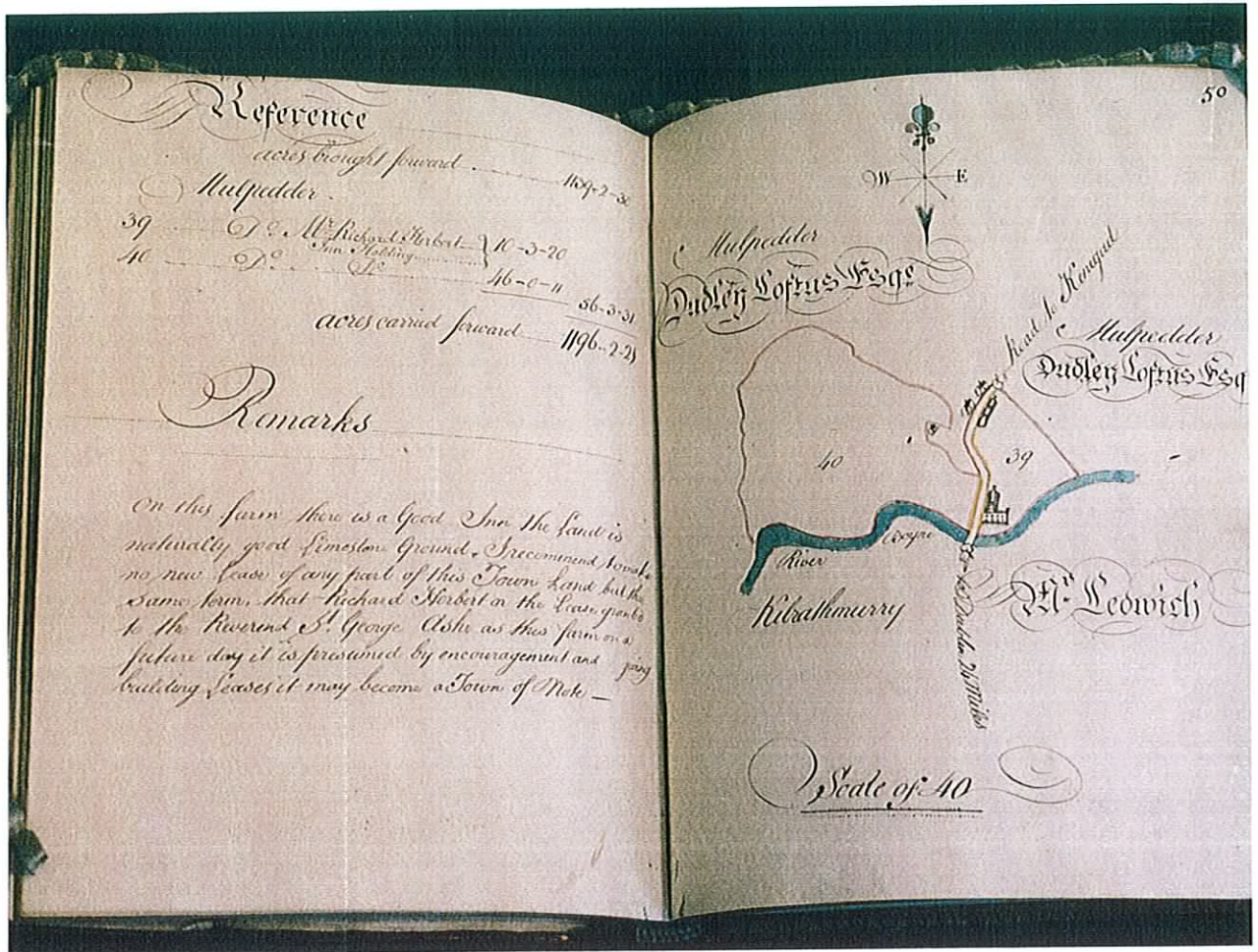
*11<sup>th</sup> July: Lt. Tyrrell heard from Richard Allen that considerable rebel forces were approaching. As the enemy was expected from the Dublin side - 6 men of the Clonard Corps took possession of the old Turret at the end of Mr. Tyrrell's garden, which commanded the road. Rebels advanced so quickly - firing on this quarter before cavalry could be collected - the gate into the courtyard was closed so that several were excluded. Mr. Tyrrell had 27 men including 3 of his sons - eldest of which was 14. After sending ammunition to the advanced part of the turret and stationing other out-posts, he entered into his home with the main body - placed at particular windows. They were under orders not to fire without having their object covered. He had the rest behind the walls - loading muskets and carbines for marksmen at the windows. About 300 rebel cavalry led by one Farrell - the advance guard approached the turret. The first shot fired was by young Mr. Tyrrell which killed Farrell. Confusion ensued and the party withdrew out of range. The rebel infantry then passed the turret under the wall and numbers were posted under a thick hedge on the opposite side of the road - smart fire doing no material mischief. The rebel intention was to surround the home. They stationed guards upon the bridge - many were shot - the rest fled - the western route was preserved. The rebels entered the garden and rushed the turret. The yeomen stationed there-in on the first floor had pulled up the ladder. The rebels trying to get in where shot as soon as they appeared - 27 lay dead on the ground floor. They then collected straw and set it on fire. Two of the yeomen trying to escape the flames were killed - Mr. Cusack and Mr. George Tyrrell. The rest escaped by leaping from a window 20ft high into the hay-yard of the house. The rebels set fire to the toll house and other cabins near the bridge during the course of the six hour battle. One of the guards excluded, when the gates were shut, repaired to Kinnegad and assistance arrived with the Kinnegad Infantry under Lt. Houghton and a few of the Northumberland Fencibles. Then Mr. Tyrrell sallied from the house - joined forces and after a smart engagement - cleared the rebels who fell in numbers. Mr. Richard Allen who had gallantly defended the turret, was mortally wounded. The rebels fled towards Longwood and were pursued by a detachment under*

*Brig. Gen. Mayrick almost to Culmullen. Several of the rebels were killed and many taken prisoner. Richard Allen is buried in the Tyrrell plot, Balynadrumna Cemetery.*

*11<sup>th</sup> July: Mrs. Tyrell, lady from Kilrainy went in her carriage from Clonard to Kilrainy. Upon hearing the rebels were coming she turned back. Finding this attempt not practical - she flew towards Kilrainy. She was overtaken by two horsemen with swords who forced her to stop, and took her towards Clonard where they met 200 men armed with pikes etc. The carriage was searched but no arms were found. Three men with muskets mounted the boot of the carriage with three others behind it. In this manner, attended by a great crowd, she was brought round to the high road from Dublin to Clonard. A rebel officer said she must go with them - she refused and offered the carriage and horses. She was seized by another person who proposed setting her on horse-back, with the carriage being kept for the wounded men. She was now in despair - forced into the carriage by three or four men and went about one mile. Perry entered the carriage and told her that the yeomen had taken a rebel believed to be General Joseph Holt general hostage. She was hostage until his fate was known. After proceeding a little further they stopped. Perry was replaced by another. She saw a man riding by who she recognised as a priest named Fr. Kearns who had been frequently entertained in her house. She appealed to him for protection - it was all fruitless. Her mind turned to devotion in her last moments. Her conduct excited the humanity of a man in the box of the carriage. He declared she would be safe and free to go. To him in reward she gave her watch. A gentleman in the garb of an Officer interrogated her as to her person and the occasioning of her situation. He caused the cavalry to stop - escorted her through the insurgents leaving her to return home and then returned to his party. Thus critically was Mrs. Tyrrell saved".*

On page 50 of this book of survey maps is a map of the location of the Battle of Clonard.  
 This map is shown as photograph 3.9.

**Photograph 3.9 1803 map site of Battle of Clonard.**



The map shows two Areas – No 39 and 40 with houses marked there-on. No. 39 is on the Kinnegad side of the River Boyne in the townland of Mulpeddar owned by Dudley Loftus:

		Acres	Roods	Perches			
39	Mr. Richard Herbert Inn Holding	10	3	20			
40	do	46	0	11	Acres	Roods	Perches
			Total	56	3	31	

While No. 40 on the south side of the River Boyne describes the townland of Kilrathmurry and it's owner Mr. Ledwich. This is the site of the battle described earlier.

The text reads:

### **Transcription**

*"On this farm there is a good inn. The land is naturally good limestone ground. I recommend to make no new lease of any part of this townland but the same term that Richard Herbert on the lease granted to Rev. St. George Ash as this farm on a future day it is presumed by encouragement and giving building leases it may become a town of note".*

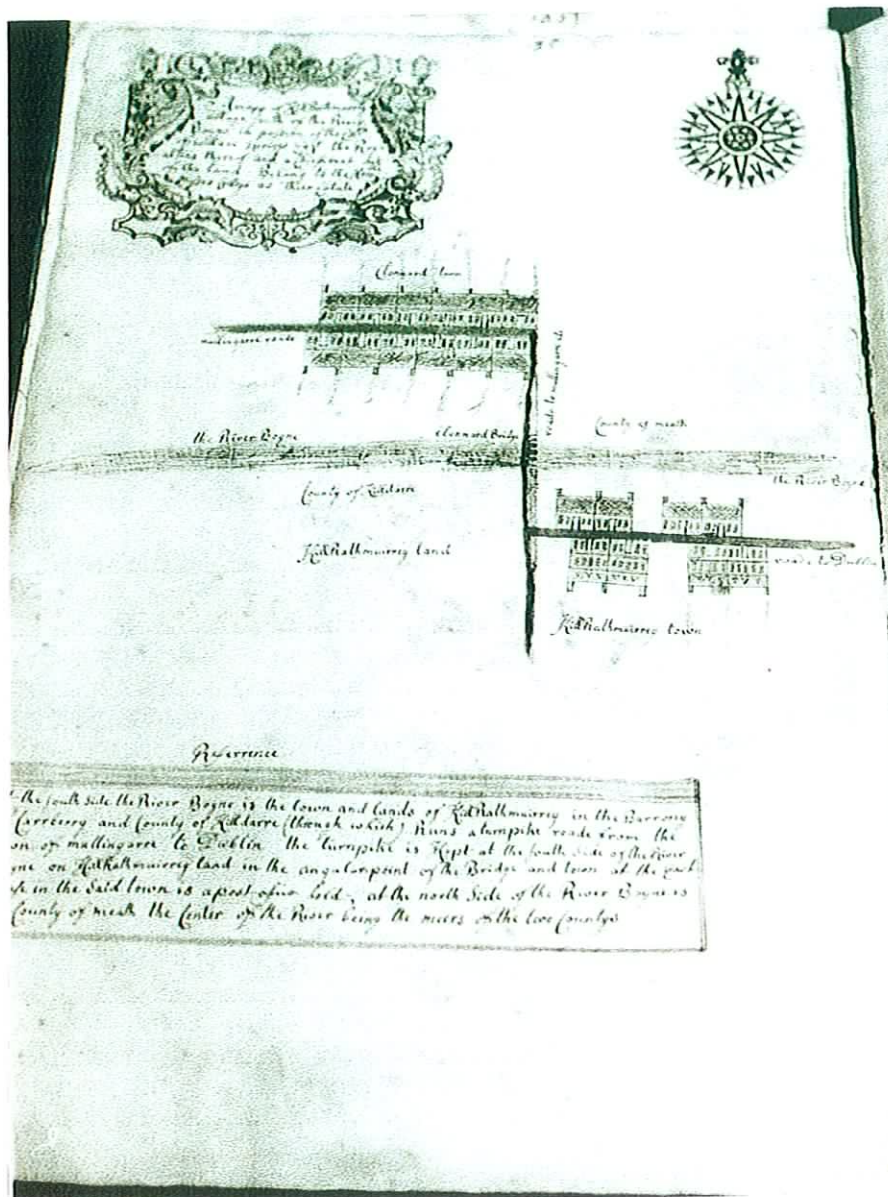
Frizells' observations on each holding were an obvious guide to the landlord on his letting of new leases. His views regarding this potential town were not realised as this particular area did not develop. This reference to an Inn is re-inforced where a Hugh Ennis had a hostelry. His Inn sign reads:

*"Good Dry Lodgings  
And Breakfast by Hugh  
Ennis, Clenard"<sup>18</sup>*

A survey map of the Colley Estate in 1744 by M. Byrne shows this site.<sup>19</sup>  
This map is shown as photograph 3.10.



Photograph 3.10 1744 Map site of Battle of Clonard.



*The panel in the top left hand corner of the map identifies it as Transcription No 135*

*A map of Kilrathmuirry village south of the river Boyne in possession of the Exrs. Of William Spriggs the Royalties there of and a chief rent out of the land belong to the Honourable Missrs. Colley as their estates.*



The lower panel contains the following text:

**Reference:**

*"At the south side of the river Boyne is the town and lands of Killrathmuirney in the Baroney of Carrberry and County of Kildarere (through which) runs a turnpike road from the town of Mullingar to Dublin. The turnpike is kept at the south side of the river Boyne in Killrathmuirrey land in the angular point of the bridge and town at the east house in the said town is a part of the hold. At the north side of the river Boyne is the County of Meath the center of the river being the meers of the two counties."*

So a town existed at Kilrathmurray in 1744. This had vanished by 1798 when no mention of it appears in the battle records or indeed in the survey of 1803. Perhaps Frizell heard of the site being an urban area some 60 years before his survey and he hoped it would again be so.

The 1803 rent roll (page 72/73) regarding Dudley Loftus' land also records that in the adjacent townland of:

**Cornamuckla**

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Pers</i>
<i>Thomas Terrell had</i>	225	3	24
<i>+ bog</i>	40	0	12
<i>Totalling</i>	<u>265</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>36</u>

<i>In addition to his (Thomas Terrell's) tenancy at Kilrenny totalling (Inc. Bog)</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Pers</i>
	<u>317</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36 (Photograph 3.8)</u>

<i>In another adjacent townland:</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Pers</i>
<i><u>Kilglass</u> Reprs. Of Nick Knight had</i>	239	2	27
<i>&amp; other land Land – Total</i>	<u>274</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>32</u>

Tenure 3 lives renewable for ever from the year 1690.

This property had amongst its successive occupants, James Shaw (1830) and Thomas Darcy (1850). It was eventually occupied by one John Murphy (1829 - 1907). He married Johanna Robinson (1854 - 1914) on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1873. This union had no issue. In Johanna's will (dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 1914) she left this property at Kilglass to her brother Bernard Robinson (1855 - 1944) of Kilrathmurray. His descendents continue to own this holding at present.

Bernard Robinson of Kilrathmurray was a great-grandson of James Cribben/McRobin (1734 - 1809) - the tenant on the farm surveyed in Section A of this chapter.<sup>20</sup>

From this 1803 Frizell Survey Book:

<u>The Loftus Estate Totals</u>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Pers</i>	<i>Total of Present Value</i>
<i>Chattel property in Co. Meath</i>	<i>1596</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>£1040 – 14 – 6 1/2</i>
<i>Real estate in Co. Meath</i>	<i>1459</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>£1582 – 2 - 11</i>
<i>Real estate in Co. Kildare</i>	<u><i>1100</i></u>	<u><i>0</i></u>	<u><i>5</i></u>	
 <i>The total present yearly rent is</i>	 <u><i>£568</i></u>	 <u><i>2</i></u>	 <u><i>6</i></u>	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>	
<i>Total acreage in Co. Meath and Co. Kildare is</i>	<u><i>4155</i></u>	<u><i>1</i></u>	<u><i>10</i></u>	<u><i>£4741 – 0 – 0 1/2</i></u>

Charles Frizell's remarks on each tenancy were summarised by the following exhortations to Dudley Loftus at the end of this survey.

*"First: Not to set any of the lands in this book less than the valuation annexed thereto.  
Secondly: to exceed set valuation to solvent and responsible tenants who are able to pay their rents punctually.  
Thirdly: Be cautious setting too high to poor tenants who are apt to bid such rents they never can pay on which the proportion only may count a nominal rent; From the want of caution or knowledge of selling to such description of tenants is the ruin in general of men of landed property in the Kingdom and occasioned by very great losses which is manifestly known.*

*Fourthly: Let no tenant run in arrears after the usual time of payment or at least to exceed one year and a half at most. Because when the debt grows old the tenant grows languid and careless when a loss always is the consequence of this indulgence.*

*Fifthly: don't set in partnership, by no means the slothful tenant always breaks the industrious.*

*Sixthly: Encourage planting particularly Orchards, according to the size of the farm you set to be well enclosed and fenced with a good and sufficient ditch properly quicked and planted with timber trees which fruit and timber trees as also quicks. I would have a proper person to see planted at the proprietors expense. A special covenant to bind the tenant to preserve the same and for him to plant all new and scoured ditches with whitethorn or crab quicks. £2 or guineas per acre to be allowed for gravelling with 200 loads of limestone gravel towards reclaiming all green and cut away bogs on this estate".*

These recommendations were the observations of a surveyor who professionally had seen, at first hand, the results of letting land outside these guidelines, with disastrous consequences for many of the landlord class.

### ***Charles Frizell***

The following exhortations of Charles Frizell to Dudley Loftus were reflected in an article "to the perusal of Theobald Wolfe Esq. for the improvement of his estate". Frizell made these recommendations in 1760 and is described as a County Wexford farmer.<sup>21</sup>

Some of these methods include:

*"First that a compost of the loam and clay ground be drawn together and laid layer over layer about a foot to each layer and to every 20 load of each sort, a barrel of rock lime to be spread between. These layers to be continued to be raised to any discretionary height and after three months lying to be turned over and mixed with spade and shovel about two load to the square perch will be a choice manure for the turf soil.*

*Second, draw the turf soil, old ditches or any other kind of light soil and mix a barrel of rock lime to every 40 loads between layer and layer, let it lie about the same time of the former and turn it. The same quantity of this as of the former is a very good manure for the clay or stiff ground.*

*Third, draw off the clay or stiff ground like the former, mix a barrel of rock lime to every 15 load between layer and layer, let it lie as the former and turn it and allow three load to the perch square, which will be the highest manure for the loam."*

*"That he might not be quite idle, though it is not the right season, let at least ten or twelve acres of the oldest coarse ground be ploughed up in sets about 12 feet wide as soon as possible. About the beginning of June plough it back again which will lay the grass and rubbish side uppermost, then cross plough it very short and harrow it as well as possible and burn beat all the small clods and rubbish. Spread the ashes as hot as possible with about 40 corn barrels of rock lime to the acre, plough it very light, harrow it down and then sow about two pound of red turnip seed to the acre any time about Old St. Peter's-tide. If you have a one horse roller run it over the whole to prevent the fly, and as soon as the turnips are each in their four leaves give them the first hoeing which is called chopping."*

Charles Frizell claimed that adherence to his plan would, over a span of 7 years, *make "a farmer on coarse land between five and ten shillings per acre - may make it worth twenty shillings per acre and be fully paid his expense with interest"*.

Although Frizell does not make reference to his fee - some idea of his professional charges may be gleaned from the following table, which includes his fee charged for surveying a Co. Westmeath farm in 1773<sup>22</sup>. See number four - Table 1.

**Table 1**

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Surveyor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Acreable Charge</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	1763	Robert Livingston	Armagh	3d	113 statute acres
2.	1771, 1973	John Barker	Belfast	4d	Including maps and valuation
3.	1772	David McCool	Londonderry	3d	Including maps
4.	1773	Charles Frizell, Jnr.	Co. Westmeath	3d	606 acres 'very troublesome'
5.	1776	-	Co. Down	6-8d	Sterling
6.	1778	Sherrard & Brownrigg	Co. Meath	3d	Tenanted land, in farms
	"	"	"	6 1/2 d	Demesne, in fields
7.	1779	-	Co. Galway	13d	
8.	1780	-	Co. Down	4d	Including maps
9.	1790	A. R. Neville	Co. Carlow	6d	Surveying only: map cost c. 2d per acre more
10.	1790	John Evans	Co. Galway	2.44d	223 acres
11.	1793	James Kean	Co. Clare	5.15d	12 1/2 acres
12.	1794	John Leonard	Co. Galway	5.39d	152 acres
13.	1795	Michael McGawley	Co. Meath	3.59d	54 acres
14.	1796	-	-	12d	Maximum fee paid by Linen Board

From this table of surveyor charges it appears that Frizell charged 3d per acre for his professional services. Indeed, he may have charged more regarding this Loftus Survey in 1803 as a Co. Kilkenny surveyor, Patrick Mackey in 1801, charged his patrons to *"forget the old prices which only answered the last century"*<sup>23</sup>. Mackey added by way of explanation in rhyme.

*"Our daily subsistence is risen to thrice  
 Our investments and our apparel likewise,  
 To be plain, for the future a shilling per acre,  
 At the least should be paid to each lawful surveyor"*.

**Table 2**

	<i>Surveyor</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Acreable Charge</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	1803 David McCool	Londonderry	8d	Including maps
2.	1804 Edward Reilly	-	5d	For dividing bogs and laying out potato grounds
3.	1808 David McCool	Londonderry	10d	Including maps
4.	1816 John Hill	-	4d	
5.	1818 Patrick Leahy	Thurles	10d	for townlands in ordinary sized farms

This table of fees (Table 2) subsequent to Patrick Mackey's exhortations may more truly reflect Charles Frizell's fees in 1803 for surveying the Loftus Estate.<sup>24</sup> Charles Frizell as these extracts demonstrate, was an agricultural advisor as well as being a surveyor.

Andrews notes that Charles Frizell had successive residences at Mountfin near Enniscorthy (Co. Wexford) in 1758; at Askemore near Gorey, Co. Wexford in 1761 and Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin in 1777. In County Wexford he was in partnership with his brother Richard, while at Rathfarnham he was agent to the Earl of Ely.<sup>25</sup>

These maps, surveyed by Charles Frizell in 1803 for Dudley Loftus, in this chapter are referenced in the Manuscript Section of the National Library of Ireland.<sup>26</sup>

In a survey of the adjoining county of Meath, Thompson stated that when tenants acquired a new land lease, they generally had to build a house and offices on the land they had taken. In addition, they had to fence the farm that they held for a lease of 21 or 31 years – a term considered good in 1802. With a lease of this duration, the tenant did not build with very durable materials or put himself to any extraordinary trouble or expense to set up home. He built the same kind of low mud walled ‘dark, dirty, smoky tenement’ that his father before him had built under the same system and to which he was familiar. To the house, he added a barn and cow-house of the same materials. The barn was often constructed with lime and stone to guard against vermin. These houses were often formed from the earth and clay in which they were built – hence the ground floor was commonly fixed 6 to 8 inches below the surface level outside the walls. The houses were subject to damp, as were their inhabitants. These farmhouses seldom lasted longer than the lease.

Farmers who held 100 to 300 acres were generally called graziers, who were considered superior to lower acreage farmers and they did not visit or associate with the latter outside of the transaction of business.

Middlemen, when they got a farm tenancy, let the worst parts of the farm at an advanced rent to wretched tenants and they held the remainder of their holding under the original rent. The consequence of this was that poor tracts of land became poorer.

The farmers who had 50 to 100 acres were a very sober, industrious body of men and according to Thompson, they worked much harder and in general had little better than the common labourer or journeyman.

Those with 1 to 300 acres lived comfortably and paid attention to their business. They stood continually over their employees and improved their ground by gravel-scouring and draining. As Thompson put it in his statistical survey, ‘A man cannot make money by farming except he is at the tail of his plough and attends to his business to protect his enterprise from depredations of persons employed’<sup>27</sup>.

# *Chapter III*

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# CHAPTER IV

Land Surveys

(1817)

by

Brownrigg

and

Longfield





This survey does not specify Rev. Mr. (Fr. John) Robinson's acreage unlike that of his neighbours. Neither does it detail the length of lease or the annual rent. Neither is the quality of the land mentioned. The scale of the map is not given.

It is probable that the tenancy was held by the Roman Catholic priest in the parish of Monasterevan at the time of the survey as in this case Fr. John Robinson. The size of this holding was about 6 acres when viewed against the neighbouring tenants whose land holding are detailed in terms of acreage. This is a rather inconsequential survey - significant only in that this tenant's life is quite detailed and is outlined in section B of this chapter.

John Longfield, the surveyor relevant to the chapter was, according to Andrews, over-anxious to emphasise the trigonometrical basis for his bog surveys and this trait showing an inferiority complex was common to many surveyors of his time as very few came from farm estate surveying.<sup>2</sup>

An idea of the fee, which John Longfield charged may be gained from the charge by Longfield surveyor c 1823 regarding the surveying of a farm in Co. Dublin. He charged 9.86d per acre for a farm size of 609 acres. This included a map.<sup>3</sup>

Also under this reference in the National Library another survey conducted by John Longfield was located. This was part of the Estate of James Mansfield. The tenant was James Malone, Caragh, Naas, Co. Kildare. The area concerned was in two sections - one part measured 81 acres, 1 Rood and 14 perches and the other 73 acres, 2 roods and 0 perches (on the church side of road). This survey was conducted in 1813 and this tenant James Malone was a great, great grandfather of the author.

John Longfield was a partner in the firm of Brownrigg, Longfield and Murray. This firm of surveyors carried out a comprehensive survey of the Downshire Estates in Ireland - totalling some 100,000 statute acres in 1803/4, prior to the surveying partnership being dissolved in 1804. Part of the Downshire Estate included Edenderry, Kings County (now Offaly) near to the townlands of Cornamucklagh and Ballinlig referenced in this study.

John Brownrigg who co-surveyed this Monasterevan holding in 1817 succeeded his son James Brownrigg who died suddenly of the fever in 1817 as the agent in Edenderry for Lord

Downshire on his estate of 14,000 statute acres.<sup>4</sup> James wrote to his employer in August 31<sup>st</sup> 1815 concerning the farming conditions in his area as follows:

*"The affairs of the Estate are fast approaching a crisis, and something must be determined on to ward off as much of the evil as possible - as every investigation I make into the pecuniary resources of the tenancy confirm and extend my appreciations of their inability to pay the rent laid on them. I have had a valuation made this week (which I now enclose) of the whole of the visible property Corn, Hay, Cattle including the milch cows and working cattle on the farms of those tenants whose solvency I most suspected, and I have stated the Rent and Arrears that will be due by each at next November, and you will see how far short the whole of their property falls of covering the Rent and Arrears fairly chargeable on it. What is to be done with such a Tenantry? - turning them out beggars on the world is a dreadful alternative and yet I see nothing else for it, and now the question comes how is that to be accomplished. I have generally found such tenantry, when they have nothing to loose, will not give up the possession until the Sheriff turns them out by the shoulder, and even then, every artifice is resorted to, heighten the scene of distress, and hurt the feelings of those performing such an unpleasant duty".*

Also he wrote

*"The evils I am now depicting are not confined to this Estate, the same distress is general with the same class of tenantry (under similar circumstances) all over Ireland - probably with the exception of a few northern counties where manufactures are established".*

Furthermore Brownrigg added:

*"Here is no yeomenry, - no agricultural Capitalist; no degree between the Landlord and the Labourer, the words "peasantry" and the "poor" synonymously employed' this is a brief but true picture of Ireland. The Landlords have generally acted with the most extraordinary want of foresight in the letting of their Lands - by subdividing their farms into small divisions, and by letting them to the very lowest class of people, at high Rents".<sup>5</sup>*

James Brownrigg as well as being a surveyor and agent for Lord Downshire was a middle sized tenant on the Edenderry Downshire Estate. He was also an engineer who was employed in the construction of the Grand Canal in the 1780's.

Many of the forebodings in the above extracts are reflected in Charles Frizell's exhortations to Dudley Loftus in Chapter 3 of this thesis. Indeed the proximity of the Downshire and Loftus Estates made it likely that conditions were similar on both holdings. Surprisingly the conditions in the Downshire Estate contrast with the healthy start of Irish agriculture generally as outlined by Donnelly and Cullen (Ref. 3 Chapter 3).

After the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, agricultural prices slumped. These dropped more for tillage than for grassland products. Between 1812 and 1815, wheat per cwt. cost 17 shillings and 6 pence. Between 1816 and 1820 the same product cost 15 and 11 pence and between 1821 and 1825, the price of wheat had reduced to 11 shillings and 6 pence per cwt. Grain prices were erratic over the next 20 years while livestock prices showed a long-term improvement. Rents rose four-fold between 1760 and 1815, but the existence of leases prevented landlords increasing their rents. It therefore became less profitable for the landlords to give long leases. In this study James Cribben, the brother of Rev. John Robinson, was fortunate to have the lease of his father Daniel Cribben renewed.<sup>6</sup>

## *Chapter IV*

In Section A of this chapter, Map No. 115 in the collection of farm survey maps (Ref. No. 21 – F – 36) in the manuscript section of the National Library refers to Rev. Mr. Robinson, one of the tenants of Mrs. Osbourne.

### **SECTION B**

This section details the life of Rev. Mr. (Fr. John) Robinson.

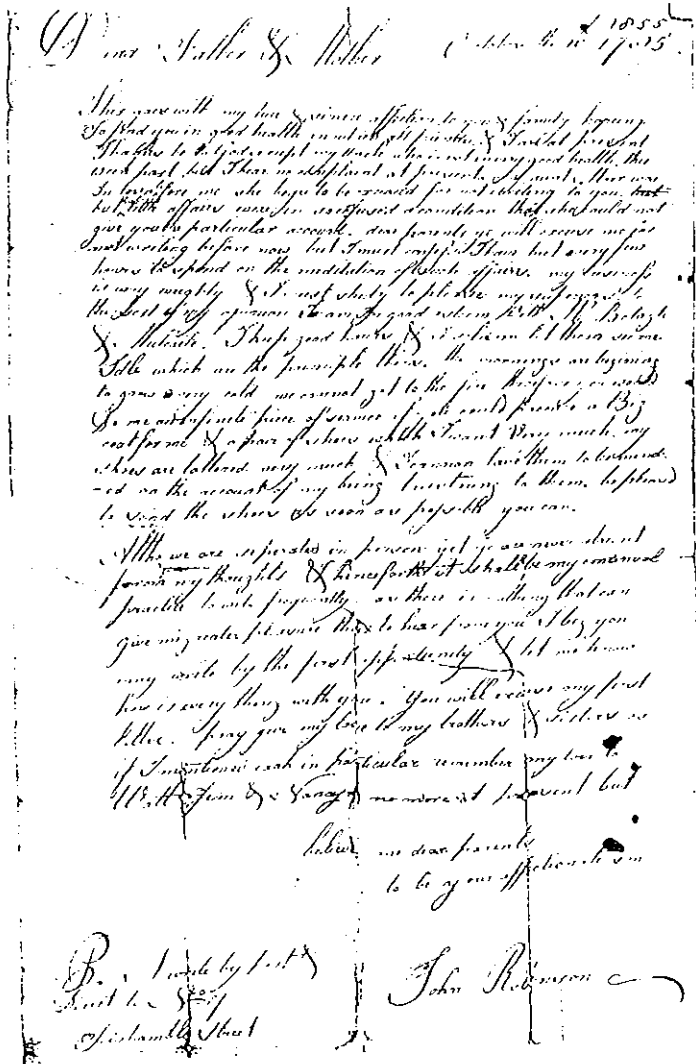
In genealogical terms Fr. John Robinson is outlined as follows regarding his ancestors who featured in chapter 2 and chapter 3 of this study.

Father John Robinson (1767 – 1822) was the eldest son of James and Anne McRobin/Robinson/Cribben (in Chapter 3).

Daniel Cribben/McRobin/Robinson (1690 – 1777)	–	Ann Shaw (1701 – 1764)	Chapter 2
James Cribben/McRobin/Robinson (1734 – 1809)	–	Ann Shaw (1744 – 1786)	Chapter 3
<i>Fr. John Robinson</i> (1767 – 1822)			Chapter 4

After probable attendance at the local national school at Cornamuckla he went to the Fishamble Street Academy in Dublin, from whence the first of his surviving letters was written. These letters form a series (10 in total) dating from 1785 to 1796 and were discovered in a bureau, which family tradition believes came from Ballinlig where James McRobin/Robinson/Cribben resided. The first letter written by John Robinson to his father James, when he was 18 years of age, is reproduced as photograph 4.2.

Photograph 4.2 Letter 1. John Robinson, October 10<sup>th</sup> 1785.



Transcription of Letter 1.

October the 10<sup>th</sup> 1785.

Dear Father & Mother

This goes with my true and sincere affection, to you and family, hoping to find you in good health in which all friends and I am at present Thanks be to God, except my uncle who is not in very good health this week past, but I hear no complaint at present. My aunt Moor was in town before me she begs to be excused for not writing to you but her little affairs were in so confused a condition that she could not give you a particular account. dear parents ye will excuse me for not writing before now but I must confess I have but very few hours to spend on the meditation of such affairs. my business is very weighty and I must study to please my superiors. to the best of my opinion I am in good esteem with Mr. Betagh & Mulcaile. I keep good hours and I seldom



*let them see me idle which are the principle thin[g]s. The mornings are beginning to grow very cold. we cannot get to the fire. therefore you would do me an infinite piece of service if you could procure a Big coat for me & a pair of shoes which I want very much. my shoes are tattered very much & I cannot have them to be mended on account of my being trusting to them. be pleased to send the shoes as soon as possible you can.*

*Altho we are separated in person yet ye are never absent from my thoughts & henceforth it shall be my continual practice to write frequently: as there is nothing that can give me greater pleasure than to hear from you I beg you may write by the first opportunity and let me know how is everything with you. You will excuse my first letter. pray give my love to my brothers & sisters as if I mentioned each in particular, remember my love to Watt, Jem & Nancy, no more at present but*

*believe me dear parents  
to be your affectionate son*

*John Robinson.*

### **Comment on Letter 1**

This letter was addressed to his father as James McRobin, Cornamuckla near Clonard. The request for a big coat and a pair of shoes is a touching reminder of the temporal needs of mankind. Every other letter was addressed to his father as James Robinson – therefore it seems that 1785 was the year in which the family changed its name from McRobin to Robinson. This is believed to be the only extant letter from this academy, a pre-seminary school at Saul Court, Fishamble Street, Dublin.

The next letter written in 1787 is sent to James when his wife (John's mother) had died – five months after the first correspondence. She died in March 1786.

Transcription of Letter 2 (1787).

*Dear Father,*

*After a most disagreeable and dangerous passage of four days (during which juncture I was not five minutes well), I arrived safe in Liverpool, from thence I went to London where I was most affectionately received by my uncle & Mr. Hussey. the later has given me a gold watch, a flute, a pocket Book & several good books the former a pair of gold sleeve buttons a silver seal etc. etc. besides a shuit of Cloaths In the paying for which I suppose each had an equal share. Mr. Hussey & my uncle ordered me to inform you that you never shall receive a letter or any assistance from them until you quit that cursed place. they make very good promises which i am sure they will not break. tomorrow at 4 O'Clock I am to sail for Bilbao pray Remember my love in the most affectionate manner to Watt, Brothers & Sisters & all enquiring friends & believe me dear Father to be your most*

*affectionate & most  
Dutiful Son*

*Jno Robinson.*

*7 ber the 24  
1787.*

**Comment on Letter 2.**

This letter, from London, refers to John's uncle – Fr. Garrett Robinson and Mr. Hussey (John's first cousin – once removed) and the presents given by both of these people to him. It is of interest to note that he refers to 'Mr. Hussey' – priests at this time were not called 'Father'. It is obvious that both clerics were angry with James McRobin and seem to blame his poor housing conditions for the deaths of his wife (Anne at the age of 42) and John McRobin (James' brother) at the age of 35. It is noted that assistance and letters were withdrawn until James Robinson built a new house. Conditions must have been severe for James, having been left with a young family to rear. His youngest son Richard was only four when his wife died. The date of this letter is probably September 24<sup>th</sup> 1787, as John arrived at Salamanca on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1787 (Reference page 72).

A summary of the remaining letters in this collection are as follows:

Letter 3 in the series relates the journey to Bilboa en route to Salamanca where the perils of a sea journey are graphically outlined by John to his father.

Letter 4 outlines the cost of his education – 30 guineas per year. John details the opulent ceremonies which attended religious occasions in Spain in 1788. The garment worth in excess of 3,000 guineas which adorned the statue of the Blessed Virgin and a solid silver carriage of about 16 cwt. which conveyed the Blessed Sacrament must have amazed James – his father – a tenant farmer on the border of counties Kildare and Meath in Ireland.

Letter 5 from Fr. John was to his cousin Dan Robinson at 18 Thomas Street. He relates how Mr. Hussey sent him gloves, microscopes, an airpump and astronomical instruments. This showed Mr. Hussey's keen interest in science and may explain why later in life he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society (Chapter 3).

Letter 6 dated March 29<sup>th</sup> 1790 shows his exasperation at his father for not writing to him. This letter contains a request for his baptismal certificate. As always, John ends his letter by enquiring about family and friends.

Letter 7 dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 1790 shows a note of desperation at his father's non compliance with his request for his baptismal certificate. This exasperation is shown by his assertion that Watt Monaghan (his neighbour) would write if he could!

Letter 8 (1790) refers to an interprovincial dispute between Seminarians at Salamanca. Those from Leinster were accused of favouritism by the other provincial students. They tried to unseat the rector of the college Dr. Curtis. There are references to the King of Spain interceding in the dispute. In this regard there is another family heirloom at Newberry Hall, Carbury, which relates to this matter. A travelling knife and fork set, where blade and fork are stored in each other's handles is in the possession of a Carbury branch of the family. It is believed to have been won in an essay test set by the King of Spain at the time to mollify the Irish students. The inscription 'Rev I. R. 1791' is scratched on the handle.

The knife and fork set together with the beads (Reference Chapter 3 Section B – Page 40) are shown as photograph 4.3.

**Photograph 4.3 Beads & Knife & Fork Set.**



Letter 9, dated April 16<sup>th</sup> 1792, refers to a possible marriage between John's sister Nellie to one Jemmy D'Arcy. It also mentions the lucrative offer of John being posted to the American Missions when ordained. However, he refused, as he wished to return to Ireland and see his family and friends again. Also he wished to repay his debt to neighbours who supported his education whilst in Spain. While in Salamanca he mentions his close friend Daniel Murray who later became Archbishop of Dublin (1825 - 52).

The final letter No. 10, dated August 20<sup>th</sup> 1796 comes from Clonegal, Co. Carlow - probably John's first posting in Ireland on his return from Spain. He requests Mr. Shaw, probably his uncle, to buy a horse for him. He also noted that his father has built a new home (at Ballinlig). These letters were published by Fr. Matthew Bodkin S.J. in serial form in the Irish Ecclesiastical Review under the title "Letters of a Penal Priest". The full transcription of these letters is contained in Appendix 2.

Fr. John Robinson was Parish Priest of Clane in 1798 and as his home at Ballinlig was about 10 miles distant from Clane, it can be assumed that consequently the correspondence with his father ceased.

The adjacent parish of Prosperous was the scene of a battle during the insurrection of that year.

The following is an account of that battle:

*"The examination of James Jordan of Prosperous in the County of Kildare, weaver, who has been duly sworn and examined on oath saith that he was in the town of Prosperous about the hour of 3 or 4 o'clock of Thursday morning 24<sup>th</sup> May. In or at daybreak where he saw several bodys of his majesty's regiment of the city of Cork militia and antient Brittens lying dead in the streets of Prosperous and at the same time the examinment sayth he saw the sevell. Persons following with guns in their hands parading and exulting; and who he verily belvs were the persons aided and assisted by others unknown to exat who murdered and assinated the soldiers who examinment saw dead to witt George Fane of Cork - Fox - 8 Fox sons to John Fox of Healy Bridge and Newtown - Poor of the same place Patrick Farrell, Mick Leeson, James Tobin, Denis Killy, Christy Buggle, Robert Hooks and Courtney all of Prosperous aforesaid. Laurence Grannan of Timahoe, Michael Hughes, Henry Hugges of Staplestown and Hily's Bridge, John McManus of Killibegs, Edward Hanlin Donore, ----- Fleming, Peter French of Blackwood turfmen (?) or labourours and Andrew Farrell, son of Daniel Farrell of Hely's Bridge who told examt he should have his hands in blood. This examinment sayth the above named persons listed and assisted by sevell. Others murdered and assinated the sevell. Soldiers who wer on sd. morning and co.*

*James Jordan sworn before me this 27<sup>th</sup> May 1798, Roger North.*

*I acknowledge to be bound to our Soverign Ld, the King in the sum of 500 to procecute when called or at next assizes Jas. Jordan".<sup>7</sup>*

In 1810, Fr. John was posted to Monasterevan, where he was parish priest until his death on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1822 at the age of 55. He built a new church at Nurney - an outlying suppressed parish and died before the new church in Monasterevan was completed. He is buried in the old graveyard at Passlands - the same townland as referenced in the map in part A of this chapter. His headstone with inscription is shown as photograph 4.4.

**Photograph 4.4 Fr. John Robinson's Headstone with inscription in Passlands Cemetary Monasterevan, Co. Kildare.**



As a tribute of gratitude and respect  
This tablet has been placed  
By his parishioners  
To the memory of  
The Rev. John Robinson  
R.C. Pastor of Monstrevan and Kildangan  
Born June 24th 1767, Died Nov. 10th 1822  
An exemplenary and vigilant Instructor  
He entertained for his flock  
the affection of a parent  
and acted as one in all their concerns  
Of an Apostolic simplicity  
And the most endearing sweetness of manners.  
He is followed to his tomb  
By the Love and Veneration  
which attended him through life

His funeral was reported, to have been attended by 8,000 people.

*"Not a shop was been open in the town during the passage of the funeral; his loss was considered as a grievous personal calamity - and as such was felt and lamented by all."*<sup>8</sup>

An index to Kildare Wills refers to:

*"John Robinson, of Nurney, Co. Kildare, brother of Richard, Daniel, nephew James Richards (211)"*<sup>9</sup>

Regrettably it has not been possible to locate this will.

The following are references to Fr. John during his stay at Salamanca.

***Academic year 1786/7 31<sup>st</sup> March 1787.***

*"Thomas Read arrived at the College in 28 June 1787;  
John McMullan 15 August; Daniel Phillips 1 September; Charles Burke, James Byrne  
and James Coleman 11 September, John O'Grady 16 October; Denis McEgan and Walter  
Balfe 18 October 1787, John Robinson 2 November 1787, Patrick Walsh 6 December  
1787 and Francis Lennon 22 December 1787.*

***Academic Year 1787 - 1788***

*"Dr. Hussey writing to Dr. Curtis from London on 10 October 1787 said a student called  
Robinson sailed from Bilbao 12 days before.*

*In the same year Dr. Thomas Hussey (Bishop of Waterford), Chaplain in chief of the  
Royal Chapel of His Majesty in London, purchased books to the value of £100 in London  
for the College Library and was paid said amount".*

This reference includes mention of Fr. John Robinson's uncle Thomas Hussey (chapter 3 section B – illustration 3.7).

***Academic Year 1788-89***

The list of students of the Irish College, Salamanca for the year 1788/9 and dated 17 July 1789 details John Robinson (at number seven) out of a total of 15 students.

***Academic Year 1789-90***

For the year 1789/90 John Robinson is listed as the thirteenth out of a total of 25 seminarians. A report by the Director of the College Fr. Patrick Curtis in this year reads:

*"Juan Robinson student. A native of D. of Leighlin of Catholic and noble parents, 24  
years of age and two as a student with burse, he has learned Humanities very well at  
home, and in this college he has studied a little Hebrew, Mathematics and is at present in  
his Second Years Philosophy. His progress has been equal to his great talents. He is of  
fair application and excellent conduct".<sup>10</sup>*

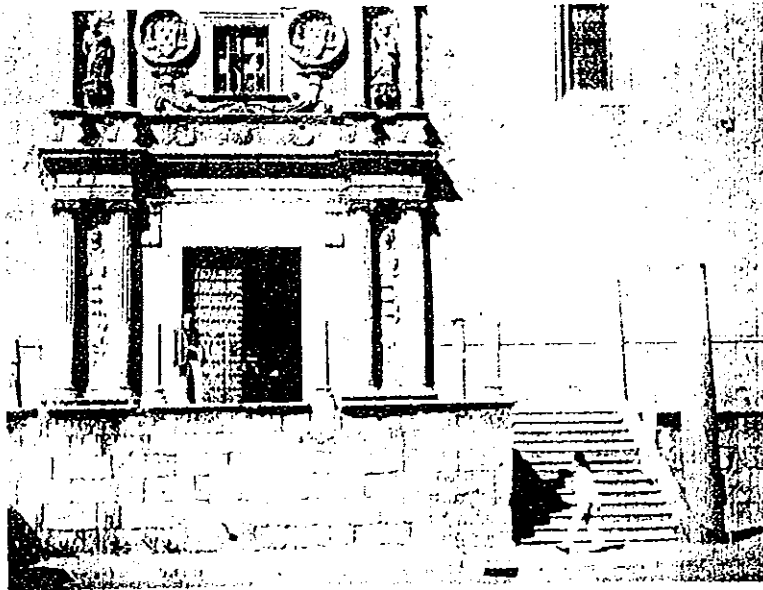
***Academic Year 1791-92***

Regarding the academic year 1791/2 a total of 25 students are listed with John Robinson given as sixth in the list. An asterisk after his name is explained by the comment that he (John) was ordained to the priesthood and that he left for Ireland via Oporto on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1795.<sup>11</sup>



The Irish College Salamanca, which was founded in 1592 by Fr. Thomas Whyte S. J. is shown as photograph 4.5.

Photograph 4.5 Irish College, Salamanca



A brief impression of this college is given in this extract (dated 1592) in a letter from the King of Spain - Phillip III to the rector of Salamanca.

*"The University of Salamanca was the greatest in Europe in the sixteenth century, with its twenty-five colleges, which included "El Real Colegio de Nobles Irlandeses". (The College of the Irish Nobles). This college was established by Philip II. Writing to the Rector, Chancellor and Faculty of the University, the King says:*

*"As the Irish youths, who had been living in a kind of community in this city, have resolved to go to yours, to avail of the opportunities it affords for advancement in letters and languages, a house having been prepared for them, in which they intended to live under the direction of the Fathers of the Society of Jesus; besides allowing them a good annual stipend. I desired to give them this letter to charge you, as I hereby do, to regard them as highly recommended; so as not to allow them to be molested in any way, but to favour and aid them as far as you can, that as they have left their own country, and all they possessed in it, in the service of God, our Lord, and for the preservation of the Catholic faith, and make profession of returning to preach in it, and suffer martyrdom if necessary, they may get in that University the reception they seek". Valladolid, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1592. Yo El Rey.<sup>12</sup>*



Regarding Salamanca the following information reinforces the Irish connection to this famous Spanish seminary, which closed in 1954 having been in existence for 362 years.

After the Flight of the Earls on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1607, it was easy for Irishmen to live in Spain, where they were allowed precedence over all other foreigners. Later they intermarried with the Spanish nobility, took high positions in the state, and their regiments were on a par with those of Metropolitan Spain.

Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare, a leading exiled chief was the first Irishman to be knighted by the Spanish court and he received a monthly pension of 300 ducets. He was also awarded the cross of Santiago, a most select military order in Spain which demanded a detailed proof of nobility and genealogy. In 1617 Donal Cam was made Count of Berehaven despite protestations by the English to the Spanish Court. This title, and fortune of 100,000 crowns, passed eventually to Dona Antonia O'Sullivan y Cordaba, who married her maternal uncle. As she died without issue in 1718, this line became extinct and the fortune went to support the new College for Irish Nobles in Salamanca.

As a probable tribute to this benefactor, a portrait of Donal Cam O'Sullivan Beare – dressed as a Spanish grandee was removed from Salamanca at its closure in 1954 to St. Patricks College, Maynooth. The Latin transcription on the painting translates “*O'Sullivan Beare, Count of Beare and Bantry in the 53<sup>rd</sup> year of his age but in the 1613<sup>th</sup> year of Christ Our Lord*”.<sup>13</sup>

A final appraisal in the Irish College, Salamanca, may be learned from the following:

*"Salamanca was the most outstanding of the Iberian Colleges. Nurse of bishops, provincials, Theologians, martyrs, and in great number missionaries, it sent home in the space of a hundred years some 500 priests to Ireland, England and Scotland".<sup>14</sup>*

Also according to Silke:

*'Adventure, hardship and danger were the common lot of these students who took the road to the continent. Catholic gentry, townspeople and merchants all co-operated in conveying the young men to France, Flanders, Spain, Italy and elsewhere and home again in defiance of the law.'<sup>15</sup>*

During Fr. John's life time, anti-Catholicism diminished in England, due to a number of factors including the Jesuit expulsion from Spain, Portugal and France; the decline of the Stuart Cause; the need for Catholic troops for army service; the disdain which the English authorities had for the Protestants here and the establishment fear that the Presbyterians might overthrow the church in Scotland, to name but some.

In the early 1700's, priests served big houses, lived at home and often became socially involved with the community - hunting, drinking, pursuing radical causes and dare one say - womanising. Another feature of life at this time in Ireland concerned maverick priests who went about carrying out illegal marriages. When the Catholic Relief Committee was established in 1760 it was a lay body that disdained the clerical influence. By the end of the century, the clergy had adopted a more professional discipline to their calling. In about the year 1800, bishops were not well off and parish priests earned from £50 to £100 cash per year plus hospitality from parishioners! Large farmers, who had about 150 acres had a income of £50 approximately per annum. Curates were even poorer and had to be well connected to gain advancement. Schools such as Castleknock, Clongowes, Carlow and St. Peters, Wexford were established to cater for the middle-class farmers sons from Meath, Kildare and other Leinster counties.<sup>16</sup>

This chapter now references much material on a man, who lived through turbulent times in the 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Thus the single field of 6 acres approx. in Section A is complimented by a great deal of information in it's tenant - Fr. John Robinson, a penal priest.

The following description by the historian Froude of an early penal priest, also educated at Salamanca as was Fr. John Robinson, contrasts with the more secure and established position of the latter.

*'Imagine a priest ordained at Seville or Salamanca, a gentleman of high old name, a man of eloquence and genius who has sustained distributions in the college halls on quotations of literature or theology; imagine him on the quays of Brest treating with the skipper of some vessel to let him work his passage; he wears tarry breeches over a tarpauline hat, for disguise was generally needful; he flings himself on board; takes his full part in all hard work, scarce feels the cold spray and the fierce tempests; and he knows too that the end of it all for him, may be a row of sugar canes to hoe under the blazing sun of*

*Barbadoes, overlooked by a broad hatted agent of a Bristol planter; yet he goes eagerly to meet his fate, for he carries in his hand a sacred deposit, bears in his heart a sacred message, and must deliver it or die. Imagine him then springing ashore, and repairing to see the bishop of his diocese in some cave, or behind some hedge but proceeding with caution by reason of the priest catchers and their wolf dogs.*<sup>17</sup>

It is not easy to say how the penal laws were actually enforced in Ireland. The unpublished evidences suggest that when there was imminent danger of a French invasion, the Roman Catholics were suppressed, and when the danger was passed, the penal code, like many Irish laws, became a dead letter. The system of persecution was certainly very irregular. More than 40 years after the application of the penal laws in 1691, the Roman Catholics clearly outnumbered the Protestants in every part of Ireland, except the counties of Antrim, Down, Derry and Armagh. This is plain proof that the laws, though never in abeyance, were never fully enforced.<sup>18</sup>

In 1837 John Greer, a Catholic newspaper editor, reacted with scorn to the notion that labourers or labourers' sons were recruited as priests, pointing out that a clerical education cost £710. He said, "Roman Catholic clergy were the sons of men who boast not of riches but they are and must be independent – the blood, bone and sinew of society". Within farming families, the clerical student was almost inevitably the second or later son with only a handful of exceptions to this inflexible sociological rule. Fr. John Robinson was such an exception.<sup>19</sup>

From 1670 onwards, there were about 1000 parish priests in Ireland – a number which did not change greatly over the next century. Essentially the priesthood was a career choice and it played the same role in comfortable Catholic families as did the Anglican Church in Protestant families in Ireland and England. In addition to their incomes, Parish Priests enjoyed the benefits of extensive hospitality from their parishioners, payments in kind including Will beneficiaries and profits from farming. Parish Priests then were not much different from the prominent lay members of their parishes.<sup>20</sup>

# *Chapter IV*

## *References*

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### **Section B**

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8. Evening Post, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> 1822, National Library.
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Chapter V  
Land Surveys  
(1819)  
by  
Longfield



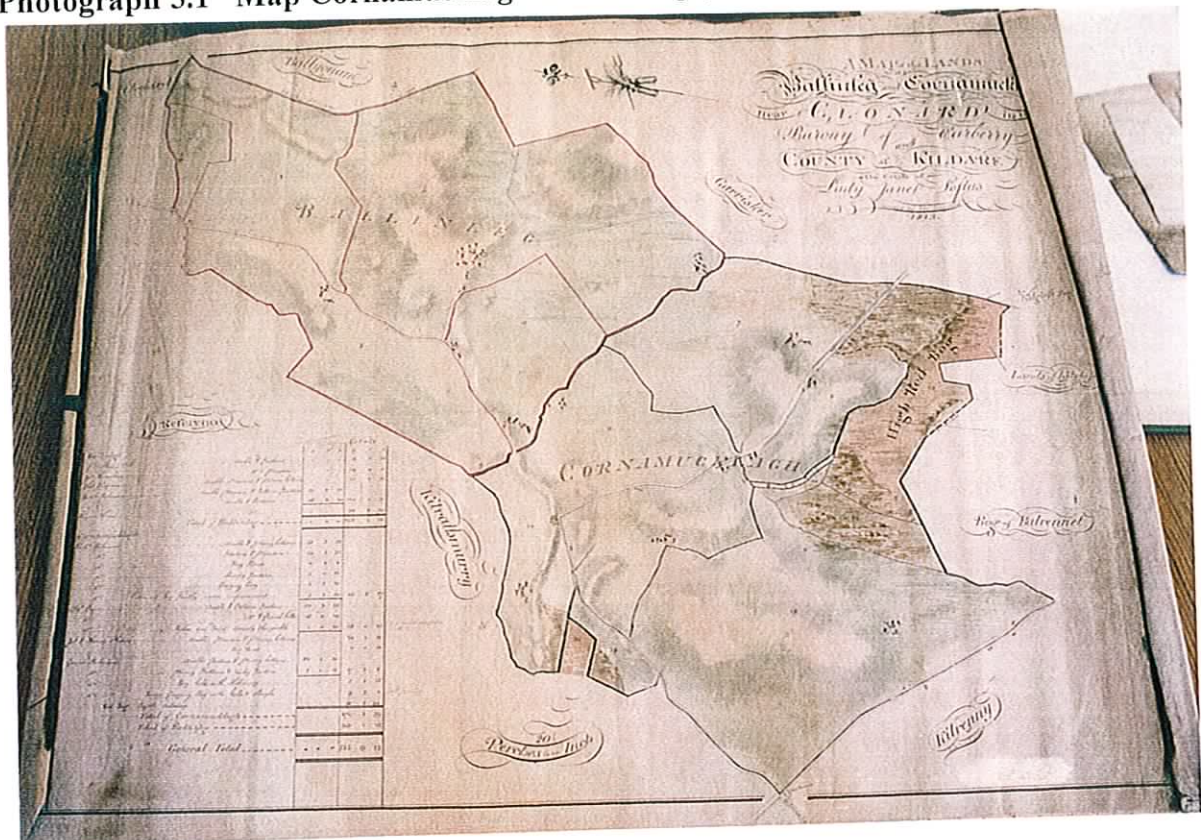
## *Chapter V: Land Surveys (1819) by Longfield*

This chapter is based on one of a collection of 38 maps held in the Manuscript Section of the National Library. This map details the townlands of Cornamuckla (Chapter 2) and Ballinlig (Chapter 3), which were then owned by the Loftus family. The property referenced in this chapter was owned by Lady Jane Rich - daughter of Dudley Loftus (Chapter 3).

### SECTION A

This map, (which measures 20" x 16' approx.), was surveyed by John Longfield for Lady Jane Rich in 1819. The map is indexed no. 6 in the series of 38 maps in the collection and is shown as photograph 5.1.<sup>1</sup>

**Photograph 5.1** Map Cornamucklagh & Ballinlig (1819) by J. Longfield.



The Map Title Reads:

*Transcription:-*

*A Map of the Lands  
Of  
Ballinlig and Cornmucklagh  
near Clonard in the  
Barony of Carberry  
And  
County of Kildare  
- The Estate of  
Lady Jane Loftus  
Surveyed by John Longfield  
1819.*

The scale of the Map is 20 perches to an inch.



The bottom left hand side of the map reads:

**References**

<b><i>Ballinlig</i></b>			Acres	Roods	Perches	Total	
1.	Matthew Ash	Arable & Pasture	9	0	36		
2.	Jas Chapman	Arable & Meadow	16	0	0		
3.	Thos. Chapman	Arable Meadow Moory Pasture	45	1	0		
4.	Rich Robinson	Arable Meadow & Potatoes Pasture	67	2	30		
5.	Rich Robinson	Arable & Potatoes	46	2	10		114 - 1 - 0
6.	Bryan Kane	Arable & Potatoes					28 - 2 - 20
Total of Ballinlig:							<u>243 - 1 - 16</u>
<b><i>Cornamuckla</i></b>			Acres	Roods	Perches	Total	
7.	Rich Robinson	Arable & Moory Potatoes	42	3	20		
8.	Rich Robinson	Pasture & Meadows	14	3	25		
9.	Rich Robinson	Bog Road	0	2	8		
10.	Rich Robinson	Lumpy Pasture	1	0	22		
11.	Rich Robinson	Grazing Bog	1	1	20		
12.	Rich Robinson	Bog Partly Under Improvement	4	3	10		65 - 2 - 27
13.	Thos Ennis	Arable & Bottom Pasture	30	3	15		
14.	Thos Ennis	Do. Gravel Hills	16	0	20		
15.	Thos Ennis	Holes & Furz. Scarcely Chargeable, Arable Meadow	1	0	30	48	0 25
16.	Jas & Henry Phillips	Arable Meadow & Moory Bottoms					24 - 1 - 28
	Jas & Henry Philips	Bog Road					0 - 0 - 32
17.	Garret Robinson	Arable Pasture & Moory Bottoms	82	1	30		
18.	Garret Robinson	Moory Bottoms & Rushy Pasture	5	1	12		87 - 3 - 2
19.	Garret Robinson	Bog held at Kilreaney					1 - 3 - 15
20.	Garret Robinson	Furzy Grazing Bog with Holes and Sloughs					9 - 3 - 30
21.	Garret Robinson	Red Bog Partly Cutaway					38 - 3 - 30
Total of Cornamucklagh							<u>271 - 2 - 39</u>
Total of Ballinlig							<u>243 - 1 - 16</u>
General Total							<u>515 - 0 - 15</u> =====

The total acreage held by Richard and Garret Robinson in the townlands of Ballinlig and Cornamuchlagh is 318 acres - 1 rood - 24 perches. Richard held 179 acres, 3 roods, 27 perches and Garret held 138 acres, 1 rood, 37 perches.

This survey by John Longfield has each field individually numbered with the townland of Ballinlig denoted in red and the townland of Cornamucklagh in blue/black. Furthermore, the quality of the land is, in some cases shown in the reference table and also on the map by colour. Regrettably the duration of lease and annual rent is not shown. As Richard's tenancy in Ballinlig comprises fields 4 and 5 on this townland map, it may be concluded that the residence which was that of his late father James Cribben/McRobin/Robinson is shown in red, surrounded by trees - under the letter L of Ballinlig. This was the abode to which James - his father moved, in the 1780's at the behest of his family from an inferior home (cabin in Cornamucklagh) (see letters of a penal priest, Chapter 4).

Since the previous surveys of 1769 and 1803 the family holding has increased from 63 acres and 141 acres to some 318 acres. This increase must have reflected the prosperity in farming which paralleled the Napoleonic Wars and which culminated in the victory of Arthur Wellesley - the Duke of Wellington over Napoleon Bonaparte in 1815 at the Battle of Waterloo (See Chapter 8).

The owner of the estate at the time of this survey is Lady Jane Rich, eldest daughter and co-heir of Dudley Loftus of Killyon, Co. Meath.

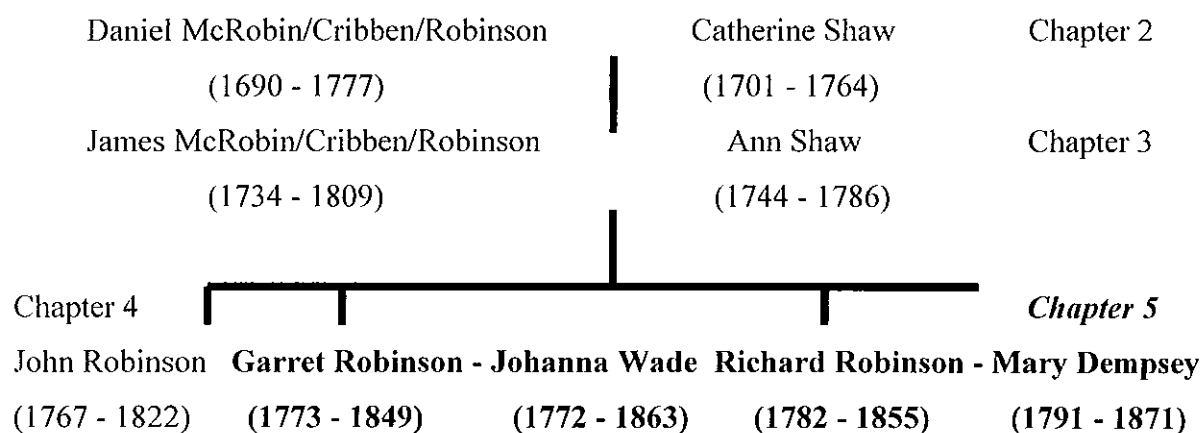
Richard and Garret Robinson are the third generation of the Robinson family referenced in this thesis, who have held a tenancy on this estate.

## Chapter V

The 1819 land survey of the Rich Estate by J. Longfield referenced in Section A of this chapter, details as tenants on this property, Garret and Richard Robinson. They were the brothers of Fr. John Robinson - the tenant referenced in Chapter 4.

### SECTION B

Garret & Richard Robinson are represented in genealogical line with the other members of their family referenced in earlier chapters as follows:



Garret Robinson was an incredibly industrious man who, from a study of his diaries, traded in wine with vintners in Dublin in partnership with Bernard Wade - his brother-in-law, leased or rented his lands and tenants, acted as agent, grew flax, owned a stallion and leased it's stud services and joint owned a house in Dublin. His business activities had to be and were documented as he farmed commercially. The details of these and his farming activities run to some six diaries.<sup>2</sup>

Garret married Johanna Wade (1772 - 1863) whom he probably met her through his commercial activities with her brother Bernard who was master of the 'Lady Nelson' - Ref. P95-96. She must have brought considerable wealth as a dowry when she married as their off-spring incorporated the name Wade into their surname.

The diaries of Garret Robinson, which date from 1800, contain the following references for the year 1800.

<i>Dublin 5 June 1800</i>	<i>Dr.</i>		
<i>Wine Adventure</i>	£	<i>S</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Bottle of Sherry Q. Casks</i>	43	15	0
<i>Mountain &amp; Turbott</i>	15	11	09
<i>Carriage of Ditto</i>		2	8 1/2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	43	1	8 1/2

Also

<i>Morgan To 2 doz. Port</i>	4	5	5
<i>To doz. Sherry</i>		14	0
<i>To 3 doz. Bottles</i>		7	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Settled</i>	5	6	9

Also contained is an account of the number of acres in the townland of Kilrathmurry in 1813.

<i>Herbert</i>	<i>115 Acres</i>
<i>Boarden</i>	<i>74 Acres</i>
<i>Maddens</i>	<i>61 Acres</i>
<i>Robinson</i>	<i>196 1/2 Acres</i>
<i>Tiland</i>	<i>30 1/2 Acres</i>

This entry refers to another land tenancy which Garret Robinson held outside the remit of this thesis. He was also a tenant on the land of John Finlay at Kilrathmurray and according to his diaries he leased this holding on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1804 and "paid £120 fine for it".<sup>3</sup>

It may be presumed this £120 fine was for the 1962 acres detailed in this entry. It is intriguing that Garret Robinson also notes the holdings of the other tenants in Kilrathmurray. Perhaps he was involved in the surveying of this townland.

The following are two of the numerous entries in these diaries, which refer to flax growing:

1. - 1818

	£	<i>S</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Keat Keegan days scutching in all 29 days at 6d per day</i>		14	- 6
<i>To the spinner 14 lb of?</i>		4	- 8
<i>To the spinner of 16 lb of flax</i>		10	- 4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1	- 9	- 6
	1	- 11	- 8
<i>Due</i>		2	- 8

Also

2. *A list of the people that sowed flax in my ground.*

<i>Batt Hill</i>	<i>6(d)</i>	
<i>Mick Conley</i>	<i>4(d)</i>	
<i>James Kennedy</i>	<i>6(d)</i>	
<i>John Fox</i>	<i>6 - 1</i>	<i>Plus thirteen others.</i>

Flax growing was a common activity in the Ireland of the early 1800's. The map of Kildare for 1783 (page 8) indicated a bleach mill at Killglass - a townland adjacent to Garret Robinson's tenancy at Cornamucklagh and Ballinlig. There is a plaque relocated to Kilglass House from the disused flax mills which reads:

*Killglass Mills  
Built by  
George Tyrrell  
1817*

General agriculture produce such as beef, butter and wool, even when sold at remunerative prices, did not establish the basis of general prosperity. While they provided a profit for the tenant farmer and insured that the landlord's rent was paid, they provided neither employment nor profit for the small holder and the cottier. The situation of the small holder was greatly improved in the eighteenth century by the spread of weaving and spinning throughout the Irish countryside. The sale of cloth or grain augmented the meagre income of this class of people. By 1770 this industry had spread deeply into rural Ireland. An account of the value of linen sent to market by each county in Ireland in 1770 states in a report by Richard Stephenson Esq., that County Kildare had linen to the value of £20,000 sent to the markets.<sup>4</sup> The total value of this market was £2,146,800.

The most flourishing markets for linen and yarn were in the north of Ireland where the concentration of weavers was densest.

The following is a description of a brown linen market at Lurgan in 1776 by Arthur Young:

*"This being market day at Lurgan, Mr. Brownlow walked to it with me, that I might see the way in which the linens were sold. The cambricks are sold early, and through the whole morning; but when the clock strikes eleven, the drapers jump upon stone standings, and the weavers instantly flock about them with their pieces: the bargains are not struck at a word, but there is a little altercation whether the price shall be one-halfpenny or a penny a yard, more or less, which appeared to me useless. The draper's clerk stands by*

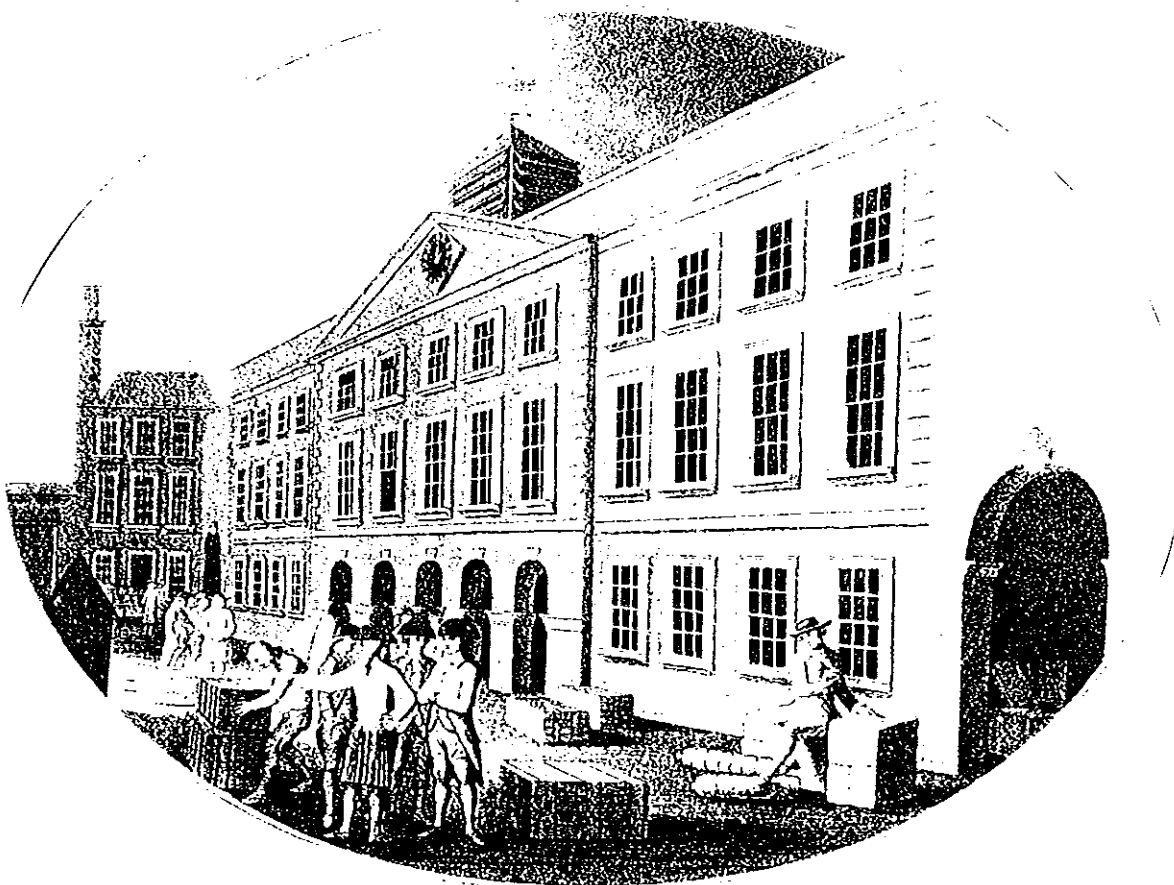
*him, and writes his master's name on the pieces he buys, with the price; and giving it back to the seller he goes to the draper's quarters and waits his coming. At twelve it ends; then there is an hour for measuring the pieces, and paying the money, for nothing but ready money is taken; and this is the way the business is carried on at all the markets. Three thousand pieces a week are sold here at 35s. each on an average, or £5,250 and per annum £273,000 and this is all made in a circumference of not many miles".<sup>5</sup>*

Once the drapers purchased the brown linen, they arranged to have it bleached. The bleached or white linen was then ready for sale. Most of the linen for the wholesale and export trades was sent to the White Linen Hall in Dublin. Here the drapers either sold the cloth or left it with the factors who held rooms in the Linen Hall. The factors showed the cloth to wholesalers, retailers and exporters who visited the Hall, and arranged sales. With the growth in trade the Linen Hall was extended from time to time.

By 1789, according to Walker's Hibernian Magazine (May 1789) the Dublin Linen Hall was described thus: *"Our Linen Hall is now not only the greatest, but also the most eminent market place in Europe... it is fitted not only for the sale of linens, but also of cottons - plain and printed and every other species of mixed manufacture".<sup>6</sup>*

The Dublin Linen Hall in the 1780's is shown as photograph 5.2.<sup>7</sup>

**Photograph 5.2 Dublin Linen Hall in the 1780's**



The pieces of linen cloth were packed in boxes before consignment to the market. Boxes of linen are shown in this picture of the hall.

The flax growing of Garret Robinson and his tenants which also included a reference to "Peter Durough's weaving in 1839", was part of the process.<sup>8</sup>

Flax in the neighbouring county of Meath was generally sown in deep rich soils. Ground subject to crop rotation had flax sown after potatoes. This ground was treated with farmyard manure then twice plowed and harrowed, thus making the soil very fine. The seed, which was sown from mid-April to mid-May, at a rate of 1 quart of seed to 1 sq. perch was then harrowed. Pigeons did most damage to the newly sown crop – indeed the pigeon flesh tasted so strongly of flax seed that it could hardly be eaten. As these birds fed within a half hour of sunset and sunrise, at these times the crops were closely attended. During the course of its growth flax needed to be weeded frequently as failure to do so took from the crop yield. The flax was harvested between mid-July and mid-August, depending on ripeness. It was then pulled and bound into sheaves which were six to eight inches in diameter. If the seed was to be saved, it was drawn through a 'ripple' – an iron comb fastened into wood which separated the heads of the flax plants containing the seeds. These were dried on a winnow cloth. The flax plants were then tied in bundles and steeped from four to twelve days – depending on the strength of the flax and the courseness of the water. 'Strong flax' took longer to ripen than 'weak flax' and bog water was considered the best for this process. This 'rhetting' caused the pith in the plant stems to rot along with other useless parts of the plant. This made the reed in which the flax fibre was contained, separate from the plant parts that were not required. Great judgement was needed to know when this process was completed. The reeds were then spread on newly-mown meadows to bleach, after which they were tied in bundles and brought home and dried on a kiln. Subsequently, it was broken with wooden mallets and then tied in bundles each containing twenty one sheaves – each about six inches in diameter. These were then scutched by women – the first time at a rate of 5 ½ pence per bundle and the second time at 3 pence per bundle. The flax then sold at a rate of 3 ½ pence per pound weight.

Cottagers who engaged in the flax industry employed every member of the family in the different stages of production. They generally sold the finer yarn at market and the coarser product was kept for domestic purposes. Farmers usually sold from 1 rood to 1 acre – depending on the number in the family. The farmer's wife, after supplying the house with table linen, sheeting, shirting and sacking, sold the rest to clothe herself and her daughters.



Poor people without ground generally paid £5 per acre. The yield varied from about 240lbs in the better soils to about 180lbs on average. Flax could not be grown on the same ground in successive years but it was found that corn grown after flax had a better head although the straw yield was somewhat reduced.<sup>9</sup>

A note found in Garret's diary circa 1806 is transcribed as follows:

*Mr. G. Robinson      Call upon Tylan try to make out same money for me against the fair  
of  
Kilrathmurray      of Edenderry on Monday night let me see you or hear from you  
tomorrow evening.*

*I am*

*Yours*

*G. Tyrrell*

*Saturday evening.<sup>10</sup>*

It is possible in this instance that Garret is acting as an agent for G. Tyrrell a brother of Thomas Tyrrell of Kilrainey (Chapter 3), and was soon to replace Tyrrell on this property at Kilrainey and become it's tenant.

An entry in 1808 relates to "*An account of all expenses I am at by the law suite between Lady Loftus and Lady Downshier (sic) first the quarter cessions (sic) at Maynooth*".

	£	S	D
<i>1809 June to one journey to Dublin</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>12 July to one journey to Dublin</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>17 July to one journey to Geashil</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3<sup>11</sup></i>

This entry concerns a law suit between Lady Loftus, the landlord of his Ballinlig/Cornamucklagh tenancy, (as referenced in Section A of this chapter) and Lady Downshire of Edenderry, where Garret was probably a witness.

There is also a summons dated 5 January 1809 where the plaintiff is James Brownrigg of Edenderry and Garret Robinson aforesaid, of Kilrathmurray, land holder, is the defendant.

*“The defendant is required to personally appear before the assistant barrister at Maynooth on 13<sup>th</sup> Day of January to answer the plaintiff's bill in the action for the sum of five pounds thirteen shillings due by promissory note”.*

James Brownrigg is listed as the agent of the Downshire Estates. He was a senior partner in Brownrigg, Longfield Murray when this firm surveyed the Downshire Estates in 1803/1804.<sup>12</sup>

In 1809, the following receipt is listed:

*“Received from Mrs. Elizabeth McMahon seven pounds being in full for our part of the profit (rent) due and ending of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September out of the house No. 101 Thomas Street, Dublin. Dated this 12 day of October 1809”.*

*Garret Robinson <sup>13</sup>  
Sarah Cleary*

This entry shows that Garret Robinson was part owner of this home which is now part of the National College of Art and Design. His work as an agent is also shown by the following entry:

*1809 April 27<sup>th</sup> Major Tyrrell's Accounts.*

	<i>S</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>27<sup>th</sup> April To 6 carts and horses putting out dung @</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>/ 2</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>5<sup>th</sup> May To 4 carts and horses putting out dung</i>			<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>9<sup>th</sup> May To 4 carts and horses putting out dung</i>			<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>20<sup>th</sup> June Myself standing over his men 7 days @</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>/ 7</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>2 Aug To 8 carts and horses drawing turf</i>				
<i>17 2</i>				
<i>One man finishing potatoes @</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>/ 1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>10<sup>th</sup> Oct To 8 carts and horses drawing turf @</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>/ 2</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>4 <sup>14</sup></i>

The most interesting point regarding this entry is his own costing of 'standing over his men' for 7 days @ 1/7 per day.

An entry for 1829 refers to 'Delphini' a stallion which Garret stands in *"Philipstown on Mondays; in Tullamore on Tuesdays at Joseph Garlands."*

This advertisement for Delphini is shown as photograph 5.3.

Photograph 5.3 Advertisement for "Delphini" 1829.

**DELPHINI,**

The Property of Garret Robinson, will stand at  
Kilreany this Season, on Mondays in Philipstown,  
on Tuesdays in Tullamore at Joseph Garlands,

**TO COVER MARES,**

*At so low a Price as One Pound for each MARE,  
and 2s. 6d. to the Groom before service.*

—♦♦♦♦♦—

He is now rising six year old; he was got by that celebrated sire First Rate, who was bred by the Earl of Belmore, got by Commodore, sire of Escape, on the Dutches of York, by Delphini, out of Miss Judy, the dam Liginvita. Mr. Watt's Goodall, and several other winners by Alfred Delphini was got by High Flyer and Alfred by Machman. First Rate won at the Curragh 50 guineas beating Mr. Smith's Lanudanium and five others; also 50 guineas at the Curragh beating Mr. Brown Paymaster, and three others; and at Limerick 50 guineas beating Mr. O'Brien's chestnut horse Belcher, and distanced seven others. For further particulars see the different racing calendars — Delphini is a dark chestnut horse, well marked, full sixteen hands and a half high, able for fourteen stone with fox hounds. His great grand dam was got by Milton, grand dam by Old Pope and Owen, dam by Foxhunter.

All Mares sent to Kilreany shall be paid every care and attention. Good Grass at 6d per night — The Money to be paid before the 1st of November or if let run after, one pound ten shillings.

Transcription: Advertisement for Delphini:

**DELPHINI,**

*The Property of Garret Robinson, will stand at  
Kilreany this Season, on Mondays in Philipstown,  
on Tuesdays in Tullamore at Joseph Garlands.*

**TO COVER MARES**

*At so low a price as One Pound for each Mare,  
And 2s 6d to the Groom before service.*



*He is now rising six year old; he was got by that celebrated sire First Rate who was bred by the Earl of Belmore, got by Commodore, sire of Escape, on the Dutches of York, by Delphini, out of Miss Judy, the dam Liginvita. Mr. Watt's Goodall, and several other winners by Alfred Delphini was got by High Flyer and Alfred by Machman. First Rate won at the Curragh 50 guineas beating Mr. Smith's Lanudanium and five others; also 50 guineas at the Curragh beating Mr. Brown Paymaster, and three others; and at Limerick 50 guineas beating Mr. O'Brien's chestnut horse Belcher, and distanced seven others. For further particulars see the different racing calendars — Delphini is a dark chestnut horse, well marked, full sixteen hands and a half high, able for fourteen stone with fox hounds. His great grand dam was got by Milton, grand dam by Old Pope and Owen, dam by Foxhunter.*

*All mares sent to Kilreany shall be paid every care and attention. Good grass at 6d per night — the money to be paid before the 1st of November or if let run after, one pound ten shillings.*<sup>15</sup>

An entry dated May 1829 lists some forty six people who had mares serviced (presumably by Delphini) by a stallion belonging to Garret Robinson. The stud fees vary from 10/= to

£	S	D
1	-	5 - 0

per mare.

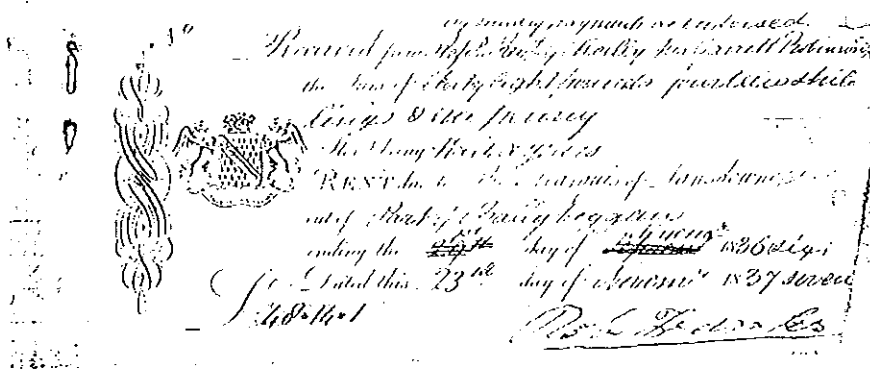
Entry No. 9 details one Markey Cribben who had 2 mares serviced at a fee of £2 for both.

This man may be a kinsman of Garret Robinson in the light of the reference in Chapter 2 to Daniel Cribben.

The final entry in the stallion list references George Tyrrell, Kilglass who had 1 mare serviced at a fee of £1 – 0 – 0. This is probably the same George Tyrrell who had a bleach mills at Kilglass in 1817 and referenced earlier in this chapter.

Dated November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1837 this is a receipt for rent received per Garret Robinson for the Marquis of Lansdowne from the Reps of Rev. G. O'Reilly.<sup>16</sup> This document is shown as photograph 5.4.

**Photograph 5.4 Receipt from the Marquis of Lansdowne.**



*The Transcription reads: By Sundry payments as endorsed  
Received from Reprs. Rev. G. O'Reilly for Garrett Robinson the sum of forty eight pounds  
fourteen shillings and one pence.*

*Her I bring half a years  
RENT due to the Marquis of Lansdowne  
out of part of Ballyboggan  
ending the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 1836 (six)  
Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 1837 seven  
£48-14-1*

**Rob Franks**

This entry suggests that Garret Robinson was a sub-agent for the Marquis of Lansdowne where Reprs. of Rev. G. O'Reilly paid £48-14-1 for half a years rent for part of Ballyboggan.

In 1839 the following repairs account is given: <sup>17</sup>

*An account of the repairs of Kilreany*

<i>To timber on the horses stable 12 Cupple</i>	<i>0-4-10</i>
<i>To new beams put in under the lofts</i>	<i>1-10-0</i>
<i>To carpenters work at doors and roofing, 6 days</i>	<i>0-10-0</i>
<i>To 12 cupple put in</i>	<i>0-4-0</i>
<i>To 6 load of straw @ 7<sup>s</sup> per load</i>	<i>2-2-0</i>
<i>To cash for timber in Newbery</i>	<i>3-9-6</i>
<i>To 8 load of straw @ 7<sup>s</sup> per load</i>	<i>2-16-0</i>
<i>To 2 loads of straw</i>	<i>0-14-0</i>
<i>4 loads of straw</i>	<i>1-8-0</i>
<i>17 days tacking at 2-6 per day</i>	<i>2-2-6</i>
<i>34 men attending the tatchen at 1-3 per day</i>	<i>2-6-6</i>

The list of material and labour are given with respect to repairs to his residence at Kilreany. It is of particular interest to note that Garret paid £3-9-6 for timber from Newberry Demesne. It is ironic that his brother Richard's descendants would purchase that estate 72 years later in 1911.

There was one page which recorded family details: <sup>18</sup>

***The Transcription reads:***

***Family Details***

- *My father died the 11 day of June 1809 aged 75 years.*
- *Bernard Wade and wife died 14 October 1809.*
- *Edward Robinson died the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1813 aged 5 years + 1 month.*
- *Fr. John Robinson died at 10 o'clock on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1822 aged 54 years.*
- *My father died at 12 o'clock in the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> of August AD1849 aged 76 years - B.R.?*
- *John Robinson was borne 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 1804.*
- *James Robinson was born 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1806.*
- *Edward Robinson was born the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1808.*
- *Garret Robinson was born the 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1810.*
- *Anne Robinson was born the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1814.*
- *Bernard Robinson was born the 13<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1818.*
- *My father died on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1849 aged 76*
- *My mother died on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1863 aged 91!*
- *Bernard Robinson died on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1875 aged 57 years.*
- *Johanna Robinson died 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1873 aged 14 years, 6 months, 12 days.*

- *Garret Robinson died on 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1884 aged 73 years, 6 months.*
- *John Robinson died on the 18 day of August, 1884 aged 80 years, 9 months and 8 days.*
- *Ann Carew or Robinson died on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1886 aged 73 years, 9 months and 8 days.*

The first entry records the death of James McRobin/Robinson/Cribben – the subject of Chapter 3. The second entry details the deaths of Bernard Wade and his wife – Garret Robinson’s brothers-in-law and spouse. This simple statement of their deaths belies an amazing tragedy, which is detailed later in this chapter. The third entry references a son of Garret Robinson – Edward, who died in 1813 aged 5 years and 1 month.

The fourth entry records the death of Fr. John Robinson (brother of Garret Robinson) and the subject of Chapter 4. The fifth entry details the death of Garret Robinson the subject of this chapter and is recorded by B.R.? This is probably Bernard Robinson – son of Garret.

The sixth to the eleventh entries records the birth of the children of Garret and Johanna. They include Edward (born in 1808) whose death is recorded as entry no. 3 when he died in 1813 aged 5 years and 1 month.

The twelfth entry again records the death of Garret Robinson as did entry number five.

The thirteenth entry details the death of Johanna Robinson, Garret’s wife. The final five entries record the death of the children of Garret and Johanna Robinson.

Many of the entries are detailed with unreal accuracy – such as the final entry – Ann Carew or Robinson died on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July 1886 aged 73 years 9 months and 8 days. The effect of bereavement must have been sorely felt to record a death in such detail.

Garret Robinson’s commercial activities also included wine trading (presumably with his brother-in-law Bernard Wade), as shown by his diary entry for June 5<sup>th</sup> 1800 where sherry sales are quantified in Dublin to the value of £43 – 1 – 8.<sup>19</sup>

The second entry under family details states simply *that “Bernard Wade and his wife died 14<sup>th</sup> October 1809”*. This statement refers to the fact that the ‘Lady Nelson’s’ Captain and

his wife were lost in a shipwreck off the Skelligs on this date. An account of the tragedy was supplied from one of the two survivors who related the tale as follows: <sup>20</sup>

*One of the fatal Skellig shipwrecks to be recorded was the wreck of the Lady Nelson. Bound from Oporto to London with a cargo of wine and fruit, she struck the Skellig and went to pieces with the loss of all but three lives. Lady Chatterton wrote of the case in 1839:*

*The mate had warned the captain during the evening of his proximity to this dangerous rock; but the captain who was drunken and jealous, (his wife having seconded the representations of the mate), refused to put the vessel about and in a couple of hours she sank.*

*The mate and three hands saved themselves upon a part of the wreck, which was drifting about for two or three days, during which time they subsisted on the oranges and other fruit which, when the ship went to pieces, covered the sea around them. The mate, who was an excellent swimmer, procured these oranges by plunging off the spar and bringing them to his companions. On the third day, one man became delirious; saying that he should go ashore to dine, threw himself off the spar and sank.*

*Shortly afterwards the survivors were picked up by a fishing boat belonging to Dingle, which had come out looking for a wreck. The crew consisted of a father and his four sons, and had two pipes of wine in tow when they perceived the sufferers; finding their progress impeded by the casks and that the tide was sweeping the seamen into the breakers, where they must have been dashed to pieces, the old man nobly cut the tow line, abandoning what must have been a fortune to his family, and by great exertion picked the men up, just when the delay of a second would have caused their destruction.*

*The Lady Nelson port is still famous in Kerry, and a glass of it is sometimes offered as a 'bon bouche'.*

*Also an entry in Lloyd's Shipping Register of London confirmed the terrible event.<sup>21</sup>*

So what must have been a lucrative business venture ended abruptly in a tragedy. Garret Robinson noted it's ending with just one single line detailing the deaths of his brother-in-law (Bernard Wade) and his wife.

Smuggling was an active business in the eighteenth century and the illegal importation of high duty goods such as tea, tobacco and spirits and wine was particularly lucrative. A grand jury in County Galway in 1750 offered £10 or more, according to then merit, to such person or persons as shall give us information to



combat the running of tobacco, brandy and other goods, which is greatly practised all along our western coasts. *“The smugglers landed their goods on receipt of a signal from the shore. Speed in the distribution of goods subsequent to their being placed on shore was essential as otherwise they could well be seized by the revenue officers”*.

One Captain George O’Mally, describing smuggling off Galway, at the end of the eighteenth century, stated that *“This Welcome messenger was sure to come in once a month with her valuable cargo...which, when landed, found their way to many other markets and caused a great circulation of money ..... the possession of which made the inhabitants entirely, gay and properous”*. The fact that the Lady Nelson was lost close to the remote Kerry Coast begs the question – was she involved in smuggling?

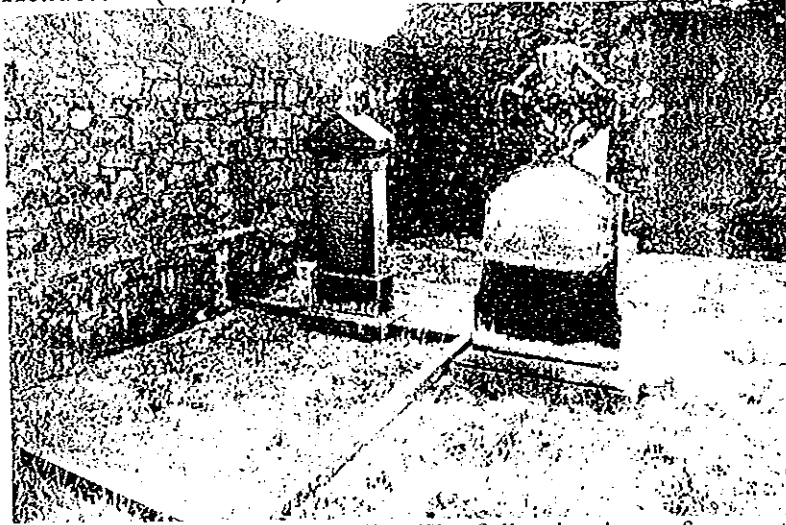
It’s surprising to note that Rush, close to the largest market in the country – Dublin was the most active centre of the contraband trade.<sup>22</sup>

Reference to Richard Robinson, the other tenant referenced in the survey, is contained in the following chapter, where I detail his farming activities without duplication of his brother Garret's diaries.

The Tithe Applotment Survey shows that Garret Robinson had a total of 415 acres 0 roods 24 perches leased from Lady Jane Rich and during his lifetime he became a prosperous middleman farmer. Garret Robinson, my great-great-great grandfather, and his wife Johanna are buried in the ruins of the Church in Carrig Cemetery (See Chapter 2 Section B). The tombstone inscription reads:

Sacred  
To the Memory of  
Garret Robinson Esq.  
of  
Kilrainy  
Who departed this life the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August  
1849 aged 75 years.  
Also of his beloved wife  
Johanna Robinson  
Who departed this life on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of April  
1863 aged 91 years  
Also Bernard Wade Robinson  
Who departed this life on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May  
1875 aged 55 years

**Photograph 5.5 Headstone (on right) of Garret and Johanna Robinson, Carrig Cemetery**



The headstone is inscribed with the above details. The following is a reference to Garret's Will, which states

*"Garret Robinson Kilrainy - Farmer - died 16<sup>th</sup> August 1849. Effects valued under £1,500. Oath by James Robinson Ballyboggan, Co Westmeath - Farmer - Surviving executor."<sup>23</sup>*

Unfortunately it was possible to locate only the index and not the Will itself. It was destroyed in the fire in 1922 in the Public Record Office, Dublin. The sole surviving executor to the Will - James Robinson, Ballyboggan was a son of Garret Robinson.

About this time even middlemen, regarded as substantial gainers, during the period of rising rents before 1815, fell into arrears. On the Downshire Edenderry Estate, one Shaw Cartland held three townlands and was forced to give up two holdings. Contrary to the popular view, middlemen did not necessarily prosper unless they held their estates under old leases at low rents.<sup>24</sup>

# *Chapter V*

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Chapter VI  
Tithe Surveys  
(1834)  
by  
Rait

## *Chapter VI: Tithe Surveys (1834) by Rait*

Unlike previous chapters, which were based on survey maps and plans, this section is based on tithe books prepared in the period 1823 - 1828.

### **SECTION A**

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the established church, the Church of Ireland, which had hitherto been payable in kind, was now to be paid in cash. As a result it was necessary to carry out a valuation of the entire country, civil parish by civil parish to determine how much would be payable by each landholder. This was done over the ensuing fifteen years up to the abolition of tithes in 1838. Not surprisingly, tithes were fiercely resented by those who were not members of the Church of Ireland, and all the more because the tax was not payable on all land; the exceptions produced spectacular inequalities. In Munster, for instance, tithes were payable on potato patches, but not on grassland, with the result that the poorest had to pay most. The exemptions also meant that the tithe books were not comprehensive. Apart from the fact that they omit entirely anyone not in occupation of land, certain categories of land varying from area to area are simply passed over. Thus they are not a full list of householders. Nonetheless, they constitute the only countrywide survey for the period and are valuable precisely because the heaviest burden of tithes fell on the poorest, for whom few other records survive.

The total tithes payable comprised two parts.

1. The Vicarial Tithe that went to support the Church of Ireland clergy of the parish and which amounted to one third of the monies paid.
2. The Improprate or Lay Tithe which was paid to the landlord or owner of the lands of the parish, and which totalled two-thirds of the total tithe paid.

From a genealogical point of view the information recorded in the Tithe Books is quite basic, consisting typically of townland name or denomination, landholder's name, area of land and Tithes payable. The tax was based on the average price of wheat and oats over the 7 years up to 1823, and was levied at a different rate depending on the quality of the land.<sup>1</sup>

Relevant extracts from the Tithe books are shown on the two following pages.<sup>2</sup>

**Tithe Composition  
for the Parish of Kilkenny  
Diocese and County  
of Kildare.**

**Denomination: Kilkenny Silvester Rait - Tithe Commission - 1834**

Land Holder	Quantity in each holding		Quality of Land	Valued Rent Per Acre		Amount of Rent	Tithes Per Acre		Yearly Amount of Tithe		Vicarial Tithe		Improprate or Lay Tithe		Un Tithable Land			
	Acres	Roods		Perches	S		D	£	S	D	£	S	D	£	S	D	Acres	Roods
1. Garret Robinson	95	0	31	Arable	28/4	£134-17-2	1/	1	3/4	)	£14-6-2	1/2	£4-15-4	£9-10-9	3/4	4	3	16
2. Garret Robinson	100	0	0	do	22/-	£110-0-0	10	1/2	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
3. Garret Robinson	100	0	0	Inferior Arable	19/-	£95-0-0	9	1/4	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
4. Garret Robinson	15	0	0	Pasture	13/7	£10-3-9	6	1/2	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
5. Garret Robinson	9	0	0	Heathy Pasture	5/-	2-5	2	1/2	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>			<b>£352-5-11</b>												

**Denomination: Cornamuckla**

Land Holder	Quantity in each holding		Quality of Land	Valued Rent Per Acre		Amount of Rent	Tithes Per Acre		Yearly Amount of Tithe		Vicarial Tithe		Improprate or Lay Tithe		Un Tithable Land			
	Acres	Roods		Perches	S		D	£	S	D	£	S	D	£	S	D	Acres	Roods
1. Garret Robinson	27	1	38	Arable	28/4	38-18-9	3/4	9	)	£4-11-1	2	£1-10-4	1/2	£3-0-9	1	2	9	
2. Garret Robinson	48	1	35	Arable	23/4	56-10-11	1/2	11	1/4	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	
3. Garret Robinson	20	0	0	Pasture	16/8	16-13-4	11	3/8	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	
4. Garret Robinson	0	0	0	Heathy Pasture			83	1/16	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	
5. George Phillips	14	3	23															
6. George Phillips	9	0	0															
7. Thos. Ennis	37	0	39															
8. Thos Ennis	10	0	0															
9. Rich Robinson	44	2	35	Arable	23/4	52-3-5	1/2	11	3/8	)	£2-10-6	1/2	16/10	£1-13-8	1/4			
10. Rich Robinson	20	0	0	Pasture	10/-	10-0-0	4	7/8	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)	)
<b>Total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>															

**Denomination: Ballinlig**

Land Holder	Quantity in each holding		Quality of Land	Valued Rent Per Acre	Amount of Rent	Tithes Per Acre	Yearly Amount of Tithe	Vicarial Tithe	Improprate or Lay Tithe	Un Tithable Land		
	Acres	Roods Perches									£	S
1. Rich Robinson	20	0	Arable	28/4	28- 6-8	1/11/4	) £4 - 19- 11 1/2	£1 - 13 - 3	£ 6 - 7	0	1	2
2. Rich Robinson	49	2	do	23/4	56- 0-6 1/2	11 3/8	)					
3. Rich Robinson	44	0	Pasture	16/8	36-13-4	8 3/16	)					
4. Matthew Ash	5	0										
5. Matthew Ash	4	0										
6. Daniel Robinson	7	2	Arable	18/4	7- 1 - 0 1/2	9	) 19 3 1/2	6 5 1/4	£12 10 1/4	0	1	9
7. Daniel Robinson	20	0	Pasture	16/8	16-13-4	8 3/16	)					
8. Pat & Chris Rafferty	20	0										
9. Pat & Chris Rafferty	26	0										
10. Pat & Chris Rafferty	39	0										
11. Pat & Chris Rafferty	6	0										
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>2</b>										

**Parish of Nurney  
Denomination: Kiltrathmurray**

Land Holder	Quantity in each holding		Quality of Land	Valued Rent Per Acre	Amount of Rent	Tithes Per Acre	Yearly Amount of Tithe	Vicarial Tithe	Improprate or Lay Tithe	Un Tithable Land		
	Acres	Roods Perches									£	S
No. 5 John Robinson	98	3	Arable	23/4	113 - 11 - 3	10 31/48	) £6 - 13 - 8 1/4	£2 - 4 - 6 3/4	£4 - 9 - 1 1/4	7	3	0
No. 6 John Robinson	83	0	Arable & Pasture	15/-	62 - 5 - 0	6 27/32	)					
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>175 - 16 - 3</b>							



<i>For this parish - Nurney</i>	£	S	D
<i>Vicarial Tithes Returned</i>	22	5	3
<i>Improprate or Lay Tithe Returned</i>	44	10	9 1/4
	<hr/>		
<i>Yearly Amount of all the tithes whatever</i>	66	16	0 1/4

*Clonin (Kings Co.) 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1834 - S. Rait Tithe commissioner.*

The amount paid by John Robinson, tenant in the parish comprised:

	£	S	D
<i>Vicarial Tithe</i>	2	4	6 3/4
<i>Lay Tithe</i>	4	9	1 1/4
	<hr/>		
<i>Total:</i>	6	13	8

In Kilrathmurray, John Robinson - son of Garret of Cornamuckla, Ballinlig and Kilrenny, had a total tenancy of 181 Acres, 3 Roods, 0 Perches for which he paid a rent per annum of £175 - 16 - 3, to the representatives of the estate of the late Col. Finlay. It is noted from the tithe table that there was a differential in rent between arable and pasture land. Arable land, which was suitable for tillage was rated at £1 - 3 - 4 per acre whereas pasture was rated at 15<sup>s</sup> - 0<sup>D</sup> per acre. This averaged at 19<sup>s</sup> - 3<sup>d</sup> per acre.

It is noted that Mark Cribben - a tenant of Sir Thos. Molyneux had two lots of land taken - 30 acres and 10 acres - totalling 40 acres in the townland of Kinnefad. This man may be the Markey Cribben who in 1839 leased the services of Garret Robinson's stallion 'Delphini' and a probable kinsman of Garret as outlined in Chapter 5 (p92 - 93).

For 1834, then the total Robinson tenancy comprised 803 Acres, 0 Roods, 8 Perches and is made up as follows:

<u>Townland</u>	<u>Landlord</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Roods</u>	<u>Perches</u>
Cornamuckla	Lady Jane Rich	160	2	28
Ballinlig	" " "	141	1	29
Kilreany	" " "	319	0	31
Kilrathmurray	Reps of Col. Finlay	181	3	0

Garret Robinson was tenant to the entire denomination (townland) of Kilrenny (Kilreany). From this census he paid £352 - 5 - 11 per annum for the rental of 319 Acres, 0 Roods, 31 Perches. As with his son John in Kilrathmurray there was a variation in rent paid depending on the quality of the land. In this case it varied from £1 - 8 - 4 for best arable land to 5<sup>s</sup> - 0<sup>d</sup> for heathy pasture. This averaged £1 - 2 - 1 per acre payable to Lady Jane Rich.

In Cornamuckla, Garret had 95 Acres, 3 Roods, 35 Perches rented for which he paid £112 - 3 - 1/4 per annum rental. This averaged £1 - 2 - 0 per acre.

Richard, his brother had 64 Acres, 2 Roods, 33 Perches rented for which he paid £62 - 3 - 5 1/2. Again there was a variation in rent dependent on land quality. In this case Richard paid £2 - 3 - 4 per acre for arable land and 10<sup>s</sup> - 0<sup>d</sup> per acre for pasture. This averaged a rent of 19<sup>s</sup> - 3<sup>d</sup> per acre.

Out of a total acreage of 231 Acres, 3 Roods, 10 Perches in the townland of Cornamuckla the brothers Richard and Garret Robinson had a combined tenancy of 160 Acres, 2 Roods, 28 Perches.

In the townland of Ballinlig, Richard had a total tenancy of 113 Acres, 2 Roods, 38 Perches for which he paid £121 - 0 - 6 1/2 per annum in rent. The variation in land quality was reflected in the rent of £1 - 3 - 4 to £1 - 8 - 4 per acre for arable land to 16<sup>s</sup> - 8<sup>d</sup> per acre for pasture. This averaged £1 - 2 - 0 per acre per annum.

Daniel, brother of Garret and Richard (see section B of this chapter) had 27 Acres, 2 Roods, 31 Perches rented for which he paid £23 - 14 - 4 1/2 rent per annum. The quality of land in this case was reflected in a rent variation of 18<sup>s</sup> - 4<sup>d</sup> per acre for arable land to 16<sup>s</sup> - 8<sup>d</sup> per acre for pasture. It is fair to deduce that the lower rates charged regarding Daniel's tenancy reflect a poorer quality of land. This averaged 17<sup>s</sup> - 0<sup>d</sup> per acre per annum.

Of a total average of 241 Acres, 2 Roods, 18 Perches in the townland of Ballinlig - Daniel and Richard occupied 141 Acres, 1 Rood, 29 Perches.

The tithe records also note:

*Silvester Rait, Commissioner appointed by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant under the provisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of William 4<sup>th</sup>, Chapter 119 December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the parish of Kilreanny in the diocese and County of Kildare certifies the amount of composition for*

<i>the</i>	£	S	D
<i>vicarial tithes to be</i>	15	0	0
<i>Amount of lay or appropriate tithe to be</i>	30	0	0
<hr/>			
<i>Yearly amount of all tithes whatever</i>	£45	0	0 Stg.

*Clonin (Kings Co.) 23 Dec 1834 S. Rait Tithe Commission.*

The tithe tables show that the amount paid by the Robinson tenants in the parish comprises:

	£	S	D
<i>Vicarial tithes</i>	9	1	7 1/4
<i>Lay tithes</i>	18	4	9
<hr/>			
	27	- 6	- 4 1/4

The general opposition to the tithes was expressed by Thomas Murray, agent for Lord Downshire at nearby Edenderry where he wrote in 1823; *'I find that all sects and classes pay tithes with the utmost reluctance, and that people who have to collect subject themselves to many dangers, from the present state of this countryside it is a most difficult task to view and collect tithes'*.

The peak of this agitation against tithes was reached in the 1830's. For a time it was virtually impossible to enforce payment in Kings Co. The opposition came not only from the peasantry for, as Murray explained.....*"great difficulty has been thrown in the way of collecting them by persons of the most respectable class. There is hardly a day I don't get a coffin or deaths' head sent to me"*.

Arrears of Tithe became enormous. By 1834 when the tithes were valued at £1,846 the nominal arrears were more than £17,000 for the Edenderry estate.<sup>3</sup>

Farm size was no guarantee of farming success as this reference shows in relation to the Rait brothers (probably kinsmen of the above S. Rait - Tithe Commissioner) who farmed 1000 acres near Phillipstown, Kings Co. (Offaly). They were exemplary farmers who used

progressive methods and used improved ploughs and seeds. Yet in 1836 Thomas Murray (land agent) writing to his employer Lord Downshire stated that they had failed because in his opinion their "*plan of farming was too expensive for bad times*".<sup>4</sup> That Murray mentioned them at all indicates that their plan of farming was well known, as an exception to the general rule in the country. As these records show, the Robinson's rented both arable (for tillage) and pasture (for grazing livestock) lands.

As graziers (farmers who raised livestock) the following references to this type of farmer is relevant. According to Cullen, fairs and markets had an advantage in the sale of farm animals. Buyers and sellers could count on the attendance of others of their kind as being sure of selling at market rates. They also had drawbacks. Regarding livestock and wool fairs, farmers often had to travel from afar. Clonard, Edenderry and Carbury fairs were the local fairs for this locality, however they also sold their produce as far afield as Ballinasloe or Dublin. A double movement of goods was involved; to the fair and then from it. Moreover, business was often transacted very slowly as buyers were loathe to purchase at first, in case they should offer too high a price. Sellers often declined the offers they received in the belief that prices would rise further, later in the fair day. Farmers were often tempted in habits of drinking and gambling also.<sup>5</sup>

While graziers normally sold their cattle at fairs to agents of merchants, it was also an option to sell livestock at a port such as Dublin. The organisation of the beef trade at the ports can be glimpsed in the following extract by Hely Dutton in 1808, where he describes how a grazier would fare in attempting to dispose of his livestock.

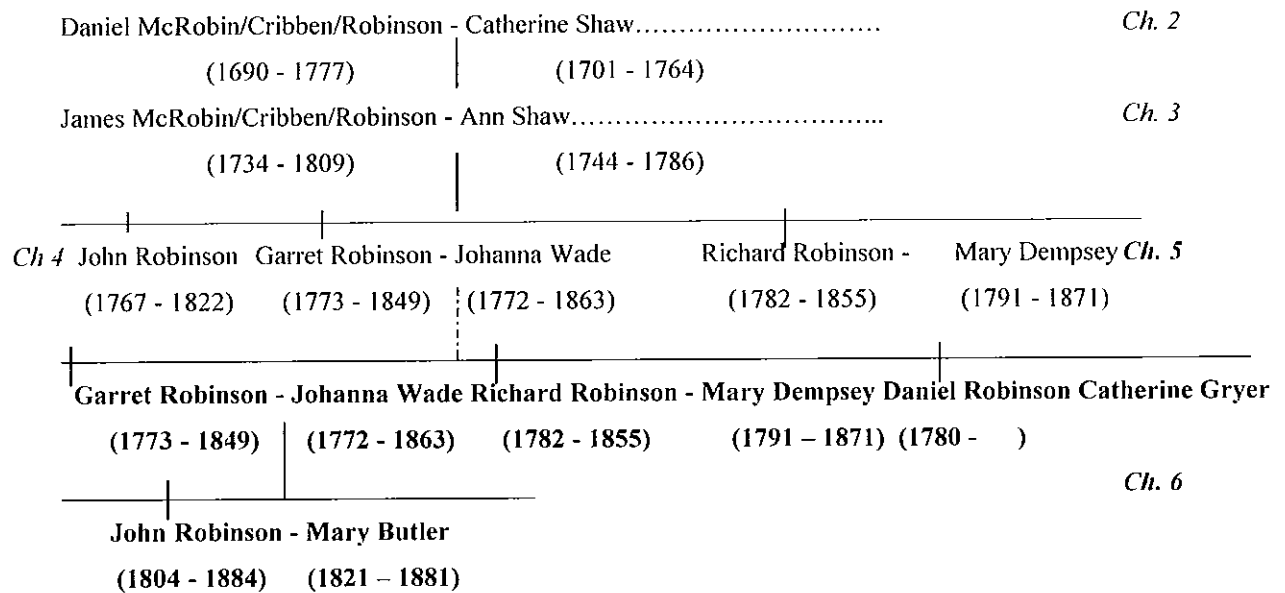
*"After driving them into either of these great towns, he waits upon the great man and with all humility begs to know if he wants fat cattle; after a good deal of pretended hurry of business and waiting for a negotiation of the question, he believes he shall not want anything more than what he had already engaged but to oblige Mr. .... he will endeavour to make room for them; as to the price it is to be regulated by what other graziers receive. When this is settled he must drive his beasts to a slaughter house.....he must give the heads and offal; he must sit up all night superintending the slaughter and must silently observe every species of fraud committed by the worst kind of butchers.....if resentful language is used to these scoundrels they begin to whet their knives and put themselves in an ascending attitude ... Next morning he must bring his meat to the cutters up; here unless they are fed begins the second part of the fraud he has to suffer .... they take for their prerequisite several pounds of his best beef, and if he has cows, unless they are well paid, will cut away large quantities of the udder which they call offal."*<sup>6</sup>

# Chapter VI

The 1834 Tithing Applotment Survey represented in Section A of this chapter details the brothers Garret, Richard and John Robinson. The survey also includes John Robinson - son of Garret Robinson. As Garret was mainly featured in Chapter 5 Section B, this section details Richard Robinson and his younger brother Daniel.

## SECTION B

The genealogical relationship between Garret, Richard, Daniel and John to other members of the Robinson family, referenced in earlier chapters, is shown as follows:



Richard Robinson (1782 - 1855) was Garret's younger brother by nine years. According to this survey, he leased a total of 178 acres 1 rood and 33 perches from Lady Jane Rich. Unlike his brother, Richard recorded his farming activities in a more haphazard manner. The events of his life are recorded in a malster's notebook. A section of his diary extracts are as follows:

*Page 1a*

*Transcription<sup>7</sup>*

*1823 May I got the abatement of £48 - 2 - 9 which leaves my years rent £192 - 19 - 3.  
Half/Years Rent £96 - 5 - 7 2.*

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>	
<i>1819 Ballinlig Survey</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	
				<i>£ S D</i>
<i>County Cess</i>				<i>17 1 27</i>
<i>Land</i>				<i>117 2 32</i>
<i>Cornamuckla</i>				
<i>1822</i>				<i>179 2 32 English</i>
<i>Rent Ballinlig</i>				<i>145 13 0 £133-10-52</i>
<i>This side of rode</i>				<i>66 15 0</i>
<i>Bogside roade</i>				<i>28 6 0</i>
				<hr/> <i>£240 14 0</i>
<i>1823 May the abatement</i>				<i>48 2 9</i>
<i>From that is years rent</i>				<i>192 11 3</i>
<i>Half years rent</i>				<i>96 5 7 2</i>

The 1823 reference to a rent abatement is explained by the following:

Towards the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Irish agriculture entered a long period of deflation and falling prices. This lasted from 1813 to the late 1830's, and brought serious losses to Irish farmers. Default in the payment of rents which had been tied to the high prices for farm produce declined much faster than rents until the middle 1820's. Consequently landlords were forced to make large abatements to tenant rents. Richard's rent abatement of £48 - 2 - 9 was an example of this phenomenon. According to Donnelly and Cullen, the prominent cause of African violence (referenced later in this chapter) was the exorbitant price of potato ground and this was largely confined to grazing districts. Despite the rent abatements, population pressure and land hunger kept farm rents higher than was warranted by agricultural prices.<sup>8</sup>

It is noted also that Richard's holding in Ballinlig in 1823 was practically the same size - 114 acres as in 1834. The difficulties explained which resulted in rent abatements probably explained the non-growth in size of tenancy. His rent of £192 - 19 - 3 was approximately £1 - 13 - 0 per acre per annum.

Photograph 6.1 shows page 2b of Richard Robinson's diary.

Photograph 6.1 Richard Robinson's Diary 1823.

Month	Length	Breadth	Depth	Cubits	Cubits	Floor	Square of Cub	New	Old
Bart Shaw	12	0							
Batt Monks	19	8							
Nick Conley	10	0							
Dan Malone	15	9		12 men					
	2	17	5						
1819 Sheep sold to Garret								39	2 4
In cash from you								1	10 0
In cash from you								8	12 9

Transcription:-

To Bart Shaw	12 - 0	due to me of a balance	
Batt Monks	19 - 8	of a settlement	
Nick Conley	10 - 0	due for his man	£0 - 13 - 0
Dan Malone	15 - 9	12 men	£2 - 6 - 7
	2 - 17 - 5		£2 - 19 - 7
	1815		£2 - 17 - 5
	due to me by Garret		£0 - 2 - 2
1819 Sheep sold to Garret	£39 - 2 - 4		
In cash from you	£1 - 10 - 0		
In cash from you	£8 - 12 - 9		

The transcription includes references to his brother Garret with whom he did business.<sup>9</sup> These diaries contain numerous references to potions and their constituent parts, which were used to treat animal ailments.

#### Page 5a of Richard's Diary

Transcription:-

- To make 1 gal Maget Water
- To make one gallon of water
- Two milk when
- 2 oz sublimate

*one pint of sur oil shake it well and it is fit for immediate youce.  
Receite for roumatic pains  
Take one penny worth of jensen root  
One naggin of the spirits of turpentine  
Steeped in a bottle and the person to take  
From 18 to 22 drops on a spring water fasting  
For 3 days and then stop, 3 drops then go on again.<sup>10</sup>*

This is a formula for the manufacture of 'Maget' water, which presumably is for animal use while the cure for 'roumatic' pains is presumably for human consumption.

***Page 6b of Richard's Diary***

*Transcription:-*

*To cure the worm farcy in horses:  
Take a handfull of rice  
A handfull of yarrow  
2 heads of garlick  
and allum  
pound all together  
and wet with urin  
all to be mixed and put in horses ears and tyed there for 24 hours for Sunday,  
Monday and Wednesday. <sup>11</sup>*

This cure for the 'Worm farcy in horses', whatever about those ingredients, is fascinating in that it specifies when the potion is to be applied: 'Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays'!

***Page 7b of Richard's Diary***

*Transcription:-*

*Recites from Thomas Coyle  
For sheep water to make cure  
Take 2 Lb supplement 2 Lb white vitrial  
2 Lb roman vitrial 2 Lb white scab powder*



*three shillings worth yellow mercury 2 Lb allum  
quarter of salmonouna quarter rock poyson  
2 Lb sulpher ivey 2 Lb cane brimstone 22 Lb of  
the black oil vitrial 4 stone salte 5 quarters of the duce  
of bark oak boyled one pound saltepieter finis*

*Recipie to keep sheepe from making maggots  
Take one pint of erols oil 5 pence worth cane brimstone  
Made into powder mixed with the oil in a bottle and  
Put the laste drop on them finis.*

*Receites for the dry moran on cows.*

*Take 3 pints all flour water 2 Lbs butter melted  
And spill through that and a spoonful of salte mixed and given.<sup>12</sup>*

These receites or recipes are the ingredients for the cure of 1) sheep water 2) sheep maggots and 3) dry moran in cows.

***Page 8a of Richard's Diary***

*Transcription:-*

*Recipe for the red moran.  
Take 2 Lb butter to every score  
And plent of wormed (?) plenty garlick  
You cut small and mixed through the butter  
3 balls to every baste the size of a plovers' egg  
a spoonful of tare after every ball 2 pence  
worth ground logwood mix the logwood in water  
and rub some of it in every ball with a fether.*

*Recipes for Blackleg*

*Take garlick crowfut yarrow salthe and cut mixed  
all together cut the joints of the baste  
put into the cut.*

*Bleed them and give them for a drink salthe  
and water and one nagon of pepermint  
water. Take care to cut the rag of the baste (!) in  
8 days.*

*Ballinlig<sup>13</sup>*

***Page 9a of Richard's Diary***

*Transcription:*

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>
<i>Ballinlig surveyed</i>	114	1	27
<i>Cornamuckla Bogside</i>	17	1	27
<i>This side of Roade</i>	47	2	32
<i>Years rent from the abatement</i>	£182	3	8
<i>Half years rent</i>	£91	1	10

	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>
<i>Eneses Land surveyed</i>	30	2	16
<i>at 22 shillings per acre</i>			
<i>Years rent makes</i>	£16	16	7

<i>Commenced 1 Feb 1839</i>			
<i>Years rent of all are</i>	£215	16	10
<i>Half years rent is</i>	£107	10	5

*91 – 1 – 10*  
*16 – 16 – 7*  
*107 – 18 – 5<sup>14</sup>*

The land rentals outlined in 1839 were £215 – 16 – 10 for that year. The “*eneses land surveyed*” which totalled 30 Acres - 2 Roods 16 Perches per acre is probably Thomas Ennis, who had 48 Acres - 0 Roods - 25 Perches taken in three sections in Cornamuckla in the Tithe Applotment Survey of 1834 (Chapter 5).

**Page 10 of Richard's Diary**

*Transcription:*

*Foot rot in sheep take bole arminian and sugar of lead equal parts rub them well together until they are reduced to fine powder.*

*Sprinkled upon the sore and a little ductow plaised on it.  
and bound with a bandage.*

*For the rot in sheep take common salt 8 ounces powdered gentine two ounces ginger and one ounce lincture of colombo four ounces  
put the whole mixture into a quart bottle and water to fill the bottle a tablespoonful of this mixture should be given morning and night for a week  
second mixture add spirits of turpentine three ounces<sup>15</sup>.*

Richard's diary contains a page that details family events. On page 11a of his diary these details are listed.<sup>16</sup>

The first entry on this page records "Anne was marrid the 25 of July 1838". The final entry by Richard was "My mother Anne Shaw died the 6 March 1786 and I was 3 years and 7 months that time". It is presumed that the last entry was retrospective and the reference to his age being 3 years and 7 months at the time of her death is a poignant reflection on the demise of his mother. It is unusual that he notes his mother by her maiden name – 'Anne Shaw'.

**Page 11b of Richard's Diary**

*Transcription:*

*1821 I planted note the following number of various trees:*

<i>Larch</i>	<i>501</i>	<i>1844</i>	<i>1838</i>
<i>Spruce</i>	<i>635</i>	<i>1786</i>	<i>1786</i>
<i>Scotch Fior</i>	<i>165</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Ash</i>	<i>304</i>		
<i>Beech</i>	<i>1000</i>	<i>Rich Robinson</i>	<i>Ballinlig 1821</i> <sup>17</sup>

This entry refers to a variety of tree species, which Richard grew in 1821.

Before 1765 a man did not own the trees he planted. From 1698 the first of a series of 17 Acts which increased tenants rights regarding tree plantation was enacted. After 1765 a tenant had the right to cut trees he grew if he ceased to be a tenant or he could sell the standing trees to his landlord for a just valuation. The tenant had to register an affidavit

before a Justice of the Peace of the county and insert a notice to this effect in the 'Dublin Gazette'. From the second half of the nineteenth century each county maintained a tree register. These books were deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin and were destroyed in 1922 but the records survive from the advertisements placed in the 'Dublin Gazette'. The practice of leasing land for tree planting was widespread in Ireland. In Co. Meath in 1791 tenant and landlord plantings covered 3,000 acres. Tenants alone in the first half of the nineteenth century planted 2 ½ million trees in Co. Meath! Indeed in England many of the landlord class were heard to say "*and there are my Walnuts – they'll pay the death duties on the estate.*"<sup>18</sup>

A record of tree planting in County Kildare shows that at Ballinlig, Rich Robinson in 1822 had 4,900 trees on property owned by Lady Jane Rich. At Ballinlig, Ed. Robinson in 1868/70 had 17,300 trees on property owned by Col. W. J. Rich. At Kilrainey, Garret Robinson in 1824 had 2,200 trees on property owned by Lady Jane Rich. At Kilrainey also, Thos. Tyrrell in 1794 had 2,200 trees in property owned by Lady Jane Loftus.<sup>19</sup>

The final entry related to Thos. Tyrrell the tenant in Kilrainey before Garret Robinson succeeded him circa 1810. Presumably Garret continued this tree growing practice having seen Tyrrell's example. So these tree growing entries in Richard's diary are confirmed by the above source, which also reference this activity being carried out by his brother Garret and his (Garret's) son – Edward.

### ***Page 16a of Richard's Diary***

#### *Transcription*

*1823 May. I get the abatement which was the one – fifth made £48 – 2 – 9.  
Left half years' rent £96 – 5 – 7 ½. Years' rent £192 – 11 – 3 Irish. From that it was  
deduced by the English currency to the sum of £177 – 5 – 8 ½ the year's rent. Half  
years' rent £88 – 12 – 10 ¾ commenced 1 January 1826.  
The reduction of money brought my rent down £18 – 5 – 8 ¾ and the rent without the  
abatement is £222 – 3 – 8 ¾.<sup>20</sup>*

This entry refers to rent abatement, which was also the subject of page 1a of this diary.

*Page 18b of Richard's Diary*

Transcription:

*Receit to kill rats.*

*Get a bottle of ratmice a bottle of the oil of rodium make pills of flour and new milk the first night and the oil of rodium and till you the coy them then the next nite get flour and wet it with new milk and then wourk in the poysen rathmise. When mixed well you may rowl it into pills and rub oil onto side in order to seduce them. This is the most dangerous of all poyson beware of letting it tutch any part of your skin.<sup>21</sup>*

This entry not only outlines the formula but also the cunning procedure to first outwit and then poison rats!

On page 19a of the diary the ingredients to make strong sheep water are "*all to be got at John Ailmours 48 Mary Street, Dublin.*"<sup>22</sup>

In these extracts for Richard's Diary similar entries from the diaries of his brother Garret have not been duplicated. At a time when stock mortality must have been high it is little wonder that Richard should record the many cures for the various ailments he had to encounter in his animals. The entire diary of Richard Robinson is shown in the book, which recorded the history of this family.<sup>23</sup>

Richard married Mary Dempsey (1791 – 1871), about whom nothing is known. An entry in the Registry of Deeds dated October 25<sup>th</sup> 1877 lists Rev. Andrew Dempsey, Ballinakill, Queens' County as a disclaimer to being an executor to John Robinson's will. John Robinson was a son of Richard and Rev. Andrew Dempsey is a probable kinsman of Mary and Rev. Dempsey.<sup>24</sup>

Daniel Robinson (1786 - ) was the youngest brother of Fr. John, Garret and Richard and had a total of 27 Acres, 2 Roods, 31 Perches taken in Ballinlig in this tithe census (Chapter 6 Section A - Page 103). As the following chapter details Daniel's holding at just 2 Acres, this begs the question as to why Daniel went down in the world as his brothers consolidated their positions. Had he more of the world's goods - much more of Daniel's situation would be

known. It is a truism that those with little in terms of material possession leave little to posterity.

Daniel is a case in point. Was he mentally retarded or a martyr to the demon drink? It is strange that he was the exception to the rule regarding the Robinson family. It seems Daniel was held in low esteem as no other branch of the family named a child Daniel, except his immediate line. As shown in Chapter 2, Daniel is listed as being baptised on 6 - 3- 1786 in Balyna R. C. Parish Register with his parents shown as James Cribben and Anne Shaugh. Daniel married Catherine Gryer who may be related to Bridget Gryer born in 1796 to George and Catherine Gryer (nee Ennis) according to the Balyna R. C. Parish. Siblings of this family other than Garret, Richard, Daniel and Fr. John, (Chapter 4), included: Nellie Robinson who married Chris Richard, Kitty Robinson who married Richard Keeffe on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1810 and Biddy Robinson.

In the townland or denomination of Kilrathmurray, this tithe survey relates that John Robinson had 2 sections totalling 181 Acres, 3 Roods, 0 Perches leased from the representatives of Col. John Finlay. This John Robinson (1804 - 1884), was the son of Garret and Johanna. John was baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1804 and was probably set up in farming business by his father in Kilrathmurray when Garret then moved to Kilrainey.

John married Mary Butler (1821 - 1881). She acted as house-keeper to her uncle Very Rev. Ml. Flanagan V. G. (1782 - 1855) who was Parish Priest of Balyna parish. Thus did she come to Balyna Parish and family lore has it that a 'match' was made with John Robinson.

The following is a letter from Daniel O'Connell to Very Rev. Ml. Flanagan V.G., which has passed down through the family and it is shown as photograph 6.2.

Photograph 6.2 Letter from Daniel O'Connell to Rev. Ml. Flanagan - 1828.

Original Letter

DUBLIN 22 May 1828

Dear Sir,

You are already apprized that the Catholics of Ireland have at this general meeting earnestly expressed the desire of a simultaneous meeting on Sunday the 18th of June under the patronage of His Majesty and the House of Lords to petition to His Majesty and the House of Lords in order to promote the most salutary measures for the relief of the poor and the improvement of the condition of the people of Ireland and to promote the best interests of Ireland and I shall be glad to see you at the meeting on that day.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant

Daniel O'Connell

Ml. Flanagan

Catholic Rooms  
Dublin 22 May 1828

Rev. Sir,

*You are already apprised that the Catholics of Ireland have at their general meeting earnestly advised the holding of simultaneous meeting on Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June in order to petition His Majesty the King and the House of Lords:-*

*I beg leave respectfully to say that in our very humble opinion this measure is calculated at the present crisis to promote 'the best interests of Ireland' and probably to ensure Emancipation.*

*I trust your Reverence will excuse me for obtruding this opinion on you - may I venture to hope that you will do me the kindness to believe that I would not take this liberty if I was not deeply convinced of the importance .....the present at ... .. on the unanimity with which this measure is now carried into effect - it will afford a glorious proof of the deep interest which the Catholic people of Ireland take in the cause of civil liberty and religious freedom - and at the same time of the peaceable tranquil and temperate manner in which the entire of that people can and will evince that anxious interest in the cause of their country.*

*The proper form of petitions to the King and to the House of Lords shall appear in the Newspapers in sufficient time before the day of meeting, of course, each Parish will be at the most perfect liberty to adopt any other form it may prefer - indeed it is desirable that the form should be varied, and we only publish our form merely to save time and trouble to those who may not choose to frame one for themselves.*

*Allow me again to press on your Reverence's attention this most important measure - a strong pull - a long pull - and a pull together is always likely to succeed - there never was a period in which an exertion of this kind could be so likely to be useful - if your Reverence should concur in sentiment with me I am sure you will concur in exertion - I wish I possessed my claims on your confidence to enable me to make an impression on your mind by reason of the deep conviction on mine, that we have our own fate in our hands, and trust if this meeting shall take place in every Parish in Ireland and if every Parish shall meet in a peaceable orderly and dutiful manner, giving no offence to any person and not violating the peace or the law in any respect.*

*The consequences I think will be speedy and complete Emancipation. I am bound to add that as the transmission of petitions and the publication of resolutions are likely to occasion much expense to the Secretary (Mr. Dwyer) it would probably be right as it certainly appears necessary to make an effort in all the more wealthy Parishes to make a collection but not on the day of the S - meeting of Catholic Rent - small - need for each Parish would most imply sufficient for our purposes.*

*I am with profound respect  
Revd Sir  
Your very obedient Servant  
Daniel O'Connell*



The discovery of this letter from Daniel O'Connell - a great man in Irish history - was particularly gratifying. He achieved Catholic Emancipation in 1829 - one year after this letter was written.

Amongst the Kilrainey diaries another connection with Daniel O'Connell was found - a membership card for the Loyal National Repeal Association - dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 1844, belonging to Bernard Robinson (1818 - 1875). This association was formed by Daniel O'Connell to repeal the Act of Union with Britain. It failed to achieve its aim and died with O'Connell in 1847. Side 1 of this card is shown as photograph 6.3. Side 2 of this card is shown as photograph 6.4

Photograph 6.3 Loyal National Repeal Association Card - Side 1

Photograph 6.4 Loyal National Repeal Association Card - Side 2



The membership card is signed by Thos. Mat W. Ray Secretary.

The inscription on the card reads.

*"Mr. Bernard Robinson having paid 5 shillings is enrolled as a repealer on the books of the Association this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of July 1844."*

The reverse side of the card features an article headed 'Statistics of Ireland'. The address embellished with shamrocks ends with the statement.....

*"Ireland will obtain a Parliament by the Cessation of Religious animosities by Temperance, Knowledge, Peace, Courage and Perservance".*

Daniel O'Connell founded the Loyal National Repeal Association in 1840. The early years of the Association were not encouraging. People had lost interest in politics and O'Connell. In the 1841 General Election, the number of pledged repealers returned slumped to 18 and O'Connell himself was defeated in Dublin. He had to seek refuge in Cork County as a consequence. Moreover, his election as Lord Mayor of Dublin gave him less time to devote to the association. A bad harvest in 1842 meant that there was widespread distress and discontent. Support for the Repeal Movement grew, chiefly through the Nationalist paper 'The Nation'. In 1843 this newspaper had a circulation of 10,000 copies with an estimated readership of 250,000. The Association boomed with many of Ireland's bishops and priests expressing support. Volunteers paid £10 annual subscription, members paid £1 per annum and associates paid 1 shilling per year. The income of the Association was estimated to have brought in £200,000 in one week at the end of May in 1843. Monster meetings were held all over the country which were marshalled by Repeal wardens or priests. In 1843 Robert Peel and the British Government passed the Arms Act of Ireland. Moreover, the Government dismissed magistrates who were sympathetic to the Repeal Movement. In October 1843, O'Connell had arranged a monster meeting at Clontarf but the Government banned the meeting. O'Connell consequently cancelled this meeting. This began the demise of the Repeal Association. By 1848, the Movement, like O'Connell, was dead.<sup>25</sup>

Bernard was a brother of Edward Robinson of Kilrainey and his will (dated 23 July 1856) left his entire property to Edward. His estate consisted of "*My farm at Kilrainey - 324 Irish Plantation Acres .... In Cornamuckla 120 acres and in Balrennit 24 Irish acres more or less*". *I find this curious as the leases concerning these townlands - which were owned by the Loftus/Rich family - were leased to Edward - brother of Bernard.*<sup>25</sup>

Another equally exciting find was the discovery of this (previously unpublished) letter from John Robinson of Kilrathmurray to his brother Bernard. This letter is shown as photograph 6.5

Photograph 6.5 John Robinson's letter circa 1830's.

①  
 I should say more  
 my 15 July.  
 J. R.

Ribbathmurray  
 September 22  
 Monday Night.

Dear Bernard

I am sure you  
 will be surprised to get  
 a letter from me, all  
 the same I will write  
 a few lines.

My sick leave terminated  
 on Friday next, which  
 I must return to the  
 old mill-work again.

③  
 sent up word, there was  
 gentlemen driving the  
 cattle off the land.  
 The gentlemen turned out  
 to be Finlay and some  
 friends with two Baliffs.  
 They seized on forty head  
 principally McKee's  
 Kennedy's not one our own.  
 Finlay consented to  
 leave the cattle for three  
 days, if the half the  
 year's rent would be  
 sent to him in that  
 time. He left the Baliffs  
 here minding the cattle  
 and the Police minding  
 Baliffs. I Murphy and  
 I raised the money in

②  
 I got leave to go to  
 the sea, but, I had  
 to be satisfied with  
 Royme. (You can under-  
 stand why.)

During my sojourn here,  
 there was a seizure for  
 rent by Finlay. - writ for  
 Ballinly and several  
 minor pleasanties, so  
 altogether the time did  
 not hang heavily on  
 my hands.

We have felt until  
 late, Cully one evening  
 at Water Bank, I had to

④  
 leave my life insurance  
 and quarterly salary,  
 the office as my security.  
 James was here last week  
 and says he will advertise  
 the place for sale in a  
 few days.

Mr. Murphy is just waiting  
 in the moment to disengage  
 and is perfectly ready,  
 so you see we are not so  
 badly off as others. I hope  
 we will be resigned too.  
 Possibly this may be the  
 last time I will write to  
 you from here. Don't feel  
 much more than that you have  
 nothing else.

The same as last year  
 when I was in

Transcription:

*Kilrathmurray  
September 22  
Monday Night*

*Dear Bernard,*

*I am sure you will be surprised to get a letter from me, all the same, I will write a few lines.*

*My sick leave terminates on Friday next, when I must return to the old mill - work again.*

*I got leave to go to the sea but I had to be satisfied with Boyne (you can understand why).*

*During my sojourn here there was a seizure for rent by Finlay - writt for Ballinlig and several minor pleasanteries as altogether the time did not hand heavily in my hands.*

*We never felt until Jane Cully one evening sent up word there were gentlemen driving the cattle off the land.*

*The gentlemen turned out to be Finlay and some friends with two baliffs. They seized on forty head principally, Mickeen Kennedy's not one our own.*

*Finally Finlay consented to leave the cattle for three days if the half year's rent would be sent to him in that time. He left the Baliffs here minding the cattle and the police minding baliffs. J. Murphy and I raised the money in Ulster Bank. I had to leave my life insurance and quarter's salary in the office as my security. James was here last week and says he will advertise the place for sale in a few days.*

*W. Murphy is just waiting for the moment to die and is perfectly resigned so you see we are not so badly off as others. I hope we will be resigned too. Possibly this may be the last time I will write to you from here. Do not fret, mind your health. You have nothing else. The same as ever. You know what that is.*

*John Robinson*

*(P. S.) Would say more only B writing J. R.*

Regrettably the letter is only partially dated but it clearly outlines the difficulties and dangers of not paying the rent on time. This letter is believed to have been written circa 1830 as John was born in 1804.

This reference to agrarian unrest is explained by Donnelly and Cullen. The agrarian workers during the early years of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland regularly broke the law when faced with certain threats to their well-being. Those who enforced the law were highly sensitive to the economic interest and property rights of the landlords. The grievances of the tenantry included excessive rents, which resulted in evictions when rents were not paid, local taxes or cesses and the composition of tithes to support the Anglican clergy. These led to recurring war between the authorities and the peasantry. The tenantry formed themselves into secret societies and they carried out agrarian crimes or 'outrages' as the authorities saw them to redress their grievances. They used intimidation and terror to achieve their objectives and disguised themselves when carrying out their activities.

The agrarian secret societies were first formed in Munster about 1760. The members of these societies were known as 'whiteboys' or 'levellers'. They levelled fences erected by the landlords to enclose waste ground which the tenantry used for grazing live stock without addition to their rents. Attacks were also directed against the tithe proctors of the Anglican clergy, to which this chapter is mainly devoted. In this regard the threats by Thos. Murray, agent of the nearby Downshire Estate in Edenderry, reinforce this point.

The 1790's saw a reduction in the activities of these societies. Popular passions were absorbed in political activity which culminated in the unsuccessful rebellion of 1798. The severe repression which followed this uprising as well as Emmet's Rising of 1803 made conspiracy difficult. However, Agrarian societies again flourished between the 1820s and the 1840s. These bodies assumed a bewildering variety of names, including the Blackfeet, Caravats, Carders, Molly Maguires, Terry Alts and Whitefeet. Quite often landlords and their agents referred to rebellious tenants as Ribbonmen.<sup>27</sup>

Irish Agrarian crime in the early 1800's generally occurred not in the poorest and least fertile parts of the country but as Lewis stated "*where the peasantry are bold and robust and one degree removed above the lowest poverty and where the land is productive.*"<sup>28</sup> County Kildare in general and this particular area in the north-west of the country complied with this definition.

Whiteboys usually served a written notice on the infringing party, commanding him to do, or forbear from, specified acts. These mandates were often written in a style resembling that of a legal notice, and were signed by some imaginary name such as Captain Starlight or Lady Clare, and only when the warnings were ignored did the Whiteboys impose punishments. The following is an example of one such notice *"County of Kildare to list take notice. That we will no longer bear the oppression of paying **double rent** to farmers for rent... therefore all farmers will be obliged to return their undertenants to the head landlord at the same rates .... (an) acre for which they hold the land themselves. Any farmer demanding rent from his undertenants or any undertenant paying rent to the farmer .... violating this notice shall be used with the utmost severity imaginable. So I remain your most humble servant, a son to that poor old woman called, 'Terry's Mother'."*<sup>29</sup>

A reference to secret agrarian societies in this locality of Kildare is shown by this extract describing the funeral of Fr. James Butler (1823 - 1860) a nephew of Fr. Flanagan (to whom Daniel O'Connell wrote the letter regarding Catholic Emancipation) who was also a brother-in-law of John Robinson who wrote the letter, shown on page 122. *"Father Butler was Administrator of Carlow Cathedral from 1858 to his death in 1860.... His body was brought from Carlow to his native place for burial (Johnstownbridge). A distressing event at the funeral long remained in the memory of the vast multitude of mourners. One man lost his life in a dispute which arose between two rival factions, the whitefeet and the blackfeet."*<sup>30</sup>

This extract shows that these societies existed in this area of Kildare as late as 1860.

The greatest social problem of pre-famine Ireland was that of poverty. Descriptions of hoards of Irish poor swarming around coaches were standard in the travel books of most foreigners from the close of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A report of 1836 estimated that the number of labourers who were unemployed for 30 weeks of the year was not less than 585,000 – whose dependants totalled at least 1,800,000. A Poor Law administration was established in Ireland in 1838. Daniel O'Connell, after initial objection, supported the Bill. The churches were unhappy with the institutional form, namely the workhouses of the scheme. A Central Board was established in Dublin to administer the system. It was subject to the control of the English Board of Poor Law Commissioners. The country was divided into Unions, each of whom had an elected Board of Guardians. The poor viewed the workhouse as more despicable than jail. In 1841, there were thirty-seven workhouses nationwide and during the

year, over 30,000 people sought relief through this system. By 1846 over 130 unions were operating and in December of that year, some 94,437 people were lodged in the workhouses.<sup>31</sup>

# *Chapter VI*

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Chapter VII  
Valuation Surveys  
(1853)  
By  
Griffith

## ***CHAPTER VII: Valuation Surveys (1853)*** ***by Richard Griffith***

As with the previous chapter which was not based on survey maps and plans this section is based instead on the Griffith Valuations of 1853.

### **SECTION A**

#### ***Griffith Valuations***

In order to produce the accurate information necessary for local taxation, the Tenement Act 1842 provided for a uniform valuation of all property in Ireland, to be based on the productive capacity of land and the potential rent of buildings. The man appointed Commissioner of Valuation was Richard Griffith, a Dublin geologist, and the results of his great survey, the Primary Valuation of Ireland, was published between 1848 and 1864. The valuation is arranged by county, barony, poor law union, civil parish and townland. It lists every landholder and every homeholder in Ireland. Apart from townland address and homeholder's name the particulars given are:

- 1) Name of the person from whom the property was leased (immediate lessor);
- 2) Description of the property;
- 3) Acreage;
- 4) Valuation;

The aim of the valuation was to determine the amount of tax each householder should pay towards supporting the poor within their poor law union.

Due to the destruction of other civil records in the Four Courts, Dublin in 1922, these valuation records, though never intended as a census statistic, are the only detailed guide as to

where people in Ireland lived and what property they possessed in the mid-nineteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

***Richard Griffith (1784 - 1878)***

The main investigator behind this survey and after whom the valuation was named was born in Dublin, at 8 Hume Street on September 20, 1784, into an ascendancy family. His mother was Charity Bramston and his father was Richard Griffith, who represented Askeaton, Co. Limerick in the Irish Parliament from 1783 - 1790. The family estate was situated at Millicent, Sallins, Co. Kildare.

Griffith was educated at Portarlinton and Rathangan and subsequently he became an ensign in the Royal Irish Regiment of Artillery about 1800. After a year, he retired on full pay and became a civil and military engineer. For this he studied in London and Cornwall. His interest in Geology led him to Edinburgh where he met a land valuer named Begbie and he became familiar with the "Scottish System of Valuation". He modified this system when he became Commissioner of Valuation in Ireland in 1830. On his return to Ireland in 1808 he concentrated on geology and was dubbed "the father of Irish geology". The pre-famine population of Ireland was growing and new services of employment were urgently sought. After his appointment as mining engineer by the Dublin Society (now the Royal Dublin Society), he carried out many surveys into the nature and extent of bogs including the Bog of Allen in County Kildare. As an engineer, he was involved in the construction of roads and bridges which provided employment for many - particularly throughout the province of Munster.

In 1828 Griffith returned to 2 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin where he lived for the rest of his life with his wife Maria Jane Waldie. From an office in his home, he carried out the Valuation

Survey, which took his name. This huge project employed some 150 people who were hired and fired by Richard Griffith. He is reputed to have been a hard task master - not given to praising his workers but not slow to issue retributions. During his life he drove himself hard and expected the same of others. Richard Griffith died at his home on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1878 after a long life lived with enormous mental and physical vigour.<sup>2</sup>

The following are extracts from this evaluation:<sup>3</sup> They are shown as Appendix C.

The conclusions to be drawn from these tables are as follows:

1. These extracts show the sub tenants who leased smallholdings - mainly their houses and gardens, from the various branches of the Robinson family. The extensive and precise nature of the valuation is shown for example where James Robinson in Donore Co. Meath, even had a portion of the River Boyne (3 Roods - 13 perches) assessed as part of his holding. Most of these sub tenants worked for the immediate lessor and in Cornamucklagh, Co. Kildare, Richard Robinson had 11 sub tenants.

Many of the sub tenants lived on less than 1 acre and the exact nature of the survey showed the basis for their economic existence. In the townland of Cornamucklagh for example, Denis Malone – sub tenant of Richard Robinson, had a 'house, office and land', in an area of 3 Roods and 28 perches. The rates for which amounted £0-10-0 for the land and £0-5-0 for the buildings, total £0-15-0.

The sub tenants can be also referenced in the diaries of Garret and Richard Robinson thereby giving a more detailed account of their lives.

The following is an example:

In 1853 in Cornamucklagh, Wm. Burley, a sub tenant of Edward (son of Garret) Robinson had 9 Acres, 2 Roods, 28 Perches for which the Griffith rate was £4-10-0, total including a house, office and garden. The rent payment regarding Wm. Burley and his daughter

Elizabeth (who succeeded him) over a period of 30 years are chronicled in the Kilrainey diaries:

*"In May 1879 received from Burley half a years rent and ending 1 May £8-5-0 also 1879*

<i>Total rent from Wm. Burley</i>	<i>4 -0 -0</i>
<i>July 1881 got from him lambs at £1-10-0</i>	<i>4-10-0</i>
<i>August 1882 got from him two lambs at £1-10-0</i>	<i>3-0-0</i>
<i>July 1884 got from him lambs at £1-10-0</i>	<i>4-10-0</i>
<i>In July 1886 got from him lambs £1-10-0</i>	<i>6-0-0</i>
<i>1893 giving me this years rent. This rent I forgive</i>	<i>11-0-0</i>

*he is succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth Burley.*

*She gives me on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1895 two years rent* *11-0-0*

*1<sup>st</sup> Nov half a years 1895 rent due to me* *2-15-0*

*1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1895 allowed her for two lambs £3-0-0* *3-0-0*

*and for her oats £2-0-0* *2-0-0*

*Still due to me up to 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1895 £8-15-0 the 1<sup>st</sup> November 1895 - I forgive the old debt she owes me up to the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1899 for years rent at 5 pounds a year reduced rent £20-0-0."*

The extract shows the rent transactions between the Burleys and their lessor Ed. Robinson. It is clear that payment of rent was made in kind when lambs were accepted in lieu of rent (cash).

It is of interest to note the arrears of rent were absolved by the expression "I forgive."<sup>6</sup>

According to Donnelly and Cullen:

*"In 1851 almost one-quarter of all Irish families lived in the worst type of house accommodation - cramped, smoke choked and often windowless cabins or cottages, consisting of only one room."<sup>7</sup>*

Apart from parish registers, these Griffith Valuation Surveys are the only records of those who lived at subsistence level. As such they are an important reference source of material regarding the people who lived in these areas.

2. From an analysis of the Griffith Valuation, the exact holding of each of the Robinson tenancies is shown in the following table:

County	Townslend	Occupier	Acreage			L / Lord
			Acres	Roods	Perches	
Kildare	Ballyonan	John Robinson	160	2	17	John H. Nangle
Kildare	Garrisker	Rich Robinson	8	2	20	John H. Nangle
Kildare	Kilrainy	Ed. Robinson	500	2	22	Lady Rich
Kildare	Kilglass	Rich Robinson	4	0	20	Lady Rich
Kildare	Ballinlig	Garret Robinson	152	2	5	Lady Rich
Kildare	Ballinlig	Rich Robinson	186	3	36	Lady Rich
Kildare	Ballinlig	John Robinson	43	2	19	Lady Rich
Kildare	Ballinlig	Daniel Robinson	2	1	4	John Robinson
Kildare	Ballinlig	Garret Robinson	58	1	15	Wm. Ledwich
Kildare	Kilrathmurray	John Robinson	379	1	37	Wm. Ledwich
Kildare	Cornamucklagh	Rich Robinson	165	0	26	Lady Rich
Kildare	Cornamucklagh	Ed. Robinson	191	0	22	Lady Rich
Kildare	Cornamucklagh	Garret Robinson	23	2	32	Lady Rich
Meath	Ballivor	Garret Robinson	15	0	0	Lord Darnley
Meath	Kilballivor	Garret Robinson	12	3	33	Lord Darnley
Meath	Donore	James Robinson	11	3	37	Alex Montgomery
Meath	Ballyboggan	James Robinson	195	1	8	Marquis of Lansdowne
<b>Total</b>			<b>2212</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>33</b>	
The total acreage of Robinson Tenancy held from the Rich Estate =			1267	3	22	

Since the Tithe Applotment Survey of the 1830's when the family occupied some 800 acres, this survey conducted some 20 odd years later, shows the family holding some 2212 acres. Given that a succeeding generation of the Robinson family was evolving to farm, this is a huge increase with some 1300 extra acres being leased by the family in the space of 20 years.

The glaring anomaly in this record is the fortune of Daniel Robinson at Ballinlig, who occupied just 2 acres odd. This is in stark contrast to his brothers whose rise in fortune is directly opposite to Daniel's fate. Given that the Great Famine of 1846/47 occurred between the Tithe and Griffith Valuation; this rise in land leasing by the family is all the more startling. This increase in size of the farm tenancies belies the wide held belief that all

Catholics suffered during the famine. Co. Kildare suffered less from the famine than did most other parts of the country. Nevertheless, its effects in the county were still devastating and far-reaching. Between death and emigration, Kildare lost almost 20,000 souls between 1841 and 1851, and not until 1986 did the county's population again reach the 1841 figure. Population decline is one of the most easily comprehended indicators of famine-time distress. The county population at 95,000 in 1851 declined by just over sixteen per cent from the 1841 census. To put it more graphically, for every six people in 1841 there were just five in 1851. Carbury (the barony in which the townlands referenced in this thesis refer) suffered a population decrease of 2,101 from 9,690 to 7,589 – this is a population reduction of 21.68%.<sup>8</sup>

The famine can be summarised as follows: In the Autumn of 1845, 17 counties were affected by potato blight but 1/16 of the crop was saved. In 1846 there was total crop failure. In 1847 the blight was less virulent but there was little improvement, as people neglected to plant seed potatoes, or had eaten same. In 1848, there was another crop failure. In this year also, there was a poor grain harvest. In 1849 the blight was less severe and in 1850 the blight was on the wane. Between 1841 and 1851, the population of Ireland fell by 20%. Between 1845 and 51, 'famine years', the population fell by 2 ¼ million. It is estimated that emigration accounted for 1 ½ million of these. About 800,000 people died in the famine. The major cause of death was not actual starvation but attendant famine diseases such as Typhus, Relapsing Fever and Dropsy. Also in 1848 there was a serious outbreak of Cholera, which was particularly severe in large towns, added to the mortality rate. The labourer and cottier classes, together with the small farmer class, were the chief victims of the famine. They were largely dependent on the potato and this, together with bad housing, sanitation and defective diet, contributed to this calamity.<sup>9</sup>



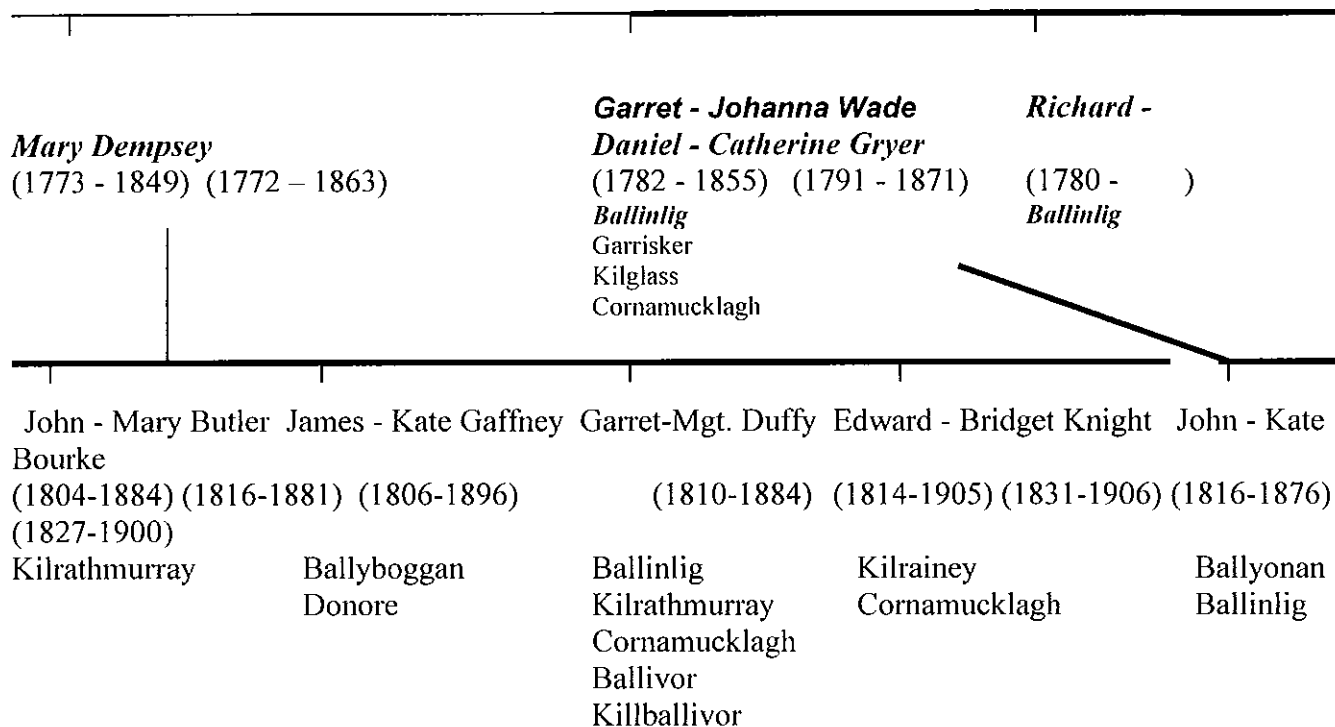
The Great Famine not only led to clearances of pauper tenants through eviction and emigration; it also brought about a drastic clearance of impoverished landowners through legislation. For these proprietors already overburdened with debts before 1845, the sharp fall in rent receipts and the steep rise in expenditures caused by the Famine, delivered the final blow to their sagging fortunes. One contemporary expert estimated that fully  $\frac{1}{4}$  of all Irish landowners were either insolvent or on the verge of bankruptcy in 1848. As soon as the potato crop failed completely in 1846, creditors rushed to foreclose their mortgages on Irish estates. The flood of foreclosure notices continued in 1847, especially after Lord John Russell's government raised a general alarm by introducing in Parliament a bill to facilitate the sale of heavily incumbered Irish property. This bill was entitled 'The Incumbered Estates Act of 1849'.<sup>10</sup>

Perhaps this reduction in population was the major reason why the Robinson families increased the size of their holdings. Those who survived the famine had more opportunity to prosper and those survivors may have had ambiguous feelings regarding this great tragedy as the misfortune of others was their opportunity to advance.

Chapter VII  
Evaluation Surveys  
(1853)  
by  
Griffith

## **CHAPTER VII**

The Griffith Valuations for Kildare of 1853 referenced in Section A of the chapter detail the following members of the Robinson Family. The genealogical relationship to the Robinson family, and their tenancies, is shown as follows:



## SECTION B

By 1853 John Robinson (1804 - 1884) of Kilrathmurray had doubled the size of his holding despite (or because of) the famine, since the previous tithe survey in 1834. The only family reference relating to the Great Famine was a folk memory, told by older family members, of two children – a boy and his sister found wandering the roads with name tags around their necks pleading with someone to take care of them. They were originally from the west of Ireland. They were cared for by John and his family and given passage to America. They were never heard of again.

Regarding the famine, Richard Gratten, writing as an Edenderry Poor Law Guardian, to a special meeting of Dublin Corporation on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1845 stated that – *“I anticipate nothing short of the most widespread and destructive famine that history has yet placed on record, unless immediate measures be adopted by the English Minister to provide against the approaching calamity”*.<sup>11</sup>

Yet there is no reference to this national catastrophe in the diaries of Garret or Richard Robinson.

Richard Robinson of Ballinlig held at his place of residence some 186 acres, at Garrisker some 8 acres; at Kilglass some two acres; at Cornamuckla some 164 acres. This totalled to 360 acres (approx.) – this was an increase from 177 acres from the tithe survey 20 years previously. The Griffith Valuation took place two years before Richard’s death in 1855. According to the diaries, recorded by his son John, Richard died *“At 5 o’clock on 17 August 1855 aged 73 years, and his mother Mary Robinson died 26<sup>th</sup> April 1871 aged 80 years.”*<sup>12</sup> He and his wife Mary are buried with his father James McRobin/Cribben – (see Chapter 3, page 42). There is a difference between the diary record of his death (aged 73) and his tombstone inscription where his age is recorded as 66 years.

Daniel Robinson (1786) at Ballinlig had 2 acres, having seen his holding decrease from some 24 acres in 1833. He was sub tenant of his nephew John Robinson of Ballyronan. His family worked as labourers on Edward's holding at Kilrainey according to the diaries of this farm. His wife was Catherine Gryer.

The following are all children of Garret and Johanna Robinson (Chapter V);

John Robinson (1804 - 1884) at Kilrathmurray, according to the Griffith Valuation had 379 Acres, 1 Rood, 37 Perches leased from Wm. Ledwich. John was married to Mary Butler of Violet Bank, Rathangan.

James Robinson (1806 – 1896) of Ballyboggan had 195 Acres, 1 Roods, 8 Perches, leased from the Marquis of Lansdowne. At Donore in Co. Meath he had 11 Acres, 3 Roods, 37 Perches leased from the Alex Montgomery. James was married to Kate Gaffney of Hardwood, Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath.

Garret Robinson (1810-1884) had 152 Acres, 2 Roods, 5 Perches leased from Lady Rich at Ballinlig. In the townlands of Kilrathmurray he had 58 Acres, 1 Rood, 15 Perches leased from Wm. Ledwich. At Cornamuckla Garret had 23 Acres, 2 Roods, 32 Perches leased from Lady Rich. In Co. Meath, Balivor, Kilballivor he had 27 Acres, 3 Roods, 33 Perches in 2 lots leased from Lord Darnley. He married Margaret Duffy of Clonard, Co. Meath.

Edward Robinson (1814 – 1905) of Kilrainey who occupied 500 Acres, 2 Roods, 22 Perches at Kilrainey in tenancy from Lady Rich. He also leased 191 Acres, 0 Roods, 22 Perches at Cornamucklagh again from Lady Rich. He took over the tenancy at Kilrainey from his late father Garret. Edward married Bridget Knight from Cornamucklagh.

An interesting find was made at the farm of Edward Robinson at Kilrainey. In 1854 a ploughman working on a sunny upland field - sloping south found an urn which contained ashes. Beside the urn he also found the remains believed to be that of a girl about eleven

years of age. The skull was one of "*remarkable beauty*". Another Kilrainey find was a "*peculiar bronze box*" - about two inches in diameter. A strong strap of bronze crossed the top of the lid and binding round to the side formed a hinge with the box. It contained two smaller boxes, which fitted into each other. It was supposed to have been used for "*Ecclesiastical Purposes.*" Numerous artefacts from the Bronze Age period were found particularly from the Kinnefad area and the entire collection was called the Edenderry Museum of Irish Antiquities.<sup>13</sup> The owner of the collection was Thomas Murray C.E., Land Agent at Edenderry to Lord Downshire (See Chapter V, page 106). Murray commenced life as a Civil Engineer and he acquired many antiquarian finds, which he carefully collected and preserved. Regrettably he sold his collection to an English professor at Cambridge University in England. The museum book of Thomas Murray lists the Kilrainey Urn (with illustration) as No. 22. A collection of stones, which number 130 in total, are listed as No. 26 in the museum book. They include the '*Evil Eye*' stone from Carrig Castle - the home of John de Birmingham who defeated Edward Bruce at the Battle of Faughart in 1318. The ruins of this castle overlook the graveyard where Daniel McRobin/Cribben is buried (Chapter II, page 23).

John Robinson (1816-1876) of Ballyronan - son of Richard and Kate of Ballinlig had 160 Acres, 2 Roods, 17 Perches taken from John H. Nangle. At Ballinlig he had 43 Acres, 2 Roods, 19 Perches leased from Lady Rich. John's wife was Kate Bourke of Mylerstown, Carbury.

# ***CHAPTER VII***

## ***References***

### **Section A**

1. Grenham J. "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors," Gill and MacMillan, Dublin, 1992, p44-50.
2. Cavanagh E. Ireland's Own, People Newspapers, Wexford, May 31<sup>st</sup> 1996, Issue No. 4517, p12.
3. Griffith Primary Valuation, National Archive, Co. Kildare, Microfiche 4-D-5.
4. Griffith Primary Valuation, National Archive, Co. Meath, Microfiche 10-A-11.
5. Griffith Primary Valuation, National Archive, Kings Co. (Co. Offaly) Microfiche 4-G-10.
6. Robinson J. "The Robinsons of North Kildare - 300 Years of Family History," McRobin Publications, Dublin, 1997, p205.
7. Donnelly J. & Cribben L.M. "Landlord and Tenants in Ireland in the Nineteenth Century," Gill and MacMillan, Dublin 1971, p59/60.
8. Comerford R.V, "Lest we Forget Kildare and the Great Famine", Kildare Co. Council, Newbridge, 1997, p12.
9. O'Thuathaigh G, "Ireland Before the Famine (1798-1845)", Gill & MacMillan, Dublin, 1972, p132.
10. Donnelly J, "Landlord and Tenant in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland", Gill & MacMillan, Dublin, 1973, p48.

## **Section B**

11. Famine Diary - The Irish Times, 4-11-98.
12. Robinson J. op cit. P149.
13. O'Leary E. "Collection of Irish Antiquities Lately of Edenderry." Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society, Vol. III, Ponsonby, Dublin, 1902, p325-333.



Chapter VIII  
Land Surveys  
(1864)

by  
Hodges Smith

Land Surveys  
(1744)

by  
Byrn

## ***CHAPTER VIII: Land Surveys (1864) by Hodges Smith Land Surveys (1764) by Byrn***

This final chapter details the survey maps from the Rich (formerly Loftus) Estate for the counties of Kildare and Meath. The survey was executed in 1864 by Hodge Smith and Company and features it's principal tenants – the Robinson family. This chapter also references the Colley Estate Survey of 1744, which evolved to ownership by the Robinson family.

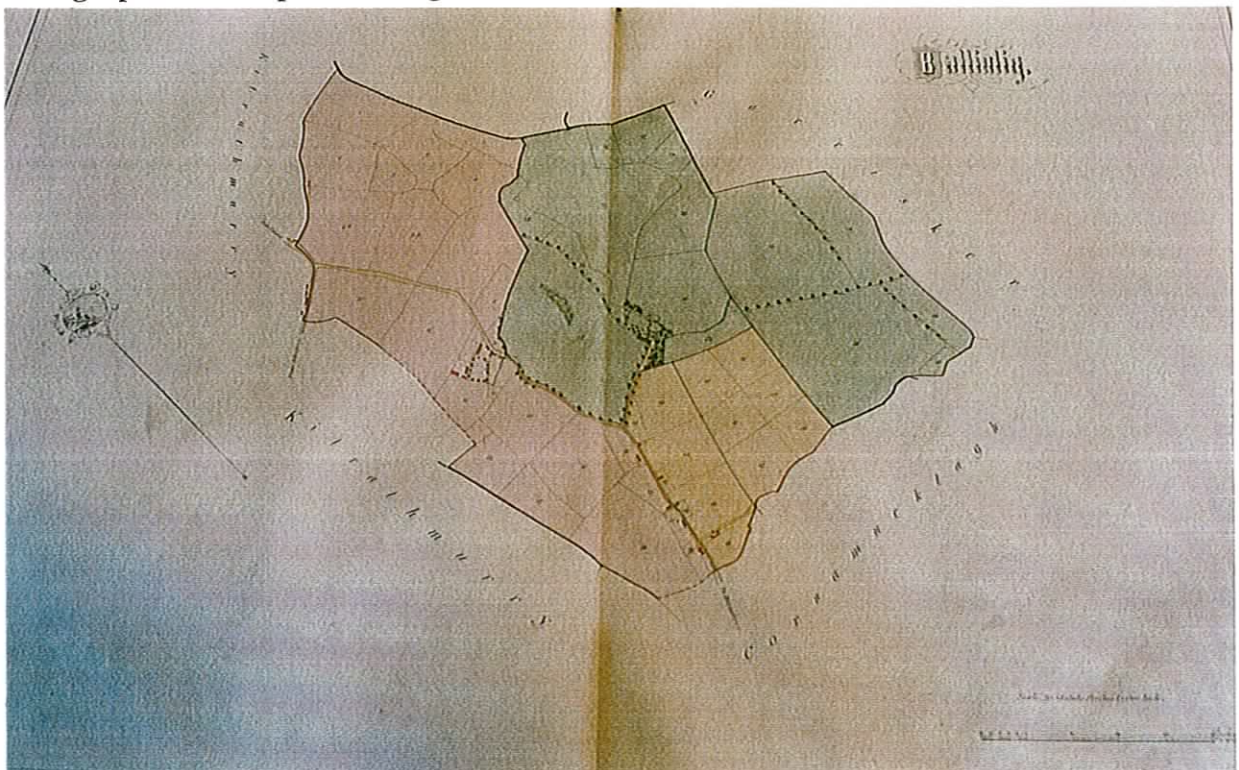
### **SECTION A**

The following are the County Kildare townland maps from the survey and are titled “The Estate of Lt. Col. George N. T. Rich, situated in the Counties of Kildare and Meath 1864 – Published by Hodges Smith & Co. Map Agency Office, 104 Grafton Street, Dublin.<sup>1</sup>

#### ***1. Ballinlig:***

The Rich Estate property in this townland is shown as photograph 8.1

#### **Photograph 8.1 Map – Ballinlig 1864**



The above map for the townland of Ballinlig is to a scale of 30 statute perches to one inch.



The following table with the map shows the tenant's names together with the individual field acreage in Irish and English measurement, for the townland of Ballinlig and is shown as photograph 8.2.

**Photograph 8.2 Table of Ballinlig Tenants and Field Acreage's.**

The image shows a historical document titled "BALLINLIG" which contains a table of tenants and field acreage. The table is organized into several columns, likely representing different tenants and their respective field measurements in both Irish and English units. The document is aged and has a yellowish tint.

The transcription of table (Photograph 8.2) is shown as Appendix D-1.

This townland survey shows that:

1. This map and its tabled information gives no indication as to the rent paid for this land. Neither does it give the quality of each field as in previous surveys.
2. Garret Robinson and John Robinson (Senior and Junior) have a total of seven sub tenants or under tenants listed in this table.
3. This entire townland survey is of the tenancy of the Robinson family.

4. This map of Ballinlig shows the following field numbers with the appropriate colour to each tenant's holding:

Tenant	Field No	Colour	Total Acreage					
			Irish			English		
			Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
Garret Robinson	1 – 21 A Inc.	Pink	100	0	29	162	1	3
John Robinson (Jnr.)	22 – 36 Inc.	Green	115	0	13	186	0	36
John Robinson (Snr.)	37 – 49 Inc.	Yellow	28	1	34	46	0	16

## 2. *Cornamucklagh*

The Rich Estate property in this townland is shown as photograph 8.3.

**Photograph 8.3 Map - Cornamucklagh 1864.**



The above map of the townland of Cornamucklagh is to a scale of 30 statute perches per inch.

The following table shows the tenants' name together with the individual field acreage in Irish and English measurement for the townland of Cornamucklagh and is shown as Photograph 8.4.

Photograph 8.4 Table of Cornamucklagh Tenants and Field Acreage's.

**CORNAMUCKLAGH**

NO.	NAME	ACRES	R.	P.	IRISH	ENGLISH
1	James O'Brien	26	1	7	106	42.5
2	"	5	1	0	20	8.0
3	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
4	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
5	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
6	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
7	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
8	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
9	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
10	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
11	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
12	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
13	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
14	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
15	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
16	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
17	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
18	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
19	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
20	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
21	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
22	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
23	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
24	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
25	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
26	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
27	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
28	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
29	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
30	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
31	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
32	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
33	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
34	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
35	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
36	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
37	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
38	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
39	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
40	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
41	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
42	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
43	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
44	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
45	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
46	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
47	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
48	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
49	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
50	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
51	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
52	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
53	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
54	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
55	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
56	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
57	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
58	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
59	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
60	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
61	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
62	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
63	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
64	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
65	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
66	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
67	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
68	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
69	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
70	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
71	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
72	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
73	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
74	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
75	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
76	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
77	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
78	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
79	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
80	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
81	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
82	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
83	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
84	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
85	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
86	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
87	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
88	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
89	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
90	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
91	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
92	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
93	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
94	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
95	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
96	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
97	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
98	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
99	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
100	"	10	5	0	40	16.0
TOTAL		225	11	0	900	360.0

The transcription of table (photograph 8.4) is shown as Appendix D-2.

This map shows the following field numbers with the appropriate colour to each tenant's holding in Cornamucklagh.

Tenant	Field No.	Colour	Total Acreage					
			Irish			English		
			Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
Garret Robinson	1 - 9 inc.	Yellow	21	1	7	39	1	16
John Robinson	10 - 34 inc.	Green	116	3	5	189	1	0
Edward Robinson	35 - 61 inc.	Pink	132	1	17	214	1	24

This townland shows that:

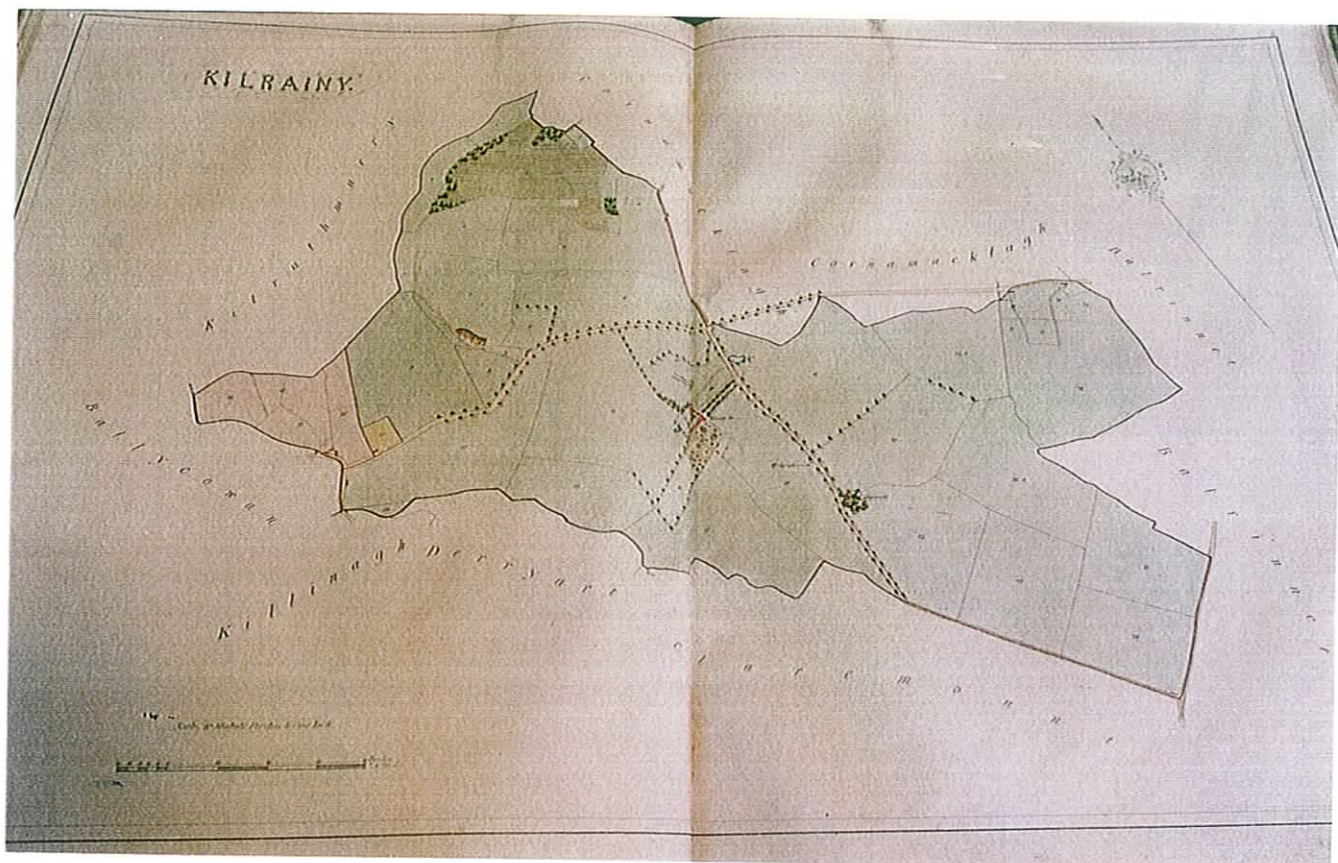
1. As with Ballinlig, this map and table of Cornamucklagh does not give the rent paid per tenant. Neither does it give the quality of land in each field. Each of the tenants has their sub tenant's listed including John Robinson who has James Robinson's (his brother) details.
2. In this townland of Cornamucklagh, the Robinson brothers (Garret, John and Edward) have a total of seventeen sub tenancies listed.
3. This entire townland is within the tenancy of the Robinson family.



### 3. *Kilrainy*

The Rich Estate property for this townland is shown in photograph 8.5.

**Photograph 8.5 Map - Kilrainy 1864.**



The above map of the townland of Kilrainy is to a scale of the thirty statute perches to one inch.



The following table shows the tenants' names together with individual field acreage in Irish and English measurement, for the townland of Kilrainy and is shown as photograph 8.6.

Photograph 8.6 Table of Kilrainy Tenants and Field Acreages.

**KILRAINY**

No.	Name	Irish Acres	English Acres	Roods	Poles	Perches
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The transcription of table (Photograph 8.6) is shown as Appendix D-3.

This map shows the following field numbers with the appropriate colour to each tenants' holding in Kilrainy.

Tenant	Field No.	Colour	Total Acreage					
			Irish			English		
			Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
Edward Robinson	1 - 29 inc.	Green	311	1	3	504	0	2
Peter Hughes	30	Yellow	0	3	28	1	2	0
Catherine Rafferty	31 - 33 inc.	Pink	10	3	4	17	1	32

This townland survey shows that:

1. As with the other adjacent townlands of Ballinlig and Cornamucklagh, this map and table of Kilrainy does not detail the rent paid per tenant. Neither does it detail the quality of land in each field.
2. Unlike the other townlands surveyed, there are two tenants who have property - 11 acres (approx.) leased directly from the landlord - Lt. Col. George T. W. Rich, and not from a member of the Robinson family. With the exception of Peter Hughes and Catherine Rafferty, then this entire townland is leased by Edward Robinson.

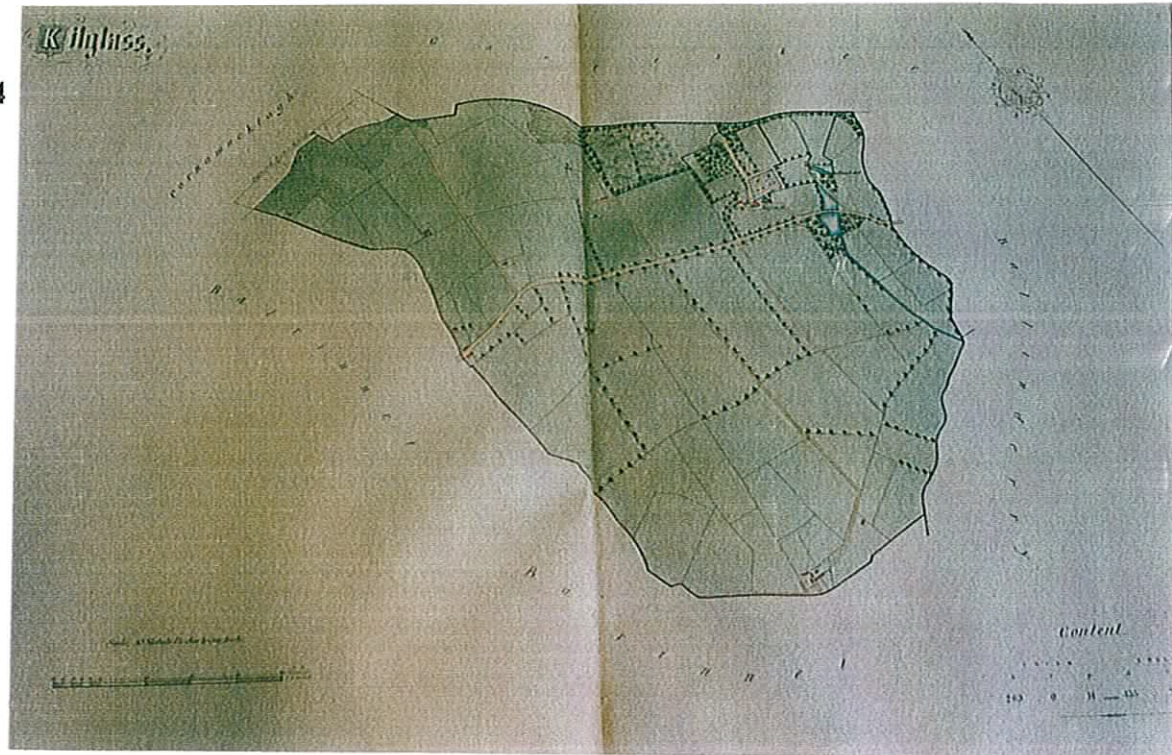
#### **4. Kilglass**

The Rich Estate property in this townland is shown as photograph 8.7.

In this portfolio of survey maps - there is another map, coloured green, of the townland of Kilglass. The scale of the map is 30 statute perches to one inch. There is no list of tenants for this holding. The acreage of the townland of Kilglass is given as 269 Acres 0 Roods 14 Perches in Irish measurement. This equates to 435 Acres 3 Roods 22 Perches in English measurement.

**Photograph 8.7**

**Map -  
Kilglass 1864**



This map is important as this property eventually evolved to John Murphy, who married Johanna, daughter of John Robinson of Kilrathmurray (Chapter 5). This union had no issue and this holding passed to James Robinson of Kilrathmurray, nephew of Johanna. These lands are now in the ownership of the descendants of James Robinson.

From this survey then in 1864 the total acreage, held in tenancy in the four townlands comprising the Rich Estate in Co. Kildare is:

Map Index	Townland	Parish	Barony	Irish			English		
				Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
1	Ballinlig	Kilreany	Carbury	243	2	36	394	2	15
2	Cornamucklagh	Kilreany	Carbury	270	1	29	443	0	0
3	Kilreany	Kilreany	Carbury	311	1	3	504	0	2
4	Kilglass	Kilreany	Carbury	269	0	14	435	3	22
<b>Total:</b>				<b>1094</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1777</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>
				<b>IRISH</b>			<b>ENGLISH</b>		
				Acres Roods Perches			Acres Roods Perches		
Minus Kilglass Section				269	0	14	435	3	22
Minus Kilrainy Section				11	2	32	18	3	32
P Hughes & C. Rafferty				280	3	6	454	3	14
							280	3	6
<b>Total Robinson Holding</b>				<b>813</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>

The Rich Estate in Kildare & Meath (the townlands of Croboy and Mulphedder) totals 2205 Acres (Irish measurement).

The landlord of this estate, Sir George Rich Knt., Chamberlain to the vice-regal Court of Ireland was born in 1786. On July 10<sup>th</sup> 1816 he married Catherine Charlotte Jane, eldest daughter and co-heir of Dudley Loftus of Killyon, Co. Meath. Lady Jane Rich died 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1863.<sup>2</sup>

There are two further maps worthy of inclusion. They are part of a portfolio of 36 large maps surveyed in 1744 by C. M. Byrn, regarding the Colley Estate of Carbury.<sup>3</sup>

The imposing ruins of what was called Castlecarbury, now Carbury Castle, are all that remain of this large estate house - the largest in the barony of Carbury. This is shown as photograph 8.8.

**Photograph 8.8 Carbury Castle 1999**

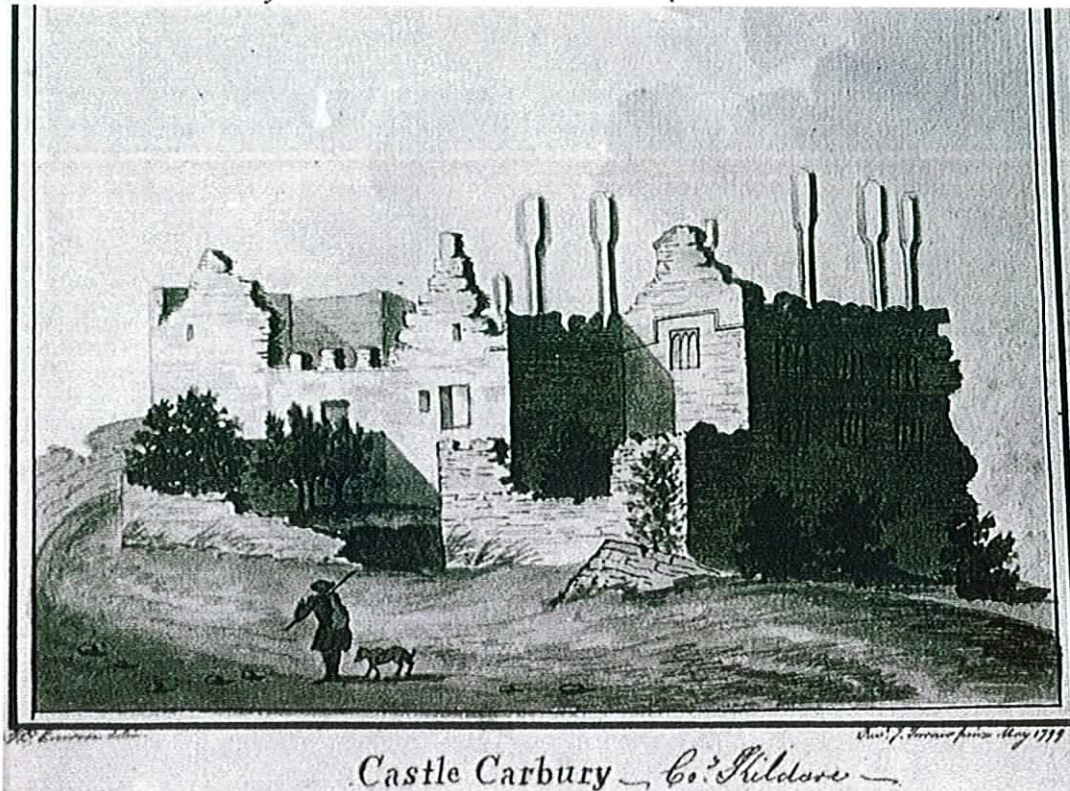




A 1799 painting of this edifice (200 years prior to the photograph shown as 8.8) is shown as photograph 8.9 and bears the inscription:

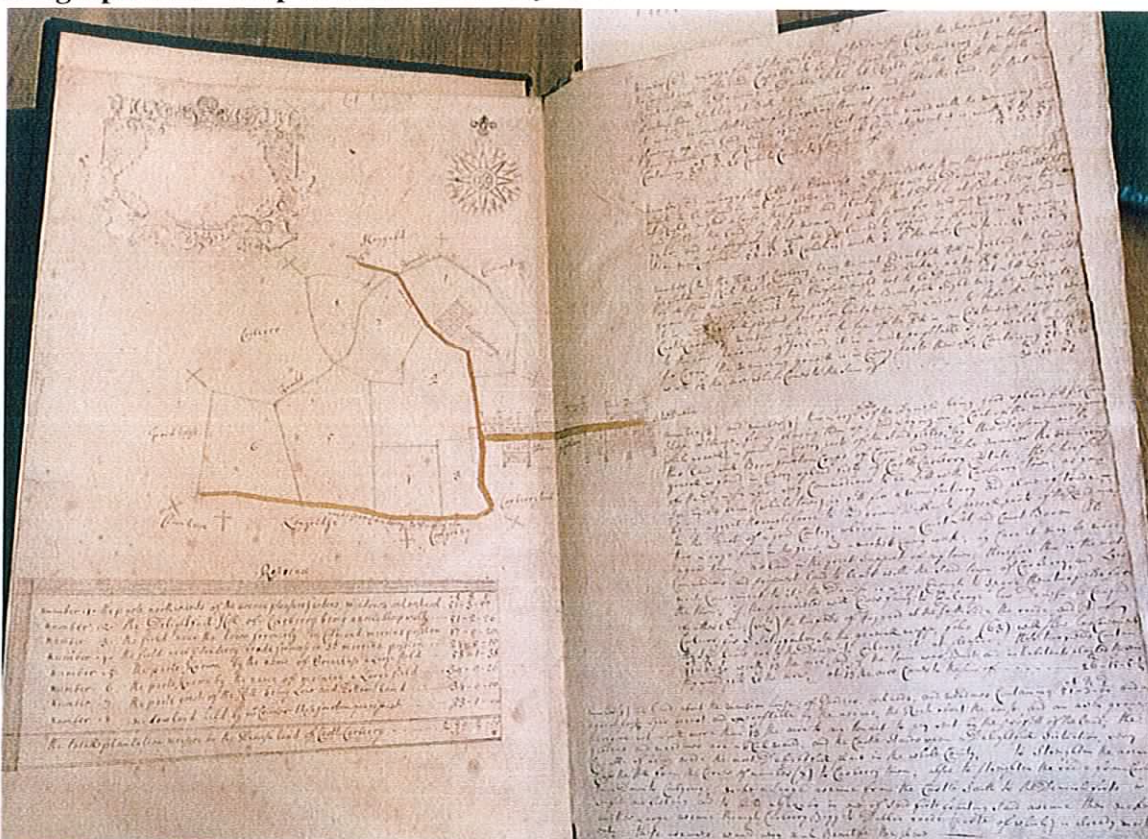
*Thos. Penrose delin Castle Carbury Co. Kildare Rev. J Turner prinx.*

**Photograph 8.9**  
**Castle Carbury**  
**1799.**



The Colley Estate map for Castle Carbury is shown as photograph 8.10.

**Photograph 8.10** Map of Castle Carbury 1744



This map shows the castle, demesne and village of Carbury.

The transcription of the text on the map shown as photograph 8.10 is as follows:

<i>Reference</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Roods</i>	<i>Perches</i>
<i>No. 1 The part northwards of the avenue, pleasure gardens, meadows and orchard.</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>00</i>
<i>No. 2. The delightful Hall of Carbury, being a noble Sheepwalk.</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>No. 3. The field near the town formerly in Edmond Morrin's possession.</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>No. 4 The field near Edenderry Roade formerly in Edmond Morrin's possession.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>No. 5 The part known by the name of Bracken's – a large field.</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>38</i>
<i>No. 6 The part known by the name of Meinine - a large field.</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>No. 7 The part west of the Hill being low and bottom Land.</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>00</i>
<i>No. 8 Meadow land held by Ml. Cremore these fourteen years past.</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>00</i>
 <i>The total plantation measure in the Demesne Lands of Castle Carbury</i>	 <i>299</i>	 <i>2</i>	 <i>00</i>
 <i>The total acreage of the Colley Estate is</i>	 <b><i>2963</i></b>	 <b><i>1</i></b>	 <b><i>103</i></b>
	=====		

The Colley name occurs in Ireland as early a 1407, when a Walter Colley was Portrieve of Kilkenny. At the beginning of the sixteenth century another Walter Colley was sent from England to observe the conduct of the Land Deputy. He lived at Drogheda and leased land from the Corporation in 1506/7. His son Robert Colley was a barrister and confidential agent to Thomas Cromwell, Lord Privy Seal in the reign of Henry VIII. He became Master of the Rolls and a privy councillor but in 1542 was deprived of these offices.

He was succeeded as a confidential agent by his brother yet another Walter - an eminent lawyer who became Solicitor-General in 1567 and Surveyor-General in 1548. Walter's son, Sir Henry Colley, was granted the lands at Castlecarbury by Elizabeth in 1562 and from his second marriage to Catherine Cusack, descended after four generations to Richard Colley. Richard also inherited the Wellesley estates in Trim, Co. Meath, when he changed his name to Wesley and acquired the inheritance.

In 1744, two girls in their twenties were living at Castlecarbury - the last of the Colley family who had ruled there since 1562. They were the joint owners of the Colley Estate - some seven to eight thousand acres, which provided them with an income of £3,000 per year.

In 1747, one of the sisters married Arthur Pomeroy - a parson's son from Cork who was 24 years of age and one year older than his bride. The Pomeroy family trail their lineage back seven hundred years to the Chateau Ganne near the town of Falaise in Normandy, France. Some of this family joined William the Conqueror in his invasion of England in 1066 and were rewarded with large estates near Totnes close to the Devon/Cornwall border. For five hundred years the Pomeroy family enjoyed these properties including the largest estate, which was (and still is), known as Beri Pomeroy. They had to sell this estate when the family took the wrong side in a church reform dispute. They still had other estates at Engsdon, Harberton and St. Cleer in this part of England. In 1672 Arthur Pomeroy, grandfather of Arthur who married Maria Colley, came to Ireland as Chaplain to the Earl of Essex, and he became Dean of Cork in the same year. His son John was also a clergyman and in turn became Chancellor and Archdeacon of Cork. He endowed various churches in that city and this suggests he was also able to endow his son Arthur sufficiently to make a match with Maria Colley. They probably lived in Dublin and on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 1753 the Pomeroy's bought No. 5 Kildare Street, Dublin from a builder Edward Nicholson for £1800.

Eventually Carbury Castle was abandoned - its roof was stripped and Newberry was built about 1760 on Ballyvaene - an adjacent Colley townland to the map referenced in this chapter. This house is believed to be the work of Nathaniel Clements. General John Pomeroy - brother of Arthur refers, in his service in North America during that country's War of Independence, to the Battle of Bunker Hill, Charleston, Massachusetts. A William Hatton reporting to the General refers to "*British losses, between injured and killed, totalling about 1,000 in the action which occurred on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1775.*"<sup>4</sup>

Arthur Pomeroy took up a career in politics. He was a member of the Irish House of Commons who supported the Duke of Leinster's party and opposed the Union with Britain. He served as an M. P. for 22 years. In 1783, Arthur was made a peer and took the name Lord Harberton. In 1791 he was advanced to the Viscountcy of Harberton. In 1840 the house and estate passed to Edward Wolstenholme. He added the term Hall to Newberry and in 1870 it became the property of William Pilkington, a Dublin publisher. In 1911 Richard Robinson, grandson of Richard Robinson of Ballinlig (see Chapter 4), bought Newberry Hall (see Section B of this Chapter). The River Boyne, so familiar in Irish history as the site of the famous Battle in 1690, rises in Newberry, Carbury, Co. Kildare and enters the sea at Drogheda, Co. Louth.<sup>5</sup>

Richard Colley who changed his name at the request of Garret Wesley and who consequently inherited his cousin's estate at Dangan, Trim, co. Meath was very fortunate. Garret had earlier offered his estate to Charles Wesley - brother of John, the founder of Methodism - but he refused. John and Charles were great-grandsons of Ann Colley of Castle Carbury who married Bartholomew Wesley or Westley - son of Elizabeth Wesley or Westley of Dangan, Trim. The last of the original Wesley's of Dangan were amongst Dean Swift's few parishioners and in his words "*though childless, were hardworking and domesticated people*".

Richard Wesley (formerly Colley) who married Elizabeth - daughter of John Sale of Dublin in 1719 was M.P. for Trim and in 1746 was created 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Mornington. Their son Garret was first Professor of Music at T. C. D. and he married Anne, daughter of Arthur Hill. They moved residence to Merrion Street (No. 24) in 1769 where their son Arthur was born in that year. Arthur Wesley initially joined the army as A. D. C. to the Lord Lieutenant. Most of his time was spent raising loans to augment his salary of £172 per annum. Music (the violin) was his main interest in life. In March 1790, Arthur became politically involved and made his first speech opposing Henry Grattan when it was proposed to offer Grattan the freedom of Trim. The election held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1790 to the Irish House of Commons saw Rt. Hon. General John Pomeroy and Hm. Lt. Arthur Wesley, who were cousins, returned as M.P.'s. Wesley's first speeches were cautiously liberal regarding Catholic Emancipation. In 1794 Major Wesley sold Dangan to a Capt. Burrows for £34,000. Following a campaign in the low-countries from 1793 – 95, Arthur sailed to India as Col. Wesley. His brother Richard, formerly Lord Mornington, changed his name to Lord Wellesley when he became



Governor General of India in 1798. Arthur became Col. Wellesley, thus standardising the name.

Sir Arthur Wellesley returned to Ireland as chief secretary in 1807. Dangan estate went into decay when under the tenancy of Arthur O'Connor M. P. an ardent United Irishman. It was destroyed by fire in 1809. This devastation is believed to be the reason why Arthur was ashamed of Trim in later life. There is controversy as to whether he was born in Trim or Dublin. His famous statement about "*not necessary having to be a horse - to be born in a stable*", may explain this. After his victory at the Battle of Waterloo where he defeated Napoleon Bonaparte on June 18<sup>th</sup> 1815, Wellesley was named a Field Marshal - The Duke of Wellington - by a grateful British nation. January 1816 saw the sale of Wellesley's 12,000 acres in Co. Meath. In 1817 the gentry of Trim erected the column, which dominated the town, in honour of it's most famous son. It is recorded that Wellington visited Trim on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1843 and his family home at Dangan. It was in a most ruinous abject state.

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington - grandson of Richard Colley from the castle at Carbury, died on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1852 aged 83 years. The shame that this family felt regarding Dangan may explain the fact that John and Charles Wesley visited almost every part of Ireland - except Meath.

A final observation - Queen Victoria's son Arthur was named after Arthur Wellesley - both shared the same birthday - May 1<sup>st</sup>.<sup>6</sup>

This map shown as photograph 8.10 references Colley property, a section of which eventually passed into ownership of the Robinson family. Further details in this regard are outlined in Section B of this chapter.

A photograph of Arthur Wellesley K.B. by W.L. Colls when Arthur was aged 36 years in 1806 is shown as photograph 8.11.<sup>7</sup> This is also the year in which Wellesley married Kitty Pakenham of Tullynally Castle, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath at St. George's church, Hardwick St., Dublin.

**Photograph 8.11 Arthur Wellesley KB.**



**Major General Sir Arthur Wellesley K.B.**

**Grandson of Richard Colley/Wesley- Castlecarbury.**

It is of interest to note that the Duke of Wellington was the Government Minister in charge of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland, which was conducted in the 1820's.

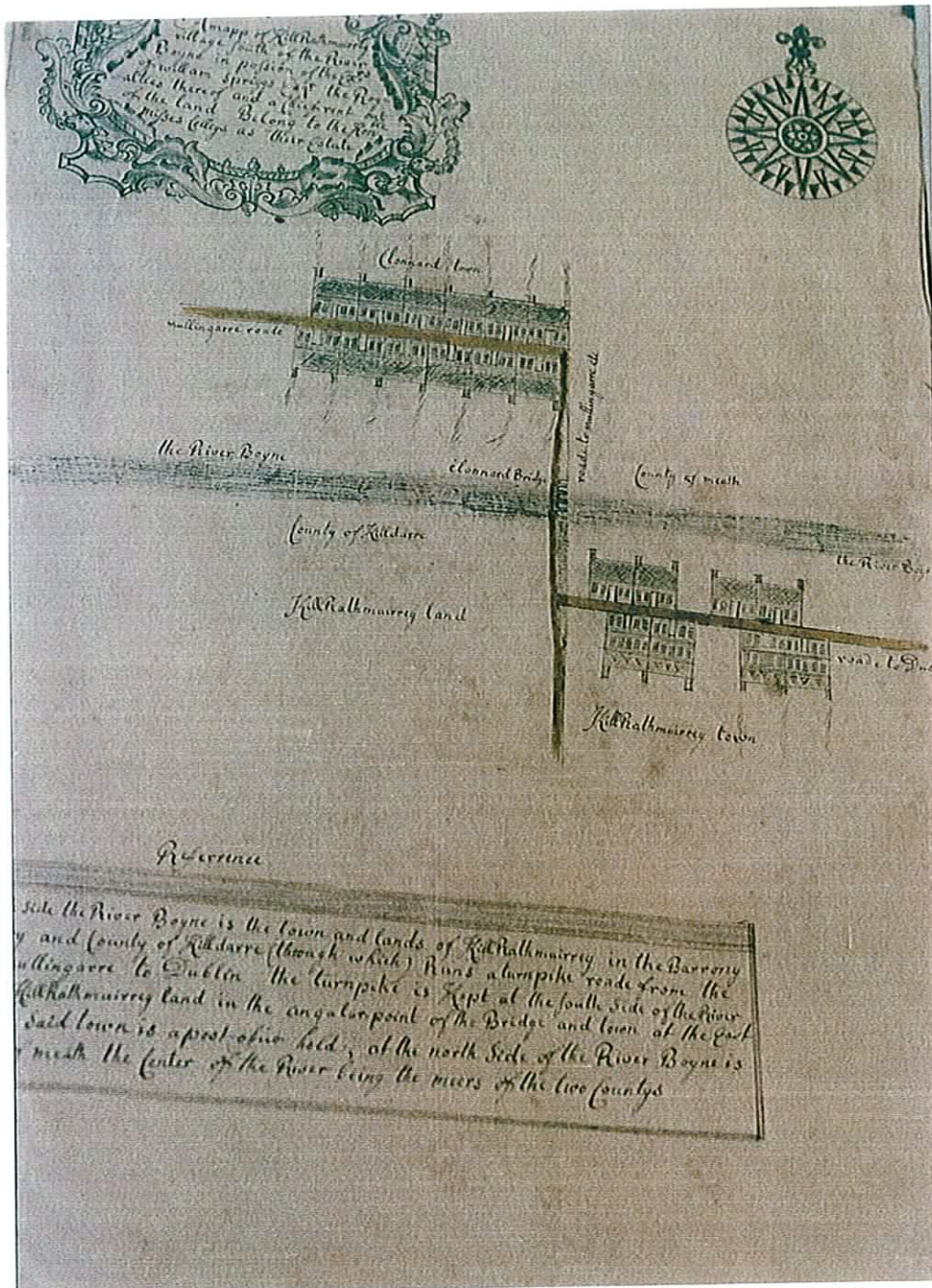
A connection between the Duke of Wellington's Portuguese war against the French and the Irish College at Salamanca, where John Robinson (Chapter 4) studied, is revealed by the following reference:

One group that deserved (and received) well of Wellington were his religious 'irregulars'. James Warren Doyle, an Irish student for the priesthood at Coimbra University who was called up into the Portuguese Army, volunteered to collect information. He refused the rank of Major or any uniform beyond his Augustinian habit. This was in response to the main weakness of Wellington's intelligence where he experienced great difficulty in cracking the French intelligence codes. The Irish College at Salamanca, under its rector Dr. Patrick Curtis, ran an even better intelligence service. During the war in Spain, the College was practically shut down. In 1809 there were only four names on the books – Burke, Shay, O'Grady and O'Kelly. These four had gone off as guides and interpreters in Sir John Moore's army and after the latter's death, remained with Wellington's army. Relays of young Irish novices, previously known as somewhat 'turbulent students', became spirited intelligence officers. After the war, both Doyle and Curtis – the former as the famous K.J.L. (James, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin) and the latter as Archbishop of Armagh - were to retain close but turbulent relations with the Duke of Wellington.

This reference shows a link with Salamanca where Fr. John Robinson attended (see Chapter 4) and the Duke of Wellington and his fight to free Portugal and Spain from French influence.<sup>8</sup>

Along with the Colley Estate map shown as photograph 8.10 in this chapter and listed as map no. 135 (M/S 9212 N/L), there is a map of Kilrathmurray. This is shown as photograph 8.12.

**Photograph 8.12** Map of Kilrathmurray - 1744.



A transcription of the text in this map reads as follows:

*A map of Kilrathmurrey village south of the River Boyne in possession of Exrs. Of William Spriggs Esq. The royalties thereof and a chief rent out of the land belong to the Honourable Misses Colleys as their estate.*

### ***Reference***

*At the south side of the River Boyne is the town and lands of Killrathmurrey in the barony of Carrbery and County of Kildarrie (through which) runs a turnpike roade from the town of Mullingarre to Dublin. the turnpike is kept at the south side of the River Boyne in Killrathmurrey in the angular point of the bridge and town at the east house in the said town is a post office held, at the north side of the River Boyne is the County of Meath the centre of the River Boyne being the meers of the two counties.*

*Exec of Wm. Spriggs always pay a chief rent of seven shilling and sixpence in the year to the family of the Colleys..... and the royalties of the entire village belong to the said Colleys.*

*C. M. Byrn - Surveyor*

This map surveys the area adjacent to the site of the Battle of Clonard on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1798. The map of this site (surveyed in 1803 by Charles Frizell - chapter 4) makes no mention of a village.

A mass grave of insurrectionists, walled in by Garret Robinson, was commemorated in 1898 by the unveiling of an inscribed Celtic cross. Section B in this chapter gives details of the inscription on this monument.

The surveyors Hodges and Smith, who carried out the 1864 survey of the Rich property are mentioned by Andrews. They were involved in great controversy when they were found to be selling government street maps, which had been supplied to a small number of public bodies for purely internal use. Hodges and Smith only just escaped being punished with the loss of their right to sell the Ordnance Survey's other maps.<sup>9</sup>

## ***CHAPTER VIII***

The 1864 survey of the Rich Estate, surveyed by Hodges Smith & Co., details the brothers John, Garret and Edward Robinson in Section A of this chapter. They are the sons of Garret Robinson of Kilrainey (Chapter 5). Also referenced in Section A is John, son of Richard Robinson of Ballinlig (Chapter 6) and his son Richard of Newberry Hall, Carbury. The Newberry Hall lands were originally part of the Colley Estate and the Colley survey by M.J. Byrn in 1744 and their evolving history of ownership is given also in this section. This survey also references Kilglass, a Rich Estate property, which subsequently evolved to ownership by the Robinson family.

### **SECTION B**

The family relationship between the brothers John, Garret and Edward Robinson, their first cousin John Robinson and his son Richard is shown as follows, as in the relationship with Johanna - John's daughter and her husband John Murphy.

---

John (Snr.) - Mary Butler (1804-1884) (1816-1881)	Garret - Margaret Duffy (1810-1884)	Edward - Bridget Knight (1814-1905) (1831-1906)	John (Snr.) - Kate Bourke (1816-1876) (1827-1900)
Johanna - John Murphy (1854-1914) (1829-1907)			Richard - May Kelly (1853-1912) (1857-1941)



Garret Robinson, whose lands are referenced in Ballinlig and Cornamucklagh in this chapter, walled in the croppies grave at the site of the 1798 Battle of Clonard. The memorial erected in 1898 to commemorate the event is inscribed thus:

*Dowd, Kiernan, Rochford, Sinnott, Doyle, Redmond, Roach, Boland, Reilly, Doran, Nolan, Murphy, MacGrath, Hore, Harpur, Morgan.*

*Above stands recorded the names of the brave Wexford men who fell at Clonard on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1798 and whose remains are buried here.*

*These graves were walled around in 1873 by Mr. Garret Robinson and the Celtic Cross and memorial slab was erected in 1898, by the priests and people of Balyna, Kinnegad and Ballinbracky.*

The monument is shown as photograph 8.13.

**Photograph 8.13 1798 Monument, Clonard.**



The house referenced in Chapter 7 in Ballivor, Co. Meath which was owned by Garret, came to him in an unusual manner. When the Dominicans were forced to flee from Trim at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century – a friary they had first established in 1263 – they resettled at Donore, Ballivor on the banks of the River Boyne.<sup>10</sup> The last prior of this abbey was Fr. Laurence Shaw O. P. (1751 – 1833). In his will (dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 1832) he left 12 acres of land with five houses to “*Garret Robinson – the son of my cousin Garret Robinson*” .<sup>11</sup>

Incredibly Fr. Shaw left this property to his relative and not to his religious community. Perhaps if Fr. Shaw had made the bequest to his order – the community would still be there! A plaque, erected by Garret to Fr. Shaw in Ballivor Church, is inscribed with the following:

*“As a tribute of gratitude and respect this tablet was placed..... in memory of Rev. Laurence Shaw R. C. pastor of Ballivor for 41 years”.*<sup>12</sup>

Alas, this memorial over Fr. Shaw’s grave was covered when the Church was renovated in the 1940’s.

Garret Robinson’s will dated 16 October 1883 bequeathed to his wife Margaret (nee Duffy) – “*the sole control of my property during her lifetime*”. A feature of his will was the provision that each of his sons (Edward and John) would pay £20 per year to her. If she lived with either son - that person would not pay the £20. The executors of the will were Ed. Robinson of Kilrainy (referenced this chapter) and Garret’s son John.<sup>13</sup>

Garret Robinson died aged 73 on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1884.

John Robinson from Ballyonan, whose lands in this chapter are referenced in Cornamucklagh and Ballinlig, was born on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1816. He married Kate Bourke (1827 – 1900) on June 30<sup>th</sup> 1847 when she was 19 years of age and he was 31.

John Robinson is shown as photograph 8.14.



**Photograph 8.14 John Robinson, Ballyonan (1816 – 1876).**



This photograph of John, when he was about 35 years of age was taken circa 1850.

Kate Robinson (nee Bourke of Mylerstown) wife of John, is shown as photograph 8.15.  
**Photograph 8.15 Kate Robinson (1827 - 1900).**



John's wife Kate, who survived her husband by 24 years, was 73 when she died 21<sup>st</sup> October 1900.

The following is an abstract from John Robinson's will:

*"Effects under £1,600 late of Ballyonan also of Ballinlig, Co. Kildare, farmer, deceased, died 24<sup>th</sup> October 1876 at Ballyonan. Executor - Rev. Richard Bourke, Kilcock - formerly of Phillipstown."*<sup>14</sup>

John Robinson Snr. is referenced in this chapter with a tenancy of 28 acres at Ballinlig lived at Kiltrathmurray. His wife Mary's brother was Fr. James Butler, administrator of Carlow Cathedral, who died aged 36 on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1860. A monument to Fr. Butler (Chapter 6) was erected in Johnstown Bridge R. C. church, Co. Kildare where he is buried. Fr. Ml. Flanagan to whom Daniel O'Connell wrote a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 1828 (Chapter 6), is similarly commemorated by a plaque in this church – which he built.

The will of John Robinson, Kiltrathmurray reads as follows:

*"John Robinson - Estate value £395 Kiltrathmurray died 18<sup>th</sup> August 1884. Probate of the will granted to Rev. James Robinson Tinryland P.P."*<sup>15</sup>

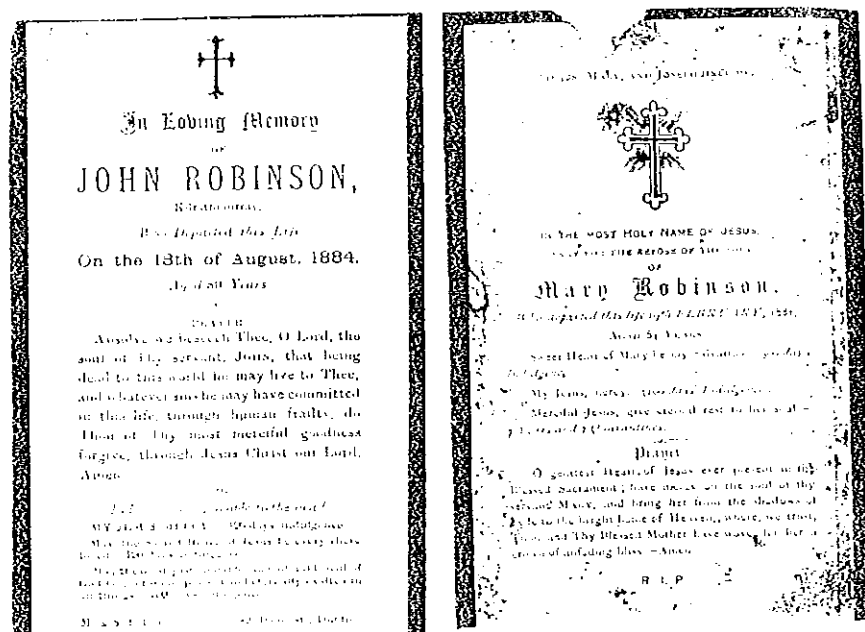
*John & Mary are buried in the church ruins in Carrig graveyard, beside the grave of John's parents, Garret & Johanna (Chapter 5).*

The headstone inscription reads:

*Mary Robinson of Kiltrathmurray  
Who died on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1881 aged 65 years  
And of her daughter Angela Robinson  
Who died on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1868 aged 17 years  
Also in loving memory of the late John Robinson  
Who died on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1884, aged 80 years.*

Memorial Cards for John and Mary Robinson are shown as photograph 8.16.

**Photograph 8.16 The Memorial Cards of John & Mary Robinson, Kiltrathmurray.**



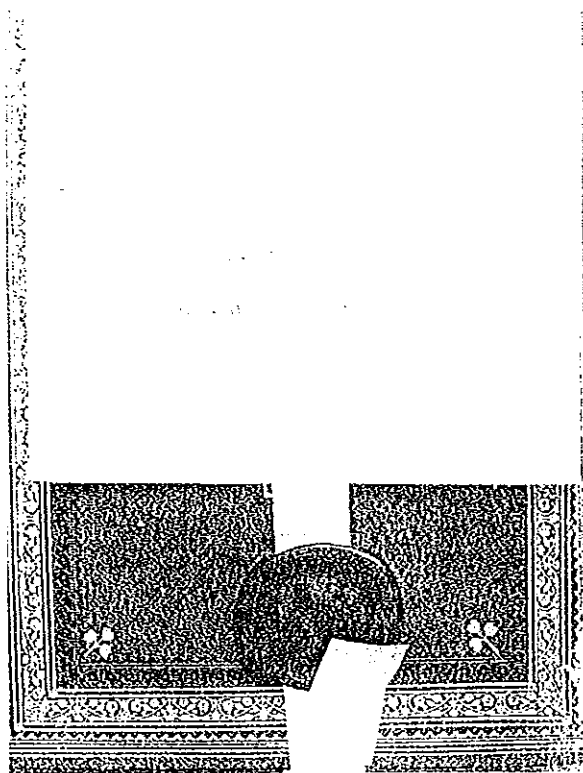
Edward Robinson, whose tenancy is referenced in this chapter at Cornamucklagh and Kilrainy, was born 20<sup>th</sup> January 1814. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1905 aged 92 years.

The National Census of 1901 records for Edward and his family:<sup>16</sup>

<i>Edward Robinson</i>	-	<i>87 years farmer J. P. Head of household</i>
<i>Bridget Robinson</i>	-	<i>Wife 73</i>
<i>Alfred Robinson</i>	-	<i>Son 34 years not married</i>
<i>Henry Robinson</i>	-	<i>Son married</i>
<i>Frances Robinson</i>	-	<i>Daughter in Law – 33 years married</i>
<i>Johanna Robinson</i>	-	<i>Grandchild – 3 years</i>
<i>Edward Robinson</i>	-	<i>Grandchild – 1 year</i>
<i>Bernard Geoghegan</i>	-	<i>Servant – 40 years – not married born in Co. Meath Coachman/Domestic Servant</i>
<i>Kat Lisnall</i>	-	<i>Domestic Servant – not married born in Co. Kildare.</i>
<i>Thomas Farrington</i>	-	<i>Farmer/Boarder – 25 years – not married – born in Co. Wicklow.</i>

In the Kilrainy family bible is the Seal of the Commissioner of the Peace, which Edward Robinson attained in 1894. It is shown as photograph 8.17.

**Photograph 8.17 Seal of Commissioner of the Peace: Edward Robinson.**

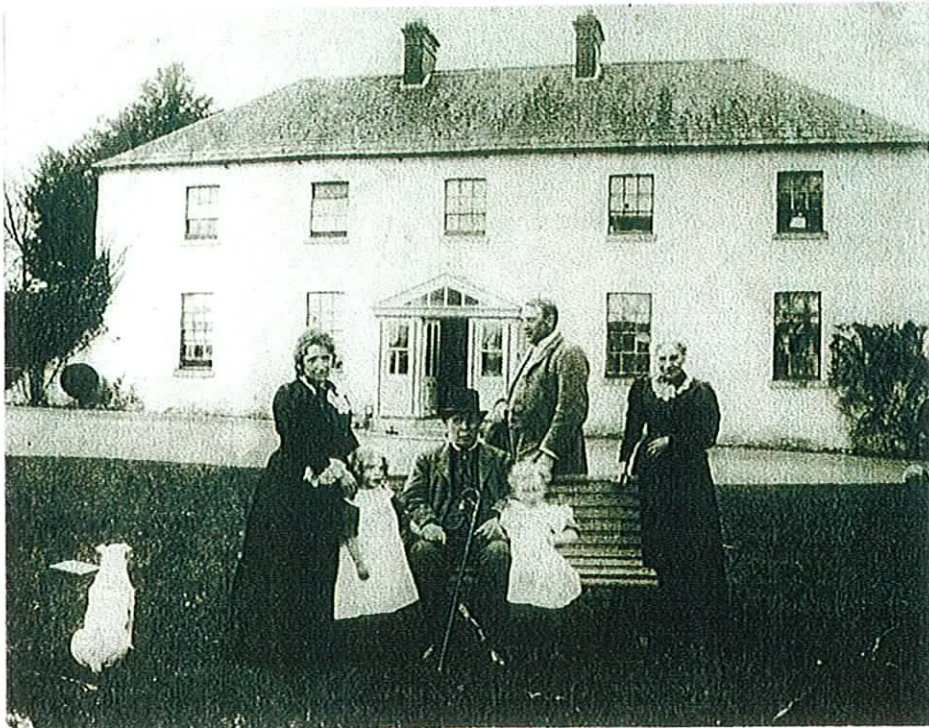




Bridget Knight (1831 – 1906) who married Edward was, according to family lore, a seamstress who worked in Kilrainy.

Photograph 8.18 shows 3 generations of this Robinson family. Edward and Bridget in old age, outside their home at Kilrainy with Frances (nee Boylan) and her husband Henry Arthur Robinson and their children Johanna and James.

**Photograph 8.18 Edward and Bridget Robinson and Family – Kilrainy.**



Edward and Bridget are buried with their descendants in Kilrainy Cemetery. The inscription on their headstone reads:

*In Loving Memory of  
Edward W. Robinson J. P. Kilrainy  
Died 19<sup>th</sup> February 1905 Aged 92 Years  
Also his Granddaughter Josie M. Cullinane  
Who died 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1897 Aged 14  
Also my Mother Bridget M. Robinson  
Died 4<sup>th</sup> April 1906 Aged 75*

.....

In a death notice from a local newspaper the following is recorded regarding Edward:

*“At the patriarchal age of 92. Deceased was head of one of the most influential and respected families in Co. Kildare. He was one of these honest types, whose word was his bond. He was a honourable figure of later years in the parish of Balyna and during his long career was a most uncompromising, nationalist, which principals he maintained to the very last”.*

Newberry Hall, part of the Colley Estate, which was surveyed in 1744 and subsequent history is referenced in Section A of this chapter, was purchased by Richard J. Robinson in 1911.

Richard (1853 – 1912) was a son of John Robinson of Ballyonan (see this chapter) who lived at Jonestown, Edenderry, prior to moving to Newberry. He married May Kelly (1856 – 1941), Ardnaglu, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath.

The 1901 National Census records the following:<sup>17</sup>

<i>Richard Robinson</i>	-	<i>Head of household – R. C. – Read &amp; Write 48 years – magistrate and farmer.</i>
<i>May C. Robinson</i>	-	<i>Wife – R. C. – Read &amp; Write – 46 years</i>
<i>John J. Robinson</i>	-	<i>Son - R. C. – Read &amp; Write – 17 years – Scholar</i>
<i>Ellen McGlynn</i>	-	<i>Servant – R. C. – Read &amp; Write – 26 years - Cook and Domestic Servant</i>

According to this census there were 4 people living in Jonestown in a house with 19 rooms.

Richard lived the life of a gentleman farmer, who hunted 4 days a week in season. In 1909 he was High Sheriff of Offaly, a similar position to that held in Co. Kildare by Lt. Thos.

Tyrrell in 1798 when he defeated the insurgents at the Battle of Clonard (see Chapter 4).

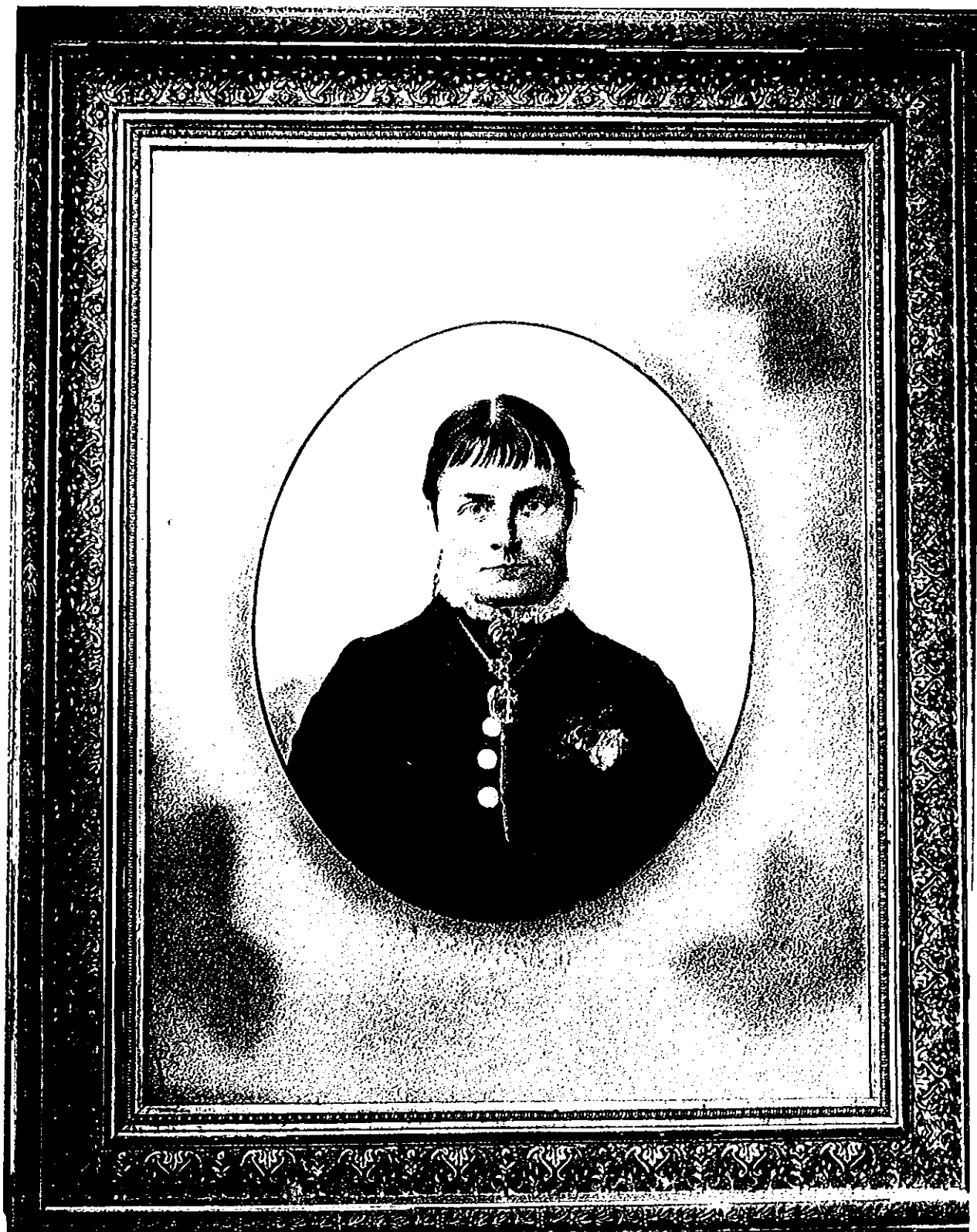
Richard Robinson, in full hunting attire, is shown as photograph 8.19.

**Photograph 8.19** Richard J. Robinson (1853 – 1912).



Richard's wife May Robinson (nee Kelly) is shown as photograph 8.20.

**Photograph 8.20 May Robinson (1856 – 1941).**



Richard Robinson purchased Newberry Hall and some 1,300 acres for £8,000. The following year - 1912 he died aged 59. This family is interred in Carrig Cemetery beside the grave of Daniel McRobin/Cribben/Robinson (See Chapter 2).



Their headstone inscription reads:

*In Loving Memory of  
Richard J. Robinson  
Who died 12<sup>th</sup> July 1912  
In the 60<sup>th</sup> year of his age  
Also his wife Mary Elizabeth  
Died 31<sup>st</sup> July 1941 in her 85<sup>th</sup> year  
And their grandson  
Norman John Robinson  
Who's remains are interred in Derrinturn Cemetery*

Richard's brother, Fr. John Robinson (1860 – 1920), was secretary of the Balyna Parish Branch of the Land League. This certificate of membership<sup>18</sup> dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 1881 belonged to Richard Bourke and was signed by John Robinson – his cousin. It illustrates this families involvement in land agitation during the Parnellite era. This certificate is shown as photograph 8.21.

**Photograph 8.21 Land League Membership Certificate – 1881.**



Newberry Hall is now owned by Dick Robinson, the grandson of Richard (referenced above). He is the last surviving descendant of Richard (chapter 4) his great, great, grandfather, through the male line.

The 1901 National Census details the following in the townland of Balrennit in the parish of Nurney - which is adjacent to the parish of Kilrainey.

*Daniel Robinson, Head of homestead, Cannot Read, Aged 57. Agricultural labourer*

*Ellen Robinson wife, Read and Write, Aged 46.*

*Elizabeth Robinson, Daughter, Read and Write, Aged 22, Not Married.*

This family lived in a three-roomed house:

The entry refers to Daniel (probable) grandson of Daniel and Catherine (nee Gryer) Robinson (Chapter 6), and his family.

The evolving prosperity that this work shows regarding the other members of the Robinson family contrasts with the poverty which this branch of the family endured. It is noted that Daniel could not read, unlike his wife and daughter. He described himself as an agricultural labourer and probably worked on his cousin's farm at Kilrainey. This entry is a poignant reminder of the vicissitudes of life.<sup>19</sup>

This study has concerned the land of North Kildare, its owners and their tenants. It is fitting to conclude this work with an ancient reference to this area. According to Devitt:

*In 1282*

*Carbury, there are 3½ carucates (= 430 Acres temp Ed. II) of land in the demesne named Fynchbow, Gilcaskyn and Clonken (Clonteen) whereof 2½ lie uncultivated on account of the war with the Irish. In time of peace they are worth £10, but they are now worth nothing.*

*This extract shows the nominal value of land at that time in Ireland and how much it was actually worth to its English proprietors.<sup>20</sup>*

# ***CHAPTER VIII***

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15. Wills Index, National Archives No 395.
16. National Census, National Archives, Co. Kildare, 1901, D.E.D. 44.
17. National Census of 1901, op. cit D.E.D. 41
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# Conclusion

# CONCLUSION

The following are the conclusions that may be drawn from this illustrated thesis:

## 1.

The consolidation of the farming tenancy holdings by the McRobin/Cribben/Robinson family, are evident from the table showing the extent of family holding in each year of census.

Chapter	Year	Tenant	Landlord	Surveyor	Size of Holding			Ref.
					Acres	Roods	Perches	
2	1769	Daniel McRobin/Cribben	Thos. Loftus	N. Moran	63	3	0	N/L M/S 15 B 25
3	1803	James McRobin/Cribben	Dudley Loftus	C. Frizell	141	3	2	N/L M/S 2161
4	1817	Fr. John Robinson	Mrs. Osbourne	Brownrigg & Longfield	6	0	0	N/ M/S 21 F 36
5	1819	Richard & Garret Robinson	Lady Jane Rich	J. Longfield	318	1	24	15 B 25
6	1834	Richard Garret & Danl. Robinson	Lady Jane Rich	S. Rait	805	2	15	Title Ap. Film no 46 Co. Kildare
7	1853	John, Rich. Ed., Garret, John, Danl. Robinson	Lady Jane Rich	R. Griffith	1267 2112	3 2	22 32	Griffith Ev. Nat. Arch. 4-D-25
					Total inc.Co. Meath & Co. Offaly.			N/L M/S
8	1864	John (Snr.) John (Jnr.) Garret, Ed., Daniel Robinson	Lt. Col. W. T. Rich	Hodges & Smith	813	2	36	14 A 28

The seven surveys show an inexorable increase in farm tenancy size over the 95 years, from 1769 to 1864, from 63 acres, in the first survey to some 813 acres in the final census. This shows the increase in land leased from the Loftus/Rich family alone. The inclusion of the Griffith Evaluation Survey (Chapter 7) shows the extent of total farm tenancy including land taken in Co. Meath and Co. Offaly. This extra acreage of some 844 acres - 3 roods - 10 perches can be added to the 1864 survey to show the entire extent of the family tenancy.



Despite economic depressions and famines, including the Great Famine in 1845/7 - this family enlarged its agricultural lease by some 13 fold over the span of these surveys.

The total family holding then was undoubtedly greater in 1864 as this survey referenced the Loftus/Rich estate only. It was probably approximate to the Griffith survey (Chapter 7) of some 2112 acres.

With the exception of Daniel, all members of the family who went into farming prospered. Chapters 6 and 7 detail the reduced holding of Daniel whose economical holding reduced from 27 acres to just 2 acres between 1834 and 1853.

## 2.

The discovery of name changes from McRobin to Cribben to Robinson was surprising and this study has detailed where the siblings in the same family were called by different surnames. For example James (Chapter 3) regarded himself as McRobin whereas his landlord and agent called him Cribben. His brother Gerard was called Robinson at this time. The letters of Fr. John Robinson (Chapter 4) show that James changed his name circa 1785 and the tombstone inscription for James illustrating both forms of the name was a deferential act by his son Richard before the name was standardised as Robinson.

In an age when literacy was rare, people were what they were called and even more recently, the present author can recall his late father being addressed in the 1960's as Robinson, Robison, Robertson and Robbason. By occupation he was an agricultural officer who came in contact with a wide range of farmers in Co. Wicklow. His correspondence was addressed as just described. Indeed his profession was similar to that of the immortal songwriter Percy French who described his own occupation as follows:

"He finds out the holding and what it contains,  
Then maps out his system in furlongs and chains,  
And points out positions for 'minors' and 'mains'  
Such wisdom has William - Inspector of Drains".<sup>1</sup>

### 3.

One of the map surveyors referenced in this thesis was unknown. No other reference M. Byrn (Chapter 3 and 8) can be found so consequently his surveys of 1744 may be of greater interest because of the anonymity of this author. The finding of the advisory pamphlets by Charles Frizell (Chapter 3) was particularly interesting as they demonstrate another facet to his life besides being a surveyor.

### 4.

With increasing family prosperity came an involvement in politics as detailed by the Daniel O'Connell letter (Chapter 6) and the Royal National Repeal Association membership card in 1844. The Irish National Land League Membership Card (Chapter 8) is a vivid reminder of Ireland's period of agrarian unrest. This card dated January 1<sup>st</sup> 1881 and signed by John Robinson, is embellished with Celtic Artistry and features the famous phrase used by C. S. Parnell in his Westport speech in 1880 - "Keep a firm grip on your homesteads". The colours - green and orange on the card are the predecessors to the national flag some 40 years before its creation.

The previously unpublished letter from John Robinson (Chapter 6) - where he described "The bailiffs watching the cattle and the police watching the bailiffs," is a stark reminder of the consequences of failure to pay rent on time. Situations such as these described in the letter were the spur to achieve ownership of the land of Ireland by its tenant farmers. The substantial middlemen farmers of Leinster - of which this family were typical, became the backbone of the national movement to gain landownership. Any study of the Irish Land Question then must reference a family, such as this, as an example of people who were constitutional nationalists in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

A grandson of Garret Robinson (Chapter 5) became a member of the Westminster parliament for Co. Kildare and later represented Co. Meath at the time of his death. James Laurence Carew (1850 - 1903) was for a time chief whip of the Irish Parliamentary Party and was a stalwart supporter of Charles Stewart Parnell. Carew was twice imprisoned for his political activities and he also owned the 'Leinster Leader' - the provincial paper for Co. Kildare. At the time of his death - James Carew was High Sheriff of Kildare - the same position occupied by Thos. Tyrrell when he defeated the insurgents at the Battle of Clonard in 1798 (Chapter 3).



The social wheel must surely have turned for this to happen. Further research into the life of James Carew could be very rewarding.

## 5.

The earliest generations referenced - Daniel and James (Chapter 2 and Chapter 3) were the most anonymous of their family as the study of the penal era shows. It is significant that apart from Bishop Thos. Hussey (Chapter 3) - who was an important national figure - the other family members were equally vital in the effort to save Catholicism in English penal times. The two Fr. Shaws; Fr. Gerard Robinson and Fr. John Robinson - two generations of one family from a remote Kildare parish were crucial to the survival of the Spanish Chapel, London during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

## 6.

Commercial farming activity which went hand in hand with such large holdings demanded an element of farm accountancy as the diaries of Garret (Chapter 4) and Richard (Chapter 5) Robinson illustrate. Their previously unpublished farm accounts, dating from 1800 are a fascinating insight into 19<sup>th</sup> Century farming life. The extensive list of cures for animal ailments are particularly interesting. An unofficial degree in pharmacy together with a helping of superstition seemed to combat animal mortality.

In what is now the Irish Republic, some 700,000 acres were brought into cultivation between 1851 and 1871. Between 1851 and 1881 the proportion of families residing in larger dwellings (five to nine rooms) rose from less than 25 per cent to more than 40 per cent of the total population. Furthermore between 1851 and 1876 the number of cattle in Irish farms rose as much as one-third and the number of sheep almost doubled. All these improvements took place in times when only about 20 per cent of tenant farmers out of a total of 662,000 holdings had a formal lease – the remainder held land on the sufferance and goodwill of their landlord and his agent. In 1870 most of these leases were for terms of 21 or 31 years. Graziers such as the Robinson family whose biggest investment was in their livestock, obtained their investment returns more quickly than tillage farming over a shorter period of time and the family diaries, with their livestock cures, reflected this fact.<sup>2</sup>

The listing of trees grown (Chapter 6 – page 114/115) was surprising and informative. To find that commercial tree growing by tenant farmers was established in Ireland as far back as

1770 was quite amazing. It was gratifying to find verifiable proof of Garret and Richard Robinson growing thousands of trees in the early 1800's.

7.

Adam Loftus, who came to Ireland from England in 1561, was the earliest ancestor in Ireland of this landlord family referenced in this study. He was a zealous opponent of the Catholic religion and has been much blamed by Catholic writers for his inhumanity in torturing and authorising the execution of Archbishop Dermot O'Hurley (1530 - 1584) who was hanged at Hoggan Green (now St. Stephen's Green) on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1584.<sup>3</sup> The archbishop was buried in St. Kevin's Church (now St. Kevin's Park, Camden Row) and a monument to this martyr records that "*Dr. Dermot O'Hurley – repeatedly interrogated and tortured, for alleged treason. This included roasting the archbishop's legs in two boots filled with boiling oil and pitch!* Also stated on the obelisk is that the feast day of "*Blessed Dermot O'Hurley is 20<sup>th</sup> June.*"<sup>4</sup>

Also in the cemetery is an elegant monument to Fr. John Austin S. J. and the inscription, transcribed by Bowden, records his death on *29<sup>th</sup> September 1784 in the 66<sup>th</sup> year of his age.* A notice, erected by Dublin Corporation states that Fr. Austin, who was born on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1717, opened *the "famous seminary in Saul Court, off Fishamble Street."* This is the institution from which John Robinson wrote his letter (Chapter 4 ) in 1785 on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This is the only letter extant from this seminary.

This old cemetery then contains two monuments which are connected by the Robinson family. It is ironic that the descendants of Adam Loftus should have as tenants the Robinson family - who were equally zealous in the preservation of the catholic faith (Chapter 2 and Chapter 5). The intermarriage of the Loftus family with the Colley family, two great landowners in this barony of Carbury in Co. Kildare, is interesting as this Loftus family tree shows (Chapter 2). The fact that Richard Colley was grandfather of Arthur Wellesley - Duke of Wellington, connects this area of Carbury to a great man of history (Chapter 8) who was a soldier, politician and statesman.

8.

As the bi-centenary of the Insurrection of 1798 has just passed, it is appropriate to include the 1744 and 1803 land surveys of the 1798 battle site at Clonard of that year. It is also fitting to

include the contemporary Battle records as they reference Thos. Tyrrell, of Kilreany, who defeated the insurgents and whose farm tenancy passed to the Robinson family circa 1810.

Finally attached are:

- a) A family tree showing the relationship of all the McRobin - Cribben - Robinson person's referenced in this thesis.
- b) The author's family tree showing the direct descendancy from Daniel to his children. The finding of these Loftus/Rich survey maps and their tenants is a source of extra information that adds to the vast jigsaw that is family and social history.

## 9.

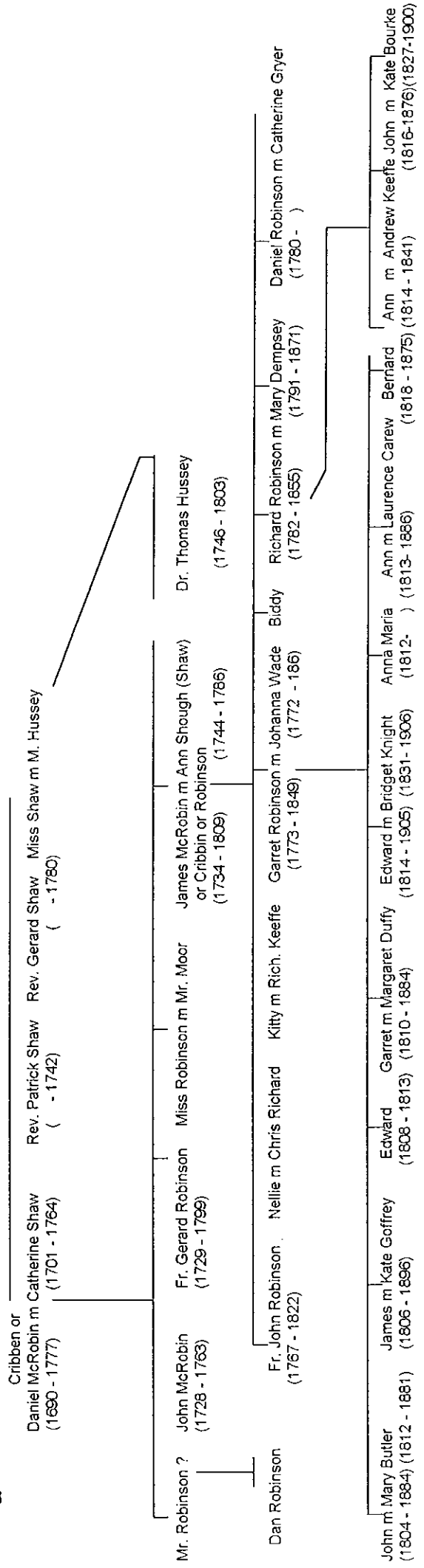
With the passing of time the quality of the family portraits has clearly improved, as is evident from those shown in figures 8.19 and 8.20. These photographs show the improved circumstances of the family. The large size of the prints and their gold gilt frames are a manifestation of the status of their subjects. Richard Robinson, attired in his hunting costume and photographed in a studio, proclaims his position as a member of the gentry in his portrait. In contrast, Daniel Robinson (Chapter 8), cousin of Richard, could not read. His family lived in poor circumstances and did not leave photographs to posterity.

## 10.

Appendix F details the life of Charles Frizell – the surveyor who executed the 1803 land survey of the Loftus Estate as outlined in Chapter 4. His work as an agricultural advisor shows him to have been an advocate of agricultural improvement. The bursary provision of his will to feed the poor of Finglas, which is still in place, demonstrates his humanitarian attitude. His family activities, together with his headstone inscriptions, complete a study of an obscure member of Irish society. The surveyor was a vital part of the land equation between landlord and tenant.

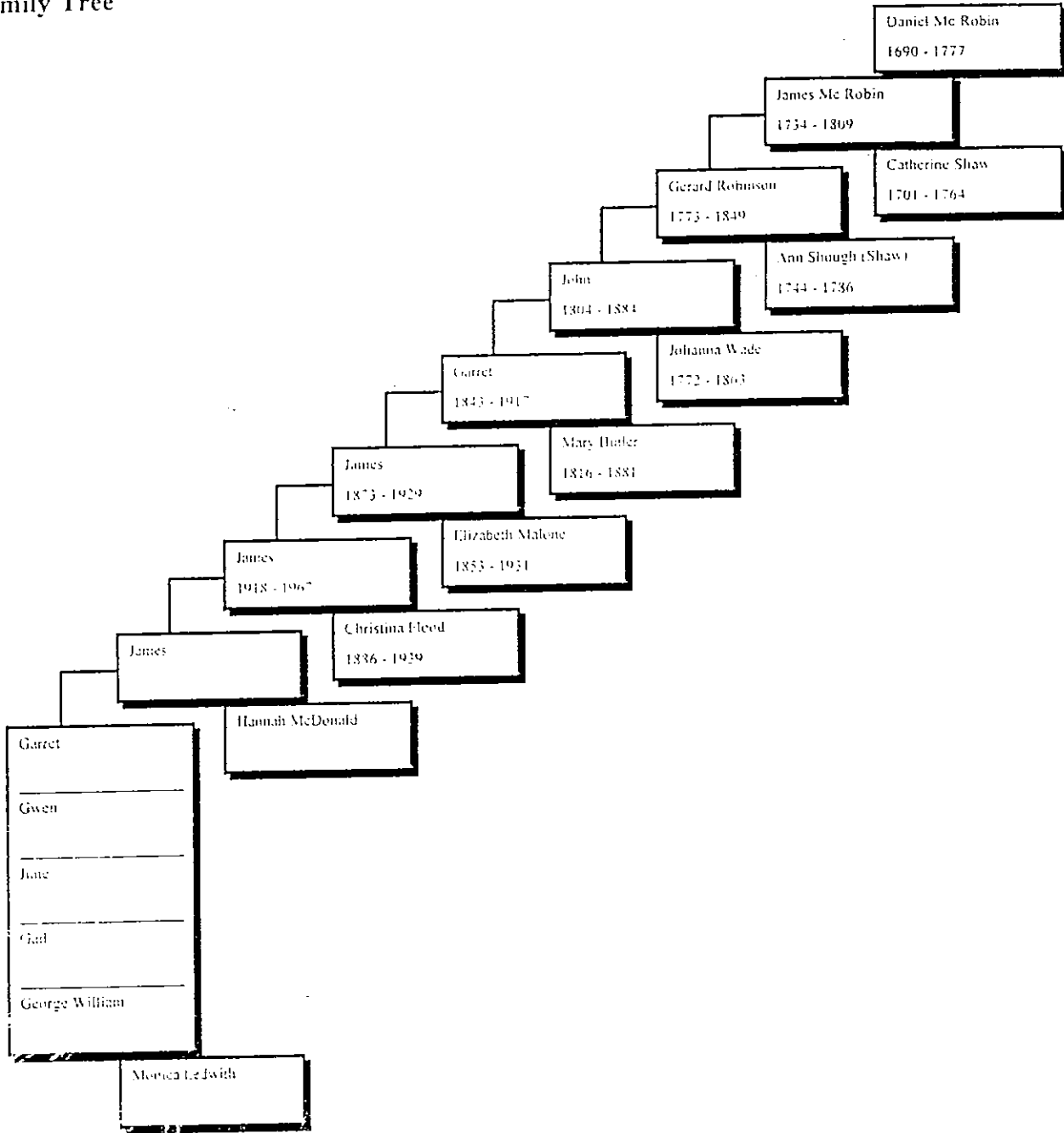
a)

### MCROBIN/CRIBBEN/ROBINSON REFERENCED IN THIS THESIS



2)

### Robinson Family Tree



# ***CONCLUSION***

## ***References***

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# Appendices

## Appendix A

Book reviews:- The Robinsons of North Kildare – 300 Years of Family History

## Appendix B

Letters of John Robinson (October 10<sup>th</sup> 1785 – August 20<sup>th</sup> 1796)

## Appendix C

Griffith Evaluations (1853)

## Appendix D

D-1: Ballinlig Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)

D-2: Cornamucklagh Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)

D-3: Kilrainy Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)

## Appendix E

Charles Frizell (1738 – 1812)

## Appendix F

Units of Measurement

# Appendix A

## Book Reviews

*The Robinsons of North Kildare- 300 years of Family History,*  
published by McRobin Publications, Dublin 1997

# The fascinating Robinson family

IN THE FOREWORD to this fascinating family history John Bruton, who knows the family, says "you can never know a Robinson too well". James Robinson must have spent many years researching his family roots and he admits that at times his life was "taken over" by the work. What he has come up with at the end of this mammoth task must be of immense satisfaction to him and to all the Robinsons connected to him.

The McRobins of Balyva, Co Kildare, came from Scottish stock and towards the end of the 18th century they changed their name to Robinson. In 1690 Daniel McRobin was living in north Kildare and it is from this date that the author can claim that the family have lived in the same area for three centuries.

The family were "middle men" farmers and they were actively involved in both local and national affairs. Some of the author's ancestors were meticulous in keeping diaries of the various events of their time and the book contains some lovely excerpts from wills and lists of cures for livestock illnesses.

"I bequeath unto my brother Batt half my potatoes in the garden and my dresser." The nephew Laurence got the other half of the potatoes "with my case and the furniture".

*"To save the worms from horses  
Take a handful of Rice  
a handful of Yarrow  
two heads of garlick  
and allum  
Pound all together  
and wet it with urin  
all to be mixed and put in horses ears and tye there for 24  
hours for Sunday, Monday and Wednesday."*

There are recipes for purging a horse and curing scab in sheep. If the purge is too successful in the case of the horse there is an antidote in the form of "an ounce of venice treacle in a pint of warm oil".

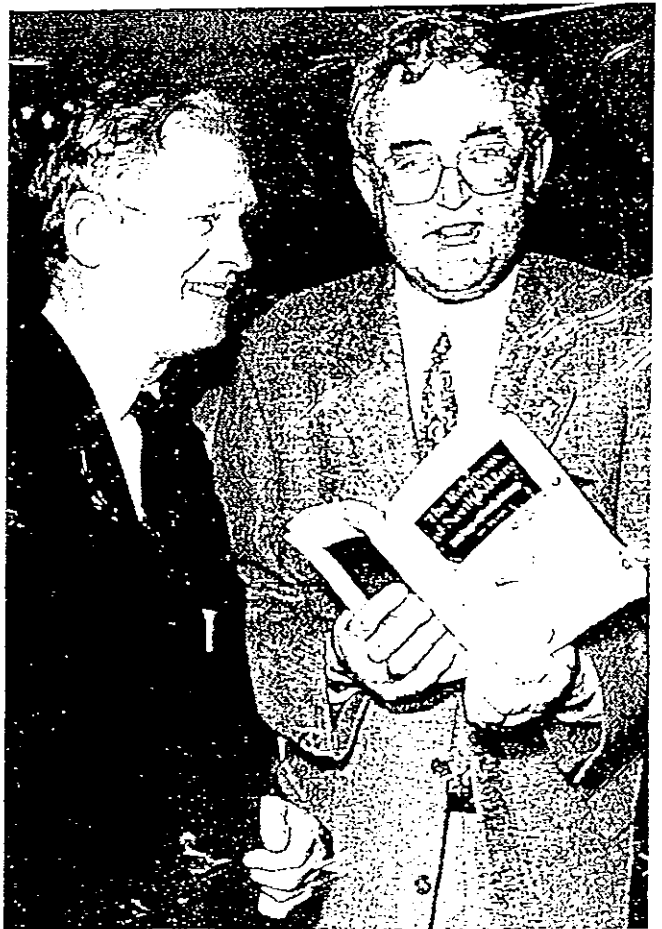
Followers of racing will know the Robinsons well as their connections with horses are legendary. George Robinson, who only died in 1958, was married to Maev Kennedy. Her father Edward, bred The Tetrarch and her uncle on her mother's side just happened to write "Waltzing Matilda". George's son, who is also a George, is better known to us as G.W. and he will be associated always with Mill House.

G.W.'s sister, Mary Rose, married Seamus Hayes who, in my humble opinion, had one of the best seats on a horse that I have ever seen.

This book is full of surprises and snippets of really interesting history. There are numerous black and white photos and reproductions of old documents. James Robinson deserves

great praise for what he has done for his family and he gives us an example of what writing a family history entails.

*The Robinsons of North Kildare, 300 years of family history,* by James Robinson. McRobin Publications.



● Author James Robinson fills in Willie Robinson on a piece of the family history

*The Irish Field April 26<sup>th</sup> 1997*



**The Robinsons of North Kildare**  
**300 Years of Family History**  
 by  
**James Robinson**

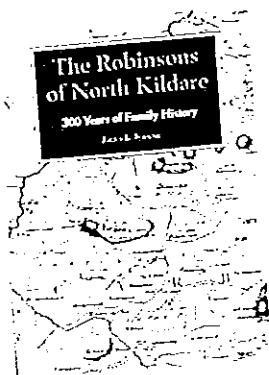
Jimmy Robinson has produced a book of some 370 pages about his own family, the Robinsons of North Kildare. On the back cover, he describes it thus: 'This is my family history — the Robinsons, who have lived for over 300 years in the Broadford area of Co. Kildare. It spans nine generations and it is a unique story in which each person is indexed dating from my fifth great-grandfather Daniel McRobin (born 1690) to the present. This book traces their evolution from tenant farmers to mainly prosperous middlemen. It also incorporates the local history, from monastic times throughout the ages, of this most historical area.'

We are all fascinated by the history of our own families. We will go to endless trouble and expense to find out even the most mundane facts about our ancestors. However, the same level of interest is not extended to the families of others.

Jimmy Robinson overcomes this difficulty in two ways. First of all, he sets each generation in its historical context — there are references to penal times, the 1798 Rebellion, the Repeal Movement and the Land League. Secondly, the book is attractively produced and very well illustrated. Drawings, photographs and facsimile documents abound which makes the book interesting to skim through. Also, long extracts from newspapers, deeds, diaries and letters make fascinating reading.

The book is available from the author:  
 Jimmie Robinson, 72 Coolamber Drive,  
 Rathcoole, County Dublin, Ireland.

PRICE  
 Ireland & UK: £20.00 + £2.50 pp  
 Rest of World (surface): £20.00 + £3.50 pp  
 Rest of World (airmail): £20.00 + £12.50 pp



**THE ROBINSONS OF NORTH KILDARE**  
 by James Robinson

*The Irish Times* (1997) p. 22-23  
 A 300-year Kildare family saga spanning nine generations, using letters and diaries to chronicle its evolution from poverty to prosperity. No, it's not Danielle Steele taking a Gaelic jaunt, but Jimmy Robinson's 370-page history of the Robinsons of North Kildare. The book, which has a Foreword by former Taoiseach John Bruton and includes local history, family wills, emigrant letters, farm diaries and copious photographs, was obviously a labour of love for the author.

*Full Flight- Cityjet Magazine* November 1997

**Catholics displaced Protestant tenants, says book**

CATHOLIC farmers increasingly displaced Protestants as tenants of the big landlords in the 18th century because they were able to pay higher rents, according to a new book.

In the process, they created a rural, Catholic middle class characterised by landholding and by having sons in the priesthood, according to the book, *The Robinsons of North Kildare*, by Mr James Robinson.

The Penal Laws had a catastrophic effect on land ownership by Catholics by, for instance, forcing them to bequeath their land equally to all their sons, resulting in uneconomical holdings, Mr Robinson writes. But they gradually gained what he calls a "competitive edge" in leasing land.

The Catholic farmer's ability to pay more rent than his Protestant counterpart was explained in these terms by one observer at the time in the early 18th century: "An Irish Papist is much abler to pay rent for a farm than a Protestant of equal ability with the Roman, by reason that a Roman and his whole family can live upon potatoes and buttermilk the whole year through for to make a rent, which the Protestant cannot do, for the Protestants must have beef and bread and much better clothes than the Romans."

Mr Robinson continued. "Eventually, the competitive Catholic edge in bidding for leases was to undermine the Protestant tenants on many estates once landlords adopted a strictly commercial approach."

Rents and produce prices rose throughout the 18th century and "landlords were compelled to cash in on this boom by leasing to Catholic tenants and thereby removing the predominant Protestant middleman". These Catholic tenants in turn leased their land to sub-tenants "thus creating a Catholic middleman class".

Nevertheless, many visitors to the country commented on the appalling poverty in which the majority of the population lived.

*The Irish Times*  
 June 4<sup>th</sup> 1997



● Pictured at the launch of the book 'The Robinsons of North Kildare' were (from left) Jimmy Robinson, former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave and G.W. Robinson

Photo: Jim Gaffney

Here's to you,  
Robinsons

Former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave was on hand during the week to officially launch *The Robinsons of North Kildare - 300 years of Family History*. The book details family wills, photographs of seven generations, farm diaries from 1800, emigrant letters and even a letter from Daniel O'Connell. The book has a foreword from Taoiseach John Bruton.

Also there were the legendary racing man himself, George William Robinson, and author James Robinson.

*Irish Independent*  
March 8<sup>th</sup> 1997

## Former Taoiseach launches book on north Kildare family

By JOAN WALSH

A family history spanning 300 years and nine generations was unveiled at the weekend.

The launch of "The Robinsons of North Kildare - 300 Years of Family History" by former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave was the culmination of a meticulous family tree study on the part of Jimmie Robinson.

The 380-page tome traces the history of the Broadford family from Daniel McRobin in 1690 to George-William Robinson, the author's youngest son in 1997.

"There was a name change in 1785 from McRobin to Robinson around penal times," explained Jimmie Robinson who took four years to painstakingly study and research the book.

Even when he took time out from the project his one fear "was that I'd die or walk under a bus and nobody would make head nor tail of it."

The book unearths some historical gems like a

letter from Daniel O'Connell to Fr. Michael Flannagan which fell into the hands of his housekeeper Mary Butler who married a Robinson.

There are tragedies like the the story of a shipwreck in 1869. "The Lady Nelson sank and the Master of it was Bernard Wade and his sister Joanna Wade married my great-great-grandfather Gareth Robinson," explained Mr. Robinson.

The luckless crew was shipping wine from Portugal to Liverpool when it went down in a gale.

In the book every single family member is indexed right down the centuries. There are family wills, photographs of seven of the nine generations and a painting of Thomas Hussey (a distant relative) the founder-President of Maynooth College in 1795 who pre-dated photography.

The self-published history is on sale by Jimmie Robinson for £20, tel: (01) 4580670.

*The Leinster Leader* February 27<sup>th</sup> 1997



*Pictured at the launch of his book The Robinsons of North Kildare, Jimmie Robinson, author, with DIT President Dr. Brendan Goldsmith, Terri Garvey of RTE's 'The Family Tree', Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Brendan Lynch PC, and legendary racing personality, G.W. Robinson*

*D.I.T. Examiner  
March 1997*

**The Robinsons of North Kildare  
300 Years of Family History**  
This is a unique history of a family who have lived for 9 generations in the Broadford area. It is a history incorporating farm diaries dating from 1800, a collection of a priest's letters from penal times, a Repeal Movement Membership Card and a letter from Mr. 1829, Daniel O'Connell.  
The entire publication was the brainchild of James Robinson, DIT

Photographer, and staff member in DIT Kevin St., who spent four years researching and compiling the history, and the funding he arranged at his own cost.  
At 380 pages its a right humdinger of a book, and the £20 it costs is less than you'd put in a baby's hand.  
You can contact James Robinson through the Physics Department, DIT Kevin St.  
Ph: 402 4557

**GENEALOGY** Reviewed by Stephen Collins

<b>The Robinsons of North Kildare</b>
By James Robinson
McRobin Publications £20
<b>Co Longford Survivors of the Great Famine.</b>
By David Leany
Derryvryn Press, £10

FAMILY history used to be viewed as a harmless occupation for visiting Americans but an increasing number of people living in this country are now interested in finding out where they came from.  
The varied background of our ancestors, how they survived the famine, the way they reacted to 1916, which

side they supported in the civil war and even how they voted; all these things graphically illustrate the past in a way no formal history book can ever do. It is time consuming but not all that difficult to trace your ancestors back to the middle of the last century. The public records of birth, marriage and death which go back to 1855, and the church records which go back even further, provide the basic information. This can be fleshed out by the census records of 1911 and 1901 and the Griffith Valuation of the 1850s.  
These two books look at family history from different perspectives. James Robinson's account of his

own family in North Kildare is a fine example of the genre and it demonstrates what an amazing wealth of fascinating information can be discovered about just one family. David Leahy's book is a source book for anybody with Longford roots interested in beginning the task of tracing their family history, because it brings together for Co Longford one of the great source materials for most Irish families, the Griffith Valuation of 1854.  
Most people attempting to trace their ancestry are lucky to get back to the early 19th century because there are very limited family records for the 18th century. The Penal Laws effectively made the Catholic population of

the country non-citizens and so there are no comprehensive records of their existence. Robinson's family came from a segment of the Catholic middle-class which was never totally submerged by the Penal Laws and he is able to get beyond that to a named ancestor, although the information about his life is very sketchy.  
The various records reveal a Catholic family of tenant farmers who were reasonably prosperous. social class is often overlooked in the star accounts of Irish history which concentrate on the struggle between landlord class and tenants. In

was always a Catholic middleman class and numbers and influence through the 19th century was the growth of this class the leader of Ireland and re-cult

*The Sunday Tribune July 13<sup>th</sup> 1997*

# An Irishman's Diary

PROPOSALS of marriage have been made under odd circumstances but surely none so odd as those in which Father Mogue Kearns received such a proposal in 1798.

Father Kearns had gone into hiding after the Battle of Clonard, Co Meath, during the uprising. When the militia captured him, writes James Robinson, "he was tied and placed on his horse and roped to a tree. The militia party repaired for refreshment and left him to hang, when his horse would move. Every time the horse moved Fr Kearns was heard to exclaim 'Whoa Bobby if ye gang — I'll hang!'"

"Two Robinson girls" witnessed this scene from a nearby home and one offered to free him — if he'd marry her. He refused the offer stating that he was a Catholic priest and prevented from getting married. She did release him, however.

Fr Kearns's escape was short-lived: He was later captured, tried, and hung, drawn and quartered at Blundell wood near the town of Edenderry. No room for error there.

Actually, Mr Robinson writes, this was the third attempt to hang Fr Kearns, described as a man of huge physical proportions. "Fr Kearns had taken part in the French Revolution and had escaped death when the post from which he was suspended buckled under his weight and he escaped being hanged in 1789."

Whatever Father Kearns may have thought of the Robinson girls and their views on how to get a husband, he can thank them for helping to keep his memory alive.

His story is a small fragment — literally a footnote — in *The Robinsons of North Kildare*, by Mr James Robinson. The great thing about this book for those of us who are not Robinsons — and a great many of us are not — is that its author is a man who does not believe in letting a good story pass him by.

## Bodkin's hand

One example is the affair of Bodkin's hand in Galway in 1832. Mr Robinson got the account from a document in a solicitor's archive. It appears to have been written by a man who had got a contract to repair the cut stone in the Protestant Church of St Nicholas in Galway which had, at one time, been a Catholic church.

One of the vaults was said to contain the body of a Father Bodkin who, when he was forced to hand the keys of the church over to the Protestants, is said to have prayed: "My God, that my hand may not decay until the keys of this church be restored to the proper owners."

As the workmen approached the vault, people began to gather in the church. The author of the document descended into the vault first. "I found the body of a man, all perfect, except his toes."

For days, crowds of people



Mr James Robinson: eye for a good story

visited the church to see the body. Then consternation: one morning it was discovered that someone had cut off Father Bodkin's right hand.

The workmen, afraid of being blamed for what had happened, and of incurring the wrath of the crowd, accused the sexton, Henry Gaddy, who got the key every night, of being involved in the desecration.

He, naturally, denied any complicity — "whereupon some of the workmen took hold of him, and said that if he would not tell what he knew about the desecration, they would drag him to the bridge and throw him into the river; he still persisted, but they commenced to drag him along to carry their threat into execution."

Mr Gaddy sensibly confessed that he had given the key to a Mr Murray and a Dr McSweeney. He also confessed to giving the key to "parties" who had tried to destroy the body with lime and vitriol but who had managed only to discolour it.

Dr McSweeney, upon being confronted by the author of the document, confessed that he "had sent it to Mr Murray's pawn office."

Mr Murray agreed to give the hand to the parish priest, Father Roche, who in turn agreed to return it to its resting place.

Finally the hand, and the rest of Fr Bodkin, both very much the worse for the wear, were put into a new coffin (the fourth that had been "worn out" by the remains, it was said) which was sealed up in the vault.

The Bodkins are related to the Robinsons which is why the story is in the book.

Enough of this grisly stuff. Here, for the benefit of students resentful of their lot in life, is an extract from a letter by 17-year-old John Robinson, a pupil at Fishamble Street Academy, Dublin, to his parents in Cornamuckla, Co Kildare in October 1785.

## Slow boat to Salamanca

"I keep good hours and I seldom let them see me idle, which are the principal things The

mornings are beginning to grow very cold. We cannot get to the fire. Therefore you would do me an infinite piece of service if you could procure a big coat for me and a pair of shoes which I want very much. My shoes are tattered very much and I cannot have them to be mended on account of my being trusting to them. Be pleased to send the shoes as soon as possible you can."

Two years later he set off on a very long journey to Salamanca in Spain to train for the priesthood.

"I am sure there is no one breathing has ever been attended with worse luck at sea than I," he wrote to his father from Bilbao.

"In six days after we left London we got within 15 leagues of Bilbao but a most sudden and terrible hurricane arising we were driven in less than 20 hours to Torbay, a bay of the English Channel on the coast of

Devonshire, where we continued about two days when a favourable breeze arising we put to sea again but with no better luck than before for we no sooner got clear of the rocks which are very numerous there than a tempest arising which drove us immediately back to Ireland but to what part of it I certainly cannot tell for neither the Captain nor the pilot themselves knew where we were only just to guess, the wind changing we were drove to France." A master of the long sentence, it would seem.

John Robinson was later appointed to the parish of Clonegal, Co Carlow, to which his journey, this time from Cornamuckla, seems to have been perilous in its own way, as he wrote to his father in 1796. "I arrived in this town on the evening of the day I left you without any other accident than the danger of getting my neck broke several times by the stumbling of my mare; once in particular I confess my life was in imminent danger. Since my arrival she is beginning to follow the humours of her dam by stopping."

Clearly an unsatisfactory vehicle; and in a postscript he reports a further, greater sin of the horse: "I forgot to tell you that my mare tossed Mr Purcell and confined him to bed for some time."

If it is borne in mind that Mr Purcell was the parish priest and was 77 years of age, one will appreciate the extent of the new curate's embarrassment. Mind you, Mr Purcell lived to be 92.

The Robinsons originated in Scotland and may have come to Ireland as mercenaries. The book covers the history of the family and descendants of Daniel McRobin in the Broadford area of Co Kildare hut, as should be clear by now, it covers a great deal more as well. Full of illustrations and well produced, it is published by McRobin Publications at £20.

PADRAIG O'MORAIN

*The Irish Times*  
June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1997

# 300 Year History of Robinson Family in Kildare is Launched

Rathcoole resident James Robinson has launched a book telling the story of 300 years of his family history. 'The Robinsons Of North Kildare - 300 Years Of Family History' covers nine generations of his family, who have lived for most of those three centuries in the Broadford area.

"It has taken me four years to research and write", Mr Robinson told the *Kildare Times*.

Former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave officially launched the book in the Johnstown Inn.

The book records the experiences of the Robinson family through some of the times and events of greatest upheaval common to all family histories in Ireland during the last few hundred years. Records of political involvement at the time of the 1798 rebellion, membership cards of the Land League and Repeal Movement, and a letter from Daniel O'Connell all feature in the book.

Experiences of emigration described in letters have been preserved. And tales of

breeding, training and racing tell the history of the horse industry in Kildare.

The extensively illustrated 380 page book contains 146 photographs, and is available

from the Book Shop in Maynooth and the Nas Na Ríogh book shop in Naas.



*Pictured at Kildare launch of "The Robinsons Of North Kildare - 300 Years Of Family History" were (from left) G.W. Robinson, legendary racing personality, James Robinson, author and Liam Cosgrave, former Taoiseach, who launched the book.*

*Kildare Times June 18<sup>th</sup> 1997*

# *Appendix B*

## *Transcription of the letters of John Robinson*

*The letters date from October 10<sup>th</sup> 1785 to August 20<sup>th</sup> 1796*

October the 10th 1785.

Dear Father & Mother

This goes with my true and sincere affection, to you and family, hoping To find you in good health in which all friends and I am at present Thanks be to God, except my uncle who is not in very good health this week past, but I hear no complaint at present. My aunt Moor was in town before me she begs to be excused for not writing to you but her little affairs were in so confused a condition that she could not give you a particular account. dear parents ye will excuse me for not writing before now but I must confess I have but very few hours to spend on the meditation of such affairs. my business is very weighty and I must study to please my superiors. to the best of my opinion I am in good esteem with Mr Betagh & Mulcaile. I keep good hours and I seldom let them see me idle which are the principle thin[g]s. the mornings are beginning to grow very cold. we cannot get to the fire. therefore you would do me an infinite piece of service if you could procure a Big coat for me & a pair of shoes which I want very much. my shoes are tattered very much & I cannot have them to be mended on account of my being trusting to them. be pleased to send the shoes as soon as possible you can.

Altho we are seperated in person yet ye are never absent from my thoughts & henceforth it shall be my continual practice to write frequently, as there is nothing that can give me greater pleasure than to hear from you I beg you may write by the first opportunity and let me know how is everything with you. You will excuse my first letter. pray give my love to my brothers & sisters as if I mentioned each in particular, remember my love to Watt Jem & Nancy, no more at present but

believe me dear parents  
to be your affectionate son  
John Robinson.

## *Letter 1*

## Letter 2

Dear Father

After a most disagreeable and dangerous passage of four days (during which juncture I was not five minutes well), I arrived safe in Liverpool, from thence I went to London where I was most affectionately received by my uncle & Mr. Hussy. the later has given me a gold watch, a flute, a pocket Book & several good books the former a pair of gold sleeve buttons a silver seal etc etc besides a suit of Cloaths In the paying for which I suppose each had an equal share. Mr Hussey & my uncle ordered me to inform you that you never shall receive a letter or any assistance from them untill you quit that cursed place. they make very good promises which i am shure they will not break. tomorrow at 4 O'Clock I am to sail for Bilbao pray Remember my love in the most affectionate manner to Watt, Brothers & Sisters & all enquiring friends & believe me dear Father to be your most

affectionate & most

7 ber the 24  
1787.

Dutiful Son

John Robinson.

## Letter 3

Dear Father

I never knew untill now what it is to be absent from your loving arms. the pleasure I had in writing to you is inexpressible a faculty of which I am not as yet deprived of thanks be to God but I assure you very near for the hardships I met with since I left London have almost left me incapable of writing. I am shure there is no one breathing has ever been attended with worse luck at sea than I. thanks be to God I am yet living which certainly is a great miracle for we have been three times cast on shore by the impetuous tempests that continually prevail. the wind was so very favourable at the first going off In six days after we left London we got within fifteen leagues of Bilbao but a most sudden and terrible hurricane arising we were driven in less than twenty hours to Torbay a bay of the English Channel on the coast of Devonshire where we continued about two days when a favourable breeze arising we put to sea again but with no better luck than before for we no sooner got clear of the rocks which are very numerous there than a tempest arising which drove us immediately back to Ireland but to what part of I certainly cannot tell for neither the Captain nor the pilot themselves knew where we were only just to guess, the wind changing we were drove to France. So that now I may say I have been In England, Ireland, Isle of Man, France and the much wished for Spain. now I am safely arrived In Bilbao thanks be to God in good health though in a most feeble weak and emaciated condition but I hope with God's assistance to be as strong as ever shortly for I have recovered vastly since I came on to shore. Tomorrow at 7 O'Clock I am to set off for Salamanca where I am strongly recommended. I have nothing more to say in particular therefore I conclude by giving you to understand that I remain till death your most affectionate Son

John Robinson.

pray remember my love in the most affectionate manner to Watt and tell him from me that if God gives me life and grace that the money he gave me is the best money he ever gave away remember my love to the children to Jem & Nancy & Shenus Connor & all inquiring friends.

Adieu.

## Letter 4

Dear Father  
Salamanaea Apl. 14th 1788.

I take this opportunity of writing to you by the Bearer Mr. Read who after remaining a year in this college is now obliged on account of the badness of his health to seek his native Soil in hopes that God would be more propitious, however 'tis partly thro the badness of his health and partly on account of his losing his vocation for the Church for he is to return no more he came from Doctor Deleany and consequently from [the diocesis] of Kildare he's Mr. Read's son of Kilkock. [I am] a pensioner here, for Mr. Hussey and my uncle [subscribe] thirty guineas a year for me because I am [for] no] Dioces or sent by no bishop, I intend writing [by] next post to Mr Hussey in order to acquaint him with) that matter that he may if he thinks proper [write] to Dr. Deleany about getting me affiliated [for] the dioces] of Kildare, for I think too much that are [spending on] my account though I am certain they don't grudge [it to me]. Mr. Hussey and I are as big as any two and [as to my] Uncle [I'm] certain of his good graces, however [I shall] mention that matter to them in such a manner [as shall] save myself from blame for if I should not mention it] Mr Hussey might be angry on account [my not] letting him know when there was a vacancy [so I] will take care to put it out of his power, [m?] me they intended to keep me for themselves [?] I believe Dr. Deleany won't refuse a [favour to] either Mr. Hussey or my Uncle I would [have] wrote] to him before now on that very subject but did not hear of it till this very day for it was kept a [close secret]. I am certain the Rector has wrote to him before now on that subject however that would not excuse me.

I received your letter about 2 months after the date and never would receive it had it not been for an Irish officer who released and carried it from england for it would be sent back to you again because you paid no passage for it in [London] there are 2 shillings postage to be paid on every letter you send. pray write to me immediately and give me an account how everything [ares with] ] for you can't conceive what pleasure it gives. [I have read] your old letter over & over for there is scarce [a day since] I received it that I did not read it 3 or 4 times [I could] tell you a great deal about Salamanea, the colleges [churches] convents nunnerys etc but 'tis scarce worth while [to weary] you with the history let it suffice to inform you [concerning] a few remarkable things I saw, Esther Sunday [was] the] most grand procession that can be imagined [the statue of the blessed virgin the outer garment of which] feet upwards of three thousand guineas, a carriage of solid silver where [in the Blessed Sacrament was carried which is about] 16 hundred weight, it was caddie in the cathedral [which is] very near as thick as the body of a horse I omit unnumberable] other magnificent things I have seen. I request [you will] enquire if I don't be filiated myself for the dioces] of Kildare for the boy that will be filiated for it I am [shure] [Father farrell] can inform you] write by him to me [and send] me a few good penknives and a pair of buckles [large size and handsome pattern as it is almost impossible to get] the like here. Dan would be a fit person to choose. [pray say] I wrote

To Dan the last time I wrote to you but I [received] no answer I wrote to you, to tom, & to my aunt. [direct] from London, and you gave me no account if [it was received] or no. I likewise wrote to Mr. Betagh.

I beg you will write immediately and give me an account how everything is with you for I am like one on thorns till I hear from you, make your letter long and give me an account of all the news in the country if possible, for at least you can spare time on Sundays to write, if long but not double for a double letter would become mighty dear. I received a good many letters from Mr. Hussey since my arrival here and I sent him some double letters for which he tells me he paid through the nose. If I had sunday or any day at all to spare I would send you a letter which would contain as much as a little book, and as small as any letter, but I have not that much time to spare.

I wrote the upper part before I knew anything about what I am now going to tell you. the Rector came to my room this morning and told me that he wrote to Mr Hussey himself about the subject above mentioned, that Mr Hussey told him he would write to Dr Deleany about the matter, he tells me likewise suppose Dr Deleany has already nominated a boy for Read's place he will by no means give it to him from me, for if he sends [anyone] he will send them home again. I write to Doctor Deleany [this post]. On receipt of this I hope you will immediately write to me [and give] me an account how everything is with you. tell Gorman when y[ou] see him] that I wrote to him but received no answer. I will write a [letter 'o] Dan and to my Aunt. More likewise if I have time but I fear [I will not] for Mr Read sets off in less than 15 minutes. the River [Forces which] washes the walls of this city swelled so high some time [ago as to] cover entirely a wood which stands on its banks

Remember my most sincere love to Watt and to all the children [to Jean] and Nancy Shemus & Conner & in short to all enquiring [friends] believe me dear father your ever dutiful

and obedient  
son

John Robinson  
Adieu.



## Letter 5

Salamanca August the 12th  
1789.

Dear Sir,

I received your kind and much valued favour dated December the 20th 1788 the 12th of June last but did not see the bearer Mr. Kenna who I suppose came no further than Madrid from where your letter was posted. I deferred writing to you since that time as I expected to have an opportunity of sending you a letter by hand which now occurs. For Doctor Kelly president of this College this day sets off for Ireland as it seems this climate did not agree with him, he is a Queen's Countyman & from the Diocess of Kildare, if he goes to Dublin as he supposes he will, he will undoubtedly call to you. I received the letter you sent by the young man you mentioned and sent a few days before his arrival here a letter by Mr. Read's son of Kilscock who went to Ireland on account of the bad state of his health but you forgot to inform me whether you received it for he told me he would deliver it himself. I am exceedingly rejoiced to hear that all friends in Ireland are well and hope one day to see them so, at present we have a good many of our Collegians in a very indifferent condition some with an Ague & others with different complaints, there is a Mr. Maugan here from Watling Street who was very ill with an Ague but is now perfectly recovered he's son to Mrs Maugan widow in Watling St. Thank God I am entirely free from these complaints tho' very far from being in so good a state of health as formerly for I am continually troubled with a headache which I suppose is to be attributed to the heat of the weather, which indeed is very great this harvest, besides I had a great weakness of sight last March and April but now, thank God, am free from that complaint. Last summer provisions were exceeding scarce in Spain the country people in different places rose up in arms but in Barcelona in particular there was a very dangerous insurrection which cost a good deal of blood before it was quelled.

Mr. Hussey and I are very good friends we keep up a very regular correspondence for I have received no less than five letters from him

since I came to Spain. As to my present position which you desired to be informed of, I can assure you I never liked any period of my life half so well. This College I dare say is the first and best provided for of all the Irish communities in Europe, our fare is better than could be expected in a College the rents of the 4 Irish Colleges viz. Civil, Santiago, Alcala & Salamanca are ceatred in this College at present & we are under the immediate protection of the King & Council, we have a most excellent library besides Globes, Microscopes an Air Pump and many astronomical instruments which Mr Hussey bought and a few weeks ago arrived in Bilbao. In short I should be as happy as any person in my situation could wish were it not for the head ache, — but I hope it shall take its final leave of me before Winter.

Dr. Don I render you my unfeigned thanks for your friendly request to be informed of anything you could supply me with I have already tasted very largely of your bounty & despair of being ever able to make a recompence, however if it should some day so happen I hope you shall look on me as your most steadfast friend. All I request is that you send me by the next opportunity a French Dictionary & C . . . I shall expect a letter from you shortly. I can scarce ever get a letter from my Father, the letter that you mentioned Mr Kenna carried for Doctor Curtis must have miscarried for Dr. Curtis is rector of this college and he told me he never had it

pray remember my most dutiful love and most sincere affection to my Uncle & Aunt and believe me Dr. Cousin to be till death

your . . .

and humble . . .

John Robinson.<sup>2</sup>

Salamanca March Ye 29th 1790.

Dr Father

having received your letter dated, September the 7th 1789. I cannot recall what day of the following month. I immediately wrote an answer but to my great surprise received no other from you since. I suppose our letters must miscarry for we keep up but a very blundering correspondence. In my last I informed you of the state of my health and how this place agrees with me which at present needs no repetition as, thank God, I find no change. be assured I heartily rejoiced at the account you gave me of your affairs and according as I promised you in my answer wrote immediately to London & represented as clearly as possible I could the state of your affairs, but in such a manner as by no means could give offence, however I received no answer since. having finished my Philosophy I begin my Divinity the 15th of this month. as I brought no Baptisterium I request you will immediately apply to Mr. Farrell for one, & as I don't know whether I was confirmed that is a point you have to clear up in your next which may contain the Baptisterium inclosed & which you are to send me as soon as possible for it is a thing absolutely necessary which can admit of no delay.

Our Rector, Dr. Curtis is in Madrid since last October settling the affairs of the College. Dr. Deleeny has not sent me the nomination on which account the Rector seems a little uneasy. I wrote to Mr. Hussey concerning it not long ago and I suppose he wrote to Dr. Deleeny however it is a matter that gives me but very little concern. I told

you in my last that I wrote to Dan by Dr Kelly (who was here for sometime in quality of a professor but who returned to Ireland for reasons which I already gave you) but received no answer.

I request you will write to me immediately and satisfy me with respect to the matters already mentioned, give me a faithful account of your health, how all your affairs go, how the children are, if little Dick's knees have that bent which I so often observed, how he likes to go to school and what his parts are, how our friends in Dublin & in Westmeath are, how Watt is &c.

you will excuse me for writing a short letter when I tell you I am to defend an act this evening besides I expect to write to you in a few days by a little boy who goes to Ireland to recover his health.

Remember my most affectionate love to Nelly, Catty, Gerald, biddy, Dick, Dan, watt, Jen, Nancy, Shemus. in a word to all enquiring friends. to Batt Gorman if still in Ireland & believe me Dear Father

to be your most dutiful & loving son

Jno Robinson

P.S. Direct your letters thus Al señor Don Juan Robinson Colegial en el Real de los nobles Irlandeses de Salamanca en España.

## Letter 6

## Letter 7

Salamanca August 8th 1790.

Dear Father

Your long silence astonishes me exceedingly. I could scarce imagine you would be since September 7th 1789 till this day without writing to me. this is what I never expected. I have often heard you quote my Uncle when in Seville (I suppose as a model for me) & say that you wrote to him every two months, but them times are past & now the love of parents for children is greatly degenerated. this is the fourth letter I wrote you since October last & in the last two expressed my most earnest desire of hearing from you & requested that you would with all possible speed send my Baptisterium with an account of whether I was confirmed or not. I would certainly receive Holy Orders next year had I these things mentioned but now 'tis impossible as I have neither. I again most earnestly request you to send my Baptisterium with an account of whether I was confirmed or not. I wrote to Father Farrell on the same subject a few posts since.

I received a letter from Mr. Hussey not long ago in which he gave me an account in general terms how you and all friends in Ireland were, for he assured that although he does not correspond with you he nevertheless hears everything, nay every tittle, about you and family. he likewise sent me pocket money. the necessaries of life last season were exceedingly dear, the wheat at the rate of four guineas a barrell & everything else in proportion, but the present harvest is most abundant and sufficiently compensates for last year's barrenness. every summer & harvest since I came to Spain I was very much troubled with the headache which I attribute to the Fever I had in Dublin & to the excessive heat of Weather. but at present and during the whole summer I am perfectly well, thanks be to God, better than I ever thought I would be. for I assure you I was several times since my arrival here that I had but very slender hope: of myself. I have finished my Philosophy and began my Divinity the Mouday before last St. Patrick's day. I wait with the greatest impatience to hear from you. you cannot imagine how deeply it afflicts me to see how dilatory you are about writing to me. 'tis not possible but you could spare time enough to write at least a few lines or could not Gerald, Nelly or Kitty write. I am certain that if Watt Monaghan could write that I should have a letter from him before now. I request that you will write to me immediately & enclose the Baptisterium giving me an account of everything. how you are yourself, how all the Children are, how Watt, Jem, Nancy, Semeus, Buckley, &c. how all the cattle are & how in fine everything goes on with you, give me an account of the different revolutions which necessarily must have happened since my departure

give my most unfeigned love to all these people mentioned viz to Nelly Kitty Gerald, Biddy, Dick, Dan.<sup>t</sup>  
(& send me an account of how each one goes)  
to Watt Jem, Nancy, Semeus, Tom Buckley  
in a word to all enquiring friends & believe me  
most Dr & loving Father to be your most dutiful son

John Robinson Esq

Direct your letter thus.

To . . . (etc.)

Seal your letters with a wafer  
for the last I received of you was  
open on account of the seal being  
broke.

Farewee!

# Letter 8

Salamanca Jber yr 14th 1799

Dear Father

Yours of July the 8th came to my hands this morning, the only one I received from you these twelve months. be assured that I was overjoyed to hear that your health is better than I ever expected and your circumstances are such as I hope will render you in a short time independent of any man. I see plainly that you have nothing to rely on but the assistance of Almighty God and the good & dutiful conduct of your children and what better assistance can you expect than the assistance of him who has so often relieved you in your most pressing necessities and who is both willing & able to surmount every honest & industrious man who trusts faithfully in him. I hear frequently from London and would hear oftener if my Uncle could write. however Mr. Hussey by no means forgets me. he writes to me often & lets me want for nothing, however as God would have it, I am dependant of him for nothing more than a little pocket money for the College furnishes me with every other necessity. At my first entrance in this College the greatest regularity & discipline reigned here, nothing was to be seen but the greatest concord and harmony; but these twelve months past it has been quite changed to the contrary. all these troubles were occasioned by a parcel of gentleness from the provisors of Ulster Connaught & Munster who persecuted the Rector, Dr Curtis with the most remarkable severity, and that for no other reason as I suppose than because he is a Leinster man and on the supposition that he that he (*sic*) is more partial to the gentlemen here from that province than he is to them. they have sent several representations against him to the King and Council, but far from doing him the least harm have made his merit appear more bright and have given him an opportunity of clearing his conduct to the whole world and of showing that instead of treating them with that remarkable severity which they pretend he treated them with the greatest sweetness & moderation and that he acted like a person who had nothing else in view but the honour of the college & the good of the mission.

The Rector has been in Madrid since last October till July last when he returned home and has by great measure restored this College to its pristine state of repose and tranquillity. I suppose Mr. Farrell has been already informed of what has already passed here. I wrote him a letter dated July 6th and informed him of the different circumstances that have happened here since that unhappy rupture has commenced, however if he has not received it you will be pleased to inform him of

what has happened here these twelve months past, according as I tell you in this letter, but taking care at the same time not to let him see the letter. since last spring my health has been better than I ever thought it would be, at least while I remained in Spain. For since the time I came first to Salamanca I have been continually troubled with the headache which I attribute entirely to that malignant Fever I had in Dublin. besides my eyes have been several times so weak that I have been very often a whole month without studying a word, but since Spring last I am infinitely better, thanks be to God, may as well as I could wish to be and I hope in God I shall have the same run of good health till I have done with Salamanca which I shall be in about three years if I go to France and if not I don't intend to quit this College these five years. I began my course of Divinity last March and I believe I will finish in about three years and a half or four years, but I will not quit the College immediately after I finish my studies. I mean to stay here a year or two in order to perfect myself and there will not be the least inconvenience follow from my staying here during the time I have mentioned as all the members of this College are allowed to stay eight years.

Last season has been remarkable for its scarcity and the present is as much so on account of its abundance and plenty. You must imagine that provisions were exceedingly dear last year when wheat the most plentiful of all grain sold for five hundred reads a barrell which makes about five guineas. however the present season has made an abundant recompence. last summer & the present harvest have been excessively hot, in so much that nobody in Salamanca can remember such warm weather as I supposed you received none of the letters I wrote to you these twelve months. I wrote to Dan [?] Dublin a few posts ago requesting of him to write to me immediately and give me an account of how everything was with you & likewise desiring him to send my haptisterium, so I beg you will write to him on receipt of this and inform him that I received my haptisterium; but lest he should imagine that your informing him that I read, my bapt. would be an indirect way of ordering him not to write to me you must tell him to write to me immediately. in my letter to Mr. Farrell I told him I should look on it as a very great favour to have a letter from him, but as the carriage of letters is so very uncertain I hope you will tell him I wrote to him & begged to be favoured with a letter. Be pleased to salute all the children in my name and tell them I beg of them in the Honour of Almighty God and through the memory of their Dear mother who is in the grave that they behave themselves with modesty & prudence and shew by their good, virtuous conduct that they have the fear of God always before their eyes. If ever I hear anything said with foundation against their reputation I shall utterly and absolutely deny them. I shudder when I think of the many accidents that young people like them are continually exposed to but I hope in God all my fears for them are groundless

I am dear Father with the greatest respect  
your son Jno Robinson

Honoured Father

Yesterday I received your letter dated March 17th. The account you give me of your health and that of your family circumstances life, gives me infinite pleasure and satisfaction; it gives me new life and spirits to hear of your good health and the good and dutiful conduct of my Dear Brothers and sisters and the prosperous state of your affairs. I assure you you can with infinitely greater ease figure in your own imagination the pleasure I receive in reading your letters than I can express by words, what gives me the greatest trouble is that you are so very lazy that it is almost impossible to get you to put hand to paper. I beg then and request sincerely that it may not be so for the future. I rejoice with all my heart that you have so good a prospect of getting a match for Nelly. I think I knew the young man you mentioned if he is John Darcy's oldest son, as well as I can recollect his name is Jimmy.

I know Dear Father your prudence & experience is such that there is but little need of putting you on your guard lest you might be taken in. What therefore I recommend strongly is that (if Nelly likes the young man and he is to your own satisfaction) you may not let slip an opportunity which so very seldom presents itself and not be daunted at every little difficulty which necessarily must arise, for be assured that ever and always in such matters difficulties are unavoidable. I therefore much rely on your own good sense and experience and on Nelly's own prudence and good conduct in this affair and hope it will be such as to merit the immitation of her sisters and the praise and admiration of all her neighbours. And I expect that if ever I have the happiness to see you and her that far from being a disgrace she will be an ornament and honour to us. And that this may be the case may the Almighty God in his Mercy grant.

I received no account from London since last October and consequently can't inform you what time I am to quit this or to what other College I'me to go. Neither have I received any Holy Orders yet, which I fear will be another impediment. For I cannot think of quitting this house by any means till I'me ordained Priest as I should have been this half year past were it not for some disturbances we had here in the house occasioned by certain turbulent and restless members who can never be at ease or quiet but when doing mischief. The Rector would very willingly have promoted me to orders, but as these people are longer in the house than I am and as they would be very much offended if they did not receive orders with me (which the Rector does not think them worthy of) he tells me he thinks it better to deferr it a little longer till affairs are somewhat better regulated. I every post expect Mr. Hussey's answer which will determine all. I could get myself ordained in the beginning of March last if I choes to go on the American Mission. I would have got the King's money, 30 hard dollars per month besides three thousands royals which is about 30 guineas to defray my expenses to a Seaport & be carried afterwards in the King's own vessel & at his expence to the place of destination where besides the 30 dollars per month King's pay I would have the emoluments arising from a Parish. you see this offer was not bad. notwithstanding I rejected it for the hopes of seeing my friends once more and making some atonement for the many obligations of which I stand indebted to my Uncle & Mr. Hussey. in effect there were six got out of this house and set off from Salamanca for Louisiana in America last week. There is a Mr. Murray a young man after finishing his studies who will set off for Ireland in June or July next. he is of the Diocess of Dublin, his father lives in County Wicklow, he has likewise two other brothers in the City of Dublin. he has been always an intimate friend of mine since I came to Salamanca, the principle end he proposes to himself in going to Ireland is to see his friends and after to return again to Salamanca next year. If you . . . of . . . 7 Guineas to give to said Mr. Murray that at his return to Spain he may carry me several articles the want of which I at present very much feel I shall look on it as a very great favour and shall God willing, in about 3 years return them with some addition and with a great deal of thanks. at his departure I will send a letter by him which he will post in Dublin & which will contain the necessary instructions for sending the money to him. I expect with God's help to see you in less than 3 years. I expect to have my studies finished in two years. I think it would be high time to send little Dan to school or if not Gerrard could teach him very well but let him take care not to be too hard or severe on him lest perhaps he might take an aversion to it than which nothing is worse for a child. I hope at my return to find the three very smart, but Dan in particular for the account you give me of him very much pleases me. I'me heartily sorry for poor Nancy's ailment. tell Watt I long very much to see him and that in 3 years I'll have a long dish of discourse with him. Remember me to all. I am dearest father your loving Son

Jno. Robinson.

Clonegal August 20-96.

Dr. Father,

I arrived in this town on the evening of the day I left you at about six o'clock without any other accident than the danger of getting my neck broke several times by the stumbling of my mare; once in particular I confess my life was in eminent danger. Since my arrival she is beginning to follow the humours of her dam by stopping. I cannot keep her, tho I were to sell her for the one fifth of her value. You will be kind enough to speak to Mr. Shaw to buy me one, a good one, as soon as possible. I hope I will be able to pay him about Michaelmas if he has bought the filly from Kit Pelly write me word by return of post. I'm pretty sure you have the walls of the house finished by now. I hope you have adhered to the first plan. you will inform me how you get your health. I hope with the blessing of God your removal to your new house will cure you effectively of the pain in the head, it is undoubtedly the heat of the house you live in that causes that frequent pain. please to inform me how everything is with you, and if Father Hussey is come to Ireland as yet.

my best love to my brother & sisters to Watt etc.

I remain dear Father your loving son

Jno. Robinson

P.S. on receipt of your letter I will write a few lines to Gerrard and let know the several points in his conduct that disgust me. I forgot to tell you that my mare tossed Mr Purcell & confined him to bed for some time.

## *Letter 10*

# Appendix C: Griffith Evaluations of 1853

*The General Valuation of Rateable Properties of Ireland.*

*County of Kildare*

*Comprising that Portion of the Rateable Tenaments*

*Union of Naas*

*Dated 14 September 1853*

*Signed Rich. Griffith*

*Commissioner of Valuation*

### In Kilrainey Parish

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Rateable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Ballyonan	John Robinson	John H. Nangle	Herds, House, Office, Lands House	160 2 17	102-0-0	5- 0-0	107-0-0
Ballyonan	John Brogan	John Robinson	House	—		0-8-0	0-8-0
Garrisker	Richard Robinson	John H. Nangle	Land	8 2 20		4-15-0	4-15-0
Kilrainey	Ed. Robinson	Lady Rich	House, Offices, Land	497 1 30	350-0-0	17- 0-0	368-10-0
			Herds, House & Office	—		1-10-0	
Kilrainey	Bridget Hyland	Ed. Robinson	House	—		1-10-0	1-10-0
Kilrainey	John Hyland	Ed. Robinson	House	—		0-5-0	0-5-0
Kilrainey	Mary Duane	Ed. Robinson	House	—		0-5-0	0-8-0
Kilrainey	Vacant	Ed. Robinson	Graveyard	0 1 0	0-5-0	—	0-5-0
Kilrainey	John Rafferty	Ed. Robinson	Graveyard			1-0-0	
			House, Office Land	17 3 7	10-0-0		11-0-0
Kilrainey	Peter Hughes	Ed. Robinson	House, Land	1 2 30	1-0-0	0-10-0	1-10-0
Kilrainey	Ed. Robinson	Lady Rich	Land	3 0 32	—	0-15-0	0-15-0
Kilrainey	Vacant	Ed. Robinson	House & Office	—	—	0-15-0	0-15-0
Kilrainey	Bridget Ryan	Ed. Robinson	House, Office, Land	2 3 13	1-10-0	0-10-0	2-0-0
Exemption - Graveyard				523 0 32			387-2-0
				0 1 0	0-5-0		5-0
				<u>522 3 32</u>			<u>386-17-0</u>



Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Rateable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Kilglass	Rich Robinson	Lady Rich	Land (Bog Pasture)	2 1 19	0-1-0	—	0-1-0
Kilglass	John O'Brien	Rich Robinson	Land	0 2 5	0-3-0	—	0-3-0
Kilglass	Eliz Keane	Rich Robinson	House Garden	0 0 24	0-1-0	0-7-0	0-8-0
Kilglass	John Kavanagh	Rich Robinson	Garden	0 1 12	0-2-0	—	0-2-0
Kilglass	Rich Robinson	Lady Rich	House & Land	1 3 1	0-7-0	0-5-0	0-12-0
Kilglass	Mgt. Cannon	Rich Robinson	House & Land	0 3 13	0-4-0	0-8-0	0-12-0
Kilglass	Mary Cosgrave	Rich Robinson	House & Land	0 0 36	0-1-0	—	0-1-0
Kilglass	James Kennedy	Rich Robinson	Land	1 0 36	0-5-0	—	0-5-0
Ballenlig	Garret Robinson	Lady Rich	House, Office Land	152 2 5	88-0-0	6-0-0	94-0-0
Ballinlig	Wm. Cosgrave	Garret Robinson	House & Garden	0 2 0	0-7-0	0-8-0	0-15-0
Ballinlig	Cath. Hamilton	Garret Robinson	House & Land	1 1 29	1-0-0	0-10-0	1-10-0
Ballinlig	Chris Hamilton	Garret Robinson	House & Land	2 1 12	1-10-0	0-10-0	2-0-0
Ballinlig	Lau McEvoy	Garret Robinson	House & Office	2 0 25	1-5-0	0-10-0	1-15-0
Ballinlig	John Keegan	Garret Robinson	House	—	—	0-5-0	0-5-0
Ballinlig	Mary Grehan	Garret Robinson	House, Office Land	1 1 28	0-15-0	0-15-0	1-10-0
Ballinlig	Wm. Cullen	Garret Robinson	House, Office Land	186 3 36	113-0-0	5-0-0	118-0-0
Ballinlig	Rich Robinson	Garret Robinson	Land	43 2 19	21-0-0	—	21-0-0
	John Robinson	Lady Rich					
		Lady Rich					

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches			Ratable Value		Total Annual Value
							Land	Building	
Kilrathmurray	Garret Robinson	Wm. Ledwich	Land	58	1	15	35-0-0	—	35-0-0
Kilrathmurray	Thos. Foylan	Garret Robinson	House, Office Land	1	2	20	1-5-0	1-10-0	2-15-0
Kilrathmurray	John Robinson	Col. Finlay	House, Office Land	379	1	37	240-0-0	6-0-0	246-0-0
Kilrathmurray	Eliz Mooney	John Robinson	House	—	—	—	—	0-6-0	0-6-0
Kilrathmurray	John Cully	John Robinson	House & Garden	0	0	17	0-2-0	0-6-0	0-8-0
Kilrathmurray	Vacant	John Robinson	House	—	—	—	—	0-14-0	0-14-0
Kilrathmurray	Eliz Donnellan	John Robinson	House & Land	2	3	19	2-10-0	0-15-0	3-5-0
Kilrathmurray	James Foylan	John Robinson	House & Land	2	3	19	1-5-0	0-10-0	1-15-0
Ballinlig	Daniel Robinson	John Robinson	House, Office Land	2	1	14	1-10-0	1-0-0	2-10-0
Cornamucklagh	Rich Robinson	Lady Rich	Land	164	3	1	91-0-0	—	91-0-0
Cornamucklagh	Patrick Kennedy	Rich Robinson	House, Office Land	1	0	15	0-15-0	0-15-0	1-10-0
Cornamucklagh	Patrick Connor	Rich Robinson	House & Land	1	0	8	0-6-0	0-10-0	16-0
Cornamucklagh	Denis Malone	Rich Robinson	House, Office, Land	0	3	28	0-10	0-15-0	1-5-0
Cornamucklagh	Ed Fox	Rich Robinson	House & Land	1	3	32	—	0-5-0	0-5-0
Cornamucklagh	Mgt. Fox	Rich Robinson	House	—	—	—	—	0-5-0	0-5-0
Cornamucklagh	James Kennedy	Rich Robinson	House & Land	1	2	34	1-5-0	1-0-0	2-5-0
Cornamucklagh	Mgt Connor	Rich Robinson	Land	0	3	30	0-4-0	—	0-4-0
Cornamucklagh	Rich Robinson	Lady Rich	Land	0	1	25	0-3-0	—	0-3-0
Cornamucklagh	John Kavanagh	Rich Robinson	Land	1	0	15	0-1-0	—	0-1-0

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenement	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value						
					Land	Building							
					£	S	D	£	S	D	£	S	D
Cornamucklagh	Patrick Giles	Rich Robinson	House, Office Land	1 0 6	1-10-0	0-15-0	2-5-0						
Cornamucklagh	John O'Brien	Rich Robinson	House, Office Land	2 3 0	0-15-0	0-15-0	1-10-0						
Cornamucklagh	Patrick Kiernan	Rich Robinson	House & Land	0 3 25	0-5-0	0-5-0	0-10-0						
Cornamucklagh	Ed. Robinson	Lady Rich	Land	191 0 4	121-0-0	—	121-0-0						
Cornamucklagh	James Kiernan	Ed. Robinson	House & Garden	0 0 30	0-2-0	0-6-0	0-8-0						
Cornamucklagh	John Kiernan	Ed. Robinson	House & Garden	0 0 12	0-1-0	0-6-0	0-7-0						
Cornamucklagh	Mary Kiernan	Ed. Robinson	House	—	—	0-3-0	0-3-0						
Cornamucklagh	Thos. Giles	Ed. Robinson	House & Garden	0 0 33	0-2-0	0-8-0	0-10-0						
Cornamucklagh	Denis Cleary	Ed. Robinson	House	—	—	0-6-0	0-6-0						
Cornamucklagh	Martin Phillips	Ed. Robinson	House & Office	0 1 26	0-5-0	0-15-0	1-0-0						
Cornamucklagh	Daniel Mooney	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Garden	0 0 28	—	0-15-0	0-15-0						
Cornamucklagh	Wm. Burley	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Land	9 2 28	4-0-0	0-10-0	4-10-0						
Cornamucklagh	John Molley	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Land	2 3 5	2-0-0	0-15-0	2-15-0						
Cornamucklagh	James Smith	Ed. Robinson		2 0 16	1-5-0	0-15-0	2-0-0						

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value						
					Land	Building							
					£	S	D	£	S	D	£	S	D
Cornamucklagh	Ml. Connolly	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Land	5 3 7	2-10-0	0-15-0	3-5-0						
Cornamucklagh	Thos. Moran	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Land	6 3 0	3-10-0	0-15-0	4-5-0						
Cornamucklagh	Rich Dunne	Ed. Robinson	House, Office Land	1 0 12	2-10-0	0-15-0	3-5-0						
Cornamucklagh	Ed. Robinson	Lady Rich	Garden	0 0 18	2-0-0	—	2-0-0						
Cornamucklagh	Garret Robinson	Lady Rich	Land	23 2 32	12-5-0	—	12-5-0						
Cornamucklagh	Eliza Ash	Garret Robinson	House & Garden	0 0 16	0-2-0	0-8-0	0-10-0						
Cornamucklagh	Wm. Allen	Garret Robinson	Land	4 1 0	2-5-0	—	2-5-0						

#### In County Meath: Parish Killaconnigan<sup>4</sup>

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value						
					Land	Building							
					£	S	D	£	S	D	£	S	D
Ballivor	Garret Robinson	Lord Darnley	Land	15 0 0	16-5-0	—	16-5-0						
Ballivor	Pat Miggan	Garret Robinson	House, Office Garden	0 1 32	0-15-0	3-0-0	3-15-0						
Ballivor	Mary Hickey	Garret Robinson	House & Garden	0 1 7	0-10-0	3-0-0	3-10-0						
Ballivor	Ed. Rafter	Garret Robinson	House, Office Garden	0 0 16	0-3-0	2-7-0	2-10-0						
Ballivor	Mary Ryan	Garret Robinson	House	—	—	0-7-0	0-7-0						
Ballivor	Owen Wyckham	Garret Robinson	House & Garden	0 0 16	0-3-0	1-5-0	1-8-0						

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Killballivor	Garret Robinson	Lord Darnley	Land	12 3 36	14-0-0	—	14-0-0
Killballivor	Vacant	Garret Robinson	House, Office	—	—	2-15-0	2-15-0
Killballivor	Rich Davis	Garret Robinson	House, Office	—	—	1-7-0	1-7-0

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Killballivor	Thos. Burke	Garret Robinson	Forge	—	—	0-4-0	0-4-0
Killballivor	Mary Meggan	Garret Robinson	House	—	—	0-5-0	0-5-0
Killballivor	Pat Farrelly	Garret Robinson	House	—	—	0-4-0	0-4-0
Killballivor	Ally Fagan	Garret Robinson	House	—	—	0-6-0	0-6-0

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenament	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Donore	James Robinson	Alex Montgomery	Land	11 3 37	2-10-0	0-10-0	3-0-0
Donore	James Robinson	Alex Montgomery	Land, River Boyne (Part of)	0 3 13	—	—	—

**In County Offaly (Kings Co.) Parish: Ballyboggan<sup>5</sup>**

Townland	Occupier	Immediate Lessor	Description of Tenement	Area Acre Rood Perches	Ratable Value		Total Annual Value
					Land	Building	
					£ S D	£ S D	£ S D
Ballyboggan	James Robinson	Marquis of Lansdowne	House, Office Land	195 1 8	105-10-0	11-10-0	116-0-0
Ballyboggan	Wm. Cole	James Robinson	House, Office Garden	0 2 10	0-5-0	1-0-0	1-5-0
Ballyboggan	Ml. Maguire	James Robinson	House, Office Garden	0 3 30	0-8-0	1-0-0	1-8-0

## *Appendix D-1: Ballinlig Tenants and Field*

### *Acreages (1864)*

Field No.	Tenant's Names	Irish English	Irish			English		
			Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
1	Garret Robinson		7	3	4	12	2	32
2	Garret Robinson		5	1	2	8	2	30
3	Garret Robinson		7	3	25	12	3	10
4	Garret Robinson		6	2	22	10	3	0
5	Garret Robinson		1	3	1	2	3	15
6	Garret Robinson		8	1	1	13	1	20
7	Garret Robinson		7	0	34	11	2	30
8	Garret Robinson		7	2	35	12	1	25
9	Garret Robinson		1	2	29	2	2	35
10	Garret Robinson		0	1	25	0	2	25
11	Garret Robinson		6	3	21	11	0	23
12	Garret Robinson		6	2	12	10	2	25
13	Garret Robinson		2	1	5	3	2	31
14	Garret Robinson		2	1	6	3	2	33
15	Garret Robinson		2	2	20	4	1	0
16	Garret Robinson	) A - R - P	5	0	24	8	1	15
17	Garret Robinson	) Irish	5	3	12	9	1	29
18	Garret Robinson	) 100-0-29	2	2	23	4	1	5
19	Wm. McEvoy	) A - R - P	7	2	22	12	1	3
	Undertenant							
20	John Keegan	) 162 - 1 - 3	1	1	1	2	0	5
	Undertenant							
21	Wm. Cullen	) ENGLISH	1	1	7	2	0	15
	Undertenant							
21a	Philip Cosgrave	)	0	3	7	1	1	5
	Undertenant							
22	John Robinson	)	18	3	12	30	2	0
	Jnr.							
23	John Robinson	)	2	0	29	3	2	5
	Jnr.							
24	John Robinson	)	2	0	1	3	1	0
	Jnr.							
25	John Robinson	) A - R - P	19	0	19	30	3	36
	Jnr.							
26	John Robinson	) 115-0-13	1	3	7	3	0	33
	Jnr.							
27	John Robinson	) IRISH	3	1	39	5	2	25
	Jnr.							
28	John Robinson	)	1	3	3	2	3	18
	Jnr.							
29	John Robinson	) A - R - P	5	3	18	9	2	0
	Jnr.							

30	John Robinson Jnr.	) 186-0-36	7	2	16	12	1	10
31	John Robinson Jnr.	) ENGLISH	2	0	26	3	2	0
32	John Robinson Jnr.	)	2	1	15	3	3	7
33	John Robinson Jnr.	)	16	0	21	26	0	22
34	John Robinson Jnr.	)	8	1	29	13	2	25
35	John Robinson Jnr.	)	19	3	34	32	1	15
36	John Robinson Jnr.	)	3	0	39	5	1	0
37	John Robinson Snr.	)	3	0	5	4	3	25
38	John Robinson Snr.	)	1	3	36	3	0	32
39	John Robinson Snr.	) A - R - P	2	1	10	3	3	0
40	John Robinson Snr.	) 28 - 1 - 34	2	2	1	4	0	10
41	John Robinson Snr.	) IRISH	2	0	15	3	1	22
42	John Robinson Snr.	)	3	1	36	5	2	5
43	John Robinson Snr.	) A - R - P	3	2	33	6	0	0
44	John Robinson Snr.	) 46 - 0 - 16	3	1	36	5	2	20
45	John Robinson Snr.	) ENGLISH	3	1	26	5	2	5
46	John Robinson Snr.	)	1	2	7	2	2	0
47	John Robinson Pat Cleary Subtenant	)	0	0	37	0	1	20
48	John Robinson Jim Farrell Subtenant	)	1	0	17	0	0	27
49	John Robinson Edward Fox Subtenant	)	0	2	25	1	0	10
<b>Total:</b>			<b>243</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>



## *Appendix D-2: Cornamucklagh Tenants and Field Acreages (1864)*

Field No.	Tenant's Names	Irish English	Irish Acres Roods Perches	English Acres Roods Perches
1	Garret Robinson	)	2 0 7	3 1 10
2	Garret Robinson	)	5 3 3	9 1 15
3	Garret Robinson	) A - R - P	4 1 24	7 0 20
4	Garret Robinson	) 21 - 1 - 7	2 2 2	4 0 11
5	Garret Robinson	) IRISH	1 0 13	1 3 0
6	Garret Robinson	)	1 2 1	2 1 30
7	Garret Robinson	) A - R - P	1 2 26	2 2 31
8	Garret Robinson M. Connolly	) 39 - 1 - 16 ) ENGLISH	1 3 33	3 0 27
9	Garret Robinson M. Conolly Subtenant	)	3 1 18	5 1 32
10	John Robinson	)	6 3 7	11 0 0
11	John Robinson	)	2 3 29	4 3 0
12	John Robinson	)	5 1 9	8 2 15
13	John Robinson	)	3 0 26	5 0 20
14	John Robinson	) A - R - P	5 0 0	8 0 16
15	John Robinson	) 116 - 3 - 15	3 3 24	6 1 10
16	John Robinson	) IRISH	2 2 33	4 4 22
17	John Robinson	)	7 0 4	11 1 20
18	John Robinson	) A - R - P	7 2 23	12 1 21
19	John Robinson	) 189 - 1 - 10	6 3 19	11 0 20
19B	John Robinson	) ENGLISH	7 3 4	12 2 25
20	John Robinson	)	7 0 2	11 1 37
21	John Robinson	)	3 1 39	5 2 25
22	John Robinson	)	2 1 38	4 0 5
23	John Robinson	)	3 2 23	5 2 25
24	John Robinson	)	7 4 28	12 0 20
25	John Robinson	)	12 1 16	20 0 0
26	John Robinson	)	7 2 1	12 0 25
27	John Robinson	)	2 3 4	4 2 0
28	John Robinson James Cosgrove Subtenant	)	1 1 4	2 0 10
29	John Robinson James Subtenant	)	3 0 32	5 0 30
30	John Robinson James Kennedy Subtenant	)	1 0 25	1 3 30
31	John Robinson Peter Kane Reclaimed Bog	)	1 0 32	1 3 31
32	John Robinson John Kavanagh	)	1 0 9	1 2 33

33	Reclaimed Bog John Robinson Magt. Connor	)	0	3	34	1	2	10
34	Reclaimed Bog John Robinson John Cavanagh	)	2	0	20	3	1	30
	Reclaimed Bog John Robinson Thos. Cleary Reclaimed Bog	)						
35	Edward Robinson	)	3	3	11	6	0	30
36	Edward Robinson	)	5	1	34	8	3	0
37	Edward Robinson	)	2	1	11	3	3	0
38	Edward Robinson	)	6	1	34	10	1	30
39	Edward Robinson	) A R P	7	0	11	11	2	5
40	Edward Robinson	) 132 - 1 17	2	3	33	4	5	10
41	Edward Robinson	) IRISH	3	2	30	6	0	10
42	Edward Robinson	)	1	2	19	2	2	20
43	Edward Robinson	) A R P	20	3	38	34	0	0
44	Edward Robinson	) 214 - 1- 24	10	2	30	17	1	25
45	Edward Robinson	) ENGLISH	10	0	0	16	0	32
46	Edward Robinson	)	11	1	27	18	2	0
47	Edward Robinson	)	2	3	11	4	2	10
48	Edward Robinson	)	3	0	3	5	0	30
49	Edward Robinson	)	3	2	24	3	0	33
50	Edward Robinson	)	1	0	22	1	3	15
51	Edward Robinson	)	2	2	1	4	0	10
52	Edward Robinson	)	0	2	10	1	0	0
53	Edward Robinson	)	4	0	30	6	3	5
54	Edward Robinson	)	4	0	21	6	2	30
55	Edward Robinson Wm. Burley	)	3	0	14	5	0	0
56	Subtenant Edward Robinson Wm. Burley	)	3	1	3	5	1	10
57	Subtenant Edward Robinson P. Kiernan	)	1	1	36	2	1	25
58	Subtenant	)	2	0	4	4	2	0
59	Edward Robinson P Kiernan	)	6	0	26	9	3	27
	Subtenant	)	1	2	25	2	2	30
60	Edward Robinson P Kiernan	)						
61	Subtenant Edward Robinson John Molloy	)	1	1	1	2	0	5
	Subtenant Edward Robinson J Connelly	)						
<b>Total:</b>			<b>273</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## *Appendix D-3: Kilrainy Tenants and Field*

### *Acreages (1864)*

Field No.	Tenant's Names	Irish English	Irish			English		
			Acres	Roods	Perches	Acres	Roods	Perches
1	Edward Robinson	)	2	2	1	4	0	10
2	Edward Robinson	)	3	2	8	5	3	0
3	Edward Robinson	)	8	0	4	13	0	0
4	Edward Robinson	)	16	3	25	27	1	22
5	Edward Robinson	)	19	1	0	31	0	30
6	Edward Robinson	)	16	1	2	26	1	15
7	Edward Robinson	)	10	1	39	17	0	0
8	Edward Robinson	) A - R - P	2	1	23	3	3	20
9	Edward Robinson	) 311 - 1 - 3	14	2	26	23	3	0
10	Edward Robinson	) IRISH	13	3	35	22	2	20
11	Edward Robinson	)	19	1	31	31	2	0
12	Edward Robinson	)	7	2	22	12	1	20
13	Edward Robinson	) A - R - P	0	1	28	0	2	30
14	Edward Robinson	) 504 - 0 - 2	9	0	17	14	3	0
15	Edward Robinson	) ENGLISH	4	0	17	6	2	25
16	Edward Robinson	)	2	1	29	3	3	30
17	Edward Robinson	)	15	2	14	25	1	0
18	Edward Robinson	)	14	0	2	22	3	0
19	Edward Robinson	)	20	1	1	32	3	10
20	Edward Robinson	)	13	2	32	22	0	30
21	Edward Robinson	)	0	2	0	0	3	10
22	Edward Robinson	)	12	3	3	20	2	20
23	Edward Robinson	)	11	3	3	19	0	10
24	Edward Robinson	)	9	1	2	15	0	0
25	Edward Robinson	)	10	1	8	16	2	30

26A	Edward Robinson	)	11	3	21	19	1	0
26B	Edward Robinson	)	14	0	10	22	3	5
27	Edward Robinson	)	1	0	20	1	3	12
28	Edward Robinson	)	21	1	7	34	2	0
29	Edward Robinson	)	3	2	8	5	3	0
30	Peter Hughes	) A - R - P	0	3	28	1	2	0
31	Catherine Rafferty	) 10 - 3 - 4 IRISH	3	0	14	5	0	0
32	Catherine Rafferty	) 17 - 1 - 32 ENGLISH	4	3	38	8	0	12
33	Catherine Rafferty	)	2	2	32	4	1	20
<b>Total:</b>			<b>322</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>

# Appendix E:

*Charles Frizell (1738-1812) –*

*A Surveyor in Co. Kildare*

*by James Robinson*

Irish History is characterised by land – its conquest, ownership and tenancy. The conflict between conqueror and vanquished, landlord, middleman and tenant has coloured our attitude to property. Our desire as a people to own property is surely a legacy of our past that has resulted in a situation where 80% of Irish people now own their own homes, despite the high price of real estate.

In a comment on the Cromwellian settlement in Ireland, one commentator noted in a powerful statement, “Of all the possessions in a country, land is the most desirable. It is the most fixed. It yields its returns in the form of rent with the least amount of labour or forethought to the owner. But in addition to all these advantages, the possession of it confers such power, that the balance of power in a state rests with the class that has the balance of land.” The collapse of world communism resulting in the triumph of capitalism with its emphasis on property ownership gives these words a modern validity. “The laws of most of the states of Europe, since the days of the northern invasions have been made by landowners. They have been able to prescribe to the mass of the people in what condition they shall live on the land or whether, indeed, they shall live there at all!” These comments by Moran certainly characterised Irish 19<sup>th</sup> century society, and the resultant emigration, be it economic or voluntary, has formed our unique attitude to property.

In this land equation there is one category of person that is largely ignored in Irish history. Between landowner and tenant there existed the surveyor who measured and mapped the land. The surveyors’ ability to serve both sides gave them a neutrality that was all too rare in Ireland. They were not branded as oppressors, unlike the landlords, bailiffs, agents or tithe proctors. Surveying was never one of the professions banned to Catholics. In the official census of 1861, 74% of Ireland’s land surveyors were Roman Catholics as compared to 78% of the population at large. This was tribute to the high standard of Catholic schools teaching of arithmetic and geometry. Despite spending many hours in farmhouse or tavern, waiting for the rain to stop, surveyors generally managed to evade the notice of agricultural and social commentators. They held aloof from brawls and scandals, outside their own profession and even the most successful were seldom in the public eye. The virtues of the surveyor were as humdrum as their vices. Punctuality, patience, common sense, reliability and accuracy - not to mention sobriety – are not always distinctive Irish traits. They must have been abundant to this profession.

According to Petty, who executed the famous Down Survey in the mid 1600s, surveyors were “commonly persons of gentle and liberal education and their practice esteemed a mystery and intricate manner far exceeding the most of mechanical trades”. The surveyors of entire estates needed in particular a reputation for accuracy and impartiality and the subject of this article is so described. He belonged to a family of surveyors who were one of the most respected in this profession. Apart from the general Irish desire to hold land, farming suited the surveyor who carried out many of his professional duties during the winter months when agricultural activities were least performed.

“Mr. Wiseacre, the surveyor, with his circumferentor and chain” was a familiar sight to most Irish people throughout the centuries and this semi-friendly phrase was indicative of the respected place of surveyors in society. Perhaps the best-known surveyor was Percy French – the songwriter whose astute lyrics arose from his close observations of the Irish people and their lives. He, in his own inimitable manner, described the surveyor in rhyme as follows:

“He finds out the holding and what it contains  
Then maps out his system in furlongs and chains,  
And points out positions for, minors, and, mains-  
Such wisdom has William, Inspector of Drains”

This article references Charles Frizell, one of Ireland’s leading surveyors of his day – his activities in Co. Kildare and his affairs.

In 1803, Charles Frizell surveyed the estate of Dudley Loftus of Killyon, Co. Meath. The survey, which included property in Co. Kildare, was grandly titled “Map of the Chattle Property of Dudley Loftus in the County of Meath...according to a survey made thereof in the year 1803 by Charles Frizell”. The Coat of Arms of the Loftus family is featured at the beginning of the survey and is described as “2 eagles with beaks and legs topaz each charged on the breast with a trefoil flipped emerald”. The inscription on the motif reads, “Prend moy tell que je sui” and this is old French, which in the modern form reads, “Prend moi tel que je sui”. The translation of this phrase is, “Take me as I am”. This aggrandisement suggests Frizell was trying to flatter his employer.

Amongst the Kildare tenants was the holding of James Cribben. This property No. 3 was outlined in red with houses drawn thereon. Adjoining it was the tenancy, No. 2 with houses shown, described as the lease of Thomas Chapman. The map is described as “Ballenluig”.

No. 2 Wm Ash to Thos Chapman	45 acres	3 roods	12 perches
No. 3 Do to James Cribben	141 acres	3 roods	2 perches

The following remark was written: “These two holdings are rich feeding limestone ground which has a good rabbit warren thereon the land is in good order”. These remarks indicated the state of farm husbandry exercised by the tenants as observed by Frizell and was surely an indicator to the landlord as to whether the leases should be renewed. It is presumed that the mention of the rabbit warren is seen as an asset by the surveyor and not a liability, as might be thought today. The scale of the map was

40 perches to 1 inch. The rent role of the Loftus estate taken from the same book of survey maps shows that James Cribben paid £169 – 12-0 in yearly rent for this tenancy. This rent amounted to £1-6-0 per acre, and the tenure was for 31 years from June 5th 1788.

It is noted that Wm Ash sublet this property to James Cribben. This may be explained by the following; Susanna Loftus (aunt of Dudley) married Joseph Ash, of Ashfield, Co. Meath (M.P. for Co. Meath) on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1730. It would have been usual for Susanna to have been given some leasing rights to her family property as a marriage dowry. Wm Ash is probably her son and the benefactor of this income.

James Cribben was the son of Daniel McRobin (1690 – 1777) and his wife Catherine nee Shaw (1701 – 1764) who lives at Cornamucklagh, an adjacent townland. James was first cousin to Thomas Hussey (1746 – 1803) – founder president of Maynooth College in 1795 and who died Bishop of Waterford. James Cribben is buried adjacent to his parents and wife in Carrig cemetery near Edenderry, where his tombstone inscription reads, “Beneath this stone lies interred the body of James McRobin or Robinson who died June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1811 aged 66 years....”. This survey, taken with the headstone memorials, shows that this tenant had three variations of his surname – McRobin, Robinson and Cribben.

Another Co. Kildare tenant of this Loftus estate was Thomas Tyrrell. The text with this map reads:

Kilrenny No. 13	Do Thomas	Arable and	298 acres	3 roods	33 perches
Do	Terrell esq.	Pasture			
Kilrenny No. 14	Do	Turf Bog	18 acres	1 rood	3 perches
Do			317 acres	0 roods	36 perches

“On this farm there is a good house the land is sound limestone ground fit for feeding and tillage and an excellent sheepwalk with a great rabbit warren thereon, the present tenant has the land in the best order. It has the convenience of a good turf bog”.

The reference to rabbit warrens in both the Cribben and Tyrrell suggests that they were an asset. The following extract from an 1802 survey of Co. Meath gives evidence of this. A rabbit warren, belonging to a Mr Brabazon of Morningtown (sic), was estimated to be worth some £300 per annum and the ground so described was valued at 1 shilling per acre. Rabbits sold at the Dublin market for between 1 shilling and 6 pence and 2 shillings per pair, with the skins considered more valuable than the meat. This rabbit warren was situated along the sea shore between the mouth of the River Boyne and the mouth of the River Nanny. According to Thompson the rabbits “burrow in a heap of sand blown off the sea shore by the eastern winds and feed on a salt-marsh running parallel to it. They are taken by pass-nets placed between them and the burrows on their hasty return from feeding by night – being alarmed by the barking of dogs kept for that purpose.”

This extract demonstrates a substantial income from marginal land and fully justifies Frizell’s inclusion of this asset in the aforementioned tenancy surveys.

Unlike the previous tenants, this land is rented directly from Dudley Loftus. The adjacent townlands and properties are denoted by their owners and not by their tenants.

This survey was carried out five years after the Battle of Clonard in the insurrection of 1798, where the insurgent forces were defeated by the Clonard corps led by lieutenant Thomas Terril or Tyrrell – the High Sheriff of Kildare and the tenant of this holding. Thomas Tyrrell left Kilrenny or Kilrainey c. 1811 when his residence was damaged by fire. He went to live in Grange Castle, his ancestral home, where today, a heritage centre is in the process of being constructed on the ruins of the castle, thanks to a generous lease given by Hugh Tyrrell – a descendant of Thomas. Tyrrell was succeeded in Kilrainey by Garrett Robinson (1773-1849) – son of James Cribben – Robinson – McRobin. The descendants of James farm this property today. The Croppies Grave at Clonard was walled in by Garrett Robinson (1810-1884) a son of Garrett and a grandson of James Cribben in 1873.

Map No. 40 in this Frizell survey shows Kilrathmurray and its owner Mr Ledwich. This map concerns the site of the battle described earlier. The text with the map reads, “On this farm there is a good Inn. The land is naturally good limestone ground. I recommend to make no new lease of any part of this townland but the same term that Richard Herbert on the lease to Rev. St George Ash as this farm on a future day it is presumed by encouragement and giving building leases it may become a town of note.” Frizell’s observations were an obvious guide to the landlord on his letting of new leases. His views regarding this potential town were not realised then but Clonard is only now developing in line with Charles Frizell’s expectations albeit 200 years later. His mention of an Inn refers to a Hugh Ennis who had a Hostelry there. His Inn sign read, ‘Good Lodgings and Breakfast by Hugh Ennis, Clonard.’

From this 1803 survey Frizell deduced the total Loftus Estate acreage in Counties Meath and Kildare to be 4,155 acres 1 rood and 10 perches. Frizell’s remarks on each tenancy are summarised by the following exhortations to Dudley Loftus at the end of this survey:

“First not to set any of the lands in this book less than the valuation annexed thereto. Secondly to exceed set valuation to solvent and responsible tenants who are able to pay their rents punctually.

Thirdly : be cautious setting too high to poor tenants who are apt to bid such rents they never can pay on which the proportion only may count a nominal sum. From the want of caution or knowledge of selling to such description of tenants is the ruin in general of men of landed property in the Kingdom and occasioned by very great losses that is manifestly known.

Fourthly: let no tenant run in arrears after the usual time of payment or at least to exceed one year and a half at most because when the debt grows old the tenant grows languid and careless when a loss always is the consequence of this indulgence.

Fifthly: don’t set in partnership, by no means the slothful tenant always breaks the industrious.

Sixthly: encourage planting particularly orchards, according to the size of the farm you set to be well enclosed and fenced with a good and sufficient ditch properly quicked and planted with timber trees which fruit and timber trees are also quicks. I would have a proper person to see planted at the proprietor’s expense. A special covenant to bind the tenant to preserve the same and for him to plant all new and



scoured ditches with whitethorn or crab trees. £2 or guineas per acre to be allowed for gravelling with 200 loads of limestone gravel towards reclaiming all green and cutaway bogs on this estate.”

These recommendations were the observations of a professional surveyor who had seen at first hand the results of letting land outside these guidelines with disastrous consequences for many of the landlord class. Although Frizell does not reference his fee some idea of his professional charges for surveying may be gleaned from his fee for a County Westmeath farm survey in 1773 where he charged 3d per acre. His remarks on this farm noted that it totalled 606 acres and was “very troublesome”.

Dudley Loftus (born 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1764 was aged 39 years when this survey was conducted), the landlord in this survey, was the 7<sup>th</sup> generation of his family descending from Adam Loftus (1531/2 – 1605). Adam was First Provost of Trinity College, Dublin in 1592, Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Chancellor of Ireland – a post to which he was first appointed in 1581. Adam married Jane Purdon.

It is estimated in 1804, the year after this survey was conducted, that the population of Ireland was 5.4 million people. It is also estimated that only 8,000 to 10,000 persons ranked as landed proprietors. Land ownership then was a privilege enjoyed by an extremely small minority of the population.

A noted monastery at nearby Clonard was founded by St. Finian in 549 A.D. Its last abbot was Gerald Walsh in 1540. In 1546 King Henry VIII granted its possession to Sir William Birmingham. King James I granted the Abbey to Sir Thomas Loftus on December 12<sup>th</sup> 1610. The site of Clonard Monastery was commonly called St Peter’s Abbey and it included Kilclass (Kilglass) – 60 acres – arable pasturing; in Ballinalique (Ballinlig) – 20 arable acres and in Kilrene (Kilrainey) – 60 acres arable and pasture. A nunnery at Kilrainy, which predated the Clonard abbey, was founded by Regnach, a sister of St. Finian. This is where Finian built his first church before moving to Clonard. Prior to this Thomas, who was the fourth son of Adam Loftus was made constable of the castle of Wicklow on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1596. He was knighted in 1599 by Robert – Earl of Essex. Sir Thomas Loftus married Ellenor ( or Ellen) daughter of Robert and sister of Pierce Hartpole of Carlow. He died in 1635 and is buried in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. Thus did the Loftus Family acquire the Killyon Estate.

At Clonard the now disused Church of Ireland, St. Finian’s, is said to have been built on the site of the original 6<sup>th</sup> century monastery. A well-known landmark in the Clonard area is the 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman motte. Its perpendicular height is 50ft and its lower circumference measures 432ft. The top, which is flat, is crowned by an impressive stately lime tree.

In 1760 the estate of Theobald Wolfe, in Counties Galway and Kildare, were surveyed by Charles Frizell and his brother Richard. In addition to surveying, Charles urged Wolfe to improve his holding by suggesting an improved system of farming which would, “in 7 years, a farmer on coarse land worth between 5 and 10s per acre, may make it worth 20s per acre and be fully paid his expense with interest”. This pamphlet was entitled “ A surveyor’s advice to farmers”.

Some of Frizell's suggestions included:

Of light turf soil: draw the turf soil, old ditches or any other kind of light soil and mix a barrel of rock lime to every 40 loads between layer and layer, let it lie about the same time of the former and turn it. The same quantity of this as the former is a very good manure for the clay or stiff ground.

Of turnips: if you have a horse roller run it over the whole to prevent the fly, and as soon as the turnips are each in their 4 leaves give them the first hoeing which is called chopping. By the time the field is thus served by two or three good hands, the first part of the field will be ready for the second hoeing at which time then thin to about a foot at least from each other. These will come to such a size that each acre will fatten about 25 sheep from December to the latter end of March.

Of working horses: they should never be kept in a regular stable but have a house built convenient to their work and pasture open at both ends with a wall in the middle against which a rack and a manger on each side. When the horses are cleaned after work leave a sufficiency to eat as long as they please to stay at it and then go to their pasture and return at pleasure. Don't forget their morning's feed and by this method they will be hardy and never get cold or surfeits and will work perpetually, never out of order and hold about 7 years.

Of dung: to have it at its full perfection sink a foundation like a cellar about 4 or 5 foot deep about 100 foot long and 20 foot wide. Let a roof be put on this and thatched, the sides wattled close with furze or brushwood - - - . Into this draw all the dung, straw litter, weeds, ashes, pearings of the yards and garden walk, sweepings, clay and every other thing that can be collected - - - then a load of lime spread over it and be sure that all water, suds, and all others of the kind be thrown into it. Let it be so situated that any sudden shower shall convey the fat water of the yards into it by paved channels - - - and a way to turn great rains when too much falls. This will ferment all together and one load taken out in its full strength is better than ten. A small quantity of it will go a great way for your kitchen garden, potatoes, weak meadows, and poor weeping ground etc."

No one excelled the Frizell family which included their father Charles (senior) and who came from County Wexford, in manifesto writing and they never tired of advising their clients to improve their fences or rotate their crops.

Another estate surveyed by Charles Frizell and his brother Richard in August 1771 was that of the Right Hon. Henry – Viscount Loftus of Ely. The area surveyed included Loftus Hall, Fethard and Templetown in County Wexford and totalled 9,090 acres. As with the Killyon survey Frizell embellished his work by including the following preamble. "This demesne is beautifully situated on an isthmus at the entrance to Waterford Harbour commanding a most pleasant view of the adjoining parts of the Counties Wexford, Waterford and the Fort of Duncannon – the towns of Ballyhacke or Passage and the ships at anchor in the harbour as well as all that sail in and out. Also of St. George's Channel and all the ships that sail coastways, the dignity and grandeur of the situation, the richness and fertility of the land being all enclosed with lime and stone walls, the great plenty of fish, wild fowl, pigeons and rabbits at all seasons. Also it being the seat of the antient and noble family of the Loftuses whose characters were always conspicuous not only for their hospitality but for their warm support of the protestant interest makes this a most desirable situation."

Umbrage was taken with the Loftus acquisition of this estate. On page 6 of the survey which is entitled "Loftus Hall Demesne – the following interesting maps show the old Redmond Estate given to me Nicholas Loftus in around 1666". Written across this page was the following: "Redmond Hall it was and Redmond Hall it is. The Loftus family obtained it by plunder and disloyalty April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1900, G Redmond."

Richard Frizell was agent to the Earl of Ely at Rathfarnham and this is an association that probably arose from a Wexford survey of the Earl's estates. Successive residences of Charles Frizell are recorded in the Dublin Journal as the following: Mountfin, near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford (15<sup>th</sup> August, 1758), Askemore, near Gorey in the same county (7<sup>th</sup> March, 1761) and Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin (14<sup>th</sup> January, 1777).

Viscount Glenrawley – 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Belfast gave leases of land in Killalon, Co. Westmeath in 1784 – 1800 to a number of tenants. They included J Charles, M. Gilsenan, Rev. J Murray, C. Levy and C. Frizell – probably this surveyor.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1810 Charles Frizell made his will while he was working in Cavan. He feared death and so put his affairs in order as "the testator having had a very severe attack of the bowels in order to decide any future litigation ... to quiet his mind as a just man for his remains to rest quiet in his grave... he made his will." This addition was written by himself at the bottom of his will. A sealed copy of the document was given to his son Charles to keep in his possession "to prevent accidents."

In his will Charles Frizell expressed the wish that he be interred in Finglas cemetery with his two wives, Sarah and Mary, who predeceased him. His eldest son was Capt. John Richard Frizell – a member of the Royal Surrey Militia Regiment. Charles left his lands at Tomgarrow Upper, Mountfin Lower, Turnerstown and Templetown – all in Co. Wexford - to John. Also to this son he left his lands at Deans Grange, Co. Dublin. To Edward, his second son, Charles left his lands at Ballisk and Ballylead, Thomastown, Popeshill and Loughshinny, Co. Dublin. Edward also received rents from Castlekevin, which is near Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. Charles Junior, the youngest son, was left lands at Castlekevin. He was also left houses in Brides Abbey and French St., Dublin. Sophia Mary and Maria Susannah, the daughters of Charles, were left monies by their father. Charles Frizell stated in his will that his dwelling house and offices in Holles St., Dublin, together with his household furniture, plate, pictures and house linen were to be sold and all his debts and funeral expenses were to be paid from this sale. The residuum of the sale was willed to his will's executors, namely his sons, John and Charles.

Of special interest in the will is the following detail – "I give and bequeath £200 forever to be consolidated in trustee lands for the indigent poor of the parish of Finglass. The interest thereof to buy bread which is to be apportioned and to be distributed by the minister and church wardens, every Sunday in every year by the said minister and church wardens of Finglass. I give devise to my two faithful servants Cavan McDaniel £10 and Mary Toole £10. Chas Frizell." Charles Frizell died on the 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1812 aged 72 years according to his will. Saint Canice's Church of Ireland in Finglas contains a plaque that reads "Charles Frizell Esq. Holles Street, Dublin in 1812 bequeathed the sum of £200 in the hands of the trustees for the

purchase of bread of the poor of Finglass from the interest thereof invested in the new three per cents". Incredibly this bequest is still in existence and a history of St. Canice's notes that in extracts from the parish poor book in 1837:- "Widow Stewart received 3 loaves; Paul Boshall received 3 loaves; Sarah McDaniels received 3 loaves and Widow Boshall received 2 loaves." Sarah McDaniels is probably the widow of ©avan McDaniel – a faithful servant of Charles Frizell who was left £10 in the latter's will.

It is of interest to note that regarding the 1798 Insurrection in Co. Wexford and the horrific massacre of some (221 mostly protestant) people at Scullabogue – one person was allowed free from the carnage – his name was Frizel. He was assured by the sentinel Pikemen that "they would not hurt a hair of his head as he was known to have behaved well to the poor." This Mr Frizell was a probable kinsman of Charles Frizell.

St. Canice's churchyard, Finglas contains the ruins of the church of St Canice that was erected between the tenth and the twelfth centuries and this church served the people of Finglas until 1841. Originally the Abbey of Finglas was founded by St Canice in 560. He was born in 516 in Glengiven, Co Derry and pursued his ecclesiastical studies at the monastery of Lancarvan in Wales where he was distinguished for his strict obedience and dedication. On returning to Ireland he attended the celebrated monastic school of St Finian at Clonard that was referenced earlier. The old Finglas Abbey was destroyed during the Viking invasion. There are almost 1,000 people commemorated in St Canice's graveyard. He earliest recorded gravestone dates from 1647 and is erected to the memory of the Ryves family. The earlier memorials have disappeared over the centuries. One of the most interesting people buried there is Eliza Wollstonecraft Bishop. Her sister Mary was the famous author wife of William Godwin. Their daughter Mary became the wife of the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and she wrote the famous novel "Frankenstein". Eliza died on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1828.

In the shadow of the ruins of the old church lies the tomb of Charles Frizell and his family. The inscription reads:-

The Family Burial Place of  
Charles Frizell Esq.

Of Holles Street, Dublin  
Who died Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1812 aged 74  
And was here interred  
Also Sarah, his wife  
Who died Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> 1786 aged 45  
Also Mary, his second wife  
Who died Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> 1793 aged 22  
Also his son  
Edward  
Who died Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 1816 aged 38  
Also his daughter  
Maria  
Who died Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 1816 aged 48  
Also his daughter  
Sophia

Who died Nov.23<sup>rd</sup> 1828 aged 53  
Here also interred his youngest son  
Charles Frizell Esq. M.D.  
Of Castlekevin, Co. Wicklow  
Who died March 19<sup>th</sup> 1866 aged 84  
Also his wife  
Margaret who died March 17<sup>th</sup> 1838  
Aged 62

So Charles Frizell had his wishes, as requested in his will, carried out and he was buried with his two wives who predeceased him. It is of interest to note that Frizell was 48 years of age when his first wife, Sarah, died aged 45 in 1786. His second wife Mary, was only 22, when she died in 1793 when Charles was 55.

The Royal Irish Academy was founded in 1785. As a society for promoting the study of science, literature and antiquities, it listed amongst its members for the year 1812, one 'Charles F. Frizell' – probably the subject of this essay.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1872, the president of the philosophical society in the University of Dublin (Trinity College) – Charles William Frizell gave an address to the society. Its title was, 'The Philosophy of the Lower Orders – its natural tendencies and right cultivation.' This delicate address contained the following quotation by Frizell with which I concur: 'Those who care nothing for their ancestors will, care little for their posterity, indeed little for anything except themselves.' Amongst the attendance at this lecture were Sir William Wilde M.D. and the members of the Philosophical Society for that year (1872) included Oscar Wilde – Sir William's son. Charles William Frizell was a probable kinsman of Charles, the subject of this paper.

There are few Frizells listed in the telephone directory. If you thought the name familiar, perhaps it was because of the bombing atrocity in 1993 on the Shankill Road, Belfast. Nine Protestants and one IRA bomber died in the attack on Frizell's fish and chip shop.

The life of Charles Frizell:- surveyor, agricultural advisor, farmer and altruist is I believe best summed up by the following tombstone inscription discovered by James Rawson in his statistical survey of Co. Kildare in 1807:

Epitaph in the churchyard of Johnstown

Tread soft ye mortals o'er this hallowed ground  
Full many gentle villagers here rest  
Who tilled in days of yore the fields around  
With calm content, and humble virtue bless'd.

Go seek the flow'ring paths of peace they trod,  
From guilt, ambition, and from envy free;  
Like them thy neighbours love, adore thy God  
And for thy race provide with industry.

So may you then, when fate shall seal your doom,  
And you beneath the grass grown sod shall lie  
Like them, enjoy the Sabbath of the tomb  
Like them ascend to endless bliss on high.

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## *Appendix F: Units of Measurement*

Early Irish Measures were:

38,640 Ploughlands	=	Ireland
120 Acres	=	1 Ploughland
4 x 40 Perches	=	1 Acre
21 Feet	=	1 Perch
12 Inches	=	1 Foot
100 Irish Acres	=	160 English Acres <sup>1</sup>

The Estate Land Surveys and the Tithe Aplotment Survey together with the Griffith Evaluations Survey referenced in this study employ administrative divisions, which are explained as follows:

### ***Townland***

Loosely relates to the ancient Gaelic '*Balbetagh*' and to other medieval land divisions such as ploughlands and quarters, - townlands can vary greatly in size from a single acre or less to several thousand acres. There are more than 64,000 townlands in Ireland. They are the smallest geographical unit in these surveys and they are still in use today.

### ***Civil Parish***

Anything from five to thirty townlands may be grouped together to form a civil parish. These are a legacy of the Middle Ages, predating the formation of counties and co-existent with the parishes of the established church, the Church of Ireland. They are separate from Catholic parishes, which are usually much larger.

### ***Barony***

Civil Parishes are collected together to form baronies. Originally related to the tribal divisions, the Tuatha of Celtic Ireland, these were varied in size over the centuries up to their standardisation in the 1500's, so the current names represent a mixture of Gaelic, Anglo-Norman and English influences. The number of baronies that go to make up a county vary from five in County Leitrim to twenty-two in County Cork. In this case, Kildare has fourteen baronies; the lands referenced in this study are in the parish of Carbury. Civil Parishes and baronies are no longer used as administrative units.



## *Counties*

The division of Ireland into counties began with King John in 1210 when he constituted twelve of the present day counties – Dublin, Kildare, Meath (later divided into east and west), Louth, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. King's and Queen's counties (now known as Offaly and Laois respectively) were constituted during the reign of Queen Mary and the following under Elizabeth 1 – Longford, Clare, Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Armagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh and Cavan. The origin of Antrim and Down as counties seems uncertain and the last county to be formed was Wicklow, which was divided from Dublin in 1605<sup>2</sup>.

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