THE BOMFORD FAMILY

AND

ALLIED FAMILIES

BY

C. P. BAMFORD

With the assistance of far too many Relations, Friends, and Officials To Thank Individually
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1.1 Bomford Origins

Any family origin relies heavily on the records of the College of Arms. The eagle crest, which was first used by the Bomfords, denotes Saxon or Teutonic origin; a handsome plaster eagle flies in the centre of the ceiling of the front hall of Oakley Park, but this was found to be wrong and in 1867 was officially changed to a seated griffin with raised wings. The arms were not changed and include a fesse which represents the military girdle worn around the body over armour, a cross which signifies belief in the Trinity, and the cross is tripled (fitchée) which was granted to those taking part in the Crusades. (The arms are fully discussed in Chapter 25).

There is a place called Bamford in Derbyshire and another Bamford near Bury in Lancashire, and it means “a ford with a footbridge”. The Lancashire Bamford was originally called Baumford which name is old Norman French and would have been pronounced Bomford. Baumford was held in the reign of Henry III (1216-72) by Thomas de Baumford. It was granted to Thomas by Sir Adam de Bury “for his homage and services”, (Baines History of Lancashire). It would appear therefore that the names Bomford and Bamford came from the same source, that an early forebear took part in the Crusades, and that another forebear may have been Thomas de Baumford, pronounced Bomford. Another early record includes a William de Baumford who is on written record in Suffolk in the year 1228 (Curia Regis Rolls).

1.2 The Start of the Lineage

We can actually trace the Bomford lineage back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth when, in about 1580, Thomas Bomford was born. He lived at Coughton in South Warwickshire and had two sons. The eldest son, Thomas, was born in 1612 and lived at Arrow immediately south of Alcester in Warwickshire and just south of Coughton; from him descend the Bomfords of Worcestershire. The second son was Lawrence, more commonly spelt Laurence who was born in 1617 and who went to Ireland. It is his family with whom we are interested.

The earliest Bomford deed in existence is dated 20th July 1692, (1.9.2), an extract from it reads “... on 14th July 1692 Gerald Fitzgerald did farm let to Laurence Bomford of Clonmaghan Co Meath, Gent, the land of Iniscoffey and Oldtowne Co Westmeath,” George Bomford the younger who must have compiled the first Bomford entry in Burke’s Landed Gentry used this deed and wrote “Laurence Bomford, living at Clonmaghan, Co Meath, in 1692, Colonel under Cromwell, later Secretary to the Court of Claims in Ireland. Married 1650 Eleanor Chevenix (died 1722, aged 89), and he died 1720, aged 103, having had issue...”

There is no cause to doubt any of this but investigations have been carried out to add to our knowledge of the Colonel, and much can be gleaned from Laurence’s tombstone in Laracor Churchyard, from early Army and other records.

1.3 The Laracor Tombstone

In 1981 Dr Beryl Moore and Michael Kenning wrote a pamphlet on the ‘Headstones in Laracor Church’. I must use their description because, since then, the church has been sold and converted into a private house and, although the owner was most co-operative, I failed to remove sufficient brambles to see the headstone.

A very elaborate iron railing 5 feet high surrounds this square plot which retains a recumbent slab. At its top we get a circle with an animal standing on its hind legs inside like a weasel and underneath an elaborate Coat of Arms, which we cannot describe as it is rather indistinct. Below this is written, ‘Here lye the bodys of Mr Laurence Bomford and Eleanor his wife.’ They lived together in wedlock 50 years in this Parish and were descended from good ancient English families. They had many children to whom they gave virtuous example and education being tender parents, loving neighbours, devoted frequenters to the Church and constant benefactors to the poor. Together with them lie interred here several of their children and grandchildren. He departed this life the 25th of March 1720 aged 103 and she ye 25th of Jany 1722 aged 89 years. To whose memory their son Stephen Bomford hath placed this Monument:

Already we have confirmed much and can add some more, - Laurence was born in 1617, and he married Eleanor Chevenix in 1650 when he was 33. She was born in 1633 and was only 17 when she married. In 1670 they arrived in the Parish of Laracor, which includes Clonmaghan, i.e. 1720 less ‘together in wedlock 50 years in this Parish’. ‘Descended from good ancient English families’ certainly is true of Laurence, but Eleanor was a Huguenot, however more of that later. Laurence died 25th March 1720 aged 103, and Eleanor died less than two years later on 25th January 1722 aged 89.
1.4 Interesting but Negative Investigation

An attempt was made to fill the gap in Laurence’s army life and as Secretary to the Court of Claims, but to date nothing has been found. The following have been investigated:

1. John O’Hart - Irish Landed Gentry in 1649

Orders of Parliament, which lists pensions and places, granted to officers and men of the Commonwealth. For instance to give some examples of soldiers who figure later in these pages,

Page 239 records

“5th Dec 1650 to Dr Henry Jones, Dunganstown, commonly called Dungan’s Hill the estate of Gerald Lynch”, (Gerald Lynch was a papist and transplanted, Dunganstown is to become a Bomford property later), and “Agher Palace and the estate of George Gernon and various others”, (Agher will become a Winter property).

Page 372 ‘The Forty-Nine Officers’, the list of Officers of 1649 who received land in the Commonwealth Settlement.

Page 505 and 507 The Retinue of James II in 1690 and the list of his General and Field Officers.

2. In the Records of Ireland (marked 1821-1825) deposited in the library of the Royal Irish Academy

a) ‘Inrolments of the Certificates for Adventurers, Soldiers, etc, in Ireland in the Commonwealth Period’.

b) The index of the above, both the index of names and of places.

c) ‘Inrolments of the Grants under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation which covers the years 1666 to the early 1700’s’. An example concerns Oakley Park, then known as Laurencetown, -

“Captain Henry Spering, Knockglasse 235 A(cres) £4.15.2, Duleene 147 A £2.19.8¼, Laurencetowne 64 A £1.6.1½, Barony of Kells Co Meath Date 16th Sept 21st year Inrolled 11th Oct 1669”. The money refers to the Quit Rent reserved for the Crown.

d) All six volumes of the records of Ireland

The above is negative but it does indicate that Colonel Laurence did not receive land nor was he with Cromwell in Ireland. He must therefore have served with Cromwell’s forces in England and become a Colonel in the New Model Army over there, and then, like so many of his contemporaries, have come over to Ireland when he left the army. He was married by then and he probably first went to Dublin where he was in the Court of Claims which dealt with the enormous upheaval of the population in that period. One strong argument against this is that Joan David (Bomford) has memories of her father (G. L. Bomford) saying that his ancestor, Laurence, was granted five properties in the Cromwellian Settlement, and indeed this may be so, but to date the evidence points the other way.

One wonders why he selected Meath to settle in, certainly the land is good there but, thinking that he might have had friends there and that those friends might be army friends, a short investigation was carried out. Again the results were negative but they are of interest and have been included.

On 18th August 1655 a number of Regiments were disbanded and granted land throughout Ireland. The following concerns the settlement in “West Meath and East Meath” and is extracted from “The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland” by John P. Prendergast, 1865, 1912 Edition. These lists are in four columns

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<td>Captain Napper</td>
<td>Captain Cambell</td>
<td>Half Fore</td>
<td>£800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Wrenn</td>
<td>Captain Gibbons</td>
<td>Muoigose</td>
<td>£600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Waltham</td>
<td>Lieutenant-Colonel Pinchin</td>
<td>Kells</td>
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<td>General Venables Regiment</td>
<td>Captain Bownell</td>
<td>Moyfen Rath</td>
<td>£1,000</td>
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<td>Captain Cornock</td>
<td>Captain Gardiner</td>
<td>Kilcourse</td>
<td>£600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Talbott</td>
<td>Captain Disney</td>
<td>Moycashel</td>
<td>£600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Waltham</td>
<td>Supernumeries of the Lord President’s Regiment of Horse</td>
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Once the allocation as above was made, the land was split up and each man in the regiment was granted land to the amount of money that was due to him. The final position of his land was drawn by lot. Many men did not want to ‘plant the land’ so sold their plot to others. For instance many of the “souldiers in Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Steephen’s Company of the late regiment of foote belonginge to Colonel Daniel Axtell” made over their land for £136 to Arnold Thomas “Ensigne to the said company”. There was therefore much movement initially in the ownership of land, and it must not be forgotten that first the land had to be vacated by the previous Irish Catholic owners who had to be transplanted to the West. The Court of Claims was set up in 1662 to deal with the disputes which arose, and it was these, which Colonel Laurence Bomford had to sort out as a Secretary. However Clonmaghan was leased as will be seen later and these lists are so detailed that the Colonel, as a field officer, should have shown up somewhere if he was granted land.

Clonmaghan, Parish of Laracor, is in the Barony of Moyfenrath, so if Laurence did select this area because his army friends were there, then he served alongside or with Colonel Axtell’s Regiment.

Prendergast’s book also lists the Adventurers, the people who gave money for the war in the hopes that they would win it and that it would prove a sound investment. The Adventurers were also granted land, particularly in Co Meath. No Bomfords are listed, although there are a number of family names, which appear in the documents, such as Bolton, Hinde, Meade, Sadlier, Bateman, Fetherston, Chute.

Adventurer Number 607 gave £100, he was Patrick Bamford of London, ‘merchant Taylor’.

1.4.1 The Down Survey.

Before the Cromwellian soldiers and Adventurers could be allocated land, Ireland had to be mapped and the landowners of 1640 named, together with their religion. This work was given to Sir William Petty (1623 - 1687) and called the ‘Down Survey’ because it was the first Irish survey to be written ‘down’. Sir William had extraordinary talents. He passed out of Oxford at an early age with Medical and Surgical degrees; in 1651 he was Professor of Anatomy at Oxford University and there made friends with Thomas Taylour (2.11.3); the next year he was made Physician-General to the Army in Ireland. In 1653 he undertook the survey becoming Surveyor-General of Ireland in 1654. During the years 1654 - 1656 Ireland was mapped, townland by townland, and a civil survey carried out, the example is Clonmaghon townland: -

```
Clonmahon in the parish of Laurahcor in the Baronny of Moyfenrah
Proprietors in 1640 Plantation
& their qualificacions Acres Arrable 100
Valerian Weisley of Dingen 270 Mead 30 (Meadow)
Irish Papist Pasture 120
Wood 20

Bounded on the East with the lands of Moynaline, on the South with Knock on the west with Oldrath, and North with Gennets in Deece Baronny.”.
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Sir William Petty married in 1667 and died in 1687. His widow, in consideration of his great services in the survey of the forfeited estates in Ireland, was created Baroness Shelburne. She died in 1708 having had three sons, two of whom became Lord Shelburne, and a daughter Anne (See 20.4.1).

1.4.2 The Court of Claims.

The Court of Claims was set up in 1662 to deal with the many land disputes, which arose. There are many references to the works carried out by the Court of Claims, but I have failed to find any lists concerning the court officials, and so cannot confirm that Laurence was the Secretary. However the 1662 date works in well with the Burke entry that Laurence was “Colonel under Cromwell, later See to the Court of Claims in Ireland”. One might suppose that he was in the army from age 25 at the start of the Civil War in 1642 to age 45 in 1662, ample time to become a colonel. I favour the idea that he came to Dublin at least during the late 1650’s (having possibly left the army), so avoiding the difficult period between Cromwell and Charles II, but also because, being in Dublin, he was able to apply for a job with the Court of Claims. He must have resigned as Secretary before 1670 when he went to Clonmaghan.

This fits together nicely and there would be no need for confirmation until we find that Laurence probably could not write and that Henderson’s Post Office Guide of 1861 states that it was Laurence’s eldest son, Thomas, who was Secretary to the Court (See 1.9.2).
1.4.3 Dublin of the 1660’s

Because of the unsettled times in Ireland there had been virtually no building in the city since the time of Elizabeth. At that time about a mile of medieval walls and gates surrounded the place on the south side of the Liffey. The chief landmarks were King John’s Castle, the two cathedrals of Christchurch and St Patrick’s, and outside the walls on Hogan Green, Queen Elizabeth’s newly founded (1591) College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. There was a single thirteenth century bridge over the river nearly opposite Christchurch. With the Restoration a more settled period began, and it is from this that we must date the first real expansion of Dublin. The old walls vanished, quays were built along the river and a second bridge appeared in 1670. The timbered houses of the Tudor age began to disappear and gave place to others of brick and stone. St Stephen’s Green was developed in 1663 and Phoenix Park came later with other developments on the north side of the Liffey.

It is suggested that Laurence lived in one of the old Tudor houses in the maze of narrow twisting streets in the area of the old Viking city around Christchurch Cathedral. As Dublin was rebuilt, Laurence lost his house to the town planners and moved to the country, to Clonmaghan in 1670.

1.4.4 The Country Tower House

In the country, as more settled times came into being in the late 1600’s, the original ‘castles’ which had been built on many townlands were superceded by more comfortable residences. The trend was slow but it should be appreciated that these castles were really fortified houses, or tower-houses, surrounded by a bawn or walled yard into which livestock were driven at night for safety against marauders. They were usually three or four storeys high and the family lived on the top floor. As can be imagined these tower-houses, or ‘castles’ as the 1654 survey calls them, varied considerably in size but they all had the same basic features. These cramped, drafty and stark buildings were made more comfortable around the 1680’s by adding a low two-storey house with access to the tower, and it was probably in such an economical addition that the early Bomfords, the Colonel’s sons, lived. However there was no ‘castle’ on Clonmaghan so Laurence must have built himself a house (see 1.8).

1.5 Eleanor Chevenix

Again my research has proved negative and nothing new is to be added. The Chevenix family is definitely of Huguenot origin and it is surprising that Stephen Bomford put on the headstone ‘descended from good ancient English families’. -

O’Hart’s Irish Pedigrees of 1888 lists the names of Huguenot families who settled in Great Britain and Ireland during the reign of Louis XIV of France (1643 - 1715). Two of these are

Chevenix
And Chevenix d’Eply

The Irish branch of the family started with Philippe Chevenix d’Eply, born about 1625, and married Anne de Boubers. He was from a distinguished Lorraine family, which became dispersed on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. The Rev Philippe Chevenix fled to England with his wife and obtained letters of Naturalization dated November 1682.

The family afterwards came to Ireland and settled at Portarlington where he died, his will was dated 1697. Philippe’s son entered the King’s Guards, of which he became Colonel; and his grandson became Bishop of Killaloe in 1745, and afterwards of Waterford and Lismore. The Bishop will figure in the documents later, almost as if he was a relative, but it is difficult to tie Eleanor into this family. She was born in 1633 and so could be a sister of Philippe who was born in 1625, but she was married to Laurence in 1650 and the family was not even in England at that date. So that cuts out the possibility of her being a member of the Chevenix d’Eply family who settled in Ireland. She must be a member of the Chevenix family, as indeed her name confirms, but with them I have drawn a blank. It is reasonable to assume that Laurence and his father Thomas must have known her family before 1650 to arrange the marriage and so her family must have lived in England in the Midlands for about ten years and maybe since before Eleanor’s birth in 1633. This is quite likely as numbers of Huguenots had arrived in England during Elizabeth’s reign and had begun to arrive in Dublin in the 1630’s.

If these suppositions are correct then the marriage took place in England in 1650. This was the year after King Charles I was executed and the year in which Cromwell returned to England from Ireland and went to Scotland where he defeated the Royalist Scots at the Battle of Dunbar in September. 1650 was therefore a peaceful year for the Midlands, and if Laurence was not with Cromwell in Ireland he was probably not with him in Scotland either, so he may have had some garrison job in the Midlands when the marriage took place.
Incidentally tradition has it that Oliver Cromwell called at a farmhouse at Wyre or Wyre Piddle, where the Bomfords lived, on his way to Worcester in August 1651, and was entertained there. The legend continues that he sat under a yew tree at the gate and tethered his horse. He is said to have written a letter in the farmhouse. (Source Bruce Bomford).

1.6 The Children

George the younger’s list of the children in Burke is


The documents will prove this list should be corrected to read

The Girls 1. Elizabeth and 2. Margaret

Many, if not all, of these seven children would be born between the marriage in 1650 and 1670, the date when the family arrived in the Parish of Laracor. If we accept my hypothesis then the elder children may have been born in England, but most of them would be born in Dublin during the time that Laurence was working at the Court of Claims. If we allow three years between the children then the oldest would be born in 1651, the next in 1654 and so on; the youngest would be born in 1669 when Eleanor was 36 and Laurence 52.

We cannot apportion dates of birth to individuals because the children are listed with the boys first and then the girls. Nevertheless let us assume some birth dates and see what transpires, and with only two girls we cannot be far out. Too much time has passed to be more definite and it is unlikely that much more evidence will come to light after 300 years. In most cases dates of death have been found and if we add these to the birth dates then the children might be something like this -

Thomas  eldest son, born c1651 and died in 1740 aged 89,
Oliver    born c1654 and died in 1721 aged 61,
Laurence born c1657 and died in 1721 aged 64,
Edward   born c1660 and died in 1756 aged 96,
Stephen  born c1663 and died in 1759 aged 96,
Elizabeth born 1666 and was alive in 1747, so died aged 81 plus,
Margaret born c1669 and probably died between 1710 and 1720, aged about the mid-40’s.

If one were to tinker with the sequence then perhaps one would place Stephen as the youngest of the family, since his children were born much later than those of his brothers and sisters, but even so the dates cannot be very wrong.

As a whole the family lived to a ripe old age. This is unusual in those days when many children died in infancy and I expect that there were in fact other children who did die young and of whom there is no record. The inscription on the headstone, “Together with them lie interred here several of their children and grandchildren” may refer to three children, Oliver, Laurence and Margaret, plus any others who died young. There are no recorded grandchildren but again there must be some who died before the headstone was positioned after Eleanor was buried in January 1722.

It is possible that Catherine and Lucy were the names of two of Eleanor’s children who died young. But, they are definitely not those in Burke because Burke records that Catherine married a Mr Hamilton and Lucy married T. Birmingham. Both these marriages have been traced and Catherine was married in 1742 when she would be over 70, and Lucy was married between 1758 and 1766 when she would have been over 80. As will be seen later they are the daughters of Edward.

It is not known why the second son, Oliver, and his family were omitted; perhaps because they had mostly died out at the time the Burke lineage was prepared. The majority of Oliver’s family had been placed from the documents before the Upton Papers had been located, and it was satisfying to have independent confirmation of his family from these papers.

1.7 Unplaced Bomfords

This type of research is bound to disclose various people named Bomford who may, or may not, be part of the family. Bomford is not a common name and it is interesting that at one time there was a very long list of unplaced Bomfords. Slowly by various clues this list was whittled down and many were slotted in to the family tree.

There are two early references to Bomfords and neither can be placed with certainty and so have been omitted. However it is a pity to lose sight of these Bomfords, as a clue may still appear to place them.

The Early Days
The Register of the Church of St Peter and St Kevin, Dublin, records under August 1677

"Joseph Bompord and Ann Boxford marryed Aug the eighth and twentieth." Here it is possible that we have another son of Laurence. If Joseph was born in 1651 he would be 26 when he married.

From the Trinity College, Dublin, Register another two Bomfords appear, father and son.

"Bomford Laurence, Pensioner, Dr Sheridan, Dublin, Feb 28 1728-29, aged 16, Son of George, Mercator, born Charlymount."

This means that Laurence was born in 1712 or 13 at Charlymount, attended Dr Sheridan’s school in Dublin before entering Trinity on February 28, 1728 (or 29). His father George Bomford was a merchant, probably in Dublin. Charlymount may be the name of what was then a village and which nowadays consists of many roads all named Charlemont at the south end of Harcourt Street. Again George could be yet another son of Laurence but there is no further proof. However the two families most likely did know of each other because another Bomford attended Dr Sheridan’s school. He was Oliver’s second son Thomas, but he was nine years older than Laurence so they may not have overlapped. It is noteworthy that ‘Laurence’ is a family name at this time and ‘George’ is to become a family name. But none of this gives sufficient evidence to actually place them as sons or grandsons.

1.8

Clonmahon (or Clonmaghan)

As we have seen Laurence and Eleanor arrived in the Parish of Laracor about 1670 and were living at Clonmahon in 1692. It is possible that they went straight to Clonmahon in 1670. Laracor lies on the road between Summerhill and Trim. Clonmahon, which means ‘Mahon’s green or meadow’, is a townland in the Parish of Laracor immediately north of the village of Summerhill in the north eastern portion of the Barony of Lower Moyfenrath. There is no mention of any buildings on Clonmahon in the Civil Survey of 1654, so Laurence must have lived in a new house which might have been of two storeys, almost certainly thatched, and made either of rough stone or mud bricks covered with plaster.

150 years later the Ordnance Survey Field Name Book of 1836 says of Clonmahon

“487 acres, the property of Lord Langford of Summerhill; it is divided into 19 farms. One farm of 150 acres has a farmhouse and offices. The land is good.”

Perhaps this farmhouse, or more likely its predecessor, was where Laurence lived with his family.

1.8.1

Clonmahon Deed

The earliest reference found concerning Clonmahon was at the Registry of Deeds, Book 49 Page 190 No 315503 dated 21st April 1726. It says in effect,

Garret Wesley of Dunganon, Co Meath, leases to James Wilson of Curastowne, Co Meath, Gent, all that part of Clonmaghon on the east side of the road leading from Dunganon to Summer Hill, 180 acres plantation measure (292 statute) in the Barony of Moyfenrath, for three lives at a rent of £106.3.9.

Since James Wilson lived elsewhere and no house is mentioned my guess is that Laurence had the other farm on the west side of the road consisting of 295 acres, and that he leased it from Garret Wesley at a slightly higher rent of about £110.

Both Laurence and Eleanor most probably died at Clonmahon. Although the sons had moved away to farms of their own; Thomas in 1691 was ‘of Old Towne, Co Meath’, Oliver in 1706 was ‘of Cushingstown, Co Meath’, Stephen in 1711 was ‘of Galley, Co Meath’, and Laurence in 1712 was, ‘of Killeglan, Co Meath’, Margaret was living with her husband at Rathfisk just west of Clonmahon, and Elizabeth was also married and living elsewhere; Edward was the only one at home when his parents died.

1.8.2

The Wellesley Family

The Bomfords at Clonmahon were sandwiched between two famous families who must have dominated the area. Half a mile to the north lived the Wesley’s at Dangan Castle, and a mile to the south the Rowleys lived at Summerhill House.

Garret Wellesley (or Wesley) whose father another Garret, leased Clonmahon to Laurence Bomford, married Katherine Keating, but had no children. He was MP for Trim and for Co Meath, and died in 1728 having bequeathed all his estates to his cousin Richard Colley. Richard had to change his name to Wesley later he became Lord Mornington. He was the grandfather of the Marquess of Wellesley and the Duke of Wellington.

They lived at Dangan Castle, which was described in 1739 as having “a noble piazza of seven curious turned arches in front of it”. The grounds were said to boast of at least 25 obelisks, some of which can still be seen from the road. However what no doubt intrigued the younger Bomfords would be the fort
with cannon which fired salutes on family birthdays down by the lake; where three vessels rode at anchor, a 20-ton man of war, a yacht and a steam packet boat.

Richard Colley’s son, the first Earl of Mornington 1735 - 1781, was the father of the famous Duke of Wellington and one wonders whether a salute was fired in 1769 when the future Duke was born, reputedly at Dangan. A local yarn is that in the early 1790’s one Christmas morning the Duke’s brother Richard, Marquess Wellesley, was making bullets in the attic when he was called for lunch and somehow his equipment set the place alight. Dangan was not completely destroyed but Richard sold it for £25,000 in 1793 to an East Indian ‘Nabob’, Colonel Thomas Burrowes, who improved it by building on wings. Burrowes leased Dangan about 1803 to Roger Connor, a United Irishman and nephew to Lord Longueville of Co Cork, who had been made an honorary General by Napoleon; he was said to have taken the house in order to be able to entertain Napoleon there, but history decreed otherwise, and Connor stripped the place of its magnificent timber and gutted the mansion of its valuable materials, and an outbreak of fire in 1809 completed the ruin of this fine house. Despite his oft-quoted remark about ‘being born in a stable not making one a horse’, the great Duke of Wellington had sufficient feeling for Dangan to contemplate buying back the estate; but nothing came of the plan.

1.8.3 The Rowley Family

The Rowleys lived at Summerhill. Sir John Rowley, MP for Londonderry married Mary the daughter and heir of Sir Hercules Langford of Summerhill. They had one son, Sir Hercules Rowley, MP, who died in 1742. He had Sir Edward Lovett Pearce in collaboration with Richard Castle build one of the greatest and most dramatic of all the Irish Georgian houses in 1731. It was built on a hill and consisted of a main block with curved wings ending in a tower and pavilion. In 1879 and 1880 the Empress Elizabeth of Austria took Summerhill for the hunting season; my grandfather, George, then aged 12 or 13, vividly remembered those seasons of hunting. The house was burnt down during the troubles of 1922 and stood for many years as a magnificent ruin, then the stonework was sold and the ruin demolished c1962. Much more information about the Rowley and Langford family will be found in paragraph 2.11.1.

1.8.4 Dean Jonathan Swift

One other neighbour must be mentioned at this stage Dean Jonathan Swift (1667 –1745) was Vicar of Laracor from 1699 until his death, and also Rector of Agher. He was also Chaplain in to the Lord Lieutenant at Dublin Castle, and a Prebendary and later the Dean of St Patrick’s Cathedral. With these duties he was only free to spend the odd month at Laracor.

He arrived in Ireland in 1698 with the illegitimate but beautiful 16 year old, Stella; although Stella was chaperoned by the dull and ‘harmless’ Rebecca Dingly, eyebrows were raised even in profligate Dublin when they set up house. About 1702 he and Stella built a small cottage almost opposite the Church at Laracor but they tended to lodge in Trim at St Mary’s Abbey, more correctly called Talbot’s castle, Stella bought the Castle in 1717 for £65. She sold it the next year to Swift for £200 and Swift soon after sold it to George Dennis (2.5) of Summerhill for £223. The house later became a Latin school where the Duke of Wellington, the mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1805 –1865), and I suspect some Bomfords received their early education.

From 1708 to 1713 Swift was in London where he met another young and beautiful girl, Vanessa. Her father had been Lord Mayor of Dublin and was well connected, so when she followed Swift back to Dublin she was able to chase him from her house in Dublin or from Celbridge Abbey on the Liffey in North Kildare, which her father had left her. Swift now had two young women whom he was able to keep apart, mostly. We are not told what Laurence, the tough puritanical Colonel, thought about the household of his parson, even though Swift as a man of letters and of the cloth; but I expect that Laurence would find it hard to ignore someone who had met King William, who knew all the politicians and the intrigue which went on, and who wrote such widely discussed satirical and serious pamphlets filled with fierce invective, biting sarcasm, scathing denunciation.

The family must have known Swift well, not only because he was their parson, but because there is a family story that Swift based a character in one of his books totally on a Bomford girl; she must be either Elizabeth or Margaret, but possibly one of the nieces.

It was whilst trying to find more about the “Bomford girl” that an article on Swift’s parishioners at Laracor was found. “Laurence Bomford of Clonmahon” was mentioned as “Goodman Bumford”, his oldest parishioner, together with the Percivals of Knightsbrook House with whom he played cards, piquet and ombre. The other card playing family was Garrett Wesley and his wife of Dangan. He was on friendly terms with Johnny Clark, a neighbouring farmer, but not on such friendly terms with Sir Arthur Langford of Summerhill House. Sir Arthur had angered Swift by establishing a Presbyterian Meeting House at Summerhill, which Swift tried, but failed, to have closed.
1.8.5 Thomas Sheridan’s School

One of the most famous schools in Dublin in the Georgian period was that of Doctor Thomas Sheridan (1687 - 1738) at 27 Capel Street, once the mint for King James’s unpopular brass or gun money. Dean Swift, who greatly admired Sheridan, took classes at the school and upon examination days the Lord-Lieutenant and the Archbishop were present. Swift wrote of Sheridan: “He was doubtless the best instructor of youth in these kingdoms or perhaps in Europe, and as great a master of the Greek and Roman tongues”.

Greek plays were acted at the school and these, together with private theatricals, were very fashionable and were staged everywhere by the gentry. Sheridan’s son, another Thomas (1719 - 1788), having been well grounded by his father was to become one of the most famous actors of the period. However he was not as famous as Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the schoolmaster’s grandson (1751 - 1816), the dramatist who wrote such comedies as ‘The Rivals’ and ‘The School for Scandal’.

Amongst the boys at Thomas Sheridan’s school were Thomas Bomford, the eldest son of Oliver, who left for Trinity in 1720, the unplaced Laurence Bomford, son of the merchant George, who left in 1728, and young John Echlin who left for Trinity in 1729, he was the son of Elizabeth Bomford by her second marriage and so a stepbrother of Thomas Bomford. It may have been Swift who introduced the Bomford family to Sheridan’s school and there may have been other Bomfords there. We only know of these three from the Trinity college records.

1.9 A Start on the Deeds

All the foregoing has set the scene for those early days when the records are sparse. Now we shall move to the actual deeds, fill in some gaps and continue the story

1.9.1 Lease - Rahinstown and Baconstown

10th December 1691

This deed is missing, and the Registry of Deeds did not commence operations until 1708, so the following is extracted from the deeds of 24th February 1738 (5.4.5) and 13th October 1756 (6.10.1). In all cases the deeds are reported as a precis of the legal jargon although I have kept the spelling of any names as they were written.

Sir Arthur Langford of Summerhill leased to Thomas Bomford the elder of Old Town, Co Meath, the townland of Baconstown containing 507 plantation acres (821 statute) and part of the lands of Rahinstown containing 396 plantation acres (642 statute) both in the Barony of Moyfenragh, for the lives of Thomas the elder (died 1740) Edward his brother (died 1756) and Mr Hercules Rowley (died 1742), renewable for ever at a fee of £80. The rent to be £120 for the first four years, the next three years at £140 and thereafter at £169.

1. Rahinstown means the ‘Town of the small fort’ and a later lease states that it contains 25 statute acres of bog. Baconstown, also known as Barronstown or Beaconstown, lies immediately south of Rahinstown and southwest of Agher. Some think that Beaconstown is the correct name, called after some historic beacon, which was lit there.

Confirmation that this was the initial lease of these lands comes from the papers concerning the sale of part of the Summerhill Estate of the mid-1800. This sale records that the “contents in lease of Baconstown 507 plantation acres (no change) and Rahinstown 336 plantation acres (less acreage) at a rent of £160 and also one good fat hog yearly at Easter and two good fat pullets at Christmas, and £80 renewal fine on the fall of each life”. This c1850 paper shows basic agreement with the lease of 1691 except for the acreage of Rahinstown which might be accounted for by the omission of the bog, and the addition of the pig and the hens which the notice complaints had not been produced by Robert George, Thomas Bomford’s great-grand-nephew.

2. This lease is typical of many of the leases, which follow. The ‘Head Landlord’, in this case Sir Arthur Langford, has granted the lease for ‘three lives’ renewable forever at a nominal rent of just over 4/- an Irish acre. It would appear that Lord Langford is receiving a very poor return for his investment in the land, but when one considers that he would have been granted twenty or thirty thousand acres in the settlement of 1653 for his work for the Commonwealth, it can be seen that, for very little outlay, his income is around £5,000 a year; a very large figure for those days.

Thomas Bomford, with his perpetual lease, could develop the land as he thought fit, either by building a house on it and farming it himself, or by leasing it again for a higher rent. With this particular lease he lived on Rahinstown, farmed it himself, and considered the land as his own, calling himself ‘Thomas of Rahinstown’.

Land in Meath and Westmeath was most suitable for cattle raising, which requires large parcels of land; it was therefore the practise not to divide a property in to smaller units for re-leasing, as was done.
in other parts of Ireland. The early Bomfords not only raised their own beasts but also purchased store cattle brought from the West of Ireland and sold at the regular fairs in the market towns of Meath and Westmeath.

Once in prime condition these cattle were driven to the sales in Dublin where they fetched high prices for the English market. However if there was any spare cash it would be invested in more land, which could be again leased at about double the rent of the original lease. For instance Rahinstown could have been leased to a third party for about 8/- an acre, and Thomas would have made a profit of £195 a year. On the whole the early Bomfords kept their surplus land in the family, leasing it cheaply to brothers or nephews, and it was in this fashion that the members of the family became large landowners of around 18,000 acres. Another way of investing spare money was to give a mortgage on someone else’s land. In the days before banking as we know it now, this was the only way to raise capital, the land being the collateral.

1.9.2 Lease - Enniscoffey and Oldtown

On 14th July 1692, Gerald FitzGerald of Rathrone, Co Meath, did farm let to Laurence Bomford of Clonmaghan, Co Meath, Gent, the lands of Iniscoffey and Oldtowne, Co Westmeath, with the same boundary as Edmond Pettitt, late of Oldtowne, had formerly for three lives.

On 20th July 1692 it was ‘thought more agreeable’ to change the terms of lease from three lives to a lease of 999 years to Thomas Bomford. Subsequently, to ensure that Peter McSherry should not recover the lands from Thomas Bomford, it was thought advisable ‘that the said lease for lives should still be kept on foot and not surrendered or cancelled’.

So it was agreed that the land be leased to Laurence Bomford for three lives.

Signed Gar. FitzGerald Laurence Bomford X (his mark)
Witnessed James FitzGerald Thos Cooke H North

1. Laurence Bomford, then aged 75, did not sign his name but sealed the deed with his mark ‘X’. This indicates that he could not write, which was quite likely in those days, but it also casts a doubt that he was Secretary to the Court of Claims in Ireland, as stated in Burke. Indeed Henderson’s Post Office Guide in 1861 states that it was Laurence’s “eldest son, Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown, (who was) Secretary to the Court of Claims”; this sounds to be much more likely but to date nothing in writing has been found listing the Secretaries, so the whole matter has been left ‘as is’.

2. Iniscoffey is a townland in the Parish of the same name in the Barony of Fartullagh. The present spelling is Enniscoffey. It was used to be called ‘Caran’.

The 1836 map shows Enniscoffey House occupied by M.A. Levinge and the Church lying in the west of the townland, and Woodville House in the north. The 1838 Ordnance Survey Name Book states that the extensive townland contains 1,421 acres of tillage and pasture chiefly, but also contains several detached bogs.

3. ‘Oldtowne’. There are a great number of Oldtowns in Meath and Westmeath, and the Bomfords leased two of them at this time. The Oldtown where Thomas the elder lived is south of Agher, and between Ardrums and Gallow. The Oldtown of this lease is in Co Westmeath but it is not certain which Oldtown it is. However all but two have been eliminated and these two are:

a. That it is part of Enniscoffey. This is the most likely as the document of 1762 states ‘Oldtown and Enniscoffey (are) in the Barony of Turtola (Fartullagh) and Parish of Enniscoffey’.

b. That it is the townland of 364 statute acres just north of Gnewbane, a Bomford property at this date. This Oldtown straddles the road to Tyrrellepass about one mile south of Rochfortbridge. I tried to find references to the land of Edmond Pettitt hoping to clarify the situation of Oldtown, but all I found was that at some date he changed his name to Edmond Little!

4. Two deeds of 1756 give us the approximate acreage of Enniscoffey and Oldtown; one gives the lease at 8/- an acre and the other gives the annual sum received as £226.14.0. This works out at about 567 Plantation acres which converts to 908 statute acres

5. This is a copy of the actual deed, which was disputed in 1762 and again in 1801 (10.5). An undated endorsement on the back of the deed reads “FitzGerald and Laurence Bomford that the former Lease of Lives should be kept on foot for Parlar Purpose only and that the Lease of Lives in pursans of FitzGerald’s Settlement was Cancelled, and a lease of 999 years made it more agreeable to the Power in said Settlement.”

A further note on the back, probably written during the dispute, concerns a doubt that the endorsement was written in a different hand, “tho Mr Jemrs ffallon (John Fallon) in their answer swear the Whole indorsement is of the handwriting of Hyacinth Cheeverson.” This doubt
implies that the endorsement was thought by some to be a forgery, (see 10.6, Nos 25-29).

1.9.3 Lease - Rathflisk  
20th January 1699

Dame Helena Rawdon, widow of Mountbramhill, Co Meath, leased for 31 years to Richard Ball of Rathflisk, Co Meath, farmer, the lands of Rathflisk in the Manor of Rathmullyon (Rathmolyon) also to ‘digg turf, in the bogg of Isaackstown’. Dame Helena will make an access road to the bog through Mr Robert Ayleway’s land. (He lived at Mount Rawden, Co Wicklow, and died in 1702). Rent to be £34 a year plus ‘4 fatt hens and two fatt turkeys every Christmas’. Richard Ball also has to supply the Rathmullyon market with foodstuffs, or forfeits 2/6 on each market day. His corn must be ground at the Mannor Mill of Moylough.

Signed  Hellen Rawdon
This deed was endorsed and dated 11th February 1702

Richard Ball transfers the lease of Rathflisk to Thomas Bomford of ‘Rainestowne’ for a payment of £65.

Signed  Rich Ball
Witnessed  Oliver Bomford  Thomas Cormek

1. Rathflisk is to the west of Clonmahon just beyond Dangan, and north of Rathmolyon. Isaacstown is the townland adjacent and to the north of Rahinstown. There is no further lease of Rathflisk, so when this lease runs out in 1729 it may not have been renewed. However Simon Berwick who married Thomas Bomford’s sister, Margaret, lived at Rathflisk.

A space, which was never filled in, was left in the document for the acreage of Rathflisk. However the rent was 5/- for every plantation acre so it was 136 acres or 220 statute acres. The statute or English acre is 4,840 square yards, whereas the plantation or Irish, acre is 7,840 square yards. It was not until the late 1800’s that the statute acre was used. Plantation acres have been converted to statute acres throughout using a factor of 1.62.

2. These short leases of 30 years, or even less, were one of the problems of the Irish tenant farmer. It was not financially viable to improve the land on a long-term basis, nor would the tenant spend money on permanent buildings. This was one of the reasons for the poor living conditions of the time.

This was appreciated by some landlords and it became increasingly common to split the land into ‘profitable’ and ‘unprofitable’ land; bog or scrub lands were unprofitable; usually these lands were included in the lease at a reduced rent, often a purely nominal one, but sometimes they were leased without any mention in the deed; the latter was prevalent in some of the Bomford Westmeath properties which made continuity of acreage difficult to follow. However from the tenant’s point of view he could at least put some sheep on the scrub land or as it was often called, on ‘ye mountain’. Nevertheless a tenant would want to have the guarantee of a long lease to bother to remove scrub or drain the land; it was simply not worth the effort if the lease was only for about 30 years. Further, by improving the land, the rental might be raised by an unscrupulous landlord, and by the time the improvement was functioning the lease would be nearly over.

3. Sir Arthur Rawdon, 2nd Baronet, of Moira, Co Down, and MP for Co Down, was born 11th October 1662. His wife, Helena or Helen, was also born in 1662, and she was the daughter and heir of Sir James Graham. Sir Arthur was a keen gardener and built the first greenhouse in Ireland in 1687 at Moira, He sent to Jamaica for plants for it and his man arrived back with 1,000 tropical plants, a very considerable feat since no other large import of tropical plants came to Europe until the 1840’s. His wife, Lady Helen, had a large library of botanical books and no doubt helped to care for the Jamaican plants after her husband’s early death in 1695 aged 33.

Brilliana, or Brileana, Rawdon witnessed the next lease of Castletown of 1702; she is Sir Arthur’s sister, born 1668, who died unmarried October 1712 and was buried at St Mary’s Church in Dublin. Their grandson, the first Earl Moira (1719-1793), used most of the family wealth in building Moira House on Usher’s Island overlooking the Liffey, which he started in 1752. It was decorated and furnished in the most sumptuous style; the octagonal salon had large windows, the sides of which were inlaid with mother-of-pearl. John Wesley visited the house in 1775 and recorded his surprise at finding a far more elegant reception room than any he had seen in England. The 2nd Earl Moira who later became the 1st Marquess of Hastings completed the family ruin by further extravagance and both his houses, in Dublin and Co Down, had to be sold in the early 1800’s.
Rathmullyon. In return Lady Rawdon leases to Thomas Bomford for 31 years that part of Castletown known as Richard Ball’s, on the right of the road from Rathflisk to the House of Castletown and on to Moynemore. The rent for these 140 Irish acres (227 statute) to be £23.17.6 for the first four years and then 5/- an acre (£35.0.0). In addition there is another 12 Irish acres (19 statute) in Moynemore in the Parish of Laracor at rent of 7/- an acre (£4.4.0) of meadow.

Thomas Bomford must build himself a house of stone or brick with chimneys within 11 years, at least 40 feet long, and he should live in it

Signed    H. Rawdon
Witnessed    Brilliana Rawdon        Geo Merefield

Endorsement: Lady Rawdon promises to renew the above lease ‘of the Mote’ at any time during her lifetime.
(This refers to the meadowland at Moynemore of 12 plantation acres)

1. The total for these two parcels of land is 246 statute acres. In 1733 this lease expires, and since there is no further mention of Castletown it was probably not renewed
2. Castletown is just to the west of Rathflisk and about five miles north of Rahinstown where Thomas was living. There is no sign of a house of such a size in the survey map of 1837. In 1654 there was a ‘ruinated’ castle on the land and one imagines that Thomas was planning to convert it into a new house and to live there, rather than at Rahinstown.
However the plan came to nothing and no house was built, indeed it is possible that Thomas lost the lease in 1713 when the contractual time for a house has expired. The stipulation ‘with chimneys’ is interesting; they were only now coming into general use, previously the smoke just went out of a hole in the roof.

1.10 The Family in 1702

In 1702 Laurence was 85 and Eleanor 69, and they were living at Clonmahon with three of their sons, Laurence, Edward and Stephen. At this date a statement of their ‘children’ would be something like this: -

Thomas eldest son, born c1651 and now aged about 51. In 1691 he was living at Oldtown, Co Meath, which is about three miles south-east of Rahinstown to which he had moved by 1702.
In 1691 he married Elizabeth Tew. The Marriage Licence Bonds Prerogative and the Prerogative Grants in the Public Record Office both record “1691 Thomas Bomford and Elizabeth Tew”. Elizabeth was the second daughter of Mark Tew of Mulhussy, Co Meath; the Tew family come into the history again and their tree will be found in 9.3.7. Since Elizabeth is not recorded in her father’s will of 1717, she must have died before then. She did not live long after her marriage and she may have died already. They had no children.

Oliver Second son, born c1654 and now aged about 48. In 1703 he was living at Cushenstown, Co Meath, and may have been there for a few years. He married Elizabeth Wilson born c1690 at Duleek, niece of Andrew Wilson (see below); their eldest son, Thomas, was born in 1703 at Cushenstown so it is most likely that their marriage has only just taken place.

Laurence 3rd son, born c1657 and now aged about 45. He married another niece of Andrew Wilson, Susanna Wilson, some time before 1710, when Susanna was mentioned in the lease of Killeglan, but it is doubtful if they were married in 1702, certainly no children were born yet.
At this date Laurence was most likely to be living at Clonmahon with his parents, he probably remained there until he married. In 1710 he was at Rahinstown with Thomas whose wife had probably died by that date. By 1720 he was living in his own place at Killeglan with his young family.

Edward 4th son is still at Clonmahon He was born c1660 so is now about 42 and will marry in 1715 or 1716.

Stephen 5th son is still a bachelor and living at Clonmahon. He was born about 1663, which makes him about 36 at this date. He will not marry for another 10 or 30 years

Elizabeth The eldest daughter was born about 1666 so is now about 36. At this age it is most likely that she is married to James Hyland, they were definitely married before 1720. Very little is known about this couple, and they have no children as far as we know. James died before 1747 and maybe before 1738. In 1747 Elizabeth was alive, aged about 81.

Margaret Younger daughter, born about 1669 is now about 33. She was certainly married before 1712 and is probably already married to Simon Berwick (or Barwick) of Rathflisk. Simon
was a local man; Rathflisk is just west of Clonmahon. They end up with at least three children - Richard, Thomas and William, all of whom are mentioned in the deeds

1.10.1  The Wilson Family

Oliver and Laurence Bomford married two sisters, Elizabeth and Susanna Wilson. They are nieces of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield in Co Westmeath. In his will of 9th February 1724 Andrew Wilson bequeathed land for what was to become Wilson’s Hospital, a school at Multyfarnham close to Piercefield, which is still a going concern. His will names the following people:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>Margaret Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother-in-law</td>
<td>Thomas Strongman and his wife Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nieces</td>
<td>Elizabeth Echlin (Elizabeth Wilson first married Oliver Bomford and, when he died, she married Rev John Echlin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nieces</td>
<td>Susanna Bomford (wife of Laurence) Elizabeth Simpson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nephew</td>
<td>William Wilson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More Wilson’s are mentioned later and an attempt has been made to make a family tree from the above and the later documents (see 7.9.1).

1.11  Probable 17th Century Property

The 1762 brief concerning Oldtown and Enniscoffey states “about 5 or 6 years before the death of Lawrence Bomford the father, the said Lawrence provided for all his sons with the exception of Edward, and being himself very old and unable to mind business gave up the care and management of the farms”. This was no doubt a slow process and I dare say that some property had been handed over during the 1690’s.

It is not possible to state definitely when land was first leased, the documents have been lost and the Registry of Deeds did not come into operation until 1708. However, in many cases, it is possible to state that a lease was a second one; the document might say ‘already in their possession’ or uses the word ‘release’.

The following lands were a second lease, so it is likely that they were Bomford properties at this time probably Laurence’s; however I have allocated them to the sons to whom they were later leased. Most leases appear to be for 31 years or three lives and I have assumed this to be the case.

1. Oldtown. Ardrums and Ferrans  Re-leased to Thomas in 1703 so the previous lease would be about 1672.
2. Clonfad  Re-leased to Thomas in 1708, previous lease about 1677.
3. Primatstown, Irishtown and part of Kilmoon  Re-leased to Oliver in 1712 for 31 years, so the previous lease was likely to be about 1681.
4. Cushenstown, Portlester and Bodman  Re-leased to Oliver in 1719 for three lives, previous lease about 1689.
5. Parkstown and Cooleronan  Re-leased to Thomas in 1721, the previous lease would be about 1691.
6. Balloughter (Hightown)  Re-leased to Thomas in 1731 so the previous lease would be in 1700. There may well be another before this.
7. Brick  Re-leased to Thomas Bomford in 1724 on the death of his father, Oliver. There is no indication of when it might have been leased before, but let us say about 1700.
8. Tyrellstown  This land was re-leased in 1739 for 41 years (4.1.1) by Stephen so using another 41 years it was in Bomford hands in 1698.
9. Balrowan, Cloncullen and Gnewbane  These lands remain a mystery but Thomas mortgaged them in 1731. They may be one of the original properties but until further investigation is made they have been entered as c1700.

There may have been other lands, for instance Gallow, and indeed, since Thomas was to die virtually in debt, it could be argued that all his land was inherited and so pre-dated 1700.

1.11.1  The Bomford Estates in 1702

Colonel Laurence Bomford of Clonmahon has land in Clonmahon about 295 statute acres

His oldest son, Thomas of Rahinstown
His second son, Oliver of Cushenstown

Primatstown 721 acres Cushenstown 776 acres
Irishtown 162 acres Brick 125
Kilmoon (part) 112 acres Bodman
Portlester 162 acres Total 1,896 acres

His fifth son, Stephen of Clonmahon, later of Gallow

Tyrellstown 347 acres Total 347 acres

The overall Bomford total is 10,401 statute acres, much of which is likely to be leased.

In the next 50 or so years most of these lands will be surveyed because in these early days map making was just beginning. Many of the above acreages will be amended slightly, and indeed these acreages were probably those of the Civil Survey of 1654 - 1656, which Sir William Petty surveyed. It was upon this survey that the Cromwellian settlements were allocated, and they were made out in Plantation acres.

1.12 The Jacobite War in Ireland 1689-91

It is not absolutely clear where the Bomfords were living during these years, probably at Clonmahon but possibly some were in Dublin; but their land stretched in odd pockets from the Duleek to Ashbourne road in north-east Meath, across south Meath into Westmeath, and the armies of both King William, some 35,000 troops, and King James, some 25,000 troops, would have passed through much of this land, particularly Oliver’s land around Cushenstown in north-east Meath. The family must therefore have been badly affected by the war, wherever they were living.

There is no record that they took part in any fighting and, indeed, it is unlikely that they would have done so since William’s forces came south from Ulster; but they would have sided with William since he was seen by the Protestant or Cromwellian settlers in Ireland as the monarch who would save them from the native Irish who had risen under King James to reclaim the lands from which they had been driven by English conquest and confiscation. However this was no isolated little war over land or religion in Ireland, it was part of a European war between the League of Augsburg or the Grand Alliance formed to fight against Louis XIV of France who was attempting to conquer and dominate Europe, and it was in this larger context that brought to Ireland troops from Holland, Denmark, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, England and Poland - all the major powers in the Europe of those days. It eventually became a war of Protestant Europeans against Roman Catholic Europeans but to those living in Ireland it was very soon apparent that it was a land and a religious war, even though the Pope had sided initially with the Grand Alliance and so King William.

In 1688 Ireland was firmly Jacobite and the overthrow of King James II in England created a great deal of confusion in the country. A dangerous situation looked like developing and rumours flew among the Cromwellian settlers that the Irish would rise up and massacre them. December 9th, 1688, was said to be the day for the insurrection and this caused thousands of frightened settlers to flee to England. Dean William King of St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin noted in his diary that each day ships left laden mostly with women, children and such goods as they could get on board’. The Colonists in the north declared their support for King William and those in Derry shut their gates on the Regiment of Lord Antrim sent to investigate reports that the Derry citizens had been making overtures to William. The settlers further south, like the Bomfords, were too isolated to openly declare their support for William without fear of reprisals, and probably fatal ones.

1689 was a year of worry to the Protestants or Willamites, since, apart from Sligo, Derry and Enniskillen, the Jacobite had the upper hand throughout the country. In March King James arrived in Kinsale and marched on Dublin with considerable reinforcements of soldiers, officers and arms.

The Early Days 16
The Early Days

Stuart monarch entered the capital to universal acclaim and even the Protestants felt relieved because James did not want to alienate himself from them, as he wanted to return to Protestant England after he had defeated the Willamites in Ireland. Sligo fell to the Jacobites but the army underestimated the determination of the colonists in Derry and Enniskillen and dithered over the storming of these strongpoints. In May King William sent ships and troops to relieve Derry but it was not until July 27 that the 105 day siege was raised. A few days later the Jacobite pressure on Enniskillen was eased and a month or so later most of Ulster was in William’s hands. James sent his army north but they retreated south again through Newry and Dundalk and they spent the winter around Ardee. William’s army followed them south and they would have wintered around Dundalk but dysentery and fever caused them to pull back to Lisburn.

The winter of 1689/90 would have been a bad one for anyone living around those places, and Co Louth was denuded of animals and firewood to feed the two armies, and of course foragers moved further afield to gather more food. Jacobite foragers roamed right down to Tipperary gathering animals and naturally the first places to visit would be those of the Cromwellian settlers since they were ‘the enemy’. Everything of use to the army was taken - cattle, horses, carts, firearms, scythes etc. It is recorded that the Grand Prior’s Regiment, when marching from Ardee to Louth in June, found ‘the fields overgrown since there were no cattle herds to eat the grass’ and that no people ‘of any type’ were to be seen as they had all fled the area. A few days later in Ardee there were none of the Irish to be seen, but a few starved creatures who had scraped up some husks of oats near a mill to eat instead of better food.

In June 1690 William arrived in Belfast Lough and by the end of June was moving south with his army. James decided to make a stand at the River Boyne at Oldbridge on the land which Captain Dixie Coddington, a member of the Staff of King William, was granted soon after the battle and where his descendants lived until c1987, almost 300 years, (15.13.7). On the ‘excessive hot day’ of July 1, 1690, the two armies faced each other across the river. Very early that day William sent about 1,000 troops to ford the river about 2½ miles to the west of the Jacobites, to cut them off and to form one arm of a pincer movement. This occurred when the early morning mist shrouded everything and was done in such a way that the Jacobites would overestimate the numbers in the pincer movement. In fact James fell into the trap and reckoned that the main attack would come from the west rather than over the river; as a result he sent the greater part of his army to face this attack which never developed, leaving comparatively few to face William’s main onslaught across the Boyne. Between 10 and 11 o’clock many of William’s forces had waded the river which was between waist and shoulder high. Hand to hand fighting developed and the Jacobite cavalry charged a number of times, but as time passed and more of William’s forces crossed the Boyne the fighting became more desperate from the Jacobite point of view and they started to retreat up the hill away from the river. William himself crossed with a large detachment of cavalry and himself led a furious charge against the right wing of the Jacobites. By 2 o’clock James’s right wing had been broken. He was forced to retreat, or be encircled and captured. James realized that he had committed a gross error by moving nearly two-thirds of his army to the left, to an area where William had only made a feint, leaving Oldbridge too weakly protected.

The retreat was orderly at first; in fact so orderly that William hesitated to follow until he had regrouped his army. Williamite reports state that the Jacobites fled the area and were chased like ‘sheep flying before the wolf’ but this was not true, although isolated detachments did panic. All roads went south to Duleek where there was a bridge over the swampy river Nanny. Here all the detachments of James’s army met and confusion ensued. If William had closely pursued the Jacobites considerable carnage would have resulted at this bottleneck since the Jacobite regiments became dispersed among other regiments and the chain of command was broken. However William held back and many of the Jacobite regiments had time to reform. The retreat continued to Naul and most of the army camped that night just north of Dublin at Brazeel which belonged to Richard Bolton whose descendant, another Richard, married Frances Georgina Bomford of Rahinstown (21.6.3). However many went on to Dublin including James who only stayed long enough to arrange that his army should go to Limerick. James left Dublin with maximum speed early the next morning and left Ireland on July 3. His Viceroy, Tyrconnell, gathered about 20,000 infantry and 3,500 cavalry at Limerick; he decided to defend the town with about 14,000 men and the rest would be used to harry the Williamites This plan was carried out with a large amount of success; but the war dragged on into 1691 and it was not until July 12 that the French commander of the Jacobites was killed at Aughrim in Co Galway by a cannon ball. The result was muddled orders, which created panic, and the Jacobite army fled. Some 7,000 were reported to have been killed with 400 officers, and the latter were mostly of the Irish and Old English nobility; thus the heart of the Jacobite army was removed, Limerick fell in September and a treaty was signed there in October 1691. 11,000 Irish sailed to France and formed the famous Irish Brigade known in song and legend as the Wild Geese.

As said at the start the Bomfords had little to do with this war, but almost certainly all their animals and many of their belongings were confiscated to provision the Jacobites before the Battle of the Boyne. Much of the Jacobite army passed through Bomford property on the retreat to Limerick and what
was not confiscated previously was taken then. Of course they retained the land but the war was a considerable set back to their finances; however it is possible that they gained additional acreage by way of compensation since the Williamites confiscated one and a half million acres. Family tradition has it that Colonel Laurence was granted five properties in the Cromwellian Settlement (1.4), there is no evidence of this but it might be that these five properties were allocated to him after this war. Such properties as Balloughter (Hightown), Tyrrellstown, Balrowan and Brick all became Bomford land about the time of this land settlement and, although there is no definite confirmation of this in the documents, it could be that family tradition is not so very wrong after all.
Chapter II  Mostly Land.  1703 - 1721

2.1 Lease - Oldtown, Ardrums and Ferrans  1703

The following is extracted from the deed dated 10th August 1744 (6.5). In 1703 Isaac Holroide (a Dublin merchant who died in 1706) leased to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown the town and lands of Oldtown, Ferrans and Little Ardrums containing 447 acres plantation measure (724 statute) fee farm for ever for a rent of £165 per annum and 10 guinea pieces of gold every 21 years.

1. These townlands run in a line from northwest to southeast along the River Ryewater. If the line is started at Rahinstown, next comes Baconstown and then Ardrums, Oldtown and Ferrans. The distance from Rahinstown House to Ferrans House is about 4 miles. Little Ardrums of 198 statute acres lies to the west of Great Ardrums, which was not a Bomford property. Ardrums means a high ridge and there is such a ridge but the bottom portion of Little Ardrums contains 91 statute acres of bog.

2. In 1691 Thomas was living in Oldtown so this is likely to be a second lease, the first being dated about 1672

3. Benjamin Pratt’s book of receipts of Agher is in the National Library. It includes two items concerning Thomas Bomford dated 4th May 1705. (a) Pratt paid a ½ year’s rent of £7.2.6 to Thomas Bomford. This would be the rent for about 35 acres of land but there is no clue as to the land involved, though it is likely to be one of these lands. (b) ’Received of Benjamin Pratt by his servant £21.13.10½ by order to Mr Thomas Bomford for my portion of Agherpallice’ (Ms 5245).

4. There are variations in the spelling of Ferrans which all mean an Elder Tree. Ferrans is the commonest and the present day name but it was also known as Fearsns or Fennars, and there are varieties of both.

2.2 Lease - Rathfeigh  22nd March 1706

This lease was found in the Public Records Office together with a second document of 1707, which is similar.

Lease of Rathfeigh in the Barony of Skreen, Co Meath, to Oliver Bomford of Cushingstown and to Thomas Bomford of Robinstown, gents, by William Domville, son and heir of Sir William Domville, 790 plantation acres (1,280 statute) for 61 years at £0.6.0 an acre yearly (£237)

1. The 1707 document is similar but records Thomas correctly ‘of Rahinstown’. It is interesting that William Petty’s Down Survey places Robinstown where Rahinstown should be, and Rahinstown is placed between Gallow and Drumlargan.

2. Rathfeigh is now a small village three miles east of Skreen, just to the west of the Ashbourne - Slane road and one mile south of Balrath crossroads. The makings of a village were there in 1654 with “divers small cottages”, also a castle, a church and a watermill.

3. The last mention of Rathfeigh in these documents is dated 1761 when Oliver Bomford was living there. This Oliver was the fourth son of the Oliver who had this lease of 1706. In 1761 Oliver the younger was about 57 years old and it is therefore likely that the lease of 1706 was not renewed in 1767 when it expired.

4. The fact that the lease was not renewed is also implied by the following lease

Lease – Rathfeigh  20th May 1745

Laurence Bomford of Rathfeigh Co Meath, farmer, leases for a rent of £80 the land of Rathfeigh containing 105 plantation acres (170 statute) to Arthur Bomford of Rathfeigh, gent, for 22 years being the residue years of the original lease by William Domville to Oliver Bomford deceased.

(Book 118 Page 404 No 81279)

5. The younger Oliver and Arthur were brothers. Laurence was their nephew and his father, Laurence, who was the older brother of Oliver and Arthur, had left him Rathfeigh. All this will become clear later.

6. It looks as though Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown has dropped out of Rathfeigh. Perhaps one of Oliver’s sons bought him out, he was always short of money.

7. Sir William Domville (Domville is another family) of Loughlinstown, Santry, Co Dublin, was MP for Counties Armagh and Dublin; his son William died unmarried in Mayfair, London, in 1763.
The details of this missing document have been put together from the Marriage Settlement of October 1756 and the lease of 20th October 1762.

Francis Heaton of Mount Heaton, King’s Co, leases to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown for ever the lands of Clonfad containing 721 plantation acres (1,168 statute) in the Barony of Farbill, Co Westmeath, at a rent £135 (only 3/9 an acre).

1. Clonfad is about 2 miles west of Kinnegad on the Kilbeggan road. It lies between Hightown and Quinera to the north, and Rattin to the south. Clonfad, Hightown or Balloughter, Quinera and Rattin are all to become Bomford properties within a few years, and cover an area of 3,537 statute acres.

2. On 24th March 1720 Thomas of Rahinstown leased Clonfad to Lawrence Bomford of Killeglan, his younger brother, for £2 an acre. (Book 29 Page 403 No 18112)

   This would give Thomas a considerable profit, £2 an acre against 3/9 an acre. It is thought that, like Rattin in 1720, Thomas leased the land at a nominal rent of £2 a year and not £2 an acre.

3. The following conveyance dated 23rd June 1703 was found in the Grand Juries of Westmeath and it gives some background information.

   Ephraim Dawson of Dublin bought from the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates the town and lands of Clonfad containing 581 plantation acres profitable land and 114 plantation acres of bog, (941 plus 189, total 1,130 statute); Ratteen or Rattin 277 plantation acres profitable land and 154 plantation acres unprofitable, (449 plus 252, total 701 statute); Ballyoughter (Balloughter or Hightown) 474 plantation acres profitable land and 305 acres unprofitable (768 plus 494, total 1,262 statute); for £3,490; it was the estate of Nicholas D’Arcey of Platten, Co Meath, attainted. (i.e. a Roman Catholic who lost his lands either in the Cromwellian or the Williamite settlement).

   The amount of acres do not agree with our deeds but in all probability either the acreage in this conveyance is from the Down Survey, and Dawson or Heaton had the land surveyed when Heaton bought it from Dawson, or perhaps the boundaries were changed. The correct acreage of Clonfad and Rattin remains a grey area; they appear to have changed a number of times, at least once because the boundaries were changed.

2.4 Lease - Gallow 5th April 1709

Francis Isdell of Gallow assigns the lease of Richard Jones of 198 plantation acres (321 statute) of Gallow to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown at the yearly rent of

   a. £69.6.0 sterling during the ‘present warr’, then
   b. £79.4.0 sterling from the declaration of peace and during the lifetime of Francis Isdell and his wife, Elizabeth, and finally
   c. £84.3.0 sterling during the lifetime of his son Joseph Isdell

On the death of these three Isdells, Gallow will become the property of Thomas Bomford. Richard Highland of Patrickstown, Co Meath, is appointed the attorney of Francis Isdell.

Signed Fran Isdell
Witnessed John Elliott Tho Merefield Tho Sissons (lawyer who died c1716)

1. This is about half of the Gallow townland, later the whole townland will become a Bomford property. It is situated just north of Ferrans and in 1654 it contained a castle and seven or eight cottages

2. The ‘warr’ must be the ‘War of the Spanish Succession which started in 1702 and ended with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. It is interesting that the rent was deliberately kept down during the war.

3. As has been seen there is no consistency in the spelling of names, which appear to have been left to the clerk to render phonetically as best he could; so ‘Highland’ and ‘Hyland’ could be the same name. It is possible that the attorney, Richard Highland, is a relation of James Hyland who married the oldest sister of Thomas, Elizabeth Bomford.

   Just over three weeks later the Gallow lease is re-assigned

2.4.1 Gallow Lease Re-Assigned 30th April 1709

Thomas Bomford appoints his brother, Laurence, to the ‘town and lands’ of Gallow.

Signed Tho Bomford
Witnessed Wm Watts Fra North Step Bomford

It was quite common at this time for signatures to be written with shortened Christian names. Some examples of this were
Mostly Land

Francis (Fra or Fran), Brian (Bry) Ephraim (Ephm), Antony (Ant), Stephen (Ste or Step), Thomas (Tho), John (Jno).

Three and a half years later the Gallow lease was further changed.

2.5 Lease Gallow 23rd October 1712

Richard Jones of Dollanstown, Co Meath, leases to Stephen Bomford of Clonmaghan the town and lands of Gallow, then occupied by Stephen Bomford, containing 198 plantation acres (321 statute) at a rent of £80 for three lives from 1st May 1711. The lives were those of

Stephen Bomford of Clonmaghan
Francis Dennis, son of George Dennis of Summerhills (agent to Hercules Rowley, he has a second son, Arthur) and
William Berwick, son of Simon Berwick of Rathflisk

Witnessed
John Clarke of Trim in Co Meath
George Dennis

Signed
Stephen Bomford

(Book 27 Page 361 No 17380)

1. It now looks as though in 1709 Thomas leased Gallow and passed it on to his brother Laurence almost immediately. After a couple of years Laurence ceased working the land and in May 1711 Stephen took over. Stephen arranged a new lease directly with the head landlord Richard Jones and was able to cut out the two middle men, his brother Thomas and the Isdells, and so save himself £5 a year in rent. The Isdells did not appear to be very interested in the place as they were going to give it to Thomas on their son’s death, and Thomas had already re-assigned it to his brother so it did not matter to him either. This new lease was finally signed in October 1712.

2. Simon Berwick was Stephen’s brother-in-law. He married Margaret, Stephen’s youngest sister. From this deed we now know that Margaret was married some time before 1711, and that she had a boy named William. We also know that they lived at Rathflisk.

3. Various Jones appear and reappear throughout these pages and it will help if we devote a little space to them

2.5.1 The Jones Family

Lewis Jones (died 1646 aged 104), Bishop of Killaloe, married Mabel, sister of the Primate, Archbishop James Ussher (1581 - 1656). They had three sons and a daughter

1. Henry, the Bishop - see below

2. Michael, Colonel, Commander of the Parliamentary Forces in Leinster. Won the battle of Drumlargin in 1647 against General Richard Preston (see 15.13.9), and beat Ormonde at Ratmines on 2nd August 1749, which left the way clear for Cromwell to land at Dublin 14 days later without opposition.

3. Theophilus, Knight, of Osbertstown, Co Kildare

4. Sarah married Rev John Harrison. Their daughter, Susanna, married John L’Estrange of Keanstown, Co Westmeath, and Susanna’s great grandson was Samuel L’Estrange who married Anne Bomford in 1750 (see L’Estrange tree 8.5.2)

Henry, the eldest son, was born in 1605, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, MA and Fellow 1624; Dean of Ardagh 1625 - 1637, Vicar of Killeshandra 1631 - 1633, Archdeacon of Killaloe 1638 - 1661. During the rebellion of 1641 he was sent by the rebels to present the Cavan Remonstrance to the Lords Justices in Dublin, his first wife, Jane daughter of Sir Hugh Collum MP, and his family being kept as hostages. Having returned to Cavan he escaped with his family to Dublin and warned the Government of a projected attack on Drogheda. Whilst in Dublin he became famous for his Puritanical sermons. When Cromwell came over he threw in his lot with him and was employed in various ways, but chiefly as Scout-Master-General for which he received a salary, and in taking depositions and preparing an official account of the Rebellion. It is even said that he fought valiantly in battle and so became known as ‘the Warrior Bishop’.

He gained much land at this time, particularly in Deece, and so did his relations; but he sold most of it including Summerhill to Rowley and Agher to Pratt. No doubt Gallow passed through his hands and Richard Jones of Dollanstown may have been a relation, perhaps a son by his first wife.

At the Restoration he transferred his allegiance to Charles II and was by him promoted to the Bishopric of Meath in May 1661 where he remained for 20 years and earned a reputation for “learning, judgement and liberality”.

He died in Dublin on 5th January 1681. It is not known what family he had by his first wife, but his second marriage took place on 31st December 1646 to Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Piers of
Tristernagh Abbey, Co Westmeath, and niece of Sir James Ware. She died in 1672 having had at least three children

1. Doctor Michael Jones born 1660 and died before 1703, he had
   a. a son killed at Aughrim, July 1691
   b. Rev Michael, Archdeacon of Killala
   c. Theophilus, a gauger (or excise-man)
2. Mary married the 1st Lord Piers of Tristernagh Abbey, eldest son of Sir Henry and they had eight sons and six daughters.
3. Jane married Sir Philip Coote of Mount Coote, Co Limerick

2.5.2 Jones of Dollinstown

This family must be a minor branch of the above since their land is included in what was originally that of Bishop Jones. Dollinstown is in the Parish of Rodanstown, about 1½ miles northeast of Kilcock and not very far from Gallow.

Richard Jones of Dollinstown leased Gallow to Thomas Bomford in 1709 and in 1712 he leased it to Stephen Bomford who lived there. When Richard died, his son Roger inherited Dollinstown. Richard must have died before March 1731 because the lease of Gallow of that date is by Roger Jones. Roger also gave some more of Gallow to Stephen Bomford in May 1735.

Roger Jones was party to the marriage settlements of Thomas Bomford and Mary Foster (6.3), and of Stephen Bomford the younger and Elizabeth Sibthorpe (8.2).

2.5.3 Jones of Clonmoyle

There is nothing to link these Jones to the above. Clonmoyle is in the Parish of Lynn, Co Westmeath, just north of Gurteen. In 1738 Stephen Bomford of Gallow leased Gurteen to David Jones of Clonmoyle. In 1781 this lease was renewed by David and Isaac Bomford to David Jones who must be a son; so there were two David Jones, father and son.

In 1771 David Jones of Clonmoyle married Fanny, a daughter of Alexander Swift (born 1710) of the neighbouring townland of Lynn. Alexander Swift was a cousin of Dean Jonathon Swift (1.8.4) and married Elizabeth, a daughter of Benjamin Pratt of Agher (20.2.1). Alexander’s stepmother was Mary, a daughter of John L’Estrange of Koeltown, Co Westmeath, whose great-grandson was Samuel, husband of Anne Bomford (8.5.2)

2.6 Lease - Rattin 22nd November 1710

Francis Heaton of Mountheaton, King’s Co, leases to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown the town and lands of Rattin, now in the occupation of William Mottley, in the Barony of Farbill, Co Westmeath, containing 284 plantation acres (460 statute) fee farm forever at a rent of £66.0.0.

(Book 5 Page 250 No 1703)

Lease - Rattin 24th March 1720

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown leases the land of Rattin in the Parish of Killucan for £2 per annum to Edward Bomford (his brother) of Clonmahon.

(Book 29 Page 399 No 18102)

1. Rattin lies to the south of Clonfad in the Parish of Killucan. It contains Clonfad House, which was built after about 1750, and the ruins of an ancient Monastery, the grave of one of the Bishops of Clonfad, and some standing stones. Traditions tells us that the monastery is on the site of the Church founded by St Patrick in the year 432, it was not only an original Christian site but pre-Christian as well. Thomas had Rattin for ten years and then passed it over to Edward at a nominal rent of £2. It remained in Bomford hands until 1913

2. It might have been the son of William Mottley who married Sarah, daughter of Mark Tew of Culmullen (9.3.7). John Elliott who witnessed the first deed and that of Gallow (2.4) was probably of Lowthertown, Co Meath, and died in 1729

2.7 Lease - Clounstown 8th December 1710

John Wade of Clonebreeny, Co Meath, leases to Oliver Bomford of Cushinstowne, Co Meath, Gent, and Stephen Bomford of Woodtowne, Co Meath, Gent, the town and lands of Clounstown containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute) in the Barony of Skreen, fee farm for ever at a rent of £140.0.0

(Book 6 Page 176 No 1719)
Witnessed Thomas Bomford, brother of Oliver and Stephen, and Thomas Merefield, clerk to Thomas Sissons, notable public of Dublin (of Castle Street, died 1724).

1. In 1654 ‘Cloonestowne’ consisted of “two farme thatch howses and some cottages”. It lies on both sides of the present Navan to Dunshaughlin road just south of Ross cross-roads. It is now called Tara Stud. In those days the main Navan - Dublin road went through Skreen and Ratoath to the north of Clounstown, and it was not until the mid 1700’s that the present road was driven through Clounstown and it became known as the “New Turnpike Road”. Some difficulty was found in positively identifying the place because there are a number of spellings in the deeds and there is a neighbouring place called in 1654 ‘Clowanstowne’, which sounds much the same also in the Barony of Skreen but in the Parish of Killeen.

2. Thomas Bomford, eldest son of Oliver, is recorded as living at Clounstown in 1729. He may have lived in one of the “farme thatch howses” at first, but at this time or perhaps a little later a new stone and slated house was built. It may well have been built for Thomas’ marriage in 1729.

3. Woodtown, where Stephen Bomford was living, could be any of the many houses of this name in Co Meath. Stephen leased Woodtown in Culmullen some time before 1745. It is possible that this Woodtown was where Stephen was living in 1710 and, if it was, then Woodtown would have been leased before 1710. This is quite possible but it would not be right to claim the lease before 1710 on such slender evidence.

2.7.1 The Wade Family

Like so many of the landed families, the Wades of Clonebraney were related to the Bomfords and other Bomford related families. John Wade, who leased Clounstown to Oliver and Stephen Bomford, inherited Clonebraney at Crossakeel near Kells from his father, Henry. He died c1735 without children and the place passed to his nephew Clotworthy Sheils who changed his name to Wade. In turn Clotworthy died without children, he was killed by a fall from his horse in 1745, and the place went to his cousin John Daniel, another nephew of John Wade; he also changed his name.

A contemporary and possibly a relative was Allen Wade who married Anne Shinton, niece of Jane and Thomas Bomford of Clounstown.

Judith Daniel, a possible cousin of John Daniel Wade inherited the £2,000 mortgage of Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown when she married John Arabin.

A grandson of John Daniel Wade married Agnes Chute, a niece of Francis Chute who married Mary Anne Bomford, daughter of Trevor Bomford.

Another grandson married Elizabeth Chute, stepsister of Francis Chute and Mary Anne (Bomford).

Yet another grandson, Charles Wade, married a daughter of Henry Hamilton who was a trustee of the marriage settlement of 1809 of George Bomford the elder.

The Wades sold Clonebraney about 1911 and it is now a complete ruin although parts of the yard are still in use.

2.8 Lease - Killeglan 20th December 1710

Thomas Carter of Robertstown, Co Meath, leases to Lawrence Bomford of Rahinstown the town and lands of Killeglan, now occupied by Michael Bowyer, containing 439 plantation acres (712 statute) in the Barony of Ratoath at a rent of £2,000 (see note) for the lives of

Lawrence Bomford
Susannah Bomford his wife and
Andrew Bomford, second son of Oliver Bomford and brother of Lawrence Bomford

(Book 5 Page 283 No 1817)

1. The rent of £2,000 must be a clerical error for £200. In 1722, when Killeglan was leased to under-tenants, their rent totalled £274.

2. This Laurence was known as ‘Laurence of Killeglan’ and he married Susannah Wilson. He was the third son of Colonel Laurence.

3. Killeglan is situated in the Barony of Ratoath on the present site of Ashbourne. Its Church was united with Ratoath in 1682 and some documents refer to various Bomfords ‘of Ratoath’, which was their parish rather than their residence. Killeglan drops out of the picture after 1761 so it is assumed that the three lives lease was not renewed.
2.9 Lease - Gurteen and Gainstown 1st February 1711

John Stoyte of Dublin leases to Stephen Bomford of Galley the town and lands of Gurteen and Gainstowne containing, according to the Down Survey, 431 plantation acres (698 statute) in the Barony of Fertullagh, Co Westmeath, now in the possession of Thomas Smith, for 99 years at a rent of 5/2 per acre (£222.6.10).

Signed Stephen Bomford (Book 7 Page 346 No 2646)

A second lease dated 1st June 1715 reads almost the same but it records that the 99 years commences on 1st May 1714.

Signed Stephen Bomford
Witnessed George Warburton, Master of the High Court of Chancery
James Smith of Dublin, vintner,
Edward Dalton of Dublin, Notary Publick.

(Book 22 Page 527 No 12744)

1. Gainstown is situated two miles west of Violetstown and 1½ miles north of Tyrellstown, south-east of Mullingar, on the east of the Mullingar - Rochfortbridge road. Gurteen is opposite Gainstown on the west of this road. A later survey shows Gainstown as 128 acres and Gurteen as 580 acres, so the Down Survey was not very far out.

2. Stephen’s wife was Anne Smith who came from Violetstown. Thomas and James Smith who are mentioned in this deed may have been her relatives. Stephen does not marry just yet so it is possible that he met Anne when visiting this new property or his other property at Tyrellstown. It was about 30 miles from Gallow to these places, a day’s journey by horse, and, at a time when the inns were suspect, it was normal for people like Stephen to stay the odd night at houses like Violetstown.

2.10 Lease – Primatstown, Irishtown & Kilmoon 31st July 1712

The Honorable Lieut-General Richard Gorges of Kilbrew, Co Meath, (see 13.3), leases to Oliver Bomford of Cusinhstown the town and lands of Primatstown and Irishtown and part of Killmoon, now in the occupation of Oliver Bomford, containing 445 plantation acres (721 statute) in the Mannor of Killmoon, Co Meath, for 31 years at a rent of £167.1.0

Signed Oliver Bomford (Book 11 Page 348 No 4696)

1. Since Oliver was already in occupation of these lands, this must be at least a second lease. The previous lease would be most likely also of 31 years, so Oliver Bomford would have first occupied these lands about 1681.

2. For the situation of these lands see 2.12 which also includes the lands of 2.11 and 3.2.4

2.11 Lease - Cushenstown, Portlester & Bodman 27th March 1719

Hercules Rowley of Summerhill again leases to Oliver Bomford of Cusinhstown in the Barony of Skreen the town and lands of Cushenstown and part of Killmoon containing 418 acres plantation measure (677 statute) Portlester containing 100 plantation acres (162 statute), and Bodman containing 69 plantation acres (112 statute) at a rent of £205 renewable for ever for the lives of

Oliver Bomford
Thomas Bomford, son of Oliver and
Arthur Bomford, son also of the said Oliver

The bounds of the above are
On the east Pierstown and Hilltown,
On the south other parts of Killmoon,
On the west with Rathfeigh and
On the north with Gillhams Town and Riverstown.

Signed Oliver Bomford
Witnessed Thomas Granger, Servant to Hercules Rowley
George Dennis, Agent to Hercules Rowley (Book 23 Page 190 No 13055)

1. This is not the first lease of these lands by Oliver. In 1715 he was mentioned in the will of Sir Arthur Langford as a tenant of Cushenstown. This lease is for three lives renewable for ever, the previous one may have been for 30 years and so dated about 1689 when Oliver was about 35.
2. The ‘Head Landlord’ of the leases for Rahinstown, Cushenstown etc, appear to have changed. The landlord for the early deeds was the Langford family of Summerhill (Dec 1691), this was later changed to the Rowley family (March 1719, Dec 1721 and January 1743), and then the Langford’s appear again. What happened was that the Langford family died out except for a daughter who inherited and married into the Rowley family. Later on the Rowleys became Viscounts and took the name of Langford, but they too died out leaving a daughter. This daughter, Frances Rowley, married her first cousin, the third son of Lord Headfort, and he in turn took the name and became Clotworthy Taylour, 1st Baron Langford of Summerhill. So although there appears to be continuity in the name Lord Langford, really three families are involved the Langford family up to 1716 the Rowley family up to 1795, and finally the Headfort family.

2.11.1 The Langford Family

Bishop Henry Jones sold Summerhill and many other townlands to Sir Hercules Langford who died in 1683 leaving a son and a daughter.

The son, Sir Arthur Langford leased Rahinstown in December 1691 to Thomas Bomford. He died in 1716 and named Oliver Bomford in his will of December 1715. All his lands and Summerhill went to his sister in 1716. The daughter, Mary married Sir John Rowley in 1671 (see 2.11.2).

2.11.2 The Rowley Family

John Rowley Son of Hugh, son of William, came from Cheshire and settled at Castle Roe in the North of Ireland at the time of James I. His son was

Edward Rowley of Castle Roe MP for Co Londonderry in the 1630’s. His son

Sir John Rowley Born 1635, MP for Londonderry, married Mary Langford in 1671. When her brother, Sir Arthur Langford, died in 1716 she inherited Summerhill, Rahinstown, and Cushenstown etc. They had one son

Sir Hercules Rowley MP for Londonderry. He was one of the ‘lives’ in the Rahinstown lease. In 1731 he built Summerhill House and the family moved there from Castle Roe. He died in 1742 having had one son

Rt Hon Hercules Langford Rowley MP for Londonderry, married Elizabeth Upton in October 1732, the year after Summerhill was built. Elizabeth Upton’s father, Clotworthy Upton of Castle Upton at Templepatrick, Co Antrim, raised a party of men and joined King William’s troops at the siege of Limerick in 1691. He was taken prisoner there having entered a breach in the walls, sword in hand and almost alone, nearly all his followers being cut to pieces. Elizabeth was his only child by his third wife. Hercules Rowley died in 1794. In 1776 his wife was made Viscountess Langford and Baroness of Summerhill in her own right. They had five children.

1. Hercules Rowley became 2nd Viscount Langford in 1791 on the death of his mother. He was born in 1737 and died unmarried about 1795. The peerage expired and the estates went to his niece, Frances, daughter of the second son

2. Clotworthy Rowley married in 1775 Elizabeth, grand-daughter of Garrett Wellesley, 1st Earl of Mornington of Dangan Castle. They had one daughter, Frances Rowley, who inherited the estates and married into the Headfort family, see below.

3. Arthur Rowley died unmarried

1. Jane married 1754 Thomas Taylour, Earl of Bective, see Headfort below

2. Catherine married 1768 Edward Michael Pakenham, 2nd Baron Longford

2.11.3 The Headfort (Taylour) Family

Thomas Taylour son of John, son of Thomas, of Battle, Sussex, went to Ireland in 1653 with his friend and college companion Sir William Petty to map Ireland. The maps were published as the ‘Down Survey’ and were used to allocate land in lieu of pay to the soldiers and adventurers of the Cromwellian War; I have used them extensively for background information of the Bomford lands. In 1660 he purchased land in Ireland and died in 1682 having had one son.

Sir Thomas Taylour born in 1662 was made a Baronet in 1704 and a Member of the Privy Council in 1726. He died in 1736 having had seven children. His heir was his eldest son
Mostly Land

Sir Thomas Taylour born 1686, Privy Councillor, MP for Kells 1713 until his death in 1757, he married Mary daughter of John Graham of Platten, in 1714. John Graham was the head landlord of Oakley Park (see those documents) and it was probably this marriage, which brought additional land around Kells, including Oakley Park, into the Headfort family. They had a son and a daughter, Earl Thomas Taylour born 1724, married 1754, Jane, eldest daughter of Hercules Rowley (above). Sir Thomas progressed through the ranks of the peerage, 1760 Baron Headfort, 1762 Viscount Headfort and finally 1766 Earl Bective of Bective Castle. He was MP for Kells from 1747 to 1760. He built Headfort House sometime between 1760 and 1770. Prior to the completion of Headfort House they lived in a house in Kells near the site of the Catholic Church. It was the 2nd Earl Bective who in 1798 donated the ground of his father’s garden to the Roman Catholics for their Church. However being MP’s and Privy Councillors they must have spent much of their time in Dublin. The name of their house in Kells is not known but it is possible it was called ‘Bective Castle’ which would account for the Earldom title, which had nothing to do with Bective Abbey, a Bolton property between Navan and Trim. He died in 1795 leaving five sons and two daughters.

2. Hercules Langford Taylour died: unmarried in 1790.
4. Clotworthy Taylor – see below
5. Rev Henry Taylour, 1768 – 1852 was founder of the Taylours of Ardgillan Castle, Co Dublin, and of Dowdstown, Navan.

The fourth son, Clotworthy Taylour, 1763 - 1825, married in 1794 his first cousin Frances Rowley (1775-1860) who inherited the Rowley/Langford estates. Clotworthy assumed the name of Rowley and in 1800 he became 1st Baron Langford of Summerhill. They had two sons and two daughters, the eldest son inherited

Hercules, 2nd Baron Langford, 1795 - 1839. He had three sons; the second was the ancestor of the Langfords of Marley Grange, Rathfarnham. The first son inherited
Clotworthy, 3rd Baron Langford, 1825 - 1854, …. and so the line continues.

2.12 Mostly Oliver Bomford’s Property c1720

In 1720 the road from Dublin to Slane had been in existence for some time. By 1750 it had been improved and was a turnpike road with mail coaches travelling each way twice a week. By 1800 the Dublin to Drogheda mail coach also travelled along this road but branched off at Kilmoon and went on to Drogheda through Duleek. In the early 1800’s King George IV had the road further straightened so that the royal carriage could speed him to Slane Castle to indulge in a singular lust for its busty mistress, Elizabeth, wife of the 1st Marquess of Conyngham.

The first Bomford property on the way north is Killeglan, a parish of 716 statute acres which was not divided into townlands, and which was leased in 1710 by Laurence Bomford, the third son of Colonel Laurence. Most of Killeglan lies to the west of the road and in 1654 there was there a small village which contained “a castle, a stone house with out houses, a church, a mill and divers cabbins”. The “stone house with out houses” may well have been Laurence of Killeglan’s house. At some time during the 1700’s Killeglan village changed its name to Ashbourne.

Bordering Killeglan to the north lies a small townland of 124 acres named Dunreigh, which will become a Bomford property in the late 1700’s.

The northern boundary of Killeglan is at Rath crossroads about one mile out of Ashbourne. Then for about two miles there is no Bomford property until one comes to Primastestown. For the next five miles the road passes through Bomford land, which stretches, to both sides of the road about a mile on average. This rectangle of 5 miles by 2 miles is Oliver’s land (see Map at end of Chapter 16).

Primastestown, 510 acres, lies mostly on the east of the road. To the southwest of Primastestown away to the left of the road lies Irishtown, 228 acres, and to the north of Irishtown is the townland of Kilmoon. These three townlands, or portions of them, were the first of Oliver’s property in this area, dating back possibly to 1681. In 1654 all this area belonged to Patrick Barnewall of Kilbrew, ‘Irish Papist’, and as such Lieut-General Richard Gorges of Kilbrew, a protestant, ousted him. The Civil Survey of 1654 records

Mostly Land 26
By 1836 there was a village of 20 cabins on Primastown.

The Church of Kilmoon remained in operation until about 1870 and no doubt was the church of the Bomford’s.

Kilbrew is south of Irishtown, and Smithstown and Thomastown circle Irishtown from the northwest around to the southwest. In 1654 there were “three farme houses and six cottages” on Smithstown and Thomastown which lie about two miles west of the main road on a by-road leading past Kilmoon Church to Skreen or Dunshaughlin. These three places and Reesk belong to Oliver’s eldest son Thomas. Reesk takes this block of land up to the Skreen to Ratoath road, a good two miles southwest of Kilmoon Church.

To return to the main road, after Primastown it travels through Kilmoon, 241 acres, where there is a crossroads. Turn right and you are on the road to Duleek and Drogheda, which goes through the townland of Roadmain or Bodman. Keep straight on to Slane and you pass through Cushenstown and then Rathfeigh, all Bomford properties.

Bodman or Roadmain, meaning ‘middle road’, 222 acres, contained according to the 1836 survey “at its western end a graveyard and church ruins called Crossmacoole”, but there is no mention of this church in the 1654 survey. However Crossmacoole Church must have been the parish church of the Parish of Cushenstown in which Bodman lies.

The 1654 survey lists Cushenstown and Portlester as one townland of 690 acres with “on the premisses one stone howse and one mill”. In 1836 this is recorded, “The Mail Coach road passes through it. There is only one house in it, at which there is a turnpike at its southeast side, on the coach road”. The turnpike was probably sited just before the fork to Duleek and so catching the carriages on both roads. The 1836 survey also includes “Cushin is a family name of English and highly respectable origin”. The ‘Great House’ of Cushenstown of the 1728 document must have been demolished by 1836.

The last Bomford property on the Dublin - Slane road is Rathfeigh. This townland of 1330 acres is in the Parish of Rathfeigh. In 1836 it is described as ‘poor land’, which is probably why of all the above land only Rathfeigh was passed on to one of the younger brothers of Thomas, firstly to Arthur and then to Oliver.

So Oliver Bomford and his son Thomas had a large rectangle of land amounting to about 5,000 acres along the main road north of Ashbourne.

2.13 Marriage - Stephen Bomford & Anne Smith

Burke states that Stephen Bomford of Gallow married

“Anne Smith of Violetstown, Co Westmeath”.

Anne Smith was the eldest daughter of John Smith of Violetstown and his wife Dorcas Wheately or Whately. She was born in 1696 according to Faulkiner’s Dublin Journal of 30th November – 7th December 1765 (9.7.3). Her father died in 1733 and her mother about 1745. Their family tree will be found in 8.5.1.

The first clue to their marriage date comes from the Trinity College Register, which records their third son John

“Bomford John, Pensioner, Mr Butler, 7th July 1744 aged 17, Son of Stephen, Generosus, Born Meath, Scolar 1746, BA Spring 1748, MA Summer 1752”

John entered Trinity in July 1744 when he was 17, he was born in 1727. With two older brothers and perhaps an older sister born ahead of him, Stephen and Anne would have been married about 1720.

However the second and more important clue is that the eldest son Thomas signed the Deed of Assignment of February 1738 (5.4.5) and therefore must have been of age then, and so has been born before February 1717. Hence the marriage date of about 1715 when Anne was 19.

The Prerogative bonds records a marriage

“1713 John Bomford and Anne Smyth”

This item was considered for all the John Bomfords available but none were suitable. It was when considering Stephen’s marriage to Anne in about 1715 that it was suggested that the Prerogative bonds had recorded the wrong Bomford not John but Stephen

“1713 Stephen Bomford and Anne Smyth”
2.13.1 Marriage - Edward Bomford & Margaret Charlton

Listed under the diocese of Kilmore and Ardagh is the marriage licence bond
“Bomford Edward and Margaret Charlton 1715/1716”

This information has only recently been discovered and supersedes later marriage date estimates
and suggestions concerning Margaret’s maiden name.

2.13.2 Trinity College, Dublin

During the first half of the 1700’s four Bomfords and a large number of in-laws were educated at
Trinity. They were all termed ‘Pensioners’ which meant that they paid a fixed sum for their education.
Another group were the ‘Sizars’ who were educated free but had to work in the College by waiting on
their betters, serving in the Fellow’s dining-room, keeping the place clean and so on. Dress was according
to rank, varying from gowns trimmed with gold or silver for the sons of peers or baronets, to plain black
gowns for the sons of shopkeepers; sizars had to wear a conspicuous red cap.

There was considerable esprit de corps amongst the students and fellows and, although the
fellows held aloof from fighting, numbers of students would swarm out of college to avenge any insult
offered to another student. Dublin was a violent city in those days; it was the age of faction fights, which
left whole areas of Dublin desolate. The students, armed with massive keys tied to pieces of cloth,
supported the Liberty Boys, the weavers and tailors of the Liberties, in their fights with the butchers of
Ormonde Market. During these fights Dublin came to a halt as the battle raged from one side of the river
to the other; shops were closed and shuttered; all business was suspended; and anyone not taking part was
compelled to shut themselves in their houses. It is hard to believe that these fights were waged all day and
often recommenced the next day. John Wesley, the Methodist founder, remarked that “the Ormonde mob
and the Liberty mob seldom part till one or more are killed”. Although not many may have been killed,
large numbers were seriously hurt often by having the tendon of the leg cut. These fights could only be
stopped by literally hundreds of soldiers. There were no police until the next century, and faction fighting
went on until well into the next century when the numbers and authority of the police took effect.

The College was considered a sanctuary for debtors and it was a foolhardy bailiff who would
enter the place. If they were detected they were placed under the pump in the main court and all but
drowned. On one occasion a bailiff was being disciplined under the pump when a Fellow, Doctor Wilder,
passed and called out “Gentlemen, for the love of God, don’t be so cruel as to nail his ears to the pump”.
The hint was taken and an ear transfixed with a ten-penny nail.

An unpopular Junior Dean, Edward Ford, was actually murdered by students in 1734 and because
the students hung together no culprit was found. This Edward Ford was almost certainly one of the
middlemen who leased Oakley Park and made £100 a year on the deal from 1724. The signature on the
deeds changes in the year 1734, which implies father and son of the same name, so it was highly likely
that it was the father who was murdered.

2.14 Lease - Ardrums 13th February 1720

John Fagan of Little Ardrums, Co Meath, farmer, leases to Edward Bomford of Clonmaghan for
£35.17.6 the town and lands of Little Ardrums in the Parish of Rathcore for three lives, those of John
Fagan and his two sons, Henry and John.

Signed Edward Bomford
Witnessed George Dennis of Summerhill
Hugh Charlton of Saint Johnstowne, Co Longford and
Arthur Dennis son of George Dennis. (Book 27 Page 524 No 18037)

1. It is good to see that at least one of the family was at Clonmahon for the old man’s death in March.
In 1724 Edward was living at Rathfisk, no doubt with his sister and brother-in-law Simon Berwick.
He finally settles, at some time before 1740, at Hightown, Co Westmeath. The 1836 Ordnance
Survey map shows only one house on Hightown, called Heathstown House, and it may be in this
house or its predecessor where Edward lived; indeed with the possibility of a clerical error it could be
that Heathstown should read Hightown.

2. In 1703 a portion of Little Ardrums was leased to Thomas Bomford. It is thought that this lease is not
for Thomas’ land, as Edward would hardly rent it from his brother with John Fagan as a middleman.
It is thought more likely that Thomas had given up his lease and that Edward had negotiated a new
one with John Fagan.

3 Hugh Charlton of Saint Johnstowne, Co Longford is probably a close relative of Margaret Charlton
(Edward’s wife), Perhpe even her father. If so we now know where she came from.
Charles Campbell of Dublin leases to Oliver Bomford of Cushinstowne the lands of Pranstowne containing 230 plantation acres (373 statute) in the Barony of Skreen at a rent of £86 renewable for ever during the lives of Elizabeth Bomford, his wife, and his two sons, Andrew and Lawrence.

Signed Oliver Bomford
Witnessed Edward Dalton, ‘Notary Publick’

Pranstown remains a Bomford property until at least 1790. It is situated in the Parish of Trevet to the east of Clounstown. There was a ‘farme howse’ there in 1654. It is also called Prancetown and Pranstown.

2.16 Public Records

Apart from the County and National Libraries, the two main sources of information were the Registry of Deeds, originally King’s Inns, in Henrietta Place, and the Public Record Office in the Four Courts over-looking the River Liffey.

Readers may be mystified by the Book, Page and Number, which follow most of the deeds in brackets. Although many Bomford deeds are at Crodaera many more are missing, so a search was made in the Registry of Deeds. Here are many rooms crammed with massive tomes in which each deed is recorded by hand in legal jargon and without punctuation; these can be difficult to read, worse to make sense of. To the best of my ability the deeds recorded here are only a summary, with punctuation but keeping to the original spelling of proper names. Sometimes it was necessary to return to check a deed, hence the reference to the book, page and deed number.

The Public Records Office in the Four Courts was nearly completely demolished by fire during the ‘troubles’ of 1922. All the original wills were stored there and were burnt together with other invaluable and irreplaceable documents, as the early parish registers or marriage settlements. There would have been a complete absence of much information if Sir William Betham had not made his ‘Extracts of Wills’, which he wrote in notebooks covering the period up to 1799. A number of Bomford wills are included and Betham listed all the names in each will together with the date of the will and the probate date, but he could not make extracts of all wills. Luckily in 1897 Sir Arthur Vicars made a complete list of all the wills in the Records Office and this had been published as the ‘Index to Prerogative Wills’ and covers the period 1536 - 1810; but it only gives the name of the person making the will, its date and the date of probate. Without the records of Betham and Vicars virtually no information would be available at all. However between about 1800 and 1922 there is that lack of information and we sadly miss the wills and so on of that period in this history.

Sir Arthur Vicars was the Ulster King of Arms (the chief herald) from 1893 to 1908. He was made the scapegoat and forced out of office as a result of the theft in 1907 of the jewels of St Patrick, known by the inflated name of the Irish Crown Jewels. The loss of the jewels was not discovered until the night before the royal visit to Dublin of King Edward VII. Dubliners enjoyed colourful descriptions of the furious royal reaction to the loss. King Edward was supposed to have shaken his viceroy, the timid and much hen-pecked little Lord Aberdeen, like a terrier a rat, and to have threatened the survival of the vice-regal testicles should the jewels not turn up pretty quickly.

After Sir Arthur was forced to resign he lived at Kilmorna in Co Kerry, a house belonging to his elder half-brother Pierce O’Mahony. During the Troubles in 1921 Kilmorna was burnt and Sir Arthur murdered by the raiders. But the I.R.A. disclaimed responsibility for the outrage, giving rise to the belief that, like the death of Pierce O’Mahony who had been found murdered, it was somehow connected with the theft of the Crown Jewels.

2.17 Death of Colonel Laurence Bomford

Copied from Betham’s notebook.

“Laurence Bomford Sr of Clonmaghan Co Meath Gent
20th Decr 1718 (date of will) 12th Decr (date of probate)
Son Thomas Oliver Laurence Stephen
Son in law James Heyland Simon Berwick
Wife Elinor
Son Edward B ex (i.e. Edward Bomford - executor of will)
Grsons Rich and Thos Barwick”

1. In the early stages of my investigation this will gave confirmation that, for instance, Oliver was one
of the sons, and that the un-named daughter married Simon Berwick (or Barwick). The deeds gave added information and from both sources we now know that Simon Berwick had three sons Richard, Thomas and William the eldest.

2. The cause of the delay between Laurence’s death on 25th March 1720 and the date of probate, 27 years later, must have been caused by some legal problem and there appears no clue as to what that might be.

Death of Eleanor 25th January 1722

Just over a year later Laurence’s wife Eleanor died, aged 89. She died on the 25th January 1722 and they were buried together at Laracor. The tombstone has been described earlier, 1.3.

2.17.1 The Family Tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonel Laurence</th>
<th>Eleanor (Chevenix)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Oliver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Tew)</td>
<td>(Wilson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No children</td>
<td>6 sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 daus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurence</td>
<td>Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susanna</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Wilson)</td>
<td>(Charleton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 daus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Stephen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Wilson)</td>
<td>(Smith)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 daus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Wilson)</td>
<td>(Barlow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 sons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 daus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>(Barlow)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>married</td>
<td>(Smith)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Wilson)</td>
<td>3 sons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were, probably, other children who died at an early age.

2.18 Lease - Parkstown, Cooleronan & Crossenstown 21st February 1721

Francis Fleetwood of Parkstowne, Co Meath, leases to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstowne for a rent of £231, Firstly the town and lands of Parkstowne in the Barony of Lune containing 225 plantation acres (365 statute), part of the town and lands of Cooleronan, commonly called Great Wood, in the Manor of Portlester in the Barony of Lune, the above were formerly in the possession of Thomas Bomford, together with part of the lands of Colronan formerly in the possession of Richard Brown and before that in the possession of Patrick Moran, together with the corner of the Molefield joining the premises, containing 169 plantation acres (274 statute) all in the Barony of Lune.

Secondly part of the lands of Cornelstown, Co Meath, in the possession of Francis Fleetwood containing 189 plantation acres (306) statute being part of the land of Crossenstown and lying on the west of it, situated in the Manor of Portlester in the Barony of Lune, Co Meath.

Thirdly the house and garden formerly in the possession of Henry Ossenbrooke in Crossanstowne.

Signed Francis Fleetwood (Book 35 Page 241 No 22199)

1. We are left guessing about much of this property which amounts to 945 statute acres with a house and garden which does not appear to have been used as a Bomford house, and all attached to each other. It is not clear whether Thomas previously had both Parkstown and Cooleronan or just the latter, neither is it clear how long he had them, but probably for 30 years which would mean that the original lease was dated c1691. There is no further mention of these places so it is likely that the lease was not renewed. If it were a 30-year lease then it would run out in 1751. It is possible that the balance of the lease was sold after Thomas death in 1740 to pay his debts. The Manor of Portlester in the Lune Barony must not be confused with the Portlester in the Manor of Kilmoon which belongs to Oliver.

2. The land is situated on the Athboy to Ballivor road just south of Earl’s Bridge, which spans the Stonyford River. It is just over ten miles from Rahinstown so it is also likely that Thomas leased both the house and the land of this rather remote property. Ballivor used to be called Killaconnigian and all these places are in this parish. Many ancient battles were fought here between the English soldiers from Trim Castle and the Irish, as the Stonyford River was a natural boundary between them. Parkstown is northeast of Ballivor and southwest of the River Stonyford. The present Parkstown House is just outside Ballivor. Crossenstown is north of Parkstown and south of the river, the road to Athboy runs through it and Crossenstown House is on the west of the road, the house is still there. Cooleronan (Colaronan) is a large townland, which stretches to Westmeath from the Stonyford River north of Crossenstown. The western end is bog, nearly 500 acres of it, so Great Wood and Mole field must be at the eastern end where in 1654 there was “a wear, a mill and some cottages”.

Mostly Land 30
Oliver and Stephen Bomford make over to Edward Ford for £431 a corner of Abbey Street and Stafford Street, Dublin. (Book 29 Page 469 No 18361)

1. I feel sure that Edward Ford was the same person who at this time was concerned with, and later owned, Laurencetown or Oakley Park, and who was later murdered by the students of Trinity College.

2. This is the first mention of Dublin property. However almost certainly the Bomfords would have had a town house; it was the general trend during this century and the next, not only for the social and business life of the capital and of the Irish Parliament, but also because travel was so slow, to get to Dublin from Rahinstown Thomas would need about four hours, Oliver from Cushenstown about three hours, and both would be riding fast with a spare horse to travel so quickly and such a distance over the poor roads; so whatever their business they would have a night stop in town.

At some time during the previous century Burke records that Colonel Laurence was Secretary to the Court of Claims in Dublin. I have found no confirmation of this, but it would have been written by George Bomford about 1837 when the first edition of Burke’s Landed Gentry was printed and the information would only have passed through three generations, thus there is no real cause to doubt it. However as the Secretary, Laurence would have lived in Dublin for at least part of each year, so a house would have been a necessity.

Indeed the Bomfords may have owned a number of houses in Dublin. On the Colonel’s death this property might have been split between the sons, and each son would consider the needs of his family and decide whether to sell or not. There is evidence, for instance, that Laurence of Killeghan had a house in the Parish of St Mary and it is interesting that ‘a corner of Abbey Street and Stafford Street’ is in the middle of this parish, Thomas also may have had a town house “where he frequently resided for the attending the market’s and several Law Suits” (10.5).

A house in Dublin would be a minor property as far as these Bomford were concerned. It was customary that the principal estate be passed to the eldest son, or, in the event of a marriage not producing a male heir, to the nominated relative. Many marriage settlements had provision laid down for the younger children, which were often of money to be supplied from the income of an estate. These charges often caused considerable embarrassment to the eldest son who had to carry out the wishes laid down in his parent’s marriage settlement; this may be the reason behind the sale of this particular Dublin property.

In 1720 none of the public buildings, with which we are familiar, had been built. All the Courts, including the Court of Claims, were sited around St Patrick’s Cathedral inside the old walled town, which was naturally very crowded; so the town was expanding into the country. The area north of the river was first laid out during the reign of Charles II and included Capel Street together with four new bridges; then there was a pause and further expansion took place from about the date of this deed. Stafford Street has been renamed Wolfe Tone Street and crosses the west end of Abbey Street. At this time Abbey Street dissolved into fields and there was no Middle or Lower Abbey Street, nor indeed O’Connell Street.

In 1716 there is an Oakley Park lease in which the rent has to be paid “att Strongbow’s Tomb in Christ Church Dublin”. The Law Courts were then right up against the Cathedral walls and the crypt of the Cathedral had been turned into a tavern, the entrance to which was a partly arched and gloomy passage; over the arch was carved in the black oak a horned figure said to be the devil, and so the passage was known as ‘Hell’. The Christchurch hell was lined with taverns and snuggeries and led on into the crypt where lawyers carried out their sepulchral boozing. Above the taverns were apartments for men and there is a memorable advertisement “To be let, furnished apartments in Hell. N.B. they are well suited to a lawyer.”

Neither Betham nor Vicar’s Index of Wills includes Oliver, but the following two references have been found

a) Extract from Prerogative Grants

“Bumford Oliver Cushingstowne Co Meath Gent Intestate 1721 Administration granted 11th November 1721”

b) Abstract of Wills by Beryl Eustace

“Oliver Bomford, a tenant of Sir Arthur Langford, his will 1st Dec 1715”

The first extract says that Oliver died in 1721 without making a will. The second extract implies that Oliver made a will in 1715, and, at first, it was thought that this was so, but I chanced upon the will of Sir Arthur Langford in Betham and found that it was dated 1st December 1715 which changes the
apparent sense of the Eustace Abstract. It has been left in just to show how easy it is to draw wrong conclusions.

The deed of 16th December 1721 (3.2) shows that all Oliver’s children were minors and that Thomas of Rahinstown who was the senior member of the family was their guardian.

Oliver is mentioned in the will of his brother Laurence (below) so it is likely that Oliver died between 10th June 1721 and November 1721. Since he died without a will it further looks as though he died suddenly, he was aged about 67.

2.21 Will of Laurence Bomford 10th June 1721

This Laurence is the third son of the Colonel and all we know about his will comes from Betham’s Extracts of Wills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laurence Bomford</th>
<th>Killeglan Co Meath Gent 10th June 1721 6th March 1722</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>brothers</td>
<td>Philip William Wilson, the executor, must be a brother-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in-law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thomas B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oliver B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>Susanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td>Laurence Isabella Ellinor Mary Wilson’’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using these dates Laurence died between 10th June 1721 and the end of February 1722. His brothers, Thomas and Stephen, were his executors.

2.22 The Family and their Estates 1722

Colonel Laurence died in March 1720 aged 103, and his wife Eleanor died in January 1722 aged 89. They were both buried in the Churchyard of Laracor. Their children and grandchildren were

1. Thomas is living at Rahinstown. His wife Elizabeth (Tew) is dead and there were no children which we know about, so he is probably living alone, aged about 71.

2. Oliver has just died but his wife Elizabeth (Wilson) is alive and probably does not die until the 1740’s. She and the children who are all minors are living at Cushenstown. Their children are -

a. Thomas, who was at Trinity at this date, aged 19. The College Register of Students records “Bumford Thomas, Pensioner, (Mr Sheridan), Feb 28th 1720-21, aged 18, son of Oliver, Generosus, born Cushenstown Co Meath, BA Spring 1725”. This means that Thomas paid a fixed sum annually (Pensioner), was educated at Mr Sheridan’s school (1.8.4), entered Trinity in February 1720 or 1721 aged 18, his father was a gentleman (Generosus), and Thomas got his BA in the Spring Term of 1725. From this he could have been born in 1702 or 1703, but the deed of July 1724 (3.4) shows that he came of age after July that year and so he was born in 1703 sometime after July.

Since the eldest son was born in 1703 and the Upton Papers give the order of the other children, we can hazard a guess at their birth dates

b. Elinor born c1705, aged 17

c. Andrew born c1707, aged 15

d. Arthur born c1709 aged 13

e. Laurence born c1711, aged 11

f. Margaret born c1713, aged 9

g. Oliver born c1715, aged 7

h. John born c1717, aged 5 John is not listed in the Upton Papers but there is a reference to him in the deed of January 1764 (7.18.1) in which he is given £1,000 in trust for the two sons of his brother Thomas. The deed is quite clear about John but it is not known when he was born, I have placed him as the 8th child.

3. Laurence has just died but his wife Susanna is alive and living with her five children, all minors. In April 1722, about 2 or 3 months after Laurence died, Killeglan House and lands were leased, so Susanna and the children must have left immediately after Laurence died. They probably went to Dublin; certainly they were there in June 1729 (3.5.1) when the children were still minors. In fact they were still minors in Feb 1731 (7.7.1). The Upton Papers give the order of the children and if Laurence the eldest was a minor in 1731 then he must have been born not later than 1710; so in 1722 the state of the children were

a. Laurence born c1710, aged 12

b. Isabella born c1712, aged 10

c. Elinor born c1714, aged 8
d. Mary born c1716, aged 6
e. Wilson born c1718, aged 4 - two boys and three girls

4. Edward and Margaret (Charleton) were married in 1715 or 1716. Initially they had no fixed home but lived at Clonmahon and probably stayed there until after Eleanor’s death in 1722. In 1724 Edward was living at Rathflisk, most likely with his sister, Margaret Berwick. He finally settled at Hightown in Co Westmeath and may have moved there about 1725. Their children were -
a. John born c1718, aged about 4
b. Catherine born c1720, aged about 2
c. Lucy born c1722, just born
d. Anne born c1724, about to be born

5. Stephen aged about 59, married Anne (Smith) 1713 (2.13). They are living at Gallow with the first four of their nine children,
a. Thomas born c1716, aged about 6
b. Stephen born c1718 aged about 4
c. Ann born c1720, aged about 2
d. Dorcas just born this year

6. Elizabeth the eldest daughter is now about 56, She is married to James Hyland. It is not known where they were living and it is thought that they had no children

7. Margaret the younger daughter is about 53 or older. She was married to Simon Berwick probably in the 1690’s and they are living at Rathflisk to the west of Clonmahon. The Bomford lease of Rathflisk was due to run out in 1729 and it has been removed as a Bomford property from that date, but it is possible that it was made over to the Berwick’s in the Colonel’s will and that they lived on there. However it is also possible that Margaret is dead and indeed Simon may be too, although he was mentioned in the Colonel’s will of 1718 so he was alive then. Edward and his family were at Rathflisk in 1724 the three boys would be in their late teens or early twenties at this time. The order of the children is not known. I have placed William as the eldest because he was a ‘life’. The other two children were recorded in Colonel Laurence’s will.
a. William Berwick born before May 1711 when he was made a ‘life’ of the lease of Gallow. As a ‘life’ he was probably aged 10 plus in 1711 and so was born about the turn of the century, this further confirms that Margaret and Simon were married in the 1690’s.
b. Richard Berwick born c1702, aged about 20
c. Thomas Berwick born c1704, aged about 18

2.23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property of 1702(acre)</th>
<th>Recent Leases(acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas of Rahinstown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahinstown</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baconstown</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldtown (Meath)</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ardrums</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrans</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathflisk</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castletown</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkstown</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooleronan</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyowan</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloncullen</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnewbane</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas (Minor) of Cushenstown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primatstown</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irishstown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilmoon</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portlester</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cushenstown</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodman</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,896</td>
</tr>
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Mostly Land  33
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurence (Minor) of Killeglan</td>
<td>712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killeglan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward of Clonmahon (later of Hightown)</td>
<td>3,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonmahon (presumed sold)</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ardrums</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Enniscoffey</td>
<td>908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Oldtown (W-M)</td>
<td>1,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Hightown (or Balloughter)</td>
<td>1,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x Clonfad</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Edward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(x - Leased from Thomas of Rahinstown)</td>
<td>3087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen of Gallow</td>
<td>1,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrellstown</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallow</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurteen</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Stephen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,376 acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gainstown</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bomford Total Acreage</td>
<td>10,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New leases</td>
<td>4,724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making a grand total of</td>
<td>14,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1702 statute acres</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter III  Oliver, Thomas & Laurence  1721 - 1729

3.1  Bomford - Echlin Marriages

There are three Bomford - Echlin marriages which we are interested in at this time

1723  Elizabeth, widow of Oliver of Cushenstown, and Rev John Echlin
c1733  Laurence, 4th son of Oliver, and Anne Echlin
1735  Margaret, 2nd and youngest daughter of Oliver, and John Echlin

Most of the following is extracted from the Genealogical Memoirs of the Echlin Family printed privately by Rev J.R. Echlin. This gives the relationship and some dates, however more documentary information comes to light later and a fuller Echlin ‘tree’ will be found in 7.8

3.1.1  Marriage of Elizabeth Bomford  1723

Elizabeth Wilson, the niece of Andrew Wilson, married Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown about 1702. They had seven children including Laurence and Margaret. Oliver died in 1721 and Elizabeth married secondly Rev John Echlin who was the Vicar of St Mary’s, Drogheda.

Betham’s notebooks include the entry

“Echlin, Rev John, of St May’s Dublin, (should be St Mary’s Drogheda), Clerk, and Bomford Elizabeth of the Parish of Duleek, Co Meath, widow, 28th June 1723.”

According to the Succession Lists by Rev Canon J.B. Leslie held in the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin -

“John Echlin was evidently the son of John Echl in, farmer. Born in Co Down, educated by Mr Harvey in Lisburn, entered Trinity College Dublin 8th March 1698 aged 18, and got his BA in 1703. He was ordained Deacon of Naas July 3 1705, Curate of St Kevin’s Dublin 1706 - 1711, Vicar of St Mary’s Drogheda 1711 - 1763 and also installed Vicar of Hollywood, Naul and Grallagh on November 10 1759 - 1763 and thirdly Vicar of Kilsharvan (Meath) 1717 - 1763. He died suddenly 19th January 1763.

He had issue including a son, John, born in Dublin, educated by Dr Sheridan in Dublin, entered TCD 21st January 1729 aged 16, BA 1734 and Irish Bar 1739.”

The ‘issue including John’ must have been by his first marriage to an unknown lady. As far as is known he and Elizabeth had no children. Elizabeth and the Rev John are going to figure in a court case versus the Bomfords over the lands of Farragh, which starts in 1731 and drags on until 1784. This will be dealt with later but one cannot help wondering whether the barrister son, John, gave assistance in court

3.1.2  Marriage of Laurence Bomford  c1733

Laurence, the fourth son of Oliver, married Anne Echlin. According to the Echlin Memoirs, Ann was the third daughter of John Echlin who died in 1714 and his cousin Jane who died in 1744. These are the only dates we have to work on, but when we consider the known dates of the rest of the family we find that Laurence was born about 1709, so his marriage would hardly have taken place before 1730.

Anne’s birth date is more difficult and to determine this we must consider her mother Jane. Jane’s brother Rev John was born in 1679, but Jane could have been the eldest child and so born about 1675. If Jane married at 20 her marriage date would be about 1695, and the earliest that her third daughter Anne could be born would be 1699. Therefore Anne’s birth date must be sometime between 1699 and 1714, the date her father died, 1699 is the earliest possible and a date of 1708
would be more likely and would still allow time for two more children to be born before her
father died.

So Anne and Laurence were about the same age and their marriage would have taken place in the early
1730’s, say c1733.

As far as we know they had no children, nor is it known when they died. However Laurence was
alive in 1750 when he was a ‘life’ in the lease of Pranstown of September that year (7.5) and aged about
41.

3.1.3 Marriage of Margaret Bomford 1735

Margaret is the second daughter of Oliver Bomford, and her marriage is not only recorded in the
Echlin Memoirs but in Betham’s Dublin Marriage Licences

“Echlin Jno and Margaret Bomford of the Parish of St Mary’s, Dublin, spinster, 15th April 1735.”

Their marriage licence is further recorded in the Bonds Prerogative and by the Diocese of Meath.

John Echlin is from a different branch of the family to the other Echlin marriages above. These two are
not otherwise mentioned in the deeds. It is not known if they had children.

Because the Diocese of Meath recorded their marriage licence one wonders whether the ‘Parish
of St Mary’s, Dublin’ should not really read the Parish of St Mary’s, Drogheda; Betham made the same
mistake over the marriage of Elizabeth Bomford.

3.2 Lease - Cushenstown, Portlester & Bodman 16th December 1721

Hercules Rowley of Summerhill re-leases to Thomas Bomford of Rainestown, uncle and
guardian of Thomas Bomford, a minor and son of Oliver Bomford deceased, the town and lands of
Cushenstown and part of Killmoon containing 418 plantation acres (677 statute), Portlester containing 100
acres (162 statute), and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute) which were previously held by Thomas
Bomford (this is a mistake and should be Oliver, the father of the minor Thomas) for £50 for the lives of
Edward North, aged about 17, son of Francis North, Attorney in the King’s Bench
Court
Thomas Bomford, the minor and
Arthur Bomford, son of Oliver deceased.

Signed Thomas Bomford
Witnessed George Dennis of Summerhill and
Edward Dalton, ‘Notary Publick’

1. The object of this lease is to replace Oliver by his son Thomas, and to update the three lives, which
now include Edward North instead of Oliver. All the other details remain the same except for the
rent; in 1719 the rent was £205, now it is £50; the land is good and £205 sounds reasonable, so the
£50 was probably the ‘rent’ or fee to change the life.

2. When viewing the pedigree of Oliver’s branch in hindsight all appears uncomplicated, but at the time
when it was uncertain whether even Oliver was a son of the Colonel, it was these leases, and this one
in particular, which helped enormously to sort out the relationships. Here we have confirmation that
Oliver and Thomas of Rahinstown are brothers, and that the son Thomas is a minor and so all of
Oliver’s living children are also minors.

3.2.1 Lease - Brick 30th July 1724

The Right Honourable Chaworth, 6th Earl of Meath, farm let to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown
the lands of Brick, then in the occupation of the administrators of Oliver Bomford deceased containing 77
plantation acres (125 statute) for 61 years from May 1725 for a rent of £28.

Signed Thomas Bomford (of Rahinstown)

1. This was Oliver Bomford’s land and now belongs to his son Thomas of Cushenstown who is a
minor; Thomas of Rahinstown signed on his behalf as ‘an administrator of Oliver’.

2. There was a previous lease, which is missing, for want of any better date it is assumed to start
c1700 though it might be much earlier. This 61 years lease lasts until 1786 and it does not appear to be
continued.

3. Brick is situated in the Parish of Trevet, Barony of Skreen, to the south of Clounstown
3.2.2 Lease - Smithstown, Thomastown, Cappaghill, Reesk and part of Kilbrew 8th August 1724

The Honourable Lieutenant-General Richard Gorges of Kilbrew, Co Meath, leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow and to Edward Bomford of Rathflisk, the town and lands of Smithstown, Thomastown, Cappaghill, Reesk and part of Kilbrew in the Barony of Ratoath for 41 years at a rent of £222.8.0 and 8/- an acre for every acre more than 561 plantation acres (909 statute).

(Book 40 Page 457 No 26821)

1. These lands have been recorded as the property of Thomas, the eldest son of Oliver. Thomas came of age in 1724 but after the signing of this lease; his two uncles Stephen and Edward signed for him. This makes the birth date of Thomas as 1703, but after August, which matches very well with the Trinity College Register.

2. Kilbrew is 2½ miles north of Ratoath and to the south of Thomas’ other properties in that area. These lands add to his block of land. The major portion of Kilbrew, 805 statute acres, is in the Parish of Kilbrew, but to the north there is a further 160 statute acres in the Parish of Kilmoon, and this is most likely to be the part of Kilbrew leased.

Smithstown and Thomastown consisting of 350 statute acres are just to the north and west of Kilbrew in the Parish of Kilbrew.

Reesk was not a townland in 1654 but was a large one of 805 statute acres 1836. It stretches from Smithstown, down the west side of Kilbrew, to the Skreen - Ratoath road. About half of these 805 acres would be needed to make up the balance of the acreage in this lease; and the half would probably be the top half so that all these lands joined together.

Cappaghill has not been positively identified, but it may be the hill of 402 feet, which lies on the borders of Kilbrew and Irishtown, the latter belongs to Thomas.

It would appear that the total acreage was not known but that the approximate figure was 909 acres, so I have split the 909 statute acres of the lease (ignoring any extra at 8/- an acre) into townlands making an estimate of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Townland</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smithstown</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomastown</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilbrew (part) including Cappaghill</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reesk</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>909</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1640 all this land belonged to Patrick Barnwell ‘Irish Papist’, and it was later granted to the Gorges family who were Protestant. There is more information about the Gorges family and Kilbrew in 13.3. There is no further record of these places so we may assume that the lease was not renewed in 1765.

The lease of 1751 (7.13) of 147 acres of part of Kilbrew to a younger brother of Thomas is being treated as a different part of Kilbrew.

3.2.3 Baronies, Townlands etc

The Irish method of land division will be unfamiliar to many, and they may be wondering about Baronies, Townlands and such like.

The Baronies were formed on the submission of the Irish Chieftains, the land of each Chieftain constituting a Barony; so the land given to a conquering Anglo-Norman Baron, was the land owned by the local Irish Chieftain. Twelve Baronies were formed in County Meath; therefore it is likely that twelve Irish Chieftains formerly owned County Meath.

King Henry II (1154 - 1189) deposed the O’Maeghlin’s who ruled Meath, and gave Meath to Hugh de Lacy who was one of Strongbow’s fellow adventurers. Strongbow was the Norman Earl of Pembroke who subdued Leinster in 1170. Hugh de Lacy apportioned Meath among his inferior Barons to hold under him by feudal service.

The twelve Meath Baronies were

- in the north: Duleek, Slane, Kells, Fore, Morgallon
- in the middle: Skryne (Skreen), Navan, Lune
- in the south: Dunboyne, Ratoath, Deece, Moyfenrath

The larger baronies were later split into two, Upper and Lower, the Upper part being the northern part. For instance Drumlargan is in Lower Deece, whilst Oakley Park is in Upper Kells.

A Barony was split into Parishes, which are of two kinds, civil and ecclesiastical. The civil parish is the modern state unit of territorial division for census and valuation purposes. The ecclesiastical parish is the normal unit of local Church administration and generally embraces a number of civil parishes. At one time every parish had its own church. Parishes mentioned in these documents are Church parishes.

Thomas of Rahinstown 37
A Townland is the smallest administrative division of land with an average area of 350 acres. As an example, Rahinstown is a Townland of 596 acres in the Parish of Rathcore in the Barony of Lower Moyfenrath.

Another division in Ireland was the Pale, a purely defensive boundary within which the Anglo-Normans maintained the English law. Its boundaries changed with time but in the reign of Henry VII in 1488 it ran through Clane, Kilcock, along the Ryewater to Laracor, Athboy, Hill of Lloyd at Kells, Teltown and Donaghpatrick, then north to Siddon and so to the sea. Land beyond the Pale was unsettled by the Barons and included much of the periphery of Meath; it was an area of many of the skirmishes with the local Irish.

3.2.4 A Further Digression. Political and Social

These notes have little direct bearing on the Bomford documents, but to understand the documents it is helpful if one knows what was happening both politically and socially.

Cromwell believed that Ireland would supply armed forces for the Stuarts and that severity would check this. Thus Cromwell’s belief led to great cruelty and intolerance of Royalists and of the Catholic Religion; he put to death “all the priests he could find” and in Kells, for instance, the Church was used as stables and the High Crosses were used to hang royalists. He failed to subdue the inhabitants and his policy inflicted both suffering and ruin. The population fell by over one-third.

On the Restoration of Charles II (1660) there was general land resettlement with the result that about one-third of the landowners were native Irish Catholics, mostly in the west, one-third were Protestant settlers of Elizabeth’s and James I’s plantations, mostly in Ulster, and one-third were Cromwellian settlers. However there was religious toleration, but free trade was abolished and Ireland suffered from trade restrictions.

After the defeat of James II at the Battle of the Boyne (1690), William III introduced the Penal Code against Catholics under which they could not own land or belong to the professions. Between 1697 and 1727 the Irish Parliament, composed totally of Protestants, passed a series of most vindictive laws against the Catholics who composed four-fifths of the population. A Roman Catholic was not allowed to have a vote and was excluded from every imaginable office or profession, from that of Lord Chancellor to that of a gamekeeper. He could not be educated at a university, and he could not keep a school or be guardian of a child; he could not marry a protestant, was not allowed to buy land, and was even forbidden to own a horse worth more than £5, indeed a Protestant was at liberty to offer £5 for any horse belonging to a Catholic, who was bound to accept the offer. No Protestant might sell, give or bequeath land to a Catholic; and when a Catholic died his land must be divided equally amongst his sons unless one became a Protestant, in which case it all went to him. These laws were so strong that they were often ignored.

However as far as the Irish peasant was concerned, he could tolerate religious intolerance, but could not tolerate the economic intolerance. The great pasturing island, whose cattle and wool were at one time the best in Europe, was stifled by the selfishness of the English farmer. The trade restrictions of Charles II forbade the export of cattle, sheep and swine, dead or alive (1660). William III prohibited the export of woollen goods and confined the export of Irish wool to England alone where it had to pay heavy import duties. Any hope for Irish industries was therefore ruined. In consequence there was little ‘life’ in the countryside and many of the ‘English’ landlords left the country, often leasing their land to ‘Middlemen’ who exploited the smaller tenants to whom they sublet. Oakley Park, owned by the Taylours, had as many as three middle tenants each taking their £100 cut before the land was parcelled out to the peasants. The wretched Irish tenant, paying rent to a middleman, tithes to the Protestant clergyman, and dues to his Roman Catholic priest had in some cases, it was said “hardly the skin of a potato to subsist on”.

There was a relaxation of the Penal Laws in the mid 1700’s largely because they were impossible to impose, but also because of the American War of Independence (1775–1783) when conciliation by the British was necessary since they had to send troops out of Ireland, and whilst Ireland was in imminent danger of invasion by France. In 1778 the Penal Code was abolished and in 1780 the restrictions on Irish trade were abolished also. Money then became available and the land prospered, but only for about 20 years when more trouble ensued.

3.3 The Mortgages of Cushenstown and Crossmacoole

These are the first of many mortgages. Later on the land was often mortgaged by the Bomfords because wills or marriage settlements decreed that money, as inheritance, be paid to younger children, but in these early days this did not appear to be the case. However at this time many houses were being built or improved and it is possible that these Cushenstown mortgages were for that purpose. Stephen Bomford also mortgaged Dirpatrick about this time and he may have used the money to improve or build a new Gallow House.
In the unsettled days of the Pale and even later, residences were generally fortified structures which were sited for defence and often built on a raised mound of earth. The Down Survey refers to them as ‘castles’. By this date landlords were feeling sufficiently secure to replace their castle with the more elegant and comfortable Georgian mansions that came to characterise the Irish countryside. They were set on sites chosen for their outlook rather than defence, and in time, became surrounded by parkland, a walled garden and a walled farmyard.

The early Bomford houses of Rahinstown, Gallow and Clounstown were all Georgian houses and were built between about this date and 1750. It is not known whether Cushenstown, Killeglan, Hightown or Rathfeigh were the original castles or rebuilt; there are no definite ruins left on those lands of a house of this period.

3.3.1 Mortgage - Cushenstown 23rd September 1727

Thomas Bomford of Cushenstowne Co Meath mortgaged for £100 to John Tralford, victualler of the City of Dublin, the land of Cushinstowne containing 479 plantation acres (776 statute), and Crossmacoole 132 plantation acres (214 statute).

This mortgage was discharged on 1st December 1729 (Book 53 Page 341 No 35786)

3.3.2 Mortgage - Cushenstown 8th October 1727

Another mortgage of Cushinstown and of Crossmacoole (same acreage) by Thomas Bomford of Cushenstown to Mr Gavan for £250 This mortgage was discharged on 29th November 1729 (Book 54 Page 336 No 35968)

3.3.3 Lease - Cushenstown 27th March 1728

Thomas Bomford of Cushingtown leases to John Grierson the town and lands of Cushinstown and the sub-denomination of Crossmacoole, which together contain 612 plantation acres (990 statute). This lease also includes “the Great House”, stables, barns, cowhouses and other buildings. (Book 56 Page 128 No 37259)

3.3.4 Mortgage - Cushenstown 27th November 1729

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown mortgaged Cushinstown for £150 to Samuel Blanchard. (The acreage of Cushenstown and Crossmacoole was the same as before). This mortgage was discharged on 22nd June 1734. (Book 60 Page 473 No 42013)

1. Thomas Bomford moved from Cushenstown to Clounstown in 1728 before he leased Cushenstown. The mortgages were possibly concerned with improvements to Clounstown, and perhaps the building of a new house there. After all Thomas moved from ‘the Great House’ of Cushenstown to what must have been a ‘Greater House’ of Clounstown, and the reason is likely to be the next entry - his marriage.

2. It is difficult to calculate the correct acreage. To match the figures of the lease of December 1721 (3.2) additional land must have been obtained of which there is no record. The amount of land now must be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>1721</th>
<th>Extra</th>
<th>1729</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cushenstown &amp; part of Kilmoon</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portlester</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodman</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossmacoole</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(statute acres)</td>
<td>951</td>
<td></td>
<td>1264</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4 Marriage Settlement Thomas Bomford and Jane Shinton 9th February 1729

Between Thomas Bomford of Clownstown, Co Meath, and Richard Shinton of Geeraldstown, Co Meath, on behalf of his sister Jane Shinton. Thomas Bomford receives £200 and ensures an annuity on his death to his intended wife, Jane Shinton, of £40 out of the lands of Cusanstowne (Cushenstown), Clownstowne and Pranstowne. (Book 66 Page 151 No 45563)

Extract from Betham’s Marriage Licences Prerogatives

Thomas of Rahinstown 39
“Bomford, Thomas of Parish Trivett, Co Meath, Gent, and Shinton, Jane of Skreen, Co Meath, spinster, 7th September 1729.”

3.4.1 The Shinton Family

Betham records three Shinton wills, those of
Richard Shinton of Garrettstown Co Meath 18th January 1720 proved 5th April 1721
Launcelot Shinton of Pranstown Co Meath 19th January 1769 proved 10th October 1772
George Shinton of Cushinstown Co Meath 3rd November 1778 proved 31st May 1780

From these three wills, those of the father Richard and his two sons, the following tree can be built

A few from Lancelot’s will cannot be placed, these are
1. Richard the elder must have had a sister who married a Mr Barnes, they had a daughter, Lancelot’s cousin, Sarah who married a Mr Corker, and they had a son Lancelot Corker
2. Lancelot’s nephew ‘Richard Shinton and son Lancelot Shinton’, this Richard must be a son of one of the brothers, probably Richard but maybe William
3. Other nephews and nieces of Lancelot
   Nephew Thomas Kelly and niece Mary Kelly
   Niece Elizabeth Craig and son Lancelot Craig
   Niece Elizabeth Henderson, widow in 1769
Lancelot’s two sisters, Elizabeth and Eliza, could have married and so account for two of the above only.
The indication is that either there was another sister or that one of the sisters married a second time.

3.4.2 The Shinton Houses

Garrettstown and Gerardstown: There is confusion over this Shinton place, the deed gives Geraldstown and the will gives Garretestown. There is no Garrettstown in Co Meath so that leaves Geraldstown. Geraldstown with an ‘l’ does not exist, but there are two places with an ‘r’, Gerardstown.
1. Gerardstown which borders Co Kildare in the Parish of Dunboyne is unlikely
2. Gerardstown in the Parish of Trivet almost borders Clounstown on the west must be the right place.

In 1654 there was “on the premisses a thatch Howse” where Richard Cusack ‘Irish Papist’ lived. By 1836 the house had become “a gentleman house with a small plantation beside it”, and occupied by a Mr Cullen. Evidently the Shintons had moved elsewhere by 1836.

Pranstown: Lancelot leased this townland in 1750 from his brother-in-law Thomas Bomford. One of the ‘lives’ of the Pranstown lease of June 1761 is Lancelot Shinton (13.4), but the Lancelot Shinton who died in 1772 would be rather old for a ‘life’ and it may be that of his grandnephew.

Cushenstown: George Shinton was living there at the time of his death in 1780. William Bomford, Jane (Shinton’s) eldest son was living at Cushenstown in 1771, and in 1772 he had moved to Lake Tay in Co Wicklow. There is no corroborative lease but it is most likely that George Shinton moved in that year and that his wife, Frances, stayed on after he died. The next lease of Cushenstown is to Patrick Dowdall of the ‘house and lands’ in July 1784.
When Laurence Bomford died he left his family of five children as minors. His wife Susanna (Wilson) leased their house at Killeglan and moved to Dublin. Their eldest son Laurence will come of age about 1731.

**Lease - Killeglan** 3rd April 1722

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown leases to John Blakeley and Henry Graydon, both gentlemen of Dublin, the “town and lands of Killeglan then late in the occupancy of Mr Lawrence Bomford deceased and his undertenants, containing by estimation 439 acres plantation measure” (712 statute) in the Barony of Ratoath for £274 sterling for two lives, those of Susanna Bomford, widow of Lawrence Bomford and Andrew Bomford, son of Oliver Bomford late of Cushington (aged about 15)

(Book 44 Page 118 No 27900)

**3.5.1 Lease - Westmeath Property** 9th June 1729

Susanna Bomford of Dublin, widow of Lawrence Bomford late of Killeglan Co Meath, leases to John Wright the town and lands of Balltrasney containing 307 plantation acres (497 statute) and Magherdeirman in the Barony of Moyashelb Co Westmeath, and Cartiongany or Cartrangany containing 78 plantation acres (126 Statute) in the Barony of Fartullagh Co Westmeath. Thomas Bomford of Reanstown and Stephen Bomford of Gally are the executors of Lawrence Bomford.

(Book 60 Page 259 No 40783)

These lands have not been investigated. They are not Bomford lands and it is assumed that they were Wilson property, which Susanna had been left. There are only two other deeds concerning Killeglan

**3.5.2 Lease - Killeglan** 19th December 1743

Lawrence Bomford, farmer of Dunsink, leases Killeglan to Christopher Dalton for £50 for the life of Susanna Bomford, mother of Lawrence.

(Book 114 Page 67 No 78018)

**Rent - Killeglan** 6th April 1745

Agreement concerning the rents between Lawrence Bomford of Killeglan and Patrick Lawless.

(Book 145 Page 142 No 97314)

1. We are not particularly interested in the details of these leases but they do give some idea of the land involved, and, above all, they give clues as to where the family was and what they were doing. Laurence and his mother, Susanna, were recorded at Dunsink in July 1741 (7.7.2) and in the above lease of 1743, which adds, that Laurence was farming there. There is no other record about Dunsink so we do not know its location with certainty; one would expect it to be the Dunsink of the Parish of Castleknock west of Dublin, but there is no record of any Bomford there. The latter is not conclusive and I expect this was the place and further suggest that, although they may have stayed in Dublin for a short time after Laurence died in 1721 and whilst Laurence the younger completed his education, that they leased Dunsink around 1730 and settled there

2. This is the last entry for Killeglan and it looks as though the lease was terminated on the death of Susanna, the only remaining 'life'. It is not known when she died but it must be after 1745 when she was aged about 61. Her son Laurence of Killeglan died in 1761.

3. Andrew the second son of Oliver was a life of Killeglan in 1722 and he must have died in or before 1743 or he would have been included as a life again. He was born about 1707 and so would be about 36 when he died. Nothing else is known about him.
Chapter IV

Stephen of Gallow

1724 - 1738

4.1 Lease - Tyrellstown 16th June 1724

John Stoytes of Eccles Grove Co Wicklow, Thomas Marley of Dublin, His Majesty’s Solicitor General, and Lewis Meares and Walter Burton, both of Dublin, lease to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the town and lands of Tyrellstowne containing 214 plantation acres (347 statute) in the Parish of Moyleeskar in the Barony of Fertullagh in which Stephen Bomford is now in possession, at a rent of £66 for ever.

(Book 41 Page 378 No 26395)

1. Tyrellstown is situated about 1½ miles south of Gainstown and immediately south of Anville. Anville is one of the family homes of the Smith family, ‘in-laws’ of Stephen. Tyrellstown remains a Bomford property until 1837 when Isaac Bomford bequeathed it to his nephew David North.

2. In 1711 (2.9) John Stoytes leased Gurteen and Gainstown to Stephen, and there is another deed about these two places in 1715. The Master of the High Court of Chancery witnesses the second deed. Now in this deed the Solicitor General is brought in with two others who together grant the lease; something odd happened to John Stoytes. It may be that there were two Johns, the father who died before 1715, and a son who may have been a minor and possibly a ward of court.

3. It is not known how long Stephen was ‘now in possession’. I have assumed a previous lease and, for lack of a better date, have made it 1700; but it might match up with the Gainstown and Gurteen lease of 1711.

4.1.1 Lease - Tyrellstown 19th December 1739

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to Samuel Gerrard of Donaghpatrick (of Clongill, Co Meath, died 1750) the lands of Tyrellstown containing 212 plantation acres (343 statute) in the Barony of Fartullagh, Co Westmeath, for 41 years at £110. This was not the first lease; Samuel Gerrard had this land before.

(Book 97 Page 221 No 68061)

4.2 Lease - Ferrans 28th October 1724

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown makes over to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the lands of Ferrans alias Fenners, containing 265 acres plantation measure (429 statute) forever for a payment of £95.3.0 plus 10 guineas in gold every 21 years

(Book 43 Page 186 No 27830)

1. The lease is now Holroide (£165 a year) to Thomas to Stephen (£95 a year), and Stephen pays Holroide ten guineas every 21 years. The £70 difference covers Oldtown and Little Ardrums which are not in this lease.

In 1731 Thomas mortgages this land to Francis North and in 1740 Ferrans is part of Thomas the younger’s marriage settlement. However Stephen appears to own Ferrans when these two Thomas’ die and there is no further mention of any Holroide. Ferrans was sold in about 1965 so was the longest held of all the Bomford properties, 262 years.

2. Another parcel of land may have been made over by Thomas to Stephen because two years later the following appears.

6th December 1726

Stephen Bomford of Gallow agrees to refund to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown the sum of £225 part of a payment of £475 belonging to another deed of the same date (which could not be found). This entry must remain a mystery although there is a case that it is the balance of the Holroide lease consisting of Oldtown and the neighbouring Ardrums. They are linked with Ferrans in Thomas the younger’s marriage settlement and are also referred to in 1744 which states “The lease of 30th March 1740 in which Stephen Bomford, Thomas Bomford the elder and Thomas Bomford the younger leased the town and lands of Oldtown, Little Ardrums and that part of Ferrans occupied by Stephen Bomford at a rent of £95.3.0”.

3. The above quote of 1744 is the last mention of Oldtown (Meath) and Little Ardrums in the documents. They may have been sold to help pay the debts of Thomas the elder. They were not a Bomford property in 1836 according to that survey.

4.3 Lease - Gallow 3rd March 1731 / 2nd May 1735

(These two leased are referred to in a lease by Isaac Bomford to Antony Cooper dated 31st December 1819 (23.1.2) and another dated 19th March 1863 (28.2) concerning the entail of Gallow.)
3rd March 1731, Roger Jones of Dolanstown leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the land of Gallow containing 200 plantation acres (324 statute) at a rent of £88 during the life of Laurence Monaghan and then at a rent of £90.

2nd May 1735, Roger Jones leases to Stephen Bomford 60 plantation acres (97 statute) of Gallow at a rent of £20.10.0 during the life of Laurence Monaghan and then at £27 a year.

4.4  Lease - Arodstown and Dirpatrick  17th March 1725

William Palmer of Dublin leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the town and lands of Arradstown or Arrastowne 71 plantation acres (125 statute), and the town and lands of Dirpatrick 475 plantation acres (770 statute).

Signed William Palmer
Witnessed Francis North of Dublin (attorney)
Andrew Caldwell of Dublin and
Richard Connell, clerk to Francis North  
(Book 48 Page 179 No 31268)

4.4.1  Lease - Dirpatrick  15th December 1726

His Excellency William Conolly, Lord Justice General and General Governor of Ireland, leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the town and lands of Dirpatrick 475 plantation acres (770 statute) in the Barony of Deece forever at a fee farm rent of £200.

Signed Stephen Bomford
Witnessed Richard Connell, clerk to Francis North
Francis North and 
Bruen Worthington of Dublin  
(Book 50 Page 409 No 33578)

1. In 1722 William Conolly commenced building the largest of all the great Palladian houses in Ireland at Castletown near Celbridge, Co Kildare. By 1750, 28 years later, the outside was completed but the inside was not finished until 1772. William Conolly, who was the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, rose from modest beginnings to being the richest man in the Ireland of his day.

2. It looks wrong that two different people, William Palmer and William Conolly, should lease Dirpatrick. It is possible that William Conolly leased the land to William Palmer before 1725, and that Stephen bought out William Palmer in 1726 and leased direct from William Conolly. However in the marriage settlement of Stephen the younger of April 1745 (8.2) these lands are mentioned quite separately: -

7th February 1714 William Palmer granted 17 acres plantation measure in the lands of Arratstown, alias Arrodstown, in the Barony of Deece by Garrett Wesley of Dangan for three lives at a rent of £27.4.3 and

15th December 1726 Stephen Bomford of Gallow was granted by William Conolly, one of the Lord Justices and General Governors of Ireland, the lands of Dirpatrick 475 plantation acres in the Barony of Deece, at a yearly rent of £200.

The 1714 deed was repeated in the indenture of 1808 (18.8.3), which adds that ‘previous to 17th April 1745 the estate of William Palmer (i.e. Arodstown) passed to Stephen Bomford (the younger), father to Robert and George Bomford’.

It does look therefore as though there was a mistake in the March 1725 document that Arodstown was a Wesley property and Dirpatrick was a Conolly property, that they were leased to Stephen separately, and that Arodstown was leased by Wesley through a middleman, William Palmer, who died before 1745 when the land passed to Stephen.

In 1818, when the Wellesley estate in the Manor of Dangan was being sold, Lot 17 was described as “Part of Arrodstown, excellant meadow and pasture land, area 79 acres, leasee Stephen Bomford, three lives, rent £27.4.3 pa.” This substantially agrees with the above lease of 1714; the same head rent, three lives and acreage, of course by 1818 the leasee was Stephen the younger of Rahinstown though actually he was dead and the lease should have read Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown.

3. There is a variety of spelling for both these places. Dirpatrick, meaning ‘Oakwood of Patrick’ after the oak forest, which covered the area in St Patrick’s time, is the modern spelling; though I see that the river is called Derrypatrick. It is situated 4 miles northeast of Summerhill on the road to Dunsany and is in the Parish of Dirpatrick.

Arodstown, alias Arrodstown, Arradstown, or Arrastowne, lies just south of Dirpatrick in the Parish of Kilmore. The 1836 survey comments “Arodstown House, a two storied thatched good farmhouse, first built by King Arod, a Dane, in 900 A.D.” Comments from the 1654 survey were...
Dirpatrick “on the premises an olde Ston house with a park of trees and som Thatch houses”, and Arodstown, “Arrottstowne and ye Calledge, on the premisses a castle and som cottages”. The introduction to the Parish of Kilmore refers to the “Collage of Arrottstowne”, and modern maps call the crossroads just west of Arodstown “Collegeland”. Many historians now think that in the days of the Celtic Church in Ireland each Diocese had a Divinity College of its own, where students for the church were educated. After the coming of the Anglo-Normans to this country, these Divinity Colleges were swept away or confiscated by the invaders, but the Celtic Church still needed trained clergy and so they founded small Divinity Colleges in backward places where they were not likely to be interfered with, and these are represented by small tracts of land here and there through the country called ‘College Land’ or ‘Provost’s Land’. Such a College was at Arodstown.

4.5  
**Mortgage - Dirpatrick**

These three deeds concern two mortgages on Dirpatrick, each for £500 at a cost of £50, or 10%. One wonders what Stephen did with this £1,000 over those seven years, perhaps he rebuilt or improved Gallow House, which soon becomes the ‘senior’ Bomford house.

*Mortgage - Dirpatrick*  
20th December 1726

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases for £500 sterling to Thomas Trotter Doctor at Law in Dublin (LL D, died 1745, probate), the land of Dirpatrick containing 475 acres plantation measure (770 statute)  
(Book 52 Page 76 No 33608)

*Mortgage Memorial - Dirpatrick*  
20th November 1733

Stephen Bomford of Gallow took out a mortgage on Dirpatrick for the principle sum of £550. Stephen Bomford repaid this sum to Thomas Trotter of Dublin. This memorial states that Stephen Bomford never received or, if he did, has mislaid the lease of Dirpatrick and so now Thomas Trotter releases any claim to the lands as all debts have been paid.  
(Book 83 Page 101 No 57760)

2nd Mortgage - Dirpatrick  
19th February 1735

Thomas Trotter of Dublin leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow for a rent of £550 for ever the town and lands of Dirpatrick in the Barony of Deece containing 475 plantation acres (770 statute).  
Signed Thomas Trotter  
Witnessed John Trotter, and Richard Nelson, both of Dublin  
(Book 82 Page 258 No 57742)

4.6  
**Lease - Little Cabragh**  
10th April 1730

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases for £46 to Richard Brewer of Dublin the lands of Little Cabragh for 31 years.  
(Book 64 Page 266 No 43767)

This property is not mentioned again and with so little information given it is not possible to place it. The only Cabragh, which has been found in Meath, is a townland of 146 plantation acres (231 statute) in the Parish of Tara, which takes its name from a well called Cabragh Cormaic. In 1654 this Townland of Cabragh had “on ye premisses a castle and a howse adjoineing with a few Ashe trees”; however it is unlikely to be this townland and is more likely to be a sub-division of one of Stephen’s other properties, perhaps of Dirpatrick.

4.7  
**Lease - Gurteen**  
14th December 1738

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to David Jones of Clonmoyle, Co Westmeath, the lands of Gurteen 353 plantation acres (572 statute) in the Parish of Lynn and bounded on the north by Clonmoyle, east by the Great Road (from Mullingar to the south, and beyond the Great Road by another of Stephen’s properties, Gainstown), west by Lynn and south by Tyrellstown (another of Stephen’s properties) and Rathdriff, for 41 years at £169.4.9 a year.  
(Book 94 Page 10 No 65234)
Chapter V

Thomas of Rahinstown

1725 – 1740

5.1

Lease - Whitestown and Boycetown

15th February 1725

Henry Whyte, eldest son and heir apparent of James Whyte of Pitchfordstown, Co Kildare, leases to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown for £640 the town and lands of Whitestown and Boycetown containing 296 plantation acres (471 statute) now occupied by Thomas Bomford, in the Barony of Ikeathy and Oughterany, Co Kildare, for three lives at a rent of £120.

Signed

Thomas Bomford

Witnessed

Thomas Whyte, brother of Henry Whyte, and
Richard Connell of Dublin

(Book 87 Page 263 No 61558)

5.1.1

Lease - Whitestown and Boycetown

27th June 1737

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown leases to Mark Warren of Kilcock, Co Kildare, part of Whitestown and Boycetown containing 36 plantation acres (58 statute), bounded on the east by Phelim McGuire’s holding, on the west by the land of Pitchfordstown and Boycetown, on the north by the turnpike road (the main road from Dublin to the West) and on the south by the land of Castleragg, for three lives at a rent of £25.5.9 renewable for ever.

Signed

Mark Warren

Witnessed

Patrick Sandys of Cookstown, Co Dublin and
Christopher Dalton of Dublin, Notary Publick

(Book 88 Page 37 No 61487)

1. “Now occupied by Thomas Bomford” in the first deed, indicates a previous lease, which might have been for 31 years and so take us back to 1694. However, since Thomas in his will bequeaths the land to Patrick Sandys, it is in the family for less than 50 years and I have not recorded it from that suspect prior date but from 1725. The 1737 lease by Thomas covers a small plot of this land, there were undoubtedly other similar deeds, now missing, in which he leases the remainder of the land, for instance to Phelim McGuire; the land is too far from Rahinstown for Thomas to farm it himself.

2. Boycetown is the first townland to the west of Kilcock on the main road, to the north and east of Pitchfordstown, and south of Ferrans and the River Ryewater. The Royal Canal has yet to be built on its northern boundary. Also to be built was the Midland Great Western Railway, and Kilcock railway station was sited at the east end of Boycetown.

3. Whitestown has not been found on any map but the second lease places it east of Boycetown. It may have got its name from the Whyte (White) family who had been living there for some time. The senior branch of the Whytes who had first arrived in Ireland with Strongbow in 1170 was living at Leixlip, 8 miles from Pitchfordstown towards Dublin. Walter Whyte of Pitchfordstown died in 1708 and he was probably from a minor branch of the Leixlip family. Walter was succeeded by James Whyte who is elderly according to the 1725 lease. The eldest son Henry no doubt succeeded and he had a brother Thomas who died in 1773 and was then ‘of Kilcock’, so may have in turn inherited. The Civil Survey of 1654 records ‘Whitestowne and Beestowne’ in the parish of Kilcock, north of Pitchfordtowne. It is probable that Boycetown is the 1654 ‘Beestowne’.

5.2

Mortgage - Bellewstown (near Trim)

14th April 1725

Thomas Bomford leases for £800 to Joseph and Ralph Higgins of Newtown the town and lands of Bellewstown in the Barony of Moyfenrath for 175 years.

(Book 43 Page 356 No 28546)

1. Thomas gave £800 as a mortgage to the Higgins brothers. Their family occur again and a note on the family will be found under 9.2.1.

2. This Bellewstown is in the Parish of Trim and borders the north bank of the River Boyne. It lies on the road to Ballivor about 3 miles west of Trim. Another Bellewstown is near Duleek and later will become a Bomford property. The 1654 survey records of Bellewstown: “There being on the premisses one castle, divers out houses and cabbines, and a Tuck Mill and one weare”. Wool is cleaned and finished in a tuck or fulling-mill, the end product being broadcloth or felt. It is likely that this water-mill on the Boyne was closed down by 1698 when the various trade restriction acts had been enforced.

3. As was common with mortgages no acreage is given, but the 1654 survey records 116 plantation acres (188 statute).
Francis Heaton of Mountheaton, King’s County, leases to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown the town and lands of Balloughter, already in his possession, 624 plantation acres (1,011 statute) held by the late tenant Richard Purdon in the Barony of Farbill, Co Westmeath, fee farm for ever at £62.10.0 for the first seven years and thereafter at £85 a year.

The quit rent (a Government tax) for Clonfad, Rattin and Balloughter is £12.13.4 a year.

Signed ‘XX’ (his mark) Francis Heaton
Witnessed William Curtis of Dublin and Richard Connell, clerk to Francis North, of Dublin (Book 76 Page 95 No 53011)

1. Balloughter is also called Hightown; Quinera or Cunnera is a sub-division in the southern corner. The road from Killucan to Violetstown in the townland of Vilanstown, the family home of Anne Smith, wife of Stephen Bomford and sister-in-law of Thomas, forms the northern boundary. It lies northwest of Lowtown and north of Clonfad. The 1837 survey says that it is “mostly bog, the rest is tillage and pasture”.

2. Balloughter must have been a Bomford property for some time. Edward was living there after his parents died, and this agrees with ‘already in his possession’. A 31 year lease would take it back to 1700 and I would expect it to go back even further but will leave it as 1700.

3. It was also Francis Heaton who leased the adjoining lands of Clonfad and Rattin to Thomas. In 1720 Thomas leased Clonfad to his brother, Laurence of Killeglan. Laurence died the next year and it is thought that Edward now has Clonfad and Rattin as well as Balloughter which give him a block of a little over 2,600 statute acres some of which is ‘bog’.

5.4 Mortgages of Thomas of Rahinstown 1731 - 1739

Thomas mortgaged most of his land and for convenience these are all listed here together.

5.4.1 Memorial 26th July 1731

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown leases to Francis North of the City of Dublin the lands of Baconstown, Rahinstown, Oldtown, Ferans or Fenners, and Little Ardrums, all in Co Meath, Balrowen, Clonfad, Rattin, Ballyoughter, Clonicully, Keranstown and Gnewbane, all in Co Westmeath, Whytestown and Boycetown, in Co Kildare. (Book 73 Page 98 No 49962)

1. No money or time is mentioned in this memorial, but it must be part of a mortgage; it is thought that there is another document somewhere and of course the original lease. It would appear that Francis North was the lawyer in Dublin who looked after Thomas’ legal affairs; he or his clerk, Richard Connell, witness nearly all of Thomas’ deeds of this period.

2. This is the first mention of three of Thomas’ properties in Westmeath

Balrowan and Keranstown are the same place consisting of 747 statute acres. Balrowan lies just north of the Killucan to Mullingar road about 2 miles from Killucan and south of Lisnabin.

Clonicully must be Cloncullen. Clonicully is not to be found but Clonicully contains 189 statute acres and its southern boundary is Balrowan. Both these places are in the Parish of Killucan and were the property of Lord Longford (see below).

Gnewbane (also Gnaevbane or Gnewbaron Hill), 527 statute acres, is the name given to the hill, which lies on the border between the Parishes of Castleslarry and Clonfad. It straddles the main road between Rochfortbridge and Tyrrellspass and is 1½ miles from Tyrrellspass. The northern boundary is the townland of Oldtown, (not the Oldtown of this deed), which is also a Bomford property. The hill overlooks Torr House (Pilkingtons) to the south, and to the northeast Far View House (Norths); both these families will be closely connected to the Bomfords later. At this time quarries were being opened up on Gnewbane hill for grey limestone; this stone takes a high polish and was being used mostly for mantelpieces in many of the Georgian houses now being built

3. It is hard to know when these places first became Bomford properties It is quite likely that they were on a long lease and were one of the original properties. They need more investigation; meanwhile they have been entered as c1700.

The Pakenham (Longford) Family.

Balrowan and Cloncullen were part of the property of Thomas Pakenham, 1st Lord Longford (1713 - 1766). His great-grandfather Henry Pakenham, 1611- 1691, of Pakenham Hall or Tullynally at Castlepollard Co Westmeath, was Captain of a troop of horse and served in Ireland. The troop was
Thomas of Rahinstown

disbanded in 1655 and the next year it was agreed that he and his troop were due £4,363 in arrears of pay for which he was granted lands in Co Wexford and Westmeath.

In 1739 Thomas made an excellent marriage to Elizabeth who was not only heir to the Cuff estates but was also the granddaughter and heir of Ambrose Aungier, the first and last Earl of Longford. She became the Countess of Longford in her own right and her eldest grandson inherited and became the 2nd Earl of Longford on her death in 1794. Their eldest son was Edward Michael, 1743 - 1792, who became the 2nd Lord Longford on the death of his father, and who in 1768 married Catherine, the 2nd daughter of Sir Hercules Langford Rowley of Summerhill (2.11.2). They had five sons and four daughters –

1. Thomas, 1774 - 1835, became the 2nd Earl of Longford on the death of his grandmother in 1794. It was largely he who gave Pakenham Hall its present day look of a castle with battlements and turrets; this was very suitable for a family of military tendencies though in the present century the Pakenhams have laid down the sword and taken up the pen. In 1961 Frank, the 7th Earl, changed the name of the house back to its original name of Tullynally.

2. General Sir Edward, 1778 - 1815, distinguished himself in the Peninsular War and received the unanimous thanks of both Houses of Parliament. He later became commander-in-chief of the British Army in the American War of 1812 and was killed leading his men at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815; his body was shipped to Westmeath for burial pickled in a barrel of rum.

3. General Sir Hercules, 1781 - 1850, was another general in the Peninsular War and was knighted for his services.

4. William was a Captain in the Royal Navy but was drowned in 1811.

5. Henry, the youngest son, 1787 - 1863, went into the Church and became Dean of St Patrick’s. His eldest son, Henry, by his marriage inherited Stroketown Park in Roscommon, another of the fine Irish country houses, and took the name of Pakenham-Mahon.

6. The second daughter Katherine married Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington of Dangan Castle (1.8.2) in 1806. Arthur had just become M.P. for Trim when he met and fell in love with Katherine, but Lord Longford said that Arthur’s income of £125 a year, was too low so the marriage was put off. Meanwhile Katherine developed chicken-pox, lost her good looks and wrote to Arthur relieving him of his obligation to marry her. He replied that “he wished to marry no one else”, and finally when his income was very much higher they married, after a thirteen-year engagement.

5.4.2 £2,000 Mortgage to Jacob Pechell 10th May 1733

Thomas Bomford of Rahainstowne mortgaged for £2,000 to Jacob Pechell: the lands of Clonfad 721 plantation acres (1168 statute) and Rattin 284 plantation acres (460 statute) both in the Barony of Farbill, Co Westmeath also the lands of Baconstown 507 plantation acres (821 statute) and Rahainstowne 396 plantation acres (642 statute) (Book 74 Page 210 No 50829)

The document of 1761 (6.10.2), which records this mortgage, gives the Penal Sum of £4,000. The ‘Penal Sum’ is that amount to be paid in default of the terms of the mortgage. This 1761 deed also recites that in the Trinity Term of 1733, as a result of a judgement in the Court of Common Pleas, Thomas Bomford was bound to pay the penal sum of £4,000 with costs. Unfortunately we are not told what Thomas did to invoke the penal sum, only a few months after the mortgage was granted. The problem must have been a legal one rather than a personal one since Thomas continues to mortgage and borrow money from Jacob Pechell.

5.4.3 £1,000 Mortgage on Balloughter 11th December 1734

Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown mortgages for £1,000 to Jacob Pechell the lands of Balloughter 624 plantation acres (1011 statute). (Book 76 Page 349 No 54809)

5.4.4 Receipts for Bonds 16th January 1741

On the back of the following three bonds are receipts for the principle sums of £130, £260 and £610, a total of £1,000. They all have the same wording, date and signatures, and read

“Recd from Mr Stephen Bomford adm of his son Thomas Bomford lately decd the within principall sum of …… pounds.”

Signed J Pechell
Witnessed Ant Foster, and Rich Nelson

These three bonds were given by Thomas the elder who died in January 1740. He left nearly everything to his nephew, Thomas the younger the eldest son of Stephen of Gallow. Thomas the younger
died in 1741 without making a will, so everything reverted to his next of kin, his father Stephen. Therefore it was Stephen who paid off Pechell, not only because he was the administrator of his son’s affairs but also because he had inherited the bonds. The three bonds were,

1. 21st November 1735 £130 Bond
   The bond of Thomas Bomford of Rainstown to Richard Matthew of the City of Dublin for £260 sterling, with the principal sum of £130
   Signed Tho Bomford
   Witnessed Bry Fagan and Charles Reilly

2. 24th April 1736 £260 Bond
   The bond of Thomas Bomford of Rainstown to Richard Matthew for £520 sterling with the principal sum of £260
   Signed Tho Bomford
   Witnessed Bry Fagan

3. 12th November 1736 £610 Bond
   The bond of Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown to Jacob Pechell of the City of Dublin, Esquire, for £1,220 sterling with the principal sum of £610
   Signed Tho Bomford
   Witnessed R Hamerton and Will Dalton, public notary

5.4.5 Deed of Assignment of Land to Nephew

Thomas Bomford the elder of Rahinstown hands over the rights of the lands mentioned to his nephew Thomas Bomford the younger of Gallow in exchange for £4,000.

The deed of assignment recites

1. On 10th December 1691 Thomas the elder leased from Sir Arthur Langford of Summerhill the lands of Baconstown and Rahinstown, both places being in the Barony of Moyfenragh, for three lives, those of Thomas the elder, his brother Edward and Mr Hercules Rowley.
2. Thomas the elder mortgaged these lands to Jacob Pechell of Dublin for the principle sum of £5,200.
3. Hercules Rowley inherited these lands from Sir Arthur Langford, and on 1st November 1737 Thomas owed £720 back rent to Hercules Rowley.

Now Thomas the elder hands over these lands to Thomas the younger in exchange for £4,000, and

Thomas the elder is to find the balance of £1,200 to payoff Jacob Pechell.

In addition Thomas the younger agrees to pay the £720 back rent to Hercules Rowley, and to pay his uncle an annuity of £10.

Signed Tho Bomford and Thos Bomford
Witnessed David Tew (Alderman) and J. Granger

This document was recorded in the Registry of Deeds (Book 94, Page 179, Number 65826) and adds that Thomas the younger did pay the £4,000 to Jacob Pechell.

1. Thus Stephen’s son Thomas came into Rahinstown and Baconstown. It is this deed, which determines the birth date of Thomas since he would not have been permitted to sign the deed unless he was over 21, he must have been born before February 1717, and so it determines the marriage date of his parents as well, which has been placed as c1715. More recently it has been confirmed that Stephen was married in 1713.

The deed further reflects the sound state of Stephen’s finances as no doubt it was he that had to produce the £4,000; this is quite a contrast to the mess in which his brother Thomas found himself.

2. Since both Thomas’s signed this deed it has been possible to determine which document belongs to which Thomas. Thomas the elder signs with a very shaky, almost illiterate hand. His signature is on the Gallow re-assignment of 1709 and a number of other deeds. Thomas the younger has a much neater and more literate hand.

3. David Tew, Alderman of Dublin, who witnessed this deed, was the brother of Elizabeth Tew the wife of Thomas the elder. Elizabeth has certainly died by now; indeed it is probable that she died soon after her marriage in 1691.

5.4.6 Mortgage (?) to Richard Connell

Memorial of Thomas Bomford the elder of Oldtowne to Richard Connell, Gentleman of Dublin, for £125 per annum coming out of the lands of Oldtowne and Ardrums in Co Meath, and in Co
Westmeath the lands of Rattin, Balloughter, Enniscoffy and Oldtowne, for the lives of Richard Connell above and Dorothy his wife. (Book 96 Page 152 No 66924)

One can speculate just what this £125 a year is for. I have assumed another loan being paid back this way, but it may be ‘for services rendered’, or maybe they are just married and Dorothy might even be an unknown Bomford however the last two are pretty unlikely and another loan is more likely.

5.5  Letter from Thomas to Richard Connell 11th August 1739

This letter is one of the few early ones surviving. It was written by Thomas the elder to Richard Connell at Kilkenny. Richard witnessed many documents in his capacity as Clerk to Francis North, Attorney-at-Law in Dublin, and was the subject of the above memorial dated three weeks previously.

Some of the letter is illegible, the hand is unsteady, the spelling is odd and there is no punctuation. A very free translation into modern English, omitting the Biblical type of verbiage, might be:-

Sir, Thank you for your letter of the 6th of August. Thank heavens the journey did not trouble your wife as I thought it would. You both deserve so much - being so kind, friendly and loving.

I did as you suggested with Mr Rowley but got no money off. I enclose the receipt for the May rent which he asked for. I spent Monday and Tuesday with Mr Tyrrell trying to sort out my money affairs but we can do nothing, “my doom being determined long since”. I can’t help feeling that he has treated me very badly after all the years when I did what I could for him, and now he has so much and I so little. (This must refer to Mr Rowley).

What I would have done without your kindness I just don’t know. “Envey is a sad neighbour and believe me a worse companion”.

“I am weary with scribling and fear yu will with reading this long incoherent epistle”. I am so glad your wife (he calls her “my dearest royall Highness”) has now fully recovered.

Tho Bomford

1. Many hours were spent deciphering this letter and even now there are illegible and missing words. My first impression was that it was the letter of a sick man, sick in the mind and mournfully and bitterly complaining of his money matters, and that he would only write such a letter if he were deeply depressed, almost to the state of suicide, of course he may have been. However my translation quite unwittingly has turned out to be the letter of a much more normal person. It must also be remembered that Thomas was in his eighties and so was likely to worry more than he did when he was younger. Furthermore he was to die within six months of this letter, maybe sooner, and he might be a sick person.

2. It seems a pity to pass over the letter without at least giving an extract from its three pages of small writing. To make it easier to read I have added punctuation.

“... Your very kinde expressiong in yrs to me is giveing life to a poor hart broken ffellow, given up by all, over run and over come with sorrowe, losses and dissapointments on all sides, ever to dispair of ever haveing ease or quiett in this life, wich I often hinted to you as opertunity offered, this condition yu ffound me in, no doubt but that my expectation conjured in yr advice and ffirendship, ffors years past, with knoweing not aney one cood extricate me in aney respect like yr. kindeselfe ...”

3. Mr Rowley must be Hercules Rowley who inherited Rahinstown and Baconstown from Sir Arthur Langford and will shortly inherit the title as well. It will be remembered that Thomas owed him £720 back rent which means that Thomas had paid him no rent for about four and a half years: however this would hardly be the issue since the younger Thomas had undertaken to pay this debt in February of the previous year and should have done so by now. Possibly he was trying to raise yet another loan to payoff his other debts.

5.5.1  Summary of Thomas’ Debt

The confirmed debts we know about were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1733</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>Mortgage to Jacob Pechell which eventually passed to the Bishop of Waterford, Richard Chevenix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1734</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Mortgage to Jacob Pechell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1735</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Bond to Richard Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1736</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>Bond to Richard Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1736</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>Bond to Jacob Pechell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1738</td>
<td>4,200</td>
<td>Mortgage to Jacob Pechell. This, plus the Dec 1734 £1,000, makes the £5,200 of the deed of assignment in which Thomas the younger pays £4,000 of the debt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £8,200
£8,200 is a huge debt for those days and in addition there is the mortgage of an unknown amount to Francis North of July 1731.

There are no real clues as to the reason behind all this borrowing. If they were spread through Thomas’ lifetime we might be suspicious of him gambling or that he had an expensive life-style and was living beyond his means, but the debts only cover the five years before his death. Indeed his problems may have been aggravated by old age but that would hardly be the cause; the cause would have occurred in the 1720’s or before.

At one time I thought he might have been rebuilding Rahinstown House though even this would cost far less than £8,000; the estimated cost of the centre part of Oakley Park, a similar project of about 1720, was only £3,200. However building is unlikely, for why should a man well over 70 without a wife or children invest in such an undertaking?

Even the document of 1762 (10.5) gives no definite reason for the debts. It does nevertheless put Thomas in a poor light, speaking of his “several law suits and intricate accounts”. I do not want to discuss the document of 1762 until we have dealt with the other facts leading up to it, and so we will leave Thomas’ personality until then, and leave the reason for his debts as a mystery. Suffice it to say that Thomas’ debts led to the sale of much of his land on his death, which resulted in a considerable set back to the finances of the rest of the family.

5.6 Lease - Rattin and Clonfad 16th January 1740

Thomas Bomford of Oldtown leases to James Tyrrell of Clonard, Co Kildare, the lands of Rattin and Clonfad both being 634 plantation acres (1,027 statute) as surveyed by Edward Purdon and James Fleming on 16th January 1738, their map is annexed to the deed, for £260 sterling during the life of Thomas Bomford and then £250.

Signed James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys (Book 101 Page 199 No 70632)

1. In his letter to Richard Connell, Thomas says that he was with Mr Tyrrell trying to sort out his money affairs, but could do nothing. It looks as though this was an outcome though it only amounted to a drop in his ocean of debt, and as it turns out, it was the last piece of money raising that he did before he died. He did not sign this deed, it was signed by James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys, the two executors.

2. I have placed the death date of Thomas Bomford as January 1740 which matches very well with the probate date of 3rd February 1740. Burke records ‘1740’.

3. The Tyrrell Family

James Tyrrell must have been well known to Thomas to be selected as an executor. James had a close relative, either his father or his brother, named William Tyrrell. William son of an earlier James was born about 1667 and became Vicar of Rathmolyon from 1701 to 1734 when he died. Apart from Agher, Rathmolyon is the nearest church to Rahinstown so the Bomfords must have known William Tyrrell quite well.

At one time the Tyrrell family possessed very considerable property in Meath and Westmeath, but no connection has been found between James of Clonard, Co Kildare, with contemporary Tyrrells of, for instance, Kildangan, Co Meath, or of Clermont (Cumminstown) in Co Westmeath. These Tyrrells claim descent from Sir Walter Tyrrell, a Norman knight, who came to England at the time of the Conquest. Sir Walter is supposed to have shot King William Rufus with an arrow while out hunting with him in the New Forest. Sir Walter fled the country and one supposes that it was one of his offspring who built the stronghold, now ruined, in the village of Tyrrellspass in Westmeath.

5.7 Will of Thomas the Elder of Rahinstown. 20th August 1738

This is a copy of the will of Thomas Bomford and was extracted from “ye Registry of His Majesty’s Court of Progetive”. The document is in the possession of Mrs Joan David, and has been produced in full as it gives a good idea of the legal verbiage and spelling of the time.

With regard to spelling it was not until the first major dictionary came into common usage that spelling was standardized, and then it took time for the correct spelling to filter down to the clerks of the day. Samuel Johnson’s dictionary was not published until 1755; Webster’s did not come out until 1828. The spelling of place names relied on usage; for instance Rahinstown is pronounced ‘Rainestown’ and that is how it was spelt in many deeds, by now it is unlikely to find any deeds with spelling other than Rahinstown; that has become the normal spelling of the place. But to return to the will.

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Bomford of Rahinstowne in the County of Meath, Gent, being of sound disproving mind and memory do make ordain and Publish this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former Wills by me made.
IMPRIMIS, I give and bequeath to my kindest friend Patrick Sandys hereafter mentioned his
Exors and Assigns all my right title that I have by Lease or otherwise to the lands of Boycetown in the
County of Kildare with right of renewals in as large and beneficial a manner as I now hold and enjoy,
the same to his own use and benefit as also what cattle the shall be thereon or Rent or Arrears due at the
time of my Death.

I give devise and bequeath all the rest of my real and Personall Estate Leases for Lives and years
and fee farrms unto James Tyrrell of Clonard in the County of Meath Gent and Patrick Sandys of the
City of Dublin Mercht their Exrs & Administrator to the uses intents and purposes hereinafter mentioned
and expressed Viz. In the first place Impower them to sell or lett Mortgage or Demise all or any or such
of my Leases as the(y) shall Judge Convenient to pay of my Legall Debts and Legacys, and in the next
place that the said James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys shall and do have and recive out of my said Real or
Personal Estate and Premisses the sum of one Hundred pounds a piece over and above all Demand to buy
them mourning and also that they and every of them their and every of their Heirs Execers & Adms should
and do retain out of the said Premisses and the Profits there of all and every of their full costs Charges
Expenses and Disbursonents, which the(y) shall in any wise be at or Expend in Executing satisfying and
discharging this my Last Will and Testament or in prosecuting or defending my suits either in Law or
Equity for or on Account of any Demands to me or my said Estate Real or Personnell that I have against
any Person or Persons whatsoever.

(The following item was omitted and written on the back page)

Item I Devise and bequeath unto my sister Elizabeth Hyland six pounds in money and Six
pounds per annum during her naturall life to be paid by four even and equall payments Annually during
her life.

Item I devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my real and Personall Estate to the
said James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys their Administrators in trust for my brother Edwd
Bomford during hi naturall Life

Remainder (to) his son John Bomford during his naturall life

Remainder to the said James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys their heirs During the life of the said
John to preserve the Contingent Remainders hereinafter limited and to make entries as Occasion shall
require, but not to take any of the profits to their own use, but as aforesaid.

Remainder to the first and every other Son of the said John Intail Male according to their
priority of birth and Seniority of Age, the eldest and the Heirs male of his body to be always preferred
before the younger and his Heirs of his Body

Remainder to Thos Bomford the son of my brother Stephen Bomford and heirs

Item I do hereby impower my Exrs to pay of the sum of one thousand pounds out of my
effects due by my nephew Thomas Bomford of Clownstown for which I am security if they shall see good
and make him not accountable for the same

Item I hereby constitute and appoint the said Patrick Sandys and James Tyrrell to be Exrs
of this my last Will and Testament

Item That as soon as my Legall Debts are paid I will and Impower my Exrs by sale or
Mortgage of all or so much of my estate Real or Personnall as shall... (crease - illegible) ... of to Raise and
Levy any Sum of Money not exceeding sixty pounds Ster apiece for the Portion and Preferment of each
and every of the Daughters of my Brother Stephen Bomford and Edward Bomford to be paid to them at
their respective Days of Marriage or sooner as my Exrs shall see good

In Witness whereof two parts (?) of this my last Will both of the same Tenor and Date I
have put my hand and Seall this 20th Day of August 1738

(signed) Thos Bomford

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the Tester as and for his last will and Testament in our
presence and by us subscribed as Witnesses in his Presence

Charles Shughrue Jona: Gee
Thos Robiso.... (?)

This will was proved and entered Feby 3rd 1740"

Summary with notes:
1. Patrick Sandys was given the lease of Boycetown, Co Kildare. Note. I assume that Whitestown
   is also included with Boycetown. Neither place appears again in the documents.
2. The executors were Patrick Sandys, merchant of Dublin, and James Tyrrell of Clonard, Co Meath.
   They were empowered to sell any property to settle Thomas’ debts, and were given £100 each ‘to
   buy them mourning’. Note. Clonard, Co Meath, lies between the villages of Longwood and
   Kinnegad, but Tyrrell’s place is more often recorded in the documents as being in Co Kildare,
   and even Co Dublin is mentioned on a couple of occasions; we are left guessing. James Tyrrell died in
   1767 (probate). Edward Sandys, the son of the executor Patrick, was a linen draper so possibly
Patrick the merchant was also a linen draper.

3. Elizabeth Hyland his sister was left an annuity of £6. Note. This implies that her husband, James Hyland, is dead and, indeed, this is quite likely. Using my estimated birth date Elizabeth would be about 72 at this date.

4. After the above had been paid and his debts had been settled, Thomas estate went to his brother Edward, then to Edward’s son John, then to John’s eldest son and Thomas appears to have entailed the land for John and his children. Finally, failing these, the estate would go to his nephew Thomas, the son of his brother Stephen the elder of Gallow. Note. In fact Edward’s son John never came into the estate and is not mentioned again, so we must assume that John died at some date between 20th August 1738, the date of the will, and January 1740, the date Thomas died. I have dated John’s death as c1739. One ought to assume that the estate therefore went to Edward; unfortunately there is doubt about this. Edward certainly retained the Westmeath properties which he had leased from Thomas the elder since about 1720, but Thomas the younger, the son of Stephen, seems to have come into the Meath properties, some of which had been assigned to him in 1738 (see 5.4.5). However Edward does not seem to come into the picture about any of the Meath lands; indeed there is a dispute about the Meath lands which were not assigned to Thomas the younger, and Thomas of Clounstown, son of Oliver, claimed them; but that story follows later. The fact is that Edward appears to have retained only the Westmeath land when, according to my interpretation of the will, he should have inherited all Thomas’ lands; perhaps he was only a trustee for his son John who was still a minor, and anyway since he was old and, after John’s death, without a male heir he was content and did not pursue the matter.

5. £1,000 “due by my nephew Thomas Bomford of Clownstown” to be paid to him. Note. No doubt this debt was written off and nephew Thomas had to repay nothing. It is to his credit that, with all his money problems, Thomas the elder did not force the £1,000 from his nephew.

6. After all debts have been paid, up to £60 should be given to each daughter of his brothers Stephen and Edward on their marriage. Note. Edward had three daughters and Stephen had four who were alive at this date and who were eventually to marry. Oliver’s daughters were already married. We know nothing about Laurence’s three daughters, but the fact that they were not included implies that they were either married or had died. There is no further mention of this bequest, and there may have been so little cash left in the kitty that the executors did not “see good” to payout £240.

7. The will was disputed by Thomas of Clounstown and the story continues in paragraph 6.7

5.7.1 Probate of Will of Thomas Bomford 3rd February 1740

There are two independent reports on this will

1. Sir Arthur Vicars’ Index to Prerogative Wills states
   “Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown, Gent  20th Augt 1738 (Date of Will)
   3 Feby 1740 (Probate Date)
   Sister  Elizabeth Hyland
   Brother  Edward B and his son John
   Nephew  Thomas, son of Stephen B”
   Vicars only missed out the names of the two executors, which was his normal policy, but he did miss the name of Thomas of Clounstown.

2. Ainsworth Report
   “Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown, Gent, leaves his residual estate to James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys in trust for his brother Edward Bomford, with remainder to his son John.
   James Tyrrell and Patrick Sandys appointed executors.
   Will proved 1740 (Prerogative).”

   The Ainsworth Report is to be found in the National Library, Dublin, under the heading ‘Bomford’ in the ‘Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilization’ which states: -
   “Ainsworth (J.F.) Report on the Bomford Papers (from 1699), formerly the property of Lt Col G. W. Bomford, now in the National Library of Ireland, relating to Ford, Coates, Bomford, and Maxwell families, and to lands in Dublin City, Limerick, and Co Meath.”

   Reference: Nat. Libr. Rep. on Private Collections No. 150

   Ainsworth visited Oakley Park in March 1948. His report covers all the main documents including those of Oakley Park before it was bought by George Bomford the younger in 1837. These documents are all at Croxda, but the report includes two, which are not; one is this will, which is in the hands of Mrs Joan David (Bomford), the other is the will of George the elder of 1814, the whereabouts of which is unknown. When I asked to see the latter will in the National Library I was told it was not available and this makes me doubt that any of these documents are in fact in the National Library but that they are the ones at Croxda.
Colonel Laurence’s Children (The older generation)

Thomas ‘the elder’ died in 1740, probably in January, aged about 88. His wife Elizabeth (Tew) is also dead, she died probably before 1717. They had no known children. Thomas’ nephew, Thomas the eldest son of Stephen) inherited the property.

Oliver died in 1721 but his wife Elizabeth (Wilson) is probably alive though she died sometime before 1749. They had eight children (see below). Elizabeth married again on 28th June 1723; her second husband was Reverend John Echlin (1680 - 1763) who at this date was Vicar of St Mary’s Drogheda (1708 - 1763). There were no children from Elizabeth’s second marriage although John Echlin had at least one son from his previous marriage; this son was also named John Echlin, born 1713 and called to the Irish Bar in 1739, he died after 1753 but before his father died in 1763.

Laurence died in 1721 but his wife Susanna (Wilson) is alive and living with her children (below) possibly at Dunsink or maybe in Dublin. Susanna does not die until sometime after 1745 and probably about the same time as her sister Elizabeth Echlin (Wilson, Bomford).

Edward now in his 70’s is living at Hightown, Co Westmeath, with his wife Margaret (Charleton) and their three daughters; their son has just died (below).

Stephen now aged around 77 is alive but blind. He is living at Gallown with his wife Anne (Smith) and their young children (below).

Elizabeth now aged about 74 is alive, but her husband James Hyland may be dead. He either died before 1738 or before 1747. They had no known children and it is not known where they were living. There have only been the odd references to James Hyland and I have not been able to locate his family and we do not know what he did for a living.

Margaret and her husband Simon Berwick are both probably dead. We know about three of their boys who may still be based at Rathflisk even though it is no longer a Bomford property. They drop out of the picture and are not mentioned again in the documents.

i. William Berwick now aged about 40
ii. Richard Berwick
iii. Thomas Berwick

Grandchildren of Colonel Laurence (The younger generation)

There are four lots of grandchildren; those of Oliver of Cuskenstown, Laurence of Killeglan, Edward of Hightown and Stephen of Gallown. What is known about the two daughter’s children is written above

1. Oliver’s Children

Thomas now aged 37 and married in 1729 to Jane (Shinton). They have given up Cuskenstown House and are now living at Clounstown and will have nine children. Their second son Thomas was born in 1739 so William, Anne, Frances and maybe Elizabeth should have been born by now.

Elinor is now about 35 and sometime before 1738 she married a Mr Cathcart. Nothing more is known about this family and they are not mentioned again.

Andrew is about 33 and may be dead. Certainly he died before 1743. As far as is known he did not marry.

Arthur is still a bachelor aged about 32 and farming at Rathfeigh. In September 1740 or 1742 he married Mary Tarleton.

Laurence is about 30. In about 1733 he married Anne (Echlin) who was a niece of the Rev John Echlin, his mother’s second husband. They are both alive and probably living at Rathfeigh with Arthur. It is thought that Arthur, being older than Laurence: probably owned Rathfeigh. Laurence and Anne had no known children.

Margaret aged about 27 and married in 1735 to John Echlin who was from another branch of the Echlin family. Nothing is known about this family and they are not mentioned again.

Oliver now about 25 and unmarried
John Is not mentioned in the Upton Papers so he may not be the youngest, little is known about him.

It can be seen that, with so little information about these brothers, the potential for placing some of the “unplaced Bomfords” is high; with just a few more clues a whole family of “unplaced Bomfords” might be built around any of them. This also applies to the children of Laurence of Killegan.

2. Laurence’s children

Laurence is probably around 30 and farming at Dunsink. He does not marry until May 1744.

Isabella
Ellinor
Mary
Wilson

nothing is known about these three girls who, if they are alive, would be in their twenties. They were not included in their uncle Thomas will 1738 and so they were probably either married or dead. Now aged about 22 and unmarried. Eventually he will become a brewer and distiller so he is probably an apprentice in Dublin at this time.

3. Edward’s children

John has just died. He died between August 1738 and February 1740, c1739, and he did not marry.

Catherine
Lucy
Ann

These three will all be married soon, but are now with their parents at Hightown.

4. Stephen’s children

Stephen’s nine children are, as usual, recorded with the boys first. Using the clues given in the documents we can attempt to place them in birth order; this order is by no means definite but we do know the birth date of John, and there is evidence of the dates of Thomas, David, Isaac and Esther and, knowing the sequence we can slot the other four into position. However the birth dates of the first five children may be on the late side since they are calculated from the estimated date of their parent’s marriage of about 1715 which is the latest possibly date.

Thomas
born about 1716 and now aged about 23. He has just inherited Rahinstown from his uncle and around March this year he will marry Mary (Foster). The marriage is a ‘good’ one, he has land and a house, but he will die in January 1741. His death was unexpected and must have been a sad blow to his parents. There were no children.

Stephen
born about 1718 so aged about 22. On his brother’s death he becomes the heir apparent and is known in the documents as Stephen the younger. He will marry in 5 years.

Elizabeth
An unrecorded daughter, Elizabeth, was found on the internet. She was born c1720 at Rodanstown which was the church of those living at Gallow. She was about the same age as Ann and will marry in a year.

Ann
born about 1720, aged about 20. She will marry in 10 years.

Dorcas
born about 1722, aged about 18. She will marry in 5 years.

Mary
born about 1724, aged about 16. She will marry in 10 years.

John
was born in 1727, so aged 13 and still at school. He will become the only Bomford clergyman of this century.

David
born in 1730, so aged 10.

Isaac
was born about 1730, so also aged 10. Apart from these birth dates there are other occurrences, which lead to a strong suspicion that Isaac and David were twins.

Esther
was born in 1732, so aged 8.

5.9 The Bomford Estates 1740

Although Thomas the elder of Rahinstown died in 1740 there was a delay in sorting out his affairs. Much of his land went to his nephew, Thomas the eldest son of Stephen, but he died in 1741. This summary of the division of the land has been made out as though Thomas the elder is still alive as this is the simplest way of showing continuity. The final settlement of his land appears in the next summary of 1762 (11.4.1) by which time all was sorted out. In all these land summaries the acreage has been converted to statute acres.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property of 1722</th>
<th>Recent Leases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thomas of Rahinstown (The elder)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahinstown</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baconstown</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oldtown (Meath)</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathfisk</td>
<td>Lease ended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castletown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkstown</td>
<td>365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coolemonan</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossenstown</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Ardrums</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrans (To Stephen)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balrowan</td>
<td>747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloncullen</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gnewbane</td>
<td>527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of Thomas</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,637</strong> acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4,166 (‘x’ Amended by Survey)

| **Edward of Hightown** |               |
| Hightown or Balloughter | 1011 Recent Leases - Nil |
| Enniscoffey            | 908 Total of Edward | **2,967** acres |
| Oldtown (W-M)          |               |
| x Rattin               | 460           |
| x Clonfad              | 567           |
| Little Ardrums         | 21            |
| **Total of Edward**    | **2,967** acres |

| **Stephen of Gallow** |               |
| Gallow                | 418 Arodstown |
| Tyrellstown           | 347 Dirpatrick |
| Gurteen               | 572 Culmullen |
| Gainstown             | 128 Woodtown |
| Ferrans               | 429 Weathers town |
| **Total of Stephen**  | **2,723** acres |

| **Thomas of Cushenstown** |               |
| Clounstown              | 543 Smithstown |
| Primatstown             | Thomastown     |
| Irihtown                | 559 Reesk      |
| Kilmoon                 | 162 Kilbrew    |
| Brick                   | 125 Crossmacoole |
| Bodman                  | 112 Cullenhue  |
| Pranstown               | 373 Farragh    |
| Portlester              | 162 Total      |
| Cushenstown            | 776 Total      |
| **Total**               | **2,812** Total of Thomas | **4,276** acres |

| **Arthur of Rathfeigh** |               |
| Rathfeigh              | 1,280 acres   |

| **Laurence of Killeglan (the younger)** |               |
| Killeglan               | 712 Dunsink   |
| **Townlands of 1722**   | 13,831 New leases | **4,658** acres |
| **plus additions etc.** |               |
| **Making a grand total of** | **18,489** Statute acres |
Thomas’ Mortgage Problems

Chapter VI

6.1

This chapter concerns the winding up of the affairs of Thomas the elder, and of the death of Thomas the younger, Stephen’s son. It will be remembered that Thomas the elder died about January 1740 and that under the terms of his will his two executors, Patrick Sandys and James Tyrrells were to settle his debts by disposing of any land they thought fit and then to hand over the remainder to his brother Edward, or failing him to his nephew Thomas the younger, son of Stephen (5.7 para 4). In fact the property went to Thomas the younger.

It is thought that the following lands were sold by the executors to settle Thomas’ debts: -

- Parkstown 365 acres
- Cooleronan 274
- Cloncullen 189
- Ballrowen 747
- Gnewbane 527
- Crossanstown 306

This is just over 2,400 statute acres and represents a considerable amount of money for those days. The sale does not cover the £2,000 mortgage to Jacob Pechell (6.10) but should be sufficient to cover all the other mortgages, many of which are unknown to us.

6.2 Sale of Corn etc

21st February 1740

The executors of the will of Thomas Bomford of Oldtown, deceased, Patrick Sandys of Coookestown, Co Dublin, Gent, and James Tyrrell of Clonard, Co Meath, agree that for £75 Thomas Bomford (the younger) of Rahinstown can have all the corn, straw etc in the haggards and granaries of Rahinstown, Baconstown and Oldtown, Co Meath.

Oldtown and Ferrans are re-leased to those concerned for £400 (no other details given).

Witnessed Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath.           (Book 102 Page 302 No 70846)

1. Thomas the younger had moved to Rahinstown House before or during 1739. Thomas the elder had moved to Oldtown and may have died there though it is more likely that he died in Dublin; there is no sign of a house on Oldtown in the early maps, but in 1640 Christopher Hussey was living there as was Thomas the elder in 1691 so Thomas may have moved back into his old house
2. The re-lease for £400 must apply to the tenant farmers. Ferrans was leased for £95.3.0 to Stephen of Gallow in 1724, and Oldtown belonged to Thomas the elder.

6.3 Marriage - Thomas the younger and Mary Foster

30th March 1740

This deed is in three parts, two leases and a marriage settlement.

The first lease concerns
1. Stephen Bomford of Gallow, Thomas Bomford the younger, his eldest son and heir apparent, and Thomas Bomford the elder of Oldtowne
2. Roger Jones of Dollinstowne and David Tew of the City of Dublin, Alderman

The second lease concerns
1. Stephen and the two Thomases (as above)
2. Antony Foster of the City of Dublin, and Thomas Bolton also of Dublin (These two were brothers-in-law).

The marriage settlement concerns
1. Stephen Bomford, Thomas Bomford the elder and Thomas Bomford the younger
2. Roger Jones and David Tew (The trustees)
3. John Foster of Dunleer, Co Louth, and Mary Foster (the bride to be) daughter of John Foster and Antony Foster and Thomas Bolton

In consideration of a marriage between Thomas Bomford the younger and Mary Foster, the following land is re-leased to Roger Jones and David Tew in trust.

Oldtowne, Little Ardrums and Ferrans, now in the occupancy of Thomas Bomford the elder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plantation Acres</th>
<th>Statute Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dirpatrick</td>
<td>475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arradstown</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baconstown</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rahinstown</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(770 statute)
(125 statute)
(821 statute)
(642 statute)

(Book 96 Page 431 No 68770)
1. The terms of the marriage settlement are not recorded but one can assume that the land was handed over to the trustees so that money will be later available for Mary Foster after Thomas’ death, and for the children.

The leases of this deed must have been arranged before March since Thomas the elder died in January; so too must the marriage settlement. This makes me believe that the date given, 30th March 1740, was the actual date of the marriage ceremony.

No marriage licence has been traced and Burke records that Thomas died unmarried. However the marriage did take place because in 1744 a deed refers to the lands being in the hands of the trustees, Roger Jones and David Tew.

2. The Foster family are shown in the family tree which will be found under 8.2; however at the time of the marriage –

John Foster, Mary’s father, was Member of Parliament for Dunleer until 1737 but he has now retired and is living at Collon House just outside the village of Collon, Co Louth, where he was born. Probably he has just finished building a new house about a mile from Collon on Mount Oriel with a fine all round view from the Mountains of Mourne away to the north to the Wicklow Mountains to the south. At this stage the house was a sort of temple or garden pavilion, and it is even possible that the wedding took place there. This pavilion was added to in the 1750’s and became the main house, being called Oriel Temple. John’s grandson became the first Lord Oriel. The name Oriel derives from the pre-Norman O’Carroll Kingdom of Uriel, which had its capital seat at Louth village six miles southwest of Dundalk. In 1939 the Cistercian Order settled in the Foster home and re-named it the Cistercian Abbey of New Mellifont.

Antony Foster was Mary’s brother. At this date he was the Member of Parliament for Dunleer and the Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer of Ireland. He was married in 1736 and had three children

a. John who became the last Speaker in the Irish House of Commons and became Lord Oriel and the ancestor of Viscount Massereene,

b. William who became Bishop of Cork, Kilmore and Clogher, and

c. Margaret who was to marry Henry Maxwell, the Bishop of Meath. The Maxwell two sons were to become the 5th and 6th Lord Farnham.

Thomas Bolton was married to Mary Foster’s sister, Alice. He was to die later on in that same year, 1740.

Roger Jones of Dollanstown is the son and heir of Richard Jones of Dollanstown who leased Gallow to the Bomfords in 1709 (2.5.1).

David Tew, Alderman of Dublin, was the brother of Elizabeth Tew who married Thomas the elder in 1691. David’s wife Elizabeth was the sister of Anne (Smith) who married Stephen the elder of Gallow (9.3.7).

3. Mary Foster is not shown in Burke’s Peerage, but clearly she ought to be. She is not mentioned again in these documents, but there is a Prerogative Will entry which reads “1779 Mary Bomford Dublin Widow Dies Intestate”.

There are two possible Marys who could fit this entry, Mary (Foster) and Mary (Tarlton) who married Arthur Bomford of Rathfeigh about 1740 and was a widow by 1767. It is not possible to say which Mary made a will in 1779 as I have found no other reference, not even in Betham’s notebooks.

I would like to think that Mary went off to live with her sister, Alice Bolton, when they were both widows, perhaps in Dublin.

4. Collon House, the Foster place, became famous for its great variety of trees and shrubs. The famous collection was started by Antony and his eldest son became most enthusiastic about planting, amongst other species he introduced the copper beech to Ireland and was the mainspring in starting the Botanical Gardens at Glasnevin, Dublin. Arthur Young visited the Fosters in 1776 and some of his comments are included in paragraph 11.5

6.4 Death of Thomas the younger

January 1741

Extract from the Prerogative Grants

“Bomford Thomas Gallow Co Meath Gent Intestate 1741”

Although the prerogative grant was dated 1741 it is likely that Thomas actually died in December 1740 or at the latest during the first few days of January 1741. He must have died before 16th January 1741 since on that day his father paid off some of his inherited debts (5.4.4). My preference is December 1740 but Burke states 1741 and I will not change that but will settle for January 1741.

Not much is known about Thomas the younger, probably because he died in his early 20’s, however the family had great plans for him. His father had arranged a marriage, which, if it was not into the peerage, was very well connected. It must have been a great shock to the family when he died less than a year after his marriage, and it must have been an unexpected death, as he did not make a will.
If he had made a will the future might have gone differently, but he died intestate. Legally his property would go to his next of kin, who in his case was his father, Stephen of Gallow. It was not until much later that wives were normally allowed as a matter of course to inherit land. However Thomas of Clounstown, the eldest son of Oliver Bomford, claimed that as he was ‘Heir at Law’ to Thomas the elder, he should have Thomas the elder’s property. Indeed Thomas of Clounstown went so far as to actually lease some of Thomas the elder’s land. It is with this background in mind that the next five documents should be read.

6.5  
**Lease - Oldtown, Ardrums and Ferrans** 10th August 1744

Between Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath, and Terence Franklin, Cornet, Royal Irish Regiment of Dragoons commanded by the Right Honourable Richard Lord Viscount Molesworth

Reciting 1. In 1703 Isaac Holroide leased to Thomas Bomford, late of Rahinstown, the town and lands of Oldtown, Ferrans and Little Ardrums containing 447 acres plantation measure (724 statute) fee farm for ever for a rent of £165 per annum and 10 guinea pieces of gold every 21 years. (2.1)

Reciting 2. In 1724 Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown leased to Steven Bomford the land of Fennars, alias Ferrans, containing 265 plantation acres (429 statute) for £95.3.0 plus 10 Guineas every 21 years. (4.2)

Reciting 3. Thomas Bomford the elder has died and Thomas Bomford of Clounstown is his heir at law. Now Thomas Bomford of Clounstown leases Oldtown, Little Ardrums and Ferrans to Terence Franklin at the same rent.

(Book 118 Page 9 No 79546)

1. Knowing that Oldtown was 295 statute acres from a previous lease, and knowing that Ferrans was 429 acres from this lease, Little Ardrums must be 41 statute acres. Edward Bomford also had 21 acres of Little Ardrums and so in the land summary Little Ardrums has been entered as 62 statute acres.

2. Lord Richard Molesworth (3rd Viscount, died 1758) was ADC to the Duke of Marlborough and saved his life at the Battle of Ramillies in 1706. He became a Field Marshall and Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Ireland

3. Terence Franklin came from Dunany, Co Kildare, and died in 1759 (Vicar’s Wills).

A cornet was a cavalry officer who usually carried the standard. In 1871 this rank was changed to Sub-Lieutenant and later to Second Lieutenant

6.6  
**Turf from Oldtown** 10th August 1744

Cornet Terence Franklin grants to Patrick Sandys for ever permission to ‘cutt, dry and carry Turff’ from the bog of Oldtown in the Barony of Deece, sufficient for one family on the lands of Boycetown, Co Kildare. (Book: 116 Page 68 No 79543)

1. Patrick Sandys was given Boycetown, and I am assuming neighbouring Whitestown as well, in the will of Thomas the elder. These lands are immediately south of Oldtown just across the Rye Water stream.

2. The ‘Greatt Bogge’ of 1654 stretched across the south of Oldtown, the south of Ardrums and into Baconstown and Rathroane. Altogether it amounted to about 150 acres and became a problem to the engineers who built the Royal Canal through it in the 1790’s.

3. The practice of leasing a stretch of bog for fuel became quite common. For instance Emlagh Bog north of Kells was leased out in strips to different householders and Oakley Park had a strip or two of Emlagh until around 1900. The heather was first removed and long narrow sods were dug, layer by layer, with a special spade; these sods were thrown to the uncut surface to dry and left for a week or so, then they were upended and leant against each other to dry further. Finally, since carts or heavy vehicles would sink in the soft soil, they were carried in wickerwork baskets, often on the back of a donkey, to the roadside and stacked for carting home. Turf burns with a hot flame but is a slow burner, so slow that a few sods thrown on the fire at bedtime will remain burning all night; the result was that a poor person’s ‘cabin’ may have been empty of furniture but it was always warm.

6.7  
**Mediation over Disputed Will of Thomas the Elder** 10th August 1744

Between 1. Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath
2. Patrick Sandys of Dublin, Merchant and James Tyrrell of Clonard, Co Dublin, Both executors of the will of Thomas Bomford the elder of Rahinstown
3. Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath

Reciting 1. The will of Thomas Bomford the elder dated 20th August 1738 (5.7) bequeathed to Patrick Sandys the land of Boycetown, and gave the power to the executors to sell, lease or mortgage what other estates they wished to payoff Thomas’ legal debts. They were to
hold all in trust for Edward Bomford with remainder to his son John, and with further
remainder to Thomas Bomford, son of Stephen, and his heirs.

2. The lease of 30th March 1740 in which Stephen Bomford, Thomas Bomford the elder
and Thomas Bomford the younger leased in trust to Roger Jones and David Tew the
town and lands of Oldtown, Little Ardrums, and that part of Ferrans occupied by
Stephen Bomford at a rent of £95.3.0 (This is the Marriage Settlement of Thomas the
younger and Mary Foster, 6.3.).

3. Thomas Bomford the elder made another will on 17th June 1740 in which, after
bequeathing several legacies, he left everything to Patrick Sandys and Richard Connell.
However he cancelled this later will and so endorsed the first will as being the true one

4. Thomas the elder died in January 1740. Thomas, son of Stephen, survived him and
occupied the lands of Oldtown, Little Ardrums and part of Ferrans.

5. Thomas, son of Stephen, died without issue (in January 1741).

6. Thomas Bomford of Clownstown, being heir at law of Thomas the elder, took
possession of the lands of Thomas without consideration to the will of 1738. This
resulted in “several suites and differences” between Thomas Bomford of Clownstown,
Patrick Sandys, James Tyrrell, Edward Bomford and others concerning the estate.

Now, “in order to make a Final End of such Suites and all Matters in Dispute” two mediators,
Francis Blake and William Knox, were brought in. They decided, with the agreement of all, that the will
of 1738 should stand and that in accordance with its terms the two executors should pay off Thomas’
debs and the remainder should go as stated in the will.

To this end Thomas Bomford of Clownstown discharged Edward Bomford and the two executors
from any claims, as they did to Thomas of Clownstown
Signed: Thomas Bomford (of Clownstown)  Patrick Sandys. James Tyrrell
and Edward Bomford

(Book 116 Page 69 No 79544)

1. This dispute over the will and the actual seizure of the land by Thomas of Clounstown must have
cased an enormous family rift, so much so that it is conceivably the reason why Oliver and his
branch of the family were omitted from Burke’s Landed Gentry; the feud of 1744 had not been
forgotten a hundred or so years later.
The only grounds for Thomas of Clounstown to dispute the will is that he was the eldest son of
Oliver and so the ‘senior’ Bomford of that younger generation alive at the time and so, as it says in
the deed, he was ‘heir at law’. The land under dispute was Oldtown, Little Ardrums and Ferrans; the
same land that Thomas of Clounstown leased to Terence Franklin (6.5). All the rest of Thomas the
elder’s land had gone without dispute to either his brother Edward of Hightown (the Westmeath
lands), or to Stephen of Gallow (the land of Rahinstown and Baconstown which was previously
assigned to Stephen’s son Thomas).

2. Probate of Thomas the elder’s will was granted on 3rd February 1740 so he must have died in
January at the latest. He could not have made another will on ‘17th June 1740’, this must be a clerical
error for, perhaps, 17th June 1739.

6.8  Lease - Clonfad Rattin and Balloughter. 6th February 1746

Between 1. Patrick Sandys and James Tyrrell, executors and trustees of Thomas Bomford, late of
Rahinstown
2. Mark White, Attorney at Law in the City of Dublin
3. Edward Bomford of Hightown
4. Thomas Bomford of Clownstown, Gentleman and nephew and heir at law of Thomas
Bomford, late of Rahinstown

The lands of Clonfad, Rattin and Balloughter, otherwise Hightown, are leased to Mark White.

(Book 126 Page 91 No 85795)

There is another document with the same date and content which confirms the lease of Hightown
to Mark White.

(Book 128 Page 20 No 85794)

These three places were all mortgaged by Thomas the elder to Jacob Pechell, Clonfad and Rattin
for £2,000 and Balloughter for £1,000. It is not clear to what extent the mortgage was concerned with this
lease to Mark White (or Whyte) but the executors are still involved. Neither is it clear to what extent
Edward of Hightown came into the Westmeath lands.

Some of the deeds indicate that he owns the lands but others that he only leases them. With
regard to Balloughter, or Hightown, Edward and his family continues to live at Hightown House and
presumably farms the place but in four years time a deed (10.2.1) states that he leased it from Mark
White.
We must therefore assume that the land was never his, that he leased the Westmeath lands. As said before perhaps Edward was only a trustee for his son John in Thomas the elder’s will, and when John died he got nothing but continued to lease the land.

6.9 Termination of Boycetown 16th May 1746

Between Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath, and Patrick Sandys of Dublin

Whereas Henry White leased to Thomas Bomford the elder the land of Boycetown (and Whitestown) containing 300 plantation acres (485 statute) in Co Kildare for three lives (5.1),

Now Thomas Bomford of Clounstown as heir at law confirms that the land belongs to Patrick Sandys. (Book 161 Page 485 No 109625)

This deed confirms the bequest in the will of Thomas the elder. These Whites (or Whytes) came from Pitchfordstown outside Kilcock; there is no reason to connect them with the attorney of Dublin of the previous deed, Mark White.

6.10 £2,000 Mortgage of Jacob Pechell 1750 - 1765

The rest of this chapter is devoted to the history of the £2,000 mortgage by Thomas the elder to Jacob Pechell (5.4.2). The original sum borrowed was £2,000 but by 1733 Thomas had defaulted in repayment, perhaps more than once, and the penal sum of £5,200 became the amount to be paid back. £4000 was paid on behalf of Thomas by his nephew Thomas in 1738 (5.4.4) and the younger Thomas was assigned Rahinstown and Baconstown; this left £1,200 for Thomas the elder to pay but he defaulted again and the sum to be repaid at this date (1750) now amounted to £2,000.

During the next 15 years the sum had still not been repaid and so rose again to £4,000. By this time Thomas the elder was dead and it is not possible to state who should have paid this sum since the issue was clouded initially by the dispute over the will and then by yet another dispute, that of the ownership of Oldtown and Enniscoffey in Westmeath.

Only bits of the story of the mortgage are included in the deeds available but it would appear that the original loan had risen over the years to around 400%; a high price to have to pay for a loan of £2,000.

£2,000 Mortgage Passed to Judith Arabin (Daniel) 22nd March 1750

Between 1. Samuel Pechell of London, eldest son and heir of Jacob Pechell of Dublin deceased
2. Hon. Major-General Henry de Grangues of Dublin (died 1754), executor of the will of Colonel Samuel Daniel
3. John Arabin the younger, eldest son of Lieut-Colonel John Arabin and Judith Arabin, otherwise Daniel, his wife
4. Lieut-Colonel John Arabin

Reciting that Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown by his mortgage dated 10th May 1733 for £2,000 made over to Jacob Pechell the lands of
Clonfad and Rattin, 1005 plantation acres,
Baconstown, 507 plantation acres,
Rahinstown, 396 plantation acres, and
Inniscoffy and Oldtown (in Westmeath)

Now this mortgage is passed to Judith Daniel, wife of John Arabin the younger, with the consent of Major-General Henry de Grangues, as part of her marriage settlement.

Signed John Arabin
Witnessed Henry Peterkin, Quartermaster of the Regiment of Horse commanded by Lord George Sackville, and
Paul Pechell, Captain in the Regiment of Foot commanded by General Fleming, and brother to Samuel Pechell, and Thomas Mulock, Public Notary

(Book 144 Page 466 No 88325)

6.10.1 £2,000 Mortgage Passed to Elizabeth Chevenix 13th October 1756

Between 1. John Arabin, then late of Dublin, now of Gibraltar, Colonel of a Regiment of Foot
Richard Chevenix, Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and John Arabin the younger of Dublin, Captain in His Majesty’s Regiment of Dragoons commanded by Major-General Dejeau, and, Daniel Chevenix Captain in the same Regiment.

Reciting 1. The lease of 22nd February 1708 (2.3) by Francis Heaton to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown of the land of Clonfad 721 plantation acres (1168 statute) at a rent of £135.
2. The lease of 22nd November 1710 (2.6) to Thomas Bomford for ever by Francis Heaton of the land of Rattin 284 plantation acres (460 statute) at a rent of £80.
3. Sir Arthur Langford on 10th December 1691 leased to Thomas Bomford the lands of Baconstown 507 plantation acres (821 statute) and 396 plantation acres (642 statute) part of Rahinstown at £120 rent for the first four years, the next 3 years at £140 and thereafter £169 for three lives renewable for ever (1.9.1).

4. On 20th July 1692 Gerald Fitzgerald of Rathrone, Co Meath, leased to Thomas Bomford the town and lands of Enniscoffy and Oldtown in the Barony of Fartullagh for 999 years (1.9.2).

5. Mortgage by Jacob Pechell to Thomas Bomford on the lands of Clonfad and Rattin, Baconstown and Rahinstown on 10th May 1733 for £2,000 (5.4.2).

6. This £2,000 mortgage came to be vested in John Arabin the elder by a settlement of 12th October 1756 (the day before this deed) between
   a. Philip Chevenix of Dublin, Lieut-Colonel of His Majesty’s Regiment of Horse commanded by Load George Sackville and Daniel Chevenix, his only son and heir
   b. John Arabin the elder and Elizabeth Arabin, spinster his eldest daughter
   c. Richard (Chevenix), Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and John Arabin the younger

   Now a marriage is intended between Daniel Chevenix and Elizabeth Arabin and this mortgage was settled by John Arabin on his daughter as a marriage portion. The executors being Richard, the Bishop, and John Arabin the younger, in trust. (Book 190 Page 539 No 128116)

6.10.2 Mortgage Passed to Daniel Chevenix. 21st October 1761

Between 1. Richard, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, surviving trustee of the marriage settlement of Daniel Chevenix and Elizabeth Chevenix, otherwise Arabin, his wife
   2. Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown (the younger)
   3. Daniel Chevenix

Reciting 1. May 11 1733, Thomas Bomford, Edward Bomford and Thomas Bomford the younger took a bond on Jacob Pechell, since dead, for the penal sum of £4,000 for £2,000 with interest.
   2. Trinity Term 1733, as a result of a judgement in the Court of Common Pleas, Thomas Bomford was bound to pay the penal sum of £4,000 with costs
   3. The mortgage became vested in John Arabin of the City of Dublin
   4. 13th October 1756 Captain John Arabin, since deceased, made the bond over to Richard, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, in trust.

This indenture is a memorial of the above and confirms that the bond is in the hands of Daniel Chevenix with the consent of Stephen Bomford

Signed R Waterford and Lismore (Bishop Richard Chevenix)

1. This indenture was not registered in the Registry of Deeds and it is the only deed, which mentions the penal figure.
2. The Westmeath Poll Book of 1761 records “Bomford, Stephen of Clonfad” So in spite of the mortgage Stephen held the land and was granted his vote in Westmeath. It is interesting that he is recorded as ‘of Clonfad’ rather than of the other Westmeath properties.

6.10.3 Mortgage Passed to Daniel Chevenix. 20th October 1762

Between 1. The Reverend Father in God, Richard, Lord Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, the surviving trustee of the marriage settlement of Daniel Chevenix of Dublin with Elizabeth Chevenix, otherwise Arabin, his wife.
   2. Daniel Chevenix, Lieut Colonel of the Royal Irish Regiment of Artillery
   3. Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown

Reciting 1. The leases are not repeated here as they are as in the deed of 13th October 1756, covering the lands of Clonfad and Rattin, Baconstown and Rahinstown, Enniscoffey and Oldtown and the mortgage in the 10th May 1733 deed.
   2. The mortgage came to Captain John Arabin who died, it was passed on to the Bishop and John Arabin the younger in trust, and they passed it on to Daniel Chevenix on 12th October 1756 as part of his marriage settlement with Elizabeth his wife.
   3. The deed of 12th October 1756 in which Colonel John Arabin agrees to pay £2,000 on the marriage of Elizabeth and Daniel Chevenix, and also agrees to pay another £2,000 on the marriage of his son Daniel. The £4,000 is to be held in trust by Bishop Richard Chevenix and is to be used to buy Jacob Pechell’s mortgage on the above lands.
Now the Bishop with the agreement of Stephen Bomford makes over the lands of Enniscoffy and Oldtown in Co Westmeath to Daniel Chevenix and his wife.

This is a summary of two consecutive deeds of the same date (Book 220 Page 299 No 144894)
(Book 217 Page 403 No 144895)

6.10.4 Mortgaged Lands Leased to Robert Sibthorpe. 1st October 1764

Daniel Chevenix of Dublin, with the consent of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, leases to Robert Sibthorpe of Dublin (Stephen’s brother-in-law, a barrister) for one year the lands of Clonfad and Rattin, Bacon’s Town and part of Rahinstown, and Enniscoffy and Oldtown.

The mortgage is referred to. (Book 228 Page 595 No 153756)

The list of deeds of 1772 (below) includes one for

“2nd October 1764 Deed of Assignment and mortgage from Daniel Chevenix (the next day) to Stephen Bomford the younger and Robert Sibthorpe.”

6.10.5 Mortgaged Lands made over to Stephen Bomford. 2nd November 1765

Robert Sibthorpe of Dublin made over to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown the lands of Clonfad and Rattin, Baconstown and Rahinstown, and Enniscoffy and Oldtown

(Book 269 Page 599 No 182001)

6.10.6 List of deeds left in the care of Mr Sibthorpe on 15th/16th May 1772 15th May 1772

Relating to Mr Thomas (Senior) Bomford’s mortgages.

1. 10th December 1691 Lease of Rahinstown and Barronstown from Sir Arthur Langford (1.9.1)
2. 11th December 1691 Lease of Barronstown and part of Rahinstown from Sir Arthur Langford (1.9.2)
3. 20th July 1692 Lease of Innisciffey and Oldtown from Gerald Fitzgerald of Rathrow (1.9.2)
4. 23rd February 1708 Lease of Clonfad, adjacent to Hightown, from Francis Heaton of Mount Heaton (2.3)
5. 23rd November 1710 Fee farm and lease for one year of Rattin from Francis Heaton (2.6)
6. 9th May 1733 Mr Francis North’s reconveyance. (There is no record of this, but on 26th July 1731 Thomas leased much land including the above, to Francis North; no doubt this reconveyance is the return of those lands).
7. 11th May 1733 Deed of Bargain, Sale and Release to Jacob Pechell
8. 11th May 1733 Bond to Jacob Pechell for £2,000 from Thomas the elder, Edward and Thomas Bomford the younger (5.4.2).
9. 29th August 1749 Attested copy of Memorial on Francis North’s reconveyance
10. 12th August 1749 Declaration of Trust from (Illegible) Pechell
11. 27th August 1750 Letter of Attorney from Sam Pechell to Major-General DeGranges
12. (Undated) Bundle of negative certificates and bonds
13. 23rd March 1750 Deeds of Bargain, Sale and Release from Samuel Pechell to John Arabin (This is missing but it must be similar to the deed of the next day, 6.10).
14. 13th October 1756 Deed of Assignment from John Arabin to Richard Chevenix, Bishop of Waterford, and to John Arabin junior in trust. (6.10.1)
15. 21st October 1762 Deed of Conveyance from Richard Chevenix, surviving trustee, of Stephen Bomford to Daniel Chevenix. (This is also missing, but it must be similar to the deed of the previous day, 6.10.3).

- - - - The following was added in a different hand - - - -
16. 2nd October 1764 Deed of Assignment and Mortgage from Daniel Chevenix: to Stephen Bomford the younger and Robert Sibthorpe (6.10.4)
17. 3rd November 1770 (This has nothing to do with the mortgage). Lease from Lord Boyne to Stephen Bomford of part of Dunfierth, Mucklin and Mulgeeth in the Barony of Carberry, Co Kildare, renewable forever, at a rent of £404 yearly. (11.2.3)

6.10.7 Summary of Thomas the Elder’s £2,000 Mortgage.

1. £2,000 mortgage with £4,000 penal sum originated some time before 10th May 1733 with Jacob Pechell of Dublin. It passed to his eldest son, Samuel, on his death.
2. March 1750. Mortgage now part of the marriage settlement of Judith Daniel and John Arabin the younger. Major Gen Sir Henry de Grangues was executor.

3. October 1756 Mortgage now part of the marriage settlement of Elizabeth Arabin and Daniel Chevenix. Colonel John Arabin paid £2,000 and Colonel Philip Chevenix paid another £2,000. Thus the penal figure was paid. Trustees of the settlement were Capt John Arabin and Richard Chevenix, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

4. October 1764 The reason is not clear but the land is handed over to Robert Sibthorpe who is the brother-in-law of Stephen the younger. Somehow he and/or Stephen pay off the Chevenix family, and in -

5. November 1765 The lands are made over to Stephen the younger and are free of debts.
7.1 The Children of Oliver and his brother Laurence

These cousins are the children of Oliver and Elizabeth Bomford of Cushenstown, primarily Thomas of Clounstown, and the children of Laurence and Susanna of Killeglan, primarily their son Laurence of Killeglan. Both the fathers died in 1721 leaving their children minors; but the two mothers, Elizabeth and Susanna, who are sisters, are alive. The following, two spider trees will serve to introduce them.

7.1.1 Oliver of Cushenstown

Oliver of Cushenstown  
2nd son of Col. Laurence born  
c1654 married c1702  
died 1721, aged about 67

Elizabeth, niece of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield, Co Westmeath,  
died before 1749. (She married secondly, on 28th June 1723  
(ML), Rev John Echlin, Vicar of St Mary’s Drogheda 1708 - 1763. He died 1763. They had no children.)

Thomas of Clounstown.  
b 1703,1725 BA (TCD) d 1757, m (ML) 7th Sep 1729,  
Jane Shinton who died 1784/5

Elinor  
b c1705 m pre-1738  
Mr Cathcart

Andrew  
b c1707 d pre-1743

Arthur b c1709  
d c1765 m c1742  
Mary Tarleton (See 7.15)

Laurence  
b c1711 d alive 1750 m c1733  
Anne Echlin d pre-1762  
No known children (see 3.1.2)

Margaret  
b c1713, m 3rd April 1735 (ML) John Echlin (see 3.1.3)

Oliver of Rathfeigh  
b c1715, alive 1761

John  
b c1717  
alive 1764

William of Cushenstown  
maries twice, has children.

Thomas of Clounstown  
1739 - c1796, marries, has children.

John  
maries twice, no known children.

Anne  
maries her cousin  
Wilson Bomford, has children

Elizabeth, unmarried.

Frances,  
maries, has children.

Emilia, marries, no known children.

Jane,  
maries, has children.

Christian,  
maries, no known children

Having placed most of this family from the deeds it was pleasing to find, quite by chance, in the Royal Irish Academy a file titled “The Upton Papers”. Number 28/110 concerns the Bomfords of Cushenstown ‘as communicated by Sir A. M. B. Irwin, CSI, June 1916’; Irwin served with the ICS in Punjab and Burma where he became a judge, and then retired to Dublin. It is not known from where Irwin got his information but his papers confirmed much of what I had found and adds even more; I suspect that he researched the records in the Four Courts which during the troubles were destroyed by fire and so are lost for ever.

The entry for Elinor comes from the Upton Papers; I have seen no other evidence of her existence. Similarly it was these papers, which placed the sequence of the children except for John who was omitted.

Speaking generally it is comparatively easy to trace a family which owned land as the deeds were all registered, but once the family leaves the land and settles in a town, as both Oliver’s and Laurence’s grand-children did, they become more difficult to trace. Admittedly there are such reference books as the Dublin Almanacks but they only give the name of a merchant or a householder for that particular year and there is little, if any, continuity. The result is that both these branches of the Bomford family are open ended and continuity is lost around 1800; there are many ‘unplaced’ Bomfords who I feel sure are members of the family but the clues are missing to tie them in definitely.
7.1.2 Laurence of Killeglan

Laurence of Killeglan, 3rd son of Col. Laurence, b c1657, m c1705, d 1721

Susanna, niece of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield, d between 1745 and 1754

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Laurence of Killeglan b 1710, d Aug 1761
m May 1744 (ML) Jane Smith, d 1768/9

Isabella b c1712
No other information

Ellinor b c1714
No other information

Mary b c1716
No other information

Wilson of Dublin Brewer & Distiller
b 1718, d 1790
m Jan 1759 his cousin Anne Bomford (12.2.5)
b post 1732
d 1764 - 1784

Laurence (12.2.4)
William (12.2.4)
Susanna (12.2.4)
Laurence (12.2.8)
Rev Thomas (12.2.9)
Wilson (12.2.10)

The sequence of the children and the names of the three girls come from the Upton Papers.

7.2 Lease - Mill town and Ballymagiddon 28th November 1734

Arthur Reynell of Castle Reynell, alias Blackcastle, Co Westmeath, leases fee farm to Lawrence Bomford of Rathfeigh, Co Meath, at a rent of £200 the town and lands of Milltown and Ballymagiddon in the Barony of Demifore, Co Westmeath, containing 455 plantation acres (737 statute).
Signed Lawrence Bomford
Witnessed James Nugent of Nugentstown, Co Westmeath (Book 76 Page 333 No 54695)

7.2.1 Termination of above Lease 15th July 1736

Laurence Bomford of Rathfeigh hands over to Elizabeth Reynell, widow of Arthur Reynell, the lands of Milltown and Ballymagiddon in the Barony of Demifore containing 452 plantation acres (732 statute) (Book 86 Page 12 No 59046)

1. The problem with these two deeds is that it is not clear which Laurence is the subject. Two of about the same age are available; there is Laurence the 4th son of Oliver, and his cousin the eldest son of Laurence the elder of Killeglan. To my mind the clue is ‘of Rathfeigh’ because Rathfeigh was one of Oliver’s properties, which would have been kept among Oliver’s children rather than the cousins. Therefore Laurence is probably the son of Oliver who has just married Ann Echlin in 1733.

2. These two places are immediately north of the southern tip of Lough Derravaragh and include Whitehall Chapel. They do not reappear after this short time as a Bomford property. Indeed it is possible that the deed is not a lease at all but is a mortgage in which Laurence gave £200 to Arthur Reynell and Arthur paid back the loan in 1736 when the security or the land was handed back

3. Arthur Reynell who died in 1735 and his brother Richard Reynell married daughters of Robert Cooke of Cookesborough. Richard’s two sons married Winter sisters, Jane and Mary Winter, who were aunts to Arbella and George Bomford the elder (24.5)

7.3 Marriage Licence- - Laurence Bomford & Jane Smith 10th May 1744

The date of the marriage is not known but the licence is recorded in three places, (a) the Bonds prerogative, (b) the Registry of Deeds in Book 120, Page 132, Number 82091 which mentions no land but simply states that a marriage licence has been granted on 10th May 1744 to “Lawrence Bomford of Killeglan and Jane Smith of Dublin”, and (c) in Betham’s notebooks which gives more information and reads

“Bomford Lawrence of Ratoath, Co Meath, gent, and Jane Smith of the Parish of St Andrews, Dublin, spinster, 10th May 1744.”

Laurence is of Killeglan in one and of Ratoath in the other; these can both be correct because the Parish of Killeglan was united with the Parish of Ratoath in 1682.

Nothing is known about Jane Smith except that she came from the Parish of St Andrew’s which lies west of Grafton Street and which was soon to be developed with such town houses as Powerscourt House in William Street. In 1744 the Parish was a middle class neighbourhood. One would like to think
of Jane as a relation of Anne (Smith) and Stephen Bomford of Gallow, an uncle of Laurence, but nothing has been found.

7.4  Mortgage - Cushenstown 1734 - 1750

This paragraph concerns what looks like a single mortgage by Thomas of Clounstown to, initially, Jacob Pechell on the lands of Cushenstown and - of Kilmoon, Portlester and Bodman for £1,000.

Mortgage of 9th December 1734

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown mortgages to Jacob Pechell for £1,000 the lands of Cushenstown 418 plantation acres (677 statute), part of Kilmoon 100 plantation acres (162 statute), and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute), all in the Barony of Skreen and Duleek, for the lives of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Arthur Bomford his brother, and Edward North.

(Book 76 Page 349 No 54808)

7.4.1 Mortgage of 29th November 1743

Mark Whyte pays £1,000 to Jacob Pechell, with the consent of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, and so takes over the mortgage of Cushenstown, Killmoon and Bodman.

(Book 110 Page 351 No 77868)

Mortgage of 30th November 1743

A deed about the interest of the re-payment of the £1,000 mortgage by Mark Whyte to Jacob Pechell.

(Book 116 Page 351 No 80820)

7.4.2 Mortgage of 3rd April 1747

Mark Whyte mortgages for £1,283.2.9 to James Hornidge the town and lands of Cushenstown, part of Kilmoon, Portlester and Bodman.

This reads as though the mortgage is that of 1734 and that Mark Whyte is now simply passing it on to James Hornidge. The additional £283.2.9 would be the interest.

7.4.3 Mortgage of 7th April 1747

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown leases Cushenstown Portlester and Killmoon, then in the possession of John Grierson, containing 612 plantation acres (991 statute) to Mark Whyte.

(Book 124 Page 477 No 85507)

7.4.4 Mortgage of 11th December 1750

Mark Whyte of Dublin agrees to make over to Thomas Bomford of Clounstowne the town and lands of Cushenstown, Portlester, and part of Killmoon containing 612 plantation acres (991 statute), which Thomas Bomford holds for lives renewable forever under Hercules Longford Rowley Esq.

Witnessed John Jones of Dublin and Arthur McGuire of Dublin

(Book 143 Page 475 No 97847)

Thus the mortgage money was paid back to Mark Whyte who now hands back the land free of debts.

7.5 Lease - Pranstown 11th December 1749

Between 1. Benjamin Burton of Burton Hall, Co Catherlough (Carlow), grandson and heir of Charles Campbell, late of Dublin, deceased
2. Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath, eldest son and heir of Oliver Burton late of Cushenstown, deceased. (Must be a clerical error for Oliver Bomford).

Two of the original lives, those of Andrew Bomford and Elizabeth Bomford in the lease of 17th February 1720 (2.15) made by Charles Campbell to Oliver Bomford, are dead.

Now Thomas Bomford nominates the lives of, Oliver Bomford of Rafeigh, Co Meath, brother of Thomas.

And Thomas Bomford, 2nd Son of Thomas, now aged about 10 in the lease of the town and lands of Pranstown containing 230 Plantation acres (373 statute) in the Barony of Skreen at a rent of £86.5.0.

Signed Thomas Bomford

(Book 139 Page 92 No 93183)
1. This deed produces information for the family tree.

   Elizabeth, the mother of Thomas and wife of Oliver and later of Rev John Echlin, has died. She must
have been aged about 80. Andrew, son of Oliver, is also dead but he probably died before the lease of
Killeglan of December 1743 (3.5.2).

   Oliver, son of Oliver, is living at Rathfeigh. He would be about 40 or a little older now. In 1740 his
older brother, Arthur, was at Rathfeigh but now that he is married he has probably moved to Dublin
where he is next heard of in 1753, and Oliver now farms Rathfeigh. Thomas, second son of Thomas,
was born in 1739. It is therefore likely that his sisters Anne, Elizabeth and maybe Frances were older
than him.

2. Benjamin Burton married Lady Anne Ponsonby, 2nd daughter of the 1st Earl of Bessborough, in
1734.

   His father, Samuel Burton, married Anne, daughter of Charles Campbell in 1708 and inherited the
Campbell estates, including Pranstown, when Charles, died. Anne was killed whilst watching the
Coronation of King George I on 20th October 1714 when the scaffolding on which she was seated
collapsed.

7.5.1 Lease- Pranstown

   Thomas Bomford of Clounstown re-leases to Lancellot Shinton of Pranstown, Gentleman, the
town and lands of Pranstown containing 223 plantation acres (361 statute) in the Barony of Skreen for the
lives of

   Laurence Bomford, son of Oliver Bomford deceased,
   Oliver Bomford, brother of the said Thomas
   Thomas Bomford, 2nd son of the said Thomas,

   at a rent of 10/- an acre, amounting to £111.17.6.

   Signed Thomas Bomford
   Witnessed John Jones of Dublin (Book 143 Page 312 No 97089)

   Lancelot Shinton is a brother of Jane Shinton, the wife of Thomas, and a younger brother of
Richard Shinton of Gerardstown (see 3.4.1).

7.6 Lease- Thorntown

   The following is extracted from the deed of 12th January 1764.

   “Thomas Bomford of Clounstown possessed the land of Thorntowne, Co Meath, containing 80
plantation acres (130 statute) for 31 years from 1752.”

   In the 1654 survey Thorntown consisted of 60 plantation acres bounded on the south with
Clonestown (Clounstown), west with Rosse and north with Skreen. In 1749 it belonged to Jonathon
Morton Heydell (or Pleydell) who had it surveyed that year. No doubt he leased it to Thomas Bomford.
The map shows the outline of two adjacent buildings, most likely those of Maryville (see 15.3.1). Thorntown is not listed as a townland in the 1836 survey, at some prior date it was absorbed into the
townland of Ross.

7.7 Farragh - Court Case

   Whilst trying to tie up the large number of Bomfords not listed in Burke, and before it was clear
that Oliver was a son of Colonel Laurence I found in the Four Courts a land case with 63 pages of closely
written evidence concerning the lands of Farragh in Co Westmeath. The mass of papers was not read
thoroughly but those Bomfords taking part were noted down and proved essential to Oliver’s family tree.

   The case lasted from 1731 to 1784, and it is now time to introduce Farragh, but if the time can be
found the case would repay further study.

7.7.1 The case opened on 23rd February 1731 and those taking part were,

   Plaintiffs The Revd John Echlin and Elizabeth Echlin his wife, otherwise Wilson. (Also previously
wife of Oliver)
   Defendants Susanna Bomford, otherwise Wilson, widow, (wife of Laurence of Killeglan)
       Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown
       Stephen Bomford of Gallow

   and many others
       Executors of the wills of
       Oliver and Laurence Bomford

   It is not known when Farragh first became a Bomford property, but it looks as though it was
originally a Wilson property and that Andrew Wilson left it to his nieces, Elizabeth and Susanna. The
bequest might have been made when Andrew Wilson died in 1724 or it might have formed part of the

The Cousins of Clounstown & Killeglan 67
niece’s marriage settlements. Elizabeth married Oliver Bomford about 1702 and Susanna married Laurence Bomford about 1705. In the land record Farragh has been placed as a Bomford property from the later date of 1724. Both Oliver and Laurence died in 1721 so the sisters were left as widows at a time when all their children were minors. Thomas the elder son of Elizabeth came of age in 1724, but Laurence the eldest son of Susanna was still a minor at this date (1731).

Thomas of Rahinstown and Stephen of Gallow were involved only as executors of the wills of their two brothers, but it is interesting that they and Susanna were defending the case, whilst Elizabeth and John Echlin, whom she married in 1723, were the plaintiffs. The case would appear to be ‘Bomford versus Echlin’, or more probably the children’s inheritance versus the Echlin’s. I imagine the case before the courts was a question of ownership: Did the land belong to the two mothers or did it belong to their children? This would not matter as far as Susanna was concerned because she did not marry again; but it would with Elizabeth who did re-marry, and as far as her part of the property was concerned the question was - should the land become Echlin property through her and her second marriage, or should it belong to the children and so remain in Bomford hands?

So one assumes that this was the question to be decided in this Court Case. The children, through their executors, were defending their right to Farragh, which Elizabeth and her new husband were claiming. The answer is somewhere in those 63 pages of evidence which dragged on through the courts for 53 years.

Farragh - Termination by Susanna 4th July 1741

Susanna Bomford, otherwise Wilson, of Dunsink, Co Dublin, widow, makes over to Rev William Wilson of Shingliss, Co Westmeath, the lands of Farra, Rathbennett, Rathenisky, Lekeen and Ballywade, all in Co Westmeath.

Whatever claim Susanna had to these lands, she has now given them up to her brother, Rev William Wilson

Farragh - Court Case 1753

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown came into a fourth part of the land of Farragh at a rent of £77.1.0 but on the death of Elizabeth Echlin did not pay the rent, claiming that he was entitled to the land by inheritance from his mother, Elizabeth Echlin.

In 1753 John Echlin the younger, (the barrister son of the Rev John Echlin), took Thomas Bomford to court and caused Thomas Bomford to take out a new lease (the 1756 one) and pay the back rent

This court case could only be a small part of the whole case. The clue to another major issue in the case may be the following, extracted from the trust set up on the death of Thomas of Clounstown. At the time of his death in 1757 Thomas possessed a number of lands including:

“One quarter part of Farragh, Co Westmeath, belonging to the Incorporated Society in Dublin for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland. Faragh is commonly subdivided into Ballyvad, Rathinisky or Rathenaske, Rathbennett, and Leckeen or Leckan.”

Since Thomas had 25% of the property one may assume that Susanna had another 25%, which she gave over to her brother. When reading through the case I was only concerned with the Bomfords, but it is quite possible that there was also trouble with the tenants of the other 50%, or indeed between the trustees of the Incorporated Society.

Farragh - Court Case 10th October 1756

Rev John Echlin of Drogheda leases to Thomas Bomford the elder of Clounstown 140 plantation acres (227 statute) plus 22 acres (36 statute) of ‘overflow Bogg’ in the town and lands of Farragh, or Phara, and Ballywade with one quarter part of the profit rents of the Mills of Rathbennet and of the Fishery therein in Co Westmeath for the lives of:

Thomas Bomford the elder (died 1757)
Thomas Bomford the younger, 2nd son of Thomas Bomford the elder, (died c1796) and
John Bomford, 3rd son of Thomas Bomford the elder, (alive 1810)
at a rent of £77.1.0 renewable for ever

Signed Thomas Bomford
Witnessed John Jones of Dublin
Abraham Bettlewell of Garbalough, Co Meath, farmer (see Lancellott Shinton of Pranstown, Co Meath 7.8)

(Recorded in the Registry twice, Book 185 Page 95 No 122359 Book 187 Page 198 No 124517)
This deed indicates that Rev John Echlin now owns the land but leases it to his eldest step-son, Thomas, who died before the date of the following deed.

7.7.5  
Farragh - Lease & Court Case  
8th May 1759

All these on the one part

Jane Bomford, widow and relict of Thomas Bomford the elder late of Clounstown, Gent, deceased (died 1757) and
John Jones of Dublin and
John Lowther of Staffordstowne } Both executors of the will of Thomas
William Bomford of Cushionstowne, eldest son and heir of the above Thomas Bomford lease to Robert Fetherston of Whitecorck, Co Longford

a. 140 plantation acres (227 statute) arable plus 22 acres (36 statute) bog in Farragh, otherwise Phara, and in small part lands in Ballywade together with one quarter of the profit from the Mill of Rathbennett and Fishery.  
(Book 204 Page 317 No 135612)

Also on the next day

b. Lease of the lands of Farra (Farah) with the sub denominations commonly called Ballyvadd, Rathinisky or Rathenruske, Rathbennett, and Leckeen or Leckan in the Barony of Corkery, Co Westmeath, for 27 years at a rent of £93.4.2.  
(Book 204 Page 319 No 135614)

Also on the same day

c. This lease contains part of Cullenhue known as Gobbinstown, Co Westmeath containing 48 plantation acres (78 statute).  
(Book 204 Page 318 No 135613)

Note

1. It is not known when Farragh ceased to be a Bomford property; the above lease runs out in 1786 but in another deed there is a note that in 1772 the lease was given up and Robert Fetherston took it over.

2. The ordnance survey map of 1838 shows these places as townlands, not as subdivisions of Farragh. They all lie between Wilson’s Hospital and Multyfarnham, and the north eastern shore of Lough Iron, and are in the Parish of Leny except for Lackan.  
Cullenhue, 389 statute acres, is between the road and Lough Iron, and southeast of the River Inny. The Bomford portion consisted of 78 acres, which was called Gobbinstown.
Farragh, 365 acres, is south of Cullenhue and runs along the shore of Lough Iron.
Ballywade, 224 acres, is south of Cullenhue and between Farragh and the road.
Rathenaske, 114 acres, is south of Ballywade and east of Farragh.
Rathbennett, 333 acres, circles Rathenaske to the south and east.
Lackan, 768 acres, in the Parish of Lackan, lies half a mile northeast of the other townlands. Its northern boundary is the south shore of Lough Derravaragh.

3. Wilson’s Hospital
Andrew Wilson gave certain lands in trust in his will of 9th February 1724 to the Primate of Dublin and Tuam and to the Bishops of Meath and Kildare for a hospital in County Westmeath for the education of Protestant children. More land and money was added by the will of Rev William Wilson, Andrew’s nephew, in 1738. The building of the school was complete in 1762 and that same year an Act was passed for the establishment of this charity.
The Topographical Dictionary by Lewis of 1838 has more of interest under the heading of the Parish of Lackan,  
“On the summit of a hill is Wilson’s Hospital, founded and endowed by A. Wilson Esq. of Piercefield, for the support and education of 160 Protestant boys, with whom an apprentice fee of £10 is given on their leaving the school; and for 20 old male Protestants. The inhabitants of Westmeath have the preference, but those of adjacent counties are also eligible. The house is a handsome building in the form of a square, adorned with a cupola and two receding wings connected by a corridor, one of which includes the school-room and a dormitory, the other the dining hall and a dormitory, and there is a chapel handsomely fitted up. The Trustees are the Archbishops of Armagh, Dublin and Tuam, and the Bishops of Meath and Kilmore (not Kildare). A body of insurgents posted themselves at the hospital in the night of 5th September 1798, but were almost all killed the following day by part of Lord Cornwallis’s army.” The school has recently been enlarged and now has over 250 pupils; both boys and girls, of all denominations but the trustees remain the same so there is a strong Church of Ireland influence.

4. Farragh School
The Incorporated Society for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland, later just called the
Incorporated Society, ran a number of schools throughout the country. The school at Farragh was an agricultural school intended primarily for Roman Catholic children. It started with 467 plantation acres (757 statute) in Farragh given by the Rev William Wilson in his will of 1738. It succeeded at first but later ran into difficulties and failed to attract students. It closed down about 1850.

7.8

Death of Rev John Echlin

19th January 1763

The Rev John Echlin died ‘suddenly’ on 19th January 1763, aged 80, when he was Vicar of St Mary’s Drogheada. We do not know who his first wife was, but he had at least one child by her, John born in 1713. The first wife died and he married (ML 28th June 1723) Elizabeth, the widow of Oliver Bomford. As far as we know John Echlin and Elizabeth had no children, though she and Oliver had a number of children a bit older than young John Echlin, and since they were minors the two young families were brought up together in Drogheada.

The Echlin Memoirs and Leslie’s Succession Lists quoted in 3.1 gave much information to which we can now add Betham’s extract from Rev John Echlin’s will dated 30th December 1762, with probate dated 21st February 1763, which includes the following

“Nieces Mary Bettlewell, Alice Cooper, Jane Savage, Elizabeth Parkinson, and Jane Molyneux
Sisters Elizabeth Johnston and Echlin Molyneux.”

In addition the Farragh Court Case records on 8th May 1784

“Rev’d John Echlin died in 1763, his heir was Rev’d John Echlin of Balderstown, Co Dublin, his grand-nephew.”

Since a grand-nephew was made his heir and only nieces and sisters are mentioned in the will, we can be pretty certain that his son, John the barrister, died before his father and that there are no other children alive in 1763.

7.8.1

The Echlin Family

19th January 1763

There are some loose ends but the Echlin tree must be something like the following:

John ECHLIN, farmer, of Co Down, married and had six, though probably seven children

1. David Echlin of Priestown, Co Down, born before 1680, died 1767. He must have succeeded to the Co Down lands. There is no evidence that he married.

2. Rev John Echlin, born 1679 in Co Down, married firstly (name unknown) and his children included
   a. a son John Echlin, born 1713 in Dublin, educated at Trinity College in Dublin, called to the Irish Bar in 1739, probably died between 1753 and 1763. Rev John married secondly, marriage licence 28th June 1723, Elizabeth, widow of Oliver Bomford and niece of Andrew Wilson. They had no known children. Elizabeth died before 1749 and he died suddenly on 19th January 1763.
   b. Jane Echlin, married her cousin John Echlin. He died in 1714 and she in 1744 having had
      a. Elizabeth, married Robert Parkinson.
      b. Mary married Thomas Parkinson. She is not mentioned in the will but a niece, Mary Bettlewell, is and so it is possible that Thomas Parkinson died and Mary married secondly a Mr Bettlewell. Abraham Bettlewell, farmer, of Garbalough, Co Meath, witnessed the October 1757 deed of Farragh and it is possible that he was Mary’s second husband.
      c. Anne Echlin, born about 1708, married about 1733 Laurence Bomford, 4th son of Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown. They had no known children. Anne is not mentioned in the will so she may have died before 1762; the last documentary mention of Laurence was in 1750.
      d. Jane Echlin, married Philip Savage.
      e. A son, probably, who married and had a son. This son would then be a grandnephew of the Rev John and, according to the Farragh court case, inherited – Rev John Echlin of Balderstown, Co Dublin. (The other alternative is that the grand-nephew came from a marriage of David Echlin of Priestown.)
      f. Jane Molyneux (This second marriage would account for the rather odd entry by Betham of ‘Sister, Echlin Molyneux’.)
   c. a son, probably, who married and had a son. This son would then be a grandnephew of the Rev John and, according to the Farragh court case, inherited – Rev John Echlin of Balderstown, Co Dublin.
   d. Euphemia Echlin married Robert Kelly of Killough, Co Down
   e. Elizabeth Echlin married Hugh Johnston and had
      a. Elizabeth Johnston
   f. Esther Echlin married John Jelly
7. There must be one other sister who married Mr Cooper and they had a daughter, Alice. She would be Alice Cooper mentioned as a niece of Rev John in his will. The alternative would be that either Euphemia or Esther married again, but this is unlikely as neither of them is mentioned in the will.

In 1838 Lewis states that Echlinville in the Parish of St Andrews, Co Down, was occupied by John Echlin. Of course this may be a different branch of the family but Echlinville at Kircubbin on Strangford Lough was built around 1730; about 1850 the house was sold and renamed Rubane House.

7.9  

**Lease - Wilson Property**  
5th March 1754

Lease to Henry Upton of the lands of Legavoge and Lismacanican in the Baron of Castleraghan, Co Cavan, and Newpass, Co Westmeath, by a great many people, possible Wilson relations are listed

1. William Wilson, late of Shingles, Co Westmeath, Clerk, deceased.
2. Emilia Rochfort, otherwise Wilson.
3. Robert Fetherston of Whiterock, Co Longford, and Gertrude otherwise Donogher his wife, grand-daughter and heir of the Rev Archdeacon (of Ardagh, Co Longford) Thomas Taylor and Elinor Taylor otherwise Wilson his wife recently deceased. Elinor was one of the sisters and co-heirs of the said William Wilson.
4. Thomas Bumford of Clounstown, eldest son and heir of Elizabeth Bumford one of the sisters and co-heir of the said William Wilson.
5. Lawrence Bumford of Ratoath, eldest son and heir at law of Susanna Bumford, another sister and co-heir of the said William Wilson. (Note, Lawrence was written as Thomas but was corrected).
6. Andrew Wilson late of Piercefield, Co Westmeath mortgaged to Boleyn Whitney on 5th June 1719 various lands including those above. (Book 173 Page 316 No 116295)

7.9.1  

**The Wilson Family**  
5th March 1754

This deed and other documents, particularly Andrew Wilson’s will (see 1.10), give a fair amount of information about the Wilson family, but there remain a number of gaps.

![Family Tree Diagram]

- Unknown, WILSON (Possibly William Wilson)
- Andrew Wilson of Piercefield, d 1725
- Margaret Strongman, No Children
- (Possibly) Rev John MA b c1661
- Unknown
- Col Laurence Bomford 1617 - 1720
- Elizabeth m Mr Simpson
- Rev William of Shingles d c1743
- Emilia Eyre m secondly 1746 John Rochfort She d 1770 Probably no children
- Elinor m Rev Thomas Taylor
- m (1) c1702 Oliver Bomford c1654 - 1721
- Elizabeth d pre-1749
- Rev John Echlin c1680 – 1763 marriage (1) one son m (2) 1723 No children
- Susanna m c1705 alive 1745
- Laurence Bomford c1657 - 1721
- Daughter m Mr Donogher
- Thomas Bomford of Clounstown 1703 – 1757 & 7 other children
- (John Echlin, Barrister)
- Laurence Bomford of Killeglan c1710 - 1761 & 4 other children
- Gertrude m Robert Fetherston of Whiterock
1. Andrew Wilson of Piercefield or Piersfield, Co Westmeath, died in 1725 after he made his will in February 1724. In it he named his wife Margaret and his brother-in-law Thomas Strongman and his wife Elizabeth; so Andrew’s wife was Margaret Strongman. It is thought that Andrew had no living children when he made his will because he bequeaths his property to his three nieces and a nephew, and to found the school later called Wilson’s Hospital.

2. A possible brother to Andrew might be John Wilson, son of William, born c 1661 in Co Westmeath, entered TCD as a scholar July 1681, aged 20, BA 1686, MA 1704. In 1691 he was Vicar of Kilcommick, Co Longford, on the road between Ballymahon and Longford; then from 1709 to 1718 he was Vicar of Moyglare, Co Meath, two miles from Kilcock on the road to Dunboyne, and of Ballymaglassan, four miles from Dunshaughlin on the road to Summerhill.

If Rev John is a brother then we know the name of the father of both Andrew and John - William Wilson.

Rev John was alive in 1718 but, because he was not mentioned concerning the marriage before 1710 and during his lifetime of the two Wilson sisters, Elizabeth and Susanna, it is thought that he is not their father. There must be another brother who died before, 1700.

Andrew’s will lists two nieces both named Elizabeth; so it is probable that one Elizabeth is the daughter of Rev John and who married Mr Simpson, and the other Elizabeth is the daughter of this unknown brother and who married Oliver Bomford.

3. The un-named brother had a son and three daughters: -
   a. Rev William Wilson of Shingles and later Piercefield, Co Westmeath. Vicar of Kilcommick 1718 - 1743, following the Rev John as the incumbent; this is an additional reason for placing John as his uncle. William made his will in 1738 and died about 1743. He married Emilia Eyre, daughter of John Eyre locally known as ‘Proud Eyre’ of Eyrecourt, Co Galway. They had no children.

   Emilia married secondly on 24th May 1746 John Rochfort of Clogrenane, Co Carlow, and died 23rd August 1770. In his will Rev William donated more land to Wilson’s Hospital and also land for the school at Farragh (7.7.5).

   b. Elinor married Thomas Taylor who was born 1669, Archdeacon of Ardagh, Co Longford, 1705 - 1749 and died in April 1749. It is not known when Elinor died but they had a daughter who married Mr Donogher and in turn they had a daughter Gertrude. This comes from the 1754 deed, which says Gertrude “otherwise Donogher, grand-daughter and heir of Rev Thomas Taylor”. Gertrude married Robert Fetherston of Whiterock, Co Longford. Robert was the only son of Francis Fetherston who in 1714 married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Jessop of Doory Hall (see 14.2). The Bomford lands of Farragh eventually end in Robert Fetherston’s hands.

   c. Elizabeth married (1) Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown about 1702. Their eldest son, Thomas of Clounstown, is mentioned in the 1754 Wilson Property deed. Oliver Bomford died in 1721 and Elizabeth married (2) on 28th June 1723 (ML) Rev John Echlin who died in 1763. Elizabeth died before 1749.

   d. Susanna in about 1705 married Laurence Bomford of Killeglan who died in 1721. Susanna lived on for perhaps 30 years as a widow. She is mentioned in 1745 (3.5.2) but although a beneficiary is not included in the above Wilson property deed; this indicates that she was dead, so she must have died between the years 1745 and 1754 when she was in her 60’s.

4. Other Wilson’s who appear in the deeds and who may be relations are: -
   a. 1726 (1.8.1) James Wilson of Curastown, Co Meath.
   b. 1767 (9.3.7) James Wilson of Parsonstown, Co Meath, who died 1780 (probate). This may be the James Wilson who before 1733 married Elizabeth Tew, niece of Thomas Bomford the elder of Rahinstown
   c. 1803 (16.6.1) Whillon Wilson and Jane Matthews his wife
   d. 1814 (18.9.2) Nicholas Loftus Wilson
   e. 1828 Rosina Wilson marries Thomas Muley

5. Boleyn Whitney

This deed states that Boleyn Whitney gave a mortgage on Andrew Wilson’s property in 1719. Lyon’s ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ includes the following concerning Boleyn Whitney “the third son of Colonel Whitney; who adopted the law as his profession, and attained a seat on the Bench. He came on the Lent 1754 circuit in Westmeath (the year of this deed). He drew up and was a trustee of the will of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield made in 1724 who left his estates to support the establishment of Wilson Hospital”. Boleyn Whitney was probably an ancestor of Sir Benjamin Whitney who in 1860 married Annabella North-Bomford (27.6.2)
6. Rev Ambrose Upton, 1688-1752, married Anna, a daughter of Boleyn Whitney of New Pass, Co Westmeath, on the Co Longford border, which may be the New Pass mentioned in the Wilson lease of 1754 (7.9) to Henry Upton, the brother of Ambrose. Whitney’s brother was probably George Boleyn Whitney of New Pass. The latter’s daughter Elizabeth married, c1780, Sir Thomas Fetherston, 2nd Bart, and the Fetherstonhaugh-Whitney family were living at New Pass until the first Great War.

7.10 Lease - Cushenstown 15th March 1754

James Hornidge of Dublin, trustee of Mark Whyte of Dublin, re-leases to Thomas Bomford of Clounstown the town and lands of Cushenstown, part of Kilmoon containing 418 plantation acres (677 statute), Portlester 100 plantation acres (162 statute) and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute) situated in the Barony of Skeen and Duleek

Signed James Hornidge
Witnessed John Jones of Dublin and Edward Matthews of Dublin, clerk to Mark Whyte (Book 166 Page 423 No 112098)

1. It looks as though this is yet another mortgage on Cushenstown about which there is no other record.
2. James Hornidge of Dublin has been mentioned in a few deeds and in each he is connected to Mark Whyte so he may have been a solicitor or attorney working with Mark Whyte. In April 1747 (7.4.2) he took over Mark Whyte’s mortgage on Cushenstown, which originated with Thomas Bomford. In February 1750 he witnessed Mark Whyte’s lease of Hightown to Edward Bomford and when Mark died he became an executor of his will. James Hornidge died in 1771 (probate).
3. John Jones of Dublin was an executor of the will of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown (7.18) He witnessed most of the deeds concerning Cushenstown and Clounstown during this period and may have been retained by Thomas as his lawyer or Attorney.

7.11 Mortgage - Clounstown 15th March 1754

Thomas Bomford of Clounestown leases to Mark Whyte of Dublin the land of Clounestown in the Barony of Skreen, Co Meath, containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute). (Book 166 Page 422 No 112097)

1. No money is mentioned but the deed of July 1784 (14.5.1) records a figure of £816.6.1 which must apply here.
2. The attorney Mark Whyte died in 1754 or 1753. His son and heir must also be named Mark Whyte though the latter spells his name “White”.

7.12 Mortgage - Clounstown 17th June 1756

Mark White makes over to the Right Hon. William Yorke, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the lands of Clounstown in the Barony of Skreen. Thomas Bomford of Clounstown is a party to this. (Book 184 Page 46 No 121930)

7.13 Lease - Kilbrew 12th October 1751

Richard Gorges of Kilbrew farm lets to Oliver Bomford of Rafeigh the land of Kilbrew, lately in the possession of James Butterly, and now in the possession of Oliver Bomford, containing 91 plantation acres (147 statute) in the Barony of Ratoath for the lives of the said Oliver Bomford and William Bomford, eldest son of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown.

Signed Oliver Bomford
Witnessed Wilson Bomford of Rafeigh John Smith of Kilbrew Richard Parsons of Dublin (Book 161 Page 415 No 109214)

7.13.1 Lease - Kilbrew 8th April 1761

Oliver Bomford of Rafeigh leases to John Rawlins of the City of Dublin the land of Kilbrew formerly held by John Butterly containing 31 plantation acres (50 statute) in the Barony of Ratoath for the lives of

The Cousins of Clounstown & Killeglan 73
Oliver Bomford of Rathfeigh and
William Bomford, eldest son of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown.
The rent is to be paid to Richard Gorges

1. Oliver leases 147 acres of Kilbrew from Richard Gorges and 10 years later sub-lets 50 acres to John Rawlins. Although no money is mentioned, the rent for the 50 acres, which has to be paid direct to Richard Gorges, will probably cover the total rent, so that Oliver can farm the remaining 97 acres rent-free.

2. Oliver Bomford was a farmer who lived at Rathfeigh from before 1749 to after 1761, there is no evidence that he married. Rathfeigh would appear to be the Bomford bachelor establishment, Arthur, Oliver’s elder brother, was there before he married and went to live in Dublin prior to 1753, and Oliver’s cousin Wilson Bomford lived there for a short time around 1751 before he too married and went to live in Dublin.

The next deed indicates that it was the elder brother Arthur Bomford who actually owned Rathfeigh, so he must have leased it to Oliver.

7.14 Mortgage - Rathfeigh

Mortgage between Arthur Bomford of Dublin and Edward Tonge, merchant of Dublin, for £300 for Rathfeigh made over to Arthur Bomford by Laurence Bomford. This mortgage was discharged on 8th May 1756.

7.15 Marriage - Arthur Bomford & Mary Tarlton.

During the reign of Henry VIII Hugh Madden was ‘of Bloxham, Beauchamp’. Bloxham is in Oxfordshire south of Banbury. Hugh’s grandson was John Madden, also of Bloxham Beauchamp, who died in May 1635. John had two sons; the elder son Thomas was the Comptroller to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Strafford, and was the ancestor of the present Maddens of Hilton Park formerly called Maddentown at Clones, Co Monaghan; the second son was Robert who settled at Donore, Co Dublin, and was the ancestor of the Maddens of Meadesbrook (our Maddens) and, in the female line, of Oliver Goldsmith who at this date had just left Trinity and was on tour of Europe, on foot and with a flute.

We then lose sight of our Maddens for perhaps a couple of generations until we come to this marriage of Frances and Robert Madden. They lived at Meadesbrook in the Parish of Cushenstown and in the townland of Piercetown, so Frances went to live just down the road from her brother William at Cushenstown House. The 1836 survey records of Meadesbrook

“A gentleman’s seat, with a small pleasure ground, a garden, an orchard and a pond attached”, but this is over 80 years later when “Mrs Madden” was living there. Meadesbrook is still occupied to this day, but the Maddens have left.
Frances and Robert Madden had three children, because of her marriage date the girl was probably born first
1. Anne Madden would have been born soon after the marriage since in June 1774 she married Joseph Rathborne of Ballymore, Co Meath, eldest son of William Rathborne of Dublin. This couple will appear later in the deeds (see 13.9.4.).
2. John Madden became a clergyman. He was born in 1758 in Co Meath, no doubt at Meadesbrook, was educated at Trinity Dublin where he got a BA in 1781. He died in May 1845 aged 87, his death being reported in the Meath Herald. He was living at Meadesbrook in 1803
3. Robert, about whom there is little definite information though he is mentioned in a couple of later deeds. He appears to have been a farmer.

There are three Rev John Maddens recorded by Canon Leslie and they all had parishes in the area. None of them match the eldest son, our Rev John Madden, but they must surely be relatives.

The first Rev John Madden was Rector of Kilmoon, which is only a couple of miles from Meadesbrook and his dates are such that he could easily be the father of Robert Madden and Frances (Bomford). According to Leslie this John Madden was the son of John Madden and born in Dublin in 1666. He was educated at Trinity and entered on 10th December 1683, age 17; scolar 1686, BA 1688, MA 1693. Installed Rector of Kilmoon 27th March 1695 and remained there until his death. He was also curate of Macetown from 1733, the parish to the west of Kilmoon. He died 25th November 1745 and his obituary states

“Died at a very advanced age (79), John Madden, a gentleman, as remarkable in his exemplary and primitive piety as he was for upwards of 50 years in constant residence in his parish.”

He married Deborah Cooke of Halay, Queen’s Co in 1724 (ML 14th July 1724). As said before Rev John Madden and Deborah may well be the parents of our Robert Madden.

The second Rev John Madden was Rector of Tara from 1722 to 1734. Tara Church is about seven miles from Meadesbrook

The third Rev John Madden was curate of Garristown, two miles east of Meadesbrook, from 1804 until 1811 when he became Curate of Dunshaughlin This might be Robert and Frances’ son except that there is a gap of 20 years between his leaving Trinity in 1781 and his first curacy, this is unlikely and so it is thought that their son must have gone to England and become a clergyman over there since he is not mentioned in the Church of Ireland records.

It is not known when either Robert or Frances died, but Frances must have died before 1764 (7.18.1) and Robert before 1787 (14.12.3).

7.17

Marriage - William Bomford & Charity Ryder. 

22nd March 1754

Extract from the Register of the Church of St Peter and St Kevin in Dublin

“William Bomford of Clonestown of the County of Meath, Gent, to Charity Ryder of Digges Street by the Reverend Mr Michael Sandys, with leave by a Consistory Licence March 22nd 1754.”

The marriage licence was granted by the Diocese of Dublin, Page 287.

Digges Street where Charity Ryder lived is between Stephen’s Green and St Patrick’s Cathedral. The Church of Saint Peter and Saint Kevin where they were married was close to Digges Street but has since been pulled down.

Charity Ryder was born c1724, daughter of Giles Ryder of Hyenstown, Co Dublin (born c1696 and died before March 1744). He married in 1721 Mary Madden, born c1700 (daughter of John Madden and Anne Hamil). Charity and William had six children before she died in March 1764, leaving William with a very young family to bring up.

7.17.1

Marriage Settlement - William Bomford & Charity Ryder. 

15/20th March 1754

There are three deeds

1. 15th March 1754

Charity Ryder of Dublin, spinster, leases to William Bomford of Clonestown, Co Meath, the town and lands of Surgolstown containing 125 plantation acres (203 statute) and Laurestown 80 plantation acres (130 statute) in the Barony of Nethercross, Co Dublin.

Signed William Bomford (Book 165 page 351 No 112169)

The townlands of Surgolstown and Laurestown are adjacent and lie about three miles northwest of Dublin Airport and very close to the Bolton property of Brazel.

2. 16th March 1754, marriage settlement between

a. Thomas Bomford of Clonestown and Jane, otherwise Shinton, his wife
b. Rev Michael Sandys and John Jones, both of the City of Dublin (Trustees).
c. William Bomford of Clounstown, eldest son and heir apparent to the above Thomas Bomford
d. Robert Madden of Meadsbrook, Co Meath (husband of Frances Bomford)
e. Arthur Bomford of Dublin (William’s uncle)
f. Charity Ryder of Dublin (if her father was alive he would have been mentioned)

On the marriage of William Bomford and Charity Ryder, Thomas Bomford makes over the lease of
Cushinstown with part of Kilmoo containing 418 plantation acres (677 statute), Portlester
containing 100 plantation acres (162 statute), and Bodman containing 69 plantation acres (112
statute), in trust to Reverend Michael Sandys and John Jones. (Book 166 Page 442 No 112170)

and as a postscript to the above

3. 20th March 1754 An additional lease in trust for William and Charity.
   Thomas Bomford of Clounstown leases to Rev Michael Sandys and John Jones, upon trust, one
   fourth part of the lands of Farragh or Phara, one fourth part of the lands of Ballywade and
   Rathinsky, and the land of Rathbennett and Lisheen with its mills.
   (Book 168 Page 179 No 112155)

a. Thus Thomas placed nearly all his land in trust for his eldest son William on his marriage. As
   usual the trustees had to cater for Charity and his children should William die early leaving
   them destitute.

b. Concerning the two executors, John Jones was probably Thomas Bomford’s solicitor, and the
   Rev Michael Sandys married on 19th November 1742 Anne Ryder (c1722 – 24 Feb 1764),
   sister to Charity Ryder. At this time he was ‘Vicar Choral’ at nearby Saint Patrick’s Cathedral.
   There is a note on the Sandys family under 10.3.2

7.18 Death of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown 2nd September 1757

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, the eldest son of Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown, died in
1757, probably in July as can be seen from this extract from Betham’s notebooks and Vicar’s Index to
Prerogative Wills.

“Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath, Gent,
14th May 1754 (his will), 2nd September 1757 (probate)
wife Jane ex (executor)
son John Thomas
daurs Anne, Elizabeth, Emilia, Jane, Christian
Frances, wife of Robert Madden of Meadsbrook in Co Meath
Eldest son William.”

The will is not to be found but much of the contents are recited in the next deed.

7.18.1 Trust in Will of Thomas of Clounstown 12th January 1764

Between 1. William Bomford of Cushinstown, Co Meath, eldest son and heir of Thomas Bomford,
   late of Clounstown deceased.
   2. Jane Bomford (Shinton) of the City of Dublin, widow, John Jones of the City of
   Dublin, Gent, and John Lowther of Staffordstown, Co Meath. Executors of the will of
   Thomas Bomford.
   3. Thomas Bomford of Dublin, Gent, second son of Thomas and Jane Bomford
   4. John Bomford of Dublin, Gent, youngest son of Thomas and Jane
   5. Hugh Lowther of Hurdlestown, Co Meath, and George Lowther of Staffordstown, Co
   Meath

At the time of his death Thomas Bomford possessed
1. Clounstown in fee simple containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute)
2. Brick, Co Meath, containing 75 plantation acres (122 statute) for 61 years from 1725 at a rent of
   £28. (Lease expires in 1786)
3. Thorntowne, Co Meath, containing 80 plantation acres (130 statute) for 31 years from 1752. (Lease
   expires in 1783)
4. One quarter part of Farragh or Faragh, Co Westmeath, belonging to the Incorporated Society in
   Dublin for Promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland. Faragh is commonly subdivided into
   Ballyvadd, Rathinisky or Rathenaske, Rathbennett, and Leckeen or Leckan.

   According to the will of Thomas Bomford dated 14th May 1754, Jane Bomford, his widow, is to
   receive an annuity of £50 from the land of Clounstowne with remainder to his two sons, Thomas and
   John.
To his daughters, Ann, Elizabeth, Emilia, Jane and Christian Bomford he bequeaths £300 each at the age of 22 or on their marriage, if earlier. His brother, John Bomford, is to receive £1,000 in trust to cover £500 each when Thomas Bomford and John Bomford complete their apprenticeship. The deed of 16th June 1762 (missing) takes care of the girl’s maintenance and education in which John Rochfort grants his interest in the lands of Comberstown or Cumberstown in Co Westmeath in trust for the children of Thomas and Jane Bomford.

Witnessed Wilson Bomford of Dublin, merchant, and Robert Madden of Maidsbrook, Co Meath.

(Book 230 Page 253 No 150846)

1. “His (Thomas) brother John Bomford” must be another son of Oliver the elder. He is not included in the Upton Papers, but this deed is quite clear and so he has been added to the family tree. As he is one of the few brothers still alive he has been added as the youngest son. His nephews, the two apprentices Thomas and John, would now be about 25.

2. The daughters of Thomas are all listed except for Frances, and she must have died. The question is when; she was alive when Thomas made his will in 1754. Her eldest son John Madden was born in 1758 and her other son Robert Madden was probably born in 1760, so Frances must have died between the years 1760 and 1764. Her husband, Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, witnessed this deed.

3. The other person who witnessed the deed was Wilson Bomford who was a brewer and distiller in Dublin. Wilson was a son of Laurence the elder of Killeglan and a first cousin of Thomas of Clounstown. In January 1759 Wilson married Thomas’s daughter Anne and so became Thomas’s son-in-law (12.2.5). It may have been Wilson the brewer to whom Thomas and John were apprenticed. Thomas inherited land, which he later farmed, but John was later termed ‘Merchant of Dublin’ which no doubt had something to do with his apprenticeship.

4. The Lowther family appear a number of times, mainly concerning the will of Thomas of Clounstown, but also as a trustee of the marriage settlement of Thomas’s son, John and Dorcas Ahmuty (14.10). George Lowther lived at Hurdlestown, four miles from Kells on the Navan road, opposite Bloomsbury. He died in 1734 and left two sons:
   a. Hugh Lowther of Hurdlestown who was an executor of the trust in this deed. When his lease of Hurdlestown was renewed in 1744 by Charles Tisdall, his wife Abigail Lowther and three of his children were named as ‘lives’; however it looks as though Hugh had died before 1784, since at that date Hurdlestown was the home of his nephew, George Lowther (see below).
   b. John Lowther of Staffordstown, 2½ miles southeast of Navan in the Parish of Follistown, was an executor of the will of Thomas Bomford and also a trustee of John Bomford’s marriage settlement (14.10). He married Anne who died a widow in 1788; he died in 1782 and left an eldest son George Lowther of Staffordstown in 1764. On the death of his father he took over as executor of Thomas Bomford’s will and was involved with the sale of Clounstown, July 1784. George was also coupled with his uncle in the trust fund of this deed, and took over Hurdlestown before 1784, probably on his uncle’s death.

5. The land of Cumberstown, Co Westmeath, the rents from which were used to maintain and educate Thomas Bomford’s daughters, was probably one of the original properties of Andrew Wilson, which were bequeathed to his nephew, Rev William Wilson. When William Wilson died c1743 the land passed to his wife Emilia (Eyre). In 1746 Emilia married secondly John Rochfort of Clogrenane, Co Carlow. Emilia lived until 1770 but this deed only mentions her husband, John Rochfort.

7.18.2

The Rochfort Family

John Rochfort was a descendant of the Norman family of de Rochfort who settled in Co Westmeath. Their name was given to the small village of Rochfort Bridge. This village was formerly called ‘Beggar’s Bridge’ because tradition states that a beggar died here with enough money in his pockets to build the bridge which crosses a small stream at the east end of the village.

At this time the main branch of the family lived at Gaulstown, a gloomy mansion to the south of Enniscoffey and the other Bomford properties in Westmeath, owned by Robert Rochfort who became the first Earl of Belvedere. Robert’s younger brother George lived at Rochfort House, a huge three storey square house which George built in 1742, later renamed Tudenham Hall, overlooking Lough Ennell and west of Gurteen another Bomford property; Robert’s youngest brother Arthur lived at Belfield House beside Gaulstown.

In 1736 the Earl married secondly the sixteen-year-old daughter of Viscount Molesworth of Dublin. Not many years passed before the Earl accused his young wife of a liaison with his youngest brother Arthur. He locked her up at Gaulstown and there she remained a virtual prisoner for 31 years.
being allowed to see no-one except the servants, above all she must not be seen by her husband so she had to ring a bell as she moved from room to room, and a servant with a bell was posted outside her door. In the meantime brother Arthur had fled the country and settled in Yorkshire. Around 1759 he returned to Ireland and Robert sued him for adultery with his wife 16 years before. Arthur was unable to pay and spent the rest of his life in jail.

Robert the Earl became fed up with life at Gaulstown so he built himself an exquisite house in the early 1740’s, much smaller but expensively furnished and decorated overlooking Lough Ennell, called Belvedere House. There he adopted a bachelor type lifestyle with many riotous drunken parties, but with great elegance and luxury. Unfortunately he then had a colossal quarrel with his other brother George whose house overlooked Belvedere House; he became so jealous of his brother that at enormous expense he built an artificial ruin of an abbey 45 metres high between the two houses so that the view of his brother’s house, Rochfort House, was blotted out. The ruin, which was built by a celebrated Italian architect, still stands today and is known as the Jealous Wall; it is said to be the largest purposely, built ruin of its kind in Ireland and certainly the most expensive.

The ‘Wicked Earl’ died in 1774 when his 55-year-old wife was released by her son and continued to protest her innocence even on her deathbed some years later. Needless to say his son inherited an estate, which was well into the red, but he did surprisingly well and was able to rebuild Gaulstown in the late 1700’s, he also built a fine Dublin house, which is now Belvedere College. The 2nd Earl left no direct heirs and the title became extinct, his sister Jane, Countess of Lanesborough, succeeded to the property.

In 1838 Lewis reports that Colonel Rochfort, George’s son, was living at Rochfort House; he had just sold the place to Sir Francis Hopkins, and Gustavus Rochfort was living in Birmingham House on Enniscoffey, a house built after the Bomfords left Enniscoffey. The 2nd Earl sold Gaulstown in 1784 to Lord Kilmaine and the Kilmaines lived there until 1918; the house was burnt down during the troubles in 1920 and has since been demolished.
Chapter VIII

Mostly Marriages 1742 - 1760

This chapter concerns the marriages of two Bomford families, those of Edward of Hightown and those of Stephen of Gallow. These marriages are summarized below:

Edward and Margaret his wife of Hightown had four children,
1. John who died c1739 and probably did not marry
2. Catherine who married Antony Hamilton in 1742 (8.1)
3. Lucy who married Thomas Birmingham in c1760 (8.12)
4. Ann who firstly married Owen Daly in c1745 (8.3) and secondly married John Molloy in 1755 (8.9)

Stephen and Anne his wife of Gallow had nine children,
1. Thomas who married Mary Foster in 1740 and died the next year (6.3)
2. Stephen who married Elizabeth Sibthorpe in 1745 (8.2)
3. John who married Ann Forster in 1753 (8.7)
4. David who married Sarah Burtchaell in 1756 (8.11)
5. Isaac who married Sarah Matthews in 1756 (8.10)
6. Ann who married Samuel L’Estrange in 1750 (8.5)
7. Dorcas who married Edward Williams in c1745 (8.4)
8. Mary who married William Coates in 1750 (8.6)
9. Esther who married John Kelly in 1756 (8.8)
10. Elizabeth who married Christopher Standring (8.3.2)

8.1 Catherine Bomford Marries Antony Hamilton

According to Burke, Catherine was Colonel Laurence’s second daughter, and as such her birth date and age at this time was a problem, but the following deeds clearly make her the eldest daughter of Edward of Hightown.

Burke simply states that
“Catherine married. --- Hamilton”, and this can now be correct to read
“Catherine married February 1742, Antony of Kilnacarra, Co Longford, son of Charles Hamilton.

He died June 1755; she died after 1759 having had issue
1. James Edward Hamilton of Kilnacarra, b 1743
2. Antony Hamilton, b c1748
3. John Hamilton, b 1751
4. Sidney (a girl), b c1745
5. Margaret Hamilton, b c1753”

8.1.1 Marriage Settlement of Antony Hamilton and Catherine Bomford 15th February 1742

(Extracted from the Four Courts, Marriage Articles 4255 1742 / 1743)

Between 1. Anthony Hamilton of Kilnecarrow, Co Longford
2. Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath, and Catherine Bomford his eldest daughter.
3. Launcelot Lauder of Kiltobrid (Kiltubrid), Co Leitrim, and James Tyrrell of Cloonard, Co Kildare. (The two trustees)

Whereas a marriage is shortly intended between Antony Hamilton and Catherine Bomford.

Now a jointure is made and Edward Bomford agrees to pay £300 to the trustees Launcelot Lauder and James Tyrrell and a further £300 to Antony Hamilton making £600. This money may be laid out in land and the interest will go to Antony Hamilton during his life and to Catherine Bomford after his death, and then shared between their children.

Also Antony Hamilton agrees to convey in trust to the trustees the lands of
Kilnecarrow containing 124 plantation acres (201 statute) and
Aghaga containing 141 plantation acres (248 statute) both in the Barony of Longford and the lands of
Smear containing 295 plantation acres (418 statute) and
Crott alias Crutt containing 262 plantation acres (324 statute) both in the Barony of Granard. Which were leased on 11th May 1738 by the Rev James Achmuty, Dean of Armagh, to Charles Hamilton, deceased, father of Antony Hamilton, for the lives of
Charles Hamilton (the father)
Antony Hamilton his son and
William Hamilton his second son
at a rent of £66

Signed Ant Hamilton Edwd Bomford
Catherine Bomford James Tyrrell

The Four Courts envelope also contains two other deeds. The first one is dated November 1721
and has no interest to us except that it is between Charles Hamilton and ‘Frances Hamilton, widow,
mother of Charles Hamilton’. So Frances Hamilton must be a grandmother of Antony, and his father
Charles must have died between 1738 and 1742.

The second deed is dated 1770 and is included in 8.1.5

8.1.2 Marriage Settlement 3rd March 1750

Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath, Gentleman, in trust to James Tyrrell of Cloonard,
Co Kildare, gentleman, with the consent of Antony Hamilton of Kilnecarraid, Co Longford.

Reciting
1. (The money part of the deed of 1742)
2. Lancelot Lawden has died leaving James Tyrrell the only trustee.
3. Mark Whyte of the City of Dublin leased on 7th February 1750 to Edward Bomford for
   £150.3.0 per annum the lands of Balloughter, otherwise Hightown, and Quinera
   containing 429 plantation acres (695 statute) of good land, plus 125 plantation acres
   (203 statute) of bog for three lives (see 10.2.1).

Now Edward Bomford makes over these lands in trust to James Tyrrell to manage for the
payment of the £300 marriage portion of Catherine. (Book 146 Page 383 No 98040)

8.1.3 Death of Anthony Hamilton June 1755

This branch of the Hamilton family has not been traced, neither has his house in Co Longford,
which has a variety of spellings in the documents. Luckily Betham records the will of Anthony Hamilton,
no other relevant wills were found.

“Anthony Hamilton of Kilnacarra, Co Longford, Esq., will dated 26th May 1755 and proved 7th
July 1755. (So he must have died in June 1755).

Father Charles Hamilton
Wife Katherine Hamilton, eldest daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath
Brother William Hamilton
Cousin Lancelot Lawder, eldest son of Uncle, John Lawder who married Anthony’s aunt
Daughter Sidney Hamilton
2nd son Anthony Hamilton
3rd son John Hamilton
Eldest son James Edward Hamilton
Daughter Margaret Hamilton
Wife’s uncle Thomas Bomford”. (Thomas of Rahinstown who died in 1740)

The Lawder Family (Sometimes-spelt Lauder or Lawden in deeds).

The Lawder’s of Kiltubrid, south of Lough Allen in Co Leitrim, are an offshoot of the Lawder’s
of Lawderdale at Ballinamore, Co Leitrim.

John Lawder of Kiltubrid must have died about 1700; his eldest son was Lancelot, (8.1.1), one
of the trustees of the marriage settlement of Antony Hamilton and Catherine Bomford and who had died
before 1750 (8.1.2); John had two nephews
1. William Lawder who married Catherine daughter of Arthur Achmuty of Brianstown, Co Longford
   and who died in 1715, and
2. James Lawder who married secondly Dorcas, daughter of Samuel Townley, and widow of Thomas
   Achmuty, Catherine Achmuty’s brother

The will of Antony Hamilton (8.1.3) mentions “Cousin Lancelot Lawder, eldest son of uncle
John Lawder”.

8.1.4 The Hamilton Family

All Catherine and Antony’s children would be minors until at least 1763 and no doubt Catherine
and the children stayed on at Kilnacarra after Anthony died in June 1755.
Catherine wrote a letter in 1759 concerning the Oldtown and Enniscoffey court case. It is not known when she died but it must have been after 1759.

Mr Hamilton d before 1721
Frances Alive 1721

Charles d between 1738 - 1742

Anthony Hamilton of Kilnacarra m Feb 1742 d June 1755
Catherine, daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown d after 1759
William Hamilton 2nd son
Launcelot Lawder of Kiltubrid eldest son d before 1750

Sister married John Lawder

James Edward Hamilton of Kilnacarra, b 1743
Sidney (girl) b c1745
Anthony b c1748
John b 1751
Margaret b c1744

8.1.5 Hamilton Land Purchase 5th May 1770

Between 1. Rev John Auchmuty of Fosterstown, Co Meath and Isabella Auchmuty of Belmount, Co Westmeath, spinster, both executors of the Rev James Auchmuty, deceased (Dean of Armagh)
2. James Edward Hamilton of Kilnecarrow, Co Longford.

James Edward Hamilton buys the land (mentioned in 8.1.1 of the deed of 1742) from the Auchmuty family for cash.

With this purchase of land James Edward Hamilton, the eldest son of Catherine (Bomford) and Anthony Hamilton, not only had the Hamilton home of Kilnacarra consisting of 201 acres but now owned the land previously leased consisting of 990 acres. No other details of the Hamilton children have been found. In 1766 John Bomford married Dorcas Achmuty (14.10). See 14.10.4 for a summary of the Achmuty family.

8.2 Stephen Bomford Marries Elizabeth Sibthorpe 18th April 1745

This Marriage Settlement is between
1. Stephen Bomford the younger of Rahinstown
2. Roger Jones of Dollinstown (see 2.5.1) and Benjamin Pratt of Agher (The trustees for Elizabeth)
3. (Trustees for the children)
   - William Foster of Dublin (Elizabeth’s uncle) and
   - Robert Sibthorpe, only son of Stephen Sibthorpe of Dunany, Co Louth (and brother of Elizabeth)

Reciting 1. 15th December 1726. Stephen Bomford of Gallow was granted by William Conolly, then one of the Lord Justices and General Governors of Ireland, the Lands of Dirpatrick containing 475 plantation acres (770 statute) in the Barony of Deece, at the yearly rent of £500.
2. 7th February 1714. William Palmer granted 77 plantation acres (125 statute) in the lands of Arratstown, or Arrodstown, in the Barony of Deece, by Garrett Wesley of Dangan, for three lives at a rent of £27.4.3
3. 11th December 1691. Thomas Bomford, deceased of Oldtown, rented Bacoston town 507 plantation acres (821 statute) and part of Rahinstown containing 396 plantation acres (642 statute) both in the Barony of Moyfenragh, from Sir Arthur Langford

The settlement on the marriage between Stephen Bomford and Elizabeth Sibthorpe “shortly to be had” was: -
1. Stephen Bomford to get £1,200 from Stephen Sibthorpe (the bride’s father).
2. Stephen is confirmed in the use of Dirpatrick during his life, but leases it on trust to Roger Jones and Benjamin Pratt so that his wife Elizabeth will receive an annuity of £150 from this estate upon his death.
3. Stephen is confirmed in the use of Arraattstown or Arradstown, Baconstown and Rahinstown during his life but they are placed in trust in the hands of William Foster and Robert Sibthorpe for the male children of Elizabeth and Stephen. For the next 500 years these land are to pass to the oldest male heir (in other words the land is entailed).

4. The eldest son of this marriage is to receive £1,500 at the age of 21, and the other children are to share £3,000 at the age of 21 or on their marriage whichever comes first.

5. The executors for the children of the marriage and for the entail are William Foster and Robert Sibthorpe.

Signed
Stepn Bomford Junr, Ste Sibthorpe, Elizth Sibthorpe

Witnessed
Ant Foster, City of Dublin, (Elizabeth’s uncle)
Ephm Stannus, Carlingford, Co Louth, (Elizabeth’s brother-in-law)

1. The Registry of Deeds also records this in Book 117, Page 375, No 81163 and the settlement is repeated in 1808 (18.8.3), particularly concerning the entail of Rahinstown, Baconstown and Arrodstown.

2. It is interesting that Stephen had to be confirmed in the lands. His father, Stephen the elder of Gallow, does not die for another 14 years, but he has given up farming and has handed over to his son. According to my estimate Stephen is now about 82 and is also blind, but he is by no means an invalid as below we have a record of him attending a party at Agher in 1746.

3. Many of those taking part were also mentioned in the marriage settlement (6.3) of Mary Foster and Thomas Bomford the younger, Stephen’s older brother. From these deeds and other documents a rough tree can be drawn showing the Foster - Sibthorpe - Bomford connections; much of the Foster information comes from an old Burke but it does not seem to be complete.

8.2.1

The Foster and Sibthorpe Families

1. There is one major problem in this tree (below) concerning Mary Foster who married Thomas Bomford the younger and Elizabeth Sibthorpe who married Thomas’ brother Stephen. These two girls are of different generations; Mary Foster was the aunt of Elizabeth Sibthorpe and yet they married brothers. This is quite possible but it does lead to a doubt, which is compounded by the omission of Mary Foster in Burke. Undoubtedly Elizabeth Sibthorpe is placed correctly so the doubt concerns the position of Mary Foster who is termed “daughter of John Foster of Dunleer”. John Foster of Dunleer could be either the father who died in 1747 or his son John William Foster; however this deed names William Foster who can only be John William Foster and who was apparently called William. For this reason Mary Foster has been placed as a daughter of John Foster and a sister of John William Foster. The matter could be cleared up if I could find a pedigree of the ‘Fosters of Ballymascanlon’.

2. The executor Benjamin Pratt of Agher lived half way between Gallow and Rahinstown. He was a close friend of these Bomfords and died in 1771 after all his children had died except for Margaret (see 20.2.1). Margaret married Francis Winter who had just died in 1743 and, being the only child alive, inherited her father’s estates including Agher. The Pratt estates then passed to her son Samuel Winter who was just four at this time. However it is also possible that the executor, Benjamin Pratt, was the son of Benjamin and sister of Margaret. This younger Benjamin was born at Agher on 14th October 1712 and so quite likely to be a trustee, however he and his two brothers died before 1761. His youngest brother John, 1721 - 1761, was the last of the brothers to die and of him his father wrote that he was “a young gentleman of the strictest honour and integrity”. John Pratt kept a diary, the 1745 - 1747 portion being in the National Library (Positive 4160). The diary has two contemporary items concerning the Bomfords

“19th November 1745 Jack Bomford dined and suped, 3 bottles of claret.” and
“19th July 1746 Old Stephen Bumford dined here” (at Agher).

‘Jack’ must be John Bomford, Stephen’s younger brother, who was then 18 and at Trinity. He was six years younger than John Pratt.

‘Old Stephen’ was Stephen the elder of Gallow who was then aged 83 and obviously going strong though his eyesight had gone.
8.3  

Ann Bomford Marries Owen Daly  c1745

An article in the ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ records the marriage of a daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown. This was the first hint of a daughter and triggered a hunt, which named the daughter Anne, and her three sons from two marriages. However it also leaves us with a number of anomalies over dates. The following Daly tree is principally based on the ‘Grand Juries’ but deviates with clues from Betham’s will extracts and other family extracts.
Thomas Daly purchased Mornington in 1710 in trust for his son. Mornington then called Monintown, in the Parish of Stonehall, is east of Multyfarnham on Lough Derravaragh in Westmeath.

John Daly of Mornington

Thomas of Mornington, will 26th January 1767, probate 2nd February 1768. The will names a nephew, John Daly, so Thomas must have had a brother. Thomas married Eleanor, eldest daughter Owen Young (born 1682) and his wife Bridget, daughter of Rev James Wilson, Dean of Tuam. Owen Young, whose grandson was obviously named after him, settled at Castlerea, Co Roscommon, in 1706, and in 1744 his son John settled at Harristown, near Castlerea.

Owen Daly
m c1745 d c1747

Ann, daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown. She married secondly John Molloy of Clonbela (See 8.9)

Matthew

Edward Daly of Mornington
only child, of Mornington
b c1746 m 1779 d 1817

Miss Clarke, daughter of John Clarke of Rath, King’s Co, who inherited Rath from his grandfather George Clarke in 1774. Rath is next to Clonbela House, the Molloy seat north-east of Birr

Edward Daly of Mornington
JP 1819 - 1843
b 1780
m (1) 1809
m (2) 1816
d 1847

(1) Anne, daughter of John Spunner
d 1810, no children

(2) Catherine, daughter of Thomas Cooke of Retreat

Edward
b 1781
d 1850
Served with the Tipperary Militia

John

Anne

Alicia

Edward of Mornington
b 1817
m 1850 his cousin
Had children

Catherine daughter of William Cooke of Retreat

Thomas
d young

Owen MD
b 1821 Doctor in Hull, Yorks
m 1847
Had children

John born 1823

William b 1825
BA, TCD, 1848

Elizabeth

Mary

Anne

Catherine m 1849
Arthur Samuels of Kingstown

In 1758 “Ann Daly, also Bomford, widow,” wrote a letter, which is recorded in the 1762 document concerning the court case over Oldtown and Enniscoffey. From this we know that Anne Bomford had been married and that her husband had died, and both had occurred before the letter was written in 1758. The ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ gives the date of marriage as 1775 but this is far too late and must wrong, not only because Anne was a widow in 1758 but because her son would have to have married when he was aged four. We must assume that 1775 is a misprint, and I am further assuming that only one figure is wrong. The choice seems to be 1755, 1745, 1735 etc. I have selected 1745 as the most likely date for the marriage because her older sister married in 1742 (8.1), her second marriage takes place in 1755 and her father would be that much younger; however the marriage could have been c1735, but there is more discussion concerning these dates at the time of her second marriage (see 8.9.). The marriage took place at Killucan.

The Daly tree ends about 1850, but both Edward and Owen are known to have children who would be the great great grandchildren of Anne Bomford, and there is no reason why the Daly family might not be still in existence to this day.

In 1784 ‘Owen Daly of Dubin Gent,’ bought Clounstown in trust for Augustine Pentheney (14.5.1/2). With such a name he is likely to be a relative but he cannot, at this stage, be fitted into the tree; perhaps he is a son of Owen Daly’s brother Matthew.
The Cooke family appears above and will appear again. There are two branches mentioned; those of Cookestown or Cookesborough who tie the families of Reynell, Pratt and Purdon together but have no direct ties with the Bomfords; those of Retreat who are closely involved with the Bomfords. The following illustrates that involvement.

Note 1. Thomas Cooke was the only son of Thomas Cooke who in 1742 leased Retreat near Athlone, which he later purchased. Thomas Cooke the younger married Elizabeth Dawson in 1790, the daughter of William Dawson of Nohaville, Co Westmeath; he inherited Retreat when his father died in 1798 and lived there until he died. Thomas and Elizabeth had three children.

Note 1a. Thomas Cooke joined the army and was a lieutenant in the 9th Regiment. He served on the staff of the Duke of Wellington in Spain, and with his regiment on the Walcheren Expedition of 1809. This was to be a raid to destroy the ships and dockyards at Antwerp, but the commanders of the fleet and army refused to work together, and the whole affair was a failure. During this fiasco Thomas’ health became so impaired that he died in 1811.

Note 1b. William Cooke succeeded to Retreat in 1811. He married twice: Firstly to Catherine the only child of Falkiner Chute, Captain 6th Dragoons and their daughter Catherine Cooke married Edward Daly of Mornington in 1850, the great-grandson of Anne (Bomford) and Owen Daly.

He married secondly Ruth Chute, a cousin of Catherine his first wife, and the daughter of Richard Chute of Chute Hall, Co Kerry. Her brother Francis Chute of Chute Hall married Mary Anne Bomford, the great-granddaughter of Stephen Bomford of Gallow (18.5.3). Ruth had a number of children whose children lived at Retreat until fairly recently.

Note 1c. Catherine Cooke married in 1816 Owen Daly of Mornington, 1780 - 1847 Their son Edward Daly, born 1817, married in 1850 his cousin Catherine Cooke, see (1b) above.

Note 2. Thomas Cooke the elder who died in 1798 was descended from the Cappoquin branch of Co Waterford. He was one of several brothers and it would appear, though it is not definite, that one of these brothers was:

Rev Richard Cooke, Vicar of St Peter-the-Poor in London, and he had three sons, the eldest being.

William Cooke, 1737-1789, who at the early age of 27 was made a Director of the Bank of England, was a merchant in Turkey and the Levant. Around 1780 he married and had three sons and two daughters. His eldest son was also named William Cooke, born in London in 1782, was sent to India at the age of 17 as Under-Secretary in the Military and Political Department in Madras. In 1812 in Madras he married Martha, the only daughter of John Pybus, the Consul to Ceylon. In 1825 he became the Principal Collector and Magistrate at Chittoor near Madras and the next year he retired to Cheltenham in England where he died.
in 1863. He and Martha had four boys and three girls, the eldest being:  
Cecil Pybus Cooke (1813 - 1895) who married Arbella Winter (1821 - 1892) (See 18.7.6).  
Arbella’s older sister, Frances Jane, married Samuel Bomford the brother of George  
Bomford of Oakley Park and her mother was Frances Rose Bomford the younger daughter  
of Trevor and Mary Bomford

Note 3.  
William Dawson has been included in the tree since his grandson; another William Dawson  
of Nohaville, Co Westmeath married Catherine the eldest daughter of Robert Bomford-  
Jessop (14.8.2). Robert Bomford-Jessop was the great-grandson of Oliver Bomford of  
Cushenstown.

4.  
Thus, rather tenuously in some cases, the Cooke family tie together the descendants of three  
of Colonel Laurence Bomford’s sons, Oliver of Cushenstown, Edward of Hightown, and  
Stephen of Gallow.

8.3.2  
Elizabeth Bomford marries Christopher Standring  
1 June 1741

It is most likely that Elizabeth was the eldest, but unrecorded, daughter of Stephen of Gallow.  
She was born about 1720 in the Parish of Rodanstown. On 1 June 1741, also at Rodanstown, she married  
Christopher Standring. He was born about 1715 in the Parish of St Andrews in Dublin and grew up to be  
a tallow chandler in Dublin.

In June 1762 they were both mentioned in the Brief to the Lord Chancellor, Christopher as the  
administrator of his wife Elizabeth. So Elizabeth must have died before 1762. There were no known  
children.

8.4  
Dorcas Bomford Marries Edward Williams  
c1745

Dorcas was the second daughter of Stephen Bomford and Anne (Smith) of Gallow who was born  
about 1722. All we know about her is the bald statement in Burke, which reads  
“Dorcas married E. Williams”  
all the rest is conjecture. No marriage licence has been found nor has any reference to the  
Williams family but the documents have four references to the couple.

30th March 1753  
(8.7.1) “Edward Williams of Trim, Gentleman” was party to Rev John Bomford’s  
marriage settlement.

1st October 1759  
(9.6.1) “Thomas Williams, son of Edward Williams of Trim” was one of the lives  
of the Gallow lease.

12th June 1761  
(9.7.2) “Dorcas, the wife of Edward Williams, his (Stephen’s) second daughter.”

23rd June 1762  
(10.6) “Edward Williams and Dorcas his wife” wrote a letter dated 1766  

In addition the Meath Freeholders List dated sometime between 1775 and 1780 records  
“Williams, Edward, Trim”  
and “Williams, Stephen, Trim”.

From these there is confirmation that Dorcas married Edward Williams of Trim, Co Meath, and  
that in 1759 they had a son named Thomas Williams. Most of the Bomford leases had children aged  
between 12 and 15 as lives although one or two lives were as young as aged 4. If we selected aged 14 for  
the life of the Gallow lease then Thomas would be born in 1745 and this date has been selected, for want  
of a better, as the marriage date of Dorcas and Edward; this date would make Dorcas around 23 at the  
time of her marriage.

Dorcas was alive in 1766 but she was only in her mid-40’s then so probably lived on for another  
twenty years. Edward was alive in the late 1770’s and was living in or near Trim then. It is not clear who  
is the Stephen Williams of the Freeholders List; perhaps he was Edward’s brother or even another son,  
my guess would be a son named after his grandfather, Stephen Bomford, but of course he may not be any  
relation at all.

8.5  
Ann Bomford marries Samuel L’Estrange  
1750

Ann is the eldest daughter of Stephen Bomford of Gallow and was born around 1720.  
There are no Bomford documents concerning this marriage, nor has a marriage licence been seen,  
but the L’Estrange family is well documented in Burke. However there are conflicting dates for the  
marrige in Burke; under Bomford the date is 1740, and under L’Estrange it is 1750. 1750 is the more  
likely date.
Samuel L’Estrange died in 1757 leaving Ann to bring up their four sons at Clowestown which is beside Violestown, her mother’s family home in Westmeath. Ann died in 1784 and her death and children are recorded under 15.1.1

The L’Estrange family and the Smith family are inter-connected and both are heavily involved with the Bomfords, so both families are introduced below. The Smith family is in more detail because it is not in Burke and relies on these documents plus four wills from Betham’s notebooks, those of John of 1733, Dorcas of 1746, Isaac of 1763 and John of 1772.

8.5.1  The Smith Family

There are many Smith or Smythe families around Westmeath and they all probably stem from the same source. Our particular branch starts with

Abraham Smith  who was alive in 1666, of Kiltoon and Rathduff, Co Westmeath; Rathduff which was later renamed Anville is situated three miles south of Mullingar on the road to Tyrrellspass, and is sandwiched between Gurteen and Gainstown on the north and Tyrrellstown on the south, all Bomford properties. Kiltoon has not been traced but it may be in Co Roscommon.

John Smith of Vilanstown, later renamed Violetstown lies east of Anville and north of Gaybrook where another branch of the Smiths lived. John died in 1733 (will August 1732, proved March 1733). His wife was Dorcas Wheatley of Co Tipperary. Her will of November 1742 (proved April 1746) names a brother Benjamin Wheatley, a sister Esther Christian, and two nieces Mary Madden and Jane Wheatley. Benjamin Wheatley might have married Mary Tarleton (12.1.2). John and Dorcas had 8 children.

1. Joshua Smith was named in his father’s will but not in his mother’s, so he probably died between 1732 and 1742.

2. John Smith of Violetstown was an executor of the will of Stephen Bomford of Gallow, his brother-in-law, and wrote letters concerning the court case of Oldtown and Enniscoffey. According to the January 1768 deed (11.7) he bequeathed £1,000 to David Bomford in his will of 15th February 1763 and he appointed his wife Anne and Charles Lyons executors.

His wife was Anne, daughter of Benjamin Pratt of Agher (20.2.1) and her niece was Margaret Pratt who married Francis Winter and who inherited Agher. The deed of January 1768 also records that Anne Smith is ‘now’ the wife of Thomas Walpole. She may have married him in 1767 which means that her first husband, John Smith, must have died between February 1763 (the will) and say 1766. John and Anne had three sons

a. John of Anville, which he inherited from his uncle Isaac, married Louisa Bermingham (8.5.3) and died in 1794. Anville was sold sometime before 1838 when William Robinson owned it. John and Louisa had four boys

i  John Smith, born 1776, educated at Trinity and died unmarried.

ii  Richard Smith of the 42nd Regiment died unmarried in 1805.

iii  Benjamin Smith married Catherine Adams and died in 1808. They had a son and a grandson both named John Smith.

iv  Francis Pratt Smith married Louisa McNamara in 1806.

b. Richard of Violetstown is mentioned in David Bomford’s will of 1807 as being ‘late of Violetstown’. He left Violetstown to his younger brother. He must have died without children before 1807.

c. Benjamin Smith of Violetstown never married. His attorney was his cousin Isaac Bomford and later, when Isaac was old, Trevor Bomford. He died in 1809 (probate). Violetstown was sold some time before 1838 when E. Lewis owned it.

3. Isaac Smith of Anville changed the name of Rathduff to Anville after his wife Anne, daughter of Major John Lyons of Ledestown. They were married probably about 1700 but certainly before 1720 (see 9.3.5). He was a trustee of the marriage settlement of 1753 between John Bomford and Ann Forster, and about the same time he leased Gainstown and Tyrrellstown from John Bomford. He died in 1763 (will 15th February and proved 28th March 1763) leaving Anne a widow. They had two daughters and Anville was passed to his nephew John Smith (above).

4. Anne Smith, the eldest daughter, born 1696 (9.7.3) married Stephen Bomford of Gallow in 1713, (2.13). He died in 1759 and she died sometime between 1761 and 1774. They had nine children. Two of their sons, David and Isaac Bomford who may have been twins, were mentioned in their uncle Isaac Smith’s will.

5. Elizabeth Smith married David Tew, brother-in-law of Thomas Bomford the elder of Rahinstown, some time before 1732. They had five children (see the Tew family in 9.3.7.).

6. Esther Smith married John L’Estrange of Boardstown, Co Westmeath, also some time before 1732. John’s will was dated 26th June 1736, but see the L’Estrange tree which follows. Incidentally Esther was named Ellen in her mother’s will but this must have been wrongly copied by Betham.
7. Mary Smith married Mr Smith between 1732 and 1742. They had a daughter, Dorcas.
8. Dorcas Smith married Thomas Smith between 1732 and 1742. Thomas Smith of Lismacrony, Co Tipperary, died on 10th May 1774. His family name seems to have gradually changed from Smith through Smyth to the present day name of Smythe. He was related to the Smiths of Fieldstown, Gaybrook, Barbaville, Drumcree, Glananea and Ballynagall, all estates in Westmeath. They had three sons
   a. Ralph Smith of Milford House, Co Tipperary, who in 1772 married Elizabeth, 3rd daughter of George Stoney of Greyfort. He died in 1813 and his offspring live to this day.
   b. Rev John Smith died in 1813. He was married but had no children
   c. William Smith of Gurteen, Co Tipperary, married but also had no children.

Other Smiths of this period mentioned in the documents but not apparently connected are
1711 Thomas Smith of Gurteen and Gainstown, Co Westmeath.
1715 James Smith, vintner of Dublin
1744 Jane Smith of Dublin who married Laurence Bomford of Killelagh
1751 John Smith of Kilbrow

Some Smith (Smyth or Smythe) families of Westmeath mentioned by Lewis in 1838 are
Gaybrook Mrs A Smith, in the Parish of Enniscoffey, “a hansome mansion in a fine demesne richly planted and diversifed with artificial lakes”.
Archerstown R. Smyth, in the Parish of Castletown-Delvin
Barbaville W. B. Smyth, in the Parish of Feighan of Fore (built 1730)
Benison Lodge Rev T. Smythe
Lake View W. Smyth both near Castlepollard
Ralphsdale Ralph Smyth, “the demesne of which is entered by a beautiful gate”.
Drumcree Robert Smyth “in whose desmesne is a fine lake”.

These last two are in the Parish of Kilcumney

It could be said that ‘our’ Smiths of Violetstown and Anneville had died out or moved away by 1838.

8.5.2 The L’Estrange Family

The family name until the mid 1600’s was Le Strange.

Richard Le Strange second son of Sir Thomas Le Strange of Hunstanton, Norfolk, married and had three sons. Sir Thomas was a soldier who went to Ireland; he was made Governor of Roscommon in 1566 with a garrison of infantry and 20 horsemen after it had been recaptured for Queen Elizabeth from the Old English aided by Spain. This must have been the reason for Richard’s eldest son settling in that part of Ireland, he was

Thomas of Castle Strange, Co Roscommon, south of Fuerty on the River Suck. Thomas was living in 1616 and had one son

Hamon of Castle Strange who died in 1639 leaving a son and a daughter, Elizabeth. The son was

Thomas of Castle Strange died in 1655. He had two sons and three daughters. The family left Castle Strange and the eldest son Henry went to Moystown in King’s County on the River Brosna between Shannonbridge and Cloghan. Henry died in 1666 and we have little interest in his branch except that in 1824 a descendant, Mary L’Estrange, married Marcus Beresford, Archbishop of Armagh, as his first wife. Mary died in 1845 and the Archbishop married secondly Elizabeth, the widow of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown, in 1850. The second son was

William who went to Castle Cuffe in Queen’s Co to the west of Clonaslee. He died in 1676 having had four sons and a daughter. Only the third son’s descendants continued the line and some of them are still living. The third son was

Robert of Keoltown, Co Westmeath. He changed the family name to L’Estrange and had one son

John of Keoltown was named in August 1682 in an address from County Westmeath to King Charles II concerning the plight of the Roman Catholic community in the county. He married Susanna, daughter of Rev John Harrison and his wife Sarah who was a daughter of Bishop Lewis Jones (see this family, 2.5.1). The family then moved to Boardstown for a couple of generations, and then to Clowestown and Clonsheever, all in Co Westmeath. Clowestown is just north of Violetstown, the Smith family place, but neither Boardstown nor Clonsheever have been located although Clonsheever is the name of a lake north of Mullingar.
The cousins, who married, Anne and Edward L'Estrange of Clonsheevor, had four sons. The youngest was Antony, 1768 - 1848, of Dublin, who had three sons

1. Major-General Edward L'Estrange who served in the Peninsular War and in India, died unmarried
2. Lieutenant Frederick L'Estrange, 1798 - 1871, of the Royal Navy married and his line continues. His wife was Frances Amelia, died 1877, daughter of Rev John Matthews, Vicar Choral of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin.
3. Francis L’Estrange, 1803 - 1875, F.R.C.S.I., Surgeon of the Antrim Artillery. In 1830 he married Catherine Eliza, another daughter of Rev John Matthews. She died in 1865 leaving two sons and two daughters.

Their eldest son, Colonel Edward Napoleon L’Estrange, married as his second wife Belinda Emily North-Bomford (see 27.10.). Thus Belinda’s great-great-aunt was Anne L’Estrange (Bomford of Gallow).

Note 1. John Cooke of Cookestown, Co Westmeath, died in 1733 (probate) leaving as his heirs two daughters; Mary who married Edward L’Estrange above; and Jane who married James Nugent of Clonlost, Co Westmeath. Jane and James Nugent had a daughter, also named Jane, who married Benjamin Pratt of Agher, (see 20.2.1).

Note 2. According to Burke, Edward L’Estrange of Boardstown was an only son, but according to the ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ there was a brother and three sisters. These would become Anne Bomford’s uncle and aunts and were
2. John
3. Margaret who married Thomas Naghten
4. Anne
5. and Sarah

8.5.3 The Bermingham Family

There are too many Bermingham connections for them not to be related. There are
1. Louisa Bermingham who married John Smith of Anneville, a cousin of Anne (Bomford) and Samuel L’Estrange.
2. Thomas Bermingham who married Lucy, one of the daughters of Edward Bomford of Hightown. Lucy was another cousin of Anne (Bomford) and Samuel L’Estrange.
3. Anne (Bomford) and Samuel L’Estrange had a son, Rev Samuel L’Estrange who married Louisa Birmingham, the daughter of Walter Birmingham.

Louisa, Thomas and Walter Bermingham are all of the same generation, and may even be brothers and sister with a niece Louisa. Unfortunately no suitable Bermingham pedigree has been found.

The question of the spelling of the name, Bermingham or Birmingham, has been found in my research not to be of great importance during the 1700’s.
Mary Bomford marries William Coates 22nd June 1750

Mary is the third daughter of Stephen Bomford the elder of Gallow and his wife Anne (Smith). She was probably born between 1725 and 1730 so would be in her early 20’s at this date.

Marriage Licence extracted from the Prerogative Grant Book of 1748 - 1751 in the Public Record Office in the Four Courts, Dublin.

“Granted by the Most Reverend father George and so forth (King George II) also Judge and so forth for Solomoniz and Matrimony between William Coates of the City of Dublin, Gentt, and Mary Bomford of Gallow in the Parish of Radenstown and County of Meath, spinster, directed to the Rector, Vicar and Curate of Said Parish. Dated the nineteenth day of June in the year of Our Lord 1750.”

Gallow was at this time in the Parish of Radenstown and the marriage would have taken place from the Church there. The immediate family who may have attended the wedding were-

Parents Both alive but elderly, Stephen nearly 90 and Anne must be in her 80’s.
Brothers Stephen of Rahinstown and Elizabeth (Sibthorpe) are the only ones married; their eldest child would be about two.
John aged 23, probably at Trinity working for his MA, he got his BA in 1748.
David and Isaac, both about 20, were probably working in Dublin.
Sisters Ann marries Samuel L’Estrange during this same year.
Dorcas is married to Edward Williams and is living in Trim with her little son Thomas Williams.
Esther, the youngest sister, is in her teens.
Her eldest sister has only recently been “discovered”. She is Elizabeth who married Christopher Standring in 1741.

8.6.1 Marriage Settlement 22nd June 1750

Marriage Settlement between
a) Thomas Coates of Abbyshrule, Co Longford, Gent, and William Coates his eldest son
b) Stephen Bomford of Gallow and his daughter Mary Bomford on the marriage ‘shortly intended to be had’ between William Coates and Mary Bomford.

1. Thomas Coates gives his son £500.
2. Thomas Coates gives his son the lease of the land of Killmore in the Barony of Carbery, Co Kildare, dated May 1722 which he now holds for the lives of himself, Thomas Coates, Jane Coates his wife and Thomas Coates, second son of William Coates of Knockanally, Co Kildare.
3. Thomas Coates gives his son a second lease, that of Killcoony in the Barony of Carbery dated 17th October 1747 for the lives of Thomas Coates, second son of Thomas of Abbyshrule, and Thomas Coates, second son of Thomas of Knockanally (Book 156 Page 472 No 106863)

In view of the phrase ‘shortly intended to be had’ and the date of the marriage licence, the wedding has been dated the same day as the settlement, 22nd June 1750.

Concerning the places mentioned,

Abbeyshrule is a village on the River Inny between Mullingar and Lough Ree, just in Co Longford. It is the family home of this branch of the Coates family where William was brought up.
Knockanally is the home of another branch of the Coates family. It is on the Enfield to Donadea road about five miles southwest of Kilcock.
Kilmore one of the leases, which William was granted, is two miles west of Enfield; the site of the other lease, Killcoony, has not been found but a stream of that name is just outside Carbury and the land must be thereabouts.

8.6.2 The Coates Family

The only information to give us some of the Coates family background is two wills from Betham and the land assignment, which follow.
“Thomas Coates of Driminuree, formerly Abbeyshrule in Longford (will dated) 14th January 1776, (probate) 16th June 1777

Wife: Jane

1st son: William C - Mary Bomford the land of Abbeyshrule and (what looks like) Clonlrin

Son: Thomas C - (married) Ruth and (their two) sons Mathew and Thomas, the land of Killinboy, Co Longford

Son: James C - and (his two) sons Thomas and Edward

- Samuel C married 1750 Lydia Barker, and (their two) sons Thomas and James
- Mathew C of Knocknally, Co Kildare

(Cannot read, looks like) ‘Girr Nice’ - George C of Castle Poolard (Castlepollard) in Westmeath, (and his wife) Elinor

Daur: Mary C - (married) ... Longworth

Daur: Elinor C - ... Cannon

Daur: Jane C - ... Tailford…”

Most of these relations are fairly clear and hopefully have been made clearer in the spider tree, which follows.

William’s father, Thomas, died in 1777, and his mother Jane lived on. At this date William had three married brothers, three married sisters, and six nephews, who were all alive in 1776 but there may have been others. As the eldest son he inherited the family home and another farm named in the will, but no doubt he still had the two places named in the marriage settlement. He and Mary probably lived at Abbeyshrule although the marriage licence places him ‘of the City of Dublin’. Nothing is known about the house at Abbeyshrule.

8.6.3 Death of William Coates March 1789

His will from Betham’s notebooks

“William Coates of Abbey Shrule in Co Longford, Esq. (will dated) 11th February 1789 (probate) 2nd April 1789

Wife: Mary Bomford

Daur: Anne C - widow of Mathew Coates

Gr daur: Ruth C - do of do

Father: Thomas C of Abbey Shrule

- Thomas Coates of Glynan (This could be his brother or one of his three nephews, all named Thomas)
- Rev George Coates Vicar of Castle Pollard (who was also named in the father’s will).”

William and Mary (Bomford) had one daughter named Anne before William died in 1789 in March. Anne married Matthew Coates who must have died before the will was drawn up in 1789. They had a daughter named Ruth, the grand-daughter of William and Mary.

It is not clear which of the Matthew Coates married Anne, probably her cousin, the eldest son of Thomas and Ruth, since Ruth’s name was also given to the granddaughter. It was not Matthew of Knockanally because he married Mary as will be seen later.

There is not much more to be gleaned except for the following deed, which will, wind up this branch of the Coates family. The Knockanally branch will reappear later in 1803 (19.4) when there is another Coates-Bomford marriage. These two branches must have been fairly closely related and I suspect that Thomas the elder of Abbeyshrule had a brother named William whose home was Knockanally.

8.6.4 Assignment of Woodtown and Clonee 2nd November 1790

Between 1. Anne Jane Coates, widow of Matthew Coates, late of Abbey Shrule Co Longford.

2. Rev George Coates of Castle Pollard, Co Meath and George Bomford of Rahinstown.

Reciting 1. On 27th March 1776 Edward Stirling leased to William Coates the town and lands of Clony (Clonee) in the Barony of Dunboyne for three lives at a rent of £200.

2. On 18th December 1760 Rev George Bomford of Gallow (should be Rev John Bomford) leased to William Coates the town and land of Woodtown in the Barony of Deece for three lives or 31 years at a rent of £66.

3. In his will William Coates bequeathed his lands to Anne Jane Coates.
4. William Coates and Matthew Coates were indebted to several persons at the time of their death, which money Anne Jane Coates agreed to pay and she also agreed to make provision for her daughter by Matthew Coates, Ruth Coates then a minor.

Now Anne Jane Coates makes over to the Rev George Coates and George Bomford the lands of Clony and Woodtown in trust to pay the debts of William and Matthew Coates from the rents, and to maintain Ruth Coates until the age of 21 or her marriage. The lands would then be made over to Ruth Coates.

Signed Anne Jane Coates and George Coates
Witnessed Trevor and Mary Bomford of the City of Dublin

Trevor and Mary Bomford who witnessed the deed were married in the previous year, 1789. He was an attorney and may have drawn up the deed, which does not appear to be registered in the Registry of Deeds.

The Woodtown lease of 1760 (9.3.8) is by the Rev John Bomford, so the Rev George Bomford is an error. Unfortunately the ‘lives’ were recorded in the missing 1755 lease and since the 31 years were up in 1791, there must have been some ‘lives’ still alive at this time. There is no further record of Woodtown as a Bomford property so it has been deleted from c1800.

Clonee was never a Bomford property but a deed of December 1750 (9.2.2) and another of December 1760 (9.3.8) both place William Coates ‘of Clonee’, so he and Mary probably lived there after their marriage for about ten years until they moved to Abbeyshrule, and the house they lived in was Stirling House.

In 1836 Clonee (or Clony) had been split into two and was the property of
1. Samuel Garnett whose house was Summerseat with 155 acres of demesne, and
2. Doctor Barker who lived in Stirling House with 103 acres of demesne.

It may just be a coincidence but William’s brother, Samuel Coates, married Lydia Barker in 1750 and this Doctor Barker may be a descendant of that same Barker family. However no Coates are recorded in 1836 so one assumes that either Ruth had married (Doctor Barker?) or she had let the lease run out.

8.6.5 The Coates Family Tree

Thomas Coates of Abbeyshrule
d 1777 (probate June 16) Co Longford
(Possible brother of William Coates of Knockanally, Kilcock.)

Jane
alive 1777

William of
Abbeyshrule
m 22nd June 1750
at Roddanstown
d March 1789

Mary Bomford
3rd dau of
Stephen of Gallow
b c1730
d 1789/1790

Thomas of
Killinboy
m Ruth Coates
(ML 17th Mar 1753)

James
m
Samuel
m 1750
Lydia
(Barker)

Mary Bomford’s entry in Burke just reads, “Mary, married W. Coates”.

Excluded from the above
The Coates family of Knockanally, Kilcock will be found under 19.4.1.
The Rev George Coates, Vicar of Castlepollard, and his wife Elinor. He died in 1802 (probate).
Thomas Coates of Caikstown, Co Westmeath.
There are so many Thomases that they may be included.
Thomas Coates of Glynan.
William Coates of Staplestown, Co Kildare, merchant, (see 15.12).

Mary Bomford’s entry in Burke just reads, “Mary, married W. Coates”.

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This can be amended to read,
“Mary, born c1725 - 1730, married 22nd June 1750 (ML) at Roddanstown, William of Abbeyshrule, eldest son of Thomas Coates of Abbeyshrule, Co Longford. He died March 1789 and she in 1789 or 90 having had issue

Anne Jane of Abbeyshrule, b c1752, married Matthew Coates her cousin, son of Thomas and Ruth Coates. He died before 1790 having had issue
Ruth Coates, born after 1770.”

8.7 John Bomford and his Marriage

John was the third son of Stephen the elder of Gallow. He appears to have been the brains of the family being the only one who went to Trinity College in Dublin. The register states -

“Bomford, John, Pensioner, (Mr Butler), 7th July 1744, aged 17, son of Stephen, Generosus, born Meath, Scholar 1746, BA Spring 1748, MA Summer 1752.”

Which being translated means that John paid a fixed sum (pensioner) and after attending Mr Butler’s school, entered Trinity on 7th July 1744, aged 17. He was the son of Stephen, a gentleman (generosus), was born in Co Meath, and became a scholar in 1746. He got his BA in the spring of 1748 and was granted his MA in the summer of 1752.

From this we know that John was probably born at Gallow and his birth date was 1727. Of all Stephen’s children, John birthday is the only one we know so it is important because amongst other things, it helped to determine when his father married.

The only Bomfords to become clergymen until the mid-1800’s were John and Thomas Bomford, the grandson of Laurence of Killeglan. John is mentioned in Healy’s History of the Diocese of Meath as the Rector of Roddanstown, but Canon Leslie is more precise and states that John was first made Curate of Kilmore and on 30th October 1755 was presented as Rector of Roddanstown. The Church is just short of three miles from Gallow so John was able to live at Gallow and look after his ageing parents. It is also probable that any Bomford living at Gallow worshipped at Roddanstown Church until it was closed down soon after John left it. John lived at Gallow until his death in 1776 (11.11) and since he had much land he was what one might call a farming-rector.

8.7.1 Rev John Bomford marries Ann Forster March 1753

The Marriage Licence Bonds of the Diocese of Meath state
“7th April 1753 Rev John Bomford - Ann Foster of St Peter’s Place, Dublin.”

The documents refer to both ‘Foster’ and ‘Forster’; the latter is used more often and has been accepted as the correct spelling.

Marriage Settlement of Rev John and Ann Forster 30th March 1753

There is no mention of a marriage in this deed but with those involved and the way it is written, it must be the marriage settlement. The will of David Bomford (19.6) indicates that there was another deed on the following day made by Stephen of Gallow in which the land was settled on the Rev John.

The parties concerned in the deed are
1. Stephen Bomford of Gallow and his wife Ann (Smith),
2. Reverend John Bomford of Gallow, son of said Stephen.
3. Reverend Nicholas Forster of Dublin (probable brother to Ann Forster) and Isaac Smith of Annerville, Co Westmeath,(uncle of John Bomford),(The Trustees of the marriage settlement).
4. Ann Forster of Dublin, spinster (the bride).
5. Francis Evans of Dublin and Wentworth Thewles of Dublin (see below)
6. Samuel L’Estrange of Boardstown, Co Westmeath, and Edward Williams of Trim, gentleman. (Both are brothers-in-law to John).

The deed is in two parts -

A. Stephen Bomford leases to Nicholas Forster and Isaac Smith in trust the lands already in their possession being
  - that part of the lands of Culmullin commonly called Woodtown or Mount Dopping containing 556 plantation acres (901 statute),
  - the town and lands of Ferrans or Fennars containing 265 plantation acres (429 statute),
  - the town and lands of Tyrrellstown containing 214 plantation acres (347 statute) in the Parish of Moylesker and Barony of Fertullagh, Co Westmeath, and
  - the town and lands of Gallow containing 200 plantation acres (324 statute), plus a further 60
plantation acres (97 statute) of Gallow in another place.

The lease to run during the lives of the sons of Stephen, namely Stephen, John, and David.

B. Stephen Bomford leases for 99 years to the Rev Nicholas Forster and Isaac Smith in trust the town and lands of Gurteen and Gainstown containing 431 plantation acres (698 statute) in Co Westmeath.

Signed Stephen Bomford

Witnessed Patrick Fannon of Gallow, servant to John Bomford

(Book 161, Page 98, No 107760)

Francis Evans who died in 1780 and Wentworth Thewles who died in 1777 (probate), both of Party 5 may have been trustees as they were concerned with two later deeds (9.3.1 and 9.3.5) concerning Culmullen, but they also may have held a mortgage on the place.

One of the sisters of Francis Evans was Honora who died before 1729 and who was married to William Forster, a possible relation of Ann Forster.

8.7.2 The Forster Family

The Reverend Nicholas Forster was the son of William Forster, gentleman of Dublin; he was born in Dublin about 1729 and educated by Dr Ford; he entered Trinity. Dublin, in April 1743 aged 14 and got a BA in 1747 and LLB in 1750.

Both John and Nicholas were in Trinity at the same time and I feel sure that John met Ann Forster at Nicholas’ house in St Peter’s Place, and that they were brother and sister. If so William Forster would be Ann’s father. Ann was born in 1733 so was four years younger than Nicholas, her brother.

Rev Nicholas was a ‘pluralist’ according to Canon Leslie and indeed he did hold a number of parishes at the same time. He was curate of Stradbally in 1751 becoming Vicar there from 1774 until his death in 1812. He was also Rector of Fenagh 1776 - 1812, Vicar of Clolydagh 1788 - 1801, Rector of Kilconbrock 1801 - 1812, and Vicar of Timahoe 1801- 1812; most if not all these places are in Queen’s County near Port Laoghaise. Nicholas died on 25th July 1812. A ‘pluralist’ may also mean one who is not tied to his own religion, though it would be unlikely that this would be allowed in Ireland at that time.

8.8 Esther Bomford marries John Kelly

1756

Esther was the youngest daughter of Stephen of Gallow being born in 1732 probably at Gallow. Very little is known about her, and various hopeful leads all came to a dead end. Burke only records “Esther married T. Kelly of Galway”.

However she is recorded in the Marriage Licence Bonds Prerogative of Dublin as “10 December 1756 Esther Bomford - John Kelly.”

So she was 24 when she married and her husband was John, not ‘T’ Kelly.

They are mentioned three times in the documents -

12th June 1761 - “Hester the wife of John Kelly, his (Stephen’s) fourth daughter.”

23rd June 1762 - “John Kelly (and) Hester his wife”. In this deed she signs her name ‘Esther’.

20th January 1768 - “John Kelly, Merchant of the City of Dublin.” In this deed Esther’s uncle, John Smith, bequeathed money to the Bomfords and £100 is granted to John Kelly. It is doubtful if John would have been granted anything if Esther was not still alive.

From the above it is possible to summarize Esther and amend Burke to read “Esther, born 1732 at Gallow, married 1756 (ML) John Kelly of Galway and Merchant of Dublin, both alive in 1768.”

The origin of the Burke entry of ‘Kelly of Galway’ is not known, but there is no reason to dispute it; however he must have moved to Dublin before January 1768. Two years previously in 1766 there were two merchants in Dublin named John Kelly; a brewer of Thomas Court and a wine merchant of Abbey Street; the latter may be our John Kelly since the wine business could be linked to Galway where shipments of wine regularly arrived from Portugal and the Continent.

There were a number of Kelly families in Co Galway and Vicar’s Index of Wills records four wills, those of two families, one in Clonlyon and one in Loughrea

“1694 Kelly John of Clonlyon, Co Galway
1714 Kelly John of Clonlyon.
1772 Kelly John of Loughrea, Co Galway
1789 Kelly Denis of Loughrea.”
It is impossible to say if any of these were ‘our’ John’s family but a check still has to be made in Betham’s notebooks.

There is no indication if John and Esther had any children, but see “Unplaced Bomfords” paragraph (see 17.3.4.).

8.9 Anne Bomford marries John Molloy 4th June 1755

Initially, when this Bomford history was started, it was not known where Anne slotted in, but now we know that she was the youngest daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown and that she married twice; firstly to Owen Daly of Mornington about 1745 (8.3) and, now, this second marriage to John Molloy of Clonbela. The second marriage was a mystery for a long time but was finally discovered almost by accident in Burke’s Landed Gentry of 1912, and with details of some of Anne’s grandchildren in Arthur Crisp’s ‘Visitations of Ireland’ of 1897 but not under Molloy as might be expected but under Homan-Mulock.

No marriage licence has been located but the details from these two sources appear to be fairly conclusive, although references in the documents to the date of the marriage indicate otherwise, however see the note below which explains the anomaly.

8.9.1 The Molloy Family and Anne’s Children

On the failure in the male line of the Molloys, Lords of Fircall, the Clonbela family assumed the headship of the Clan. They were descended from Art Molloy, son of Conall Molloy, Lord of Fircall, who died in 1599. Art was the father of Daniel Molloy of Streamstown and Clonbela. Streamstown is near Kinnitty and Druncullen, and Clonbela is about 3 miles northeast of Birr and south of the road to Kilcormac, both in King’s County.

Daniel Molloy had a Son
Edward who retired to Spain after the Cromwellian success in 1651 and returned to Ireland in 1662 when he was restored to his estates. Edward was succeeded in Clonbela by his grandson

Edward Molloy who died soon after 1752 leaving two sons: Daniel and John. Daniel inherited but died in January 1760 leaving the estates to his brother. Thus, five years after his marriage to Anne Bomford, John came into the lands unexpectedly. In July 1752 Daniel married Susanna, daughter of Peter Daly of Kilceagh near Mote, Co Westmeath; Peter Daly may well have been an uncle of Owen Daly, Anne Bomford’s first husband.

John Molloy of Clonbela, born 1725, married 4th June 1755 Anne, widow of Owen Daly (see note below) and daughter and co-heir (with her two sisters, Catherine Hamilton and Lucy Birmingham) of Edward Bomford of Hightown, by whom he obtained property in Westmeath. John died at Streamstown, near Kinnitty, in May 1803. It is not known when Anne died. They had at least two sons and Clonbela passed to the elder one

Laurence Bomford Molloy born 1760 and married 22nd February 1788 to Elizabeth, second and youngest daughter of Rev John Mulock DD of Bellair, King’s County, by his second wife Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Homan of Shurock, near Moate, Co Westmeath. Elizabeth died in 1804 and Laurence on 31st May 1805. They had four children.

The younger son, brother of Laurence Bomford Molloy, was, Daniel Molloy, born c1763, who had a daughter named Anne Bomford Molloy. She married another Bomford connection, Francis Hugh Massy of Suir Castle, Co Tipperary, about 1820. Further details will be found in paragraph 15.5.1 concerning the marriage of Robert Bomford and Maria Massy-Dawson.

Grand-children of Anne Bomford and John Molloy -
1. Rev John Bomford Molloy, born 1790, succeeded to Clonbela in 1805, BA 1811, and MA 1816 (TCD) and died June 1818 aged 28 unmarried. He and nearly all these Molloys of Clonbela were buried at Ballyboy where there appears to have been a family vault.
2. Daniel Molloy was born in 1793 and inherited Clonbela and the other Molloy estates from his brother in 1818. He married Julia Higginson at Tore, Tyrrellspass Co Westmeath, on 16th May 1834, and died at Clonbela aged 63 on 25th April 1856. His wife Julia b 1807 was the only daughter of James Higginson of Cushendon Lodge, Co Antrim, Major of the 10th Regiment and sister of Sir James Higginson. She died aged 75 in July 1882 having had seven children.
   a. Mary Macaulay Molloy, born 1835, married Robert MacDonnell, MD, FRS, President of Irish College of Physicians 1877, 2nd son of John (James) MacDonnell, MD of Murlough, Co Down; they lived in Dublin but had no children. She died 8th July 1869 and he married again.
   b. Elizabeth Mulock Molloy, born 1836 and died unmarried 8th July 1856 aged 20.
   c. Laurence Molloy died in infancy.
d. Anne Homan Molloy, born 1839 at Clonbela, married as his second wife on 3rd June 1876 Major-General Walter Weldon of Forenaughts, Naas Co Kildare, formerly of the Madras Army. He was born in May 1828, third son of Sir Antony Weldon, 4th Baron, Colonel Madras Army, of Rahinderry, Queen’s Co. The General married his first wife in July 1861 and had five daughters; by Anne Molloy he had one son and two more daughters. He died in 1907 aged 79 and Anne went to live at Craddoxtown near Naas where she was living in 1911. The great-grandfather of Walter Weldon was Arthur Weldon of Rahinderry who married Mary, one of the daughters of Bishop Dopping of Meath, and Arthur Weldon’s cousin was Mary Tarleton who married Arthur Bomford of Rathfeigh c1742 (7.15).

e. Harriett Molloy was born in 1843 and died in 1856 aged 14.

f. James Higginson Molloy was born in 1848 and died the next year in May 1849.

g. Laurence Bomford Molloy was born 2nd January 1845 at Clonbela, as were all his brothers and sisters. When he was 11 he inherited Clonbela in 1856. Educated at Marlborough College, and was Ensign in 69th Regt. On 3rd February 1869 he married Amy Frances, 3rd daughter of Rev John Gemly of London, Canada. She died on 14th Dec 1895 having had one son who died unmarried in 1892, and four daughters. The eldest daughter married a nephew of Major General Walter Weldon; the second married Rev G. Cruddas and the fourth married the eldest son of Rev G. Cruddas. This branch of the Molloy family therefore died out and Laurence Bomford Molloy, JP, DL, was the last of them being still alive in 1922. According to the 1878 ‘Landowners of Ireland’ he had that year land in King’s County 1061 acres at a valuation of £390 in Westmeath 1421 acres at a valuation of £819. The total was £2,209. Much of this Westmeath property was Enniscoffey, which the 1854 valuation shows was belonging to Daniel Molloy and then as shown above was passed to his son Laurence. This must have been the land, which Edward Bomford of Hightown possessed and which he bequeathed to his daughter Anne, and so it became Molloy property. Just when the land was handed over to the Molloys is not known but it was most likely to have been on the death of Edward’s widow, Margaret, in the mid-1760’s.

3. Anne Homan Molloy, born about 1795, married in 1818 Alfred Henry L’Estrange who was the grandson of Anne L’Estrange the daughter of Stephen Bomford (see 15.1.1 No 4a). Anne died the year after her marriage in December 1819 and Alfred died in Paris the next year on 3rd September 1820. There were no children.

4. Thomas Edward Molloy was born on 5th May 1798 and went to Trinity where he got his MA and MB in 1825. The next year he became a Doctor of Medicine (MD) and started practising as a doctor. On 5th February 1828 he married Frances Sophia Berry at Liss Church in the Parish of Kilnagarna, near Ballycumber King’s County. She was the daughter of John Berry of Cloneen four miles north of Clonbela, who was the eldest son of Thomas Berry of Eglish Castle in between Cloneen and Clonbela. These Berry’s were descendants of Oliver Cromwell. Frances Sophia was born at Cloneen on 12th December 1809, died 12th August 1863 and was buried at Leghorn in Italy.

On the death of his uncle Thomas Homan-Mulock, his mother’s brother, he inherited the latter’s estate of Bellair on 16th January 1843 on condition that he took the name of Homan-Mulock; this he did by Royal Licence dated 14th February 1843. Hence his descendants, many of whom are alive today, were, and are, really Molloys. Thomas Edward lived during the latter part of his life as a country gentleman at Bellair and died there aged 92 on 25th June 1889 and was buried at nearby Liss Churchyard, as were most of the Homan-Mulock’s.

His wife had died 25 years ahead of him at the age of 54. She raised 15 children and all but one of them lived to maturity. Bellair was passed in 1889 to William Berry Holman-Mulock, the 9th child, born in 1841, and on his death in the early 1900’s Bellair was passed to his niece Frances Ethel, the writer and daughter of Francis Berry Homan-Mulock of the ICS in Bengal; in 1900 she married Claude Beddington who was then serving in the South African War. In turn Mrs Beddington passed Bellair to her daughter Sheila, Viscountess Powerscourt.

8.9.2 Anne’s Marriage Dates.

Anne’s second marriage date to John Molloy of 4th June 1755 is pretty definite, but the date of her first marriage to Owen Daly is not so clear. The problem stems from the Brief of June 1762 concerning the dispute over Enniscoffey and Oldtown (10.6). In the brief it is recorded that in 1758 “Ann Daly also Bomford, widow” wrote a letter. Owen Daly has died, but Anne Daly wrote the letter three years after Edward Bomford’s will and also after the marriage of Anne to John Molloy; and so on the face of it the Anne who wrote the letter could not be Anne Molloy. On the other hand Anne Daly is not mentioned in Edward’s will, whilst the other two daughters are, but Anne Molloy is mentioned. Could it
be possible that the letter was not written in 1758 but in 1748? If we accept 1748 as the date then everything falls into place.

Anne married Owen Daly about 1745, her son Edward Daly was born about 1746, Owen died about 1747 and she wrote the letter in 1748 as a widow, and finally she married John Molloy in 1755. This must be the correct solution and that the date of the letter is just a clerical error, an error which actually occurred in 1801 because the entry was written in the schedule of letters which Stephen the younger produced.

A summary of Anne Bomford’s two marriages and her children

Anne Bomford
married (1)
about 1745
married (2)
4th June 1755

(1) Owen Daly, only son of Thomas Daly of Mornington, died about 1747
(2) John Molloy of Clonbela, 1725 – 1803, 2nd Son of Edward Molloy

Edward Daly of Mornington, c1746 – 1817
married Miss Clark

Laurence Bomford Molloy 1760 - 1805, of Clonbela
married 1788
Elizabeth Mulock

Daniel Molloy b c1763

At least 1 daughter

Possible other children

3 sons
2 daughters

3 sons
1 daughter

8.10 Isaac Bomford marries Sarah Mathews 24th November 1756(ML)

The details of this marriage comes from two sources
1. Betham’s Dublin Marriage Licences,
   “Bomford Isaac of the City of Dublin, Gent, and Sarah Mathews of the Parish of St Bridget, Dublin, spinster, 24th November 1756, directed to said Parish.”
2. Vicar’s Index of Will’s gives the details of Isaac Bomford’s will, and that part concerning his wife reads – “Sarah, daughter of Edward Mathews Esq. ... brother Hill Mathews Esq.”

Edward Mathew’s will is recorded in Eustace and gives more details of the Mathew family. This reads

“Mathews Edward, Dublin, Esq., will 10th January 1756, probate 19th June 1758.
His wife Sarah Mathews and his sons Daniel, Hill, and Edward Mathews are the trustees and executors
His sons Andrew Mathews (eldest) and John Mathews (5 sons)
His eight daughters Elizabeth, Grace, Sarah, Jane, Ann, Charlotte, Leslie and Mary Mathews
His said son Daniel when he gets any preferment in the Church is to pay back the value of the books in his hands.
His real estate; his lease in or near Newry; Testator’s law books and manuscripts to his son Edward.”

The father, Edward, was clerk to Mark Whyte, a Dublin attorney and public notary (7.10); from the will it looks as though the son, Edward, also has something to do with the law, and that Daniel is about to be a clergyman. Isaac Bomford is to become an Attorney and it is possible that his training was done at Mark Whyte’s office and so he worked with his brother-in-law Edward Mathews. No doubt the married couple continued to live in Dublin.

The sequence in the will of the sisters largely agrees with the deed of January 1803, so it is safe to say that Sarah was the 3rd daughter of Edward, and came from a family of 13 children alive at this date, and that none of them had married at the time of the father’s will though Edward did live to see Sarah married. More about the family occurs later and a family tree will be found in 16.6.2.

8.11 David Bomford marries Sarah Burtchaell December 1756

David is the fourth son of Stephen Bomford of Gallow and of him Burke records

“David, of Gallow, married December 1756 Sarah (will dated 26th August 1814, proved 23rd March 1816), daughter of David Burtchaell of Brownstown Co Kildare, and died (will dated 17th April 1807, proved 2nd February 1810), leaving issue …”. 
There is nothing from the documents to add to this, and we must assume that, although no marriage licence has been found, all the information about the marriage is correct. David was ‘of Gallow’ only after he had lived in Dublin until at least 1786; a number of the deeds describe him as a ‘Merchant’ and the Dublin Almanacks record that in 1760, four years after his marriage, he was living on Ormond Quay and in 1786 he was in Camden Street.

8.11.1 The Burtchaell Family

Burke’s 1912 edition confirms the marriage and gives further details about Sarah’s relations.

Michael Burtchaell of Burgagemore, Co Wicklow, born c1648 and died 1732. He was married three times and by his first two wives he had 4 children. By his 3rd wife, Patience, daughter of Mr Morgan, married 17th September 1699 he had his 5th son

5. George Burtchaell of Burgagemore, baptised 1702, married 1731 and had children, who are not named.

6. David Burtchaell of Brownstown in Co Kildare just south of the Curragh Camp, born 1707, married Jane, daughter of William Senior a farmer who died 1736 of Drumnagh, Co Dublin, and died 18th September 1783, Vicar’s Index confirms all this but adds that David was an innkeeper. They had three children -
   a. David of Brownstown, Lieutenant Naas Independent Light Dragoons, born 1749, married 1771 Mary, daughter of Richard Senior of Aughasan, Queen’s Co, and died 2nd December 1834. They had children.
   b. Mary married John Leedom.
   c. Sarah married December 1756 David Bomford of Gallow

8.12 Lucy Bomford marries Thomas Birmingham c1760

According to Burke, Lucy Bomford was Colonel Laurence’s third daughter and the entry reads simply

“Lucy married T. Birmingham”.

If she was his daughter then the latest that she could have been born would be about 1680 and so at the time of her marriage her age would be about 80. The same problem occurred with Catherine who married Antony Hamilton (8.1).

There are only two references to Lucy in the documents and both are in the 1762 brief

1. Lucy Bomford wrote a letter in 1758 and
2. “Thomas Birmingham and Lucy his wife” wrote another letter in 1766.

Unless there is another Lucy, about whom we know nothing, we must assume that Lucy and Thomas Birmingham were married between 1758 and 1766, the dates of the two letters.

There is just one other reference to Lucy and that is in the will of Edward of Hightown (10.4). The writing in the will is very difficult to read but it would appear that she is a daughter of Edward; at any rate her name is coupled with those of Catherine and Anne who are definately his daughters.

With this evidence and her age Lucy has been placed as a daughter of Edward of Hightown and not of his father Laurence. It is not known whether they had any children but the following might indicate a case for a son.

The 1762 document mentions John Fallon of Clonagh, Co Roscommon, and his wife Bridget (Cheevers). It is possible that their daughter married a son of Lucy and Thomas Birmingham named William; this may be completely wrong but in view of the absence of any information about the Bermingham, the following extract from the Hibernian magazine has not been discarded -

“William Birmingham of Kelsylan, King’s Co, married Miss Fallen of Clonagh, Co Roscommon, in L7(?85?).”

It should be made clear that, although I have removed both Lucy and Catherine as daughters of Colonel Laurence Bomford and placed them as daughters of Edward of Hightown, I am not stating that the Colonel did not have daughters named Lucy and Catherine. Indeed the inscription on the Colonel’s headstone indicates that there were other children who had died, but there is no evidence either of their names or sex.
Chapter IX  The Two Stephens & The Rev John  1743 - 1761

9.1 Lease - Rahinstown & Baconstown  26th January 1743

Renewal of the lease by Hercules Langford Rowley of Summerhill to Stephen Bomford the younger, son of Stephen Bomford of Gallow, of the town and lands of Baconstown 507 plantation acres (821 statute) and 396 plantation acres (642 statute) of the town and lands of Rahainstown for the natural lives of
Edward Bomford  brother of Thomas Bomford the elder, late deceased (in 1741), of Rahainstown,
John Bomford  brother of Stephen Bomford the younger and second son of Stephen Bomford the elder, and
Isaac Bomford  brother of Stephen Bomford the younger and youngest son of Stephen the elder,
at a rent of £160 “with a fatt Hogg at Easter and two good fatt Pullits at Christmas day yearly”.

Signed  Stephen Bomford
Witnessed  Christopher Standring of Dublin, tallow chandler, and
Christopher Dalton of Dublin, Not Publick. (Book 114 Page 304 No 79045)

Three generations have passed since the original lease by Sir Arthur Langford of 1691 (1.9.1). Sir Arthur’s sister Mary, who had married Sir John Rowley, inherited on her brother’s death in 1716. Mary and Sir John’s son, Sir Hercules Rowley, then inherited and the latter died in 1742, the year before this lease. So now his son Sir Hercules - Langford Rowley owned the land. He lived in the fine new mansion of Summerhill, just across the fields from Drumlargan.

Only Edward Bomford remains of the original lives, both Thomas the elder and Hercules Rowley had died within the last couple of years; the main purpose of this lease must be to incorporate new life. The amount of land remains the same but the ground rent has doubled which makes me wonder whether this £160 is not really a single payment for changing the lives. It is not known whether the Christmas and Easter dinners were included in the original lease!

9.2 Lease - Dirpatrick  2nd December 1750

Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown leases to James Grierson of Dirpatrick, Gent, the land of Dirpatrick containing 134 Irish acres (217 statute) for three lives or 31 years at a rent of £94.4.0 (Book 167 Page 4 No 110585)

Dirpatrick was first leased by Stephen the elder of Gallow from William Conolly in 1725. At some time in the early 1740’s, certainly before 1745, both Dirpatrick and Arodstown were passed from Stephen to his son Stephen the younger of Rahinstown, and these Dirpatrick leases are those of the younger Stephen. Stephen the elder is always recorded as being ‘of Gallow’ whilst his son Stephen is ‘of Rahinstown’.

9.2.1 Lease - Dirpatrick  31st December 1750

Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown leases to Henry Higgins, Gent, of Dirpatrick 108 plantation acres (175 statute) at a rent of £76.3.4½. for 31 years or for the lives of
Henry Higgins, and
Joseph Higgins, brother to Henry Higgins, and
John Sweeny, nephew to Henry Higgins, aged 13 in 1745

Witnessed  William Coates of Clonee (brother-in-law to Stephen) and
Isaac Bomford of the City of Dublin and
Joseph Higgins of Bellewstown, Co Dublin. (Book 253 Page 38 No 161588)

The Higgins Family

This family has been mentioned in the deeds of 1725 (5.2), 1747 (9.3.2) and 1748 (9.3.4), and the lives in this deed tie them together.

Joseph of Newtown (5.2)  Ralph of Newtown (5.2) d 1745 Farmer of Bellowstown Co Meath, (Vicars)
Henry of Dirpatrick (9.2.1)  Joseph the younger of Bellewstown (9.3.2 & 9.2.1)  Daughter married Mr Sweeny
John Sweeny  b 1732 (9.2.1)
Benjamin Higgins, Public Notary of Dublin, is a life in the lease of Culmullin of 1748 (9.3.4). He must be a relative but cannot be fitted in.

**9.2.2 Lease - Dirpatrick 31st December 1750**

Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown leases to Richard Bomford of Dirpatrick, Gentleman, - 'The lands of Dirpatrick then in Richard Bomford’s possession containing 37 plantation acres (60 statute) for the lives of

Richard Bomford, the above
George Bomford, eldest son of Richard Bomford who was 16 in 1745, and
John Bomford, another son of Richard Bomford, who was 13 in 1745
at a rent of £26.1.3’

Witnessed
William Coates of Clonee, Gent and
Isaac Bomford of the City of Dublin, Gent and
John Cuming of Dublin, Gent

(Boo 244 Page 524 No 159161)

William Coates of Clonee is Stephen’s brother-in-law, he married Mary Bomford in June of this same year, 1750, and after the wedding they lived at Stirling House at Clonee.

Isaac Bomford is Stephen’s brother. He would be about 20 or 21 now and is in Dublin probably training to be an attorney, perhaps with his future brother-in-law Edward Mathews.

Richard Bomford and his sons see note after the next lease.

**9.2.3 Lease - Dirpatrick 4th May 1754**

James Grierson of Dublin, sales master (of cattle), leased to Edward Bomford of Derripatrick, farmer, 23 plantation acres (37 statute) of part of Derripatrick for 26 years at a rent of £18.8.0.

(Book 170 Page 351 No 114245)

This lease has two middlemen. It runs

Conolly - Stephen the younger - James Grierson - Edward Bomford

**9.2.4 Unplaced Bomfords**

These last two leases have brought in Bomfords who cannot to date be tied in to the family tree. I believe them to be connections of some sort; they may even be illegitimate which was quite common in those days. There is Richard Bomford and his two sons and Edward the farmer, both of Dirpatrick.

To these we can add a gravestone inscription found in Moy Churchyard which is just inside the Summerhill demesne about two miles from Dirpatrick. The graves here are placed in circles, each facing inwards towards a mound, which is probably an old fort. Only one other place in Ireland has graves arranged in circles, in Co Down. The inscription reads

“Here lyeth ye body of RICHARD BOMFORD who dep ye life
October ye 25th 1750 aged 24 years

Erected by Edward Bomford.”

So this Richard was born in 1726 and died 25th October 1750, and he is connected with Edward. My guess is that he is the son of Edward, the farmer of Dirpatrick.

The other Richard of ‘Derrypatrick’ was listed amongst the Meath Freeholders List of between 1775 and 1780, the date of this list is not known exactly. So Richard was a man of substance and lived to a good age.

Richard Bomford of Dirpatrick
Alive 1775

George
eldest son b 1729

John another son
b 1732

Edward Bomford Farmer of Dirpatrick

Richard b 1726, Laracor,
d 25th Oct 1750 buried at Moy

One cannot help wondering whether Richard and Edward were brothers and, if so, who their father was. They were both born around the turn of the Century and could have been fathered by any of the sons of Colonel Laurence Bomford. But they might have been fathered by that other unplaced Bomford, George the Dublin merchant (1.7) who had a son Laurence, born 1712/3, and who went to Trinity. The following tree is pure speculation but does appear reasonable if we assume that Richard and Edward married about the age of 24, this enables us to give a sequence to the 3 brothers.
George Bomford, Merchant of Dublin

Edward b c1702 Farmer of Dirpatrick
Richard b c1705 alive 1775 of Dirpatrick
Laurence b 1712/3 educ Trinity

Richard 1726 – 1750 Buried at Moy
George b 1729
John b 1732

Other unplaced Bomfords in the area in the early 1800’s were those who occurred in the Agher Parish records and those of Trim. These two families may well be the descendants of these Bomfords of Dirpatrick but unfortunately there is a missing generation (see 17.8 & 17.9)

9.3 Mortgage - Culmullin & Ferrans 26th June 1745

Stephen Bomford of Gallew leases to Boyle Spencer of Rathangan, Co Kildare, the lands of Culmullin called Woodtown, otherwise Mount Dopping, 556 plantation acres (901 statute), and Ferrans otherwise Fennars, 265 plantation acres (429 statute), for £2,500.

(Book 118 Page 482 No 81580)

This mortgage is the first mention of Culmullin. Unfortunately there is no initial lease in existence, and since there has been no previous mention of the place, it is probably one of those long leases dating from the beginning of the century, or even before. Even if we assume a 31 year lease prior to this date it works out at 1714, but we must not be greedy and I have made the initial lease start from 1725, which is the same date as the lease for the neighbouring Dirpatrick and Arodstown. Stephen now has a block of adjoining land of nearly 3,000 statute acres. Stephen the younger will add to this block and it will become a rough rectangle of 4 miles by 3 miles. The distribution of the land in this block is discussed in 9.3.9.

£2,500 is a large mortgage for those times. It is not known why it was necessary although it is fun to speculate, and in my usual fashion I think of building - improvements to Rahinstown for his son Stephen who was married in April that year.

The next entry indicates that the penal sum may have been invoked, although there is nothing but the party names to connect the two deeds.

9.3.1 Mortgage - Culmullin 1st October 1767

The mortgage is between the following parties

1. Samuel Spencer, eldest son and heir of Boyle Spencer deceased (probate 1756), late of Rathangan, Co Kildare.
2. William Newcombe and Richard Nelson, executors of the will of Boyle Spencer.
3. Rev John Bomford and Ann Bomford, otherwise Foster, his wife (Foster is also written as Forster in the deed)
4. Stephen Bomford (the younger, the elder Stephen died in 1759)
5. David Bomford
6. Isaac Bomford
7. Rev Nicholas Forster (trustee of the marriage settlement of Rev John Bomford and Ann)
8. Francis Evans and Wentworth Thewles (party to Rev John’s marriage settlement)
9. Edward Williams (husband of Dorcas Bomford)

All these on the one part lease to James Wilson of Parsonstown the land in Culmullin called Woodtown or Mount Dopping.

There is more in this deed than a simple lease; the Court of Chancery ordered payment of £4,020 to various people. The principal sum was £3,000. (Book 264 Page 153 No 167450)

9.3.2 Lease - Culmullin 19th December 1747

Stephen Bomford of Gallow (the elder) leases to Joseph Higgins the younger of Bellewstown the land of Woodtown called Berfordland, and Cannon called Mount Dopping, and also Woodtown called Dobson’s, all containing about 296 plantation acres (480 statute) for three lives at a rent of £148.3.5.

(Book 210 Page 297 No 139003)
9.3.3 Lease - Culmullin 19th December 1747

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to John Grierson of Doulistown, Co Meath, that part of Woodtown known as Big Wood, and Oldtown Hill also called Grierson’s Grove, containing 157 plantation acres (254 statute) in the Barony of Deece for 31 years at a rent of £82.13.9.

(Book 210 Page 297 No 139004)

By 1750 the Higgins family had leased about 650 acres from Stephen and the Griersons about 500. The latter must have had the land before since their name was given to the wood, Grierson’s Grove, on Oldtown Hill. John Grierson also at this time leased the land at Cushenstown from Thomas Bomford of Clounstown. Doulistown, where John Grierson lived, is four miles southwest of Trim on the south bank of the Boyne; he died in 1775. John Grierson’s daughter Elizabeth married Mathew Fox (1745 – 1808) and their third son Joseph Fox (c 1778 – 1855) is ‘of Doulistown’ so it looks as though the Grierson family had run out of male heirs.

9.3.4 Lease - Culmullin 30th July 1748

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to John Bomford of Gallow, his son, for the lives of John Bomford, and Benjamin Higgins, Public Notary of Dublin, and John Tew, Merchant of Dublin at the yearly rent of £48.10.0, the lands of Woodtown, Smith’s Park, 7 plantation acres (11 statute), Farranbower, adjoining the land of Arristown (Arodstown) and Weatherstown all in the Barony of Deece and all totalling 119 plantation acres (193 statute).

(Book 132 Page 312 No 89437)

John was born in 1727 and this looks like his 21st birthday present this was the year he also got his BA in Trinity College, Dublin. However he did not farm the land himself but leased it as the next two deeds show. The acreage do not match the leases so there must be a few missing deeds.

9.3.5 Lease - Culmullin 29th October 1757

Rev John Bomford of Gallow (he became Rector of Roddanstown in 1755) leases to John Tew, Alderman of the City of Dublin, the land of Antony Dopping, part of Culmullin called Woodtown or Mount Dopping, containing 556 plantation acres (901 statute). This was conveyed by Samuel Dopping to Antony Dopping in trust for Isaac Smith of Annville, Co Westmeath. Francis Evans and Wentworth Thewles, both of Dublin, were also party to this deed.

(Book 200 Page 9 No 131397)

Isaac Smith was the brother of Anne Smith who married Stephen Bomford of Gallow about 1715, and so was an uncle of Rev John. One of Anne Smith’s sisters was Elizabeth, an aunt of Rev John, who married David Tew; their son, John Tew, leased Culmullin from his cousin Rev John. John Tew who like his father in 1743, became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1759 (see 9.3.7).

Samuel Dopping conveyed Culmullin to his brother Antony, Bishop of Ossory. Samuel Dopping died in 1720 so the trust for Isaac Smith must have been set up well before that date, probably for Isaac’s marriage settlement to Anne (Lyons) round about 1700. It would therefore appear that the Dopping family was the Head Landlord to the Bomfords of Culmullin and probably some of the surrounding townlands as well. Much, if not all of this land was still owned by the Dopping family in 1838 when Antony John Dopping was living in Culmullen House, ‘an elegant residence’ (24.4).

Isaac Smith (died 1763), Francis Evans and Wentworth Thewles were all party to John Bomford’s marriage settlement of 1753 (8.7.1).
## The Dopping Family

**John Dopping** of Gloucestershire, born 1562, had two sons. The youngest died young, and the elder was **Anthony Dopping** MP, Clerk to the Privy Council 1640, married twice and had 19 children, many of whom died young. He acquired land: in the Barones of Skreen, Ratoath and later in Deece. His 8th son was **Right Rev Anthony Dopping, DD**, Fellow of Trinity College 1662, Rector of St Andrews Dublin, Bishop of Kildare 1678-82, Bishop of Meath 1682 - 1697, (his Visitations as Bishop of Meath produced much pertinent information for this record), Vice Chancellor of Dublin University. Born 1643 in Gloucestershire, married 1670 Jane (Molyneux) died 1697 in Dublin. He acquired land in Westmeath and more in Meath. He had 3 sons and four daughters one of his sons died young **Samuel** b 1672, d 1720. MP for Armagh, MP for Dublin University 1715 These two brothers were involved with the lease of Culmullin **Anthony DD**, b 1675, Dean of Clonmacnoise 1720, Bishop of Ossory 1740, married, and d 1743, Had 3 sons and 9 daughters **Anthony of Lowtown** (3rd son) (next door to Edward Bomford of Hightown) Co Westmeath, b 1714, married 1756 Alice, daughter of John D’Arcy of Hyde Park, Co Westmeath, and Derrycassan, Co Longford. Died 1794 having had 4 sons and 3 daughters **Samuel** (3rd son) b 1761, succeeded to Lowtown in 1794. Leased Clonfad from George Bomford the elder in 1807. d 1821 unmarried but had children (see 24.4.) **John of Derrycasson** b.1800, m1822, d 1855. His offspring continue to this day under the name of Dopping-Hepenstal **Henry of Erne Head**, b 1807, m Dec 1836, d 30 Jan 1883 Had children **Frances**, daughter of Robert Bomford-Jessop, son of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown (See 14.2)

## The Tew Family

No actual tree has been found but Betham records six wills and from these and the other documents a fairly substantial tree can be built.

**David Tew** of Phepotstown, north of Rodanstown which was the church of the Rev John Bomford, died c1686. He had a brother, Mark, and a sister, Joan. The brother Mark might be the father of Mark of Mulhussey which is east of Phepotstown, but there is no proof so our family tree must start with **Mark Tew** (a) of Mulhussey who died about 1720 (Will 1717, proved 1737)

**John of Mulhussey** d c1740 (b) **David d 1744** (c) m Elizabeth elder daughter of John Smith of Violetstown (d) **Mark of Culmullen** d 1736 (f) **Elenor m William Stear of Ginnets (part of Agher)** (1.10) no children **John b 1722** d c1771 (e) **Mark Edward Anne Dorcas** **William** **Elizabeth** 

**Mark of Culmullen** d 1739 (f) no children **John** **Mary m 1737 Digby Tarleton (h)** **Sarah m Mr Mottley (i) Katherine**
Note a. Mark Tew’s will of 1717 names his ‘son-in-law Thomas Bomford’ but not his daughter Elizabeth. This makes me think that Elizabeth, who married Thomas in 1691, died before 1717 and probably soon after the marriage. If she had lived until say 1725 she would have shown up in some of the documents.

Note b. John married Mary whom he left a widow. Will dated 6th October 1738, proved 13th April 1744. Their children were
1. Mark
2. David
3. George
4. Jane
5. Elizabeth who married Mr Cross

Note c. David was a trustee of the marriage settlement of 1740 between Thomas Bomford the younger and Mary Foster. He was a merchant in Dublin, became an Alderman, and in 1743, the year before he died, was Lord Mayor of Dublin. His will was dated 16th August 1744 and proved 24th August the same year.

Note d. John got his BA from Trinity in 1742, probably took over his father’s business and, like his father, was an Alderman, and Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1759. He leased Culmullen in this 1757 deed and died in 1771 (will 20th February 1771, proved 23rd January 1772). His wife was Margaret, 4th daughter of Captain Robert Maxwell of Fellows Hall, Co Armagh. Their children were
1. Robert Maxwell Tew
2. Grace Tew
3. Elizabeth Tew
4. Margaret Tew, born 1757 died June 1860 aged 103. Her husband was Rev William Jones Armstrong, born 1764 and died 1825. Their children occur later and are recorded under 22.2.2.
5. Ellen (or Helen) Tew married 27th May 1785 Rev Sir James Stronge, 1750 - 1804, of Tynan Abbey, Co Armagh, created the 1st Baronet in 1803. They had 3 children.
   i. Sir James Matthew Stronge, 1786 - 1864, 2nd Baronet, who married and had children
   ii. John Ker Stronge, 1787 - 1793
   iii. Elizabeth Stronge, died 1807

In 1807 Helen married secondly to the Right Hon. William Holmes, 1779 - 1853, Treasurer of the Ordnance. They had children.

Note f. Mark Tew the elder had about 450 acres of Culmullen, the balance of 1828 acres belonged to Stephen Bomford of Gallow who passed it on to his son Rev John Bomford. Mark Tew died in 1736 (will 22nd February 1733, proved 24th February 1736); his property passed to his eldest son, Mark the younger of Culmullen, who died without children in 1739 (will 19th December 1738, proved 29th January 1739). Judging from the deed of 1767 (12.1.1) Culmullen was then divided between his brothers and sisters.

Note g. Elizabeth married James Wilson of Parsonstown before 1733. In 1767 James Wilson took a mortgage on land including Culmullen from Rev John Bomford (9.3.1) and also in that year came into the property of Digby Tarleton and Mary (Tew) (12.1.1). They had two children
1. Mark Wilson
2. Rose Wilson

Note h. Mary Tew married Digby Tarleton in 1737 (12.1.2). He died in 1755 and she was left a widow but died before 1767. There were no children. Mary’s sister-in-law was Mary Tarleton who married Arthur Bomford of Rathfeigh, son of Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown.

Note i. In November 1710 William Mottley was “in occupation” of Rattin, Co Westmeath, which belonged to Thomas Bomford the elder. William may well be the father of this Mr Mottley, Thomas Bomford’s nephew.

Note j. Mark Tew born 1720, was educated at Trinity, BA 1744, and died in 1767 (Vicars). He was a “farmer in County Meath” probably at Kilglin just to the east of Ferrans. Kilglin was a property of David Bomford in the 1780’s but some of it belonged to the Tew’s who continued to lease it in 1836. Indeed in 1836 the “Mr Tew of Dublin” may be Mark’s son, another Mark, who was born in 1766 in Co Meath and educated at Trinity (Trinity Register).

9.3.8 Lease – Culmullin(Woodtown) 18th December 1760

Rev John Bomford of Gallow confirms William Coates (his brother-in-law) of Clonee, Co Meath, in that part of Woodtown which in the lease of 17th October 1755 (missing) was in the possession
of Michael Ferran containing 120 plantation acres (194 statute) for 31 years or three lives from 1756 at a rent of £66. The 1755 lease was between the same parties, Rev John to William Coates.

Witnessed Matthew Cannon of Piercetown and Alexander McMullen of Gallow, yeoman. (Book 232 Page 468 No 153623)

The acreage here coincides with the acreage that John’s father Stephen leased him in 1748 (9.3.4). On William Coates’ death in 1789 this land was passed to his daughter, Anne Jane, who in turn gave it in trust to George Bomford the elder to maintain her daughter Ruth Coates (8.6.4).

Matthew Cannon of Piercetown beside Cushenstown is the brother-in-law of Mary (Bomford) and William Coates.

9.3.9 A Note on the Lands of Culmullin, Woodtown & Weatherstown

There are so many names mentioned in these leases of Culmullen etc that I have tried to position them. Much of what follows was confirmed by a local, an old man in a pub near Collegeland, but he had not heard of some of the places. As time passed, and further pints were sunk, he appeared not so certain, neither was I, so what follows has been left as originally written.

1836 Survey

The survey map of 1836 positions the townlands of Culmullin and Woodtown in the parish of Culmullin, and Weatherstown in the Parish of Kilmore, but there are no clues to the other sub-divisions.

The 1836 survey states:

1. Culmullin, 1266 statute acres, property of Antony John Dopping, let in farms. Culmullin House, two-story and slated, is occupied by Mr D’Arcy, At the meeting of four roads, called the Pound of Culmullin, to the east of Culmullin House, there is a fair of mainly pigs held each year on 21st November.
2. Woodtown, 947 statute acres, proprietor Mr Knox, all let in farms at £2 an acre.
3. Weatherstown, formerly Butterstown, 70 statute acres, property of Mr Dopping of Culmullin, leased to Thomas Kelly at 38/- an acre.

These three places total 2,283 statute acres, whereas the Bomford leases total 1,828 acres. It is therefore likely that all the places mentioned in the leases are contained in these three townland.

No Bomfords are mentioned in this survey, which confirms that the later leases had not been renewed.

1654 Survey

This earlier survey gives additional useful information, but at this time Culmullin, Woodtown and Weatherstown are not separate townlands.

1. Culmulline contains 332 plantation acres (538 Statute) which includes “10 acres Underwood”. This might be the ‘Big Wood’ of the documents. “on the premisses a stone house and a church all ruined”.

In 1640 the owner was ‘The Lord of Slaine, Irish Papist’. Additionally “there is about 20 acres (32 statute) of Cullmulline aforesayd, Adam Birford, Irish Papist, proprietor, yt (it) is bounded on the east by the Great, and Small lands, on the west with the Comons of Cullmulline, on north with ye towne of Cullmulline and on the south with the pastur of Cullmulline.”

It would appear that most of the townland was ‘Commons’ and perhaps we have also discovered that the ‘Berfordland’ of December 1747 was 32 statute acres.

The Birford, or Berford family of 1640 consisted of Adam Berford with this land and also land in Skurlockstown, Richard Berford of Ballibane (now called Fairyhouse and famous for its racecourse) with seven townlands in the Barony of Ratoath plus a couple in the Barony of Navan, Michael Berford of Kilrow in the Parish of Ratoath, and Nicholas Berford who was listed in the index of Irish Papists but was not found elsewhere in the survey.

In spite of all the above names, the 1912. Edition of Burke records that for about 80 years three generations of Hussey of Mulhussey were of “Culmullen”; these were Martyn Hussey, died 1662, his son Peter, 1596 – 1666, and two of Peter’s sons, Thomas, died 1689 and Meyler.

2. Woodtown is not to be found in the 1654 Survey but a study of the bounds show that it might be Kenraghtowne which is connected to and north of Baltrasney (Baltrasna, later a Bomford property); the acreage of both, being 210 plantation acres (340 statute). It was owned in 1640 by “Patrick Hussey, Barron of Baltraym, Irish Papist”.

The Two Stephens & The Rev John 105
The Hussey family owned much of Deece including the Bomford properties of Drumlargan, Gallow, Ferrans, Oldtown and Ardrums, but they also had land in the neighbouring Baronies as well. Some Protestant Hussey history is included in 24.7.5.

3. Wodderstowne or Wedderstowne in the Parish of Killmore contained 46 plantation acres (75 statute) and was the property of ‘Lord Barron of Slane, Irish Papist’.

With this knowledge we can make some shrewd guesses concerning the various leases.

1. The 901 statute acres termed the “land of Antony Dopping, part of Culmullin called Woodtown or Mount Dopping” which occurs in four of the leases is probably in the southern part of Culmullin and overflows into the present day Woodtown.

   In 1640 Antony Dopping owned no land in Deece, but he did have land in the Barony of Skreen. Also in “the yeare 1640 in the possession of Antony Dopping of Dubline by Pattent from the Crowne the Tythes beinge that yeare worth Tenn pounds in the Barrony of Rathooth”.

2. Little more can be added to the first lease of December 1747 amounting to 480 statute acres, ‘Cannon called Mount Dopping’ must border the Mount Dopping of the previous lease.

   ‘Woodtown called Berfordland’ is probably the 32 statute acres mentioned above in the 1654 survey. ‘Woodtown called Dobsons’; I can find nothing about a Dobson, he must have had a previous lease and farmed the land.

3. All this land would probably be together in the central area of Woodtown and Culmullin.

3. The second lease of December 1747 amounting to 254 statute acres includes

   ‘Wood town known as Big Wood’, is likely to be the 16 statute acres in Culmullin mentioned in the 1654 survey as ‘10 acres underwood’ (plantation measure).

   ‘Oldtown Hill also called Grierion’s Grove’ has obvious connections with the Grierion family. James Grierion of Doulistown leased part of Dirpatrick in 1754 to Edward Bomford and my guess is that Grierion’s Grove borders Dirpatrick.

   This would place the area of this lease in the northern part of Culmullin beside Dirpatrick.

4. The leases of July 1748 and December 1760 amounting to 194 statute acres includes ‘Woodtown’, and ‘Smith’s Park’ of 11 statute acres. Like Dobson, Smith was probably the farmer who held a previous lease, and the area is so small that it may be just the name of a field.

   ‘Farranbower adjoinin the land of Arristown’ must be just north of Weatherstown and east of Arodstown, but there is no positive identification. However it would be in the townland of Wood town rather than Arodstown.

   ‘Weatherstown’ in 1654 contained 75 statute acres in the Parish of Kilmore. It is in the southeastern corner of Arodstown and to the west of Culmullin.

   This would place the area of these leases in the southwestern corner of Woodtown. Farranbower and Woodtown together would contain about 108 statute acres.

9.4

Lease - Ferrans 15th February 1749

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to Thomas Pearson of Drehit, Co Kildare, for 41 years at £151.3.9 a year the land of Ferns, lately held by George Dobson and on the right hand side of the road from Gallow to Kilcock, containing about 205 plantation acres (332 statute).

Witnessed Rev John Bomford of Gallow (Book 144 Page 257 No 97400)

Thomas Pearson of Drehett died in 1765 (probate) and Vicars describes him as a ‘farmer’.

9.4.1

Lease – Brayfield (Ferrans) 30th March 1751

Stephen Bomford of Gallow leases to Gregory Seall of Brayfield, Co Meath, that part of Brayfield in the possession of Gregory Seall, 48 acres plantation measure (78 Statute) for three lives for a rent of £35.8.7

Witnessed William Coates, now of Clony, Co Meath, and Isaac Bomford of the City of Dublin (Book 208 Page 391 No 138983)

Brayfield is probably that part of Ferrans to the east of the main road.

William Coates is Stephen’s son-in-law. He married Mary Bomford in June of the previous year and is now living at Stirling House just outside the village of Clonee.

Isaac Bomford is Stephen’s son, now aged about 21 and not yet married.
9.5 Lease – Gainstown & Tyrrellstown 2nd July 1755

Rev John Bomford of Gallow leases to John Burke of Dublin the lands of Gainstown and that part of Tyrrellstown now occupied by Isaac Smith Esq., in Co Westmeath, for 31 years at a rent of £80.

(Book 217 Page 428 No 145485)

In the marriage settlement of John and Ann Forster of 30th March 1753 Stephen the elder handed over to John the lands of Culmullin, Ferrans, Gallow, Tyrrellstown, Gurteen and, Gainstown. In this deed, and the next few, John is reorganising the leases handed over by his father who must now be about 80.

Incidentally, from about 1738 until his death in 1759 Stephen the elder was blind, so, although his land was officially his, his sons must have actually controlled them all. It would seem that Thomas the younger did this until his death in 1741, then Stephen the younger took over, and John did not come into the picture until he left Trinity in 1748 when he got his BA or perhaps a bit later. However it was John who took care of both Stephen the elder and Anne (Smith) in their declining years and lived at Gallow with them.

9.5.1 Lease – Gainstown & Tyrrellstown 20th March 1759

Rev John Bomford of Gallow leases to Isaac Smith of Anneville, Co Westmeath, (John’s cousin) the lands of Gainstown and that part of Tyrrellstown occupied by Isaac Smith for 31 years at the same rent as before.

Witnessed Patrick Fannon of Agher, Gent. (Book 225 Page 347 No 146491)

This deed appears to knock out the middleman, John Burke of Dublin, of the deed of 1755 above. This would have the affect of reducing the rent that Isaac Smith had to pay.

In 1753 Patrick Fannon witnessed another deed (8.7.1) but then he was “of Gallow, servant to John Bomford”, so he has improved his lot considerably as he is now termed “Gentleman”. Perhaps this is a different Patrick Fannon.

The Westmeath Poll Book of 1761 lists
“Bomford, Rev John, of Tyrrell’s Pass.”

9.6 Lease – Gallow 11th July 1758

Rev John Bomford of Gallow leases to John Wickham part of Gallow called Moattown on the east side of the Great Road leading from Killcock to Trim which was lately in the possession of Bryan Flinn and Murtagh Byrne containing 77 plantation acres (125 statute) plus another 8 plantation acres (13 statute) which is part of Ferns for three lives for £64.19.4. (Book 196 Page 226 No 129855)

The Great Road was one of the earliest roads in Ireland. It originally ran south from Skreen and Tara, cutting through Drumlargan, Gallow and Ferrans.

The Wickham family re-appears in 1807 (19.6).

9.6.1 Lease – Gallow 1st October 1759

Rev John Bomford of Gallow leases to Thomas Dames of Rathmoyle, King’s County, that part of Gallow called Newtown Gallow containing 60 acres plantation measure (97 statute) lately in the possession of Laurence Monaghan deceased for £42 for three lives, those of
John Dames, eldest son of Thomas Dames,
William Dames, younger son and
Thomas Williams, son of Mr Edward Williams of Trim.

(Book 198 Page 571 No 133672)

From this we know that Dorcas Williams, sister of John Bomford, had a son named Thomas. Thomas would probably be older than 10 at this date, and so Dorcas must have married Edward Williams in 1748 or more likely before that. I have dated their marriage as c1745.

When the, Rev John died Newtown Gallow passed to his brother David. According to David’s will (19.6) Newtown Gallow was sold to the Bomfords by William Dames, the father of Thomas Dames. This part of Gallow must have been separate to the original Gallow lease of 1710 and it must have been Stephen the elder who made the purchase from William Dames.

William Dames must have died before 1759, his son Thomas was alive in 1807 but his eldest son, John, died in 1773 and, no doubt, the younger son. William lived on.
The Dames family name died out with the two daughters and co-heirs of Thomas Dames, Elizabeth who married Francis Longworth, and Mary who married James Middleton Barry.

9.7 Death of Stephen Bomford the elder 1759

Burke gives the date of Stephen’s death as 1756. The text of the 1762 document gives the date as 1759, and there is a list of wills at the end, which includes that of Stephen dated 19th August 1757. The will itself appears to be lost but, clearly, 1756 is the wrong date for Stephen’s death.

The Public Records Office has three references to the will -
1. Prerogative Wills – “Stephen Bomford, Gallow, Co Meath, Gent, PDL 1764”
   The meaning of ‘PDL’ is not known but it must have something to do with probate.
2. Prerogative Wills – “Stephen Bomford, Gallow, Co Meath, Will 1807”.
3. Prerogative Inventories – “Stephen Bomford, Gallow, Co Meath, Will 1809”.

These last two are not much help as the will must have been withdrawn and then re-registered. However the date in Burke is clearly wrong so it should be changed to read

“Stephen died 1759 (Will 19th August 1757)”

For most if not all of his life Stephen lived at Gallow; he died there and at his death his wife, Anne, and his son, the Rev John, were living with him. Already his land had been parcelled out to his sons so when he died there was not much left to be bequeathed, probably some money and Gallow, which went to John. This is indicated in the next two deeds, which record the renunciation of the will, by all concerned in favour of ‘the principal creditor’.

Stephen died aged about 84; his wife Anne was alive in 1762 but was dead by 1774.

9.7.1 The Executors Renounce Stephen’s Will 12th November 1760

The executors of the will of Stephen Bomford (the elder) of Gallow, John Smith (Stephen’s brother-in-law) of Violetstown, Co Westmeath, and the Rev John Bomford (Stephen’s son), renounce the executorships of the will in favour of

Thomas Jackson of Ballybrack, Co Meath, farmer
Signed John Smith Jno Bomford
Witnessed William Coates (son-in-law of Stephen)

(Neither this nor the next one were registered in the Registry of Deeds)

9.7.2 Stephen’s Family Renounce his Will 12th June 1761

“Whereas Stephen Bomford the elder, late of Gallow in the County of Meath, Gentleman, died leaving Ann Bomford his widow and several sons and daughters hereinafter named, that is to say

Stephen Bomford the younger his eldest son,
the Reverend John Bomford, Clerk, his second son,
David Bomford his third son and
Isaac Bomford his fourth son;
Ann Lestrange, widow, his eldest daughter,
Dorcas, the wife of Edward Williams, his second daughter,
Mary, the wife of William Coates, his third daughter and
Hester, the wife of John Kelly, his fourth daughter,
and no other child or children

They renounce the Letters of Administration of the deceased Stephen Bomford and arrange that these letters be committed to

“Thomas Jackson of Ballybrack, Co Meath, the principal creditor”.

There are nine signatures and each one was witnessed twice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Witnesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anne Bomford</td>
<td>John Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Bomford</td>
<td>John Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jno Bomford</td>
<td>Robt Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bomford</td>
<td>Sib Byers (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac Bomford</td>
<td>Fra Perville (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann L’Estrange</td>
<td>John Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorcas Williams</td>
<td>Ed Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Coates</td>
<td>William Coates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Kelly</td>
<td>John Kelly</td>
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<td>Lau Dougherty</td>
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<td>Lau Dougherty</td>
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<td>Thos Ireland</td>
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<td>Jno O’Brien</td>
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<td>Jno Dowdall</td>
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<td>Lau Dougherty</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tho Crawley</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mary Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lau Dougherty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is not known when a number of these Bomfords died but now we at least know who was alive in 1761.

Anne (Smith), Stephen’s wife, died in 1765.

Thomas the younger was actually Stephen’s eldest son but he had been dead for some 20 years. It is thought that his wife, Mary (Foster), must be dead as well or she would have shown up in some deed, at least in this one.

Stephen the younger and Elizabeth (Sibthorpe) do not die until the next century.

John was Rector of Roddanstown until 1776 when he died ‘in office’. He was only about 49. Nothing is known about his wife Ann (Forster) except that she came from St Peter’s Place in Dublin.

David and his wife Sarah (Burtchaell) both live into the next century.

Isaac will die in 1793; his wife Sarah (Matthews) was living in 1803.

Ann L’Estrange will die in 1784, her husband Samuel had died in 1757.

Dorcas and Edward Williams were both alive in 1766. It is not known when they died. Speaking generally Parish Records in Meath do not seriously start until about 1800 and there is no record of these two in the Trim Parish records.

Mary Coates died in 1789 or 1790. Her husband William Coates died in March 1789.

Esther and her husband, John Kelly, are alive but very little is known about them and we do not know when they died.

The variety of spellings of names in the deeds has been standardized according to these signatures. Thus Stephen’s wife Anne is spelt with an ‘e’; whereas her daughter Ann L’Estrange is spelt without the ‘e’. Hester Kelly of the deed signs her name ‘Esther’.

One wonders why the witnesses of four of the signatories were the same, and whether Anne went to live with her son Stephen at Rahinstown, and if Ann L’Estrange and Esther Kelly were living there also. They were probably not living there on a permanent basis, as the house would be over full with 6 adults and 12 children.
Faulkner’s Dublin Journal of the 30\textsuperscript{th} November – 7\textsuperscript{th} December 1765 records Anne’s death, “In Abbey Street in the 69\textsuperscript{th} year of her age, Mrs Ann Bomford, Widow and Relict of Stephen Bomford Esq. Late of Gallow, in the County of Meath.” (So she was born in 1696).
Chapter X  Edward of Hightown  1750 - 1762

This chapter starts with some leases, deals with Edward’s will and death, and ends with the 1762 document from which so much information has been gathered and which gives an insight into the personalities of these early Bomfords.

10.1  Edward, the fourth son of Colonel Laurence Bomford

Edward, the fourth son of Colonel Laurence Bomford, was the mystery Bomford about whom Burke recorded little. He was left no property by his father, which seems strange, but he lived at Hightown and took over the Westmeath land of his oldest brother Thomas. As will be seen in this chapter Thomas harassed him over money matters, and yet he appears to be a hard worker who improved the Westmeath property.

His only son, John, died before he did which left him with three daughters, two of whom were listed incorrectly in Burke and the third one was omitted. For various reasons I feel sorry for Edward, he appears to be isolated from the rest of the family and his land had to be sold to pay for Thomas’ debts. Although he leased the land again he seemed to lose heart, perhaps because his only son died or perhaps because he was never a strong character.

10.2  Map of Hightown & Quinera  May 1749

As has been mentioned elsewhere, the maps of the 1600’s were not very accurate, and so in these more stable times much surveying was carried out throughout the country whenever convenient. We have three of these maps, this one of Hightown, one of Oakley Park surveyed about the same time, and one of Ross and Thornstown.

When Thomas died in 1740, Hightown or Balloughter was sold to Mark Whyte to help pay off Thomas’ debts. Edward had lived at Hightown since about 1720 and he leased the land from Thomas. When the land was sold he leased it from Mark Whyte, but only 898 statute acres out of the original 1,011.

The land was surveyed by Edward Purdon in 1746, and the map, which he drew, was attached to the lease of February 1750, the next one. The contents of the land are shown on the map as

“The Hill of Hightown, part of Quinera 307⅓ acres
Three detached Bogs 125
Pasture and Mountain with Improved Pasture 121⅓

Total 554 acres”

554 plantation acres is 898 statute.

Edward had made a number of improvements to the land; he dug drains around the bogs “to keep cattle from going on the bog”, and improved the ‘mountain’ pasture, which was probably covered in gorse and scrub under-growth. The next lease of 1750 has the proviso that he “expends £80 to complete the building of the house and offices which he had begun”. Whether this was a new Hightown House is not known and it is a pity that Edward’s house is not shown on the map. However an early 1800’s map, printed before the 1836 survey, does show ‘Heathstown House’ which may be the house Edward had to complete and, indeed, it is possible the ‘Heathstown’ is a misprint for ‘Hightown’. The fact that the proviso had to be written in to the deed is an indication that Edward had started the building some years before and had suspended operations; perhaps because of the uncertainty of his future but also perhaps because he had lost the will to continue since his son had died and he had no-one to pass the place on to.

Two of the three bogs are still there, and a new main road from Killucan to the Pass of Kilbride has been built across the southern portion of the land. The north-south road was and still is in existence; the Hill of Hightown and the three detached bogs lie to the west of the road, and the Pasture and Mountain lie to the east.

The map was used in 1793 when there was a dispute over one of the bogs, and the area of the dispute has been shaded on the map in red.
10.2.1 Lease - Balloughter (Hightown) 27th February 1750

Mark Whyte of Dublin farm lets to Edward Bumford of Hightown the town and lands of Balloughter, otherwise Hightown and Quinera, containing 429 plantation acres (695 statute) of profitable land and 125 acres of bog (203 statute) for the lives of

William Sandys, only son of Patrick Sandys of King Street, Oxmantown, Dublin
Thomas Robinson of Smithfield, Dublin and
John Lloyd, son of Rev John Lloyd of Gurteen, Co Leitrim,

or for 41 years at a rent of £200; with the proviso that within seven years Edward Bumford expends £80 to complete the building of the house and offices which he has begun.

Signed Margaret Bomford, widow and Executor of Edward Bomford lately deceased
Witnessed Arthur Maguire, one of the Six Clerks of His Majesties Court of Chancery
Antony Hamilton of Killmacarr, Co Longford
James Hornidge of Dublin

Antony Hamilton married Catherine, a daughter of Edward and Margaret in February 1742. A week after the above deed Edward made over Hightown in trust as part of their marriage settlement (8.1.2)

Although this deed is dated 1750, it must have been signed after Edward’s death in 1756, since Margaret signed it as his widow. This is also indicated by the serial numbers of the Registry of Deeds, in February 1750 the numbers are around 98,000 and in late 1756 they are around 122,000. The later date may also account for the increase of £50 in the rent.

10.2.2 Lease - Hightown 7th April 1755

Edward Bomford of Hightown leases to Luke and Zachary Sheil the lands of Hightown commonly known as Hightown Hill containing 74 plantation acres (120 statute) for 21 years at a rent of £65.17.6 for the first year, thereafter £74.16.6.

10.3 Lease - Oldtown & Enniscoffey 2nd April 1756

Edward Bomford of Hightown leases to Thomas Fetherston of Cushionstown, Co Westmeath, the lands of Enniscoffey and Oldtown in the Barony of Farbill for 800 years at 8/- an acre by survey.

A second lease dated 7th June 1756 seems to be a duplicate of the above.

Thomas Fetherston was one of Edward’s close neighbours since Cushionstown is the neighbouring townland to Hightown to the east

10.3.1 Lease - Oldtown & Enniscoffey 20th July 1756

Endorsement on the back of the deed dated 7th June 1756 in which Edward leased the land to Thomas Fetherston of Cushionstown.

“Margaret Bomford, Executor and Legatee of Edward Bomford agrees to accept from Thomas Fetherston the annual sum of £226.14.0 as the rent for Oldtown and Enniscoffey.”

At 8/- an acre, £226.14.0 works out at 567 plantation acres. So Oldtown and Enniscoffey contain about 908 statute acres.

Edward must have died before 20th July 1756 for Margaret to sign as his executor. He was alive to sign the deed of 2nd April 1756 and may have signed the deed of 7th June (both in 10.3). Thus Edward died between April and July, but more likely in June or July 1756.

10.3.2 Mortgage - Oldtown & Enniscoffey 2nd August 1756

Between Margaret Bomford of Hightown, widow and executor of Edward Bomford deceased and
Edward Sandys of the City of Dublin, linen draper and executor to Patrick Sandys deceased
Whereas Margaret Bomford has made over to Edward Sandsys the lands of Oldtown and Enniscoffey, Co Westmeath, which had a 999 year lease granted by Garrett Fitzgerald deceased to Thomas Bomford deceased. (1.9.2) Now, if Margaret Bomford does not pay £300 to Edward Sandsys before 1st May 1761, she will lose Oldtown and Enniscoffey. (Book 184 Page 79 No 122067)

There is no record of Edward raising a mortgage from Sandsys, either the father or the son, but no doubt this is what happened.

The Sandsys Family

Patrick Sandsys is of Cookestown, Co Dublin, in some deeds and in others of the same period is a merchant of King Street, Oxmanstown, Dublin. Thomas Bomford in his will of 1738 describes him as his ‘kindest friend’, makes him an executor and bequeaths him the lease of Boycetown and ‘what cattle there shall be thereon’. He is first mentioned in June 1737 when he witnessed the lease of Boycetown but it is as Thomas’ executor that he appears mostly.

In February 1750 William Sandsys, the only son of Patrick, is made a ‘life’ of Hightown. Patrick died just before 1756 and his executor was Edward Sandsys, a linen draper in Dublin.

Another Sandsys mentioned in the deeds is Rev Michael Sandsys (1717 - 1778) who carried out the marriage ceremony of William Bomford, eldest son of Thomas of Clounstown, and Charity Ryder in 1754. At this date he was ‘Vicar Choral’ at St Patrick’s Cathedral. On 19th November 1742 he married Anne Ryder (c1722-1764), elder sister to Charity Ryder.

So there, were four Sandsys in the deeds, Patrick and his only son William of Cookestown, Edward the linen draper, and the Rev Michael of St Patrick’s Cathedral. It is thought that they are related and, except for the son William, probably brothers, and that Patrick and Edward together may have run the linen drapery business.

10.3.3 Lease - Oldtown (Leagatoor) 25th May 1761

Reciting that on 30th December 1751 (missing) Edward Bomford late of Hightown deceased leased to Mathew Skelly, farmer, that part of Oldtown known as Leagatoor containing 92 plantation acres (149 statute) for 31 years from May 1750 at a rent of £64.8.0.

Now Mathew Skelly surrenders the lease to Margaret Bomford, executor of Edward Bomford. (Book 212 Page 277 No 139230)

10.4 Death of Edward Bomford June or July 1756

Extract from the Index to Prerogative Wills 1536-1810 by Sir Arthur Vicars, 1897 -

“Edward Bomford of Hightown, Co Westmeath, 4th June 1755 (date of Will)

Wife Margaret Bomford
dinvs (? daurs) Lucy
- Catherine, wife of Antony Hamilton
- Anne Molloy”

There are three other entries in the Index to Prerogative Wills but none give a definite probate date, just 1756.

I tried to make ‘dins’ into ‘daurs’ and indeed it might be, but it is not really clear. We have already proved that ‘Catherine, wife of Antony Hamilton’ is a daughter of Edward, so also is Anne Molloy. The question that now arises; can we claim that ‘Lucy’ was also a daughter? From the age point of view it is improbable that she was a daughter of Colonel Laurence; she does not marry Thomas Birmingham until about 1760 so the bald entry in the will of just ‘Lucy’ would be correct. For these reasons I have removed her as one of Laurence’s children and placed her as a daughter of Edward.

Margaret was one executor; the other according to the 1762 brief was William Bomford of Clounstown, the eldest son of Thomas of Cushenstown and later of Clounstown.

The 1912 Edition of Burke, under Molloy, states that Anne Molloy was a co-heir of Edward and was left property in Westmeath. Vicars Index only lists people, not land, but there are other clues as to what happened to Edward’s land.

1. Hightown or Balloughter was mentioned in the marriage settlement of Catherine and Antony Hamilton and is not mentioned after 1755 in the Bomford leases. It looks as though Catherine was also a co-heir and that Hightown went to her. In 1854 all this land belonged to the Dopping and Tuthill families, so the Hamiltons must have sold it before then.

2. Clonfad and Rattin remained in Bomford hands until the early 1900’s so could not have been left to any of Edward’s daughters who all married. These places went to Stephen the younger of Rahinstown.
Edward of Hightown, Co Westmeath, born c1660, married 1715 or 1716 Margaret (Charlton), he died June or July 1756 and she died c1764 (will 5th November 1763). They had four children

1. John died unmarried between August 1738 and February 1740
2. Catherine married February 1742 Antony of Kilnacarra, Co Longford, eldest son of Charles Hamilton of Kilnacarra. He died June 1755 (will 26th May, proved 7th July) and she died after 1759 having had five children
   a. James Edward Hamilton of Kilnacarra, born 1743
   b. Sidney (girl) born c 1745
   c. Antony Hamilton born c 1748
   d. John Hamilton born c 1751
   e. Margaret Hamilton, born c 1753. Married John Earl (All minors until at least 1763)
3. Anne, baptised at Killucan 14 April 1730. Married firstly Owen, son of Thomas Daly of Mornington, near Multyfarnham Co Westmeath, c1745. He died c1747 having had an only son
   a. Edward Daly of Mornington, born c1746, married 1779 Miss Clarke, daughter of John Clarke of Rath, King’s Co. He died 1817 having had three sons and two daughters (8.3)
   Anne married a secondly John Molloy of Clonbela, 1725 – 1803, heir of Edward Molloy of Clonbela, King’s Co, and had two sons.
   b. Laurence Bomford Molloy of Clonbela, born 1760, married 22nd February 1788 Elizabeth, second daughter of Rev John Mulock, DD, Bellair, King’s Co, by his second wife Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Homan of Moate. He died 31st May 1805 and she in 1804 having had three boys and one girl. The 4th son took the name Homan-Mulock (see 8.9.1).
   c. Daniel Molloy, born c1763 had at least one daughter Anne Bomford Molloy married Francis Hugh Massy of Suir Castle, Co Tipperary, c1820 (15.5.1).
4. Lucy married between 1758 and 1766 Thomas Birmingham

10.5 A Brief to the Right Honourable John, Lord Baron Bowes of Clonlyon, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 23rd June 1762

A long document arguing ownership of Oldtown and Enniscoffey, in the Barony of Turtola (Fartullagh) and Parish of Enniscoffey, Co Westmeath.

Under dispute were two deeds: -
Deed a. 20th July 1692 stated that Oldtown and Enniscoffey were leased to Thomas Bomford the elder in trust by Colonel Laurence Bomford, his father, for three lives.
Deed b. 14th July 1692 stated that Oldtown and Enniscoffey were leased to Thomas Bomford for 999 years.

Both these deeds are recorded under the date 20th July 1692 (1.9.2).

It would seem that if the two places were only in trust for three lives then the property would revert to the senior member of the Bomford family. However if the property was leased to Thomas for 999 years then he could do whatever he chose with it. In fact Thomas’ executors sold it to Mark Whyte to pay his debts. Mark Whyte then leased it back to Edward for 41 years. But this has nothing to do with the main issue, what is important is the family history disclosed in the brief, and not the technicalities of the land.

Edward’s Argument

About six years before his father’s death in 1720, his father Laurence who was then about 97, was too old to transact business, so his lands were divided up amongst the sons. Oldtown and Enniscoffey were looked after by Edward who paid the tithes (£6) and the Quit Rent. Even the cattle were branded with Edward’s brand and, in fact, he ran these farms without any dispute for the rest of his life.

When Edward died in 1756 Stephen the elder, Edward’s younger brother and the only remaining son of Laurence, claimed Oldtown and Enniscoffey.
When Stephen the elder died in 1759 these two places passed to his son, Stephen the younger. However Stephen the elder’s will “contained some words which shewed a consciousness of the right and title of Edward to the lands of Oldtown and Enniscoffey which tended to injure and affect the claim”.

This argument relied on Deed (a) and that Deed (b) never existed

**Thomas’s Argument**

Thomas owned the land but he let his father and then Edward manage it.

Thomas mortgaged Oldtown and Enniscoffey with Edward’s knowledge. If the land belonged to Edward he would not have allowed Thomas to mortgage it.

Thomas the elder died in 1740 leaving his property to his nephew, Thomas the younger. Thomas the younger died intestate the following year, in 1741, and the property reverted to his next of kin, his father Stephen the elder. Stephen died in 1759 and the property passed to his son, Stephen the younger.

This argument relied on Deed (b) and that Deed (a) never existed.

The legal arguments of Thomas and Edward appear pointless since at this date (1762) Stephen the younger had inherited both properties and would have done so regardless of through whom the property had been passed. Therefore, although the brief does not say so, the main object must really have been between the participants.

**Bomford versus Richard Fetherston**

**Claim of Richard Fetherston**

Although not mentioned by Vicars, Edward Bomford named Richard Fetherston in his will and he may have been an executor. Richard lived at Grangemore in the Parish of Killucan and which Lewis described in 1838 as ‘a handsome house in a well planted demesne’. His reasons for claiming these farms is not made clear in this document, as the brief only puts forward the Bomford arguments. This is a great pity, as we do not know how Richard Fetherston appeared on the scene. I failed to find any record of this case in the Public Record Office but it may be recorded under the name ‘Fetherston’ which remains to be investigated.

The Fetherston family tree will be found in paragraph 10.7.

The Findings of Lord Bowes, the Lord Chancellor, are not known. Oldtown and Enniscoffey do not figure again in the Bomford documents, except that Stephen the younger tries to reclaim the property in 1801. Thus, we can assume that the case went in favour of Edward Bomford since his daughters were his co-heirs and at least one daughter, Anne, brought Westmeath property into the Molloy family at, or after, her marriage to John Molloy. The 1854 valuation shows that her grandson, Daniel Molloy, owned much of Enniscoffey. It certainly appears to be the intention of the 1692 deeds that Thomas should have the property on a lease of 999 years and so on the face of it the land should have gone to Stephen. The fact that Edward got it may be an early example of “squatter’s rights” and to my mind Edward deserved it.

The legal arguments in the brief are not so important, but the brief does give a most interesting insight into the Bomford personalities, and indeed of their history, which otherwise would have been lost for ever.

The Personalities

Edward Bomford “had little or no substance of his own property and chiefly relied on Thomas his brother for support”, the document goes on to argue that this was not true but that Edward “was actually possessed in his own right of several large and extensive farms well stocked with sheep and horned cattle of different sorts, and under corn of different kinds in which the said Edward Bomford very largely dealt, and frequently entrusted the sale of his cattle, corn and wool to the said Thomas Bomford when in the City of Dublin where he frequently resided for the attending the markets and several law suits and intricate accounts wherein the said Thomas and Edward were involved…”.

“Thomas the elder was a man possessed of very many farms and an extensive dealer, yet the said Thomas became greatly indebted to several persons in large sums of money and that many of his creditors were so pressing upon, him that he frequently had recourse to the said Edward Bomford to borrow money from him, and join him in several securities to several of the said Thomas Bomford’s creditors and he became at different times so distressed that he in many of his letters grievously laments the misery and wretchedness of his situation occasioned by the many debts he owed and frequently not only desired the said Edward, in the most pressing manner, not only to sell corn and cattle but also lands, the property of Edward, in order to raise money to be applied towards payment of his debts…” Indeed Edward did “furnish” Thomas “with many cattle and other plans to answer the exigencies of the said Thomas the elder’s affairs”.

**Edward of Hightown**
An example of one of Thomas’ letters is that to Richard Connell (5.5) in which he says that he is “given up by all, over run and over come with sorrow, lossis and dissapointments on all sides, ever to dispair of ever having ease or quiett in this life…”.

The brief continues “Thomas the elder was at the same time possessed of several valuable leases for lives and years and fee farm interests set to solvent tenants which would be of considerable yearly value over and above the rents reserved to the Head Landlords, and more than sufficient to pay off all the debts due …. Thomas being then old and not likely to have issue of his own, the said Edward had large expectations of getting a very considerable fortune upon the death of the said Thomas, as he afterwards did ….” Thomas played upon this argument in persuading Edward to pay his debts, he ‘insinuated’ and “encouraged a belief and expectation of his leaving all that he was worth” to Edward and suggested that payment of Thomas’ debts was in fact “serving himself”.

An old servant of Edward, “one William Loyd”, relates that the value of “cattle, corn, wool and other matters” which Edward gave to Thomas “amounted to upwards of £7,000”. This was known by all the family, and in 1729 Stephen the elder wrote to Edward and “he endeavoured to disuade the said Edward from suffering the said Thomas, their brother, from applying his property to the use of the said Thomas”.

However Thomas “did draw the said Edward into his measures that it was thought …. that their interests and concerns became inseperable and connected …. and he took upon him so much to interfare in the affaires of Edward and assume such a dominier over Edward that” he manages to muddle Edward’s creditors and debtors into believing that Edward’s affairs were in the hands of Thomas.

It is with this background that Thomas was able to mortgage Oldtown and Enniscoffey. According to Stephen, Edward weakly gave in to Thomas and allowed Thomas to mortgage Edward’s land. However it must not be forgotten that Stephen was arguing a case in court to gain or re-gain a very considerable property of up to 1,000 acres, and that it was in his interest to make Thomas into an inefficient, money grabbing ogre, and Edward into a poor innocent.

“So the family ties held when threatened from the outside, by Richard Fetherston.” Much space in the brief is given to the question of the letters of Stephen the elder. From about 1738 until his death in 1759 Stephen “was deprived of his sight”, he was blind for those 21 years. His letters were dictated, mostly to his son Thomas. The discussion concerns which letters were really dictated by Stephen and which originated from other members of the family. Indeed it is suggested that he was blind in 1729 and that a letter dated 12th October 1729 was not written by Stephen at all but originated from Thomas the younger. This was the letter, which was sent to Edward and the writer tried to dissuade him from allowing Thomas using his money and property.

It is hard to say who comes out of this affair well. Probably only Stephen the elder who, even though blind for perhaps 30 years, still had a conscience and the strength of mind to have his thoughts placed in his will. Thomas the elder comes out badly, a meddler and a muddler. Poor Edward appears very weak but probably hard working. Stephen the younger and the others who considered suppressing
the will come out badly, and yet Stephen must have felt some justification to raise the whole matter again in 1801.

Many facts have come from this document, and many people are mentioned, some of whom are only mentioned here, but before listing these people it is convenient if we first cover the 1801 document so that there will be the minimum duplication and so that this case can be concluded.

10.6 *Stephen the Younger’s Attempt to Regain Oldtown and Enniscoffey*  
9th April 1801

This document is really just a schedule of letters, all now missing, wills and so on which Stephen the younger sent for an opinion to Mr Beresford Busston, Council. On the back Mr Busston has written

“I have read and considered the mass of Papers sent to me in this Cause and am of the opinion that Mr Stephen Bomford cannot now, with effect, assert his claim to these lands in any proceeding in this cause.”

Stephen did not pursue the matter.

According to the schedule four bills were filed, on 23rd January 1747, 21st May 1752, 31st July 1756 and the one which is recorded above dated 23rd June 1762 There were also nine amendments, the last one being dated, 17th June 1764. The one brief we have represents only a small fraction of the original papers so any conclusion drawn must be suspect.

10.6.1

The following is a summary of those mentioned in both documents and the letters they wrote. The dates in brackets are the years when the letters were written and these dates in many cases were invaluable, if only to prove that the writers were alive that year. The order is that of the schedule.

1. Patrick Sandys (1748, 1749) of Cookeestown, Co Dublin, a merchant of Dublin. He was an executor of the will of Thomas the elder, and died in 1756 (10.3.2).
2. Edward Sandys (1757), linen draper of Dublin. He was an executor of Patrick Sandys (10.3.2).
3. James Tyrrell (1758, 1761) of Clonard, Co Kildare was the other executor of the will of Thomas the elder, and when Patrick Sandys died, the only remaining executor (5.6).
4. William Kiernan (1766), Not otherwise mentioned
5. Elizabeth Hyland (-), eldest daughter of Colonel Laurence Bomford. She married James Hyland before 1720. Elizabeth was alive in 1747 but James had died then and he may have died before 1738.
6. Catherine Hamilton widow, (1759), daughter of Edward Bomford, who married Antony Hamilton of Kilnacarra, Co Longford, in February 1742. Antony had died in June 1755 (8.1). This 1759 letter is the last mention of Catherine in the documents.
7. Elizabeth Friend (-), is not otherwise mentioned
8. Antony Lennon and Elizabeth his wife (1766). Antony Lennon married Elizabeth Bomford at Killucan on 14 July 1747. Paul Lennon (-) is also mentioned.
9. Margaret Bomford (1758,1759,1760). The text records “Marg Bomford widow and relict of Edward Bomford.” Edward died in June or July 1756. Margaret’s will was dated 5th November 1763 but it is not known when she died.
10. Lucy Bomford (1758). She was a daughter of Edward who married Thomas Birmingham. Thomas Birmingham and Lucy his wife (1766). This marriage must have taken place between the dates of these two letters, 1758 and 1766 (8.12). Nothing is known about these two.
11. Ann L’Estrange (-). Ann was the eldest daughter of Stephen the elder of Gallow. In 1750 she married Samuel L’Estrange of Clowestown, Co Westmeath, he died in 1757 and she in 1784. They had four boys. (8.5.2 and 15.1.1)
12. Edward Williams and Dorcas his wife (1766). Dorcas was the second daughter of Stephen the elder of Gallow. She married Edward Williams of Trim about 1745 and had at least one son, Thomas. (8.4)
13. Christopher Standring administrator of Elizabeth (Bomford) Standring (-). He was a tallow chandler of Dublin who in 1743 witnessed a lease of Rahinstown (9.1).
14. Major (later Colonel) Daniel Chevenix (1761) and Richard Chevenix Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, (1761). They were both involved with at least one of the mortgages of Thomas the elder (6.10.7).
and was an executor of the will of Edward of Hightown.

16. Mark Whyte

(1757). An attorney in Dublin who leased the Westmeath properties of Hightown, Clonfad and Rattin to Edward in 1750. He was also involved with the mortgages of Thomas the elder.

17. The Executors of Owen Donnot (-). No information.

18. Richard Fetherston  
Thomas Fetherston

(1758, 1759, 1760). These two are bracketed together in the schedule and are the same family in spite of the spelling. Later the family changes its name to Fetherstonhaugh. Thomas Fetherston lived at Cushionstown, just to the east of Hightown, and he leased Oldtown and Enniscoffey from Edward Bomford in 1756 (10.3). Richard Fetherston of Grangemore was “named in the last will and testament of the said Edwd Bomford”, and he filed the claim for the disputed lands. A note on the Fetherston family is at the end of this brief.

19. William Coates

and Mary his wife (-). Mary was the third daughter of Stephen the elder of Gallow. She married William Coates of Abbeyshrule on 22nd June 1750; they had at least one daughter, Anne Jane. (8.6.5)

20. John Kelly

Hester his wife (-). Esther, as she signed herself, was the youngest daughter of Stephen the elder of Gallow and was born in 1732. She married John Kelly of Galway and a merchant in Dublin, in 1756 (8.8).

21. Simon Nicholls

and Margaret his wife (-). There is no information on this couple.

22. Ann Daly

also Bomford, widow (1758). Ann was a daughter of Edward of Hightown. She married twice, 1st (husband) c1745 Owen Daly who died in 1747 (8.3). 2nd (husband) John Molloy in 1755 (8.9). She had children by both marriages. The date of the letter, 1758 is thought to be a mistake for 1748.

23. John Franklin

(1757, 1766). No definite information found, but he might be a son of Terence Franklin of Dunany, Co Kildare, who died in 1759 and leased land from Thomas Bomford (6.5).

24. John Smith

(1763, 1764). This could be John Smith of Violestown, the eldest brother of Anne who married Stephen the elder; he was an executor of the will of Stephen; or it could be John Smith’s eldest son, also named John. John the younger lived at Anneville with his wife Louisa (Bermingham). John the elder’s will was dated 1763 so it is possible that he wrote both letters. The brief records that “John Smith is brother to Stephen the younger and the Rev John Bomford”. This favours the younger generation, but they cannot be brothers, therefore are cousins; and the elder John Smith would be an uncle. (8.5.1)

25. Gerald FitzGerald (-)

Although the Bomfords had their copy of the important deed of 1692, it was considered necessary to trace the FitzGerald copy; this copy passed through the hands of these people (1.9.2).

26. Garrett FitzGerald (-)

Garrett FitzGerald was the nephew and heir of Gerald FitzGerald. Gerald FitzGerald of Kilmore, Co Kildare, married in 1720 Clare, the eldest daughter of Sir John Bellew the 2nd baronet of Barmeath, Co Louth.

27. Hyacinth Cheevers (-)

When Gerald died in 1731 Clare married secondly Hyacinth Cheevers of St Brendans, Cregan, Co Galway, and Clare inherited the property. They had one daughter, Bridgett Cheevers “who since married John Fallon Esq.” of Clonagh, Co Roscommon, on 10 February 1759, and she in turn inherited the property. It was John Fallon who wrote in 1763 that he could produce the deed if necessary. He died in 1809. Incidentally the uncle of Hyacinth, Edward Cheevers, was ADC to King James II at the Battle of the Boyne and accompanied James II into exile.

28. Bridgett Cheevers (-)

29. Fallon and wife (1763)

and Ann his wife (-). Ann Molloy was mentioned in Edward’s will and John Molloy was an administrator of it. See No. 22 above, Ann Bomford married twice and became Ann Daly and then Ann Molloy.

30. John Molloy

(1757). No information, but Brett Norton was a Commissioner of Bankruptcy in 1787.

31. Mr Norton

(1757). No information, but Brett Norton was a Commissioner of Bankruptcy in 1787.

32. The following Bomfords are recorded-

Edward Bomford (1749) of Hightown died 1756.
Stephen the elder of Gallow (1753,1755, Feb 1756) died 1759.
Stephen the younger of Rahinstown (1753,1757,1758,1759,1763) died 1806.
Isaac Bomford (1763,1764), the attorney, died 1793.
John Bomford (-), the clergyman, died 1776.
Thomas Bomford (-), of Clounstown, son of Oliver, died 1757.

10.6.2 Nearly all the Bomford family has been mentioned in these documents except for Oliver’s branch who were not directly involved with the disputed lands. Of the eight members not listed six members are known to be dead. From a negative point of view it is assumed that the other two are also dead. These two are Margaret, youngest daughter of Colonel Laurence, and her husband Simon Berwick. The Berwick’s had at least three boys, the oldest being about 50 in 1762. Nothing is known about their children but we cannot assume that they are dead simply because they are not listed.

10.6.3 One cannot help wondering what is the connection with the Bomfords with these apparently unattached women -
Elizabeth Friend
Elizabeth Lennon
and Margaret Nicholls.

Were they perhaps unknown Bomford daughters who married or married again? It is not unknown at this time to omit the names of daughters or wives; for instance none of the daughters of Stephen the younger were mentioned in Burke, some have been discovered in this investigation, but there may be others. Is it possible, for instance, that Margaret Berwick (Bomford) married secondly Simon Nicholls (21 above) or could Elizabeth Hyland (5 above) have remarried and become Elizabeth Friend or Lennon?

10.6.4 In 1801 Stephen the younger sent copies of the following wills, which were listed in the schedule together with the date of the wills.
Laurence Bomford, 20th December 1718. The will is now missing, (see 2.17.)
Thomas Bomford the elder, 20th August 1738, (see 5.6)
Edward Bomford, 4th June 1755, the will is now missing, (see 10.4.)
Stephen Bomford the elder, 19th August 1757, the will now missing, (see 9.7.)
Margaret Bomford, 5th November 1763, the will is now missing

One of the Mr Busston’s reasons why Stephen the younger could not reclaim the land was that, of all those listed who could be usefully examined in 1801, only John Molloy was alive.

10.7 The Fetherston Family
At one time it was thought that this family, now named Fetherstonhaugh, was in some way related to the Bomfords, perhaps through Edward of Hightown, because that might account for the litigation, which went on over Oldtown and Enniscoffey. However there appears to be no direct connection, although numerous Fetherston’s have appeared in the records.

Cuthbert Fetherston, born 1621, son of Ralph of Co Durham, left for Ireland immediately after the Battle of Worcester in 1651; he was unable to save his relative, Sir Thomas Fetherstonhaugh, who was captured and later beheaded at Chester. Cuthbert settled at Phillipstown, married and died in 1693.

He left five sons:
1. John of Castlekeeran (below)
2. Thomas, a soldier who served in defence of Enniskillen and carried the Enniskillen Standard at the Battles of the Boyne (1690) and Aughrim (1691). He married and had children but his branch died out in the early 1800’s.
3. Philip married and had children but his branch also died out.
4. Jacob died without children
5. James, born 1681, no information

John of Castlekeeran, Co Meath, and Rath, Co Westmeath, had four sons and three daughters
1. Cuthbert settled at Dardistown, Co Meath, south of Drogheda, in 1726. He married Mary, daughter of Richard Magan of Emoe, near Ballymoe Co Westmeath, and died in 1744. Their 5 sons and 2 daughters were -
   1. John of Dardistown married in 1741 his cousin Anne, 4th daughter of Morgan Magan. He died in 1766 and she in 1776, their line continues
   2. Thomas of Bracklyn Castle, Co Westmeath, married Mary, the only child and heir of Oliver Nugent of Derrymore. He died in 1776 and they were the ancestors of the Fetherston’s of Bracklyn Castle south of Delvin.
   3. Richard married Anne Ledwith
   4. William married
   5. Frances
   Both had children
1. Margaret married Rev Philip Reade, DD.
2. Frances married Joseph Daly of Castle Daly, Co Westmeath
It is possible that the third son, Richard, is the Richard of Grangemore mentioned in the above brief of 1762; and that the second son, Thomas of Bracklyn, is the Thomas of Cushionstown also mentioned in the brief and in the lease (10.3), but he would have to have moved to Bracklyn after 1762. However these two are coupled in the brief and must be related, as are these two brothers.

2. Thomas of Carrick, Co Westmeath to the east of Lough Ennell, and of Ardagh near Edgeworthstown, Co Longford, died in 1749 having had 4 sons -
   1. John, Dean of Leighlin, died unmarried in 1764.
   2. William, of Carrick married and died 1770. He is the ancestor of the Fetherstons of Carrick
   3. Francis, Alderman of Dublin, married 1753 and died 1787.
   4. Ralph was created a Baronet in 1776 of Ardagh. In 1752 he married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Samuel Ahmuty of Brianstown, Co Longford, and sister to Dorcas who married John Bomford the grandson of Oliver Bomford in 1766 (14.10). Elizabeth died on 19th June 1754 and Ralph remarried and died 1780. His line continues.

3. Francis Fetherston married in 1714 Elizabeth (died 1766) daughter of Robert Jessop of Doory Hall, Co Longford. He died in 1748 and was the founder of the Fetherstons of Whiterock, Co Longford. His only son was
   1. Robert of Whiterock who married Gertrude Donogher a great grand-daughter of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield. Gertrude was mentioned in the will of Laurence Bomford of 1761 and inherited some of the Wilson property in the deeds of 1754 and 1759 (7.9).

4. Rev John Fetherston died unmarried

5. The three-daughters, Elizabeth, Anne and Mary, all married and had children.

   The Fetherstonhaugh family continue to this day although they have moved from the places mentioned above. In 1838 Lewis writes “Bracklyn Castle (is) the fine seat and demesne of T.J. Fetherston Haugh”, Thomas John, later 5th Bart.,
   Ardagh House is now a domestic science college
   Grangemore, south of Bracklyn at Ratharney, Co Westmeath, is now a ruin.
   Derrymore near Rathwire, Co Westmeath was left by Oliver Nugent to the Fetherston family but by 1814 it was ‘the seat of Captain Daly’ (Lewis). It also is now a ruin.
   Carrick was still a Fetherston property in the first quarter of the 1900 when Francis Berry Fetherstonhaugh was living there.
Chapter XI

Children of Stephen the Elder

1760 - 1780

11.1

Lease - Rahinstown & Baconstown

We already know much about the children of Stephen the elder who were the grandchildren of Colonel Laurence. This chapter contains more about the land and consolidates Stephen’s branch of the family. A simplified family tree is shown below; a fuller statement of 1762 of the whole family and their property follows in paragraph 11.4

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stephen of Gallow</th>
<th>Anne (Smith of Violetstown)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b c1663 d 1759 aged about 96</td>
<td>m c1715 d between 1761 and 1774</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Thomas of Rahinstown
  - b c1716
  - m Mar 1740
  - Mary (Foster) d 1741

- Stephen of Rahinstown
  - b c1718
  - m 18th Apr 1745
  - Elizabeth (Sibthorpe)

- Ann
  - b c1720
  - m 1750 Samuel L’Estrange
  - of Clowestown
  - He died 1757

- Dorcas
  - b c1722 m c1745
  - Edward Williams of Trim

- Mary
  - b c1724
  - m 22nd Jun 1750
  - William Coates of Clonee

- Rev John of Gallow
  - b c1727
  - m Mar 1753
  - Ann (Forster)

- David of Dublin
  - b 1730
  - m Dec 1756
  - Sarah (Burchtachell)

- Isaac
  - Attorney of Dublin
  - b c1730
  - m Nov 1756
  - Sarah (Mathews)

- Esther b 1732
  - m 1756 John Kelly of Dublin & Galway

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11.2

Lease – Castletownbellew

13th March 1761

Provided John, Lord Bellew, die without issue, then the Right Hon Frederick, Lord Viscount Boyne, will lease to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown for £300, on the death of Lord Bellow the lands of:

1. Castletown, alias Castletownbellew Tateitragh, and the mill of Castletown, containing 205 plantation acres (332 statute) without the ‘bogg’, in the Barony of Dundalk at £114 a year
2. Tateitragh at £93.6.10 (Book 207 Page 593 No 138483)

These lands have not been investigated, but they are most likely to be just outside Dundalk to the northwest. If Tateitragh were not the bog mentioned above, then it would contain about 270 statute acres calculated at the same rate as Castletown

11.2.1

Lease – Bellows Town, Red Mountain, Dunfierth and Mylerstown

18th July 1761

For £400 the Right Honourable Frederick, Lord Viscount Boyne, gave fee farm to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, because of the death of John, Lord Bellew, the town and lands of:

a. Bellows Town in the Barony of Duleek containing 982 plantation acres (1591 statute) at a rent of £380
b. Red Mountain in the Barony of Duleek containing 60 plantation acres (97 statute) at a rent of £15
c. Dunfierth in the Barony of Carbery containing 476 plantation acres (771 statute) at a rent of £184.10.0
d. Mylerstown in the Baron of Carbery Containing 298 plantation acres (483 statute) at a rent of £145

(Book 208 Page 556 No 139786)

Bellows Town in 1654 contained 1184 plantation acres of which 300 were “Barren Mountayn”. “There being on the premises one castle, divers outhouses and Cabbines and a Tuck Mill”. In 1640 “Sir Christopher Bellew of Bellows Towne, Irish Papist,” was living there, one assumes in the castle. The land is one mile east of Duleek and south of the River Nanny.

Red Mountain takes its name from Redmountayne meaning a water-mill and the 1836 survey records “a very fine and very old water Mill” still in operation on the River Nanny. The place lies just south of the River Nanny and to the east of Bellows Town. In 1640 it was owned by Sir Christopher Bellew. It is a very small townland and this lease takes in all of it. Modern maps show another Red Mountain two miles north of Duleek in the parish of Donore, this one is in the wrong parish and has a much larger acreage. The 1836 survey records no Bomfords in either Bellows Town or Red Mountain so this lease must have been given up by then.
11.2.2  Lease - Lands in the Barony of Carbery  16th October 1761

For £150 Frederick, Lord Boyne, gave fee farm to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, because of the death of Lord Bellew without any male heirs,

the lands of

Dunfierth (subject of the last lease)
Killyan Kilshanroe
Mulgeeth Gurley Mill
Mucklin Ballynemallagh
Kilmurry and Clonkeran

all totalling 2028 plantation acres (3285 statute) and all in the Barony of Carbery, Co Kildare, at a rent of £789.6.0. (Book 214 Page 100 No 140443)

Sir John Bellew was the 4th Baronet of Barmeath, Co Louth; when he died in 1750 the title finally went to his brother Patrick.

Frederick, 3rd Viscount Boyne, must have been the executor of the will of Sir John. His mother, Dorothea, was the only daughter of Richard, the first Lord Bellew. Lord Boyne died in 1772 without children and Frederick Hamilton of Dunfierth claimed the title, but the title went to Lord Boyne’s brother. Frederick Hamilton died in 1803 (probate) and his son, another Frederick of Dunfierth, appears in later documents of 1817 and 1821 (20.9).

11.2.3  Lease - Dunfierth, Mucklin & Mulgeeth  3rd November 1770

Lord Boyne leases to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown part of Dunfierth, Mucklin and Mulgeeth in the Barony of Carbery, Co Kildare, at a rent of £404 yearly for three lives renewable for ever.

This lease was extracted from the list of documents of 15th May 1772, which were sent to Mr Sibthorpe and which concerned the mortgages of Thomas Bomford the elder, (6.10.6). It has nothing to do with Thomas’ mortgages and it was not registered in the Registry of Deeds.

11.2.4  The Lands of Dunfierth Parish

For a rent of £934 Stephen leased from Lord Bellew 3,768 statute acres in the Parish of Dunfierth, Co Kildare. Around 5/- (25p) an acre sounds a good bargain but over half the acreage is raised bog forming part of the northern end of the huge Bog of Allen.

The Civil Survey of 1654 states that the whole Parish is the property of “John Bermingham of Dunferth, Irish Papist”, and consisted of “Arable 500, Meadow 40, Pasture 800, Shrubby Wood 60, Red Bogg 2000. Totalling 3,400 Plantation acres” (5,440 statute). In 1840 the townland of Dunfierth contained 651 statute acres valued at £580.11.6 including Dunfierth House. In 1821 the place was sold by Frederick Hamilton whose family had been living in Dunfierth House since before 1710. It was bought by Sir Francis MacDonnell (20.9) who also lived there.

However although John Bermingham, ‘the Irish Papist’, of 1654 must have left, some of the Bermingham family lived on at Mylerstown, also called “Moylerstown”. This townland of 640 plantation acres (1,024 statute) included Moylerstown Castle, which “is valued to be worth forty pounds”; a sum, which indicates that it was habitable in 1654. Well into the next century the Bermingham family were still living at Mylerstown where there were three largish houses, the Castle, Mylerstown House and Bermingham House. In 1772 Water Bermingham made his will in one of these houses.

Walter is a possible relation of Thomas Bermingham who between 1758 and 1766 married Lucy Bomford, youngest daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown.

The parish is served by two roads; that from Enfield to Timahoe feeds Dunfierth, Killyan, Mulgeeth, Mucklin and Clonagh; and that from Enfield to Carbury feeds Mylerstown, Kilmurry, Kilshanroe, Ballynemallagh, Clonagh and Clonkeran. Moving clockwise from Dunfierth in the northeast to Mylerstown five miles away in the west, the remaining townlands are: -

1. Clonagh is recorded only in the deed of 1811 (20.9.1). It appears to be detached; one parcel south of Dunfierth and the other west of Kilshanroe with three to four miles between the two.
2. Killyan, southwest of Dunfierth, 151 statute acres, is about 1/3rd bog.
3. Mucklin, south of Killyan and Clonagh is mostly bog, particularly that portion south of Clonagh. In 1853 it contained 739 statute acres valued at £347.5.4
4. Mulgeeth lies south of Mucklin. In 1838 Mulgeeth House was occupied by Mr E Ruthven, MP. Fifteen years later the townland consisted of 835 statute acres valued at £121.6.3 with Mulgeeth House valued at £20.
5. Ballynemallagh is northwest of Mulgeeth on the Enfield - Carbury road.
6. Kilmurry is mostly bog drained by the Fear English River. It contains Hermitage House and lies
between Ballynemallagh and Dunfierth on both sides of the Enfield to Carbury road.

7. Clonkeran northwest of Ballynemallagh also straddles this road.
8. Kilshanroe (Kilshanchoe) is on the west side of the Enfield to Carbury road, northeast of Clonkeeran. Now it contains a school and a chapel.
9. Mylerstown lies west of Clonkeeran with the second portion of Clonagh to the north.
10. Two other places are mentioned, Gurley Mill and Doegery. The latter has not been located but Gurley Mill must be, as the 1654 Survey states, the “Mill of Gurtin on the streame wch runneth directly to the Blackwater”. This ‘streame’ is in Dunfierth townland and must be the delightfully named Fear English River.

11.3

Lease - Carlingford 19th March 1762

Ephraim Stannus of Carlingford, Co Louth re-leases to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown the land for which Stephen Sibthorpe of Dunany, Co Louth, paid £2,500. The land of,
Monksland, Crosslany,
The Mill of Grange,
Stannus Hill of Lemonee,
Part of Carlingford called North Common and the Mountain,
Part of Carlingford called McLaughlin’s Commons,
Part of Carlingford called the Rocks,
Part of Carlingford called Mountain Park,
containing 60 plantation acres (97 statute) for 31 years. (Book 216 Page 129 No 142069)

11.3.1

Lease – Carlingford 29th September 1775

Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown and Robert Sibthorpe of Newtown, Co Louth, lease to the Right Honourable James Fortescue of Ravensdale, the lands of
Monksland, Cross...?? (Crosselsony?)
The Mill of Grange,
Stamun Hill and Lemonee,
Town of Carlingford, 50 plantation acres (81 statute)
Witnessed William Rogers of Grangegeeth, Co Meath (died 1799)

(Book 315 Page 118 No 208944)

This last deed is very difficult to decipher and the lands have not been investigated but, in spite of the minor differences in the place names and acreage, it is thought that the two deeds concern the same places. They are all in the Parish of Carlingford, which gives its name to Carlingford Lough to the north. Lewis’s Topographical Dictionary records that in 1404 Carlingford was called Irish-Grange, and in 1838 he records that two of the major houses were “Grange, residence of T. Gernon” and “Monksland House of R de Vernon”. The two hills, Stannus or Stamun, and Lemonee have not been identified.

Stephen Sibthorpe of Dunany was Elizabeth’s father. In April 1745 Elizabeth married Stephen Bomford and it is thought that perhaps Sibthorpe bought the lease and handed it over to Stephen Bomford as part of Elizabeth’s dowry, but there is no mention of this in the marriage settlement. Alternatively, and more likely, the lands might have formed a trust set up for the children of Elizabeth and Stephen. The land is not mentioned again so the lease terminated in 1793, by which date all the children were of age, and Robert Sibthorpe of the second deed, Elizabeth’s brother, was one of the trustees for the children in the marriage settlement.

The Right Honourable James Fortescue, to whom Stephen Bomford leased the Carlingford lands in 1775, was a son of Lord Carlingford and died in 1782. His cousin Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of William Fortescue of Newrath, Co Louth, married John Foster of Dunleer in 1704 (8.2.1). Ravensdale, his house, predated the famous Ravensdale Park, a huge early Victorian mansion that was burnt down in the early 1920’s.

11.3.2

The Stannus Family

The Stannus family, formerly named Stanehouse, of Carbolzie in Scotland, were the Head Landlords of the Carlingford estates granted to them on the plantation of Ulster by King James I.
William Stannus of Carlingford married a sister of Ephraim Dawson who bought Clonfad, Hightown etc (see 2.3), and died in 1717. They had a number of children amongst whom were
1. James Stannus, 1686-1721, inherited the Carlingford estate which then passed to his brother
2. William Stannus, 1695-1732, had one son
   a. Ephraim who married Margaret, daughter of Stephen Sibthorpe and sister to Elizabeth Bomford. They had one son
i. Ephraim who married a sister of John Foster of Dunleer, and died without children. The Carlingford estates then passed to William’s fourth son.

4. Trevor, 1700 - 1771, married in 1728 Jane, daughter of Robert Sibthorpe who was probably an uncle of Elizabeth Bomford.

Ephraim Stannus of the 1762 deed witnessed the marriage settlement of Stephen and Elizabeth Sibthorpe, appears to be a relative of both the Sibthorpes and the Fosters, and so through marriage to Stephen Bomford (8.2). However it would seem that the two Ephraims above are recorded back to front in Burke; the younger one married a sister of John Foster, a woman two generations older than Margaret Sibthorpe, and Margaret married the older Ephraim, the younger one’s father; unfortunately no dates are recorded but surely the marriages should be reversed.

11.4 The Bomford Family 1762

All Colonel Laurence’s children are now dead, so the ‘older generation’ consists of his grandchildren, and the ‘younger generation’ are his great-grandchildren.

Oliver’s Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>died in 1757 but his wife Jane (Shinton) lives on until 1785 Their children are, now aged about 30 married Charity (Ryder) in 1754 and they are living at Cushenstown. Most of their six children will have been born by this date. However their second son, whose name is not known, died as a child and may be already dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>born 1739, is now 23 and not yet married. His apprenticeship in Dublin has a few years to run so he may not yet have come into Clounstown where, no doubt his mother is living with the younger girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>is also an apprentice in Dublin with his brother who is about the same age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>is about 29 now. She married her cousin, Wilson Bomford, in 1759 (see below).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>is about 27. It is doubtful if she ever marries and she dies sometime between 1764 and 1783, and drops out of the picture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>married Robert Madden in 1753 and is living at Meadsbrook with her three young children. She dies sometime between 1761 and 1764 at the early age of about 25.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances</td>
<td>are not yet married and probably living at Clounstown with their mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>of Rathfeigh now aged about 53 died before 1765 and is thought to be dead at this date. His wife Mary (Tarleton) is living with her three young daughters. They had been living in Dublin since around 1753.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>is a trustee of his two apprentice nephews, Thomas and John, so he is alive but nothing more is known about him and he drops out of the picture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver</td>
<td>is about 47 and farming Rathfeigh. It is thought that he never married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elinor</td>
<td>(Mrs Catheart)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>(Mrs Echlin) have dropped out of the picture and maybe have died.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>died sometime before 1743 and Laurence perhaps around 1755.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laurence’s Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurence</td>
<td>the eldest son of Laurence of Killeglan died in August 1761 (Will 9th August, proved 29th August). His wife Jane (Smith) is alive. Killeglan has been given up and in 1754 they were living at Dunsink, Co Dublin. Jane may still be living there with her three teenage children, Laurence, William and, Susanna, or else in Dublin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella</td>
<td>would be in their 40’s at this date but nothing is known about them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellinor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>is now about 44. In January 1759 he married his cousin Anne so the oldest of his three children would have been born at this date. Later he is recorded as a brewer and distiller in Dublin and I expect that he is doing that now.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Edward’s Branch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status and Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Edward himself died in 1756 but his wife Margaret is alive. She lives on for another year or two; her will was dated 5th November 1763. Their three daughters are -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catherine died after 1759 and may be dead now. Her husband Antony Hamilton died in 1755. They had five children and the eldest, James Edward Hamilton would be about 20 now.

Ann is probably alive but it is not known when she died. Her first husband Owen Daly is dead and her only child by that marriage, Edward Daly, is about 16. In 1755 Ann married John Molloy of Clonbela who does not die until 1803, and their eldest son, Laurence Bomford Molloy, is about two.

Lucy and her husband Thomas Birmingham are both alive but they had no children as far as is known.

Stephen’s Branch Stephen himself died in 1759, but his wife Anne (Smith) did not die until December 1765. Probably living with her son John at Gallow.

Thomas died in 1741

Stephen the younger is aged about 44 and living at Rahinstown with his wife Elizabeth (Sibthorpe). Many of their 11 children have been born, the oldest, Thomas, would be about 13 at this date.

Ann now about 42, married Samuel L’Estrange in 1750, but Samuel died in 1757 leaving Ann at Clowestown with four boys, the youngest being about 7.

Dorcas now about 40, married Edward Williams of Trim about 1745. They are both alive and their only known child, Thomas William would be about 10 or a bit older.

Mary now about 38, married William Coates of Abbeyshrule in 1750. They are both alive and their only known child, Anne Jane Coates, would be about 10. At this date they are living at Clonee on the County Meath-Dublin border. William appears to have something to do with the law, perhaps an attorney or a lawyer. He is not listed in later Dublin Almanacks as an attorney so he may have given that up when he inherits Abbeyshrule in 1777.

John the 35-year-old farming Rector of Roddanstown is living at Gallow with his wife Ann (Forster). They have no children.

David aged 32 married Sarah (Burchaell) in 1756. Their eldest child has just been born and they are living in Dublin; a bit later he is recorded as a ‘Grocer of Cooke Street’. We must not forget David’s son Stephen now aged about 7, it is probable that he is illegitimate and we know very little about him, but (see 11.9.) for a later entry.

Isaac also aged 32, is now an attorney. He married Sarah (Matthews) in 1756 and their only daughter, Anne Trevor, has just been born. Isaac and David may be twins; they both married in 1756 but more importantly David was born in 1730 and Isaac ‘about 1730’, also their brother John bequeaths his land to them both.

Esther now about 30, married John Kelly of Galway in 1756. He is now a merchant in Dublin. All that we know about them is that Esther was alive in 1761 and John was alive in 1768. They had no known children and drop out of the picture.

11.4.1 Changes in the Bomford Estates since 1740

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th align="center">1762</th>
<th align="center">1740</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td align="center">Rahinstown</td>
<td align="center">642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Baconstown</td>
<td align="center">821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Oldtown (Meath)</td>
<td align="center">254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Little Ardrums</td>
<td align="center">41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Boycetown</td>
<td align="center">471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Whitestown</td>
<td align="center">365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Parkstown</td>
<td align="center">274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td align="center">306</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Balrowen</td>
<td align="center">189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td align="center">Cloncullen</td>
<td align="center">527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There have been so many changes since 1740 (5.9) that these changes have been produced in two parts. The individual properties of 1740 are taken first and the changes noted, and then the properties are shown under the heading of the owner in 1762. As usual all acres are statute.

Thomas the Elder died 1740, of Rahinstown

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<td align="center">527</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Assigned to Thomas the younger and on his death to his father, then passed to Stephen the younger.

Passed to Thomas the younger and so to his father, Stephen the elder. They are not mentioned and the assumption is that the lease was not renewed in about 1745.

Willed to Patrick Sandys by Thomas the elder.

All north of Ballivor, Co Westmeath.

They are not mentioned again and it is assumed that these places were all sold to defray Thomas the elder’s debts.
**Edward of Hightown** died 1756.

Hightown or Balloughter 1011

Enniscoffey Oldtown (W-M) 908

Rattin 460

Clonfad 567

Little Ardrums 21

In 1762 his lands were in the hands of his wife Margaret who died c1764.

Sold to Mark Whyte to pay Thomas’ debts. He then released 897 acres to Edward who bequeathed it to his daughter Catherine Hamilton.

Probably bequeathed to his daughter Ann Molloy

Bequeathed to Stephen the younger

Have assumed the lease was not renewed in about 1745.

**Stephen the Elder of Gallow** died 1759

Gallow 418

Ferrans 429

Culmullin 901

Woodstown 734

Weatherstown 193

Tyrrellstown 347

Gurteen 572

Gainstown 128

Arodstown 125

Dirpatrick 770

Passed to Stephen the younger and then to the Rev John.

Acreage increased to 421

Passed to Reverend John

Passed to Stephen the younger

Dirpatrick acreage increased to 967

**Thomas of Clounstown** died 1757

Clounstown 543

Brick 125

Cushenstown 875

Bodman 112

Pranstown 373

Portester 162

Crossmacoole 214

Farragh 263

Cullenhue 78

Primastestown 559

Irishtown 162

Kilmoon 350

Smithstown 307

Reesk 399

Kilbrew 307

Passed to Thomas, the 2nd son, of Clounstown

Passed to William, the eldest son, of Cushenstown

Lease was returned in 1761 but 99 acres of Kilmoon were kept and have been added to Cushenstown.

Not mentioned again and have been omitted

**Arthur of Rathfeigh** died before 1765

Rathfeigh 1280

Passed to his younger brother, Oliver.

**Laurence of Killeglan** died 1761

Killeglan 712

Dunsink 78

This branch of the family appears to have stopped farming on Laurence’s death, so the land has been omitted.

**11.4.2 The Bomford Estates**

Property of 1740 Recent leases

**Stephen the Younger of Rahinstown**

Rahinstown 642 Castletownbellew 332

Baconstown 821 Castletownbellew Teteitragh 270

Rattin 460 Bellewstown (Duleek) 1591

Clonfad 567 Red Mountain 97

Arodstown 125 Mylerstown 483

Dirpatrick 967 Dunfierth 771

Total 3,582
The steady climb in acreage to 1740 indicates the healthy state of the Bomford affairs, and the family as a whole has been successful even for the last 20 years. Only Thomas the elder had problems and mismanaged his affairs to such an extent that about 2,500 acres had to be sold on his death. This caused a set back that lasted about 15 years, but when Stephen the elder died his son, Stephen the younger, took over and invested in another 6,100 acres in 1761.

The land is in the four counties of Meath, Westmeath, Kildare and Louth. Naturally the outlying lands in Westmeath, Kildare and Louth were leased, as were some of the properties in Meath. The majority of the income came from rents but the ‘home’ farms also produced cattle. If we said that the average net income was about £1 an acre, then the family income would be of the order of £18,000 shared between the five Bomford families, not much at present day standards but well above average for the 1700’s.

This period of success and stability remained until about 1790 and so the next summary is dated 1800 (16.9.2).
Although the following takes place a dozen or so years later, Arthur Young gives a very fine idea of rural life in the Bomford country. Young was a respected commentator on Ireland and his account of his journeys has recently been reprinted. One of these journeys took him from Dolanstown, near Kilcock, where he had been staying with Roger Jones. Roger was a neighbour of the Bomfords and leased Gallow to the Rev John, and was a party to the marriage settlements of both Stephen and Thomas of Rahinstown. The next night Young stayed at Summerhill having driven his carriage past John Bomford’s Church at Rodanstown and through the lands of Ferrans, Gallow and Drumlargan. From Summerhill he visited Dangan Castle.

On another excursion he drove from Dunboyne to Kilbrew and on to the Foster’s at Collon. The road may have taken him through Thomas Bomford’s land at Clounstown, but it certainly took him through William Bomford’s land at Cushenstown. At Collon he stayed a number of days with Elizabeth Bomford’s uncle Antony Foster, the Lord Chief Baron, whose views on contemporary Ireland Young extensively quoted. Since these ideas give a good understanding of the times they have been included in part.

“28th June 1776. Breakfasted with Mr Jones of ‘Dolleston’ (Dolanstown). From hence took the road to Summerhill the seat of the Right Hon H(ercules) L(angford) Rowley. The country is cheerful and rich, and if the Irish cabins continue like what I have hitherto seen, shall not hesitate to pronounce their inhabitants as well off as most English cottagers. They are built of mud walls 18 inches or 2 feet thick and well thatched, which are far warmer than the thin clay walls in England. Here are few cottiers without a cow, and some of them two. (The next day he remarks) The cattle in the road have their forelegs all tied together with straw to keep them from breaking into the fields; even sheep, pigs and goats, are all in the same bondage. (Returning to the 28th, few cottiers without) a bellyfull invariably of potatoes, and generally turf for fuel from a bog. It is true they have not always chimneys to their cabins, the door serving for that and windows too. If their eyes are not affected with the smoke, it may be an advantage in warmth. Every cottage swarms with poultry and most of them have pigs. The plantations and ornamental grounds at Summerhill are extensive and form a very fine environ, spreading over the hills and having a noble appearance. The house is large and handsome, with an elegant hall, a cube of 30 feet and many very good and convenient apartments.

Went in the evening to Lord Mornington’s at Dangan, who is making many improvements, which he showed me. (Garret Wesley, or Wellesley, was created Viscount Wellesley and Earl of Mornington in 1760. He was the father of the great Duke of Wellington who was then aged seven and no doubt at home.) His plantations are extensive, and he has formed a large water, having five or six islands much varied, and promontories of high land shoot so far into it as to form almost distinct lakes; the effect pleasing. There are above 100 acres under water, and his Lordship has planned a considerable addition to it. Returned to Summerhill.”

Another less happy excursion was on July 18th. “... From Celbridge to Maynooth is a line of very fine corn. Passed Dunboyne, from thence to Kilbrew. Mr Lowther to whom I had a letter, not being at home I was forced to take refuge in a cabin, called at an inn at Ratoath. Preserve me Fates from such another!”

On 20th July Young writes “...Took the road to Collon where the Lord Chief Baron Foster received me in the most obliging manner.... He has made the greatest improvements I have anywhere met with. The whole country twenty-two years ago (1754) was a waste sheep-walk, covered chiefly with heath, with some dwarf furze and fern. The cabins and people as miserable as can be conceived; not a Protestant in the country, not a road passable for a carriage. In a word, perfectly resembling other mountainous tracts, and the whole yielding a rent of not more than from 3s. to 4s. an acre. Mr Foster could not bear so barren a property, and determined to attempt the improvement of an estate of 5,000 acres till then deemed irreclaimable.

He encouraged the tenants by every species of persuasion and expense but they had so ill an opinion of the land that he was forced to begin with 2,000 or 3,000 acres in his own hands. He did not however turn the people out but kept them in to see the effects of his operations. These were of a magnitude I have never heard before. He had for several years 27 lime kilns burning stone.... while this vast business of liming was going forwards, roads were also making, and the whole tract enclosed in fields. In order to create a new race of tenants, he fixed upon the most active and industrious labourers, bought them cows etc and advanced money to begin with little farms, leaving them to pay as they could. These men he nursed up .... and some of them are now good farmers with £400 or £500 each in their pockets, .... and he never had a demand for a shilling loss..... After the liming, he fallowed the land for rye, and after the rye took two crops of oats. His great object was to show the tenantry as soon as he could, what these improvements would do in corn, in order to set them to work themselves. He sold them the corn crops on the ground at 40s an acre. The three crops paid him certainly the expense of the liming;
at the same time they were profitable bargains to the tenantry. With the third crop the land was laid down to grass. Upon this operation after manuring, ditching and draining, the old tenants very readily hired themselves…. This change of their sentiment induced him to new farm houses, of which he has erected above thirty, all of lime and stone, at the expense of above £40 a house. The farms are in general about 80 acres each… The country is now a sheet of corn. A greater improvement I have not heard of.”

Of course Foster had the capital to carry out his improvements, but in a small way the Bomfords, and in particular Edward in Westmeath, had done the same thing; as also had many other resident landlords in Leinster.

Foster, through Young, has other pertinent observations, which are included.

“Respecting the thieving disposition of the common people, which I (Young) had heard of, the Chief Baron was of an entire different opinion. From his own experience he judged them to be remarkably honest. In working his improvements he has lived in his house without shutters, bolts or bars, and with it half full of Spalpeens, yet never lost the least trifle, nor has he met with any depredations among his fences or plantations.”

“Raising rents he (Foster) considers as one of the greatest causes of the improvement of Ireland; he has found that …it has universally quickened their industry,… and made them in every respect better farmers. But this holds only to a certain point; if carried too far, it deadens, instead of animating industry. He has always preferred his old tenants, and never let a farm by advertisement to receive proposals. That the system of letting farms to be re-let to lower tenants was going out very much; it is principally upon the estates of absentees, whose agents think only of the most rent from the most solvent tenant.

In conversation upon the Popery Laws, I (Young) expressed my surprise at their severity. He said they were severe in the letter, but were never executed….. There were severe penalties on carrying arms or reading Mass, but the first is never executed for poaching and as to the other, mass houses are to be seen everywhere. There is one in his own town (Collon). His Lordship did justice to the merits of the Roman Catholics by observing that they were in general a very sober, honest and industrious people.”

Later Young includes this on the cost of living,

“To show the general expenses of living, I was told of a person’s keeping a carriage, four horses, three men, three maids, a good table, a wife, three children and a nurse, and all for £500 a year”.

11.6 Lease – Dublin Houses 2nd February 1760

These next few items concern David Bomford, Stephen’s fourth son.

David Bomford, Merchant of the City of Dublin, made over to Mr David Burtchell, of Newbridge, Co Kildare, his house and furniture on Ormond Quay, Dublin, and another house on Blind Quay occupied by Michael Hanlon, Auctioneer.  (Book 202, Page 482, No 134878)

David Bomford married Sarah Burtchaell in December 1756. She was the daughter of David Burtchaell of Brownstown House just outside Newbridge and the deed reads as though David was leasing his own house and furniture to his father-in-law. Ormond Quay is on the north side of the Liffey and runs for a short distance on either side of what was then known as Essex Bridge, now called Capel Street Bridge.

In 1757 the Wide Streets Commission started work on widening the main Dublin streets, and their first operation was to widen Parliament Street from the Castle, to widen Essex Bridge, and the road west along the north side of the Liffey to the Four Courts. This operation included Upper Ormond Quay, which was widened from about 20 feet to 54 feet; this meant that the houses had to be pulled down and rebuilt further back. David’s house must therefore have been on the east of the Essex Bridge, opposite the old Custom’s House, on what is now known as Lower Ormond Quay and which was not widened at this time.

David had no land and was a merchant in Dublin. Since he was now aged 30, he probably had been a merchant for some years. He must have been fairly successful and, as this and the other deeds state, he invested the profits in houses not only in Dublin but in Limerick as well. In 1770 we know from the Dublin Almanacks that he was a ‘Grocer of Cooke Street’. Before the time of the Wide Streets commission, and to a more limited extent later, the merchants tended to operate from the same area, thus fish was sold in Fishamble Street, bread in Cooke Street, wine and ale in Winetavern Street and so on. Ormonde Quay was the area given over to the butchers and similar trades. I suspect that David first tried his hand on Ormonde Quay as a butcher or something similar, gave this up and so leased his house to David Burtchaell, and then moved to the grocery business in Cooke Street.

Blind Quay, the site of the other house, led from the Liffey to the Castle, but the waterway had been filled in when Essex Bridge was built. During the late 1200’s the Poddle River had been channelled to run outside the Castle wall for the defences of the City and entered the Liffey at what was later to become Blind Quay. However, even though there was water, the name continued as the name for a
narrow alley, which ran along the site of the original quay. Later the Liffey end of the alley was built over, and so disappeared, but about 40 yards of the southern end is still in existence and runs into Cork Hill.

The next lease records a house on the north side or Blind Quay. The only north side of the alley is on a bend close to the Liffey.

11.6.1 Lease – Dublin Houses 21st July 1760

David Bomford, of Ormond Key in the City of Dublin, leased to Richard Cullen, carpenter of Blind Key Dublin, a house on the north side of Blind Key next door to the house of William Partridge, for 14 years at a rent of £18. (Book 221 Page 314 No 147959)

11.6.2 Lease – Dublin Houses 24th December 1765

David Bomford, Gentleman of the City of Dublin, leases to John Fry and Michael Cox, gentlemen of the City of Dublin, the house on Ormond Quay between the houses of Mr Thomas Finlay and Thomas Towers. The rent and the duration as in the previous lease. (Missing) (Book 254 Page 210 No 163688)

11.6.3 Lease – Limerick Houses 27th July 1773

David Bomford, merchant of the City of Dublin, leases to Peter Sargent of the City of Limerick, alderman, two tenements in St John’s Street, Limerick, in one of which Peter Sargent is living, with the rent etc as before. (Book 293 Page 511 No 197081)

11.7 Request to David Bomford 20th January 1768

Reciting that John Smith, late of Anville, Co Westmeath, Esq., late uncle of David Bomford, did in his will of 15th February 1763 give to David Bomford £1,000 and he appointed his wife Ann Smith and Charles Lyons executors.

Reciting that Ann Smith is now the wife of Thomas Walpole.

Now David Bomford, Merchant of the City of Dublin, grants £100 to John Kelly, Merchant of the City of Dublin. (Book 260 Page 294 No 168989)

John Kelly is almost certainly the husband of Esther, David’s sister. Burke records John Kelly ‘of Galway’, I have found no evidence of this but now we do know that he is a merchant in Dublin.

Charles Lyons is most likely the nephew of Ann Smith and so a cousin of David.

11.8 David Bomford, Merchant of Dublin 1770 - 1788

In Watson’s and Wilson’s Almanack there are two entries for David Bomford under the heading ‘Merchants and Traders’.

For the years 1770 to 1782 “David Bomford, Grocer, of Cooke Street”. The 1774 issue shows that he has moved, - “now of King Street”.

For the years 1776 to 1782 “David Bomford, of the General Post Office at 16 Fishamble Street”. The 1778 issue adds – “Now of 64 Camden St”

The 1787 edition showed no David Bomford listed. However The Establishment of Ireland Part VII records

“19th Jan 1788 Penny Post Office Second Clerk, David Bomford £35”

From this I understand that David Bomford was made second clerk at the Penny Post Office on 19th January 1788 at the princely salary of £35. I have found no other entry about David in this volume but he was obviously in Dublin in 1788 at least.

Deeds concerning David have shown him in Dublin from 1760 ‘of Ormond Street’ to May 1786 ‘of Camden Street’. There is then a gap and he next appears in 1795 ‘of Gallow’.

The Almanack entries fall into this Dublin period, and the Post Office entry and the deed of 1786 (16.3) both place him in Camden Street. Thus it is safe to assume that this David is David of Gallow, and that all the entries are about the same man; we may also assume that the grocer shop was kept on as an investment when he was at the Post Office and at Camden Street. A summary of his movements would be-

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1760 Ormond Quay, Dublin
1770 - 1773 Cooke Street, Dublin
1774 - 1775 King Street, Dublin
1776 - 1777 16 Fishamble Street, Dublin
1778 - 1786 64 Camden Street, Dublin
1787 Not listed in Dublin in the Almanacks,
1788 Second Clerk, Penny Post Office, Dublin
1795 At Gallow, where he remained until his death

David’s story and that of his family is continued in Chapter 16.

11.9 **David’s Illegitimate Son, Stephen**

Extracted from the Register of Students from Trinity College, Dublin, edited by Thomas Ulick Sadleir in 1924.

“Bomford, Stephen Pensioner Mr Drought (previously taught by)
10th July, 1773 aged 18 son of David, Mercator (Merchant) born Dublin.”

Stephen Bomford was born in 1754 or 1755, entered Trinity in 1773 aged 18, but did not get a degree. His father was David, a merchant. All this matches very well with our David, but David did not marry until December 1756, which makes Stephen illegitimate, like so many in those days. It is of course just possible that there was another merchant in Dublin named David Bomford, but this is unlikely. The bequest to David’s eldest son in the next entry, the will of Samuel Partridge, to my mind clinches the argument that Stephen is the eldest son of our David Bomford.

A further reference to Stephen comes from the ‘Officers of the Bengal Army, 1758 – 1834’ by Major V.C.P. Hodson -

“Stephen Bomford, Lieut Infantry, Cadet 1778, Ensign 1778, Lieut 13th Sept 1779, buried Madras 1st Feb 1782.”

So it would appear that five years after entering Trinity, Stephen was shipped off to India at the age of 24 and died out there four years later, at the age of 28 or 29.

11.10 **Will of Rev. Samuel Partridge**

The following will gives much contemporary information about the family. The will is mentioned by Betham but he simply says,

“No relations mentioned” which implies the death of a bachelor clergyman.

There are a number of bequests in the will; only those relevant to the Bomfords are listed. The Stephen mentioned is Stephen the younger.

1. “To Chichester, son of Stephen, £100 by the note of Robert Sibthorpe; if Chichester should die before the age of 21, then it goes to his sister, Frances.”
Ephraim, the 7th son, was born in 1761 and Chichester was Stephen’s 8th and youngest son so he would be about 10 at this date. Frances Jane was born about 1763 so would be about 11.

2. “Mrs Bomford of Rahinstown, £200 due to me by John Foster, and, Cato’s letters in four volumes.”
Mrs Bomford is Elizabeth (Sibthorpe), the wife of Stephen the younger who apparently enjoyed reading and was well read. John Foster was Elizabeth’s first cousin who at this time was member of Parliament for County Louth, later he became the last Speaker of the Irish House of Commons (1785-1800) and was created Lord Oriel in 1821.

3. “Stephen Bomford, £160 by the bond of William Coates. The remainder of this bond goes to William Coates”. William Coates was Stephen’s brother-in-law, husband of his sister Mary


5. “Stephen Bomford, £300 the bond of Milo Bagots Esq.” (See 16.3.3.4)

6. “David Bomford’s eldest son, my box of books and Portmantua at Alexander Barrington’s, and my gown Cossack and bands in my Chest in Dublin, also two volumes of Clerk’s Sermons.” According to Burke, David only had one son, Isaac, who was baptised in 1766 so would now be 8 or 9. This seems to be an extraordinary bequest to a 9 year old, or even a 12 year old. I feel that this bequest gives credence to the previous entry concerning Stephen, the illegitimate son of David, who is now at Trinity.
7. “£100 to Robert Bomford, £100 to Mariana Bomford, and £50 to Stephen Bomford Junior, being three of the children of the said Stephen Bomford.”

For some reason Burke misses out all Stephen’s daughters. These document’s mention three daughters though there may be others. The three are:

- Margaret, who is not mentioned in this will but is well documented later. She would be aged about 21 now.
- Frances Jane mentioned above as just Frances but mentioned in the deeds later. She would be about 11 now.
- Mariana who is mentioned in this will but in no other document. I have placed her as the youngest child so she is about 8 now. She is not mentioned in her father’s will (18.1) and since all the other children were mentioned she probably died before 1804. Indeed she may have died soon after Partridge’s will, maybe in her early teens.

8. “Reverend John Bomford, Ten Guineas due to me by his I.O.U.”


10. Samuel Partridge left £60 for the repair of Kilmore Church, £10 to the poor of the Parish, and he asked that he be buried in Kilmore Churchyard. There is no definite clue as to which Kilmore he is talking about. It may well be the Kilmore just east of Drumlargent, and indeed this would explain how he got to know Stephen’s family so well; on the other hand, according to Healy’s History of the Diocese of Meath and Canon Leslie’s Succession Lists, no Partridge was a Church of Ireland clergyman in any Diocese in Ireland. Where he came from and what his connection was with the family remains a mystery. However the will does mention property ‘Freehold in Stradbally in the Queen’s County’ and he may have come from there. His ties with the Bomfords must be strong for him to leave £1,160 plus oddments to the family.

11.10.1 Stephen the Younger’s Children

Having just mentioned so many of Stephen’s children it is appropriate that a family tree is produced as at 1774.

STEPHEN, the younger of Rahinstown, born c1722, married 18th April 1745 and died 24th May 1806. His wife was ELIZABETH, daughter of Stephen Sibthorpe and Margaret Foster, died 1807.

Their children were:

1. Thomas, born c1750, dies before his father, unmarried.
2. Robert, born 1751, marries later.
3. Margaret, born c1753, marries c1779.
4. Stephen, born c1755, dies before his father, unmarried.
5. Antony, born c1757, dies before his father, unmarried.
6. George, born 1759, marries later.
7. Trevor, born 1760, marries later.
8. Ephraim, born 1761, becomes a Major in the Royal Marines, unmarried.
10. Chichester, born c1764, Captain in Waterford Militia, unmarried, died 1824.
11. Mariana, born c1766, dies before her father.

To complete this chapter there are a few paragraphs concerning the Reverend John and then a few for Isaac.

11.11 Death of Rev John Bomford

Concerning John’s earlier life and marriage, see paragraph 8.7.

Extract from Ramsay’s Waterford Chronicle of 1776 as reported in the Irish Genealogist, Volume 5.


Both Archdeacon Healy and Canon Leslie record that John died in office in 1776. Leslie also records an extract from ‘F.D. Journal of February 3-6 1776’, which reads

“At Gallo, his seat in Co Meath died Rev John Bomford, rector of Radinstown and a gentleman universally regretted by all his acquaintance.”

Jack, as he was known to the family and friends, was only 49 when he died, so his wife Ann (Forster) may have out lived him. They had no children. According to Betham he died intestate and the Administration was granted to ‘the Bomford brother’ Stephen on 2nd March 1776.

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By studying later documents, particularly his brother David’s will, it becomes clear that his land was divided between his two younger brothers, David and Isaac. Certainly the lands of Tyrellstown, Gallow Ferrans and Gurteen were shared; the future of John’s other properties is not so clear but, since they are not mentioned in future wills, it is assumed that they were shared as well but that their leases were not renewed; these lands were, Weatherstown (lease up c1787), Gainstown (lease up in 1790), and Woodtown (lease up c1800). The rather unwieldy business of sharing property may be evidence that David and Isaac were twins (11.4), however the matter was sorted out in 1793 when Isaac died. Isaac left his share to David’s son, Isaac, and since Isaac the younger received his father’s half share, he ended up with what remained of the Rev John’s property.

Summary of John Bomford’s life

The entry in Burke just reads “John (Rev),” now we know much more -

John, Rev, of Gallow, BA 1748, MA (TCD) 1752, Curate of Kilmore 1752, Rector of Rodanstown 1755-1776, born at Gallow 1727, married 7th April 1753 (ML), Ann Forster of St Peter’s Place Dublin, (possibly) daughter of William Forster of Dublin; died 6th February 1776, aged 49, no children.

There are a large number of spellings of Rodanstown, this is the modern spelling.

11.11.1 Lease - Gallow 23rd August 1777

Reciting the lease of 2nd October 1759 (9.6.1) by which the Rev John Bomford of Gallow, deceased, leased at a rent of £42 part of Gallow to Thomas Dames for three lives.

Now Thomas Dames of Rathmoyle, King’s Co, surrenders to David Bomford of Dublin the above land called Newtown Gallow containing 61 plantation acres (99 statute) formerly in the possession of Laurence Monaghan, deceased

Signed David Bomford


For the time being David remained in Dublin, he did not move to Gallow until sometime between 1789 and 1795. However he does not appear to have leased the house so he or his family may have stayed there off and on. In 1777, the year of this lease, he was working at the General Post Office so his witness, William Johnston, was a colleague. The other witness, Westerna Cross, may be a cousin through the Tew family (9.3.7b).

11.12 Lease – Dublin House 15th August 1769

Isaac Bomford of the City of Dublin leases a house in Bachelor’s Walk, Dublin, to Garret Archbold for 31 years. (Book 276, Page 217 No 177106)

Bachelor’s Walk is on the North side of the Liffey and runs between Ormond Quay and O’Connell Street Bridge, but there was no bridge there in 1769. In fact there were only three bridges at this time and the high masted sailing ships tied up along the quays right up to the bridge now known as Capel Street Bridge.

11.13 Mortgage Given 6th December 1779

Between 1. Charles Walker of the City of Dublin, Master of the High Court of Chancery
2. Thomas Rankin of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry
3. David and Isaac Bomford, both of the City of Dublin
4. Samuel Graves of the Royal Navy (later Admiral Graves, died 1803)

David and Isaac Bomford give a mortgage to Samuel Graves of £1, 215… a most involved deed concerning land in Antrim, Derry and in the City of Dublin. (Book 333 Page 28 No 221858)

11.14 Isaac Bomford Attorney 1770 - 1790

The Wilson and Watson Almanacks of Dublin started in 1730, but the first Bomford entry is not until 1770 when David and his brother Isaac are both mentioned.

Isaac, the fifth son of Stephen of Gallow, was an “Attorney and Law Agent” as early as 1762 when he is mentioned as such in the Oldtown and Enniscoffey brief. We do not know when he was born but it must have been about 1730, and in 1756 he married Sarah (Matthews) (8.10). It is therefore probable that he became an attorney in the 1750’s.

The Almanacks mention Isaac in the editions of 1770 to 1790 in which he is recorded as being...
1. Commissioner for taking affidavits for the Court of the Exchequer and of Common Pleas,
2. Clerk of Common Pleas and Clerk of the Rules and Entries in the Court of Common Pleas
3. Commissioner of Affidavits in County Meath for the Courts of the Exchequer, Common Pleas and the King’s Bench for the years 1771 to 1790.

The Exchequer Pleas Office was in Fishamble Street but Isaac’s office was in Great Chancery Lane, and from about 1788 he was living at No 27 Brunswick Street. However as Commissioner of Affidavits in County Meath he would have travelled considerably in that County.

Isaac is not mentioned in many of the deeds. He is first mentioned in December 1750 when he was ‘of Dublin’ and his last mention is in August 1791 when he was still ‘of Dublin’. The Meath Freeholders list of some date between 1775 and 1780 lists both Isaac and David of Gallow so although he worked in Dublin his roots must have remained in Gallow. No doubt he, like David, visited Gallow periodically.

11.15 Georgian Dublin

Both David and Isaac Bomford lived in a Dublin that saw considerable changes. The walled city of Queen Elizabeth’s time had long since expanded beyond its walls in all directions, but the development of the town, as we now know it, was largely due to three sources, two property developers and the Wide Streets Commission, of the 1700’s.

Luke Gardiner was the Park Ranger of Phoenix Park where he built himself a fine mansion, now the Ordnance Survey Offices. He tried to appropriate for himself part of Phoenix Park but the outcry forced him to resign. Meanwhile he had been buying land on the outskirts of North Dublin and he was helped in this by his wife’s inheritance from the Mountjoy family. All this land he covered with houses, many of which are still in existence. He was responsible for Sackville Street, later renamed O’Connell Street, Henrietta Street, Mountjoy Square, Henry Street, Gardiner’s Street and all in that area. Early on Luke Gardiner realised that landed country folk no longer had to squat in their stone towers ever ready to defend their property against raids and that these magnates were now free to come to Dublin with their families to enjoy the social life of the Castle and other pleasures. It was for these moneyed people that he built, and not for the local and poorer Dubliners. His first experiment was Henrietta Street, which turned out to be a glorious success. His idea of a street of large houses suitable for entertaining with a back-up of elaborate kitchens and stabling turned out to be just what was needed. Henrietta Street soon became known as Primates Hill from the number of Bishops whose town houses were there; it was Dublin’s Park Lane with every other house occupied by a Peer of the Realm. His next success was his plan for the 150 feet wide Sackville (O’Connell) Street. He had no difficulty in selling those large houses with an outlook onto a 50 feet wide tree-lined walk which ran down the centre of the street and became known as Gardiner’s Mall.

There was now a demand for another bridge and the Wide Streets Commission planned and put up Carlisle (O’Connell) Bridge together with the quays to control the flooding of the Liffey. This bridge and the new Sackville Street changed the whole focus of Dublin; there was now an important new north-south thoroughfare that stretched right across the city from Stephen’s Green to the Rotunda. In turn the Commission laid out the new North and South Circular Roads, and the terminus for the Royal Canal on the north side and the Grand Canal on the south side.

The other property developer was the Fitzwilliam family of Merrion who owned land on the south of the Liffey stretching from Trinity and Stephen’s Green out to Blackrock and Kilmacud. The Liffey used to flood much of this ground but once the Wide Streets Commission had completed the South Wall along the Liffey, the Fitzwilliams started to develop. They did to South Dublin what Luke Gardiner had done to the north side of the river.

Meanwhile new public buildings appeared, the Four Courts, Custom’s House, and other buildings were enlarged, Parliament House, (now the Bank of Ireland), and Trinity to name but a few. Wealthy peers built magnificent private mansions like Belvedere, Moira, Clonmell, Powerscourt, Aldborough and Charlemont Houses.

All this was not done without a considerable outcry from the merchants and the poorer people, because the new Dublin had moved the centre and business area further east out of the old Dublin, and the new bridge and Custom’s House had moved the focus of the port from the old quays to the new quays further east. However the Wide Streets Commission had the strength to force it all through and their ideas, although in many cases tough on the locals, were years ahead of their time. By the late 1700’s Dublin had become one of the leading and most elegant cities of Europe.

After 200 years many of these fine buildings and houses have been allowed to decay into overcrowded flats and tenements. It is a sorry State that has not the vision to conserve, but rather allows ugly glass and concrete boxes to arise in their stead.
Chapter XII

The Children of Oliver and Laurence 1759 - 1769

12.1

A short chapter to bring up to date the children of Oliver and Laurence. Chapter 7 dealt with these two branches of the Bomford family up to about 1759, this chapter fills in some omissions and brings the families on in time.

12.1.1 Arthur of Rathfeigh and his wife Mary (Tarleton)

Arthur, the fourth child of Oliver, and Mary Bomford were living at Rathfeigh in 1742, the year of their marriage (7.15). They are next heard of in Dublin in 1753 and there they stayed. The following deed of 1767 gives a clue to Arthur’s death. Both Digby and his wife Mary Tarleton had to die, and the deed produced before 1767, so Arthur Bomford’s death would be about 1765.

Bequest of Tarleton Property 24th June 1767

Between 1. Weldon Tarleton of Mt Mellick, Queen’s Co, Gentleman, executor of the wills of both Digby Tarleton and his wife, Mary Tarleton (Tew, 9.3.7), both deceased
2. Mary Bomford of the City of Dublin, widow (of Arthur Bomford)
   Ann Tarleton of the City of Dublin, widow
   Arabella Martin of the City of Dublin, spinster
   Barbara Tarleton of Kelly, King’s Co, widow
   Elizabeth Johnston of Castlebrock, Queen’s Co, widow.

The women of Party 2 had been bequeathed 1/9th of 1/3rd share of Digby Tarleton’s property, which they now make over to James Wilson in the lands in Culmullen, Agherskeagh, Monalvy and Rathcore. (Book 256 Page 277 No 166076)

These lands are all very close to Bomford properties; at this date Culmullen is in the hands of Stephen of Rahinstown, part of Monalvy will become the property of George Bomford.

Agherskeagh is just to the west of Agher, and Rathcore is just to the west of Rahinstown. These properties probably came to Digby Tarleton as part of his wife’s inheritance from Mark Tew of Culmullen. Mark died in 1739 (Vicars) and he was a nephew of Elizabeth Tew who married Thomas Bomford in 1691. However it was to John Tew that the Rev John Bomford leased Culmullen in October 1757 (9.3.5).

12.1.2 Mary Bomford and her Three Daughters

I have dated Arthur’s death as c1765 but his wife Mary lived on for a few years in Dublin. Betham records the following intestate will,

“Bomford, Mary, Dublin, widow, to Arabella Bomford the daughter. Administration granted 15th March 1779.”

So Mary (Tarleton) died in 1778 or 1779 and had a daughter, Arabella. Arabella is not a Bomford name but it was the name of Mary Tarleton’s mother.

In 1781 Arabella Bomford married William Healy and I suspect she had two sisters. The diocese of Dublin records three marriage licences –

“1781 Arabella Bomford and William Healy.” (Page 352)
“1780 Mary Bomford and William Cumberland Snee.” (Page 302)
“1781 Jane Bomford and Henry Willet.” (Page 361)
Burke of 1912 gives a Tarleton family tree but records no names for any of the daughters. However Betham has ten Tarleton wills, which work in well with Burke and so the following Tarleton tree, can be made.

There are two branches of the family and both are of ‘Killeigh’, King’s Co, which is a village in the Parish of Geashill, 10 miles from Portarlington on the road to Tullamore. The name ‘Digby’ must indicate that there was a family connection with the Digby family who owned much land around Geashill. At the time of this Tarleton deed (1767), Henry Digby was alive; he was the 7th Baron Digby of Geashill and also the 1st Earl Digby.

One branch starts with Edward Tarleton who died in 1694. There is not much of interest in this branch except that Edward’s grand-daughter Mary married Mr Wheatley, and Stephen Bomford’s mother-in-law was Dorcas Wheatley, so these Wheatley’s may be related, perhaps brother and sister.

The other branch starts with

John Tarleton of Killeigh married Anne Brereton, grand-daughter of Sir William Gilbert of Queen’s Co. He died on 20th December 1700 having had one son.

Digby of Killeigh born 1681, married June 1705 Arabella, daughter of William Weldon of Rahinderry, Queen’s Co (8.9.1). He died in 1742 (Will September 1741, proved March 1742) having had ten children.

1. Digby of Killeigh married 1737 Mary, daughter of Mark Tew of Culmullen so her aunt was Elizabeth (Tew) wife of Thomas Bomford the elder. He died 1755 (Will 1753, proved June 1755) and she died between 1755 and 1767, they had no children. Both are subject to the above deed.

2. John of Killeigh, born 1711 and died 1758 (Will 1750, proved August 1758). He married Barbara, daughter of Adam Mitchell of King’s Co, she moved to Kelly, King’s Co, after John died. They had four sons who all died young, and a fifth, John Weldon Tarleton who inherited Killeigh and died in 1824. His grandson still had Killeigh in 1900.

3. Anne; this may be the Anne of the deed but if so she must have married a Tarleton, but it is more likely that she died young.

4. Elizabeth married Mr Johnston of Castlebrock. He died before 1767 and she some time later. They had a son, Digby Johnston.

5. Arabella married John Rotheram. Neither are in the above deed so both probably died before 1767.

6. Katherine married Mr Martin of Dublin. Both died before 1767 and it is their daughter, Arabella Martin of Dublin, who is mentioned in the deed.

7. Cecilia married Mr Parsons. They are not mentioned in the deed so may be both are dead.

8. Weldon Tarleton of Mountmellick, Queen’s Co, died 1775 (Will made and proved 1775). He married Anne of Dublin who died in 1779 (Will made and proved the same year). He was the executor of the wills of his brother Digby and his wife Mary. They had six children, all minors in 1775 “Digby, John, Robert, Arabella, Elizabeth, and Anne”.

9. Mary born c1721 married c1742 Arthur Bomford of Rathfeigh. He died c1765 and she c1779; they had 3 girls (12.1.2).

10. Frances is not included in the above deed so probably died young.

Laurence of Killeglan

Laurence of Killeglan, third son of Colonel Laurence Bomford, his wife Susanna (Wilson) and their five children are all recorded in the tree in paragraph 7.1.2. We know nothing about the three daughters of Laurence, Isabella born c1712, Ellinor born c1714 and Mary born c1716, on the other hand a fair amount has come to light about the two boys, Laurence who inherited Killeglan, married Jane (Smith) and had children (12.2.4), and Wilson who became a brewer and distiller in Dublin and also married (12.2.5) and had children (12.2.9).

Death of Laurence

August 1761

Susanna’s eldest son, Laurence, was born about 1710 and inherited Killeglan and the other properties when he came of age about 1731. In May 1744 he married Jane Smith of Dublin (7.3). They had three children, Laurence, William and Susanna, all of whom were recorded in Betham’s extract of prerogative wills. This extract reads -

“Laurence Bomford of Dublin Gent 9th August 1761 (will) 29 same (pro)
Robert Fetherston and Gertrude his wife
Children Laurence William and Susanna,
Wife Jane B”
So Laurence died in August 1761, aged about 51, leaving his wife and three children. All the children were minors; the oldest could only be about 16.

‘Robert Fetherston and Gertrude his wife’ - Gertrude is a second cousin of Laurence through the Wilson family, see the Wilson family tree under 10.7. They lived at Whiterock, Co Longford, and leased the land around Farragh from Thomas Bomford the younger of Clounstown; about 1772 the Bomford lease of these lands terminated and Robert Fetherston took over. It is not known in what way this Laurence is connected with Robert Fetherston as the actual will, like so many others, was destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922; but I assume that it must be something to do with the Farragh property.

12.2.3 Death of Jane (Smith) 1769

Betham’s extracts of Intestate Wills includes -

“Jane Bomford, Dublin, widow, to Laurence B the son. Administration granted 10th March 1769.” and
“Jane Bomford, Dublin, widow, to William B the son, and Laurence B another son and former administrator deceased. Administration granted 10 February 1773.”

Jane therefore died in late 1768 or early 1769, and before her affairs were settled Laurence, her eldest son, died. The second administrator was appointed in February 1773 and he was the second son, William.

12.2.4 Laurence and Jane’s Children

Laurence must have died between 1769 and 1772; aged about 26, being of this age he probably never married.

William was the second son and the only time he is mentioned in the deeds is as a witness in the lease of Ballyowen of March 1799 (12.2.6) in which he is a “Gent of Dublin”. It is very likely that William married and had a son named Launcelot. We know quite a lot about Launcelot and his family but he cannot be definitely connected and so must remain for the time being amongst the unplaced Bomfords in paragraph 17.4.1.

Susanna is mentioned in the Upton Papers but nothing further has come to light about her.

12.2.5 Marriage - Wilson Bomford & Anne Bomford January 1759

Anne Bomford was the eldest daughter of Thomas and Jane (Shinton) of Clounstown, and great grand-daughter of Colonel Laurence. She was born sometime after 1732.

Wilson was the younger son of Laurence and Susanna (Wilson), and grandson of Colonel Laurence. He was born about 1718. So the married couple were of different generations and Wilson must have been nearly 20 years older than Anne. This was not unusual in those days but without the Upton Papers I would never have connected these two in marriage. Indeed no other evidence has come to light. The date of the marriage is given as January 1759 when Anne was about 25 and Wilson about 44.

Around 1751 and before his marriage Wilson was ‘of Rathfeigh’, and he may have kept Rathfeigh as his country base; I have used base rather than home because Rathfeigh actually belonged to his cousins, Oliver’s sons, firstly Arthur and then Oliver the younger. However at some early stage Wilson must have gone to Dublin because he became a brewer and distiller. He was probably an apprentice, as were his cousins Thomas and John. We do not know into what trade the latter two were apprenticed: but Wilson is quite well documented in his later years in Watson’s Dublin Almanack. The first entry is of 1776, when Wilson would be in his mid to late fifties, and reads -

“Wilson Bomford, brewer and Distiller of 11 Phrapper Lane.”

By this date he probably owned his own business since an ordinary employee would hardly have an entry in the Almanack. From 1776 to 1783 Wilson remained at Phrapper Lane, off King Street. In 1783 there is a change of address to No 11 Beresford Street, which is also off King Street. He is not mentioned again in the Almanack although his son is, so he may have handed over the business to his son that year and retired.

Nowadays this area of Dublin is very run down, but when Wilson was there it was an area of large town houses belonging to the nobility. For instance neighbouring Blackhall Place and Blackhall Street was set out in 1789 from a portion of Oxmantown Gardens, originally Ostmantown, the town of the Ostman or Viking; and the adjoining Blue-Coat School, designed by Thomas Ivory was built between 1773 and 1783. Phrapper Lane and Beresford Street are a few hundred yards further north and shown in a map of 1756 as a thin ribbon of houses bordering King Street on only one side; the houses backed onto fields and King Street led into the ancient road of Stoneybatter (Stony Road) which was one of the ‘Grand Highways’ radiating out from ancient Tara. More to the point to Wilson, Stoneybatter was the road by which he left Dublin for the family houses of Killeglan, Clounstown and Cushenstown.
The Almanack does not make it clear whether these addresses belonged to Wilson’s private house or to his business, but I would think that his place of business would be in the old town to the south of the river and that he lived in this newly developed area. He probably commuted each day crossing the Liffey by Arran Bridge, later known as Bridewell Bridge and then as Ellis Bridge; in 1768 it was rebuilt as Queen’s Bridge, now it is called Queen Mary Bridge and in my view it is a horribly narrow hump-backed bridge to be avoided, but to Wilson it was a handsome new bridge.

Wilson’s wife, Anne, would of course have lived in Dublin with him. It is not known when she was born but it was not before 1732. She would have been older than her brother Thomas but probably younger than her eldest brother William who was married in 1754. She was brought up with her parents at Clounstown and probably stayed on there after her father died in 1757 and until she married Wilson.

Death of Wilson and Anne

Anne probably died first; it is not known when exactly. She was left £300 in the will of her father, Thomas of Clounstown, and in January 1764 a trust was set up to cover Thomas’ various bequests. Anne was mentioned by name in this deed. The trust hit trouble and in July 1784 Clounstown had to be sold to settle all the outstanding debts. This deed includes all the legatees but does not include Anne, so Anne must have died before 1784.

Wilson lived on for another six years. His death is recorded in the Prerogative wills -

“Bomford Willson of Dublin Brewer died 1790.” and according to the Diocese of Dublin page 109 he died intestate.

12.2.6 Children of Wilson and Anne

These two deeds, concerning Ballyowen, name three sons of Wilson and Anne; there may be other sons and it is likely that there were some daughters as well but, as yet, they are undiscovered.

Lease - Ballyowen 26th March 1799

Right Honourable Earl of Carhampton leases to Laurence Bomford of Mitchersmount, Co Dublin, the lands of Ballyowen in the Barony of Newcastle, Co Dublin, containing 44 plantation acres (71 statute) for the lives of

Laurence Bomford
Thomas Bomford
Wilson Bomford

Two brothers of the said Laurence

at a rent of £100

Witnessed
William Bomford, Gent of Dublin (Must be their cousin, the son of Laurence of Killeglan)
Thomas Hylands of Dublin, Steward to Lord Carhampton

(Book 557 Page 191 No 369769)

12.2.7 Lease - Ballyowen 14th July 1803

Laurence Bomford of Castleknock, Co Dublin, leased to John Scott of Londonderry the lands of Ballyowen, Co Dublin, containing 44 plantation acres for the same conditions as of the lease to Laurence Bomford dated 20th March 1799 by the Right Honourable Earl of Carhampton for the lives of the said

Laurence Bomford
Thomas Bomford
Wilson Bomford

Two brothers of the said Laurence

at a rent of £100

Witnessed
Lancelot Bomford of Dublin, Attorney at Law
(Unplaced Bomford, but see 12.2.4 above) (Book 554 Page 421 No 369770)

The rents are the same so it is likely that Laurence raised a mortgage on Ballyowen in the later deed. Ballyowen is situated just to the east of Lucan near the Liffey.

The Earl of Carhampton

Simon Luttrell was created Baron Irnham of Luttrellstown, near Clonsilla, Co Dublin, in 1768 and Earl of Carhampton in 1785. Arthur Young at the start of his ‘Tour of Ireland’ was very taken with the great extent of over 600 acres of plantation and the beauty of the woods in particular the lake and glen leading down into the Liffey. Simon had a son and two daughters.

His son, General Henry Luttrell was one of the main opponents of John Wilkes, Member of Parliament and editor of the ‘North Britain’ who published a libellous article and was expelled from
Parliament to the dismay of many MP’s. An earlier Colonel Henry was notorious and was finally murdered in his sedan chair in the streets of Dublin in 1717.

Of the two daughters, Anne married George III’s brother, the Duke of Cumberland, and Elizabeth is said to have committed suicide in Augsburg after being sentenced to sweep the streets chained to a wheelbarrow on a charge of picking pockets.


Luke White, born 1752, was a chapman or salesman of pamphlets who progressed to publishing, but it is a mystery how he accumulated enough money to buy Luttrellstown Castle and to live there at a level of grandeur that had beggared the Earl of Carhampton. His son became the first Lord Annaly of Longford.

12.2.8 Laurence Bomford eldest Son

Watson’s Almanack from 1785 to 1787 records -
“Laurence Bomford, Table-Beer Brewer, of 11 Beresford Street.”

Wilson was living at No 11 Beresford Street from 1783 so for a time at least father and son were living together. They were both in the brewing business and it was probably the family business. However Laurence has gone into a higher class of business, catering for the gentry with ‘table-beer’.

There is no mention of a Bomford in Beresford Street in 1788 so it looks as though they got rid of the house and moved out of town into the suburbs. In 1799 Laurence is ‘of Mitchersmount, Co Dublin’ and in 1803 ‘of Castleknock’. Mitchersmount has not been found but it may the name of the house, perhaps in Castleknock, a village just out side Phoenix Park on the Dublin - Kells Road.

Nothing more is known about Laurence except that he would have been born about 1760 so in 1803 he would be about 43.

Nowadays one thinks of brewing and distilling as big business, but this was not so in the 1700’s; there were many small businesses catering for drinkers, and it was one of these smallish businesses that Wilson and Laurence owned. Indeed these two Bomfords probably did very well because, quite apart from being able to retire to houses in the country, the Irish in general and Dubliners in particular were known to be heavy topers throughout the 1700’s and early 1800’s.

According to Whitelaw’s estimate of 1798, around 1780 - 1800 the population of Dublin was about 182,000, and to cater for them there were fifty-five breweries and twenty-five distilleries. Another estimate of the 1780’s gives 2,000 ale-houses, 300 taverns and 1,200 brandy shops in the town which works out at one for every 52 people or about one pub for less than ten families. There was nothing new about these figures as they were similar to those of the late 1600’s, at which time there were 91 breweries in Dublin serving 1,180 pubs and, as the population was then reckoned to be 4,000 families, the proportion was one pub to every three families.

Contemporary accounts all indicate that drunkenness was the norm for all classes. Walshe wrote about the 1790’s that “the great end and aim of life in the upper classes seemed to be convivial indulgence to excess” and Lord Charlemont wrote that “after dinner the doors shall be locked, the keys laid upon the table, and the guests drenched with wine until they can hold no more; which out of pure hospitality and friendship is poured down their throats and they are left to wallow in filth and beastliness”. If this was the case of the upper classes one can imagine the extraordinary drunken and debauched scenes of the poorer classes. Writers of the period cover the ‘nurseries of drunkenness’ where ‘every filthy ale-house is thronged full of company’.

12.2.9 Thomas Shinton Bomford, 2nd Son

Thomas went to Trinity and his father’s name is given in the College Register; this gives clear evidence that the brothers were the sons of Wilson. The Trinity extract reads -

“Bomford, Thomas Pensioner, (educated by) Dr Buck, (entered) October 21st 1783, aged 17, son of Wilson, Mercator (merchant), born Dublin, BA Spring 1789, MA November 1792.”

So Thomas was born in 1766 (but see below) and got his MA in 1792. He became a clergyman and the Succession Lists of Canon Leslie records -

“Thomas Bomford Curate Killucan 1794-1826, a native of the Parish known as ‘the Galla Minister’.”

Also the ‘Establishment of Ireland’ Part V under ‘The Unbeneficed Clergy in the Diocese of Meath’ records -
“Thomas Bomford Curate, (admission) 11th June 1794, £75 per annum plus House and Offices.”

Thomas is listed amongst the Westmeath Voters of 1832. The following entries are consecutive -

“George Bomford Agher, Lands Clonfad, (value £) 50, Stand over.
Thomas S. Bomford Killucan, same (refers to George’s holding of Clonfad), and Riverstown, (his landlord) Lord Longford, (value £) 10.”

Thomas S. Bomford was curate of Killucan from 1794 to 1826, and he was there when the present Church was built in 1814. It is hard to place him as ‘a native of the Parish’ unless that refers to the land he leased from George the younger about which there is no other record; nor is the meaning of ‘the Galla Minister’ known. He lived at Riverstown when his landlord was Lord Longford. Riverstown Lodge is just north of the Royal Canal beside Killucan railway station. He may have lived there, the site matches the facts. At some date after 1826 he moved to England.

There are two records of his death -

“1844 Thomas Bomford, Reverend, died 8th January 1844, Clerk (in Holy Orders), of Woodbridge, Suffolk.” (Prerogative Wills)

and the Woodbridge Parish Register of St Mary’s records -

“Thomas Shinton Bomford of the Rectory was buried January 13th 1844, aged 81.” (Entry Number 2146)

The local Almanack of 1844 records the incumbent of St Mary’s Church as Rev T. S. Bomford, and that the benefice in 1835 was valued at £439 a year. This move to England would account for his absence from Leslie’s Succession Lists from 1826 and he may have moved that year or any time from that year. The fact that he was a Westmeath voter in 1832 would not mean that he had to be a resident.

The Woodbridge entry gives his full name, the ‘S’ stands for Shinton the maiden name of his maternal grandmother, but it does show a slight anomaly; he died in 1844 aged 81 so his birth date was 1762, whereas the Trinity Register makes it 1766, the Woodbridge entry is probably the correct one.

12.2.10 Wilson Bomford, 3rd Son

Although Wilson has been named many times, there are no entries after 1790 except for the two leases. Wilson, son of Wilson, would have been in his early 20’s when his father died in 1790, so it is likely that all previous entries applied to the father. All that can be said of Wilson the younger is that he was born around 1765 and that he was alive in 1803.

12.3 Summary - Offspring of Laurence of Killeglan,

3rd Son of Colonel Laurence

Laurence of Killeglan, Co Meath, born c1657, married c1705 Susanna, niece of Andrew Wilson of Piercefield, Co Westmeath, died 1721 (will 10th June 1721, probate 6th March 1722). Susanna died between 1745 and 1754 having issue

1. Laurence of Killeglan, born c1710, married (ML 10th May 1744) Jane Smith of St Andrew’s Parish, Dublin, died August 1761 (will 9th August, probate 29th August 1761). Jane died 1769 having issue
   a. Laurence, born c1746, died between 1769 and 1772
   b. William of Dublin, born c1748, alive in 1799
   c. Susanna, born c1750
2. Isabella, born c1712
3. Ellinor, born c1714
4. Mary, born c1716
5. Wilson, brewer and distiller of Phrapper Lane, Dublin, born c1718, married January 1759 his cousin Anne, eldest daughter of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, died intestate 1790. Anne was born after 1732 and died between 1764 and 1784 having had issue
   a. Laurence, table-beer brewer of Beresford Street, Dublin, later of Castleknock, Co Dublin, born c1760, alive in 1803.
   b. Thomas Shinton, Reverend, born 1762, MA (TCD) 1792, Curate Killucan, Co Westmeath, 1794-1826, Rector St Mary’s Woodbridge, Suffolk, died 8th January 1844 aged 81 was buried at St Mary’s, January 13th 1844.
   c. Wilson, born c1765, alive in 1803
Chapter XIII

William of Cushenstown 1760 - 1803

13.1

William the eldest son of Thomas of Clounstown and oldest grandson of Oliver of Cushenstown, was a farmer and at this time he had just over 2,500 statute acres, most of which was around Clounstown and Cushenstown. In 1760 he was living at Cushenstown with his wife Charity (Ryder) whom he married in 1754 (7.17). They had six children

Thomas the eldest son,
A second son whose name is not known and he probably died young
William
and three daughters - Charity, Ann, and Frances

By 1760 four or five of these children would have been born.

Before his marriage William was living at Clounstown with his parents. It was probably at the time of his marriage that he moved from Clounstown to Cushenstown; he was certainly at Cushenstown from 1759 to 1771. His father died in 1757 and his mother continued to live at Clounstown; with her were most of her unmarried children, some of whom could still be in their teens.

William, with his cousin John Molloy, was an executor of the will of Edward of Hightown who had just died, and he also became mildly involved in the court case of 1762 concerning Oldtown and Enniscoffey.

13.2

Mortgage - Surgolstown & Laurestown 23rd December 1760

William Bomford of Cushionstown leases Surgolstown containing 125 plantation acres (203 statute) and Laurestown 80 plantation acres (130 statute) in Co Dublin to the Rev Robert Bligh of Ballyshall, Co Cork, (Dean of Elphin, died 1778), for £1,000 down payment.

(Book 209 Page 130 No 137813)

This mortgage was paid off eleven years later in 1772, the next entry.

13.2.1

Mortgage - Surgolstown & Laurestown 11th April 1772

By mortgage William Bomford of Cushionstown, Co Meath, conveyed to the Reverend Robert Bligh, Dean of Elphin, for £1,000 and interest the lands of Surgolstown 125 plantation acres and Laurestown (written as Laurencetown) 80 plantation acres both in the Barony of Nethercross. Robert Bligh has now received £1,020.1.4 and so releases the lands to William Bomford.

(Book 285 Page 586 No 190677)

Then a week later,

13.2.2

Lease - Surgolstown & Laurestown 18th April 1772

William Bomford, formerly of Cushionstown and now of Laketay, Co Wicklow, leases to Francis Hopkins of Dublin City the lands of Surgolstown and Laurestown (acreage as above) in the Barony of Nethercross, Co Dublin, for the lives of

the said William Bomford,
John Tench, eldest son of Robert Tench, Councillor at Law of Dublin City, and
Thomas Bomford, son of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath,

On 7th February 1756 these lands were leased to William Bomford by the Most Reverend Father in God, late Arch Bishop of Dublin, Primate and Metropolitan of Ireland (Doctor Charles Cobbe, died in 1765, of Newbridge Donabate, Co Dublin, which he built in 1737. The house is now in the hands of Dublin County Council but the Cobbe family still live there occasionally).

(Book 291 Page 164 No 190678)

This is the last document concerning these lands, but in 1783 William’s children complain that he has unlawfully got rid of these lands and he must have done this during the ten years after 1772. The two townlands came to William in 1754 as part of Charity’s marriage settlement, and formed part of the trust set up for his children

13.3

Lease - Primatstown 27th February 1761

Jane Bomford of Clounstown, widow and executor of Thomas Bomford late of Clounstown, (and mother of William Bomford), makes over to Hamilton and Richard Gorges of Kilbrew, Co Meath,
for £90 per annum, 2/3rd parts of the land of Primatstown formerly belonging to Oliver Bomford of Cushinstown, situated in the Manor of Killmoon, for 99 years.  

Although Primatstown is mostly north of the Ashbourne - Slane road, and Irishtown is south of the road, the two townlands have generally been linked together in the documents and shown as 559 statute acres. However, to reduce the rent by £90, about 300 acres must have been returned to the Head Landlord, Richard Gorges of Kilbrew. It therefore looks as though Irishtown has again been linked with Primatstown even though it has not been entered as such.

There is no further documentation on either Primatstown or Irishtown so it is not known what happened to the other 250 or so acres. Kilbrew was the residence of the Gorges family. The early leases of 1712 and 1724 concern the father, Lieutenant General Richard Gorges who died in 1728. His son Richard inherited and died in 1778. It is not known who Hamilton Gorges is. Early in the 1800’s John Howard Gorges had inherited and he, or his son, Major John Arthur Howard Gorges of the Bengal Army, 57th Regiment of Native Infantry, sold the place before 1838 to W. Murphy of Dublin. They moved to Boyle in Co Roscommon. In 1838 Lewis states of Kilbrew, “it is a fine mansion with an extensive and richly planted demesne”.

13.4  
**Lease - Pranstown**  
2nd June 1761

Jane Bomford, widow of Thomas Bomford the elder, late of Clownstown, Gent, deceased,  
John Jones of Dublin and John Lowther of Staffordstown, Co Meath, both named in the will of Thomas Bomford, deceased, and  
William Bomford of Cushinstown, eldest son and heir of the said Thomas Bomford,  
all these on the one part lease to William White, merchant of the City of Dublin, the land of Pranstown containing 230 plantation acres (373 statute) in the Barony of Skreen for three lives, those of Oliver Bomford  
Thomas Bomford and  
Lancelotte Shinton.  

Concerning those mentioned  
John Jones and  
John Lowther  
were the executors of the will of Jane’s husband, Thomas of Clounstown  
Oliver  
was her brother-in-law, living at Rathfeigh, now aged over 50.  
Thomas  
was Jane’s second son, now aged 22. He died c1796.  
Lancelotte Shinton  
was Jane’s brother. Pranstown had been re-leased to him in 1750 and he died in 1772.

Pranstown is not mentioned again. We do not know when all the ‘lives’ died, but I am assuming that this lease was terminated c1790.

13.5  
**Lease - Cushenstown**  
19th January 1762

William Bomford of Cushinstown, Co Meath, leases to Robert Madden of Meadsbrook, Co Meath, part of the lands of Cushinstown containing 187 plantation acres (303 statute) along the west side of the high road from Duleek to Kilmoon in the Barony of Skreen for the lives of the said  
Robert Madden  
Frances Madden, otherwise Bomford, wife of Robert Madden and  
John Madden, son of Robert Madden  
for a rent of £154.5.6  

Frances Madden was William’s sister, so John Madden was his nephew. The Madden children are all born by now, John of this deed now aged 4, Anne now aged 8 and the baby Robert aged 2. They lived across the road mentioned at Meadesbrook.

13.5.1  
**Lease - Cushenstown**  
20th February 1762

William Bomford of Cushinstown leases to Richard Bagnall of Hawkinstown in the Parish of Piercetown, Co Meath, 54 plantation acres (87 statute) of Cushinstown, bounded on the north by Hawkinstown, on the east by the great road from Drogheda to Ratoath, and south-west by that part of Cushinstown now occupied by William Bomford for three lives or 21 years at a rent of £36.15.4.  

These last two leases and that of 1728 confirms the site of Cushenstown House. It was next to Crossmacoole in the southwest corner of the townland. The house was demolished before 1836 but...
another was built which was called Crossmacoole House. The present two storey farm house looks as though it was built in the late 1800’s or early 1900’s and must be on the site of William’s house.

Hawkinstown is the townland just north of Bodman and Crossmacoole, and Richard Bagnall died there in 1773 (probate).

13.5.2 Lease - Cushenstown 29th March 1771

William Bomford of Cushenstown, Co Meath, leases to Edward Semple of “Summer Hill, Co Dublin, Gent, the House, outhouses, offices, gardens and demesne lands of Cushenstown containing 111 acres plantation measure” (180 statute) in the Parish of Duleek, Barony of Skreen, for the life of Edward Semple or 31 years at a rent of £190.5.0. (Book 300 Page 249 No 199594)

By April 1772 William moved to Lake Tay, Co Wicklow. This lease of Cushenstown House ends in 1802 and, in 1803; there is a document, which places William’s eldest son, Thomas, back in Cushenstown House, though it is uncertain if he actually lived there. Actually Edward Semple hands the house back early in 1783 but it is rented again the next year.

Even though the lease is to Edward Semple it is likely that George Shinton, William’s uncle, took the place when William moved to Lake Tay. George Shinton died at Cushenstown in 1780.

13.5.3 Lease - Cushenstown 31st January 1783

(This deed of surrender is endorsed on the above deed. The endorsement is more or less as the 1771 deed but it includes the bounds.)

Bounded on the north by Mr Bagnells holding
on the south by Mr Maddens holding
on the east by the road from Dublin to Duleek
on the west to the river adjoining Foxes holding.

Now Edward Semple surrenders all the above land to William Bomford, which he accepts.

Signed Edward Semple
Witnessed Patrick Dowdall, farmer, and
Robert Robinson of Dublin (Book 348 Page 480 No 234955)

13.5.4 Lease - Cushenstown 1st July 1784

William Bomford of Dublin leases to Patrick Dowdall of Garastown, Co Dublin, the house and lands of Cushenstown, Co Meath, for 31 years with a rent of £180. (Book 378 Page 141 No 252380)

‘Garastown’ must be Garristown, a village 1½ miles away and east of Meadesbrook.

13.5.5 William’s Marriages and Children

William’s first wife, Charity (Ryder), died in March 1764 (Upton Papers). In the 10 years of her marriage she produced six children. Judging mainly from their marriage dates I suspect that the sequence of births would be as follows -

1. Charity, born about 1755, married about 1780 Richard Hinde of Dublin. They had an only daughter, Sarah Hinde.
3. Thomas, born about 1759, eventually inherited Cushenstown when his father died in 1803. In 1806 or 1807 he married but had no children.
4. Un-named second son, born about 1761, probably died young.
5. Frances Amelia, born 1763 (the only definite birth date), married sometime before 1783 Benjamin Hinde of Dublin and later of Anglesea, England. It is possible that Benjamin and Richard Hinde were related, perhaps brothers. They had three sons and three daughters. Benjamin leased part of Cushenstown in 1783.
6. William, born in c1764, and died unmarried between 1795 and 1803.

On 24th January 1769 (ML) William married secondly Margaret Helen (Watson) Betham records the marriage licence

“Bomford William of Cushinstown, Co Meath, Esq., and Margaret Watson of St Bridget Parish, Dublin, spinster. Directed to said parish 24th January 1769.”
Margaret Helen will appear again (17.2.3), but the Upton Papers add that she was of ‘South Carolina’ indicating that her parents had lived there and perhaps that she was born there, or had land in South Carolina. William had three more daughters by Margaret Helen.

13.6 Rights of William’s Children 26th March 1783

Between the only daughters and younger children of William Bomford, of Cushinstown, Co Meath, and Charity Rider otherwise Bomford his wife;

1. Thomas Bomford, eldest son and heir of the above William and Charity.
2. Richard Hinde of Dublin City and Charity Hinde, otherwise Bomford his wife.
3. Francis Brunton of Dublin City and Ann Brunton, otherwise Bomford his wife.
4. Benjamin Hynde of Dublin City and Frances Hynde, otherwise Bomford his wife.

Reciting

1. The marriage settlement of 15th March 1754 (7.17) including a settlement of £500 on each child of the marriage.
2. The lease of 27th March 1719 (2.11) in which Hercules Rowley leased to Oliver Bomford the lands of Kilmoon 418 plantation acres (677 statute), Portlester 100 plantation acres (162 statute) and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute), for perpetual renewal at a rent of £205.

Now Charity Rider is dead and William has married another wife and has “put Charity’s children out of the house”.

So the children listed above file a suit to ensure that they get all their rights. The suit also includes a clause concerning Surgoldstown and Laurencetown (written Laur estown) in Co Dublin, which William Bomford has disposed of, and “he had no right to do so”.

It sounds as though there was no love lost between William’s married daughters and his second wife Margaret (Watson), or perhaps they were disturbed by the loss of the two Co Dublin townlands which William ‘had no right’ to get rid of. It must however be said that no existing deed actually states that these lands were put in trust; the other lands in Co Meath were put in trust to the two executors, Rev Michael Sandys and John Jones. On the other hand there is no previous record of the £500 for each child so there must be missing deeds.

It is doubtful if Margaret really put her married stepdaughters ‘out of the house’. At this time Margaret and William were living at Lake Tay and also perhaps in Dublin, and it would have to be a very large house to hold four married couples, at least one son and a few babies one at least had been born by 1783.

Francis Brunton of Dublin has not been traced. There are five Brunton’s listed in the prerogative wills index; 1741 Antony, a Dublin merchant; three widows, Elizabeth (1733), Mary (1757) of Dublin, and Charity (1737) of Drogheda; and lastly William Brunton (1806), a tallow chandler of Dublin. Brunton is not a common name so all of these were probably relations of Ann Bomford’s husband, Francis Brunton.

It is not known how the money was raised but, as the following two documents of 1786 show, the settlement was paid.

It is interesting that the two younger sons were not included; the un-named second son has not been mentioned at all, which makes me think that he ‘died young’; the third son William is definitely alive. One possible reason for his exclusion is that he may still be a minor, if this is so then he is the youngest of the family and indeed his mother may have died giving birth to him.

13.6.1 Settlement on William’s Children 28th June 1786

Deed Poll made by William Bomford of Dublin.

On 6th March 1754 (should be 16th March) with the intermarriage of William Bomford and Charity Ryder, since deceased, the lands of Cushinstown, part of Kilmoon, and Bodman were settled on the issue.

Now William Bomford declares that he has carried out the above settlement.

Witnessed Edward Stanley of Dublin, deceased,
James Cummins of Dublin and
David Healy of Dublin, writing clerk

(Book 435 Page 21 No 278560)

13.6.2 Settlement on William’s Children 3rd July 1786

William Bomford of Dublin on his marriage to Charity Ryder assigned to the issue the lands of Cushinstown, part of Kilmoon and Bodman. By the deed of 28th June 1786 (above) William Bomford
makes provision in his lifetime for Richard Hinde of Dublin and Charity Hinde (Bomford) his wife, the eldest daughter of William Bomford.

Now he has given them the sum mentioned in the deed (the £500??) John Warburton of Dublin and Charles Blake, apothecary of Dublin, appear as party to this deed (perhaps as trustees).

(Book 434 Page 157 No 280758)

13.6.3 Lease - Cushenstown etc. 5th July 1786

Richard Hinde of Dublin,
Charity Hinde (Bomford) his wife and daughter of William Bomford,
John Warburton of Dublin, and
Charles Blake of Dublin, apothecary,
all lease to Ann Watson of Dublin, widow, the lands of Cushinstown and part of Killmoon 418 plantation acres (678 statute), Portlester 100 plantation acres (162 statute), and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute) in the Barony’s of Skreen and Duleek.

(Book 437 Page 98 No 282032)

As pure conjecture one wonders whether Ann Watson was not some relative of Margaret Watson, William’s second wife; she could be her mother. In this respect Margaret’s second daughter was named Ann perhaps after her mother. Ann Watson was living in one of William’s Dublin houses as can be seen from the next deed.

13.6.4 Lease - Dublin House 10th January 1792

William Bomford of Dublin leases to Ireland Birch of Dublin a house now occupied by Anne Watson on the east side of Cumberland Street. The house was built in 1779.

(Book 446 Page 42 No 287236)

13.7 William’s Property at Lake Tay

In March 1771 William leased Cushenstown House to Edward Semple and by April 1772 William was ‘formerly of Cushenstown and now of Laketay, Co Wicklow’. Unfortunately the initial lease of Laketay, or Lake Tay, has not been found, but we can pick up many of the threads from the following leases.

13.7.1 Lease - Lake Tay 13th January 1784

William Bomford of Dublin leases to John Ledsam of Dublin, Public Notary, the houses of Lake Tay and the land of Luggalow, part of Ballynastowe (the bounds are recorded) for three lives. Also the land of Elikirwan and Cloghogue, which William Bomford held on lease from James Shiel for 21 years adjoining Lake Tay, for 71 years at a rent of £9.

(Book 358 Page 150 No 239346)

13.7.2 Lease - Lake Tay 27th April 1785

Endorsement on the back of the (missing) deed dated 1st May 1764.

William Bomford of the City of Dublin leased to Mathew Millett of Dublin for £100 the house of Lake Tay and the lands of Luggallow, Co Wicklow, and the lands of Elikirwan and Cloghogue also in Co Wicklow, for the lives of His Majesty King George the Third and George Barker Nuttall or for 91 years.

(Book 368 Page 87 No 246083)

13.7.3 Lease - Lake Tay 28th April 1785

Reciting and confirming the lease of 13th January 1782 (really 1784) in which William Bomford of Dublin leased to John Ledsam, Public Notary of the City of Dublin, the house of Lake Tay, the meadows of Luggalow being part of Ballynastowe (Ballinastoe) in the Barony of Ballynacor (Ballinacor), Co Wicklow, at a rent of £51.

(Book 368 Page 88 No 246084)

13.7.4 Lease - Ballymaslowe 9th November 1788

Francis Erly and Hester his wife lease to William Bomford part of Ballymaslowe called the Rampark, containing 50 plantation acres (81 statute) in the Manor of Castlekevan, Co Wicklow, for three lives.

(Book 446 Page 42 No 287236)
Lake Tay is included in nearly all the tourist books on Ireland; it lies four miles northwest of Roundwood. Here is an early Victorian extract from Bartlett’s ‘Scenery of Ireland’,

“The traveller comes suddenly upon the beautiful sheet of water called Luggelaw. It is encompassed on all sides, bowl-like, by mountains some of them of the wildest, and others of the richest and most pleasing character (There follows a long description of a precipice with) a gigantic resemblance of a human face, looking gloomily on the lake below. Embosomed in a deep valley, which runs into the mountains at one end of the lake, stands a handsome mansion, belonging to the La Touches of Delgany, surrounded by rich meadows and luxuriant plantations.”

Peter La Touche, of the wealthy Dublin banking family, discovered the valley and the Lake of Luggala in the heart of the Wicklow mountains bought the land about 1790 and built a charming little house there in gingerbread Gothic, described at the time as a ‘cottage mansion’. It is not known what the houses were like which William Bomford leased, but they were certainly not of the standard of a ‘cottage mansion’.

The other properties mentioned are all in the Parish of Ballinastoe and are to the west of Lake Tay and Luggala, in the mountains. It was to these wild hills that the remnants of the Wexford rebels retreated after the Battle of Vinegar Hill in 1797 and, for a long time, under Joseph Holt kept up guerrilla warfare. It was in order to open up this area that the Military Road was built; it runs north-south through the Wicklow Mountains to the west of Lake Tay. Cloghoge is a house, which is on this military road, and Elikirwan is a little bit lower down on the Cloghoge Brook. I have not been able to discover where the Rampark is.

It is not known how long William stayed at Luggala, but it would appear that he also stayed in Dublin. In fact he was probably only at Luggala during the summer months since the whole area would be under snow in the winter. He moved to Delgany in 1790 and may well have been ousted from Luggala when Peter La Touche purchased the property.

13.8  Lease - Delgany  9th October 1790

Benjamin Keightley of Delgany, Co Wicklow, leased to William Bomford of Co Wicklow part of the lands of Delgany in his actual possession containing 34 plantation acres (55 statute) in the Barony of Rathdown, Co Wicklow, for the lives of

Benjamin Keightley
John Keightley, brother to Benjamin and
Richard Fox, youngest son of William Fox of Kilmurry, Co Wicklow,
or for 45 years at a rent of £104.7.6

Witnessed
John Bomford of Co Wicklow
Isaac Marsh, Gentleman of Dublin (Attorney, died 1796)

(Book 429 Page 106 No 277511 and Book 446 Page 42 No 287236)

John Bomford must be William’s brother who was living in Killincarrick on the coast just east of Delgany.

13.8.1  Lease - Delgany  20th September 1798

William Bomford of Delgany exchanged land with Peter La Touche about Delgany, Co Wicklow. About 30 acres plantation measure (49 statute) were involved in the exchange for the lives of

Benjamin Keightley of Delgany and
John Keightley, brother of Benjamin

(Book 514 Page 267 No 336332)

So William did have something to do with Peter La Touche who by now had built his cottage mansion at Luggala

13.9

Since William moved to Lake Tay and then to Delgany, his eldest son, Thomas, ran Cushenstown. Eventually Thomas inherits, but it is thought that, before then, he leases the land from his father. These leases formulate this idea.

19th November 1783

Thomas Bomford of the City of Dublin leases to Benjamin Hinde of the City of Dublin that part of Cushenstown in the tenancy of Ann Bagenal, widow.

(Book 356 Page 120 No 238747)
Benjamin Hinde is the husband of Thomas’s youngest sister Frances; Ann Bagenal must be the wife of Richard Bagnall of Hawinstown who leased 87 statute acres in 1762.

**13.9.1 Lease - Cushenstown 10th March 1784**

Thomas Bomford of Dublin made an agreement with Benjamin Hinde that on the death of William Bomford, father of Thomas Bomford, a long lease be made of the land of Cushinstown now occupied by Thomas Madden and also that part now occupied by Ann Bagnall, widow. The lease is now of three lives (they are not mentioned) at the same rent. (Book 356 Page 309 No 240335)

This lease confirms that Cushenstown is still in the hands of William and all is leased to the following five families:

- Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, uncle of Thomas,
- Benjamin Hinde, brother-in-law of Thomas, of Dublin,
- Ann Watson of Dublin, possibly the mother of Thomas’ step-mother,
- Patrick Dowdall of Garristown who has Cushenstown House, and
- Ann Bagnall of Hawinstown.

**13.9.2 Lease - Cushenstown 16th July 1791**

Thomas Bomford, eldest son of William Bomford of Cushinstown by Charity Ryder, otherwise Bomford his wife, with the agreement of his brothers and sisters, (only Benjamin Hinde is mentioned), leases Cushenstown to George Tandy of Dublin. (Book 440 Page 30 No 283581)

**13.9.3 Lease - Cushenstown & Dunreigh 13th December 1791**

William Bomford of Dublin leases to George Moss of Dunreigh, Co Meath, farmer, the lands of Dunreigh, and part of Cushinstown in his possession containing 47 plantation acres (76 statute), for 31 years at a rent of £54.6.2

Witnessed John Bomford of Dublin (William’s brother) (Book 445 Page 275 No 286740)

This is the first mention of Dunreigh, which joins Killeglan (Ashbourne) on the east. The townland is only 124 statute acres and is in the Parish of Donaghmore. It is not known when Dunreigh was first leased by the Bomfords, but it was before this date. This lease was due to expire in 1822 and probably was not renewed. Certainly there were no Bomfords listed in Dunreigh in 1836.

**13.9.4 Lease - Cushenstown, Kilmoon etc 11th March 1794**

Thomas Bomford, eldest son and heir of William Bomford of Cushinstown, Co Meath, but now of Delgany, Co Wicklow, and Charity Ryder, now Bomford his wife, leases to Joseph Rathborne of Ballymore, Co Meath, the land of Cushenstown and part of Kilmoon containing 418 plantation acres (677 statute) and Portlester 100 plantation acres (162 statute) and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute). (Book 481 Page 146 No 305871)

Joseph Rathborne married in 1774 Anne Madden, daughter of Robert Madden and Frances (Bomford), aunt of the Thomas Bomford of this lease; so Joseph and Thomas are first cousins.

Joseph Rathborne was the eldest son of William Rathborne of Dublin. He was educated at Trinity College to which he entered in 1763 and got his BA in 1768. From 1770 to 1772 he was sacrist, a sort of treasurer of a cathedral who looks after the silver and other movables like the books and music, to Clonfert Diocese. The previous sacrist from 1745 to 1770 was his uncle Richard Rathborne MA of Ballymore, Co Galway. I have not found a Ballymore in Meath, so Joseph’s Ballymore might be his uncle’s place in Galway, but the family settled near Drogheda initially so there may well be a Ballymore in Meath.

**13.9.5 Lease – Cushenstown, Kilmoon etc 14th May 1795**

Thomas Bomford of Cushinstown, eldest son of William Bomford formerly of Cushinstown but now of Delgany, Co Wicklow, leases to

Joseph Mayne of Dublin (attorney who died in 1807), the land of Cushinstown and part of Kilmoon 418 plantation acres (677 statute), Portlester (Portlester) 100 plantation acres (162 statute) and Bodman 69 plantation acres (112 statute) during the lives of

William Bomford father of the said Thomas Bomford
John Bomford brother of the said William Bomford
William Bomford 3rd son of the said William Bomford (Book 485 Page 434 No 314170)
It is this deed, which names William as the third son of William, and brother to Thomas. He must have been fit and well to be made a ‘life’ in 1795, but he died within the next few years and before his father in 1803.

If William was the 3rd son then there was a 2nd son about whom we know nothing, not even his name. He probably died young.

13.10 Death of William of Delgany c1803

No record has been found of the death of William Bomford of Cushenstown and later of Delgany, the grandson of Oliver of Cushenstown and the eldest son and heir of Thomas of Clounstown. However it was most probably in early 1803 when in November of that year his surviving children drew up new leases.

His second wife, Margaret (Watson) survived him. Her will was dated 1st September 1813 so she probably did not die until 1814 at the earliest.
Chapter XIV  William’s Brothers and Sisters  1764 - 1800

14

William had 8 brothers and sisters, the sons and daughters of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown and Cushenstown, born 1703, BA (TCD) 1725, married 7th September 1729 (ML), and died 1757. The children’s mother was Jane (Shinton) who died in Dawson Street in 1784 or 85.

1. William, c1730 - Jan 1803.
2. Frances, born c1731 at Clounstown, married 26th February 1753, also at Clounstown, Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, and died between 1761 and 1764. There were three children, Anne Madden, Rev John Madden and Robert Madden.
3. Anne, born c1733, married January 1759 her cousin Wilson Bomford (12.2.5). She had three children, Laurence, Thomas Shinton, and Wilson (12.2.8/10), before she died between 1764 and 1784.
4. Elizabeth, born c1735 and died unmarried between 1764 and 1783.
5. Thomas of Clounstown, sold 1784, then of Harristown, Co Westmeath. He was born in 1739, married 12th January 1764 (ML) and died c1796. He was survived by his wife, Alice Jessop, of Mount Jessop, Co Longford. There were three children, Thomas, Robert and John. Robert inherited Jessop property and took the surname Bomford-Jessop.
6. John, born c1740, was apprenticed with his brother Thomas and became a merchant in Dublin. He married firstly on 27th November 1766 (ML) Dorcas Ahmuty of Co Longford; married secondly in 1780 Mary Ann, the widow of Mr Barrington. In 1780 he moved from Dublin to Killincarrick Co Wicklow. John had no known children by either marriage.
7. Emilia, born c1742, married 1781 Robert Harrison of Santry, Co Dublin There were no known children.
8. Jane, born c1744, married c 1st January 1770 Samuel Heally. He died before May 1784 and she after that date. There were two children, Gabriel and Samuel Heally.
9. Christian, born c1746, married firstly Francis Hopson in 1782 (ML), and secondly before April 1783 Christopher Russell of Dublin. They may have had children, see text.

Here is another family whose birth dates are approximate and judged from other family events. Only Thomas has a definite birth date.

14.1 Marriage - Thomas and Alice Jessop 12th January 1764

Marriage Settlement
Between 1. Thomas Bomford of the City of Dublin
2. Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop, Co Longford, and Alice Jessop, spinster, his daughter

On the marriage about to be had between Thomas Bomford and Alice Jessop, and with the marriage portions of £1,000 and £200, Thomas Bomford did lease to Townley Ahmuty and William Forbes in trust the land of Clounstown in the Barony of Skreen containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute) for an annuity, on the death of Thomas Bomford, to Alice of £100.

Witnessed Wilson Bomford of the City of Dublin, merchant, and
Robert Madden of Maidsbrook (Meadesbrook) (Book 228 Page 309 No 150862)

Thomas, second son of Thomas of Cushenstown and Clounstown, appears to have inherited Clounstown from his father who had died in 1757; his elder brother William got the other property of Cushenstown, which had more acreage attached. Thomas was born in 1739 and was 25 when he married. The trustee Townley Ahmuty was a brother of Dorcas Ahmuty who in a couple of years will marry John Bomford, the other brother of Thomas. The other trustee William Forbes, the alderman, died in 1776.

Wilson Bomford was Thomas’s cousin and brother-in-law, the brewer and distiller. He married Anne, one of Thomas’s sisters, in 1759. Robert Madden was also a brother-in-law; he married another sister, Frances, in 1753.

Marriage Licence
The licence was issued by the Diocese of Dublin and reads
“Bomford Thomas of Colounstown, Co Meath, Esqr, and Alice Jessop of the Parish of St Michan’s, Dublin, spinster. Directed to said parish 12th January 1764.” (Page 443)

Their marriage probably took place on 12th January 1764 since both the marriage settlement and the licence are of the same date, but we cannot be certain so it has been dated just January 1764. They
were married in St Michan’s Church in Dublin, which is on the north side of the Liffey, beside the Four Courts. This Church stands on the site of a Danish church said to have been built in 1096, it was restored or maybe rebuilt in 1686 and again in 1828. A fine organ was installed in 1724 on which, some say, Handel played when he visited Ireland in 1742. The vaults are notorious; they are cut out of limestone which is so absorbent as to prevent decomposition and to cause an unusual form of soft mummification; thus, where the coffins have collapsed, the bodies can be seen, dried and sunken but still recognisable and covered with skin and hair; before the war tourists were invited to ‘shake the hand of the Crusader’ but this macabre practice has now been stopped.

14.2 The Bomford - Jessop Family

No family tree for the Jessop family has been found but there were two branches of the family in Co Longford. The senior branch lived at Doory Hall, about seven miles south of Mount Jessop; Doory Hall was built about 1820 on the site of a previous house, but it is now a ruin. Our interest is in the branch living at Mount Jessop, which is on a side road about three miles south of Longford and about eight miles north of Ardnacrany where Thomas and Alice Bomford were living in 1796. Mount Jessop was a plain three-storey house in the 1700’s but is now derelict. However in 1838 the Topographical Dictionary of Lewis states –

“Parish Moydow, Mount Jessop residence of F. (Francis) Jessop (grandson of Alice and Thomas) pleasantly situated on a small river which flows through the demesne and which, having been widened, adds much to the beauty of the scenery.”

An early clue to the family was found in the 1884 edition of Burke’s General Armoury which records “Bomford - see Jessop” -

“JESSOP. Exemplified to Robert Bomford Esq. of Mount Jessop, Co Longford, on his assuming, by Royal Licence dated 11th May 1825, the surname and, arms of Jessop in lieu of those of Bomford, in compliance with the will of his maternal uncle, Rev Thomas Jessop, LL D, of Mount Jessop.”

The Succession Lists of Canon Leslie includes this about Robert’s uncle, Rev Thomas Jessop, -

“Thomas Jessop, 2nd son of Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop, Co Longford, born 1741, educated by Mr Hynes and Trinity College Dublin, BA 1762, MA 1768 and LL B 1777. Married 6th May 1772 in St Anne’s Church, Dublin, Frances, elder daughter of John Gaspard Battier of Dublin. He lived at No 7 Belvedere Place, Dublin, (between Mountjoy Square and the North Circular Road), and inherited Mount Jessop from his brother in 1784. He presented a bell; value £10.12.0, to Moydow Church, which may be the one still in use. He died without children in Dublin, 24th April 1825, and was buried at Moydow.”

Betham records one Jessop will, that of Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop, dated 1773 and proved 13th June 1776, and the names read -

“Daughters Margaret J; Frances J; Allice Bomford;
Grandsons Thomas J; Thomas Bomford;
Sons Rev Thomas J; Robert J.”

These have been included in the family tree below except for

1. “Daughter Frances J” who may be a natural daughter but is more likely to be the daughter-in-law, Frances wife of son the Rev Thomas.
2. “Grandson Thomas J”. This is a difficult one to place, he must have died fairly young, certainly before 1825, otherwise he rather than the Bomford grandson, Robert, would have inherited Mount Jessop that year. He must be a son of either Robert or Rev Thomas Jessop, the only two sons.

The Upton Papers in the Royal Irish Academy has two useful pieces of information-

1. The family tree of “Bomford of Cushinstown, Co Meath” which has been used extensively in these records; in particular it shows the relationship and offspring of Robert Bomford who became Robert Bomford-Jessop.
2. The Chancery answer of the Rev Thomas Jessop in the action of Thomas Bomford v Rev T Jessop. This is a long document, which is recorded in full below. It makes astounding reading but it is apparent that Mount Jessop was originally to be left to the elder son of Thomas and Alice Bomford, Thomas Bomford, but because of his actions he was disinherited and the place went to the second son, Robert Bomford. A number of others in the Jessop family are mentioned in the document and the tree below brings in all these so that a fuller picture can be built up.
14.3  Lease - Brick  13th May 1778

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, Co Meath, leases to Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, Co Meath, the land of Brick for the unexpired number of years and at the same rent as the previous lease which was dated 13th July 1724 (3.4) by the Right Honourable Earl of Meath to Thomas Bomford of Rahinstown, the father of the said Thomas Bomford, for 61 years at the rent of £28.

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown bought the lease for £223.14.2

Witnessed Wilson Bomford, distiller of Dublin (Book 322 Page 364 No 216625)

Three different Thomas's are involved in this deed. In 1724 Thomas of Clounstown, the 2nd son of Oliver, was a minor; his guardian was Thomas of Rahinstown, his uncle who is here incorrectly recorded as his father. Thomas of Clounstown died in 1757 and Clounstown was left to his second son, Thomas.

It is this younger Thomas who is leasing Brick containing 125 statute acres to his brother-in-law Robert Madden until the original lease of 61 years expires in 1786.

14.4  Death of Jane Bomford (Shinton)  1785

Jane’s husband, Thomas the elder of Clounstown, died in 1757, 28 years before Jane died, leaving about six of his nine children as minors. Those mentioned in her will are mostly her children, the brothers and sisters of William, her eldest son.

The will extract can be seen in Betham’s notebooks in the Four Courts

“Jane Bomford of Dublin, widow, 21st May 1784 (will), 19th May 1785 (probate).

Eldest son Thomas B Esqr, daur Jane, wife of Sam Heally Esqr, grson Thomas Bomford of Trin (ity) College, son Wilson B of Phrappulan, grson Gabriel H, Samuel H.”

The prerogative wills add “Jane Bomford of Dawson Street, Dublin.”
Thus we can state that Jane Bomford died in Dawson Street, Dublin, in the early months of 1785. There are a couple of errors in the will, Thomas was not her eldest son, William was, and Wilson was not her son but her son-in-law, the husband of her eldest daughter Anne.

These errors did not help in placing the correct Jane with this will, but Upton had the same problem; he notes that

“Jane Bomford (nee Shinton) in her will calls her son-in-law Wilson Bomford ‘my son’. She also calls Thomas Bomford her ‘eldest’ son and does not mention William. He was certainly the eldest son of Thomas Bomford, died 1757, and I have found no evidence of Thomas having married any other wife before he married Jane Shinton. He was 25 when he married Jane.”

It has always been rather difficult placing all these early Thomas Bomfords. No doubt it was from this will that Upton places Thomas as the son of Wilson when he states “Thomas Bomford, student, TCD, 1784”; the Trinity Register gives more information (12.2.9).

For a long time I was puzzled over ‘Phrappulan’ until the matter was clarified in a Dublin Almanack, it is not the name of a house but it should read ‘Phrapper Lane’.

14.4.1 Marriage - Jane Bomford & Samuel Heally c1st January 1770

The Jane Bomford who married Samuel Heally was the fifth daughter. I have found no other confirmation of this marriage, nor of the two sons, Gabriel and Samuel; the two sons are not mentioned again but we could assume that Gabriel Heally was born c1771 and Samuel c1773 so at the time of their grandmother’s will they were aged about 13 and 11.

To complicate matters the two deeds of July 1784 concerning the sale of Clounstown mentions “Jane Bomford, otherwise Heatley, widow.”

This is clearly the same Jane but we are left in doubt about the spelling of her husband’s surname, Heally or Heatley; the former is the more often quoted and I use Heally throughout. However the deed does tell us that Jane’s husband died in early 1784 or before, but the will of Jane’s mother of May 1784 implies, since the word ‘deceased’ is not used, that Samuel Heally was alive in May and so died between May and July 1784. Upton does not agree with this and since it is likely that he saw the actual will before the fire of 1922 when it was destroyed, and since, if Samuel had recently died, there was a case to grant a bequest to the two young fatherless boys rather than to the other daughter’s families; so we will accept what Upton wrote, that Samuel Heally (a third spelling) died before 21st May 1784. He further states that the marriage of Jane and Samuel book place circa 1st January 1770, though it is not known where this came from.

14.5 The next four documents concern the sale of Clounstown.

Court Case - Clounstown 4th April 1783

Christopher Russell of the City of Dublin and Christian Russell otherwise Bomford (youngest sister of Thomas) his wife pay £365 to Joshua Huband of Ballygorn, Co Kildare, as a result of a Court Case between Gaynor Barry, and others, and Thomas Bomford and Alice (Jessop) his wife defendants, and which is now charged upon Clounstown containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute) and Cumberstown, Co Westmeath. (Book 353 Page 15 No 235838)

The rents of Cumberstown were granted by John Rochfort in 1762 to pay for the education of the children of Thomas and Jane (Shinton), the parents of Thomas and Christian of the deed (7.18.1).

14.5.1 Mortgage and Sale of Clounstown 26th July 1784

Between 1. Emilia Bomford of Meadesbrook, Co Meath, spinster. (She does not marry for another three years and is now living with her brother-in-law, Robert Madden, at Meadesbrook).
2. Jane Bomford otherwise Heally of Dublin, widow. (Samuel Heally died early in 1784).
3. Joshua Huband of Balligorn, co Kildare, executor of the will of Christopher Russell, (this might be the Christopher Russell who married the youngest daughter, Christian, but it is more likely to be the father, an older Christopher), and Christian Russell otherwise Bomford late of Dublin.

Emilia Bomford, Jane Heally (Bomford) and Christian Russell (Bomford) were all daughters and Legatees named in the will of Thomas Bomford the elder of Clounstown. The will left £300 each to the daughters – Anne, wife of Wilson Bomford, Elizabeth, unmarried, Emilia, Jane and Christian. Since
Anne and Elizabeth are not mentioned it can be assumed that they are dead. The other married daughter, Frances Madden died between 1761 and 1764.

Reciting 1. Thomas Bomford the elder possessed Clownstown fee farm which he mortgaged to Mark White for £816.6.1 (7.11), and which he charged with £300 a piece for his daughters.

2. On May 1 1782 the Court of the Exchequer decreed that the £300 be paid to the above three daughters, Emilia, Jane and Christian, by Thomas Bomford the younger within 6 months, failing which Clownstown should be sold and the money used to pay firstly Gaynor Barry his principle and interest (£816.6.1 plus interest) and then to pay off the daughters (£900). (Gaynor Barry must have taken over the mortgage from Mark Whyte. Gaynor died in 1796 at Beau, Co Dublin.)

As a result of this decree Christopher Russell and Christian his wife paid Joshua Huband £365.19.10 ½. (See the previous deed of April 1783, but it is not understood why these younger Russell’s should pay this to Huband who was the executor of the will of Christopher Russell. The answer may be in the court decree of May 1782 or in the Russell - Bomford marriage settlement, both of which are missing.)

Clownstown was sold to Owen Daly in trust for Augustine Pentheney for £4,500. (So Thomas Bomford would have cleared about £2,500 from the deal).

14.5.2

**Sale of Clownstown**

26th July 1784

Between 1. The Right Honourable James, Earl of Clanbrassill, Chief Remembrancer of His Majesty’s Court of the Exchequer.

2. Gaynor Barry of Dublin

3. Thomas Bomford of Clownstown and Alice Bomford, otherwise Jessop, his wife

4. George Lowther of Hurdlestown, Co Meath, eldest son of John Lowther late of Staffordstown, Co Meath, deceased

5. Owen Daly of Dublin, Gent

6. Augustine Pentheney of Glasgo, Co Kildare

On 1st May 1782 in the Court of the Exchequer, Gaynor Barry caused Thomas Bomford to sell Clownstown within 6 months. Amongst those taking part were

Jane Bomford, otherwise Healley, widow, and

Christian Russell, otherwise Bomford, wife of Christopher Russell.

Now Augustine Pentheney is confirmed in Clounestowne containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute) in the Barony of Skreen for £4,500. (Book 382 Page 219 No 254296)

John Lowther of Staffordstown was named as an executor of the will of 1764 (7.18.1) of Thomas the elder, together with John Jones who must have died.

Owen Daly is not the husband of Anne, daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown, who died in 1741, but he may be one of Anne’s nephews.

14.5.3

**Sale of Clownstown**

13th October 1788

Conveyance by the Court of the Exchequer to Augustine Pentheny, late of Glasgo, Co Kildare, but now of Dublin, of the land which Thomas Bomford, formerly of Clounstown, and his wife Alice otherwise Jessop owned, namely Clounstown in the Barony of Skreen containing 335 plantation acres (543 statute)

Witnessed Owen Daly and Joseph Cavenagh (Book 402 Page 175 No 264683)

Clounstown was sold in 1784 for £4,500 to pay for its mortgage and the settlement on the children, both having been arranged by the father Thomas the elder and his wife Jane (Shinton). This is all quite normal but the father’s debts and settlements were usually settled by the eldest son, who was William, and not, as in this case, by the second son Thomas. We are left wondering about this and also about the will of Jane (Shinton), the mother. Why did she omit William and call Thomas her eldest son; was this deliberate and had William disgraced himself? We simply do not know, but the records show that something odd had occurred.

In any event Thomas and Alice did not have enough money to cover the mortgage and bequests, and had to sell and leave Clounstown. In 1784 they settled in Co Westmeath at Harristown. No record has been found of Harristown but there is a Harrystown of 168 acres on the Shannon just south of Ballymore which is about 10 miles north-east of Athlone.
14.6 Lease - Cyplin 26th October 1784

Thomas Bomford of Harristown, Co Westmeath, leases to Christopher Barden of Parsonstown, Co Westmeath, the mill and land of Cyplin for 21 years at a rent of £10.
Witnessed Oliver Bomford, Publican (He can not be placed and to date remains a mystery man). (Book 411 Page 359 No 271964)

14.6.1 Lease – Brick & Cyplin 18th December 1784

Thomas Bomford of Harristown, Co Westmeath, has made over to Mary Gannon of Athboy, widow and administrator of James Gannon deceased, the lands of Brick, Co Meath, and the land of Cyplin with the mill, Co Westmeath, for £189.1.1. (Book 365 Page 249 No 244284)

There is no record to date concerning Cyplin; it is not known where it is, how it became Thomas’s or how much land it contained. Its lease appears to end in 1805, but in November that year it is mentioned in the marriage licence of Thomas’s son, Robert. The marriage licence states “Bomford, Robert, of Cyplin in Co Westmeath,” so it is possible that the lease was not terminated then but renewed.

On the other hand the lease of Brick, near Clounstown, was terminated in 1784 even though it could have run on for another two years.

14.7 Lease - Ardnacrany 6th February 1796

Thomas Bomford of Ardnacrany, Co Westmeath, leased to Rev John Waldron and James Wynne the land of Ardnacrany containing 59 plantation acres (96 statute) in the Parish of Noughville for three lives or 31 years at a rent of £61.4.3. (Book 493 Page 395 No 323525)

Most probably Thomas bought Ardnacrany well before this date whilst he was at Harristown, and this lease represents only a portion of his purchase. It is about 2½ miles from Harrystown, which, as said before, may be the unplaced ‘Harristown’.

There are two adjacent townlands, both named Ardnacrany, in the Parish of Noughaval in the Barony of Kilkenny West.
1. Ardnacrany North of 813 statute acres, which lies between the road from Ballymore to Tang and south of the River Tang. Ardnacrany House is in the south corner and this may have been where Thomas and Alice were living. To the north of the house is a monastery, founded in the 14th Century for the Carmelites by Robert Dillon of Drumraney.
2. Ardnacrany South of 162 statute acres touches Ardnacrany North at the crossroads and runs south and east along the road two miles from Ballymore. It is not known how much of nor which Ardnacrany Thomas leased.

Ardnacrany is in the middle of the Goldsmith country. As Lewis writes in 1838, “Goldsmith, the poet, was born at Pallice (Pallas) on 10th November 1732, now a collection of mere huts, in the Parish of Forgney, and lived there as a child with his widowed mother. His youth was spent at Lissoy, later called Auburn, in Co Westmeath, on the road to Edgeworthstown, the home of Maria Edgeworth (1767 - 1849).” He died in 1774 so would not have been known to Thomas and his family.

14.8 Children of Thomas and Alice (Jessop)

The above deed of 1796 is the last entry concerning Thomas Bomford and Alice (Jessop) of Harristown and/or Ardnacrany. In 1796 Thomas was aged 57 and appears to have died later that year. They had at least three sons whom we know about and there may have been daughters as well.

14.8.1 Thomas Bomford

The eldest son was Thomas who was born about 1764 and so in 1796 his age was about 32. The court case, which follows about his mis-spent youth, is all we know about him (14.9). He may have married but having estranged himself from the family and without money he must have sunk pretty low, at any rate he disappears from sight.

14.8.2 Robert Bomford and his wife, Martha (Battersby)

The second son was Robert who was born about 1766. His father died when he was about 30 and he probably inherited his father’s property. In 1805 he was living at Cyplin as his marriage licence states “Bomford Robert of Cyplin in Co Westmeath, Gent, and Martha Battersby of the Parish of St Thomas Dublin, spinster. Directed to the said parish 23rd November 1805.”
A little more information comes from the Upton Papers; Martha Batterby was the daughter of Francis Batterby of Hightown, Co Westmeath. There were a number of Batterby’s scattered around Westmeath and Meath at this date, but no trace of Francis of Hightown has been found. He does not appear in the lineage of the Batterby’s of Loughbawn.

Hightown had been a Bomford property from about 1700 until 1790, and Colonel Laurence’s son Edward (c1660 - 1756) lived there, but there is no evidence in the Bomford deeds of Francis Batterby leasing the place. It is, however, quite possible that Francis Batterby lived in Hightown House, although he and his daughter must have had a town house in 1805 near O’Connell Street in the Parish of St Thomas according to the marriage licence.

Robert Bomford and Martha had seven children, all of whom would be born ‘Bomford’, but on 11th May 1825 their father took the name and arms of Jessop so they all became ‘Bomford-Jessop’. Robert’s uncle, the Rev Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop died on 24th April 1825 and left his property to Robert. Robert, Martha and the children moved to Mount Jessop and no doubt lived there until their death. It is not known when they died but Mount Jessop was passed to their eldest son, Francis.

The second son, John Bomford-Jessop was also ‘of Mount Jessop’, so it looks as though Francis died without an heir, perhaps he never married. The same can be said of John since Mount Jessop or the Bomford-Jessop family are not mentioned in Walford’s County Families of 1900 and the house has been derelict for many years.

Robert and Martha also had five daughters, Catherine who married William Dawson of Nohaville, Eliza, Harriett and Emily, Frances (see 14.2 Jessop family tree). Nothing is known of the last four, but Dawson is included in Walford.

“Dawson, Major Robert Edward of Nohaville, Ballymahon, Co Westmeath, (See 8.3.1), (Nohaville is just to the east of Ardnacroney). Second son of the late William Dawson, Esq., of Nohaville (who died 1883) by Catherine, eldest daughter of Robert Bomford Jessop, Esq., of Mount Jessop, Co Longford; born 1838; married 1864 Annie Eliza, only daughter of the late Hon. Charles Kemp, M.L.C., of Sydney, N.S.W., and has with other issue, Charles Kemp, born 1870.

Mr Dawson, who was formerly Captain 12th Foot, and Captain Westmeath Militia, is a Magistrate for Co Westmeath, and Hon Major 3rd Royal Warwickshire Regt.

Nohaville, Ballymahon; Magistrate’s Club, SW (London);
Residence: Southsea.”

14.8.3 John Bomford

The only record of the third son, John Bomford, is in the court case of the eldest son. He is not mentioned in the Upton Papers but must have been born about 1763.

There were Bomfords livings in the Westmeath or Longford area within living memory. Fairly recently I met people who visited them with Hilda North-Bomford, but they do not remember their names nor where they lived, just ‘somewhere north of Athlone’. Joan David also remembers that there were Bomfords who lived ‘somewhere in the west’, and both these descriptions could cover the Longford-Westmeath area. Even more recently in May 1987 the name “Mrs H. Bomford” was noticed in the Diocesan Magazine and I visited her at Corbetstown, a couple of miles from Killucan on the Delvin road. Mrs Henrietta Bomford was then 82 years old and did not remember much about her husband John’s family; however she was sure that she was the last Bomford in that locality. What she did remember is recorded in 17.5.6.

It must be remembered that my research is by no means complete, but it is a start and much has been discovered. Only a few years ago Oliver, the Colonel’s second son, had virtually been forgotten, and all trace of his family had been ‘lost’; his family is now beginning to make sense, but as the family moved away from the land so it becomes more difficult to trace them with continuity. So Oliver’s family in particular is ‘open ended’ and many of the unplaced Bomfords will belong to his branch. Much the same can be said of the family of another son of the Colonel, Laurence of Killeghan. More recently a Bomford connection, Jim Bomford, got in touch through the Internet. He produced much of the following concerning his antecedents and about “John, born 1763, of Ballinakill”.

14.8.4 The Bomfords of Ballinakill & Co Westmeath 1799-1853

Ballinakill is on the south shore of Lough Derravaragh in the Parish of Multyfarnham and northeast of that village. To the south are the lands of Farragh and to the west is Lackan which both belonged to Thomas the elder of Clounstown and then to his son, Thomas, who moved from Clounstown to Harristown in Westmeath in 1784. The neighbouring parish to the east is Stonehall, which includes the estate of Mornington, the property of Owen Daly (1780-1847); he was the grandson of Owen Daly and
his wife Anne, a daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown. So Ballinakill is surrounded by Bomford history.

Another property about six miles to the east of Ballinakill is Cumberstown which lies at the east end of Lough Lene: This is a mystery property as no Bomford lease has come to light, but it does appear to belong to Thomas Bomford of Clounstown in 1762 when its rents were placed in trust for the maintenance of his daughters (7.18.1). Then in 1783 (14.5) the rents were set aside by his son, Thomas Bomford of Harristown, to cover the debts on Clounstown. There was therefore a definite tie between Cumberstown and Thomas of Harristown, so much so, that the John Bomford of Cumberstown (see below) of 1832 must be closely related, perhaps a grandson.

Yet another mystery property is Cyplin (14.6) that Thomas Bomford of Harristown leased in 1784, and I begin to suspect that it is part of Cumberstown. The reason why Cyplin is mentioned here is because the lease was witnessed in 1784 by the first of the unplaced Bomfords of Westmeath; his name is Oliver Bomford and he is described as a “Publican”. Other Bomfords named Oliver will appear shortly.

The first Bomford mentioned concerning Ballinakill is John Bomford. The actual deed has not been found but it is referred to in the May 1850 deed (below), which reads -

“Reciting 1. Lease of 5th July 1799 in which John Alyward O’Brien leased to John Bomford of Lisgomell, Co Westmeath, the land of Ballinakill containing 81 plantation acres (131 statute) in the Parish of Multyfarnham and Barony of Corkaree.”

Lisgomell has not been located but it is probably either in the Parish of Multyfarnham or of Stonehall. If it is in the latter parish then the following prerogative will reference belongs to this same John,

“1817 John Bomford his will of Stonehall, Co Westmeath.”

Let us suppose that John was 30 in 1799 when he leased Ballinakill, and then he would be about 48 when he died in c1817. Therefore we are looking for a John Bomford with Westmeath connections whose dates are about 1769 to 1817, and such a John is there in the family tree. He is John the youngest son of Thomas Bomford and Alice (Jessop) of Harristown, (14.8.7), and brother to Robert Bomford who takes the name of Jessop and inherits Mount Jessop.

Indeed there is no other John available in the family tree, but this John suits incredibly well and now with Jim Bomford’s further evidence, John of Lisgomell has been placed as the third son of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown and Harristown.

14.8.5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lease - Ballinakill</th>
<th>15th December 1826</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Between            | 1. John Higgins of Relic, Co Westmeath, farmer  
                     | 2. Anne Connell of Horseleap, Co Westmeath, widow  
                     | 3. Henry Bomford of Ballinakill, Co Westmeath |
| John Higgins leased his one-seventh part of 66 plantation acres (107 statute) of Ballinakill for two lives or 61 years to Henry Bomford. Similarly Anne Connell leased her one-seventh part of Ballinakill to Henry Bomford for two lives or 61 years. (So Henry leased about 31 statute acres altogether.) |
| Witnessed Edmund Connally and Oliver Bomford of Ballinakill |

(Book 819 Page 562 No 551897)

Extract from List of Westmeath Voters 1832

In the Barony of Corkaree

Henry Bomford  
Multyfarnham, house and lands, Ballinakill or Ballyfort (now spelt Ballinphort), (his landlord) Sir Percy Nugent, (property value £) 10, (remarks) no title

In the Barony of Demifore or Fore

John Bomford  
Cumberstown, (property value £) 10.

Oliver Bomford of Stonehall 23rd May 1837

“Oliver Bomford of Stonehall, Co Westmeath, Esqr,” is mentioned in part three of an assignment of land in Carrick in the Barony of Demifore. (1837 Book 10 No 213)

Mortgage - Ballinakill 6th February 1846

For £300 Oliver Bomford of Ballinakill, Co Westmeath, mortgaged to John Bomford of
Blackhills, Co Westmeath, the lands of Ballinakill containing 81 plantation acres (131 statute) in the Parish of Multyfarnham at a rent of £85.6.0. (1846 Book 3 No 136)

Prerogative Inventories

1850

“1850 John Bomford of Blackhills, Co Meath, farmer, his will.”
‘Co Meath’ must be an error; it should be Co Westmeath as in the 1846 mortgage.

14.8.6

Lease - Ballinakill
25th May 1850

Reciting
1. Lease of 5th July 1799 (See 14.8.4, lease to John Bomford of Lisgomell).
2. Oliver Bomford of Mullingar came into the land of Ballinakill and promised to sell it to Sir Percy Nugent of Donore, Co Westmeath, in 1847. (Donore, the Nugent estate, joins the land of Ballinakill to the west.)

Now Oliver Bomford of Mullingar leases the land to Andrew Christopher Palles of Temple Street, Dublin. (1850 Book 9 No 170)

Lease - Ballinakill
20th January 1853

Between
1. Oliver Bomford of Mullingar, Gentleman
2. Elizabeth Smith of Mullingar, widow (sister to Oliver)
3. Sir Percy Nugent of Donore, Co Westmeath (1st Baronet, 1797 - 1874)

Reciting
1. Mortgage of 6th February 1846 (14.8.4)
2. John Bomford of Blackhills has since died intestate and without issue, leaving Oliver Bomford his eldest and only surviving brother his heir, and leaving Elizabeth Smith his sister.
3. That the Court of Prerogative granted Elizabeth Smith the goods and chattels of John Bomford.
4. Thus Elizabeth Smith is due the mortgage money of £300 which now amounts to £386.5.9.

Now Sir Percy Nugent has made over Ballinakill to Oliver Bomford at a rent of £85.5.9 (1854 Book 17 No 12)

Summary:

There is nothing to connect John Bomford of Lisgomell who died about 1817, with the other Bomfords of these deeds except the lands of Stonehall and Ballinakill; but since land normally passed from father to son, we can assume that the later Bomfords were the children of John of Lisgomell.

Since Ballinakill was first in the hands of Henry Bomford in 1826 and 1832 he was probably the eldest son. Henry died sometime before 1846 when his child Augustan was a minor, so Oliver had the place. He was at Ballinakill in 1826, at Stonehall in 1837, back in Ballinakill in 1846. By 1850 he was living in Mullingar and had leased Ballinakill. He was still in Mullingar in 1853 and that is the last date Oliver is mentioned.

Another brother was John of Blackhills. John was the third son and his property was Cumberstown (1832), but in 1846 he was at Blackhills where he died in 1850 without children.

By 1853 the only surviving brother was Oliver, but there was a living sister, Elizabeth, who was a widow and whose husband, Mr Smith, had died before 1853.

14.8.7

Bomfords in the Militia

These two Bomfords, both named John, are recorded in the Dublin Almanacks.

Surgeon John Bomford 1796

John Bomford was commissioned a surgeon in the North Mayo or 3rd Battalion of the Militia on 22nd November 1796. This was a large battalion of seven companies and John would have seen service during the 1798 invasion of the French into Mayo.

One assumes he would be at least 25 when he became a surgeon, which would indicate a birth date of about 1770. This would place him about the same age as John, 3rd son of Thomas of Clounstown and Harristown, and John of Lisgomell.

John Bomford of the Co Longford Militia 1809-1816

This John Bomford was gazetted Ensign on 24th June 1809 in the Co Longford, or 15th Battalion of the Militia with headquarters in Newtownforbes, north of Longford Town.
Gazetted Lieutenant on 25th July 1811 and appeared as such until 1816. They are no entries in 1817 so he must have resigned that year or died. If he did die then he is probably John of Lisgomell who died in 1817.

On the other hand John of Lisgomell would be about 46 in 1809 and I would think that age would be rather old for an ensign. I would expect an ensign to be in his early 20's, which would make his birth date about 1790, and so it is more likely that he is John of Blackhills. Again there is insufficient documentation but it is most likely that the surgeon John is John of Lisgomell who I assume to be John the third son of Thomas of Clounstown; and that Lieutenant John is the surgeon’s son, John of Blackhills.

14.8.8

Family Tree

Thomas Bomford of Clounstown (sold 1784) and (1784) of Harristown, Co Westmeath
b 1739 ML 12 Jan 1764 in Dublin d c1796 (note 1) Alice, daughter of Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop, alive in 1797

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas</th>
<th>Robert</th>
<th>Martha</th>
<th>John</th>
<th>Elizabeth</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b 1764</td>
<td>b 1766</td>
<td>Batterby</td>
<td>b 1763</td>
<td>of Lisgomell (1799)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disinherited</td>
<td>m 23 Nov 1805</td>
<td>2 Sons</td>
<td>Ballinakill (1799) &amp; Stonehall (1817)</td>
<td>Ballinakill (1799)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d before 1838</td>
<td>5 Daughters</td>
<td>Possibly Surgeon Mayo Militia (1799)</td>
<td>&amp; Stonehall (1817)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(note 2)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>d (will) 1817</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b 1805 of Ballinakill (1826 &amp; 1833)</td>
<td>of Ballinakill 1846, 1847 &amp; 1853 of Stonehall 1837 of Mullingar 1850 Alive 1853</td>
<td>of Cumberstown 1832 of Blackhills 1846 Possibly Lieut Longford Militia 1809-16 d (Will) 1850</td>
<td>of Mullingar alive 1853. m Mr Smith d before1853 (14.8.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m c1840</td>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td>&amp;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d before 1846 (note 3)</td>
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1. Augustin (Gus) b1843 of New York Fire Dept Alive 1920 (1920 Census) | Katherine Drugan b c1845 in Ireland (note 7) | Several more children | All born in Brooklyn, New York |

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b c1870</td>
<td>b c1873</td>
<td>b c1875</td>
<td>b c 1878</td>
<td>b c1880</td>
<td>b post 1880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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7. Alfred or Oliver born post 1880 of New York Fire Dept (note 8a&b) | Margaret Roseanna daughter of James St John (note 5) | 8. Felix b post 1880 d c1917 in WWI of influenza |

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<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b 10 March 1907 of New York Fire Dept</td>
<td>b 14 Dec 1908 of New York Fire Dept</td>
<td>Margaret Mary</td>
<td>(Oliver) Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>of New York d May 1948 (note 6)</td>
<td>d April 1967 (note 8a,b&amp;c)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1

Thomas inherits the rents of Cumberstown in 1762, 17.18.1 (5), for his children and the debts of Clounstown, 14.5.
Note 2
Inherited 1825 Mount Jessop and took the name of Jessop, becoming Bomford-Jessop.

Note 3
Family legend states that Henry was an explorer and had a mountain named after him. This and the tree that follows originates from Jim Bomford.

Note 4
Augustin fought and killed an English soldier and had to flee from Ireland to USA c1860 and so lost Ballinakill to the Head Landlord, Lord Nugent. Joined the Union Army and fought at Gettysburg (1863). Boxed, bare knuckle, and won against John L. Sullivan (1858-1918) for the rights of Brooklyn longshoremen to work in Hoboken Docks.

He was the great-grandfather of JM Bomford (Jim) who has medals, weapons and papers etc relating to Gus.

Note 5  St John Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James St John</th>
<th>Catherine Cavanagh</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret Roseanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>m Alfred Bomford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>William</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note 6
In 2005 Jim stated “I am a retired NYC cop, wounded in the line of duty, went to Florida and became a politician and was elected Fire Commissioner, and now serves as a government consultant in New York”.

Jim’s mother, Margaret died nine days after he was born so he was raised by his father’s sister, Catherine Mary and her husband John William (Willie) Wallace, together with their children: Theresa Wallace, Roseanna T. Wallace, and John (Jack) Wallace who died in 1972 in an auto accident.

Note 7

Note 8
A. Grandfather in his brogue arranged the baptism with the Italian or Polish clergyman and stated that he wanted his son named “Allie” (Alfred). The clergyman mistook this for “Ollie” (Oliver). The water was poured and the words were said, “I baptise thee Oliver Peter Bomford”.

Mother, although furious about the error, would not allow anyone to correct it once the ceremony had taken place, so Alfred was stuck with the name Oliver.

B. Both father and son worked for the New York Fire Department but also as steam fitters in the Brooklyn navy yard. The father worked on the battleship USS North Carolina, and for a funeral home during the 1917 influenza epidemic. At one staged he also worked in a carpet factory.

C. The son married and had five children; Alfred (Skipper) worked with Xerox in Brooklyn, Richard, John of New York Police Department, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Note 9  Ballinakill
According to papers with Jim Bomford, Ballinakill was composed of tenant farms and at least two “manor houses”, (one of which might be Lisgommell). When Henry died (c1845) his property would have been left to his eldest son Augustin, but he was a minor so it went to Uncle Oliver. The deeds show that Oliver occupied Ballinakill in 1846, 1847 and 1853. Augustin was aged 10 in 1853 and would have been a minor until 1864, the year after Gettysburg, so by that date he was in America having been smuggled out of the country by Paddy Igoe after killing the English soldier. Ballinakill had to be forfeited by Augustin since he could not return to Ireland to claim it as he might well have been arrested. Augustin came of age in 1864 and Oliver, his uncle, then aged about 54, would have held Ballinakill until that year. It would then have reverted to the Head-landlord, Sir Percy Nugent of Donore which joins Ballinakill to the west. According to Jim’s papers there was a dispute over Ballinakill which was recorded by a Mary
Bomford Burns. The mother of Mary Bomford Burns would be a daughter of Gus. Apparently Gus had no daughters, however it is unlikely that he had eight sons and no daughters.

14.9 Court Case - Thomas Bomford v Rev Thomas Jessop c1796

This account was found with the Upton Papers, packet 25 number 220 in the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, and it has been printed here in full. The document concerns Thomas Bomford, the eldest son of Thomas and Alice Bomford, who was born at Clounstown about 1764. Unfortunately the document is not dated but it must be between 1792 and 1797, and probably about 1796.

Account of Thomas Bomford from a Chancery Answer of the Rev Thomas Jessop, LLB, in the action of

Thomas Bomford V Rev Thomas Jessop

The said Thomas Bomford being, at the death of Thomas Jessop (his grandfather), a boarder at the school of Rev John Donden, in the town of Longford, where he had been sent in the year 1775 by the said Thomas Jessop, the Rev Thomas Jessop (his uncle) continued him at the said school, and paid for his board, lodging and tuition, until the year 1779, when the Rev Thomas Jessop, thinking that Thomas Bomford who was then at the age of 16 years or thereabouts, was not making sufficient progress in his learning at the said school, removed him to the school of Rev Francis Kenny, then Diocesan Schoolmaster of the See of Elphin, as a boarder where he continued from that time until October in the year 1783 when he was dismissed therefrom as herein afterwards mentioned, and was afterwards put to a school of a Mr Banks, and the Rev Thomas Jessop during the whole of the aforesaid time paid for the tuition, board, clothing and lodging a greater sum in each year than the annuity left for that purpose, by the will of Thomas Jessop.

The Rev Thomas Jessop further saith it is not true that Thomas Bomford left school for the reasons in his Bill untrue stated, on the contrary thereof he was dismissed from said Kenny’s School for improper conduct as hereinafter mentioned, for he heard and believes that Thomas Bomford instead of paying the necessary attention to his education became idle and inattentive, and some years before he was dismissed from the said Kenny’s School he contracted an acquaintance with one James Armstrong, a horse rider, and a man of a most abandoned and profligate course of life, and who was afterwards executed for a robbery, and that he became so fond of his company that he frequently absented himself from School for three weeks at a time, under a pretence of being on a visit to his grandmother Katherine Jessop (at Mount Jessop) and that he deceived the said Francis Kenny on those occasions by causing letters to be forged as if from the said Katherine Jessop to the said Francis Kenny requesting his permission for him to visit her or to that effect, and on these occasions instead of visiting his said grandmother would go in company with the said James Armstrong up and down the country and spent their time in dissipation and debauchery, and then return to school as if from his grandmother Jessop’s house, and the said Francis Kenny, having at length detected him in such improper conduct and also in several other profligate and improper acts he dismissed him from his school, and wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop informing him of his improper conduct, and that he, although he had used his best endeavours for that purpose, found it impossible to reclaim him, and had therefore sent him home. The Rev Thomas Jessop was very much irritated at such the conduct of Thomas Bomford, who was then of an age near 21 years, but nevertheless he shortly afterwards put him to the school of Mr Banks, where he remained until the year 1784, and after he had left, the Rev Thomas Jessop gave Alice Bomford his mother, either 5 or 6 Guineas, which he does not recollect, to buy him cloaths, and at the same time informed her that it depended on his future behaviour whether he would show him any countenance, or advance him any further sum or not, at the same time observing that he did not consider himself bound to advance him any further sum as he had then obtained his age of 21 years, more especially as the portion of Margaret Montford, alias Jessop, was a charge on the lands of Ardnacraney, and was not paid off to which the said Alice replied that she was satisfied that was the fact, as an eminent lawyer who had been consulted saith.

The Rev Thomas Jessop saith that he did not direct the tenants on his lands not to receive or harbour or sustain the said Thomas Bomford, but he believes the said tenants might have refused to receive him, on account of his abandoned and loose behaviour, which made him a terror to every person acquainted with him.

Thomas Bomford on his leaving Mr Bank’s School went to the house of Katherine Jessop, his grandmother, where he was received and resided as often as he thought proper, and instead of amending his former course of life, became more abandoned, and would stay away for weeks and months together, and whilst absent associated with the most abandoned, idle and profligate persons in the County, and in order to support his extravagance and debauchery had recourse to the worst of means, and particularly at one time he took away from his grandmother without her knowledge or privily four milch cows, and sold them at the fair of Multyfarnham the following morning, and at other times he in like manner took away
from her a horse and two plough bullocks which two bullocks were worth a sum of £18 each, and sold and disposed of the same respectively and applied the money to his own use, and the said Katherine was at length afraid to keep any horses for fear he would take them away and sell them, and he was charged by different people in the county for stealing several horses, and that such persons would have prosecuted him for same, had it not been for the interference of the Rev Thomas Jessop, and he was charged by one Magarry, a tinker, with stealing a horse from him, and that the said Magarry swore examinations against him for such alleged offence before the Rev Archdeacon Beatty who granted a warrant thereon for his apprehension, and he was taken up in the town of Ballylough in the county of Cavan for having horses supposed to be stolen in his custody, and that on his so being taken into custody, he alleged that the said horses belonged to the Rev Thomas Jessop, whereupon the magistrat before whom he was taken, wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop informing him thereof, requesting to know if the said horses were really his property or not, and Thomas Bomford about the same time wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop requesting he would acknowledge the said horses to be his which he refused to do and wrote for answer, as the fact and truth was that the said horses did not belong to him, and the Rev Thomas Jessop had been informed that the person to whom the said horses actually belonged having come to a knowledge where they were, he claimed and got the same, and permitted Thomas Bomford to escape without prosecution.

Shortly after the last mentioned time, Calib Barnes Harman, late a representative of the County of Longford, since deceased, alleged that Thomas Bomford stole a mare from him, and that being closely pursued he cut off the ears and tail of the mare, and left her on the high road, and the said Caleb Barnes Harman being a particular friend of the Rev Thomas Jessop and knowing that Thomas Bomford was his nephew, he for that reason declined to prosecute him for the said offence but observed that he was a dangerous man and should be put out of the country.

His relatives then considering that it would be much more to his advantage and for the credit of his family that he should leave the Kingdom for some time, as one person in particular had sworn information’s against him for an offence therein mentioned, upon which his two brothers and a steward of Katherine Jessop, went to County Westmeath where he had been taken and arrested, and then was, and in which County his father Thomas Bomford, since deceased, was also, and having found him, with the knowledge of Thomas Bomford the elder, he came to Dublin accompanied part of the way by his two brothers, where upon a further consultation of his relatives, it was thought advisable to enlist him in the Service of the English East India Company and send him to India, hoping that he would in such service be convinced of his former improper conduct and become a useful Member to Society, and on his being informed of such intention he readily acquiesced thereto.

(This paragraph appears to have been deleted). The Rev Thomas Jessop said that several officers and military agents of the English East India Company were at this time in this Kingdom seizing and enlisting men for the Company.

Having thus come to the City of Dublin he voluntarily enlisted in the aforesaid service, and he was supplied with clothes and all other necessaries for the voyage and some money by the Rev Thomas Jessop, and wrote to the said Thomas Jessop a letter, dated 22 of March 1789, in which he stated among other things that he was extremely obliged to him for his kindness to him, and that he expected to be very happy in India: and would take care to behave in the best possible manner, and further said the Lord Mayor came here yesterday and anyone that was an apprentice or unwilling to go to India, and said he would rather stay than go, he took them back, and they were at no expense, he set them loose on shore, and when he asked me I told him I would not return for 500 pounds. There went ashore eleven out of 120 men. And in another letter dated 1st March 1790 from Gravesend he mentions among other things that 40 men had deserted on their travels from Liverpool to Gravesend, and that such persons would have prosecuted him for such alleged offence before the Rev Archdeacon Beatty who granted a warrant thereon for his apprehension, and he was taken up in the town of Ballylough in the county of Cavan for having horses supposed to be stolen in his custody, and that on his so being taken into custody, he alleged that the said horses belonged to the Rev Thomas Jessop, whereupon the magistrat before whom he was taken, wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop informing him thereof, requesting to know if the said horses were really his property or not, and Thomas Bomford about the same time wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop requesting he would acknowledge the said horses to be his which he refused to do and wrote for answer, as the fact and truth was that the said horses did not belong to him, and the Rev Thomas Jessop had been informed that the person to whom the said horses actually belonged having come to a knowledge where they were, he claimed and got the same, and permitted Thomas Bomford to escape without prosecution.

The Rev Thomas Jessop then wrote letters of recommendation about Thomas Bomford to Arthur Ahmuty, a relative of his, then a Colonel in the East India Service in India, and therein requested that he would forward Thomas Bomford in promotion if he found his conduct and behaviour merited such treatment, and promised that he would from time to time, send him money for the use of Thomas Bomford about the same time writing a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop informing him thereof, requesting to know if the said horses were really his property or not, and Thomas Bomford about the same time wrote a letter to the Rev Thomas Jessop requesting he would acknowledge the said horses to be his which he refused to do and wrote for answer, as the fact and truth was that the said horses did not belong to him, and the Rev Thomas Jessop had been informed that the person to whom the said horses actually belonged having come to a knowledge where they were, he claimed and got the same, and permitted Thomas Bomford to escape without prosecution.

 Shortly after Thomas Bomford’s return to this Kingdom he went to the County of Longford, where he apparently stopped at the house of one Charles Farren who kept a Public House, and was a
tenant on the Jessop estate, and when he and other disorderly persons got intoxicated, made foolish speeches using many very improper expressions, owing to this the Rev Thomas Jessop informed Charles Farren that if he continued to harbour him, his licence would be taken away.

In order to prevent a return to his former state of life, the Rev Thomas Jessop sent his brothers John and Robert Bomford to see him and to promise him nine Guineas if he would quit the Kingdom, to which he readily agreed, and his aunt Margaret Montford promised a further sum of nine Guineas, which sum having been given him, he, accompanied by his brothers, went on board a boat in the Liffey which he pretended was to put him on board a ship in which he was to proceed on his voyage, but he shortly after returned boasting how he had deceived and swindled his uncle and aunt out of their money.

14.9.1

The saga ends there abruptly at the end of a page, there may have been another page but it is no longer to be found. There is obvious cause for an action here and no doubt Thomas Bomford lost the case, but, and this is conjecture, there was probably more to the case than just Thomas being a troublemaker.

Thomas’s grandfather, Thomas Jessop, and his wife Katherine had at least two daughters, Alice who married Thomas Bomford of Clounstown, and Margaret who married Mr Montford, and two sons. Grandfather Jessop died in 1776 (probate) and Mount Jessop passed to his elder son Robert Jessop who died in 1784. The other son, Rev Thomas Jessop, inherited Mount Jessop, and the rest of the property, which included Ardnacraney, in 1784 from his brother as, confirmed in Canon Leslie’s Register.

1784 was also the year that Clounstown had to be sold and Thomas and Alice Bomford had to move elsewhere. Undoubtedly Thomas was short of money for not only had he to sell Clounstown but his eldest son Thomas was already being educated by his Jessop grandfather and being groomed for eventual inheritance of the Jessop lands. As early as 1784 it was probably foreseen that the Jessop entail would fall on the school-boy Thomas Bomford since the Rev Thomas Jessop had no children and was then aged 43 so not likely to have any. The move out of Clounstown occurred that year and the family most probably moved onto leased Jessop property Harristown or Harrystown remains a grey area but Ardnacraney belonged to the Jessops; this move makes sense since the eldest son would eventually inherit the property.

Thus it was important that the eldest grandson, Thomas Bomford the subject of this court case, having proved himself unsuited to inherit, be disinherted by law so that the entailed property could be passed to the second Bomford grandson, Robert. In fact Robert Bomford did inherit Mount Jessop and the rest of the property on the death of his uncle, the Rev Thomas Jessop, who died without children on 24th April 1825. Robert Bomford assumed the name Jessop by Royal licence dated 11th May 1825 and took over the Jessop estates.

14.9.2

Reading between the lines it is interesting that throughout the Chancery Answer the Rev Thomas Jessop deals with his sister Alice and only once is Thomas Bomford her husband mentioned; one would expect the father to discipline his errant son. The text reads as though Alice and her husband were living apart, and one gets the impression that Alice was living fairly close to the Rev Thomas Jessop in Co Longford and that her husband was living in Co Westmeath and probably at Ardnacraney. Thomas of Ardnacraney died before the court case came up but was alive in 1796 in February (deed of 14.1), so he probably died later that year, aged 51.

14.9.3

Another matter is unclear in the text - Did Thomas actually get to India? I have assumed that he jumped ship on the way out at St Helena in ‘September last’, which would be about 1791. On the other hand a few lines further on Thomas endeavoured to procure from him a sum of money by improper means, he therefore forfeited his good opinion and favour; the “him” could be Colonel Arthur Ahmuty or the Rev Thomas Jessop. If it was the former then Thomas got to India, served a short time and returned home later than 1791; but then why did he jump ship on the return journey? This is another mystery, which has to be left.

14.9.4

The relationship of “Arthur Ahmuty then a Colonel in the East India Service” is not clear. From the wording of the text he could be either a relation of Thomas Jessop or Thomas Bomford. It is possible that he was a relation of the Jessops but it is more likely that he is a relation of young Thomas Bomford. In 1766 Dorcas Ahmuty married John Bomford, a brother of Thomas of Clounstown and Ardnacraney and so an uncle to the Thomas of this case (see 14.10). I have been unable to place Arthur Ahmuty into
the family tree, which follows since he is not in the deeds, however I have found three other Achmuty’s all with a connection with India.

A possible son of Colonel Arthur might be James Ahmuty who was commissioned in 1790 into the Artillery of the Company’s troops. In 1824 James became a full Colonel of the Indian Artillery and was acting as Major General in charge of the Bengal Artillery.

Another Indian connection was John Auchmuty, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, who married Caroline Warren, born c 1810, daughter of Peter Warren of Henrietta Street Dublin. Their son may have been Captain Warren Auchmuty, who served with the British 98th Regiment of Foot; his regiment was in Chusan, China and then moved to India where in 1849 at Lahore Warren was ADC to yet another Auchmuty, Major-General S.B. Auchmuty CB. The spelling of Ahmuty appears to have slowly changed to Auchmuty; the present spelling is Achmuty.

14.10  John Bomford, Merchant of Dublin

William Bomford of Cushenstown had two brothers, Thomas of Clounstown (above) and John. The next few deeds concern John.

John was born about 1740. He and Thomas were apprenticed to some business in Dublin and when their father made his will in 1754 they had started their apprenticeship and they were bequeathed £500 each to be paid on completion of their apprenticeship; the trustee for this bequest was their uncle John Bomford, one of the younger sons of Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown. Some time before his marriage he was a merchant in Dublin, no doubt helped in setting up his business by the £500. Unfortunately it is not known what his trade was, perhaps brewing or distilling like his brother-in-law Wilson Bomford. He married Dorcas Achmuty in November 1766. She was born c1745.

14.10.0  Marriage - John Bomford & Dorcas Ahmuty  
27th November 1766

Dorcas Ahmuty, of the City of Dublin, spinster, is entitled by the will of her late father, Samuel Achmuty late of Brianstown, Co Longford, to £900 sterling charged upon the land of Brianstown and to other legacies upon her marriage to John Bomford, merchant of the City of Dublin.

Now it is agreed that all be placed in trust for her children. The trustees are

Townley Ahmuty of the City of Dublin and
John Lowther of Staffordstown (7.18.1)

Witnessed
William Bomford of Dublin
(John’s eldest brother)  
(Book 268 Page 248 No 169736)

If the marriage did not occur on 27th November it must have occurred very soon after this deed; Betham records the marriage licence as the same date as the deed. It reads

“Bomford John of City of Dublin, merchant, and Dorcas Achmuty of St Catherine Parish, Dublin, spinster, 21st November 1766, directed to the said parish.”

14.10.1  Land Transfer - Ahmuty Property  
26th September 1761

Between
1. Terence Collins of Dublin, executor of the Rev Oliver King
2. Townley Ahmuty of Dublin, and (Executors of Dorcas
   John Lowther of Staffordstown, Co Meath Bomford, née Ahmuty)
3. John Bomford of Dublin, merchant, and Dorcas otherwise Ahmuty his wife
4. Forbes Ahmuty of Bellmount, Co Westmeath

The land is all listed but the actual transfer has not been entered here, as it does not concern the Bomfords directly. It may well concern the marriage settlement although nothing specific was written into the deed.

14.10.2  Land Transfer - Achmuty Property  
20th August 1777

Between
1. Forbes Ahmuty of Bellmound, Co Westmeath
2. Terence Collins of Dublin, executor of the will of Reverend Oliver King, Vicar of Drang
   and Laragh, Co Cavan
3. Townley Ahmuty, merchant of Dublin, and John Lowther of Staffordstown, Co Meath
4. John Bomford of... (left blank).. Co Meath and Dorcas Bomford otherwise Ahmuty his wife
5. Francis Piers of Lodge, Co Wexford and
   Frances Piers otherwise Hanly otherwise Ahmuty his wife
6. Rev Samuel Ahmuty of Ballymulvy, Co Longford
7. Judith Ahmuty of Rathfarnham, Co Dublin, widow, (She was the wife of Rev John Ahmuty, Rector of Trim. He died before 1777 and she went to live in Rathfarnham.)
8. Robert Savage of Droming, Co Longford, and Christopher Savage of the City of Dublin

All these make over to John Atkinson for 500 years, from the original lease of 1723, much land in Co Longford (it is all listed). (Book 319 Page 346 No 214891)

14.10.3 Achmuty - Bomford Bequest 3rd February 1790

Between

1. John Bomford, late of Dublin, merchant, but now of Killincarrick, Co Wicklow.
2. Samuel Ahmuty of Brianstown, Co Longford, only son and heir of Lieut Thomas Ahmuty deceased who was the eldest son and heir of Samuel Ahmuty of Brianstown deceased.
3. Rev Samuel Ahmuty of Ballymulrey, Co Longford, a younger son and executor of Samuel Ahmuty deceased.

John Bomford is entitled to £430.9.6 being his portion in the will of Samuel Ahmuty, charged on the lands (all listed) in the Barony of Longford and Granard; but since Samuel Ahmuty the younger is not prepared to pay this, so John Bomford has applied to the Reverend Samuel Ahmuty to buy his interest. This he agrees to do. (Book 415 Page 166 No 273265)

Dorcas (Achmuty) was alive in August 1777 but, since John remarried in 1780, she must have died c1778. They had no known children. One wonders whether the death of Dorcas was the reason why her nephew Samuel Achmuty of Brianstown refused payment to John Bomford.

14.10.4 The Achmuty Family

From these deeds, those in 8.1 and other sources, we are able to draw up a probable family tree of John Bomford’s ‘in-laws’. The name Ahmuty has changed to Achmuty.

In the late 1600’s Arthur Achmuty was living at Brianstown, Cloondara, where the Royal Canal meets the Shannon in Co Longford. His son, Captain Arthur, died before he did, so his grandson Thomas inherited. Arthur also had a daughter Catherine who married William Lawder who died in 1715.

The grandson Thomas Achmuty, lieutenant, of Brianstown married Dorcas, a daughter of Samuel Townley. After Thomas died in 1712 Dorcas married James Lawder of Kilmore, who died in 1749, as his second wife. James and William Lawder were brothers (see 8.1.3). Thomas and Dorcas had a son, possibly two

1. Samuel Achmuty (see tree below) built Brianstown House in 1731 of two storeys over a basement on the site of the old house. After a fire in the 1900’s the house was reconstructed without the upper storey.
2. The other son was probably Rev James Achmuty, Dean of Armagh (8.1.1), who was alive in 1738 but died before 1770 The two executors of his will (8.1.5) were his children, the Reverend John Achmuty, and the ‘spinster’ Isabella Achmuty of Bellmount, Co Westmeath. Isabella was living in the same house as Forbes Achmuty, so she has been placed as his sister though she could be a maiden aunt. Forbes was brother to the Rev John and had a nephew named John, so it is likely that the Rev James had at least three children and a grandson.
   a. Forbes of Bellmount, three miles West of Mullingar, Co Westmeath, which he held on a lease, dated 1762. He was party to the deeds of 1767 and 1777.
   b. Rev John, Rector of Trim, who in 1770 (8.1.5) was living at Fosterstown. Twenty years later Fosterstown became the residence of the Duke of Wellington when, as Arthur Wellesley, he was member for Trim in the Irish Parliament of 1790. Rev John died before 1777 and his wife Judith went to live in Rathfarnham in Co Dublin The Rev John married and had a son
      i. John Achmuty named as a ‘nephew of Forbes Achmuty’. Became Chief Magistrate of Mullingar
   c. Isabella, unmarried and living at Bellmount in 1770.
14.10.5  John Bomford’s Immediate Achmuty Relatives

Samuel Ahmuty of Brianstown Co Longford died before 1766

Mary daughter of Robert King MP

Lt Thomas d before 1790

Rev Samuel of Ballymalrey Co Longford

Elizabeth

Ralph Fetherston of Ardagh d 1780 (See 10.7)

Townley Merchant of Dublin d c 1778

John Bomford

Dorcas m 1766 d c 1778

John Bomford

Frances ???

m (1) Mr Hanly

m (2) Francis Piers of Lodge Co Wexford

Samuel of Brianstown m Feb 1777 Miss Savage

Elizabeth Fetherston

14.11  John’s Second Marriage - Mary Ann Barrington  8th October 1780

Between 1. John Bomford of Killincarrick, Co Wicklow,
   2. Mary Ann Barrington, widow of the City of Dublin,
   3. Samuel and William Stephens, merchants of the City of Dublin (The trustees)

Reciting that Mary Ann Barrington is entitled to an annuity of £75 during her lifetime chargeable
on premises in Saint Thomas Street, Dublin. She is also entitled to £350 on a mortgage
by John Barrington, tallow chandler of Dublin.

On the marriage of Mary Ann Barrington to John Bomford, Mary Ann makes over to Samuel and
William Stephens both her annuity and the mortgage in trust. (Book 411 Page 34 No 265554)

The Diocese of Dublin gives the date of the marriage licence (page 455) as 1788, but this is far
too late to tie in with this deed; it is likely to be a clerical error for 1780.

It is thought that perhaps John’s move out of Dublin to Killincarrick coincided with his second
marriage. He would then be about 40 years old. Nothing is known about Mrs Mary Ann Barrington, not
even the name of her family though she might be related to the two trustees, which would make her
family name Stephens. They probably had no children.

14.11.1  Lease - Upper Rathdowns  29th September 1795

John Bomford of Upper Rathdowns, Co Wicklow, leases to John Ryder of Bellpark, Co

Wicklow, for £113.15.0 the land of Upper Rathdowns at a rent of £50, in all other respects as in the
previous lease dated 8th June 1792 (missing) when, on the death of Susanna Medcalf, Charles Medcalf of
Prides Alley Dublin, cabinet maker, made over Rathdowns, 31 plantatic acres (50 statute) to John
Bomford at a rent of £50. (Book 513 Page 26 No 332581)

It is thought that perhaps John Ryder of Bellpark is a brother or a nephew to John’s sister-in-law,
Charity Ryder, who married William Bomford in 1754.

Rathdowns has not been investigated, but Rathdown Castle is 2 miles north of Killincarrick on
the north side of Greystones, and this may be the location of these 50 acres.

There is only one other deed concerning John Bomford, that of July 1810 (17.2.3). It would
appear that after living in Dublin as a merchant he moved around a bit, but always in Co Wicklow;
Killincarrick in 1780, Upper Rathdowns in 1795, both outside Greystones, and lastly by 1810 in Delgany.
In 1810 John would be about 70 so he probably died there, the date is not known.

14.12  The Daughters of Thomas Bomford and Jane (Shinton) of Clounstown

There are two deeds that give most of the information about the daughters. These are the Trust in
the Will of Thomas who died in 1757 (7.18), and the sale of Clounstown (14.5); however some additional
information has come to light.

14.12.1  Anne Bomford

Anne, the eldest daughter, must have been born around 1733. She married her cousin Wilson
Bomford, a grandson of Colonel Laurence, in January 1759 (12.2.5). They lived in Dublin and had three
boys (12.2.8,.9, and .10). Anne died sometime between the 1764 Trust and the sale of Clounstown in
1784; Wilson died in 1790.
14.12.2 Elizabeth Bomford

Elizabeth was born in 1734; there is no evidence that she married. She was alive in 1764 but since she was omitted from the 1784 deed it is assumed that she died between those two dates.

14.12.3 Frances Bomford, Mrs Madden

Frances was born at Clounstown about 1731. On 26th Febraury 1753 (ML) at Clounstown she married Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, which is adjacent to Cushenstown. They had three children (7.16). Frances was not included in either of the two deeds and so must have died before 1764 but after her third child was born around 1760. Robert did not die until not long before 1787 or just after 1787, depending on the interpretation of the next deed (14.12.4).

14.12.4 Emilia Bomford, Mrs Harrison

Emilia was born about 1742. In 1787 she married Robert Harrison of Santry, Co Dublin. Nothing is known about her husband or if they had any children, nor is it known when they died. However we do have the Marriage Settlement.

Marriage Settlement - Emilia & Robert Harrison

October 1787

Because of the marriage about to be solemnised between Robert Harrison of Santry, Co Dublin, and Emilia Bomford of Curraghtown, Co Meath, spinster, and, because Robert Madden senior, of Curraghtown, owed, Emilia Bomford £300, which sum was used to pay back the mortgage on Curraghtown.

Now Emilia Bomford is confirmed in that part of Curraghtown formerly in the possession of Michael Carroll deceased, and now in the possession of Robert Madden junior, containing 13 plantation acres (21 statute) in the Parish of Duleek, until the £300 is repaid. The interest (rents) from the land and the £300 is placed in trust to Joseph Rathborne of Ballymore, Co Meath, and William Bomford of Dublin for the children of Emilia and Robert Harrison.

Witnessed Laurence Bomford
Thomas Bomford, both of Dublin (Book 394 Page 225 No 259983)

Apart from the period of the mortgage, Curraghtown, where apparently Emilia was living, belonged to Robert Madden senior, Emilia’s brother-in-law; the land is just south of Bellewstown. Robert and Frances, Emilia’s older sister, had three children (7.16) John who is not mentioned in the deed became a clergyman, and Robert who is mentioned in the deed as Robert Madden junior. The other child was the daughter, Anne Madden, who was probably the oldest; in 1774 she married Joseph Rathbourne (13.9.4) who is the trustee for his Aunt Emilia’s children in her marriage settlement.

The other Bomfords mentioned are William, Emilia’s oldest brother and the two who witnessed the deed, Laurence and Thomas Bomford of Dublin. Laurence is Emilia’s nephew, the son of her sister Anne and her brother-in-law and cousin Wilson Bomford. Thomas was probably Laurence’s younger brother who was at Trinity at this date; the only other possible Thomas was her brother Thomas of Harristown in Co Westmeath.

This deed is backed by the Marriage Licence Bonds Prerogative, which reads

“Bomford Emilia and Robert Harrison ML 1787”

Nothing is known about Robert Harrison or his family and it is thought that they had no children since Emilia married so late in life, being about 45.

14.12.5 Jane Bomford, Mrs Heally

Luckily the will of her mother (14.4) tells us much about Jane, otherwise we would know little about her. She was born about 1744 and married about 1st January 1770 Samuel Heally, or Heatly (14.4.1), he died before 1784 having had two sons Gabriel and Samuel Heally. Jane died after 1784 but she does not appear again in the documents.

14.12.6 Christian Bomford, Mrs Hopson (1), Mrs Russell (2)

Christian is the youngest and was born about 1746. It would appear that she had two marriages; the first one so short that I have been looking out for another Christian but have failed to find one, so I think the two marriages are both hers.
The first marriage licence is to be found in the Diocese of Meath Marriage Licence Bonds and reads “Bomford Christian and Francis Hopson ML1782”

It may be that Christian never married Francis Hopson, but if she did he must have died almost immediately, because in the deed of 4th April 1783 (14.5) concerning Clounstown we find her married to Christopher Russell; the extract reads -

“Christopher Russell of the City of Dublin and Christian Russell otherwise Bomford his wife...”

Thus Francis Hopson must have died the same year as his marriage. Nothing has been found concerning him or his family.

Christopher Russell

There is a number of this name recorded and all are written below, since I am uncertain which one might have married Christian Bomford, Mrs Hopson, and another document may come to light to clarify the situation.

Vicar’s lists of will probates includes three entries
1755 Christopher Russell Surgeon of Dublin (possibly the father),
1790 Christopher Russell Woollen Draper of Dublin,
1811 Christopher Russell Carpenter of Hardwick Street, Dublin.

Either of the last two might be our Christopher. The 1790 will in Betham’s notebooks could not be found. The 1811 will must be considered as lost in the Court House fire and this leaves the 1755 will to be found sometime in the Betham notebooks though this is too early to tell us whom a possible son married.

Canon Leslie in his Register records yet another Christopher Russell, a clergyman. This entry reads -

“Christopher Russell of Dublin, born 1762 in Galway, BA TCD 1783, Rector of Ballinakill (Tuam Diocese) 1791-1820, Rector of Meevagh (Raphoe Diocese) 1794-1872, died 29th August 1881.

The dates of this Christopher match sufficiently well but I have my doubts that he is our man for two reasons; firstly although there were periods spent in Dublin the family appear to have lived in Galway as both Christopher and his sons were all born there; secondly there seems to be rather a long gap between the marriage date of 1783 and the birth of the eldest son in 1799.

14.13 Summary – Family of Thomas Bomford & Jane (Shinton)

Thomas Bomford, of Clounstown and Cushenstown, Co Meath, BA TCD 1725, born 1703, married (ML) 7th September 1729, Jane daughter of Richard Shinton of Gerardstown, Co Meath. He died in 1757 and she in 1785, leaving issue -

1. William, of whom presently. (Chapter 17 completes his family)
2. Frances, born c1731 at Clounstown, married 26th February 1753, also at Clounstown, Robert Madden of Meadesbrook, Co Meath. Frances died between 1761 and 1764, and Robert c1787. They had three children-
   b. Reverend John Madden, born 1758, BA. TCD 1781 and died May 1845
   c. Robert Madden, born c1760
3. Anne, born c1733, married in January 1759 her cousin Wilson Bomford, brewer and distiller of Dublin. She died between 1764 and 1784, and he in 1790. They had three sons - (See 12.3)
   a. Laurence, brewer of Dublin, born c1760, alive 1803
   b. Rev Thomas Shinton Bomford, born 1762 died 1844 at Woodbridge, Suffolk.
   c. Wilson Bomford, born c1764 alive 1803
4. Elizabeth, born c1734, died unmarried between 1764 and 1783
5. Thomas of Clounstown, then in 1784 of Harristown, Co Westmeath, born 1739 married January 1764 Alice daughter of Thomas Jessop of Mount Jessop, Co Longford. He died c1796 and she was alive in 1797, they had three children-
   a. Thomas Bomford, born 1764, disinherited about 1797
   b. Robert Bomford, born c1766, married 23rd November 1805 (ML) Martha daughter of Francis Battersby of Hightown, Co Westmeath. Inherited Mount Jessop and other Jessop properties on
the death of his uncle Reverend Thomas Jessop, and took the name and arms of Bomford-Jessop by Royal Licence dated 11th May 1825. He died before 1838. They had seven children (see 14.2.)

c. John Bomford, born 1763 (see 14.8.3)

6. John, born c1740, merchant of Dublin, then in 1780 of Killincarriok, Co Wicklow, married firstly 27th November 1766 (ML) Dorcas, daughter of Samuel Ahmuty of Brianstown, Co Longford, and married secondly 1780 Mary Ann, widow of Mr Barrington, of Dublin. No known children.


8. Jane, born c1744, married January 1770 Samuel Heally (Heatley). He died before 21st May 1784 and she lived on; there were two children
   a. Gabriel Heally, born c1771
   b. Samuel Heally, born c1773

9. Christian, born c1746, married firstly 1782 (ML) Francis Hopson who died that year, married secondly before April 1783 Christopher Russell of Dublin. No known children.
This chapter covers the last 20 or so years of the 1700’s when most of Stephen the Younger’s children make their appearance, but before introducing them we must complete the story of the ‘older generation’ of Stephen’s brothers and sisters, the grand-children of Colonel Laurence.

**The Older Generation**

Stephen the Younger and his wife Elizabeth (Sibthorpe) are both alive and living at Rahinstown. He is aged about 58, is head of the family, and has an estate of just over 9,500 acres so can be considered to be comfortably off.

Rev John died in 1776 and he left his property to his twin brothers, David and Isaac. His wife Ann (Forster) may be alive but little is known about her and it is unlikely that they had any children.

David and Isaac See the next chapter; however these two, aged about 50 in 1780, were both married and working in Dublin; David as a merchant and Isaac as an attorney.

Ann is alive but her husband Samuel L’Estrange has died. She must be in her 60’s and probably is living with her unmarried eldest son, Edward L’Estrange who farms the family place of Cloowestown (or Clounstown) in Co Westmeath, (15.1.1).

Dorcas was last heard of in 1766 and her husband, Edward Williams of Trim in 1775. Since then they have dropped out of the picture. Their eldest son, Thomas Williams, is now in his 20’s but nothing is known about him either. There might have been another son named Stephen Williams (8.4).

Mary and her husband William Coates are both alive at this date, living at Abbeyshrule. William will die in March 1789 (8.6), and Mary later that year or in 1790 when she would be aged about 60. The Coates family home at Abbeyshrule passed to their only child Anne Jane Coates who by 1780 must have married her cousin, Matthew Coates, since he also died sometime before 1789. Anne Jane and Matthew had a daughter named Ruth who became a ward of George Bomford the Elder.

Esther was last heard of in 1761 and her husband John Kelly was alive in 1768. He was of ‘Galway’ but became a merchant in Dublin (or vice-versa). Little is known about them.

**Death of Ann L’Estrange (Bomford)**

Ann died during 1784 when she was in her 80’s. She had four sons and apparently no daughters.

1. Edward L’Estrange born c1751 took over Clowestown from his father who died in 1757. One thinks of his mother Ann living there with him, Edward never married and died in 1792.

2. John L’Estrange born c1752 was an officer in the army and was killed in action in Bombay, India. This was most likely during the time when Warren Hastings was Governor (1774 - 1785). John never married.

3. Samuel L’Estrange was born in 1753 and died in 1807 aged 54. He became a clergyman and married Louisa, the daughter of Walter Birmingham. A Walter Birmingham of Mylerstown, Co Kildare, made his will in 1772 according to Vicars, and he may be Louisa’s father. Mylerstown was at this date a Bomford property belonging to Ann L’Estrange brother, Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown. Rev Samuel and Louisa had no children so it was left to the youngest son to carry on the line.

4. Thomas St Quintin L’Estrange was born in 1755. He was commissioned into the army in 1774 and served in the War of American Independence (1774-83); became a Lieut-Colonel in 1802 and a Lieut-General in 1830. During his travels he married on 3rd May 1793 Elizabeth, a daughter of John Campbell of Edinburgh. They had five sons and two unrecorded daughters before he died about 1845.

a. Alfred Henry L’Estrange became a Lieutenant in the 7th Royal Fusiliers and saw service throughout the Peninsular War. In 1818 he married Anne Homan Molloy, the eldest granddaughter of John Molloy and Anne (Bomford) daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown. She died, just over a year after the wedding in December 1819 and he died the next year in Paris on 3rd September 1820. They had no children.

b. Toriano Francis L’Estrange joined the 71st Regiment (Highland Light Infantry) and the Coldstream Guards. He married twice; firstly to Jane Martha, third daughter of Thomas Mulock of Kilnagarna, Athlone, in December 1820. Jane Martha died on 30th January 1822 just 13 months after her marriage and it has been suggested that she died giving birth to their only child-

i Thomas L’Estrange was born in January 1822 in King’s County and educated at Trinity,
BA 1844. He married Sarah, daughter of Thomas Garrett of Belfast. He became a solicitor in Belfast. They had no children.

Toriano, married secondly Alexandra Darby about whom nothing has been found, except that they had children whose names are not known.

c. George Bomford L’Estrange died unmarried.

d. Lionel L’Estrange was born in 1800 in Westmeath and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, (BA 1822). He died unmarried.

e. Hilary Frederick L’Estrange, born 1803 in Westmeath, educated at Trinity, BA 1823, MA 1832, and became a barrister. He lived at Conna near Fermoy, Co Cork, where in 1878 he owned 936 acres valued at £778, however at this date he was living at Clifton, near Bristol. In 1831 he married Mary, daughter of William Mulock of Ballinagore, Co Westmeath. Mary was a cousin of Jane Martha who married the older brother Toriano. They had one child, a son, before Hilary died in 1881 and Mary in 1905.

1. Alfred Guy Kingham L’Estrange was born in 1832 and became a clergyman and an author. He was left Conna when his father died and lived there unmarried until his death in 1915.

It looks as though Ann (Bomford) branch of the family died out with her two great-grandsons, Thomas and Alfred L’Estrange.

Clowestown, Clounstown or even Clownstown, is 2½ miles southeast Mullingar and just north of Violetstown. In 1836 it consisted of 340 acres all under cultivation except for about 10 acres of bog; “there is a good dwelling house with planting about it near the south end. The soil is good for tillage and the fences in general are covered with trees”.

The L’Estrange family still owned the place in 1854 but the property had been split; Toriano had 200 acres and might have been living in the house with his second wife, and his youngest brother Hilary had been left 30 acres.

15.1.2 The Mulock Family

The Mulock’s have appeared a number of times and are Bomford connections.

Thomas Mulock (originally Mullock) of Moate, Co Westmeath had three sons by his second. Wife, Margaret Conran.

1. John Mulock of Kilnagarna, southeast of Athlone, married in 1720 and died in 1757. He had no children and his brother inherited.

2. Thomas Mulock of Kilnagarna was born in 1700, married in 1744 and died in 1777. He was involved with Thomas Bomford’s £2,000 mortgage when he was a public notary in Dublin in May 1750 and October 1761. He had 3 sons.

a. Thomas Mulock of Kilnagarna, born 1746, married 1790 and died 1827. He became a barrister. There were a number of children and it was his third daughter who married Toriano L’Estrange (see above) the great-grandson of Stephen Bomford of Gallow.

b. Robert Mulock married and had four children, and died in 1831. He and his family initially lived in Dublin but moved to Bath in England.

c. William Mulock of Ballinagore married had two daughters, and died in 1827. Ballinagore lies 2½ miles northeast of Kilbeggan on the road to Mullingar; in 1838 it was the property of W.H. Mulock together with an extensive bleach-green with a fulling mill on the River Brosna.

i. Mary Mulock married Hilary Frederick L’Estrange (above) in 1831.

ii. Emily Mulock married Horatio Emerson in 1825. In 1850 their only, son John Emerson married Mary Jane North-Bomford (23.2.1).

3. Robert Mulock. It is possible that Robert Mulock was the father of Rev John Mulock of Bellair. In any event there was another branch of the Mulock family at Bellair, which started with a Robert Mulock’s son.

Rev John Mulock, DD, of Bellair, near Moate and Kilnagarna, King’s Co, was born in Westmeath about 1729. He entered Trinity aged 15 in November 1744, became a scholar in 1747 and gained a BA in 1749. He married twice; his first wife is not known but his second wife was Anne, daughter and heir of Richard Homan of Moate and Surrock, Co Westmeath. The Rev John was Rector of Portnashangan 1785 - 1803 (north of Mullingar) and he died in 1803. There were a number of children.

1. Thomas Homan Mulock who inherited Bellair and, one assumes, his mother’s estates. When he died in 1843 he passed his property to his nephew Thomas Edward Molloy (see 8.9), great grandson of Edward Bomford of Hightown.

2. Frances Emilia Mulock married 19th May 1778 Henry Pilkington, 1756 - 1810, of Tore, Co Westmeath, son of Abraham Pilkington (23.2.1). Their grand-daughter Belinda married Isaac North-Bomford and their great grandson John Emerson married Mary Jane North-Bomford.
3. Elizabeth Mulock, younger daughter, married 22nd February 1788 Laurence Bomford Molloy (1760 - 1805) son of John Molloy and Anne Bomford, the daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown (8.9).

The present Bellair was built in the early 1800’s probably by Thomas Mulock. It is a two storey ‘villa’ dominated by a remarkable deep arched recess in which the front door is set.

15.2 The Younger Generation 1780

We do not know the birth dates of all Stephen’s children but the age of some of them is given in the land deeds and we can estimate the dates of the others. The more doubtful ones are the daughters who are not included in Burke but three appear in the documents, there may have been others. Margaret has been placed as the second child in view of the probable date of her marriage (15.6). In 1780 the youngest child, Mariana, would be about 13 so some of the older ones would be away from home earning their living.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stephen the younger of Rahinstown born c1722 married 18th April 1745</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thomas aged c34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret aged c33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert b 1751 aged 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen aged c27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antony aged c25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elizabeth daughter of Stephen Sibthorpe of Brownstown, Co Louth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George b 1759 aged 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trevor b 1760 aged 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephraim b 1761 aged 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Jane aged c17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chichester aged c15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariana aged c13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15.3 Lease - Ross 3rd June 1772

The Right Honourable Peter, Earl Ludlow, leases the land of Rassnon (Ross) containing 283 plantation acres (458 statute) in the Barony of Skreene to Robert Sibthorpe of the City of Dublin for the yearly rent of £155.15.9 during the natural lives of

- George Bomford, 5th son of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, now aged 13
- Trevor Bomford, 6th son of Stephen Bomford, now aged 12 and,
- Ephraim Bomford, 7th son of Stephen Bomford, now aged 11,

or, if they all die early, for 17 years.

Robert Sibthorpe is to build a farmhouse within seven years (i.e. by 1779) of brick or stone, 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and 20 feet high, roofed with foreign timber and slated or tiled; and will enclose one acre for an orchard with one tree for every square perch.

Signed   Ludlow
Robert Sibthorpe

On the back of this deed is an endorsement dated 1781.

15.3 1 Lease - Ross 10th August 1781

Robert Sibthorpe leases the house and lands of Ross (as above) to George Bomford, son of Stephen Bomford, at a rent of £165.16.3, in trust for the sole use of Elizabeth Bomford, wife of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown. If George should die then the trustee will be his brother Trevor, or, if he dies, his brother Ephraim.

Signed   Robert Sibthorpe  Geo Bomford
Witnessed   Henry Moore  Wm Bayly

(There is no record of this endorsement being registered).

1. This is the deed, which gives the birth dates of three of Stephen’s sons. It is interesting that George Bomford, the 5th son, was selected as the trustee of his mother’s house. The eldest son Thomas probably died in the 1770’s; the second son, Robert, was in India; both Stephen and Antony, the 3rd and 4th sons, were at home but for some reason were not selected.

It is thought that Robert and his father did not agree with each other and this might be the cause for Robert going off to India, but it is apparent that it was George who was being trained to take over his father’s estates and indeed his father did actually leave them to him in spite of them being entailed. So it was George who was to take care of his mother’s new house and, by implication, his mother herself should his father Stephen die.
2. Robert Sibthorpe was Elizabeth’s brother, of Dunany Co Louth, and was one of the, executors of her marriage settlement. Her father, Stephen Sibthorpe, had died in 1776 (probate) and Robert no doubt felt that he should make a further settlement on his sister; he probably leased Ross with this in mind, and the house he had to build was perhaps to be her dower house when her husband died. This indicates that Stephen Bomford’s health was not good, but actually he did not die until May 1806 and Elizabeth the next year, so it is unlikely that she ever occupied the house.

3. The Ordnance Survey Field Notebook of 1836 lists no occupiers for Ross in the Parish of Skreen, but it does state – “In the east end is a gentleman’s seat called Maryville, a neat cottage; it is surrounded by a small piece of pleasure ground.”

At first it was thought that Maryville was the house that Robert Sibthorpe built, but Maryville was in the townland of Thorntown which became part of Ross townland prior to 1836, and was then owned by William Bomford of Cusenstown. Sibthorpe’s house may have been Ross House which lies to the north of the Tara to Skreen road in the middle of Mr John Lynch’s farm. The 1836 Survey shows the present Navan – Dublin and Dunshaughn – Drogheda roads crossing at ‘Ross Crossroads’ situated on the borders of Ross and Thorntown. Neither of these roads had been built in 1774. Moving ahead to the 1854 Valuation, no Bomfords or Sibthorpe’s are listed in Ross so this lease must have terminated by then. Actually the three lives have expired Trevor in 1797, George in 1814 and Ephraim was last mentioned in the Dublin Almanack of 1815 but the date of his death is not known. For want of a better date I have placed the termination of the lease of Ross as c1815.

4. Peter Ludlow, elder son of Stephen Ludlow, Clerk in Chancery, MP, 1710 married Mary Preston (18.7.4) who from her brother Phineas inherited Ardsallagh, near Navan. He died 1750. Their eldest son Peter, MP for Co Meath, in 1755 created Baron Ludlow of Ardsallagh, in 1760 created Viscount Preston and 1st Earl of Ludlow.

His eldest son Peter, 2nd Earl of Ludlow, born 1730, MP for County Huntingdon. Leased Ross in 1772 (above).

The title is now extinct.

5. In 1774 Robert Sibthorpe had the land of Ross surveyed which showed an increase of 3 acres on the lease of 1772 (i.e. 286 Irish acres or 463 statute). The three maps of the survey are amongst the documents, one map for each tenant, but no houses are shown. The three tenants were

a. The widow Correen, 134 acres
b. James and Phil Gargan, 83 acres, and
c. Mr John Lynch, 69 acres

These three neighbouring farms making up Ross are bounded to the West by Belper, Northwest by Castleboy, North by Brabazon Lodge, East by Baronstown and South-east by Thorntown and Clounstown.

At this date Thorntown (7.6) was owned by William Bomford of Cusenstown and Clounstown by William’s brother Thomas Bomford who was living in Clounstown House with his wife Alice (Jessop), but they had to sell it in 1784. The Wilkinson family occupied Baronstown and their descendants, Jock and Mary, are still there.

6. Maps of Ross and Thorntown, see following page.

Map of the land of Ross

“In the Barony of Skreen surveyed in 1774 by Jno Magennis. Leased to Robert Sibthorpe of Dunkany, Co Louth, 1772 – 1781, by Peter 2nd Earl of Ludlow, then to George Bomford of Rahinstown 1781 – 1815.”

The map of Thorntown June 1749 by Thomas Reading Surveyor Leased by Thomas Bomford of Clounstown 1752 – 1757, then by William Bomford of Cusenstown 1757 – 1783.

Scale: 40 perches to an inch (reduced in size)
15.3.2 Mortgage Re-payment 20th December 1787

This deed concerns the re-payment of a mortgage by Susanna Ledwich widow of the Rev. Edward Ledwich, the Dean of Kildare, to Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown. The two sums involved were £1,000 and £2,000.

Witnessed Trevor Bomford (Book 394 Page 482 No 260980)

Edward Ledwich (1701-1782) was Dean of Kildare from 1772 until his death in 1782. He married Susanna (Bernard) in 1746 and she died in 1797. They had six children.

This mortgage would probably have been granted to the Dean by Stephen during the 1750’s or 1760’s, and now that the Dean has died his widow pays back the £3,000.

15.3.3 Rahinstown House

£3,000 was a very considerable sum for those days and this mortgage confirms that Stephen was pretty well off. One cannot help wondering whether Stephen made any long-term use of this money, and one immediately thinks of Rahinstown House.

The Survey of 1654 shows no house on the townland of Rahinstown, and at this date the ‘proprietor’ Francis Macwey (or Macawey, or even Mackewye) lived at Ballynaskea, the townland to the west of Rahinstown where there was ‘a castle’. It is safe to assume that there was no house on Rahinstown when it became a Bomford property in 1691, and that Thomas the elder built one there before
1702 when he is recorded as being of ‘Rainestowne’. My guess is that Thomas built the house just prior to his marriage in 1691 to Elizabeth Tew.

A drawing of Rahinstown House of about 1830 shows a six bay house of three storeys above a basement. The top floor has steeply pointed windows in gables along the roofline and the whole effect is handsome and very pleasing to the eye, particularly the mullioned windows. However it appears to be lop-sided since the entrance is to the left; indeed it seems to have been built in two halves, an original three bay front with a central entrance up steps over the area and an additional three bays to the right. From this it is suggested that the Rahinstown of Thomas the elder was of three bays only and that Stephen the younger with his large family, available money and a wife from a well-established family, added on the extra three bays to the right, perhaps around this date.

By 1808 Rahinstown had replaced Gallow, as the ‘senior’ Bomford house and so presumably was the better of the two, indeed the 1836 survey remarks that it ‘is a very good one’. None of this would apply to a house built about 1700 or before. The present Rahinstown House was built about 1875, some time after the place was sold by the Bomfords, and after the Bomford house had been damaged by fire. The new house was built on the foundations of the previous house; one enters a hall and from there one moves from room to room around the house through the six large rooms of the ground floor, there is no passage. Perhaps the Bomford house had the same arrangement; however the attractive and unusual gabled windows of the top floor have disappeared.

15.4 Robert Bomford – Army Career 1771 - 1793

“Officers of the Bengal Army 1758 – 1834” by Major V.C.P. Hodson records.

“Bomford, Robert, Captain, Infantry, Cadet 1771, Ensign 1772, Lieutenant 16th March 1777, Captain 16th March 1781, Struck off 1793.”

In 1771 when Robert joined the East India Company he was 20 and his elder brother Thomas was still alive; these were the days when the eldest son inherited the estates and the other sons went into the army, the Church or into law. Thomas did not die until sometime after 1774 and probably whilst Robert was in India, he had certainly died before his father did. Robert was married in 1792 so it is thought that he had a long leave from India that year, did not return to the Bengal Army and resigned at the end of his leave in 1793. On his return he was aged 41, probably the eldest son after the death of Thomas, and so heir to the entailed estates

15.5 Marriage - Robert Bomford & Maria Massy-Dawson 1792

The only record of this marriage comes from Burke, which states: -

“Robert, of Rahinstown, married 1792, Maria (died 10th July 1848) younger daughter of the Honourable James Massy-Dawson.”

No other information about the marriage has been found but one assumes that it took place from Ballynacourty, the house of Maria’s parents; an alternative might be Dublin but this has been discounted as the records of marriage licences in Dublin are well documented. Ballynacourty is in the Glen of Aherlow in Co Tipperary, a lovely site with a fine view of Baltimore. The house was still in the hands of the Massy-Dawson’s in the early 1900’s but in the early 1920’s it was taken over as a Civil War headquarters by Eamon de Valera. As such it naturally became the target for attack. The house was destroyed in fighting and later the ruins were demolished. However the stone stables surrounding a cobbled courtyard have been converted recently into a picturesque luxury home, restaurant and holiday centre.

No marriage settlement has been discovered. For some time there had been friction between Robert and his father, indeed some members of the family are of the opinion that he was disinherited, so it is likely that he received virtually nothing from that source (see 19.1). To anticipate, Robert was left 5/- in his father’s will of 1800 and brother George was left the land. Because the land was entailed George had to hand it over to Robert after their father had died in 1806. In 1811 Robert himself made a settlement for his wife and children so it does therefore look as though there was no marriage settlement in 1792.

15.5.1 The Massy Family

The Massy family claim descent from Hamon, one of the Companions in Arms of William the Conqueror. General Hugh Massy had a military command to repress the rebellion of 1641 in Ireland. His only son Hugh settled at Duntrileague in Co Limerick and his son, Colonel Hugh of Duntrileague, was born in 1635 and died in 1701. The Colonel had a number of children and his eldest son was the grandfather of Maria.

Hugh, Maria’s grandfather, was MP for Co Limerick in several parliaments and was made a peer on 4th August 1776, the first Baron Massy. He was born in 1700 and died on 30th January 1788 having
been twice married firstly to Mary Davison in 1733 and secondly to Rebecca Delap in April 1754. One of his brothers was Field Marshal Eyre Massy who fought at Culloden in 1746 and was made Baron Clarina

Hugh’s first wife Mary, Maria’s grandmother, inherited Ballynacourty when her father Colonel Dawson died in 1737, and it became the home of her second son James, Maria’s father. Mary must have died about 1750.

### Hugh, 1st Lord Massy 1700–1788
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Married</th>
<th>1. 1733</th>
<th>2. 1754</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary, daughter and heiress of Colonel James Dawson of Ballynacourty</td>
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</table>

### Mary, daughter and heiress of Colonel James Dawson of Ballynacourty

| Rebecca, daughter of Francis Delap of Antigua, West Indies (see note 6) |

### 1. Hugh 2nd Lord Massy 1733–1790 (Note 1)

| 2. James 1736 – 1790 |
| Massy-Dawson (Note 2) |

| Maria dau of John Leonard of Co Galway (Note 3) |

| 3 John (Note 4) |
| Elizabeth Rose married twice (Note 5) |

| 4. Francis Hugh b 1755 m 1777 |
| Plus 2 sons & 5 daus |

### Elizabeth m Robert Compton Bolton (Note 7)

| Richard Bolton of Bective (6 others) |
| Frances Georgina (Note 9) |

| Robert Bomford b 1751 d 1817 |

| James Hewitt 1779 - 1834 (Note 8) |

| Francis Hugh Massy of Suir Castle m c1820 Anne Bomford Molloy |

Notes:

1. Hugh the second Lord Massy, Maria’s uncle, was born 14th April 1733, married September 1760 and died 10th May 1790. His line continues. Maria’s first cousin was therefore the third Lord Massy (1761 - 1812). It was the second son of the 3rd Lord who married Mary Jane Crosbie, the daughter of Jane Maria Bateman, Trevor Bomford’s stepdaughter. (See also 19.2.2)

2. James Massy, born 10th October 1736, inherited his mother’s estate of Ballynacourty where he lived and so took the name Dawson becoming the Honourable James Massy-Dawson. He died in December 1790 so did not live to see Maria and Robert Bomford marry.

3. Maria, officially Mary but known as Maria, was the daughter of John Leonard who died in 1777 of Carha in Co Galway and of Brownstown in Co Kildare. He got Brownstown between 1757 and 1759 from David Burtchaell, the father of Sarah who married David Bomford. The date of Maria’s marriage is not known but it must have been about 1760. Maria was probably a domineering woman who was “the cause of most of the damage as Brig-Gen Poore said” (see 19.1) between Robert and his father. She died on 26th May 1805.

4. John married Elizabeth Baker in May 1759 they had no children. The Baker family intermarried five times with the Massy family around this period, and one of these was Elizabeth’s brother, Colonel William Baker of Lismacue, Co Tipperary, who married Elizabeth Massy the sister of Sir Hugh Dillon Massy, the first Baronet of Doonass.

5. Elizabeth Rose married firstly John Arthur of Seafield, Co Dublin, who died in 1757. Their two sons, John and Benedict, became involved with the settlements and deeds of Robert Bomford and Maria, and of their son Robert George Bomford (22.5.1). Elizabeth’s second marriage was to Rev Sir Michael Cox of Dunmanway Co Cork and later Castletown Cox in Kilkenny, which he built in 1767. This was one of the most beautiful Palladian houses in Ireland, built when he was Archbishop of Cashel. He was the son of Sir Richard Cox, Commissioner of H.M. Customs in Ireland. Elizabeth had another son, Sir Richard Eyre Cox.

6. Rebecca, 1st Lord Massy’s second wife, was the daughter of Francis Delap (or Dunlop) of Antigua, West Indies. She had three sons and five daughters. Her eldest son, Lord Massy’s fourth son, was Francis Hugh Massy, born on 13th January 1755, of Suir Castle on the opposite bank of the Suir to Athassel Abbey, south of Cashel. He married in 1777 and his only son was another Francis Hugh Massy, born 179-, Captain 19th Foot, who inherited Suir Castle. About 1820 he married Anne Bomford Molloy, grand-daughter of Anne Bomford the daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown 8.9). Their children were:

a. Francis Hugh Massy, born 1824, BA TCD 1846, married 14th February 1889 Gertrude Masterson Walter, and died 3rd March 1901. They had children.
b. Daniel Molloy Massy, born 1850 (? error), Colonel Tipperary Artillery Militia, and married 21st October 1876 Sophia, widow of William Massy of Ballyglasheen, Co Tipperary, and daughter of Alexander Grant of New Brunswick. He died 13th October 1908 without children but Sophia had children from her previous marriage.

c. Anne Bomford Massy married 21st September 1871 John Henry Whitty of Ballintobber, Queen’s Co.

d. Jane Adelaide Massy married 29th April 1886 Austen Damer Cooper of Drumnigh House, Co Dublin, (1831-1900). She died his widow on 3rd April 1906. They had no children but Austen had children by his previous marriage.

7. Elizabeth Massy-Dawson, Maria’s sister, married Robert Compton Bolton of Brazeel, Co Dublin, and must have died in the late 1770’s. Robert Bolton then married again, his second wife being Charlotte daughter of Joseph Ney noe. There were children but it is difficult to decide which child belonged to which mother; one source states that Elizabeth had no children, but (see 21.6.3.). However one child was Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey who married his cousin, the 5th daughter of Robert and Maria Bomford, and another was John Massy Bolton who changed his name to John Bolton Massy and figures largely in later deeds.

8. James Hewitt Massy-Dawson, MP, Maria’s only brother, was born on 13th September 1779, married 11th March 1800 and died on 2nd October 1834. He inherited Ballynacourty and obtained nearby New Forest. His wife was Eliza Jane Dennis, a daughter of Francis Dennis of Jamaica; she died on 14th March 1834. They had five sons and seven daughters. With these numbers of children it is not surprising that Maria and Robert had around two dozen nephews and nieces including the Bomford ones, furthermore the previous generation of Bomfords also had about the same number; it is not surprising that a family tree becomes very involved.

9. Children of Robert Bomford and Maria (Massy).
   a. Robert George Bomford, the only son, was born in 1801 in Co Meath probably at Rahinstown.
   b. Annette Maria, the eldest daughter, was probably born before Robert George but her birth date is not known, perhaps in 1799.
   c. Jane Rosetta was born 13th March 1802.
   d. Frances Georgina, no information about her birth but c1803.
   e. Jemima Letitia was born about 1805.
   f. Susan Margaret was born in 1806 and probably on 29th January.
   g. Sarah Maria was baptised at Rathcore Church on 5th November 1810.

From all this, Burke can be updated to read

“Robert Bomford, of Rahinstown, born 1751, Captain E.I.C.S. Bengal Army 1771 - 1793, married 1792, Maria (born 1769, died 10th July 1848) younger daughter of the Honourable James Massy-Dawson and Mary his wife of Ballynacourty, Co Tipperary. He died 18th April 1817 having had issue…..”

15.5.2 Massy v Headfort A Case of Seduction

A snippet of scandal occurred in 1804 when Maria’s second cousin, the Rev Charles Massy, brought Thomas, the 1st Marquess of Headfort, to court for the seduction of his wife.

Charles Massy was a well-to-do clergyman who in 1796 married a pretty young lady named Miss Rosslewin. The marriage was against his father’s wishes probably because she had no money of her own. They had one child, a son. The Marquess of Headfort of Kells, Co Meath, was married and with an estimated income, enormous for those days, of at least £30,000 a year. In 1803 he was in the Army with his Meath Militia and stationed at Limerick near where the Massys lived. He was over 50 and much older than the Massys. She went off with him on a Sunday shortly after Christmas 1803 and they went to England.

Charles Massy claimed £40,000 damages, and the trial at Ennis Assizes occupied just one day, a twelve-hour sitting. The trial excited great interest, a lot of publicity, and consisted of many splendid and even scurrilous speeches by learned counsel on both sides. The jury brought in a verdict for £10,000 damages in favour of Charles Massy. I could not discover whether Charles took back his errant wife after the affair, but probably not as he ended up with another three wives before he died in 1822.

15.6 Marriage - Margaret Bomford & John Mockler of Trim c1778

For some reason none of the daughters of Stephen the younger have been included in Burke. The Bomford documents have recorded three and the oldest of them is probably Margaret. Margaret and her husband, “John Mockler of Trim”, are mentioned a few times, for instance in her father’s will, but no dates are given. However the Trim Parish Records and the Militia Records show a number of Mocklers of whom three or four are named John. All these Mocklers are listed below since there is nothing definite to
tie them together, although they are probably from the same family and it is a pity to lose my research notes.

15.6.1 Trim Parish Records

There are two John Mocklers. The Briddock Charity refers to them as ‘the elder’ and ‘the younger’, whilst the Parish Records show them as ‘Senior’ and ‘Junior’. These imply father and son.

John Mockler the Elder was Guardian of the Briddock Charity from 1767 to 1795 during which time he was Portrieve (Treasurer) in 1767, 1782, 1790 and in 1795. He was a Churchwarden of Trim in 1793. (The Briddock Charity was founded in 1703 to help the poor of Trim from a legacy of Robert Briddock of Rorystown near Trim who died in 1703).

John Mockler Junior was a Churchwarden of Trim in 1801. In 1812 the Portrieve of the Briddock Charity was plain ‘John Mockler’. It is safe to assume that, since the suffix has been dropped, the older John died between 1801 and 1812.

Other entries from the Trim Parish include two other John Mocklers, these are:

John Alexander Mockler of Ginnetts, buried at Trim on 25th July 1828 (or it might read 1829), of him the Registry of Deeds records 6th September 1816. Marriage Settlement of John Mockler of Gennets and Eliza, 2nd daughter of Reverend William Elliott of Trim. The settlement mentions that John Mockler’s father was also named John Mockler. (Book 706 Page 335 No 483870)

John Mockler of Phillistown, a mile north of Trim was buried at Trim on 23rd March 1845. There are no Mockler births recorded in any of the early Trim records up to 1876, but Henrietta and Eliza Mockler were confirmed there in 1841.

Other Parish Records

A table tombstone now broken into four pieces in Balsoon Graveyard, near Kilmessan, is inscribed

“To the memory of Captain Robert Mockler late of the 56th Reg Foot who on the 16th day of July 1817 and the 36th year of his age closed an Honourable life the last twenty years of which had been devoted to the services of his King and Country. He passed through life unblemished and death set a seal upon his character.”

Finally the Laracor Parish records show that from 1829 to 1832 John Mockler owned 159 acres in the Parish and his Church Tithe was £1.6.6. He was also a member of the Laracor Select Vestry in 1828 and 1829.

To summarize these Parish records
1. John Mockler the elder died between 1801 and 1812.
2. His son was concerned with Trim Church between 1801 and 1812 and could have been either John Alexander Mockler of Ginnetts married 6th September 1816 Eliza (Elliott) died July 1828 (buried at Trim 25th July)
or John Mockler of Phillistown died March 1845 (buried at Trim 23rd March)
3. A possible brother might be Captain Robert Mockler. born 1781 died July 1817 (buried at Balsoon 16th July).
4. The John Mockler, Laracor vestry-man of 1828 and 1829 who owned land in the Parish until 1832, may also be of Ginnetts as Laracor would have been his Church. But he could not have been a son of John Alexander who only married in 1816 unless that was his second marriage.

15.6.2 Military Records

About the time of the American War of Independence (1775 - 1783) John Mockler was Treasurer to the Trim and Ratoath Volunteers. This must be John Mockler the elder.

In 1796 a John Mockler was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Trim Infantry.
In 1799 another John Mockler was an Ensign in the Meath Militia, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1800, to Captain on 28th May 1805. In 1811 he was still a Captain and serving in the Royal Meath or 17th Regiment (Source 1811 edition of The Gentleman’s and Citizens Almanack).

It is not possible to say which John is which, but they would have been not less than say 20 when commissioned and so would have been born about 1776 and 1779 respectively or earlier.
Yet another Mockler, Edward James, was commissioned an ensign in the Militia on 17th May 1806; he would have been born about 1786 and so could be a brother to John and maybe another son of Margaret Mockler (Bomford).

15.6.3 Bomford Documents

1. Both Margaret and John Mockler were alive and married in the two Bomford wills of Stephen, 1804 (18.1), and Antony, 1805 (18.2). From the marriage settlement of February 1812 it is apparent that Margaret was a widow in 1812. Therefore she must have been married to John Mockler the elder and John Mockler the younger was her son. Margaret was alive in 1814, as George Bomford owed her money when he died.

2. Recited in the Oakley Park deed of 8th November 1837 is the will of William Graham, Colonel of the Meath Militia. In this will dated 3rd July 1808 (probate 1808) John Mockler was made a trustee of the Colonel’s son also named William Graham who was then a minor. This must have been John Mockler of the Meath Militia and also the younger John. In 1831, when William Graham came of age, the only trustee still alive was John Mockler. Therefore John Mockler the younger cannot be of Ginnets, he must be of Phillistown, or perhaps the Laracor vestry-man.

3. In the 1834 Commission of George Bomford as a Justice of the Peace, another JP mentioned was John Mockler and he was a JP until at least 1842. He must be of Phillistown.

15.6.4 Probable Mockler Family Tree

If we put these records together it is apparent that the elder Mockler was Margaret Bomford’s husband, and that they had at least one son also named John Mockler, and because he was born c1779 Margaret’s marriage must be c1778 or before. Another son might be Captain Robert Mockler of the 56th Regiment of Foot who was born in 1781 and died in July 1817.

The family tree might look like this:

Margaret, eldest daughter of Stephen and Elizabeth Bomford of Rahinstown, born after 1746, married c1778 or before, died ? (alive in 1814)

John Mockler of Trim, born before 1746, died between 1806 & 1812, 1767 - 1795 Guardian of the Briddock Charity c1775 - 1783 Treasurer of Trim & Ratoath Volunteers 1793 Churchwarden Trim

John Mockler, JP, of Phillistown, born c1779, died March 1845 and buried Trim 23rd March.

1799 Ensign Meath Militia. 1801 Churchwarden Trim, 1800 Lieut Meath Militia, 1812 Portrieve Briddock Charity, before 1834 a JP of Co Meath

(It is possible that this son is the wrong John but I think not)

According to Henderson’s Post Office Directory for Meath of 1861, there were no Mocklers in Trim at that date so the family had either moved away or become extinct.

There is an entry in the Trinity College records, which might be the father, or grandfather, of John Mockler the elder.

“William Mockler, Siz. (Sisar means that he received a grant from the College), attended Dr Parker’s school at Trim, entered 27th May 1730 aged 18 (born 1712), son of Edward (Mockler), caupo (Innkeeper), born Co Meath, scholar 1732, BA 1734, MA 1738.”

It is doubtful if any of these Mocklers, who were Protestant, were directly descended from the Catholic Mocklers of Co Tipperary, but the name is not common and there must be a connection.

‘The Great Mockler’, Mocklorough More, built a sturdy castle at Ballyclerahan, four miles southwest of Fethard, Co Tipperary. It was besieged by Cromwell who at first failed to take it, but did so finally after an obstinate resistance. Mockler and his second son were killed in the fighting but the eldest son was captured and hanged at the gate; another son with a few of the family escaped to France but the rest of the garrison were put to the sword.

15.7 Locally Raised Forces in Meath

Much of the information on the Mocklers came from the records of these locally raised forces, and the records include a number of Bomfords and, indeed, a large number of the landed families.
15.7.1 **Meath Militia**

The County Meath Militia was a totally Protestant force (until after the Act of the Union) which was raised whenever the government of the day felt itself under threat; once the threat diminished it was disbanded. It was raised in 1708, 1715, and 1745 but no lists of officers were found for those years. It was again raised in 1756 because of the Seven Years War and remained in operation for a number of years. In 1756 it consisted of 12 Independent Troops of Dragoons and 6 Independent Company of Infantry. Two Bomfords were found in those lists -

William Bomford a cornet in the 12th Troop of Dragoons; this must have been William Bomford of Cushenstown (c1730 - 1803), son of Thomas of Clounstown. His captain was Richard Gorges, senior, of Kilbrew who died in 1778.

Stephen Bomford an ensign in the 3rd Infantry Company; this was Stephen the younger of Rahinstown, c1722 - 1806. Sir Hercules Langford Rowley of Summerhill captained his company and the first lieutenant was John Pratt of Agher.

In 1793 the Militia was raised again, this time to oppose the French threat. One of the terms of this raising was that the militia would never serve in the county of origin; the Meath Militia were quartered in Cashel in late 1796 when the French arrived in Bantry Bay and were force-marched to West Cork to meet the threat of invasion; in 1798 they saw active service in Wexford and it was the Carlow Militia which saw active service in Meath that year. No Bomford appeared in these lists, but Mockler did (see above).

15.7.2 **Meath Volunteers**

Whereas the Militia was a government raised, paid and equipped force, the Volunteers were a locally raised and equipped force, which came into being at a time of panic. The war with the American Colonies was such an occasion of panic when all the regular troops were removed from the country. The landed gentry raised the Volunteers throughout Ireland because they knew that no invasion could be stopped by the militia alone. No Bomford was noted amongst the Volunteers possibly because no Volunteer unit was raised in their area. Two Mocklers appear in the ‘Trim and Ratoath Volunteers’.

15.7.3 **Meath Yeomanry**

The Yeomanry Corps was locally raised by the Government in 1796 to deal with the increased threat of French invasion and United Irish republicanism. Some units like the ‘Lower Slane Cavalry’ were disbanded after a few years but others seem to have continued long after the French threat and so were presumably to quell the United Irish republicanism, like the ‘Kells Infantry’ which was still going strong in 1833. Among the Yeomanry were

George Bomford of Drumlargan, commissioned Lieutenant on 27th August 1803 into the Rathmolion Cavalry which was raised that year by his brother-in-law John Pratt Winter of Agher who was commissioned Captain on 20th July 1803.

Isaac Bomford of Gallow and Ferrans, commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Trim Cavalry when it was raised on 31st October 1796 His commission issued by the Lord Lieutenant stated that “Izac Bomford to be 1st Lieutenant”.

15.8 **Trevor Bomford**

Originally there was not much information about Trevor, 6th son of Stephen the younger. Burke simply recorded

“Trevor, married Mrs Bateson (nee Donel), and had issue ….”.

These next few items will correct and enlarge this record, and further information concerning the family will be found in Chapter 18. The lease of Ross (15.3) made Trevor one of the lives and at this date he was aged 12, so he was born in 1760.

15.8.1 **Trevor - An Attorney**

Trevor Bomford of Dublin, Attorney to Benjamin Smith of Violetstown Co Westmeath agrees to lease at any time to Patrick and Martin Gorman, farmers of Castletown, on behalf of Benjamin Smith, the land of that part of Castletown, which they now rent at £88.1.3. (Book 388 Page 263 No 258080)

The text of this deed is not important, but it does introduce Trevor as an attorney. Benjamin Smith was the nephew of Anne Bomford (Smith), Trevor’s grandmother, and he had previously had dealings with Isaac Bomford (c1730 - 1793), Trevor’s uncle. At this time the attorney Isaac was 57 and it is thought that he took young Trevor into his office and trained him. This deed indicates that Isaac is now
in the process of handing over some of his business to Trevor. Isaac may well have also trained his other
nephew Isaac, the son of David, who was six years younger than Trevor. Almanack entries concerning
Isaac the elder as an attorney cease in 1790, he died in 1793.

Trevor is first listed in Watson’s Almanack in 1788 as an attorney of the Court of the Exchequer,
and living at 19 Drogheda Street, Dublin, for the three years 1788 - 1790. In 1790 he is listed as one of the
“Six Clerks” of the Court of the Exchequer. In fact the ‘Patentee Officers in Ireland’ records,
“Bomford Trevor, Six Clerk in Court of Chancery, 12th June 1789”
and the ‘Establishments of Ireland’ Part III records
“1789, Trevor Bomford, Denis Kelly resigned, Patent 12th June 1789, Leinster, 16th June 1797,
Matthew Franks, Trevor Bomford deceased.”

So the Almanack got it slightly wrong. Trevor was a Six Clerk in the Court of Chancery from
12th June 1789 and he died in office in 1797, before 16th June, aged 37.

15.8.2 Marriage- Trevor Bomford & Mary Bateman September 1789

Marriage licence issued by the Diocese of Dublin
“1789 Trevor Bomford and Mary Bateman otherwise. McDonnell, Page 30.”
A fuller version is in Betham’s Dublin marriage licences and reads
“Bomford, Trevor, of the City of Dublin, Esq, and Mary Bateman of the Parish of St Mary,
Dublin, Widow. Directed to the said Parish 21st September 1789.”

So they were married in September 1789. It might be that they went to live at No 19 Drogheda
Street but it is thought that they took a better house after the marriage although none such was found in
the Almanack. No 19, as Trevor’s house, only lasted in the Almanack until 1790 and the following
indicates that it was then leased to Richard Wood, and in 1795 to John Halpin.

15.8.3 Dublin House lease by Trevor Bomford 3rd August 1795

Trevor Bomford leases to John Halpin a house on the east side of Drogheda Street, Dublin,
formerly in the possession of Richard Wood for £500 for 43 years from 1762. (i.e. until 1805, a 10 year
lease) (Book 498 Page 84 No 315981)

Of course there is no certainty that this house was No 19. Drogheda Street no longer exists and
was not listed in the 1835 Almanack, so its name must have been changed sometime before 1835. It is
interesting that the house lease started in 1762 at which date Trevor was a baby; it could be that it was
originally his father’s town house.

15.8.4 Trevor’s wife - Mary Bateman

Clue by clue a history of Mary Bateman was built up, but even now there are loose ends and
further investigation is required. The next deed in the Bomford documents was not registered and added
to our knowledge.

Alexander McDonnell Died Intestate 2nd June 1803

Mary Bomford, otherwise McDonnell, daughter and next of kin to Alexander McDonnell of
Dublin, agrees to renounce all her rights in her father’s will in favour of Jane Crosby, otherwise
Blenerhassett, wife of Pierce Crosby, grand-daughter of Alexander McDonnell.

One can see how the entry in Burke that Trevor ‘married Mrs Bateson nee Donel’ went wrong; it
should have read that he ‘married Mrs Bateman, nee McDonnell’. With the information to date it is clear
that Mary, the daughter of Alexander McDonnell whose probate was granted in June 1803, married firstly
Mr Bateman whose marriage is recorded in the Hibernian Magazine (page 224) which states that the
marriage of John Bateman and Mary McDonnell took place in Mayo in May 1771.

The deed does not state it specifically but the grand-daughter was Jane Maria, the daughter of
Mary by her marriage to John Bateman of Dromultin, Co Kerry. This is confirmed in Burke under
Blenerhassett and Crosby, which records Jane Maria’s two marriages.

Jane Maria married (1) Conway Blennerhassett of Reen Lodge, Co Kerry, JP 1785, and ‘who may have
married 1779 Jane daughter of John Bateman of Dromultin’. (The date is
wrong, it must be later since her mother was married in 1771; I have guessed
the date of 1793 when Jane Maria was aged 21)

Jane Maria married (2) Pierce Crosbie of Rusheen, Co Kerry, married March 1803, Jane Maria (d
Now by using all the facts to date a tree can be made. The ‘circa’ dates are my estimates

Alexander McDonnell of Dublin, died 1803 (probate June)
Randall McDonnell of Co Mayo may have been his brother

Mary McDonnell born c1750 died (probate) 22nd July 1809
Married 1. May 1771 in Co Mayo
Married 2. Sept 1789

Mary Anne b c1790
m Francis Chute (18.5.3)
Frances Rose b c1792
m Samuel Pratt Winter (18.6)

John Bateman of Dromultin, Co Kerry, son of George Bateman of Dromultin (born 1711) and Sarah, daughter of Antony Stoughton. His second marriage
Trevor Bomford of Dublin b 1760 died 1797

Jane Maria Bateman b c1772 died 1833
Married 1. c1793
Conway Blennerhassett of Reen Lodge, Co Kerry, JP of Kerry 1785. They had no children
Married 2. March 1803
Pierce Crosbie, of Rusheen, Co Kerry, Col Kerry Militia, second son of Pierce Crosbie of Ballyheigue, Co Kerry, and his wife Frances, daughter of Rowland Bateman of Oak Park, Co Kerry. Died 1827

1. Francis Crosbie, in 1838 was living at Rusheen, later he assumed the name McDonnell when he succeeded to the property of Randall McDonnell. He married and had four children.
2. Pierce Crosbie died unmarried.
3. James Crosbie, Royal Navy, married 1st January 1842 and had three children.
1. Mary Jane married firstly on 1st October 1834 the Hon George William Massy of Bellmont, Co Limerick, (1794-1835), 2nd son of the 3rd Lord Hugh Massy. He was the grand-nephew of James Massy-Dawson. This was his second marriage, which was without children. She married secondly 13th December 1838 Rev Morris Baytum Yescombe, of Truro, Cornwall, (18.7.4). They had children and their third son, Charles Yescombe, married 1867 Frances Elizabeth Preston, great grand-daughter of Mary and Trevor Bomford and grand-daughter of Frances Rose Bomford (see tree above).

Of the families allied to the Bomfords with this marriage of Mary, nothing much has been found concerning the McDonnell family. The other families all lived in the same corner of Kerry and inter-married, Bateman, Crosbie, Blennerhassett and Chute; the Chute family comes into the picture shortly when Trevor and Mary’s daughter Mary Anne marries Francis Chute in 1810.

The McDonnell Family

No family history has been found and only Alexander McDonnell of Dublin and Randall McDonnell of Co Mayo have been mentioned. Both left their property to Jane Maria Bateman and they may have been brothers. They had no direct heirs and Jane Maria’s eldest son, Francis Crosbie, took the name McDonnell and the property of Randall McDonnell in the 1830’s. It is perhaps noteworthy that the names Alexander and Randall are common at this time in the family of the Earl of Antrim whose name was McDonnell and it is possible that our McDonnells are an offshoot of that family.

15.8.5

The Bateman Family

John Bateman of Killeen, just north of Tralee and later renamed Oak Park, married twice. His first wife was Frances, a daughter of William Trenchard. She died without children.
His second wife was Anne, second daughter of Colonel the Right Hon George Evans of Bulgaden Hall, Co Limerick, MP, Privy Councillor, and sister to George Evans who was made a peer in 1715, 1st Barcon Carbery. They had four sons and two daughters:-
1. Roland Bateman, of Oak Park, MP for Kerry, born 1705 and died 1754. He married in 1727 and had at least three daughters
   a. Frances who married Pierce Crosbie of Ballyheigue, Co Kerry, and who was the mother of Pierce of Rusheen who married Jane Maria, daughter of Mary Bomford (then Bateman).
b. Agnes who married in 1785 Richard Chute. She was the mother of Francis Chute who married Mary Anne Bomford, daughter of Trevor and Mary Bomford.

c. Ann who married Francis Crosbie, only son of Pierce Crosbie of Rusheen (1684-1761).

2. George Bateman of Dromultin, Co Kerry, born 1711, married Sarah daughter of Antony Stoughton. They had four children, the younger three being George, Dorothy, and Frances; the eldest being John Bateman of Dromultin (this from Burke 1912 Edition) married 1764 Elizabeth, daughter of William Meredith of Annaghmore, Co Kerry. They had two children

a. John Bateman, died unmarried.

b. Jane Bateman married firstly Conway Blennerhassett, and secondly Pierce Crosbie.

(Note: It is clear from other sources that the entry for John of Dromultin is in error, and it should be re-written as)

John Bateman of Dromultin married firstly in 1764 Elizabeth, daughter of William Meredith of Annaghmore, Co Kerry. She died having had one son

a. John Bateman, died unmarried

He married secondly in May 1771 Mary, daughter of Alexander McDonnell and had a daughter

b. Jane Maria who married firstly c1793 Conway Blennerhassett of etc, and secondly in March 1803 Pierce Crosbie of etc.

3. Thomas Bateman of Mount Catherine, Co Cork, married firstly (not known) and secondly on 22nd January 1740 Alice Sadleir second daughter of Thomas Sadleir (1680-1724) of Sopwell Hall, Co Tipperary. He died in 1756 having had children and she married secondly Mr McCarthy.

4. John Bateman of Altavilla, near Rathkeale, Co Limerick, married firstly in 1745 Elizabeth Sadleir, eldest daughter of Thomas Sadleir and sister to Alice (above). She died in 1748 having had children and he married again. John built Altavilla about 1745 - 1746; it has a six bay centre block of three storeys over a basement with flanking wings of two storeys. The house was burnt, became a ruin, but has now been restored by the present Lord Daresbury, though without the top floor.

These last two Bateman brothers married two Sadleir sisters. From Alice and Elizabeth’s uncle Charles Sadleir descended Flora Mary McVeagh Sadleir who in 1861 married George Winter Bomford (30.2.3).

Lewis does not appear to record Dromultin and I have been unable to locate it. However it is probable that in 1838 it no longer existed; John of Dromultin would certainly be dead by 1838 and his only son, John, by his first wife died without children and is possibly dead as well, so I am ending the Dromultin branch.

However Lewis does mention Oak Park, originally named Killeen, which in 1838 was the ‘residence of John Bateman (possibly a grandson of Roland) situated in ground well wooded with oak among which are some trees of singular size and beauty, and open to the public’. The present house was built between 1857 and 1860 by Maurice Fitzgerald Sandes of Sallow Glen beside Rusheen with money he had made as a lawyer in India. This Sandes was a relation of Elizabeth Sandes with whom Pierce Crosbie had so much trouble (see below). The Oak Park branch moved to Corbally House near Riverstown, Co Cork, and Oak Park is now the Headquarters of the Kerry Agricultural Committee.

15.8.6 The Crosbie Family

The Chief Bard to the Irish Chiefs of Leix was the title of the family for many generations and they took the name of MacCrossan, which means ‘the son of the rhymer’; the name was anglicized to Crosbie in the 1500’s. During the reign of Elizabeth, Doctor John Crosbie was made Bishop of Ardfert and the family settled there; his eldest son was made a baronet but although they were the senior branch of the family they moved elsewhere, the last baronet died in England in 1936; his second son was David Crosbie (died 1658) who had his estates confiscated by Cromwell having withstood a siege in the Castle of Ballingarry on the coast north of Ballyheigue for 14 months. After the Commonwealth and because of David’s loyalty to the Crown, his son, Thomas of Ardfert, was knighted had his estates restored and built Ardfert towards the end of the l600’s.

Sir Thomas had three wives, eight sons and three daughters. In 1680 Sir Thomas married his third wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William Hamilton and on that same day his eldest son David married Elizabeth’s sister Jane. This double wedding of father and son to two sisters resulted in a unique marriage settlement in which the family estates were re-distributed. Among the estates were the three main houses of Ardfert, Ballyheigue, and Rusheen.

Ardfert Abbey

Because of the ruined Franciscan Abbey in the grounds, the mansion was named Ardfert Abbey and in the settlement it went to the eldest son David. David died in 1717 and his descendants were successively Lord Branden (Baron), Viscount Crosbie, and the Earl of Glandore, which peersage became extinct in 1815 when the house and lands passed to a nephew, who became Talbot-Crosbie.
The house was described in 1785 by a visitor Caroline, Countess of Portarlington, as “an old-fashioned place in a very bleak country….small low rooms, wainscoted, and the drawing room perfectly antique”; this was the house, which our Jane Maria and her children would have known. In 1838 Lewis reports that the house “contains an extensive library….and a variety of paintings, mostly family portraits. The park is well stocked with deer; the gardens are extensive, and open into several fine avenues of elm, lime and beech trees”. One of the family portraits included the full-length portrait of Lady Diana, the wife of John Crosbie, 2nd Earl of Glandore, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Lady Diana was a young woman of fashionable tastes whose fondness for gaming and slowness in paying her debts earned her the nickname of ‘Owen Glendower’, (‘Owing Glandore’).

Ardfert Abbey was sold by John Talbot-Crosbie (1873 - 1969) during the 1900’s and demolished; the garden gates were re-erected outside the Church in Tralee as a memorial of the Crosbie family.

**Ballyheigue Castle**

Ballyheigue Castle was a Crosbie house before Ardfert was built and in the settlement it went to Sir Thomas’ 5th son, Thomas Crosbie, MP for Kerry 1708 - 1709 and Dingle 1713 – 1731. It was sited overlooking the sea near Tralee and was long, low, and thatched, facing onto a courtyard in one corner of which was a strong stone tower, part of the original castle built about the time of Henry VIII. It was in this tower that Thomas Crosbie, our Pierce’s great grandfather, during the winter of 1730 placed the chests of silver which he had rescued from the Danish East Indiaman ‘Golden Lyon’. Ballyheigue Bay gives no shelter for vessels and was frequently mistaken for the entrance to the Shannon; it was not altogether the ship’s fault because Loop Head was inaccurately laid down in the charts, but it was not uncommon for wreckers to deliberately entice vessels into the bay. On a stormy night wreckers lured the ‘Golden Lyon’ into the bay and it ran amongst the rocks on the shore. Thomas and his men chased away the wreckers and spent the night in saving the treasure and the crew, but his exertions proved too much for him and he died from exposure and fatigue. Some months later the castle was attacked by the wild Irish wreckers and the treasure carried off. There was a suspicion of collusion and two of Thomas’s nephews were tried for complicity in the robbery; Thomas Crosbie, Colonel of the 19th Regiment, was convicted and outlawed, and Arthur, the Commissioner of Customs in Kerry, was acquitted. However it was alleged that the attack on the castle was organised by Thomas’s widow, Lady Margaret, a daughter of the 2nd Earl of Barrymore because she later obtained the bulk of the treasure.

James Crosbie, the only son of Thomas, inherited and about 1758 built a new house; aided, one wonders, with the proceeds of the Danish treasure. He married Mary his cousin, the daughter of his uncle Pierce of Rusheen, and so Rusheen came into his family. About 1809 James’ grandson, Colonel James Crosbie, Jane Maria’s brother-in-law, turned the house into a romantic castle complete with battlements and towers; William Morrison who was only 15 at the time produced the design. The Colonel married his cousin Elizabeth, daughter of Roland Bateman of Oak Park and died in 1836. Their son and the nephew of Pierce and Jane Maria, another Pierce, inherited Ballyheigue but had a problem with his wife Elizabeth (Sandes); no sooner were they married in 1831 than she started bestowing her favours on all the stable-lads. Not unexpectedly there was a row and she eloped to the Continent with one of the grooms. She was never heard of again and it took Pierce 15 years to get an order presuming her death so that he could marry again.

The house was passed through two more generations until in 1921 it was burnt down during the ‘troubles’ and became a ruin except for one wing, which has been restored recently.

**Rusheen**

Rusheen went to Sir Thomas’ 7th son, Pierce (1684 - 1761). It lies beside Ballylongford on the Shannon Estuary, to the west of Tarbert. No description of the house has been found. Pierce was a barrister who had a son and a daughter. The son Francis married Ann, a daughter of Roland Bateman of Oak Park (15.8.5), but they had no children. The daughter Mary married her cousin James Crosbie of Ballyheigue and took Rusheen with her. James passed both Ballyheigue and Rusheen to his son, another Pierce, Jane Maria’s father-in-law, and he passed Ballyheigue to his oldest son and Rusheen to his second son, Pierce of Rusheen who married Jane Maria.

Pierce may have been living at Rusheen before the wedding but after they were married they both lived at Rusheen, indeed Jane Maria lived there for some 30 years of her life and one assumes died there in 1833. In 1838 Lewis records that Rusheen was occupied by Jane Maria’s eldest son Francis Crosbie who later changed his name to McDonnell. It is not known whether Francis remained there or moved to another house from the property he inherited from Randall McDonnell in Co Mayo, but Rusheen drops out of the picture so it is supposed he did move elsewhere.
Death of Stephen

This Stephen is only mentioned in Burke as the third son of Stephen of Rahinstown. He has not appeared in any of the records or documents and his birth date of about 1755 has been estimated. The only reference to his death are these accounts which are undated and titled

“George Bomford Esq., the acting trustee in the affairs of the late Stephen Bomford Esq., to Isaac Bomford.”

George Bomford is “the late Stephen’s” younger brother. To date no will or other document has come to light, but if George was the acting trustee then Isaac Bomford must have been the executor and as such would need these accounts to get probate. However there are no clues to indicate when Stephen actually died except that it was George who made the later payments in March 1791 for the rent of Gallow so he may have died towards the end of 1790 or in the first couple of months in 1791.

At this date there were two Bomfords named Isaac; the attorney, uncle of Stephen, but he is elderly being over 60 and is handing over to the other Isaac, David Bomford’s son, who is also an attorney and aged about 30. It is therefore likely that Stephen’s executor was the younger Isaac.

As said above Stephen was born about 1755 so he died fairly young, aged about 35. He never married and may have been sickly, but he did farm about 300 acres of Gallow, which these accounts show he leased from Isaac Bomford, his uncle

“£63.1.1 paid to Mr I Bomford, half a year’s rent for Gallow ending March 1791 and £10.10.0 - ditto- for Newtown Gallow,”

and this entry is repeated in October. Thus Stephen’s yearly rent for his farm was £147.2.2 but this would not be enough to cover, the whole of Gallow. The rent for the Gallow leases of 1758 - 1759 was 10 shillings an acre, which works out at close on 300 acres. This farm must have been Stephen’s main, if not only, source of income.

One of the first things to be done on Stephen’s death was to look after the land and particularly the stock. The livestock was probably sold immediately and the accounts already sent to Isaac. Certainly these accounts show no income from live stock; however the bulk of his income comes in small amounts for ‘meadow on Gallow, oat land, potatoe ground’, and so on, paid by no less than 31 different people; all of which shows that George Bomford stepped in and made the best use of Stephen’s land after his death. It also shows how land hungry the local people were. Alternatively it may be that Stephen did not farm the land himself but acted as a middleman.

The only other large payment in the accounts was “£150 to Mr Thomas Coates being the amount of a bond debt due by Mr Stephen Bomford, which bond I took up,” i.e. George paid the debt. If this was Stephen’s only debt he died just about solvent, actually the accounts show a debt to George of £2.12.7½, which would turn into a credit when the sale of the livestock was included. It is not known which Thomas Coates this was, and there are a few possibilities; it could be Thomas, one of the nephews of William Coates and Mary (Bomford), Stephen’s aunt, and there were four such nephews all named Thomas and all Stephen’s cousins; it might be William and Mary’s brother, Thomas Coates of Killinboy, or it might even be one of the Knockanally Coates family who lived near Kilcock.

All the other payments were of small amounts, some of which are included with the present day price conversions in the second column

| £14. 5.7½ | £14.28  | To Mr Reilly funeral expence |
| 1. 6.0   | 1.30    | To my mother for Esther’s wages |
| 0.11.4½  | 0.57    | To my mother to pay Mary’s wages |
|          |         | (These were the only wages these girls received in seven months) |
| 0. 1.1   | 0.06    | To Reilly going to Clonfad with heifers. (A walk of about 50 miles there and back) |
| 0. 9.9   | 0.49    | To the slator for 6 days work at 1.7½ (This works out at 8 pence a day and a slator was a highly paid craftsman) |
| 0. 1.0   | 0.05    | 2 stone of salt (Large quantities of salt were used to preserve meat and vegetables) |
| 0. 1.8   | 0.08    | Fish |
| 0. 3.3   | 0.16    | One pound of onion seed |
| 0. 1.4   | 0.07    | Half pound of mustard |
| 0.12.6   | 0.62    | Half quarter of beef |
| 0.10.1½  | 0.51    | Two quarters of mutton (One quarter would be a quarter of the carcass) |
| 3. 8.3   | 3.41    | To Watt for his wages being out of his apprenticeship at which time he was to receive 3 Guineas or a heifer. (Watt figures a lot, clothes were made for him and his shoes were mended a few times) |
| 0. 2.8½  | 0.14    | Frize for breeches for Watt.” |
Baker, ‘apothecary’, blacksmith, and Mrs Kelly the ‘brewer’ all appear a few times.

Watt’s contract or indenture is not available, but in general apprentices at this time worked for seven years to learn a trade, and the master provided food, lodging and clothing. It would appear that Watt ‘being out of his apprenticeship’ stayed on and had recently started working for wages. I have used the ‘3 guineas or a heifer’ as the price of a heifer to calculate the turnover of cattle at this time.

It looks as though Stephen was staying with his elderly parents; Stephen aged about 68 and Elizabeth, at Rahinstown, which as suggested has recently been doubled in size. He contributed to the household expenses as shown by the payment of 13.7½ (0.68p) “To my mother for the use of the house”, and paid the wages of the two female servants, Esther and Mary. Brother George was also living at Rahinstown so the settlement of Stephen’s affairs was very much a family concern, which was then reported in these accounts to Isaac the younger in Dublin for action concerning probate.

15.10

Frances Jane Bomford

Frances Jane was the second daughter of Stephen the younger. It is not known how old she was at the time of the following deed when she bought a house in Dublin, but she was mentioned in Samuel Partridge’s will of 1774 (11.10) and she was probably a teenager then. A birth date of about 1760 would make her about 30 when she bought the Dublin house and this would be a reasonable age for her to leave Rahinstown and live in Dublin.

Frances Jane Buys a Dublin House

Reciting: On 30th September 1774 Sarah Archdale of Mount Eccles, Co Dublin widow, leased to Charles Boyd of Dublin the house on the south side of Denmark Street being part of the land of Mount Eccles in the townland of Ballybough, Co Dublin, for three lives at a rent of £50. On 13th August (1790?) Nicholas Daniel of Dublin sold the same house to Frances Jane Bomford, spinster of Rahinstown, for £600.

This is witnessed in this memorial.

Witnessed Trevor Bomford (her brother) (Book 438 Page 329 No 182949)

The house in Denmark Street belonged to someone else in 1835, the first year of the Street Directory in the Dublin Almanack.

Frances Jane and her husband were alive in 1825 and possibly living in Dublin, but it is not known when they died.

15.10.1

Marriage - Frances Jane and Col Cromwell Massy

The Marriage Licence Bonds Prerogative and the Hibernian Magazine record Frances Jane’s marriage to Lieutenant-Colonel Cromwell Massy in November 1800.

There is very little information about this couple, but Frances Jane was mentioned in her father’s will of 1804 and they were godparents of Robert George Mansergh, second son of Jane Rosetta Mansergh (Bomford), who was born in April 1825 (21.3.2). Since the baby was born in Dublin it is thought that Frances Jane and her husband, Colonel Massy, lived in Dublin. It is doubtful if they had any children, indeed Frances Jane must have been about 40 when she married. Colonel Cromwell Massy is not included in Burke under ‘Massy’ so he is not a direct relation of Maria Massy who married Frances Jane’s brother Robert. No mention of him could be found in the Army Lists in the Dublin Almanacks from 1777 to 1810 and this was probably because he served with the East India Company.

The British Museum catalogue of books (Ref pp42 8023 e 11 4) lists the “Diary of Colonel Cromwell Massy kept while a prisoner at Seringapatam”. This must be our Cromwell Massy.

There were four Mysore Wars in any of which Colonel Cromwell Massy could have been involved and captured. The 1st Mysore War (1766 - 1769) started with Colonel Joseph Smith’s small force winning, but ended, with Hyder Ali gaining the upper hand and getting within 5 miles of the British Residency at Madras.

The 2nd Mysore War (1779 - 1784) started disastrously for the British and Tipooky Sahib, Hyder Ali’s son, would have taken Madras in 1780 if Warren Hastings had not sent assistance from Bengal under Sir Eyre Coote.

The 3rd Mysore War started in 1789. Again Tipooky Sahib had the upper hand initially but the British, as usual slow to react, gathered troops and the war ended with the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.

The 4th and last Mysore War was initiated by Lord Mornington, Arthur Wellesley of Dangan Castle, Co Meath, later Marquis of Wellesley, because Tipooky Sahib had made an alliance with the
French. Seringapatam, Tippoo’s capital, was stormed in May 1799 and Tippoo was killed leading his troops in the breach.

My guess is that Cromwell Massy was captured early on in the 3rd Mysore War and was released from his prison in Seringapatam in 1792. I doubt that he would have had time to be released in 1799 after the 4th War, take the nine-month journey home by sail and arrange his marriage before November 1800. Someone will have to go to the British Museum and read his diary!

General Sir Eyre Coote who was instrumental in winning the 2nd Mysore War was from West Park, Co Tipperary. He married and his only son Eyre Coote (1806 – 1834) married in 1828 Elizabeth Rosetta Massy-Dawson, one of the daughters of James Hewitt Massy-Dawson of Ballynacourte. James Hewitt was the only brother of Maria who married Robert Bomford in 1792 (15.5.1 para 10). Thus Eyre Coote, who may have rescued Cromwell Massy, was to become related through marriage with both the Bomfords and Cromwell Massy.

15.11 Brief Concerning the Disputed Bog of Clonfad 1793

Petitioner John Fairfield, Leasee of Henry Cope Esq.
Defendant Stephen Bomford Esq.,

The petitioner declares that his lessee let to him that portion of Hightown in the possession of Stephen Bomford (i.e. the disputed bog) on 22nd November 1792. He “entered on 23rd November and was possessed of the premises until the Casual Ejector on 24th November ousted the pet (petitioner), which he lays to his damage of £100 Sterg.”

The Defendant (Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown) claims:

1. Clonfad, Hightown and Cunnera were formerly the property of Thomas Bomford.
2. Thomas Bomford died 4th February 1740 (actually the probate date) having made a will and appointed Patrick Sandys and James Tryrell his executors. They sold Hightown and Cunnera to Mark Whyte Esq. to pay off Debts and Legacies.
3. Mark Whyte sold Hightown and Cunnera for £1,960 to Mr Cope, father of the petitioner.
4. Stephen Bomford in “1757 possessed himself of the lands of Clonfad as Heir at Law of the said Thomas and has remained ever since in the quiet and undisturbed possession thereof.”

Notes:
There is no need to go into the bog dispute, we do not even know the outcome; the question for the court was: Did the 32 acre disputed bog belong to Clonfad (Bomford) or to Hightown (Cope)?

The brief however clarified a number of grey areas concerning the land and was accompanied by an interesting “Copy of a map annexed to a lease made by Mark Whyte Esq. to Edward Bomford, Gent, for 41 years from May 1749,” (See 10.2.1). Marked in red on the map is the disputed 32 acre bog “Which upon a late survey was found to be short of the contents of this map. Stephen Bomford Esq. having possessed himself of this bog as part of Clonfad.” The map was ‘Laid down by a scale of forty perches to an inch by Edward Purdon, 1746’; it is to be found in the documents under this date, 1793, and not 1749.

15.11.1 Clonfad

Although Clonfad may have been a Bomford property as early as 1677, the first lease we have is dated 1708 when Francis Heaton leased it to Thomas Bomford ‘for ever’ for a rent of £135. Later on Thomas leased it to his brother Edward. Edward had it until his death when it was passed on to his brother Stephen. It remained a Bomford property until about 1913, about 236 years.

Hightown

Hightown was also called Balloughter and included Cunnera or Quinera in the southern corner. It was also leased by Francis Heaton to Thomas, Bomford ‘for ever’ at a rent of £85. The first lease we have is dated January 1731 but there was an earlier one, if not two. Thomas leased it to Edward and Edward lived on the property, he became known as Edward of Hightown. On the death of Thomas it was sold as it says here ‘to pay off debts and legacies’. It was sold to Mark Whyte who leased back most of it to Edward for 41 years. When Edward died in 1756 Stephen inherited and retained it until the lease ran out in 1790, then Henry Cope purchased it.

The following comes from Lyon’s ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’,

“Henry Cope was appointed a Six Clerk in 1772 (Trevor Bomford was one in 1789) and was also MP for Phillipstown in 1790. He purchased the land of Hightown on which he built some houses, which were never finished and are still (Lyon’s time) called Cope’s Houses. He sold Hightown to Samuel Dopping, a barrister, of Lowtown.”

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15.11.2

Before we close this item, the documents include an undated letter from Richard Dardis
"Hilltown Pass, Rattin 2nd January

Honour Sir

I write you this line hoping you are well and mistres Bomford and family. If you could send me
the copy of the survey you got don (done) if cors (because) I must go be (by) that when it was the
governent and ... I hope your (you) wont disappoint as it is coming of (off) on next wednesday

Your Obedient Richard Dardis"

Although the spelling is not up to present day standards, Richard Dardis must have been highly
educated for the 1700’s, particularly since he was probably an Irish speaker at home. It is likely that he
was the Bomford agent covering Rattin, Clonfad and Hightown, their only Westmeath property. He
probably leased a farm there as well because in 1854 a Christopher Dardis had a 94-acre farm, which he
later split into two for his two sons, one of whom was evicted in 1899.

Without a date it is impossible to be certain to whom Richard was writing, nor about which
property. We only know that he is writing from Rattin and so the survey would concern Westmeath land.
The letter fits here as it sounds as though a court case is involved – ‘it is coming of on next wednesday’, and
‘the government’ is concerned.

15.12

Case of Bankruptcy

22nd December 1785

George Bomford of Rahenstown
William Coates of Staplestown, Co Kildare, merchant. (He might be the husband of Mary, George’s
aunt), and
George Holmes of Ann Street, Dublin,
all assignees of the goods and chattels of Richard Bryan, a bankrupt of Smithfield, Dublin, salesmaster and chapman, made over to Silvester Manwaring of Ormond
Market, poulterer, for £160 two stalls in Water Row in Ormond Market at a rent of
£30.                                                                                           (Book 372 Page 386 No 249254)

and on 1st February 1786
They made over to Nathan Cairds, chandler, one stall in Water Row, three stalls in Narrow Row, eleven stalls in Dawsons Row and one shop in Brush Row, all in
Ormond Market, Dublin, for the residue of the 31 years at the same terms as in the
previous lease.                                                                   (Book 369 Page 551 No 249753)

and on the same day
They made over for £360 to Charles McKiernan, merchant of Dublin, the stables on
both sides of Water Row in Ormond Market for the remaining years at the same
terms as in the previous lease.                                                         (Book 371 Page 358 No 249938)

All three deeds were witnessed and registered by Trevor Bomford, George’s younger brother, the
attorney.

15.12.1

Another Case of Bankruptcy

18th December 1787

James Coates, of Smithfields in the City of Dublin, salesmaster, dealer and chapman, is declared
a bankrupt by the Marquess of Buckingham, Lieutenant General and General Governor of the Kingdom
of Ireland. The major debt is to George Bomford of Rahenstown of £100 and upwards on the sale of cattle.

The Commissioners of Bankruptcy are Ambrose Smith, Brett Norton, Samuel Spencer, James
O’Hara and Peter Cantwell.

Signed with the Great Seal of Ireland by the Right Honourable James, Lord Viscount Lifford,
High Chancellor of Ireland (who was James Hewitt the first Viscount Lifford, died in 1789).

The circular seal, 15 centimetres across and 1½ deep, is, unfortunately damaged. It appears to
show on one side a prancing horse, and on the other a seated figure, presumably King George III,
surrounded by at least four other figures and a lion.

15.12.2

Deed of Assignment of the Bankrupt

A month later

Between 1. William Walker and George Bomford of Rahinstown
2. The Commissioners to the bankrupt James Coates, namely Ambrose Smith, Brett
Norton and Samuel Spencer
3. George Bomford and John Johnston, saddler of Dublin

The Bomfords of Rahinston
James Coates was declared a bankrupt of 18th December 1787. He had become indebted to George Bomford for cattle sales in Smithfield Market for upwards of £100, and also to John Johnston a saddler. Now George Bomford and William Walker are empowered to dispose of all the goods and chattels of James Coates in trust for the creditors. Signed William Walker, Ambrose Smith, Brett Norton, Samuel Spencer, George Bomford, and John Johnston.

George Bomford, now aged 29, has had his fingers burnt twice over the sale of his cattle, to the tune of £100 from James Coates and probably more from Richard Bryan. £100 represented about 30 beasts calculated from the amount due to the apprentice Watt of ‘3 guineas or a heifer’ (15.9). These sales further confirm that George’s land was primarily under cattle, as was so much of the Bomford property up to now.

It is thought that this James Coates was not a relation of William Coates who married Mary Bomford; George would hardly have had his cousin’s relations declared bankrupt.

15.13 Leases & Purchase of Drumlargon 1787 - 1808

The following five documents give the background to the final purchase in 1808 of Drumlargon, Knockstown, Clonlyon, Monaloy and Ordnellstown by George Bomford. This is a major purchase of over 1,200 statute acres, and Drumlargon House will become the home of many Bomfords.

All those places in the Barony of Deece mentioned in the first deed of 1708 will become George’s.

15.13.1 John Osborn’s Deed of Settlement 22nd April 1708

John Osborn, late of the City of London, Silk Dyer, but now of Ballgeen, Co Meath, and his wife Anne, gave for 120 years, the lands of...(see below)...to Henry Tennison of the City of Dublin, and to Richard Rogers of Ballgeen for £200 a year to be paid to him or his wife Anne, whichever lives the longer.

However the land is to be farmed by Bryan Osborn and Anne his wife, of Thomastown, Co Louth. Anne is the eldest daughter of John and Anne Osborn (above). Bryan Osborn is to be ‘aided’ by Thomas Kirkwood and Arthur Knox, both merchants in the City of Dublin. (‘Aided’ may indicate that Kirkwood and Knox were executors of daughter Anne’s marriage settlement.)

In the Barony of Deece
- Dromlorgan
- Dunganstown or Balldungan
- Ordnellstowne or Edinstowne
- Knockbegg or Knockturin
- Part of Monatry

(These are all to become Bomford properties)

In the Barony of Duleek
Ballgeene (1 mile west of Ardcafe, now called Ballgeeth)

In the Barony of Slane
- Shalvinstowne or Slaveingstowne
- Hilltowne
- Tankardstowne
- Ralangstowne or Rawlingstowne
- Bathsland in Ardcafe
- Rabranletemple or Rabran Church
- Brownestowne
- Part of Hopkinstowne called Osbornsland

(These are all to become Bomford properties)

In the Barony of Morgallen
Willkinstowne called Osbornsbogg

(Half way between Oristown and Rathkenny, 4 miles west of Tankardstown).

Signed John Osborn, Ann Osborn, Hen Tenison, Richd Rogers, Nath Boyes, Bry Osborn

Since they signed the deed, it is thought that perhaps Henry Tennison who died in 1709 and Richard Rogers who died in 1726 got the land by a mortgage to John Osborn. Henry Tennison of Dillonstown, Co Louth, a barrister and MP, whose daughter married Nicholas Coddington in 1722, died the year after this deed of settlement.

15.13.2 Lease - Drumlargon & Knockturin 28th February 1795

Reciting the deed of 15th March 1787 (missing) in which Dixie Coddington leased to George Bomford the town and lands of Dunganstown, Drumlargon, and Knockturn for the life of
The Bomfords of Rahinstown

George Bomford or 41 years whichever is longer at a rent of £796.5.0

Now Dixie Coddington of Boyne Hill, Co Meath, leases to George Bomford of Rahinstown the above lands with the bog of Drumlargan containing 742 plantation acres (1202 statute) in the Parish of Drumlargan and Killmore for the lives of

George Bomford (and his brothers)  
Trevor Bomford and  
Ephraim Bomford at a rent of £796.5.0

Reciting that when Dixie Coddington has paid off the mortgage of £5,000 on these lands to Charles Furrer (Farran) of Dublin, or if George Bomford should do so, then Dixie Coddington will grant a fee farm lease for ever.

Signed Dixie Coddington
Witnessed Thomas L’Estrange

John Byers (Book 487 Page 206 No 312531)

Thomas L’Estrange is most probably Thomas St Quintin L’Estrange, (1755 - c1845), the fourth son of Ann (Bomford) and Samuel L’Estrange, and so George Bomford’s first cousin. (15.1.1)

15.13.3
 Lease - Drumlargan, Knockturin etc  31st October 1803

Henry Coddington the elder of Oldbridge, Co Meath, heir at law of Dixie Coddington late of Boyne Hill (died 28th May 1795), and Henry Coddington of Dublin, second son of Henry Coddington the elder, leases to George Bomford of Rahinstown the town and lands of

Dromlargan
Balldungan or Dunganstown
Ardelstown or Edinstown
Part of Clonlyon
Part of Moiralvy or Moneley and
Knock or Knockturin, for ever.

Signed Henry Coddington George Bomford
Witnessed Miles O’Reilly of Dublin, William Jones, Dublin Merchant  (Book 562 Page 463 No 375039)

This is the first mention of Myles O’Reilly who is George’s solicitor, and it looks as though he took over from Trevor Bomford when he died in 1797. If this is so, Myles was the Bomford solicitor for 40 years and guided the family until after George’s son came of age.

15.13.4
 Lease - Drumlargan, Knockturin etc  1st May 1805

Between 1. George Thompson of Dublin, executor of Elinor Wade, late of Batchelor’s Lodge, Co Meath, spinster, and of Christopher Wade of Batchelor’s Lodge  
2. John Wade of Batchelor’s Lodge, nephew and heir of Hamlet and Christopher Wade.  
3. Rev John McCausland of Drumcree Glebe, Co Westmeath, and Hannah McCausel and his wife who was formerly Gerard and Wynne  
4. George Bomford of Rahenstown  
5. Myles O’Reilly of Dublin, Attorney at Law

On 17th May 1788 Dixie Coddington leased to Christopher Wade and Hamlet Wade the lands of Dunganstown, Drumlargan and Knockturin with the bog containing 742 plantation acres (1202 statute) in the Parishes of Drumlargan and Kilmore.

However the Wades could not continue payment so now George Bomford produced £500 and took over their lease.  (Book 579 Page 104 No 388758)

I find it hard to reconcile this lease, which recites May 1788 in which Dixie leases the land to the Wades and that of the 1795 lease, which recites March 1787 in which Dixie leases the land to George Bomford. However it is only a question of timing, the outcome remains the same.

According to Lewis, John Wade was living at Bachelor’s Lodge in 1838 and he describes it as a ‘neat residence’. The Wade family are still living there now.

15.13.5
 Final Settlement of Drumlargan etc  11th July 1808

Between 1. Charles Farran, City of Dublin, and  
2. George Bomford, formerly of Rahinstown but now of Clarkstown.

Reciting 1. The lease of 31st October 1803 (quoted almost the same as above)  
2. 28th August 1792 in which Dixie Coddington, now deceased, mortgaged for £5,000 to Charles Farran the lands of Drumlargan (etc, as listed before)  
3. Charles Farran obtained judgement in court and Dixie Coddington had to pay the
penalty figure of £10,000.
4. Dixie Coddington died on 28th May 1795 and Henry Coddington the elder inherited
5. Henry Coddington hands over all the lands to George Bomford who is to payoff the
mortgage to Charles Farran
6. George Bomford paid £5,000 to Charles Farran on 3rd June 1806
7. Charles Farran agrees that the other £5,000 shall remain as a mortgage on the lands.
This indenture states that George Bomford is now the outright owner of Drumlargan and the
other land, subject to the £5,000 mortgage. Drawn up by Myles O’Reilly.

15.13.6
Summary of Drumlargan Leases

1708 Henry Tenison and Richard Rogers got the land by mortgage from John Osborne and leased it
to Bryan Osborne and his wife Anne, eldest daughter of John Osborne. They died and the land
passed to Dixie Coddington who was the grandson of Henry Tenison and grand-nephew of
John Osborne.
1787 Dixie Coddington (1727-1795) leased Drumlargan and Knockturin (Knockstown), to George
Bomford for 41 years at a rent of £796.5.0.
1788 Dixie Coddington appears to have leased the land to Christopher Wade.
1792 Dixie Coddington mortgaged the lands to Charles Farran for £5,000.
1795 The lease to George Bomford is of three lives and the acreage is 1,202 statute acres. Dixie
Coddington agrees to grant a fee farm lease for ever once the mortgage of £5,000 is paid.
1803 Dixie has died, and Henry Coddington has inherited. Now the mortgage penalty figure of
£10,000 has to be paid to Charles Farran.
1805 George Bomford takes over the Wade lease for £500. Perhaps Wade was a middleman but this
is uncertain.
1808 George settled the £5,000 mortgage in June 1806 and to cover the other £5,000 he took a
mortgage with Charles Farran for that amount. One assumes that the lease is now free farm and
that the £796 rent is no longer paid.
1815 The indenture for the final payment gives the agreed purchase price as £16,000 and not £10,000
as appears to be the price from these deeds. The mix-up over the price is because Anne Dallas
was owed money by Dixie Coddington as early as 1789, and this debt which only appears in the
deed of 1815 (20.8) was also passed to George Bomford.

1202 acres for £10,000 works out at £8.25 an acre, and for £16,000 at £13.35, both of which
figures were high for those years, but it is rent-free and is prime land. It used to be said in the family that
it was the best land in Meath and that it was a mistake to stop farming Drumlargan and move to Oakley
Park where the land was not nearly so good.

15.13.7
The Coddington Family

As can be seen from the Coddington family tree the story of Drumlargan was largely a family affair.
Oldbridge, overlooking the site of the Battle of the Boyne, was bought in 1729 from the 5th Earl of Drogheda, and was sold by Major Dixie Coddington in the 1980’s.

John Coddington, 1691-1740, had just one son, John, who was drowned in the Boyne the day he came of age, 1736.

Anna Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Nicholas Coddington 1765 - 1837, married in 1826 John FitzHerbert Ruxton of Ardee House. His nephew was George William Ruxton of Rahanna who in 1865 married Arbella Anna Bomford (30.4).

Gaynor Barry held the mortgage on Clounstown of William Bomford. William had to sell Clounstown in 1784 to repay the mortgage and to settle his father’s legacies.

15.13.8 Townland Place Names & Position

In the hundred years, 1708 to 1808, the place names have changed and much time has been spent identifying and siting them. Even now they have not all been placed, largely because the boundaries have been changed

1. Dromlorgan is Dromlorgan, both a parish and a townland. Balldungan or Dunganstown is the only other townland in the Parish of Drumlargan and lies in the southwest corner of that parish.

The 1654 Civil Survey states, “The parish of Dromlargin is bounded on the east with Clonlion, on the west with the land of Knock in the Barrony of Moyfenragh, on the north with the lands of Moynalvy, on the south with the Parish of Gallow. In the sayd Parish are the townes of Dromlargine 336 acres (544 statute) including 100 acres (162 statute) of bogg, on the premisses a church. Dunganstowne 156 acres (253 statute) including 30 acres (49 statute) of bogg.”

A hill in the townland of Drumlargan is known as Dungan’s Hill and the Battle of Drumlargan (1647) is sometimes referred to as the Battle of Dungan’s Hill. The bog into which the Irish retreated is to the west of Dungan’s Hill (15.13.9).

The Church of Drumlargan was falling down in the 1680’s according to Bishop Dopping’s Visitation. The last clergyman there was Henry Moneypenny and in 1674 the Church was shut down (15.13.10).

The house on Drumlargan was originally called Bloomfield. At the end of the 1600’s it was “of the type with a separate large stone house on each side of the mansion for male and female servants”. In the early 1700’s this winged mansion was either pulled down or adapted, and the result formed the basis for the present Drumlargan House. This building has a plain stone tablet let into the wall high above the front door with the letters ‘B’ above, ‘T’ and ‘E’ on the left and right sides, and with a Tudor five-petalled rose in the centre with ‘1724’ below. It is not known what the letters stand for and they may date back to the original house or even to the Tudor period, 1724 is probably the date of the rebuilding.

The house was still called Bloomfield in the survey of 1836 which says: “Bloomfield is a tolerably good house, at present occupied by a herd, formerly the residence of Mr Purdon, but it is going into a further ruinous state as time goes on.” A Mr P.E. Purdon leased 197 statute acres when George Bomford died and so he was probably living in Bloomfield at this date. (20.10).

Burke’s Guide to Country Houses says of Drumlargan: “A two storey double gable-ended house, probably early c18 but with c19 windows and a c19 two storey gabled projecting porch.” This agrees substantially with the above. George Bomford the younger repaired the house and no doubt made the additions at the same time, but more of that later on.

2. Clonlyon

Orenstown, Ardnelstown, Edenstowne and Edinstown are all the same place. It is not a townland and the name appears to be lost now. The only reference found is in the 1685 map of Meath, which shows Edenstowne in a vague area south of Kilmore, west of Mullagh, north of ‘Gallo’ and east of ‘Dromlary’. It is not possible to place it more accurately. My guess is that it was a sub-division of one of these places but not Gallow, and I have included it with Drumlargan.

3. Clonlyon

Clonlyon or Clonlion is in the Parish of Kilmore and joins the east end of Drumlargan. The Civil Survey of 1654 gives its area as 194 plantation acres (314 statute). By 1836 it was all owned by “Mr Magill from whom Mr Purdon of Ardrum holds the whole”. There were no Bomfords listed in the Rateable Properties of 1854.
The Bomfords of Rahinstown

and the house was then occupied by Mr Edward Purdon. It looks as though the ‘part of Clonlyn’, occupied by George Bomford in the 1803 lease, was either sold which is unlikely, or, most likely, the boundaries were changed by 1836.

4. Knockstown

Knock, Knockbegg, Killknockturin, Knockturn, Nockturn, and Adamstown are all the same place in the Parish of Kilmore in the Barony of Deece. It is not the Knockstown listed in the 1654 Survey which is in the wrong parish and is too far to the north; nor is it the Knock in the Parish of Laracor which is in the wrong Barony, that of Moyfenrath; this latter Knock was owned by the Rowley family and is situated to the north of Agher and south of Clonmahon.

The 1836 Survey places it correctly between Clonlyn and Moynalvy in the Parish of Kilmore. This confirms that the boundaries were changed and, in 1836, Knockstown consisted of “322 acres the property of Mr George Bomford of Agher and Mr Philips of Dublin, the latter has 60 acres known as Ash Green. Mr Philips last lived in Ash Green House in 1798 since when it has been going to Wrack and Ruin and now only the walls are standing.” (He was chased out of the house during the 1798 Rising, abandoned everything, and fled to Dublin where he died in 1802 24.8.2).

“George Bomford has the rest (262 acres) in farms at £1.12.6 an acre.”

By 1854 George Bomford the younger must have taken over the 60 acres of Mr Philips because the valuation of that year states, “George Bomford has it all. He farms 123 acres and has leased 199 acres”. The list of tenants will be found in paragraph 29.4.

5. Moynalvy

in the Parish of Kilmore has the largest variety of names - Moinalvy, Moynaluy, Monloy, Monatry, Moynalvey, Moinaluy, Moneloy, Monahey and Monaley, - and this comes about from anglicizing the Irish name which means ‘The Four Masters’. It is also a good example of the difficulty of identifying places, Monloy and Monatry are not easily recognised as the same place, and needs corroborative evidence. In 1654 it consisted of 338 plantation acres (548 statute) and was just north of Drumlargan and Clonlyn.

In 1838 it consisted of 740 statute acres but the townland borders must have been changed because it is now north of Ballygortagh and Knockstown. We are concerned with ‘part of Moynalvy’ and it has been assumed that that part was included in Knockstown. No Bomford was listed in 1838 in the records of Moynalvy.

It is apparent that the townland borders changed between these deeds and 1838, and of all the lands listed in the deeds the only ones I have recorded are those of Drumlargan and Knockstown. This is because Drumlargan consisted of Dunganstown, probably Ordnellstown, and possibly ‘part of Clonlyn’; and Knockstown probably took in ‘part of Moynalvy’. This agrees quite well with the statute acreage of those places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1795</td>
<td>Bomford deeds total</td>
<td>1202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey</td>
<td>1242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>Rateable Properties</td>
<td>1205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

George Bomford now has a sizeable block of land close to Gallow and Rahinstown, which later will be based on Drumlargan House where many of the family lived later on.

15.13.9 The Battle of Drumlargan 8th August 1647

The 1685 map of Meath shows, “Dromlary here a flight Dunganstowne”. The ‘flight’ was a major battle and the turning point in the Cromwellian War, and occurred really by accident on 8th August 1647.

Colonel Michael Jones (2.5.1) and his Parliamentary Army left Dublin on 1st August to gather reinforcements to attack the town. He collected some reinforcements at Skyrne (Skreen) and travelling by Trimblestown he reached Drumlargan early on the 8th August. There he was surprised to find Richard Preston, Earl of Desmond, and his Confederate Army who had spent the previous night near Agher, having successfully besieged Trim.

Both armies were heading for Dublin, Preston to relieve it and Jones to attack it, but they had to fight each other on meeting face to face. The result was disastrous for the Confederate Army who were all lost except for the Company of Horse. The Confederate Horse were driven off the field and fled, leaving the infantry numbering about 6,000 at the mercy of Jones. To avoid Jones’ cavalry the Irish infantry retreated into Dunganstown bog which was very small, only about 30 acres, and so wet that the men sank in one or two feet making it impossible for them to fight. Jones surrounded the bog and massacred all 6,000.
It was said that ‘more Irishmen were lost in Dunganstown Bog in this battle than were ever lost before or since’. It remains a mystery where these 6,000 men were buried; it was assumed in the bog, but the bog was trenched, drained and planted about 1970 and not one body was found.

15.13.10 The Church of Drumlargan

Drumlargan was a parish and as with all Irish parishes it had its own church at some date. Drumlargan Church was shut down in 1674 during the time when Henry Jones (1605-81), brother of Colonel Michael, was Bishop of Meath from 1661 to 1682 (2.5.1). The next Bishop of Meath was Antony Dopping (1643 - 1697) (9.3.6). It is from the Dopping ‘Visitations’ of 1682-85 that the following was found concerning Drumlargan Church.

“The Rector is Henry Monypenny. The Popish schoolmaster is Fitzsimons. No Protestants in the Parish. Church and Chancel are down, and all church furniture and fittings are wanting. Graveyard unfenced.”

After the closure of Drumlargan Church in 1674, Henry Moneypenny became the Rector of Gallow Church from 1674 to 1682 and Drumlargan Parish was combined with Gallow. In 1682 Gallow Church was also shut down and the Parishes of Drumlargan and Gallow were combined with Rodanstown (also called Balroddan or Roddanstown) and Henry Moneypenny became the rector of the united parishes. It was of these combined parishes that John Bomford was Rector from 1755 to 1776.

A church record of 1723 says that Drumlargan “has a popish priest and a mass house, 30 families reside there as well as 17 families of the established religion (Protestant) and two Protestant dissenting families” a total of 49 families which had dropped to a dozen or so in 1854; another illustration of the decrease in population, nearly all due to the famine and emigration.

In 1865 someone fenced the Drumlargan graveyard, according to Dr Beryl Moore. This was most likely to have been George Bomford of Oakley Park who between 1868 and 1871 carried out improvements, costing about £2,500, to Drumlargan lands and the fencing probably took place between those dates rather than 1865.
Chapter XVI

David & his Brother Isaac &
Townland Maps

1780 – c1800

This chapter starts with an up-date of David and his family to 1800, of his brother Isaac and his family to 1803 and ends with a summary the Bomfords and their estates at the turn of the century, together with Townland maps.

16.1

In 1776 the Reverend John Bomford died and left his property to his brothers David, aged 46, and Isaac, about the same age, indeed it could be argued that they were twins. David inherited just over 1,200 acres, which he leased; he also had property in Dublin. Isaac inherited Ferrans and Tyrrellstown amounting to 776 acres and he too had Dublin property.

16.1.1 David Bomford 1780

In 1780 David was living in Dublin as a merchant probably in the grocery business, and soon after he went to work in the Post Office (11.8) His marriage to Sarah Burtchaell occurred in 1756 (8.11) and in 1780 there were four children alive, three girls and a boy; the fourth child, Mary Elizabeth, ‘died young’ and so may be dead. There was also the illegitimate son Stephen (11.9) who died in 1782 in India.

Sometime in the late 1780’s or early 1790’s David, then aged about 60, his wife and one unmarried daughter, Sarah Frances, moved to Gallow, which had probably been empty since the Rev John died in 1776, and started farming some of his land.

16.1.2 In 1780 David’s family had all been born

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Bomford</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>m December 1756 d 1809 (19.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah, daughter of David Burtchaell of Brownstown, Co Kildare</td>
<td>died 1815 or early 1816 (19.6.2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>b c1762</td>
<td>m (16.2) aged c18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne</td>
<td>b c1764</td>
<td>m (16.3) aged c16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac baptised</td>
<td>31st March 1766</td>
<td>(See 16.4 &amp; 19.5) aged 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Elizabeth</td>
<td>baptised 28th September 1768</td>
<td>died ‘young’ aged 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Frances</td>
<td>b c1770</td>
<td>m (19.4) aged c10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16.1.3 Isaac Bomford 1780

In 1780 Isaac was an attorney at the Court of the Exchequer and was living in Dublin, so his land was leased. His earlier life is recorded in paragraph 11.14 and his marriage to Sarah Mathews in 1756 in paragraph 8.10. They had one daughter, Anne Trevor Bomford, who in 1780 must be in her late teens or early 20’s; she married in 1791 (16.7).

When Isaac died (16.6) he left Ferrans and Tyrrellstown to his nephew, David’s son Isaac, and so all the Rev John’s property ended up in his hands.

In this section there are two property deeds –

16.1.4 Lease - Gurteen 9th February 1781

David and Isaac Bomford both of Dublin lease to David Jones of Clonmoyle, Co Westmeath, the land of Gurteen 358 Irish acres (580 statute) in the Parish of Lynn, Co Westmeath, bounded on the north by Clonmoyle, for 31 years. (Book 339 Page 43 No 226877)

The last lease of Gurteen was in 1738 by Stephen the elder to David Jones of Clonmoyle; this David must be his son. Gurteen came to Stephen the younger who left it to the Rev John, and he in turn left it to the brothers, David and Isaac. The rent in 1738 was £169.4.9 and since there is very little difference in the area that figure probably remains, and the rent shared between the two brothers. There being no further mention of Gurteen in the deeds it has been removed as a Bomford property at the end of this lease, in 1812.

16.1.5 Lease - Kilglan 19th February 1788

David Bomford hands over the land of Kilglan, Co Meath, containing 40 plantation acres (65 statute) for 999 years to John Nugent Wade. (Book 387 Page 369 No 262062)

Witnessed Isaac Bomford of Dublin
Kilglan, meaning the ‘wood of the glen’, is in the Parish of Balfeaghan or Balfechan. The 1654 survey records it as containing 123 plantation acres (199 statute), and lying east of Ferrans and north of the ‘Rye Watter’ with ‘on the premisses a stone house’.

The 65 acres of the lease is only a small part of Kilglan and most likely that part adjacent to Ferrans; this would give David a block of nearly 1,100 acres including Gallow and Ferrans.

By 1836 it contained 336 statute acres and was the property of Colonel Friend of Portarlington, leased by Mr Tew of Dublin and he sub-let it at 23/- an acre. Again the boundaries must have been changed.

There is no other mention concerning the Bomfords at Kilglan and this lease must remain a bit of a mystery. The Royal Canal was driven through this area about 1795 and the Rye water was diverted; the Canal Company compulsorily purchased the south end of both Ferrans and Kilglan and it is possible that the area of this lease was involved.

In 1805 George Bomford took over the Wade family lease of Drumlargan, and in this deed there is mention of John Wade of Bachelor’s Lodge; this John Wade and the John Nugent Wade of this lease may be the same person, but even if not they are probably related.

16.2 Marriage - Jane Bomford & Duke Cooper August 1785

Jane Bomford, David’s eldest child, must have been born around 1762 so she must have been about 23, when she married. The Diocese of Dublin issued the marriage licence so that was where they were married.

“Bomford, Jane, and Duke Cooper, 1785, ML Page 291”.

Betham gives more detail,

“Cooper, Duke, of Great Down, Co Westmeath, Gent, and Jane Bomford of the Parish of St Peter, Dublin, spinster, 12th August 1785”,

and the Hibernian Magazine of August 1785 page 448 records

“Duke Cooper of Great Downe, Co Westmeath, to Miss Bomford, daughter of David Bomford of Camden Street, Dublin”.

One can assume that they were married from David and Sarah’s house at 64 Camden Street. It might be said that they went and lived at Great Down in Westmeath but I rather think that Duke Cooper worked in Dublin.

Great Down is about 4 miles from Mullingar on the north side of the road just before it forks to Killucan and Kinneberg, in the Parish of Killucan. The valuation of 1854 shows no Coopers there, so we must assume that the family had moved away. The house was rated in 1854 at £5, which would make it a very small one or very dilapidated, probably both; there is no sign of any house there now.

So far I have failed to find any reference to Duke Cooper, but there were other Coopers in the area who were likely to be related.

16.2.1 The Cooper Family

As far as our documents are concerned Duke Cooper was mentioned in the will of his father-in-law David (19.6) in which he was bequeathed ‘my Silver Snuff Box’, he is not mentioned again, so all that can be said about him is that he was alive in 1807.

Jane is not only mentioned in her father’s will but also in that of her brother, Isaac (23.4), so she was alive in 1835.

The children were mentioned in both wills, though neither will, contained a full list of them. The sequence of their births is not known except that John Cooper was the eldest son; they have been listed in the order they appear in the wills. They were all minors in 1807, thus the eldest might have been born in 1786 and the youngest about 1796:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jane eldest daughter of David Bomford of Gallow b c1762 m (ML) 12th Aug 1785 d ? (Alive in 1835)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Cooper eldest son, of Dublin b c1786 alive in 1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac b c1788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke b c1790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Mary b c1792 m before 1835 Mr Colbourn alive in 1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane b c1794 m before 1835 Mr Richardson alive in 1835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah b c1796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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It is interesting that Isaac, Duke and Sarah were not mentioned in their uncle Isaac’s will of 1835 and one wonders if they had died by then, at that date they would be in their 40’s.

16.3 Marriage - Anne Bomford & John North September 1786

Anne must have been born about 1764 and when she was about 22, just a year after her sister Jane was married, she married John North. The marriage licence was issued by the Diocese of Dublin and the Hibernian Magazine of September 1786, page 504, reports

“John North of Whitewell, Co Westmeath, to Miss Bomford, daughter of David Bomford of Camden Street”.

Betham gives a more precise date

“Miss Bomford, daughter of David Camden Street, married John North of Whitewell in September 1786”.

They were married in Dublin, probably from David’s house at 64 Camden Street.

16.3.1 Marriage Settlement 8th May 1786

Between 1. John North of Tyrellspass and Roger North of Whitewell, both in Co Westmeath
2. John North of Whitewell, eldest son and heir of Roger North
3. David Bomford of Camden Street, Dublin, and Anne Bomford, spinster, second daughter of David Bomford
4. Isaac Bomford, eldest son of David Bomford, and Roger North of Brackland, Co Westmeath

On July 1757 Thomas Smyth of Co Westmeath leased to John North of Tyrellspass the lands of Killbride known as Whitewell containing 240 plantation acres (389 statute) at a rent of £97.19.6 for the lives mentioned.

A marriage is intended between John North the younger and Anne Bomford, and this lease of Whitewell is made over to John North the younger. Now John North the younger makes the lease over to Isaac Bomford and Roger North of Brackland in trust for an annuity of £70 to Anne Bomford on his death, or, if she has no children, an annuity of £100.

Witnessed Isaac Bomford (Book 377 Page 288 No 252340)

Roger North of Brackland may be the son of Joseph North of Brackland, King’s Co, and so an uncle of John North and Anne, but (see 16.4.7.)

The Isaac Bomford who witnessed the deed is David’s brother; it cannot be his son since he is a party to the deed

Children of the marriage. Anne and John North had four children, three boys, John, David and Isaac, and a daughter whose name is not known. Their story will be found in Chapter 23.

16.3.2 Whitewell

Whitewell, which was also named Kilbride previously, is a half-mile south of Tyrellstown, which has been a Bomford property since about 1700 and now belongs to David Bomford. According to the settlement Whitewell was leased in 1757 by Thomas Smyth of Co Westmeath (the reference is too vague to place him) to John North of Tyrellspass which is about 10 miles south of Whitewell. John North was possibly a cousin of Roger North the father of our John North. The lease was made over in trust to Isaac Bomford, the eldest son of David, and Roger North of Brackland for an annuity to Anne Bomford about to be married.

Undoubtedly after the wedding Anne and John lived at and farmed Whitewell, certainly their three sons were all farmers; but by 1838 the family were not living there as the Ordnance Field Namebooks record

“Whitewell, Parish of Kilbride, 403 acres all arable and pasture. Contains a house and garden called Whitewell House, the seat of A Grose Esq.”

However by 1854 it was again occupied by John North, the eldest son, according to the Griffith’s Valuation.

16.4 The North Family

A number of Norths have appeared and some of them must be relatives of our John North of Whitewell. I have found no real ties to the various families, although one or two interesting connections
with these deeds have come to light. However I feel sure that many, if not all, of the Westmeath North’s must be related, and the following is produced to keep my notes intact and waiting for further clues which may come to light to tie them all together definitely.

The information, except where otherwise stated, all comes from the Betham will extracts, which record names and relationships, and a few places. These are shown as trees for each will and more fully in 16.4.6.

16.4.1  

Francis North

Francis North, attorney King’s Bench

(Deeds of 1709 2.4.1, of 1725 & 1726 4.4, of 1731 5.4.1)

Will dated 17th June and Proved 1st July 1738

His son Edward North was a ‘life’ in the deed of 1721 (3.2) when he was about 17. He is also mentioned in the deed of December 1734 (7.4), but he is not mentioned in Betham.

Francis parents are not mentioned but he had a brother and two sisters; one wonders whether the brother was not Joseph North of Newcastle Co Westmeath.

(A) The un-named daughter who married at St Mary’s Dublin Mr Connell could be Dorothy North. Dorothy was married the wife of Richard Connell, Clerk to Frances North. Richard appears in many deeds and was a friend of Thomas Bomford the elder, and it was to Richard Connell that Thomas wrote the letter of August 1739 (5.5).

16.4.2  

Joseph North

Joseph North of Newcastle, Co Westmeath, will dated 7th March 1728; probate August 1729, so he probably died in 1729.

Betham also records the will of his eldest son -

Roger North of Newcastle, will dated 23rd June 1765, probate 24th February 1766, he probably died in 1766

These two wills have been placed together as one tree and to them can be added the Bagot connection from the Grand Juries of Westmeath.
Bagot Family of Kilcoursey, King’s Co

The tie in of these two families is very clear from the sources, but to my mind there is a missing generation in the Bagot connection; it is difficult to reconcile Elizabeth North who was married in 1790 with her sister Mary who married Milo Bagot when Milo was not born until 1807.

The Bagot/North connection is not important to the Bomford story except that Milo Bagot appears in the Partridge will (11.10) and the family re-appears in Chapter 30 (30.3.2).

Charles Bagot of Kilcoursey | Temperence, sister of Francis Browne of Riverstown, Co Kildare
---|---
Eliza Bagot | Ulysses North | Milo Bagot
| d c1784 | Deed of 1774 (11.10)
---|---|---
Elizabeth North | Rev Charles Emilia Bagot of Kilcoursey | Mary North | Milo Bagot
m 1790 | | | b 1801

16.4.3 William North of Kilbride

William North of Kilbride, Co Westmeath, will 19th June 1782, probate 17th October 1783, so died c1783. He is not mentioned in the deeds.

The marriage settlement of May 1786 (16.3.1) records a lease of “Kilbride known as Whitewell”. Roger North, the father of John who married Anne Bomford, came from Whitewell so almost certainly the Roger of the deed and of this will is the same person and the father-in-law of Anne Bomford.

William North | d c1783 | ?? | d before 1782
---|---|---|---
Roger (Must be of Whitewell) | Joseph
---|---
John | m Sept 1786 | Anne Bomford

16.4.4 John North of Tyrellspass

John North of Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath, will 23rd April 1757, proved 30th September 1757, and so died in 1757.

Kilbride, known as Whitewell, was leased to either the father or to his son John in July 1757. It is difficult to say which John leased it because this was the year that John the elder died.

The marriage settlement of May 1786 mentions both John North of Tyrellspass (John the younger) and Roger North of Whitewell. These two were probably related and it is probable that John the elder was a son of Joseph of Newcastle. If so then John the younger and Roger of Whitewell were cousins.

John North of Tyrellspass | d 1757 | Anne
---|---|---
John of Tyrellspass | Thomas | Elizabeth | Sarah | Hannah | Mary

16.4.5 Roger North of Guilford

Roger North of Guilford, Co Westmeath, will dated 11th July 1787, proved 19th January 1791, so died c1790. He is not mentioned in any of the deeds, but he, his brother Richard and the un-named sister who married Robert Macky appear to be the grandchildren of Joseph North of Newcastle. It follows therefore that the un-named sister must be Susannah.

Roger North of Guilford, d c1790 | Elizabeth | Richard North
---|---|---
| ? Susannah? | m Robert Macky
---|---|---|---
Mary | Jane | (They might be one daughter named ‘Mary Jane’)

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Placing all these together and assuming that the correct connections have been made, the North family of Westmeath might look like this-

1. Joseph and Roger North of Brackland
2. William North of Clonfad

1. Roger North of Brackland, Co Westmeath, who with Isaac Bomford, was a trustee of the North-Bomford marriage settlement of 16.3.1. Vicars records the will of “Joseph North of Brackland, King’s Co, 1786”, but no entry could be found in the Betham extracts. He might be the son of Joseph of Newcastle and the father of Roger of Brackland. The snag to this is that one Brackland is recorded in King’s Co and the other in Co Westmeath; mistakes do occur so this connection has been included with question marks.

2. The only North of the 1700’s not included in the above is William North of Clonfad, Co Westmeath, who died in 1800 according to Vicar’s prerogative wills. This is of interest because Clonfad was a Bomford property and William North must have been a tenant of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown. To stretch a point he might just be a younger son of Roger of Whitewell who had other children (16.4.3), and so a brother-in-law of Anne Bomford. Another William North of Clonfad, Co Westmeath, probably the eldest son who inherited, married Maria, daughter of Richard Homan in April 1806 (extract from Hibernian Magazine).
David’s only son, Isaac (the younger), has a number of entries in Watson’s and Wilson’s Almanack in which he is titled ‘Isaac Bomford Junior’ to differentiate him from his uncle, Isaac (the elder). For the years 1788-90 he is listed as “Attorney of the Court of The Exchequer, of Camden Street”.

Isaac was baptised on 31st March 1766, so in 1788 he would be aged 22 and just qualified as an attorney. No doubt he was trained by his uncle, Isaac the elder, and living at his father’s town house at 64 Camden Street where his father moved to in 1778. David’s last Almanack entry at this address was in 1786 which matches quite well with Isaac being ‘of Camden Street’ in 1788.

His next Almanack entry is from 1803 to 1807 when he was listed as a “Commissioner of Affidavits in Meath for the Courts of the King’s Bench, Common Pleas, and the Court of the Exchequer.”

This entry sounds as though he had moved from Dublin back to Co Meath and to Gallow. Isaac’s father David was to die in 1809, aged about 80, and it is possible that Isaac in 1791 moved to Gallow where his parents were then living, 1791 being the year after his last listing ‘of Camden Street’.

This matches very well with the story of 1798, which my father got from John George North-Bomford, 1883-1965, and had inserted in Burke.

Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington, but then Major General, and his older brother William, later the 3rd Earl of Mornington, were staying at Dangan Castle when they were disturbed by raiders. The two brothers had to flee and the only transport to be found quickly were two carthorses. They galloped off down the road making for the garrison town of Kilcock, but after a few miles their horses were blown. However they made Gallow where Isaac gave them fresh mounts and they reached Kilcock safely. Meanwhile the ‘raiders’ arrived at Gallow in hot pursuit and found no fresh mounts for themselves there because Isaac had sent all the other horses across the fields to the Winters at Agher. However whilst their horses were having a breather, Isaac or his father David invited all the pursuers into the house where they all became drunk on a barrel of porter. There is no backing to this story but it would hardly have been passed down through the generations if it had not been founded on truth; ‘JG’ North-Bomford was particularly pleased that if it was not for his relative Isaac’s quick thinking, the Duke of Wellington might have been killed and thus the Battle of Waterloo might have been lost and the future of the British Empire in doubt: As an interesting sideline over a hundred years later, raiders arrived at Oakley Park during the ‘troubles’; they wanted to burn down the house but George Lyndon Bomford got them intoxicated, and after a night of drinking they parted the best of friends.

But to return to Isaac - Against the move to Gallow in 1791 there are three deeds, which place him as being ‘of Dublin’.

1. 1st May 1793  Isaac Bomford of Dublin is mentioned as a trustee of the reconveyance of a mortgage between Dorcas Winter, widow of Dublin, and Richard Griffith.
   (Book 495 Page 64 No 321262)

2. 23rd December 1794  Isaac Bomford of Dublin and William Marshal, merchant of Clones Co Monaghan, were the trustees of a settlement dated 16th June 1792 made after the marriage of Richard Griffith and Eliza Griffith (Wailer) his wife of Dublin.
   (Book 482 Page 364 No 311204)
This marriage settlement crops up again on 6th May 1825 In which Isaac Bomford of Blessington Street, Dublin, with the consent of Richard Griffiths of Kellenuere, Co Cavan, leases to George Moore of Analore, Co Monaghan, land in Co Cavan and Monaghan.
   (Book 803 Page 237 No 541972)

3. 1st March 1799  Isaac Bomford of Dublin is mentioned as the trustee of another mortgage.
   (Book 494 Page 679 No 339531)

Altogether it is not possible to say whether Isaac ever lived at Gallow permanently. It seems that he was content to be an attorney based in Dublin and left the business of farming to his father and the tenants, only going to Gallow for visits.

Isaac’s marriage and later life will be found under (see 19.5.).

16.6  Isaac Bomford the Elder 1730-1793

Isaac, the youngest of Stephen of Gallow’s boys, was born about 1730 and has been an attorney since about 1750 (11.14). In 1756 he married Sarah Mathews (8.10). They lived in Dublin and had one child, a daughter named Anne Trevor; she married and had four children (see below).
Isaac took on the training as attorneys of his two nephews, Trevor the son of his brother Stephen, and Isaac the son of his brother David, and they slowly took over his business so that he had virtually retired by 1790.

Isaac died aged about 63 in 1793 (prerogative wills). His will dated 2nd July 1792 is in Betham’s notebooks and reads

“Isaac Bomford of Dublin, Gent, 2nd July 1792 (will), 1793 (probate)
wife Sarah, daur Edw Mathews Esqr
daur Anne Trevor B, wife of Rev Newburgh Barroughs
nephew Isaac B, his lands of Fennans, Co Meath, and Tyrrellstown
brother Hill Mathews Esqr.”

So his nephew Isaac, the son of David, inherited Ferrans and Tyrrellstown and, eventually, became the owner of all the Rev John Bomford’s estates on the death of his father c1809.

16.6.1 Death of Sarah, Isaac’s Wife

It is not known when Sarah died, or where she lived after the death of Isaac, but she was alive in January 1803 as the following deed concerning Mathews’ property shows

6th January 1803 Mathews’ Property
Between 1. Sarah Bomford (Mathews), widow
Whillon Wilson and Jane Wilson (Mathews), his wife
Ann Hamilton (Mathews), widow
Mary Bland (Mathews), widow
Leslie Mathews, spinster
2. Edward Mathews of Dublin
3. Pat Clancy of Dublin (Gent, of Blackhall Street, died 1810)
4. Clement Barry of Dublin
Edward Mathews paid £3,300 to those of Party 1 for the land they leased in Co Down (all listed).

(Book 560 Page 30 No 371973)

All those in Party 1 were sisters, and the deed is probably a consequence of some settlement of their father, Edward Mathews, who died in 1758. The Edward Mathews of the deed (Party 2) was their brother who in 1803 was probably the oldest surviving son.

16.6.2 The Mathews Family

The will of Dorcas Williams was extracted from Betham in the belief that it was the will of our Dorcas Bomford who married Edward Williams of Trim. However this was not so and it turned out that Dorcas Williams was the sister of Edward Williams and the aunt of Isaac Bomford.

No Mathews family tree has been found but when we put together the sources we get a pretty good picture of Isaac Bomford’s in-laws. The sources are -

a. Will of Edward Mathews from Betham dated 10th January 1756 with probate on 19th June 1758 (8.10),
b. Will of Dorcas Williams from Betham dated 12th August 1781 with probate on 18th November 1783,
c. The above 1803 deed. This records ‘Willon’ Wilson, whereas the will of Dorcas records ‘Whitton’ Wilson.
d. Hill Mathews died intestate and administration was granted to his mother Sarah on 28th May 1794 (Eustace Wills).
e. Burke’s IFR includes the Bland family. Humphry Bland who married Mary Mathews was Captain in 62nd Regiment, and the second son of William Bland, Captain 8th Dragoons; his eldest brother John inherited Blandsfort House at Abbeyleix, a big square three story, five bay house built in 1715. John’s descendant, a great-great-grand-daughter, Lilian Emily Bland was the first woman to build and fly an aeroplane in the British Isles; she used whiskey poured through the ear-trumpet of her aunt to feed the engine on the maiden flight in 1910 of her plane, the ‘Mayfly’.
Anne Trevor Bomford is the only daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Mathews) and would be about 30 when she married. The marriage licence bonds prerogative from Betham’s notebooks record

“Boroughs Newborough and Bomford Anne Trevor of the Parish of St Paul, Diocese of Dublin, spinster, September 1791.”

Betham has got his name wrong; it should be ‘Burroughs, Newburgh’. Their marriage is also reported in the August 1791 issue of the Hibernian magazine on page 192-

“Rev Burroughs, Newburgh, (II) to Miss Anne Bomford, daughter of Isaac Bomford.”

The Magazine indicates that Anne was Newburgh’s second wife, but, although much has been found about Newburgh, no other mention of a previous wife has been found. The Magazine and the following marriage settlement both point to August as the month of the wedding, but the marriage licence was not issued until September 7th 1791.

16.7.1 Marriage Settlement 19th August 1791

Isaac Bomford of Dublin granted to Anne Trevor Bomford, spinster, his daughter, an annuity of £60 for life chargeable upon the lands of Ferrans alias Fenners, in the Barony of Deece.

(Book 449 Page 403 No 288506)

16.7.2 The Burroughs Family

From various sources including Isaac’s will of 1793 and the will of Isaac the younger of 1835 (23.4), but mainly from Canon Leslie’s Register, we know quite a lot about the Burroughs family.

Newburgh’s father was Lewis Burroughs, his grandfather was Francis Burroughs, and they both came from Co Derry. Lewis Burroughs was born in 1713 and got his MA at Trinity in 1739, and his Doctorate of Divinity in 1765. He was ordained in 1744 and died as Archdeacon of Derry in April 1786. He married Mary Cane of Larabryan, Co Kildare, and had a large family including Newburgh and the eldest son, William, who became a baronet and was Advocate-General of Bengal. Lewis was a poet of sorts and was an intimate friend of Frederick Hervey (1730-1803), 4th Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry who was known as an eccentric and capricious patron of the arts, became identified with the aspirations of Irish nationalism and showed sympathy with the suppressed Catholic majority. The Earl Bishop befriended Lewis’s widow and family who lived at Ballyscullion when Lewis died in 1786. His widow Mary died at Bury in 1800.
Newburgh, the second son, was ordained in 1776 and served in a couple of parishes. The year after his father died he became Rector of Ballyscullion, his home parish, which no doubt was arranged by the Bishop, He remained there until 1795, and it was no doubt to the Rectory at Ballyscullion that he took his bride, Anne Trevor.

16.7.3 After the Marriage

Whilst at Ballyscullion, Newburgh was also Domestic Chaplain to John Frederick Sackville the 3rd Duke of Dorset who at that time was British Ambassador in Paris; a difficult post as the Duke was there before, during and after the French Revolution. On occasions Anne travelled to Paris with her husband.

Newburgh, like his father, seems to have been ‘persona grata’ with his Bishop, the Earl of Bristol. However in 1796 a disagreement arose between them and Newburgh and his wife Anne visited the Bishop at his request on the Continent, agreement was reached, and they became friends again.

They had three sons and a daughter; the eldest son was named Sackville Burroughs, no doubt named after the Duke of Dorset, the other two were William Hamilton Burroughs and James Lewis Burroughs. The daughter Selina Burroughs seems to have been a favourite of the Bishop and he evidently helped her after her parent’s death; Newburgh died in 1798 and Anne must have died soon after him, say c1800, because the Bishop who himself died in 1803 helped Selina ‘after her parent’s death’. Selina could only have been about 10 when the Bishop died. The three sons are all mentioned in Isaac the younger’s will of 1835 so they were all alive then and apparently unmarried, but there is no mention of Selina so she may have died before 1835.

Anne’s father Isaac died in 1793 (16.6) and Newburgh must have disputed Isaac’s will as there is a Cause Paper entitled “Bomford against Burroughs, will, 1793, name of deceased Isaac Bomford”

No argument against the will has been found but I guess that it must be concerning the bequest of the land to his nephew, Isaac. No doubt Newburg felt that the land should have gone to Isaac’s only child, his wife Anne, and so to their children. Some private agreement may have been reached because, in Isaac the younger’s will of 1835, there is a bequest of £150 to each of the Burroughs boys.

The friendship of Newburgh and his father with their Bishop, the Earl of Bristol, may have been responsible for his introduction to the Bomford family. One of the Earl’s daughters, Elizabeth, married John Thomas Foster of Dunleer in 1776. John Thomas Foster was a nephew of Mary and Thomas Bomford the younger of Rahinstown, and he was also the nephew of Margaret and Stephen Sibthorpe whose daughter, another Elizabeth married Stephen Bomford the younger of Rahinstown in 1745 (8.2.1). Isaac, Anne Trevor’s father, was the younger brother of both Thomas and Stephen Bomford and so no doubt he knew John Thomas Foster and had met the Earl Bishop and his entourage including the Burroughs.

As a postscript the Earl Bishop lived a life of luxury pandering to his three abiding passions. One passion was Italy where he spent long years to the neglect of his episcopal duties indulging his extravagant tastes in all things Italian. Building was another passion and he furnished his first extraordinary house at Downhill, Co Derry, with Italian paintings, marbles and so on. No sooner was Downhill finished than he started on his second house in 1787 at Ballyscullion which became known as the ‘Bishop’s Folly’; both were crammed with paintings and statuary acquired on his travels with a large and extravagant retinue, so large and extravagant that the Bristol Hotels found in practically every capital in Europe were named after him. It was at Ballyscullion that Mary Burroughs and her family were settled by the Earl Bishop soon after her husband Lewis died in 1786 and where her son Newburgh was made Rector and where Newburgh’s young wife, Anne Trevor Bomford, joined him in 1791. This leads us to the Earl Bishop’s third passion, the ladies. He made off with several married, unmarried and widowed ladies without any intention of marriage as he had a wife, nor was he in the least deterred if they at first demurred at being swept into bed. One cannot help but wonder whether Canon Leslie was not being kind when he recorded that Lewis Burroughs was an intimate friend of Frederick, the Earl Bishop, or whether in truth the intimate friend might not have been his wife or even later his daughter-in-law Anne Trevor.

16.8 Summary of Isaac and his Family

Burke’s entry of just the one word ‘Isaac’ can now be considerably improved to read -

“Isaac, Attorney of Dublin, born c1730, married 1756 Sarah, 3rd daughter of Edward Mathews, Public Notary of Dublin (d 1758), and died 1793. She died after 1803 leaving one daughter

Anne Trevor, b c1767, married (ML) 7th September 1791 Archdeacon of Derry Newburgh Burroughs, 2nd son of Lewis Burroughs (1713 - 1786) Archdeacon of Derry, Rector of Ballyscullion and...
Domestic Chaplain to 3rd Duke of Dorset. He died in 1798 and she c1800 leaving issue. There is a report
that Anne died and was buried at Lisbon, Portugal.
1. Sackville Burroughs, born c1792, alive 1835
2. William Hamilton Burroughs, born c1794, alive 1835
3. James Lewis Burroughs, born 1796, alive 1835
4. Selina. born c1798, died pre-1835

16.9 Summary of the Bomford Family

The descendants of Oliver of Cushenstown were recorded in Chapter 12 and those of Laurence of
Killeglan in Chapters 12 and 14. Their families soon die out, and the last of these branches are recorded in
the next chapter.

Only two grandchildren of Colonel Laurence are alive at the turn of the century, and they are
both the children of Stephen the elder of Gallow; they are
1. Stephen the younger and his wife Elizabeth (Sibthorpe) who are living at Rahinstown. They would be
both in their late 70’s.
2. David and his wife Sarah (Burtchaell) who were living at Gallow and would be in their early 70’s or
perhaps late 60’s

It is from these two that all later Bomfords stem and 1800 is a convenient time to record their
children who have all grown up.

Children of Stephen the younger of Rahinstown

1. Thomas the eldest son. Only two things are known about him, he was alive in 1774 and he
died before his father; actually he probably died soon after 1774 because he is not
mentioned in the later deeds and as the eldest son he should have been.
2. Robert is now the eldest son. He was born in 1751 so is now 49. For 20 years he served in
India with the Bengal Army of the East India Company, and came home as a Captain
in 1792 to marry Maria (Massy-Dawson). For some reason he and his father Stephen
did not get on together and, as will soon be seen, his father tried to cut him out of his
will. However Robert married into a landed family with property spread around
Tipperary, Kildare and Limerick and so was probably not too concerned at this date.
In 1802 he and his wife with the first of their children were living in London so this
was probably where they lived after their marriage.
3. Margaret married John Mockler about 1779. They are both alive and living in Trim; he is now
over 50, she about 50 and their son John Mockler is about 20.
4. Stephen had died in 1790 or 1791, aged about 35, and unmarried.
5. Antony is now about 45. He does not marry and will die in 1805. He lived at Rahinstown but
really very little is known about him, perhaps he is farming some of his father’s land.
6. George who was born in 1759 is still a bachelor aged 41 and is living with his parents at
Rahinstown. He is the heir presumptive but has branched out and is farming his own
land, mostly Drumlargan.
7. Trevor the attorney was born in 1760 and had died in 1797 aged about 37. He left his wife
Mary (McDonnell) with two girls both minors; George was made their guardians.
They were living in Dublin, most likely in Gardiner’s Place.
8. Ephraim was born in 1761 so is now 39. He is in the Army serving with the Royal Marines. He
remains a bachelor.
9. Frances Jane married Lt-Col Cromwell Massy in 1800 when she was about 40; he had seen
service with the Madras Army of the East India Company. They may be living in
Dublin, perhaps in the house Frances Jane bought in Denmark Street in 1790.
10. Chichester is the youngest of Stephen’s living children and would be in his early 30’s. At that age
he is probably serving with the Waterford Militia, which he left, as a Captain. He does
not marry.
11. Mariana was mentioned in 1774 when she was about 8, whereas all the other children were
mentioned in various wills, Mariana has not been, so it is assumed that she has died.

Children of David of Gallow

1. Jane married Duke Cooper in August 1785 when she was about 23. Most, if not all, of
their six children have been born. They may be living at Great Down, Co
Westmeath, but more likely in Dublin.
2. Anne married John North in September 1786 when she was about 22. They are both
alive and their three sons and a daughter may have been born by 1800. Their
3. Isaac is the only son, aged 34. He is an attorney and most probably working in Dublin. He is a bachelor, but will marry Jane Holdcroft in 1807.
4. Mary Elizabeth was baptised in 1768 and she ‘died young’, so she must be dead by now.
5. Sarah Frances is now aged about 30 and will be married in 1803 to John Coates

**16.9.1 Changes in the Bomford Estates since 1762**

**Stephen the Younger**, of Rahinstown. Stephen’s birth date is not known but it must have been about 1718. In 1762 he would have been in his early 40’s and perfectly capable of overseeing his large acreage of over 9,500 acres; however by 1800 he was in his early 80’s and many leases have not been renewed. His only ‘farming’ son was George, 41 and still single; who is branching out on his own but no doubt it is really he who is running Stephen’s remaining property.

Stephen’s leases not renewed: -

| Location           | Acres     | Year
|--------------------|-----------|------
| Bellewstown        | 1,591     | c1792
| Red Mountain       | 97        | c1792
| Carlingford        | 97        | c1793
| Castletownbellew   | 332       | c1792
| Castletownbellew Teteiragh | 270 | c1792

So Stephen got rid of 2,387 statute acres mostly in 1792; there were no new leases and the land that he kept is listed below (16.9.2).

**Reverend John of Gallow** died in 1776. He had no children and his land was passed to his two younger brothers, David and Isaac. Isaac died in 1793 having had one daughter who, as was the custom, did not inherit the land; Isaac’s land was passed to his nephew, Isaac the son of David.

Gallow 421 acres Passed to David
Ferrans 429 acres Passed to Isaac, then to nephew Isaac
Culmullin 901 acres Lease not renewed c1767
Woodtown 734 acres Passed in trust to George, but the lease was not renewed c1800
Weatherstown 193 acres Passed to David, lease terminated c1787
Tyrellstown 347 acres Passed to Isaac, then to nephew Isaac
Gurteen 572 acres Passed to both David and Isaac
Gainstown 128 acres Passed to David, not mentioned again so the lease was probably not renewed in 1790

There were no new leases.

**William of Cushenstown** has retired to Delgany where he is living with his second wife. He will shortly die (c1803) aged about 70. In 1762 he had just over 2,500 acres, much of which had been taken over by his son Thomas before 1800.

Cushenstown & Kilmoon 875 acres
Bodman 112 acres
Portlester 162 acres
Crossmacoole 214 acres
Pranstown 373 acres Lease probably terminated c1790
Farragh 263 acres
Cullenhue 78 acres Lease not renewed 1786
Thorntown 130 acres Lease not renewed 1783
Surgoilstown 203 acres
Laurestown 130 acres Sold before 1783

Later Purchases

Dunreigh 124 acres Purchased before 1791 and now probably held by Thomas, William’s son.
Lake Tay Purchased c1770 and sold c1790
Luggalow etc Purchased in 1790. William probably left it to his second wife, Margaret Helen. In 1810 it was in the hands of John Bomford who leased it for 29 years (17.2.3) Lease expires in 1839.

Delgany 66 acres
Oliver of Rathfeigh was last mentioned in 1761. In 1800 he would be over 85 and so is likely to be dead.
In 1762 he had:

Rathfeigh 1,280 acres  This lease expired in 1767 and probably was not renewed, indeed it is likely that Oliver died about that date; and Wilson, who in the early days was also ‘of Rathfeigh’, was working in Dublin.

Kilbrew 147 acres  This lease does not end until c1805. It was most likely inherited by Thomas, William’s son and Oliver’s grand nephew, who is his only close ‘farming relative’ with land in that area.

Thomas of Clounstown, William’s brother, who died c1796 at Ardnacraney in Co Westmeath.
In 1762 he had:

Clounstown 543 acres  Sold in 1784
Brick 125 acres  Lease expired in 1786 but was sold in 1784

When Thomas moved from Clounstown he bought

Harristown? 168 acres  No real documentation, but Thomas had it in 1784.
Ardnacraney 96 acres  Leased before 1796, and its area was probably more than 96 acres. Although the lease does not expire until 1827, its status in 1800 is not certain.

Ballinakill 1799-1864
Lisgonell 1799-1817
Cumberstown 1762-1832
Stonehall 1817-1837
Blackhills 1846-1850

Thomas and/or his children also possessed these lands in County Westmeath about which we know little. The dates refer to the first and last mention of the lands in the documents.

16.9.2 The Bomford Estates

Stephen the Younger of Rahinstown

Rahinstown 642 acres Killyan
Baconstown 821 acres Mucklin
Rattin 460 acres Mulgeeth
Clonfad 567 acres Kilmurry
Arodstown 125 acres Kilshanroe
Dirpatrick 770 acres Gurley Mill
Mylerstown 483 acres Ballynemallagh
Dunfierth 771 acres Clonkeran

2,514 acres in Co Kildare

Total of Stephen 7,153 acres

David of Gallow and his son Isaac

Gallow 421 acres New leases
Ferrans 429 acres Kilglen 65 acres
Tyrellstown 347 acres
Gurteen 580 acres

Total of David and Isaac 1,842 acres

George of Rahinstown, son of Stephen the Younger

All new property, dates of acquisition in brackets
Ross (1781) 458 acres (In trust for his mother)
Drumlargan (1787) 980 acres
Knockstown (1787) 222 acres

Total of George 1,660 acres

Thomas of Cushenstown, great-grandson of Oliver, son of William, now aged about 45 and the only one of Oliver’s descendants who is farming seriously.

Cushenstown & Kilmoon 875 acres New leases
Bodman 112 acres Dunreigh 124 acres
Portlester 162 acres
Crossmacoole 214 acres
Kilbrew 147 acres

Total of Thomas 1,634 acres

Overall Total acreage (statute) 12,289 acres
This shows a considerable decrease on the 1762 figure of 18,097 acres. About 5,800 acres have been disposed of and, of this; over half belonged to Oliver’s and Laurence’s branches who, with the exception of Thomas, have moved from the land. Actually they do own some land but it has not been included in the above because all those concerned are elderly and have retired, I imagine their land to be parkland around the house with the odd paddock for their horses.

William, grandson of Oliver, aged about 70, was living at Delgany in Co Wicklow.

Delgany 66 acres

John, grandson of Oliver, a merchant of Dublin now aged about 60. He made two purchases outside Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Upper Rathdown 50 acres
Killincarrick 0 acres  acreage not known, leased before 1780

Laurence, grandson of Laurence of Killeglan, and son of Wilson, now aged about 55 and living in Co Dublin, near Lucan.

Ballyowen 71 acres purchased in 1799

A few more new properties will appear later, but from 1800 onwards more and more properties will be sold. This is a suitable time, therefore, to insert maps showing the approximate borders of the Bomford townlands of Meath, Westmeath and Kildare. The scale would be too small to show them all so those of North Meath (Oakley Park, near Kells) and of Counties Louth, Dublin and Wicklow have been omitted. A full list of all the properties will be found in Appendix ‘B’.

Co Kildare Properties

Co Meath

Co Kildare

46. Boycetown 61. Clonkeran
47. Whitestown 62. Dunferth
57. Killyan 63. Mylerstown
58. Mulgeeth 76. Kilmurry
59. Mucklan 77. Ballynemallagh
60. Kilshanroe 78. Clonagh
Meath Properties
Index of Meath Properties (map references are in chronological order)

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Index of Westmeath Properties (map references are in chronological order)

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Chapter XVII

The Last of Oliver’s & Laurence’s Branches also the Unplaced Bomfords

This chapter is in two parts, largely because these two branches of the family are soon to die out leaving many loose ends.

1. The last documents, mostly concerning the land around Cushenstown and Delgany, which concern Oliver’s family and which we can tie in to the family tree.

2. Many Bomfords have appeared who cannot be placed, most of these are likely to belong to the families of Oliver or Laurence but there is not sufficient evidence to connect them. This part of the chapter concerns those Bomfords who probably belong to the family because of their name, occupation or some other clue, but there are insufficient facts to be definite.

17.1 Part ‘A’ The Children of William of Delgany

It will be remembered that William retired, settled at Delgany with his second wife, Margaret Helen Watson (ML 24th January 1769), and left his land around Cushenstown to the children of his first wife Charity (Ryder). These children had sued him for their ‘rights’ (13.6) under the will of their grandfather, Thomas of Cushenstown and Clounstown (1703 - 1757). William’s eldest son Thomas (c1759 - 1827) would have inherited all the land under normal circumstances but, owing to the settlement, the estate was left very short of cash. No land was sold but Thomas and his “three living sisters” on the death of their father in 1803, around January, leased much of it jointly. This batch of leases was made after his death and some are very similar to those previously made by William. However these leases work out at nearly 1200 statute acres with a total rent of about £745 and, if we accept the previous total acreage in 1800 of 1,634 acres, then Thomas was left with a little over 400 acres to farm himself.

It would appear that Thomas lived at Crossmacoole but moved back to Cushenstown House around 1810 or a little earlier. Thomas died in 1827 without children and the land was split up and passed to his married sisters; eventually in 1857 the land was partitioned and handed over to the grand-children of the sisters, the Brunton, Hinde, Keogh and Vallentine families (17.2.6).

So ended the last of Oliver’s branch of the family and their land. The land has been deleted from the Bomford register in 1827, the date of the death of Thomas Bomford.

17.2 Leases of Cushenstown & Surrounds

Leases by the only surviving children of William Bomford of Delgany, Co Wexford, deceased, by Charity Ryder his first wife; these are

Thomas Bomford of Crossmacoole, Co Meath,
Richard Hinde of Dublin and Charity Hinde (Bomford) his wife,
Ann Brunton (Bomford) widow of Dublin,
Benjamin Hinde of Anglesea, England, and Frances Hinde (Bomford) his wife.

They lease:

1. 19th November 1803 to George Moss of Dunreigh, Co Meath, farmer, for a rent of £53.9.3 the land of Dunreigh and part of Cushentown containing 47 plantation acres (76 statute).

This deed ties in with that of 1791 (13.9.3) in which William leases 76 acres to George Moss at a rent of £54.6.2

2. 19th November 1803 to James Gegarty the land of Crossmacoole 5 plantation acres 7 statute for 31 years at a rent of £7.1.6

3. 19th November 1803 to Edward Dowdell of Crossmacoole of Co Meath the 76 plantation acres (123 statute) of Crossmacoole and Cushenstown which he previously held for 31 years at a rent of £94.6.3

4. 19th November 1803 to John Dowdall of Cushenstown, farmer, for £126.16.6 the lease of the house and lands of Cushenstown for 31 years at a rent of £180.

This deed probably ties in with that of 1784 (13.5.4) in which William leased the house and lands of Cushenstown to Patrick Dowdall for a similar rent of £180. Some of the Dowdalls in this area may be related, for instance John of Cushenstown may well be a son of Patrick of the 1784 lease, but the family was numerous even 150 years ago when there were at least six Dowdall families in the Baronies of Duleek and Skreen.

3rd May 1809. Thomas Bomford of Cushenstown leased to Patrick Dowdall of Ballynacdunn, Co Dublin, the land which John Dowdall leased, with a rent of £30. (Book 614 Page 19 No 417336)
12th September 1809. Thomas Bomford of Dublin leases to Andrew FitzGibbon of Dublin, Attorney at Law, that part of Cuskenstown with John Dowdall as tenant for £50.
(Book 609 Page 234 No 421189)

14th July 1810. This is very difficult to read, but it appears that Thomas Bomford of Cuskenstown leases to Patrick Dowdall of Ballynacudom Co Dublin, some part of Cuskenstown.
(Book 622 Page 377 No 429297)

5. 19th November 1803 to Edward Bagnall of Hawkinstown, Co Meath, the land of Cuskenstown commonly called Portlester containing 54 plantation acres (87 statute) for 31 years.
(Book 558 Page 324 No 371897)

This lease ties in with that of 1762 (13.5.1) in which William Bomford leased 87 acres to Richard Bagnall at a rent of £36.15.4. Edward Bagnall must be the son of Richard, who died in 1773, and his wife Ann. Some time later Edward Bagnall, or his son another Edward, moved to Wellington Lodge near Trim and died there on 13th December 1838.

6. 19th November 1803 to Peter Leonard the lands of Kilmoon and part of Cuskenstown containing 86 plantation acres (139 statute) for 31 years at a rent of £129.15.0.  (Book 559 Page 39 No 371897)

13th April 1808. Richard Hinde of Dublin and Charity Hinde (Bomford) his wife lease to Peter Leonard of Kilmoon, farmer, for £105.1.6½ plus £30 rent for the land of Kilmool.
(Book 604 Page 14 No 410715)

According to the Upton Papers Richard Hinde died c1807, this deed, implies that he died in 1808 but nothing has been changed.

7. 23rd November 1803 to Walter Boyle of Bunnan, Co Meath, farmer, part of Skreen and Crossmacoole containing 24 plantation acres (39 statute) for 31 years at a rent of £33.15.4.
(Book 560 Page 14 No 371925)

8. 23rd November 1803 to Laurence Caffrey of Cuskenstown, farmer, for £21 the 18 plantation acres (29 statute) which he previously held for 31 years at a rent of £25.16.0
(Book 560 Page 14 No 371926)

9. 23rd November 1803 to Samuel Middleton, the land of Cuskenstown and Kilmool. The details of this comes from 30th September 1806. Thomas Bomford of Sligo leases to William Yeates of Hayestown, Co Dublin, the land of Cuskenstown and Kilmool, which Samuel Middleton leased on 23rd November 1803, for £30.3.1 for the life of Thomas Bomford.
(Book 584 Page 128 No 396091)

10. 24th November 1803 to Rev John Madden (their cousin) of Meadesbrook, Co Meath, for £200 the lease of the land of Cuskenstown containing 187 plantation acres (303 statute) for 31 years at a rent of £154.5.6.
(Book 560 Page 12 No 371923)

This lease ties in with that of 1762 (13.5) in which William Bomford leases 303 acres to Robert Madden, John’s father, at the same rent.

17.2.1 Marriage Settlement – Thomas Bomford & Rebecca Eyre 19th October 1807

One year’s rent of Cuskenstown to be given to Stratford Eyre of Sligo Town in trust for Rebecca Bomford (Eyre), wife of Thomas Bomford and sister to Stratford Eyre, should Thomas Bomford of Cuskenstown die before Rebecca.
(Book 597 Page 155 No 405221)

In the lease of September 1806 (17.2.1) Thomas is ‘of Sligo’ and, since he is already married in this settlement, so it is fairly safe to assume that the marriage took place in Sligo in either 1806 or 1801, but probably in 1806. No marriage licence has been found.

“One year’s rent of Cuskenstown” must mean the land Thomas held on his own and not the land he held jointly with his three sisters. As I suggested in 17.1 this totalled about 400 acres so the settlement amounted to about £400.

The last time Thomas Bomford is mentioned in the documents is in 1810 (17.2.2) when he is ‘of Cuskenstown’ again. It is quite likely that the married couple returned to Cuskenstown House and lived there until Thomas died. The house (and land) had been leased to John Dowdall in 1803 for £80 but in 1809, when the lease to John Dowdall was re-organised, the rent became £30 and so, much land and most likely the house as well must have been returned to Thomas.

Thomas died on 26th May 1821, aged about 68, and his wife Rebecca died on 7th May 1837 according to the Upton Papers, however the prerogative wills state

“Rebecca Bomford, alias Eyre, of Sligo Town, died 1840” so 1840 may be the probate date, and it looks as though that, after Thomas died, Rebecca returned to Sligo to her brother Stratford Eyre. They had no children.

Stratford Eyre is an unusual name so the following entry from the Trinity College register must be an antecedant, perhaps grand-father, of this Stratford and Rebecca.

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“Stratford Eyre entered 8th May 1716 aged 16, son of Samuel Eyre, born at Ballynockan, King’s Co.”

He became Governor of Galway and died in Dublin in 1768 (probate); Betham gives his wife’s name as Mary-Anne.

17.2.2 Thomas’ Brothers and Sisters

Thomas and his brothers and sisters were introduced in 13.6, but much has happened since then. Most of the information comes from the Upton Papers.

1. Charity was born about 1755 and married Richard Hinde before 1783 and probably about 1780. They lived in Dublin and had one child, Sarah Hinde, who married (17.2.6). Richard died intestate at the end of 1808. Charity then married secondly Alexander Plunket about whom nothing is known. Charity died in August 1827 when she was about 70.

2. Ann, born about 1751, married Francis Brunton in 1782 probably in September. They lived in Dublin and had three children (17.2.6). Francis died before November 1803 but Ann lived on and died soon after 1st May 1830 (Upton Papers) aged over 70.

3. Thomas Bomford (c1759 - 1827)

4. Upton does not mention the un-named second son, born c1761. The only reason we know he existed is because William was the third son (13.9.5). He must have ‘died young’.

5. Frances Amelia, born 1763 and married Benjamin Hinde before 1783. They lived in Dublin though the lease of Cushenstown of 1803 places them in Anglesey, Wales. They had three sons and three daughters but I have only been able to trace one son, probably the eldest, who was born in 1783 and also named Benjamin Hinde (17.2.6). Benjamin Hinde the elder died in 1825 (Upton), Frances lived on and was “buried at St Paul’s Church, Dublin, 18th September 1844, aged 81” (Upton). The latter gives us the only firm birth date of these children.

6. William, born c1764 the year his mother died, was not one of the surviving children of the 1803 deeds (17.2) so he must have died before them, but after 1795 because he was mentioned that year in 13.9.5.

17.2.3 Leases - Delgany 1808-1815

William, the father of Thomas Bomford and the sisters of Cushenstown married a second time in January 1769 and moved to Delgany about 1790. He died in 1803. His second wife was Margaret Helen Watson (13.6).

Lease - Delgany 20th February 1808

Margaret Helen Bomford of Bormount, Co Wicklow, widow, leases to Thomas Jackson of Dublin, bookseller, part of the lands of Delgany, 15 plantation acres (24 statute) at a rent of £68.5.0 for the lives of

Benjamin Keightly
John Keightly and
Richard .? (illegible) (Book 608 Page 220 No 416089)

The original lease of October 1790 (13.8) consisted of 55 statute acres and the third life was Richard Fox. Even though this deed is illegible, it cannot be a short name like Fox, but it might be Jessop; Alice Jessop married Thomas Bomford of Clounstown and so was a sister-in-law to Margaret Helen; Richard Jessop could be a relation or even an unknown nephew.

Leases - Delgany 2nd July 1810

John Bomford of Delgany, Co Wicklow, gentleman, for £284 leased to John Reddy of Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, the lands of Delgany in his actual possession containing 34 plantation acres (55 statute) and the dwelling house, bounded on the east by the road from Belview to Delgany, and by the 7 plantation acres lately leased by John Bomford to William Murray, shoemaker, for 29 years at a rent of £81.6.8. (Book 628 Page 460 No 432855)

There are two leases here, the 34 and the 7 plantation acres, so Delgany is now 66 statute acres.

One would expect this lease to be granted by Margaret Helen Bomford but since it is granted by John Bomford one can only suppose that the land was in trust to John; perhaps he was a trustee for the marriage settlement of Margaret Helen that is missing. If this is so then John Bomford would be William’s brother, the merchant of Dublin, and this becomes the last mention of him in the documents and places his death as ‘after 1810’. He leased Killincarrick in 1780 and Upper Rathdowns in 1795 (14.11.1), which together with Delgany and Bormount where Margaret Helen lived in 1808, are all beside Greystones in Co Wicklow.
Margaret Helen Bomford, mother of Edith Bomford, in her will of 1st Sept 1813, left the lands of Ballynaslon (must be Ballynaslowe) 81 statute acres and Delgany, both in Co Wicklow in the Barony of Rathdown, to her two daughters, Edith Bomford and Ann Carthy (Bomford).

A marriage is about to take place between Edith Bomford, spinster of Wexford Town, and Richard Jeffares of Broadway, Co Wexford.

Now Edith Bomford places her lands (half of the above) in trust into the hands of
John Cooper of Birch Grove, Co Wexford, and Henry Cooper of Wexford Town

This is another deed, which adds much to the family tree. Since Edith has the land, Margaret Helen her mother must have died between making her will, 1st September 1813, and this settlement; probable in 1814 to allow for a period of mourning before her daughter marries.

The elder daughter, Ann, must have married Mr Carthy before the will of 1813.

The marriage licence of Edith and Richard Jeffares was dated October 1815 according to the bonds prerogative, and this agrees with the date of the settlement.

There were only these two daughters living at the time of the will, and it is very unlikely that there was a living son because he would have inherited the land. The next deed brings in another Margaret Helen, apparently another daughter.

There appears to be no direct tie between these Coopers of Co Wexford and those of Co Westmeath who inter-married with the North-Bomfords.

The Diocese of Meath and the bonds prerogative give the following marriage licence

“Margaret Helen Bomford and John J Hunt 1791”

This must be a second Margaret Helen because William Bomford and his wife Margaret Helen were both alive in 1791. However more clues are given in the Hibernian Magazine

“John Johnson Hunt married in 1791 Margaret Helen Bomford, daughter of (..left blank..) late of Cushenstown, Co Meath, now of Cumberland Street, Dublin.”

Even though the father’s name has been omitted it must be William because only he was ‘late of Cushenstown, now of Cumberland Street’. Therefore he and Margaret Helen had another daughter who was given the same name as her mother and who married John Johnson Hunt in 1791. The will of the mother of September 1813 only mentions two daughters, Edith and Ann, so Margaret Helen the younger probably died before the will was made, and because of her marriage date is probably the eldest daughter.

1. Charity, born c1755, married firstly before 1783 Richard Hinde of Dublin, who died intestate 1808. Their only child
   a. Sarah Hinde married 1828 (settlement 28th April) William Loftus Keogh and had two boys
      i. Thomas Keogh Both were minors in 1752, so born after 1731
      ii. Richard Keogh Charity married secondly Alexander Plunket and died August 1827

2. Ann, born c1757, married in September 1782 Francis Brunton of Dublin. She died soon after 7th May 1830 and he before November 1803 having had
   a. William Brunton married Ellen (maiden name unknown) and died 10th May 1851. They had three sons and four daughters, all minors in May 1851 so born after May 1830
   b. Harriet Brunton, firstly married Mr Cazalet, they had no children. Secondly married c1830 William Fetherston, they had no children. Thirdly married James Vallentine.
   c. Frances Brunton died unmarried.

3. Thomas of Cushenstown and of Crossmacoole, Co Meath, born c1759, married c1806 Rebecca Eyre sister of Stratford Eyre of Sligo. He died 26th May 1827 and she died 7th May 1837. They had no children.

4. Son, born c1761, probably ‘died young’.
5. Frances Amelia, born 1763, married before 1783 Benjamin Hinde of Dublin then (1803) of Anglesey, Wales. He died 1825 and she in September 1844 aged 81; she was buried at St Paul’s Church, Dublin, on 18th September 1844. They had three sons and three daughters, the eldest being
a. Benjamin Hinde of Tarbert, Co Kerry, and 11 Hardwicke Street, Dublin, attorney and land agent, Freeman of Dublin in 1830, born 1783, married 19th April 1813 Ann Elizabeth Standish, 3rd daughter of Rev Richard Standish of Frankfort. She was born 1790 and died 1868. He was buried at St Paul’s Church, Dublin, 20th December 1844, aged 61. Their eldest son was
i. Richard Hinde of Shannon Lodge, Glin, Co Kerry, land agent, born 1814, married 1861 Jane Bridget Henn, daughter of Poole Henn of Paradise Hill, Co Clare, born 1834. He died 10th May 1869 and she died 6th January 1915 having had 2 sons and 2 daughters.
6. William, born c1764, died between 1795 and 1803. William married secondly Margaret Helen Watson of South Carolina then of the Parish of St Bridget, Dublin, and as a widow of Bormount Co Wicklow, in January 1769. He died January 1803 and she in 1814 (will 1st September 1813). They had three girls
7. Margaret Helen, born c1770, married 1791 John Johnson Hunt. She probably died before September 1813.
8. Ann, born c1773, married Mr Carthy before 1813.

17.2.7 The Inheritance of Cushenstown etc

When William’s eldest son Thomas died in 1827 the lands of Cushenstown, Kilmoon, Bodman, Portlester, Crossmacoole and Dunreigh were written off as a Bomford property in this history. However the lands were passed to William’s three daughters, Charity Hinde, Ann Brunton and Frances Amelia Hinde, or their descendants. In 1857 the land was legally partitioned among their surviving grandchildren who by that date had all come ‘of age’.

Charity Hinde’s share went to her two grandchildren Thomas and Richard Keogh.
Ann Brunton’s share was split between her grandchildren, the children of her eldest son William Brunton, and James Vallentine who was the third husband of her daughter Harriet.
Frances Amelia Hinde’s share went to her grandson Richard Hinde. Richard died in 1869 and left his share to his widow, Jane Bridget (Henn) for her life. Jane died in 1915 but before that she sold her share of the land to the Land Commission

Part ‘B’ The Unplaced Bomfords (see also 9.2.4)

17.3.1 Marriage of Elizabeth Bomford and John Cooper

The deed of 17.2.4 of 1815 records two trustees to the marriage settlement of Edith Bomford and Richard Jeffares

“John Cooper of Birch Grove, Co Wexford and
Henry Cooper of Wexford Town”

The following marriage settlement concerns the marriage of Elizabeth Bomford who is unplaced and John Cooper who must be the above John Cooper.

Marriage Settlement 16th May 1807

Parsons Frayne of Enniscorthy, Co Wexford, and Danby Jaffers of St John’s, City of Wexford, receive Ballyhedge in trust for Elizabeth Bomford, spinster, when she marries John Cooper, only brother to Henry Cooper of Ballyhedge, Co Wexford, for an annuity of £60 on John Cooper’s death.

(Book 597 Page 525 No 408168)

Elizabeth Bomford might be a sister of Edith and Ann but, if so, she died before her mother’s will of September 1813 in which Margaret Helen Bomford left her land ‘to her two daughters’, Edith and Ann. It is however more likely that she was a daughter of William’s brother John Bomford and his second wife Mary Ann (Barrington); John Bomford was involved with Delgany around 1810 (17.2.3). Nothing is certain so Elizabeth must remain ‘unplaced’.

John Cooper is the only brother of Henry Cooper of Ballyhedge in 1807, most probably a younger brother. According to the Prerogative Wills Henry Cooper died in 1810 in the Town of Wexford, so the Henry Cooper of Wexford Town in Edith Bomford’s settlement of 1815 (17.2.4) is not the same Henry but they are probably father and son.

Before leaving the Cooper family there is another marriage, which may fit here, but of the next generation; possibly John Cooper and Elizabeth (Bomford) had a son who was named John.
17.3.2 Jane Bomford’s Two Marriages

The Diocese of Meath and the marriage licence bonds prerogative record
“1841 John Cooper and Jane Bomford.”
A further entry from the Diocese of Dublin records (ML page 353)
“1848 Jane Bomford, alias Cooper, and Edward Cuttle.”
So John Cooper died before 1848 and Jane married secondly Edward Cuttle. There is little to go
on here and Jane Bomford must remain unplaced.

John Cooper may well belong to the Wexford Coopers as suggested above; but there is a remote
possibility that he is the eldest son of Jane (Bomford) and Duke Cooper who married in 1785 (16.2),
remote because John Cooper would be about 55 in 1841 when he married.

Using the Wexford Coopers as the mainstay, then a possible tree which brings in the two
unplaced Bomfords, Elizabeth and Jane, might look like this.

```
Henry Cooper of
Wexford Town     d 1810
Great Barrington

John Cooper of
Ballyhedge         m 1780
Mary Ann Barrington

Henry Cooper of
Birch Grove         m 1807
Elizabeth Bomford

(m 1) John Cooper  
m 1841  d before 1848
Jane Bomford

(m 2) Edward
Cuttle       m 1848

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17.3.4 Mrs A Bomford Kelly

From the Cause Papers in the Four Courts
“A ... Bomford, widow, was wife of Dennis Kelly, his will 1794.”

The Christian name is illegible but it is a long name like Arabella.

To have a Christian name of ‘Bomford’ indicates that her mother was a Bomford; this leads us to
Esther Bomford who married John Kelly in 1756 and, although there was no previous indication that
Esther had any children, here is a possibility. Paragraph 8.8 summarises this family and it also records a
Denis Kelly of Loughrea, Co Galway, whose will was dated 1789. All this fits together quite well but
there is no confirmation that Esther Kelly had a daughter named ‘A Bomford Kelly’ who married (her
cousin?) Dennis Kelly who died between 1789 and 1794.

17.4.1 Launcelot Richard Bomford

Much has been found about Launcelot and his family, but we do not know who his father was and so
cannot place him definitely. However I suspect the father was William, son of Laurence and Jane (Smith)
(12.2.4). Before dealing with the details, here is his family tree.

```
Launcelot Richard Bomford
Attorney of Dublin b before 1774
m (ML) 6th October 1800 d c1835

Sarah Wigellsworth b c1797
d c1866

President

Wilson
b c1802
Clerk to the Chief
Secretary Dublin
Castle (17.4.3)

Launcelot Richard
Chief Clerk to the
Magistrates Police
Court, College St.
b c1805 (17.4.2)

Edward
b 1822
educated
Trinity
(17.4.4)

Elinor
Amelia (17.4.5)

Sarah
Anne (17.4.5)

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Although Launcelot the younger is written first in the Almanacks, the order of the children is
taken from the lease of 1851 (11.4.5), which Wilson signed, and so was the eldest.

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Launcelot Richard Bomford the Elder

Launcelot’s first appearance was as a party to a deed of 3rd June 1795, from (Book 496 Page 523 No 320377) and which is of no other interest to us. He would not have been party to a deed as a minor so he was born before 1774. Then in 1803 he witnessed Laurence Bomford’s lease of Ballyowen (12.2.7) when he was ‘of Dublin, Attorney at Law’. This led me to Watson’s Almanack where he first appeared in 1801 as an Attorney and Solicitor of the King’s Bench Common Pleas, and of the Exchequer; in 1811 he also became ‘Solicitor in Chancery’. According to ‘The Establishment of Ireland’ Part VII, in 1809 he was “Magistrates Office, District No 6, First Clerk, Laun R Bomford, £140.0.0 Annual Salary.”

The Almanack also records his address; he lived first in King Street in 1801 and before, then at 102 Capel Street in 1803, then in, 18 Upper Dominick Street in 1809, and finally at No 8 Hardwicke Street in 1811 where he remained until his death.

Actually he leased No 8 in December 1809 so moved there in 1810. The house had just been built.

In October 1800 he married Sarah Wigellsworth. The marriage licence was granted by the Diocese of Dublin on page 9 of 1800, Betham gives more information - “Bomford, Richard of City of Dublin, Gent, Attorney at Law, and Sarah Wigellsworth of the Parish of Grange Gorman, spinster, 6th October 1800.”

It is not known exactly when Launcelot died but he appeared in all the Almanacks until 1831 when he was not listed as an attorney, so he must have retired then. However his name continued as the occupier of No 8 Hardwicke Street until 1835. In 1836 ‘Mrs Sarah Bomford’ occupied the house, so he must have died in 1835 aged 60 plus.

Launcelot and Sarah had five children. One clue as to the children was the occupiers of No 8 Hardwicke Street, which was kept on until 1857, but the more definite record is the lease of the house in 1857. In 1836 the occupiers were Launcelot R. Bomford Mr Wilson Bomford and Mrs Bomford who was sometimes written as Mrs Sarah Bomford. These names remained until 1855 when the name of Mrs Bomford was dropped.

Almost certainly Launcelot is a descendant of the branch of Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown or that of his brother Laurence of Killeglan; in paragraph 12.2.4 it is suggested that he is the son of William, a grandson of Laurence of Killeglan; but on second thoughts the more likely place to fit him in would be as another son of Wilson Bomford and his wife Anne Bomford, but there is no certainty of even this. The main reason for placing him here comes from the habit in those days of naming children after the names of their direct antecedents. Neither Launcelot nor Richard are Bomford names but they are Shinton names, and Anne’s father married Jane Shinton; Launcelot’s son, Wilson, might have been named after his grandfather. Another reason is age; Wilson and Anne’s children, were born in the 1760’s, whereas the children of Wilson’s brother, Laurence, and Jane Smith were born in the 1740’s or 50’s; the birth date of Launcelot of ‘before 1774’ matches the former.

17.4.2 Launcelot Richard Bomford the Younger

He is the son of Launcelot the elder and would have been born about 1805. In 1836 he appears in the Almanack as “Chief Clerk to the Magistrates of ‘B’ or College Division in the Police Court in College Street”, and this is repeated until 1860 when he must have retired.

17.4.3 Wilson Bomford

Wilson, who sometimes appears in the Almanacks as ‘R. Wilson Bomford’, is the eldest son of Launcelot the elder, and was born about 1802. In the 1859 Almanack he appears as “Assistant Clerk to the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland” in Dublin Castle. This is repeated in the 1860 Almanack.

The Chief Secretary at this date was the Right Honourable Lord Naas M.P. (Richard Southwell, later 6th Earl of Mayo), and the Lord Lieutenant was the 13th Earl of Eglington.
17.4.4 Edward Bomford

Edward does not appear in the Almanacks but is included in the Trinity College Register which states

“Bomford Edward Pen (Mr Sargent) (Entered) Oct 16 1840 age 18 son of Lancelot Solicitor, born Dublin.”

So Edward was born in 1822 and probably the youngest, and was educated at Sargent’s school before he entered Trinity. He did not get a degree. No other information has come to light about him except that he may not have lived with the others.

17.4.5 Sarah Bomford & her Sons After 1835

After her husband died around 1835, Sarah and her two sons, Launcelot Richard and Wilson, and one assumes her two unmarried daughters, Elinor Amelia and Sarah Anne, live on at No 8 Hardwicke Street, but in 1857 the family decide to lease the house. Incidentally houses were valued in the Almanacks from about 1849 when No 8 was valued at £30, in 1857 it had dropped to £24, and their new house in Summer Hill was valued at £38, an improvement that may indicate that the family was successful.

Lease – No 8 Hardwicke Street 31st October 1857

Between 1. Sarah Bomford, widow of Launcelot Richard Bomford late of Hardwicke Street deceased
2. Wilson Bomford
   Launcelot Richard Bomford
   Edward Bomford
   Elinor Amelia Bomford
   Sarah Anne Bomford
   All gentlemen of Dublin,
   Both spinsters of Dublin,
   being the five children of Sarah and Launcelot Richard Bomford.
3. Andrew George Moller of Hardwicke Street
4. Charles Champion Moller of Rathmines, Dublin

Reciting 1. The lease of 22nd August 1806 in which a house in Hardwicke Street was just built and Edward Hendrick leased it to Dorothy Hernon for 900 years at a rent of £50
2. On 2nd December 1809 Dorothy Hernon granted all her interest in this house to Launcelot Richard Bomford
3. Launcelot Richard Bomford since died intestate leaving a widow and five children

They now lease the house to Charles Champion Moller.

Signed Wilson Bomford (1857 Book 31 No 77)

In 1858 Sarah, her two sons, Wilson and Launcelot, and no doubt Edward and the two unmarried daughters, Elinor and Sarah Anne, move to No 29 Summer Hill. Summer Hill leads from Gardiner Street into Portland Row, and the house was valued at £38. They remain there until 1864 although for the years 1862 to 64 only Mrs Bomford is listed as the “Occupier.”

In 1865 all three are together again and have moved to No 2 Zion Terrace, Rathgar, off Orwell Road. This may have been a new house as only two out of the eight houses on the Terrace were occupied. From 1866 to 1874 only Launcelot and Mrs Bomford are recorded, and this indicates that Wilson has either died or moved away. I begin to wonder if Mrs Bomford is still their mother, Sarah, who in 1874 would be about 94 if she married aged 20, and to wonder if Mrs Bomford is not now the wife of Launcelot. His marriage might account for Wilson moving away in 1866.

There is no further record of this family from 1875 when another family occupied No 2 Zion Terrace.

17.5 Four Bomfords Shoemakers of Dublin

These four Bomfords, Laurence, two Williams and Thomas, have been grouped together because the shoemaking business may have been a family concern.

17.5.1 Laurence Bomford & his wife Elizabeth Cheevers 31st May 1796

Between many, the 3rd party was Laurence Bomford of Dublin, shoemaker, and Elizabeth Bomford otherwise Cheevers his wife.

This deed contains no other interest except that it does give some of the Cheevers family. Elizabeth’s parents were Francis Cheevers and his wife Elizabeth. (Book 497 Page 211 No 322987)
Cheevers Property  13th June 1802

Between
1. John Keogh of Loughlinstown, Co Kildare
2. Laurence Bomford of Dublin, shoemaker, and Elizabeth Bomford otherwise Cheevers his wife
3. Robert David, shoemaker, and Hannah David otherwise Cheevers his wife, of Dublin

This deed concerns Cheever’s property and mortgages in Dublin. Elizabeth Cheevers, wife of Laurence Bomford, inherited from Francis Cheevers and his wife Elizabeth.

On this date Elizabeth Bomford sold two houses part of her inheritance on the east side of Dawson Street to Richard Lewis. (Book 544 Page 143 No 361418)

All these two deeds tell us is that Laurence Bomford was a shoemaker of Dublin and that he married sometime before 1796 Elizabeth Cheevers a daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Cheevers.

17.5.2  William Bomford & his wife Ann Jordan  21st September 1803

Marriage Settlement

On the marriage of William Bomford of Dublin, shoemaker, and Ann Jordan of Dublin, widow, David Byrne of Dublin, gentleman, gives as a marriage portion £499.15.0 to William Bomford for Ann in trust. William Bomford is to guarantee this amount on his death for him. (Book 557 Page 324 No 370711)

The Watson Almanack from 1804 until 1822 lists William Bomford as a “Shoemaker of 61 High Street” Dublin, but there is no entry in 1823. There is then a gap of 15 years when, in 1838, we find that William Bomford is living in Dundrum. This gap and the deeds of the 1850’s imply that there were two Bomfords named William.

William Bomford the elder, shoemaker of 61 High Street, Dublin, from 1804 to 1822. He married Ann Jordan, a widow, in 1803 and probably died in 1822.

17.5.3  William Bomford the Younger & his wife Jane

The 1838 Almanack records that William Bomford (the younger), was living at Rockmount Cottage Dundrum. He continues to be listed there until 1852. For the years 1853 and 1854, ‘Mrs Bomford’ was the only occupier of Rockmount Cottage.

House Purchase  15th January 1838

William Bomford of Rockmount, Co Dublin, and Edward Charles Walker of Dublin, apothecary, buy a house for £138 in Dublin. William Augustus Walker of Baggott Street Dublin, Doctor of Medicine, was the 3rd party. (1838 Book 2 No 24)

William as an Executor  23rd January 1851

William Bomford of Rockmount, Dundrum, Gentleman, is mentioned in this deed as an executor of Elizabeth Depoe of Dundrum who was an executor of her husband, Peter Depoe of Dundrum. (1851 Book 2 No 229)

Mortgage  28th June 1853

William Bomford of Rockmount, Co Dublin, received a mortgage from George FitzPatrick on 20th April 1831, this is now repaid. This mortgage is very involved and William only appears in the 5th part but see the marriage settlement of 1854, below. (1853 Book 23 No 267)

Death of William the younger  1853

Both the Prerogative Wills and the Prerogative Inventories record

“1853 William Bomford of Rockmount, near Dundrum Co Dublin, died.”

He was alive for the above mortgage so he must have died after 28th June 1853. At some unknown date he married Jane whose maiden name is not known. Jane married secondly in 1854 William Daly.
17.5.4

**William’s wife Jane Marries William Daly**

*Marriage Settlement - Jane Bomford & William Daly*

Between
1. William Daly of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but then a merchant in Dublin
3. Denis Florence McCarthy of Blessington Street, Dublin, Barrister at Law, and Reverend William Donnelly of Irishtown Co Dublin, Roman Catholic curate (Trustees)

Reciting
1. The intended marriage between William Daly and Jane Bomford.
2. The decree of the Court of Chancery of 6th April 1853 wherein William Bomford, gentleman, the late husband of Jane Bomford was plaintiff and George and Mary FitzPatrick were defendants, and wherein the mentioned lands were decreed to be sold. (See above mortgage of June 1853).
3. Jane Bomford bought some of the property being No 101 and No 102 Great Britain Street at £220, also part of Ballalley, 19 statute acres with dwelling house, in the Parish of Tany and Barony of Rathdown, at £1,000.
5. William Daly also placed in trust his land in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
6. Jane Bomford and William Daly about to be married agreed with the trustees (party 3) that the income from the above go to Jane Bomford.
7. Jane Bomford made her will which allows her next of kin to decide with the trustees on the best course of action. (1854 Book 21 No 43)

With reference to 3 above, the Griffith’s Valuation of 1849 recorded a Bomford in the Parish of Taney, Barony of Rathdown, Co Dublin; this must be William Bomford and his land in Ballalley.

Another deed dated 22nd January 1855 (1855 Book 9 No 55) concerns Ballalley. This deed is between
1. Denis Florence McCarthy of Blessington Street, Dublin
2. William Daly of Dublin and Jane Daly his wife. Jane Daly was the widow of William Bomford late of Rockmount
3. Mary FitzPatrick, widow of George Fitz Patrick and others.

So Jane’s second marriage to William Daly did take place in 1854 but after 4th August.

**Houses in Great Britain Street**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23rd March 1880</td>
<td>William Daly of Rutland Square, Dublin, and Jane Daly formerly Bomford, wife of William Daly, lease to Edward Kavanagh, architect, a dwelling house, No 100 Great Britain Street, for 100 years at a rent of £25. (1880 Book 16 No 47)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So Jane and William Daly were both alive in 1880. After this divergence to Jane’s second marriage, we return to the shoemaking business.

17.5.5

**Thomas Bomford, Shoemaker**

The Dublin Almanacks record that from 1846 to 1849 Thomas Bomford was a “Shoemaker of 125 Dorset Street,” and that his house was valued at £30. We know no more than this about Thomas.

17.5.6

**William Benjamin Bomford of Mullingar**

The last shoemaking Bomford lived in Mullingar, Co Westmeath, and so might be tied in to the above Bomford families of Dublin or to the Westmeath Bomfords, which follow in the next paragraph. This was told to me by his daughter-in-law, Henrietta Bomford (Tyrrell) of Killucan, Co Westmeath, in 1987 when she was 82 (See 14.8.3).

William Benjamin Bomford, shoemaker of Mullingar, was born about 1875. He married and had two children
1. John William Benjamin Bomford, lock keeper on the Royal Canal near Killucan, was born in 1905 and died in 1975 aged 70. He married Henrietta Tyrrell who was born in 1905, and died aged 95 on 10th March 2000. They had no children
2. Letitia Bomford died unmarried in 1927

William the shoemaker had an only sister who married Mr Drought and they had a daughter who married Mr Stewart.

Another connection of Henrietta was Miss Rogers (401 Vine Street, Ishpeming, Michigan, 49849, USA) who sent her money and whose grandfather was a Bomford.
This notice might apply to William Benjamin, the shoemaker of Mullingar, “William Bomford of Blackall street, Mullingar, died 23th June 1922.

**Speculation**

Again it is suggested that some of those Bomfords whose family business was shoemaking are the descendants of Oliver of Cushenstown or Laurence of Killeglan; this applies particularly to those unplaced Bomfords living in Dublin, since nearly all the known descendants have moved there.

The most likely place to fit in Laurence and his wife Elizabeth Cheevers, and the elder William and his wife Ann Jordan together with their son William, is as grand-children of Laurence of Killeglan (c1710 - 1761) and his wife Jane Smith (died 1769). If we look at their children we see that they had two sons and a daughter. Their eldest son died between 1769 and 1772 in his early 20’s and so is unlikely to have married. However the second son was William who was living in Dublin in 1799; it is now suggested that this William married and had two sons, Laurence who married Elizabeth Cheevers sometime before 1796 and the older William who married in 1803 Ann Jordan and died c1822, and who had a son, the younger William of Rockmount and who married Jane before he died in 1853.

The dates make this speculation quite possible, but, above all, the family names of Laurence and William suit. We might further speculate that Thomas Bomford the shoemaker of Dorset Street in the late 1840’s was the son of Laurence and Elizabeth Cheevers; Laurence could have handed the family business down to his son, but against this none of the immediate family was called Thomas.

It is not possible to make any guesses concerning William Benjamin Bomford of Mullingar (17.5.6) as his dates indicate a gap of a couple of generations. However since he lived in Westmeath he might be tied up with the Bomfords of Ballinakill in Co Westmeath (14.8.4).

**The Bomfords of Trim**

1771 (March or April) Margaret Bomford marries Thomas Crawley

Extracted from Betham’s Dublin Marriages

“Crawley, Thomas, of Trim Co Meath, Esq., and Margaret Bomford of the Parish of St Andrew’s Dublin, spinster, 23rd March 1771.”

In 1761 Thomas Crawley witnessed the signature of Dorcas Williams (9.7.2), wife of Edward Williams of Trim and daughter of Stephen Bomford the elder of Gallow, so he was a resident of Trim, and would have been known to Stephen the younger and his family.

This Margaret might possibly be the daughter of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown who married John Mockler of Trim c1778 or before. If this is so then her first marriage in 1771 was to Thomas Crawley who must have soon died leaving Margaret free to marry secondly John Mockler. This may account for the fact that no marriage licence was found for the Bomford/Mockler marriage; I should have looked up Crawley / Mockler.

**Trust for Edward’s Children**

Reciting 1. Edward Bomford of Trim, shopkeeper, leased to William Plunket of Trim a dwelling house now occupied by Laurence Malone in Trim Town which was leased to Edward Bomford by John, Earl Darnely (4th Earl, of Clifton Lodge, Athboy), and another house in the High Street of Trim which Edward Bomford leased from Edward E Chambers, (Edward Elliot Chambers, 1772 – 1857, of Crowpark and later Fosterstown both outside Trim, an extensive land owner in the Trim area), for 90 years at a rent of 20 guineas.

2. Edward Bomford made a trust for his children of his shop and goods, the trustee was William Plunket.

His children are

Isaac Bomford
Samuel Bomford and
Catherine Bomford

Now each of the above are granted £20 out of the total of £50 each.

(Book 784 Page 446 No 530781)
This deed must be connected with the next one since William Plunket the hatter of Trim, is the trustee of the Bomford children. Also he must be a close relative of Margaret (Plunket) the wife of Edward.

17.8.2  William Bomford Assigns a Trim House 16th January 1831

William Plunket, hatter, and William Bomford, carpenter, both of Trim, assign to Marcella Malone of Trim, widow, their title for £140 to the house of John Adams situate in the Main Street, Trim, now in the possession of Marcella Malone (who was probably the wife of Lawrence Malone of the previous deed).

(1837 Book 2 No 25)

17.8.3  Introducing the Emigration to Tasmania 1833

A halt had to be made in my investigations of Edward Bomford and his wife Margaret Plunket (married 1798) a connection (? sister) of William Plunket, a hatter of Trim and trustee of the three children, Isaac, Samuel and Catherine, all of Trim Co,Meath. There was no sign of their antecedents nor their grand-children. However in 2002 Catherine Holman had an E-mail query from Rick Smith in Australia about his great-great-great grandfather Edward Bomford.

Rick Smith has produced a mass of information about the son Isaac, after he emigrated to Tasmania in 1833, and his offspring down to the present day. Much of this follows but still we are unable to connect Edward Bomford into the main Bomford family and, until we can, all the follows must remain as ‘unplaced Bomfords’. The following are all “of Tasmania”.

17.8.4  Isaac Bomford of Tasmania 1800 - 1886

Isaac was born c1800 in Trim, eldest son of Edward Bomford and Margaret. Edward was a Trim shop-keeper but his son Isaac was trained as a carpenter and joiner, one presumes by his uncle William Bomford who was a carpenter living in Trim in 1837.

Isaac had a younger brother, Samuel born c1802, and a sister, Catherine born c1804, but nothing has been discovered about them except that they did not appear in Tasmania. About 1826 Isaac married Jane, born c1808, daughter of Barnaby and Mary Laffan. Their first child Maria was born in 1828 in Ireland.

In 1833 Isaac, Jane and the baby Maria, emigrated from Dublin for Tasmania on the “Strathfieldsay” and arrived in Hobart on 27 July. He found work as a foreman to Roderic O’Connor and lived initially at Lake River and later at ‘Kingston’, Ben Lamond, in the north-east quarter of Tasmania.

Jane died 17th November 1871 aged 63 at ‘Rocklands’, East Tamar, and was buried in Hobart. She had six children.

Isaac married secondly on 14th August 1873 at Hobart, Delia Bridget Lupton, born 1831 in Ireland. After “a long and painful illness” she died aged 50 in Hobart General Hospital on 19th June 1881. Both Delia Lupton and Jane Laffan were buried in the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart.

Isaac died aged 86 in West Hothem, Melbourne, Victoria, on 11th August 1886. He was buried two days later in the Melbourne General Cemetery. His six children were:-

1. Maria, born 1828 in Ireland, went to Tasmania in 1833. No other information
2. Peter Isaac Bomford, 1834 – 1910 17.8.5
3. Dr John Bede Bomford, 1836 - 1901, 17.8.6
4. Francis Edward Bomford, 1840 - 1916, 17.8.7
5. Joseph Bomford, born at Lake River 12th February 1843 and died the same day
6. Rachel Mary Bomford, 1849 - 1939, 17.8.8

17.8.5  Peter Isaac Bomford 1834 - 1910

Isaac as he was called was born at Lake River on 19th May 1834. He was christened in Hobart, ‘Petris Isaac Bumford’. When he was 25, he married Elizabeth (Lizzie), daughter of James Hopkins, in St Thomas Church Avoca on 3rd May 1860.

She was born in 1837 and died on 23rd September 1886 aged 49 in Brisbane Queensland. She was buried in Launceston, Tasmania. Peter Isaac died in Launceston on 19th July 1910, aged 76, and was buried there.

A newspaper report of 1879 states that Mrs Emily Easton was murdered by her brother-in-law Peter Isaac de Bomford at his house ‘Illaroo’ St Leonards. This has not been followed up, perhaps it should be, but no action appears to have been taken against Peter Isaac so it looks as though the report was not taken seriously.
No previous Bomford had taken the adopted surname of “de Bomford”. Francis Edward Bomford said in a letter to his nephew, one of the seven sons of Doctor John Bede, ‘Your father and I never adopted it but your uncle Isaac did, it is therefore much a matter of fancy’. This fancy seems to have caught on to a limited extent by some later Bomfords, who all live in Tasmania.

Their three children were

1. Edwin Frederick Serrell de Bomford, 1861 - 1954, aged 93.
2. Mervyn Charles de Bomford, 1863 - 1908, aged 45.

17.8.6 Doctor John Bede Bomford 1836 - 1901

John Bede was born at Lake River on 5th June 1836. When he was 20 in 1856 he was taken by Dr Kenworthy to England to study medicine. He returned in the ‘Gipsy Bride’ arriving in Melbourne in May 1860. In 1865 he had 4,000 acres of freehold land in Fingal, so he was a doctor and a farmer.

When he was 26 he married Eliza O’Dwyer (Dizi), daughter of Rev William Richardson (1815 - 1875) and Ellen Kavanagh (1814 - 1866), at St John’s Church in Melbourne Victoria, on 23rd February 1863. Dizi was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1840 and died of diphtheria aged 32 in Perth, Tasmania, on 11th February 1872.

She had six children

1. Ruth Helena, 1864 - 1940, aged 76.
2. William Francis, 1865 - 1933, aged 68.
4. Evelyn, 1868 - ?
5. Amy Lenore, 1869 - ?
6. Lizzy, born and died 1871.

When John Bede was 40 he married secondly on 23rd May 1877 Mary Enma Fletcher, in Launceston. She was born in 1854 and died aged 77 in Beaconsfield on 15th November 1936. She had seven children

7. Daniel Archibald, 1877 - 1966, aged 89
8. Edward Ernest, 1879 - 1954, aged 75
9. George Arthur Frederick, 1882 - 1962, aged 80
10. Edwin Thomas, 1884 - 1967, aged 83
11. Charles Henry, born and died 1886
12. Ethel Mary, 1887 - 1961, aged 74
13. Emily May, 1889 - 1974, aged 85

An overall total of seven boys and six girls.

Doctor John Bede died at his home in Weld Street, Beaconsfield, on 24th November 1901 when he was 65.

17.8.7 Francis Edward Bomford 1840 - 1916

Francis was born at Lake River on 3 June 1840. He became a farmer at Rheban Sandspits, was a JP and also a mining registrar; he and the family went to the Warrandyte gold diggings at Andersons Creek in Victoria in 1878 and returned to Moorina, Tasmania, in 1882.

When Francis was 25 on 20th September 1865 he married Ellen Gray Richardsan in St Thomas Church in Avoca, Tasmania. Ellen was the sister of Eliza (Dizi) who married John Bede Bomford, so two sisters, Ellen and Eliza, married two brothers. Ellen was born on 5th November 1845 in Avoca. When she was 53 she became postmistress of Moorina and three of her daughters were telephonists there as well; another daughter became Postmistress of Bradshaws Creek.

Francis died at home in Moorina on 11th February 1916, he was 75. His wife Ellen lived on and died on 1st May 1922, aged 76. They had 12 children, 3 boys and 9 girls.

1. Edward Vivian, 1866 - 1876, aged 10
2. Ethel Constance Maria, 1868 - 1945, aged 77
3. Caspar Owen, 1870 - 1884, aged 14
4. Dizy Jane, 1871 - 1872, aged 1
5. Gertrude Frances, 1873 - 1897, aged 24
6. Hilda Elanor (Dolly), 1875 - 1957, aged 82 (Postmistress Bradshaw Creek)
7. Irene May, 1876 - ?, (Telephonist Moorina)
8. Mabel Ella Mary, 1880 - 1959, aged 79 (Telephonist Moorina)
9. Leo Francis, 1882 & died the same year
10. Vera Genevieve, 1884 - 1885, aged 1
11. Estelle Edith, 1886 - 1966, aged 80 (Telephonist Moorina)
12. Cyril Edward Roy, 1887 - 1963, aged 76

17.8.8  Rachel Mary Bomford  1849 - 1939

Rachel Mary was the youngest child of Isaac and Jane Bomford; she was born on 3rd May 1849 at Lake River, Tasmania. She became a nun, a Sister of Mercy in Melbourne having entered the Convent on 31st May 1866, aged 17. Her religious name was Frances Xavier. In May 1875 she went to Kilmore. On 15th September 1939 she died in Mornington, Victoria, aged 90, and was buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

The Sisters of Mercy is a Roman Catholic religious congregation founded in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831. They engage in education and all kinds of Social Service.

17.9  The Bomfords of Dirpatrick  1729-75

The deeds of December 1750 and May 1754 and the note about them (9.2.4) records two families of Bomford. These are

Richard Bomford, Gent, of Dirpatrick in 1750, alive 1775, had two sons
1. George Bomford, the eldest, born 1729 and
2. John, born 1732
Edward Bomford, farmer of Dirpatrick in 1754, and probably his son
1. Richard, born 1726 at Laracor, died 25th October 1750 and buried 25th October in Moy Churchyard.

17.9.1  The Bomfords of Agher Parish  1808-18

A family of Bomfords is recorded in the Agher Parish records.

“Born 22nd June 1808 Catherine Bomford daughter of Richard and Elinor Bomford.”
“Born 4th March 1811 Samul Bomford son of Richard and Elinor Bomford.”
“Died 3rd March 1818 Oliver Bomford of the Parish of Agher, buried at Agher.”

Here we have the mother and father and their two children who must have lived fairly close to Agher. One immediately thinks of the Dirpatrick Bomford family but there is no direct connection.

Oliver attended the vestry meetings at Agher almost constantly from April 1790 until the end of the Vestry Minute Book on 14th April 1800. This book is in the National Library but the minutes give no clue as to who he might be, although he signs the minutes on each occasion as ‘A Parishioner.’

Oliver witnessed the mortgage of Tullaghard between George Bomford and Samuel Winter in March 1809 (18.8.5), and his will is recorded in the Diocese of Dublin Wills on Page 468, but to date this has not been found.

The internet tells us that Eleanor Bomford was born in 1780 at Agher, and her parents were Oliver and Catherine Bomford.

Thus Oliver and his wife Catherine would belong to the older generation to that of Richard and Elinor Bomford. He might be the father of Richard; he might even be another son of one of the two Bomfords of Dirpatrick and so the connecting link.

17.9.2  Speculation

It might be possible to connect the Bomfords of Trim, Dirpatrick and Agher, and tie them in to one of the two early unplaced Bomfords (1.7). I have selected George Bomford to start this speculation of the lineage as the name George continues down the line, whereas the name Joseph, that of the other unplaced Bomford, does not.

It will be noted that few women appear in this tree and there must have been some daughters. Unfortunately no amount of speculation can position any of these unplaced Bomford women even though there are a number available (17.11), there are insufficient details.
George Bomford, merchant of Dublin, alive 1712

Richard c1705
Oliver b 1730
Edward d 25th Oct 1750
Laurence b c1712/13

Richard b 1726
Oliver d 1818
Edward, b c1773

Richard, b 1729
Elinor

Richard of Agher

George eldest son

John b 1732

Margaret Plunket, b c1777
William Carpenter of Trim, alive 1837

Catherine

Edmund Bomford, vintner of Dublin, witnessed the codicil to the will of Rebecca Broscoe on 17th November 1735, according to the Eustace Will Abstracts.

Edmund is not a family name and no Broscoe has appeared in the documents. However, as a vintner, he may have been involved in the brewing and distilling business in which Wilson and other Bomfords were involved.

Frances Bomford marries Thomas Raper 1801

Extract from the Diocese of Meath marriage licence bonds

Rebecca Bomford marries John Douglas 1804

Extract from the Diocese of Meath marriage licence bonds

These last two marriages probably occurred in Meath since that diocese issued the licences; thus the two brides may belong to the above tree (17.9.2).

Death of John Bomford 1813

No address is recorded in this extract from the prerogative wills and inventories. It might possibly belong to John, the younger son of Richard Bomford of Dirpatrick (above, 17.9.2).

Louisa Bomford 1870 - 1872

The Dublin Almanack records in 1870, “Mrs Louisa Bomford, 11 Geraldine Street” which is at the top end of Eccles Street, in 1871 this was changed to “Miss Louisa Bomford”, mother and daughter or a misprint?

In 1872 there is no Bomford at this address but there is a “Miss Bomford, 1 Goldsmith Street,” which is also at the top of Eccles Street. In 1873 there is no entry.
For these 14 years, but not in 1893, Thom’s Directory records “William Bomford, Esq., of Zion Road, Rathgar,” Dublin, in a house with a rateable value of £37, so a reasonably large house.

In 1863 the Dublin Directory records “Rev William John Bomford, O.M.I., Professor of the College of Immaculate Conception, 62 Upper Mount Street”. (The address of the Roman Catholic College).

In 1865 the College changed its name to the College of the Oblate Fathers and moved to Inchicore (runs from Chapelizod to Kilmainham New). Rev W. J. Bomford is listed as the third of six professors and he remained there until 1875. In 1876 there is no mention of the College or of William John Bomford.

Oliver Bomford was born in 1845 when he was listed as being of ‘Tourane, Sligo’. In 1870 he married Bridget Dyer (or Dwyer) at ‘Tourane, Sligo’ and she was born in 1849 also at ‘Tourane, Sligo’. They had two daughters and a son. Mary was born 17th April 1867 and Catherine born 6th August 1871. They were both born ‘Tourane, Sligo’, although Catherine’s birth is listed as ‘of Tourane’ or ‘of Roscommon’. I have failed to find Tourane on maps of Co Sligo or Co Roscommon, so suggest it may be the name of a house.

The son was Henry, born 1st February 1874 at Boyle, Co Roscommon. It is probably that he married Mary Jane Hyland on 2nd June 1893 in Tasmania.

Another possible son might have been William Bomford, born 1869 in Co Sligo who was listed in the Leitrim/Roscommon 1901 census. The census records his birth and states that in 1901 he was aged 32, not married, and the Station Master of Mohill.

Summary of Unplaced Bomfords

Generation 1.

Joseph Bomford married 1677 Ann Boford (1.7)
George Bomford, merchant of Dublin (1.7, 17.9.2)

Generation 2.

Laurence, son of George, b c1712 (1.7, 17.9.2)
Edmund, vintner of Dublin, alive 1735 (17.10.2)
Edward of Dirpatrick 1754 (9.2.4, 17.9.2)
Richard of Dirpatrick, b c1700, alive 1775 (9.2.4, 17.9.2)
Mary Bomford, baptised 19 Oct 1712 at Killucan (father Thomas B, mother Eleanor)

Generation 3.

George, b 1729 Sons of Richard of Dirpatrick
John, b 1732 (9.2.4, 17.9.2)
Richard, 1726-50, probable son of Edward of Dirpatrick (9.2.4, 17.9.2)
John died 1813, perhaps of Dirpatrick son of Richard (17.10.5)
Oliver, publican in 1784, probably of Westmeath (14.6, 14.8.4)
Catherine wife of Oliver of Agher married c1778
Oliver of Agher died 1818 (17.9.2)
Margaret Bomford married Thomas Crawley 1771 (17.8)
Arabella Bomford (?) married Dennis Kelly who died 1794 (17.3.4)

Generation 4.

Eleanor, born 1780 at Agher, daughter of Oliver and Catherine Bomford.
Edward of Trim married Margaret Plunket 1798, alive 1820 (17.8.1, 17.9.2)
Richard of Agher married Elinor c1800 (17.9.2)
Frances married Thomas Raper 1801 (17.10.3)
Rebecca married John Douglas 1804 (17.10.4)
Elizabeth married John Cooper 1807 (17.3.1)
Launcelot Richard, attorney of Dublin, b c1776, married 1800 Sarah Wigellsworth, died c1835 (17.4.1)
William, carpenter of Trim, alive 1837 (17.9.2)
Laurence, shoemaker of Dublin, married Elizabeth Cheevers before 1796 (17.5.1)
William, shoemaker of Dublin, married Ann Jordan 1803, died c1822 (17.5.2)
The Last of Oliver’s & Laurence’s Branches also the Unplaced Bomfords

Generation 5.

Isaac, b c1800
Samuel, b c1802
Catherine, b c1804
Catherine, b 1808
Samuel, b 1811

Children of Edward of Trim (17.8.1, 17.9.2)

Wilson of Dublin Castle, b c1802
Launcelot Richard of Police Court
Edward, born 1822
Elinor Amelia
Sarah Anne

Children of Richard of Agher (17.9.1, 17.9.2)

Andrew married Annabella Kane 1837
Possibly the same person
Andrew, carpenter of North Strand, Dublin, 1841
Jane, m(I) John Cooper 1841, m(2) Edward Cuttle 1848

Generations 6 & 7.

William of Dundrum, Dublin, married Jane and died 1853.
Jane married secondly William Daly 1854 (17.5.3)
Thomas, shoemaker of Dorset St, Dublin, 1846 - 1849 (17.5.5)
Rev William John, professor R.C. College 1863 - 1875 (17.10.8)
Louisa of Dublin 1870 - 1872 (17.10.6)
William of Rathgar, Dublin, 1878 - 1892 (17.10.7)
William Benjamin, b c1875, shoemaker of Mullingar (17.5.6) and his son John William
Benjamin 1905 - 1975 and daughter Letitia died 1927 unmarried.

Catherine Bomford b 6 Aug 1871, Roscommon. Parents Oliver Bomford and Bridget
Dyer. (17.10.9)

Mary Bomford, b 23 July 1864 at Multyfarnham. Father Thomas Bomford and mother
Bessy English.

Thomas Bomford (father John Bomford) on 8 October 1849 at St Bridget’s Parish
Dublin marries Ann Moran (father Denis Moran).

Catherine Bomford had a daughter, Jane Bomford, born in Mullingar 7th February
1866.
Chapter XVIII  Stephen the Younger & his Children

18.1.1  Death of Stephen the Younger  24th May 1806

John Pratt Winter’s history of the Winter family gives the date of Stephen’s death as 24th May 1806 which agrees with the will probate date of 11th July. He was about 88 when he died. Both Stephen and his wife Elizabeth were buried in Laracor Churchyard.

18.1.2  Will of Stephen of Rahinstown  4th October 1804

In the terms of the marriage settlement of Stephen and Elizabeth of 17th April 1745 (8.2) the following sums had been set-aside for the children, £3,000 and £1,000 and a second £1,000. The will assigns this money as follows

- £ 1,000 to Ephraim
- £ 1,000 to Chichester
- £ 1,990 to be shared between Antony and George
- £ 5 to Margaret
- £ 5 to Frances Jane

In addition the following bequests are made:

- Margaret: An annuity of £30 when her husband John Mockler of Trim dies.
- Antony: £1,000, this is to go to George if Antony should die. Also an annuity of £60 provided he looks after his mother, Stephen’s wife Elizabeth.
- Elizabeth: An annuity of £50, and £50 to buy mourning clothes. Also his carriage and the best pair of carriage mares, all the china and books, and half of the household linen.
- George: All the estates, cattle, furniture, etc.
- Robert: 5/-

The sole executor of the will is George Bomford. Probate dated 11th July 1806 is attached to the will.

1. The eldest living son was Robert, and all he received from the will was five shillings (25p in modern currency). It certainly looks as though Stephen did attempt to disinherit Robert and to ignore the entail of those lands, which had been made in his marriage settlement. As will be seen this was all sorted out between the brothers, George and Robert, in 1808.

2. The marriage settlement of 1812 (18.6.1) records that at the death of Stephen the children alive then were Robert and “three younger sons and two daughters, to wit George Bomford, Ephraim Bomford, and Chichester Bomford, Margaret then (1806) the wife and now (1812) the widow and relict of John Mockler Esquire, and Frances Jane now and then the wife of Colonel Cromwell Massy.” This confirms that

a. The eldest son, Thomas, died before the will of 1804. He was mentioned in the will of Rev Partridge of 1774 when he must have been about 25. It is thought that he died soon after 1774 because he was not mentioned again and, as the eldest son, he should have been.

b. The third son, Stephen, is not mentioned; he died in late 1790 or early 1791.

c. The sixth son, Trevor, died in February 1797 (18.5.1).

d. The third daughter, Mariana, was also mentioned in the will of 1774, but this was the only mention of her; she has died.

Of the family that were alive at the time of the will of 1804 but died before the settlement of 1812.

e. The fourth son Antony died between his will of 1805 (18.2) and his father’s death. Because Antony had died George got the whole of the £1,990 which included the bequest to Antony of £1,000.

f. John Mockler died between 1806 and 1812. His wife Margaret survived him. She is mentioned in the inventory of George’s estate of 1814 and that is the last time she is mentioned.

18.1.3  Death of Elizabeth wife of Stephen of Rahinstown  1807

1807 is recorded in the prerogative wills as the date of Elizabeth’s will and it is thought that she died that year.

Stephen’s will specified that Antony was to look after his mother but Antony had died. The will coupled Antony and George together and it is thought that George took over. It will be remembered that Robert Sibthorpe leased the land of Ross in 1772 and that he had to build a house there within seven
years. In 1781 Robert Sibthorpe handed over the land in trust to George Bomford for the sole use of his sister Elizabeth when her husband Stephen should die.

It rather looks as though Elizabeth did not use the house at Ross, but remained at Rahinstown for the year or so before she died. George was certainly living at Rahinstown until his father died in May 1806, but in May 1807 he was living at Clarkestown House. My guess is that he moved after his mother had died in the first few months of 1807, and that Elizabeth died in her own bed at Rahinstown where she had slept for the previous 62 years. She and Stephen were married for 61 years and had outlived five of their eleven children; they were buried together in Laracor churchyard.

18.2 Will of Antony, 4th son of Stephen of Rahinstown 22nd September 1805

“To my sister Margaret, wife of John Mockler of Trim, £100; this sum is not to be in anyway controlled by her husband, and is to be paid after his death.

To Mary Anne Bomford, elder daughter of my brother Trevor, £ 400 to be paid at the age of 21.

To Rose Frances Bomford, younger daughter of my brother Trevor, £ 400 to be paid at the age of 21.

To my brother George Bomford of Rahinstown everything else. He is the residual legatee and the sole executor.”

Antony’s signature is witnessed by Isaac Bomford.

Antony was ‘of Rahinstown’ so he must have died there during the eight months between the date of his will and his father’s death in May 1806. It is not known when he was born but he would have been about 48 when he died. Antony was not married and was only mentioned in the documents concerning his father’s will, so there is no clue as to what he did during his life.

18.3 Ephraim Bomford, 7th Son of Stephen of Rahinstown

Not much is known about Ephraim. He was born in 1761, which date comes from a ‘life’ in the lease of Ross of 1772. This lease also gives the birth dates of George and Trevor.

Most of what is known comes from the various Almanacks, which produced Army Lists of field ranking officers. There were no Army Lists before the early 1800’s. Ephraim was gazetted a Major in the Royal Marines in 1810; he was probably acting as a major before then because the deed of 4th May 1809 (19.2) refers to him as a major in ‘ye Marine Force’. To be a major probably meant that he had already served at least 15 years unless he had purchased his commission, which is unlikely. Working back 15 years would mean that he joined aged 34 in 1795, which is an unlikely age to join up. It would be better to assume that he joined in his early 20’s, say in 1785.

The Dublin Almanacks list him as a major until 1815 and he is omitted from the Army Lists of 1816 onwards. It is most likely that he died in 1815 aged 54, but he may have resigned; there would not be much future for a major of that age now that the Napoleonic War was over.

He is not mentioned again and there is no record of a marriage.

18.4 Chichester Bomford, 8th son of Stephen of Rahinstown

It is not known when Chichester was born, but obviously after Ephraim in 1761. He is mentioned in the Rev Partridge’s will of 1774 so he must have been a few years old then, and the best estimate would be sometime during the eight years from 1762 to 1770, I have made it c1765.

The Dublin Almanacks record that he was gazetted on 15th June 1804 as a Lieutenant of the Waterford, or 33rd, Regiment of Militia and he is listed as such from 1805 to 1810. He was also Regimental Paymaster in those years. He is not listed in the 1799 Army List of the Militia so he must have joined in the first few years of the new century, but he may have purchased his commission and joined in 1804. Neither is he listed in the 1811 Almanack and the paymaster’s name has been left blank that year, so it looks as though he resigned in 1810. He is only about 46 at this date so he may have transferred to another regiment. A transfer is more likely as this might not only take him to England where he died, but would account for Burke’s entry

“Chichester, Captain, 88th Regt.” (later became the Connaught Rangers).

But to revert to the Waterford Militia, I wondered why Chichester selected this regiment when his friends were probably serving in the Meath Militia and then it was discovered that Militia Regiments formed in 1793 never served in their county of origin. For instance during the 1798 rising, it was the Carlow Militia which fought in Meath, while the Meath Militia saw active service in Wexford that year. It is therefore possible that Chichester joined the Waterford unit because it was stationed near Rahinstown, perhaps in the garrison town of Kilcock, Co Kildare.
He made his will in 1824 (prerogative wills) in Bristol and died there aged about 60. There is no record of any marriage.

18.5  **Trevor Bomford, 6th son of Stephen of Rahinstown**

When Trevor married Mary (McDonnell) in September 1789 she had been married before and had had a child, Jane Maria. Mary’s first husband was John Bateman of Dromultin, Co Kerry, so Trevor’s stepdaughter was named Jane Maria Bateman.

During the eight years of their marriage Trevor and Mary had two girls. Trevor died in 1797 and when Mary died in 1809 (probate) these two children were in their late teens. George Bomford was appointed guardian of these two, Marianna (or Mary Anne) Bomford and her younger sister Rose Jane Bomford.

18.5.1  **Death of Trevor Bomford**  February 1797

The Prerogative Grants give the date of Trevor’s death as 1797. Betham records that he died intestate and that administration was granted to Mary ‘the widow and relict’ on 2nd March 1797, it is therefore likely that he died in February, he was only 37, and was buried at Laracor.

18.5.2  **Death of Mary Bomford (Probate)**  22nd July 1809

The probate of this date states

“Mary Bomford died intestate leaving two daughters, Marianna Bomford and Rose Jane Bomford. George Bomford of Clarkestown is appointed guardian of the two minors, and executor of Mary Bomford of Gardiner’s Place, City of Dublin.” Marianna, or Mary Anne, could have been born as early as 1790 and so she would have been a minor until at least 1811.

Similarly the younger daughter Rose Jane could have been a minor until 1812. Rose Jane was called Rose Frances in Antony’s will, Frances Rose in her marriage settlement which she signs as Frances Rosetta, and in the lineage concerning the Bomford Arms she is named as Rosetta.

Mary Bomford must have died in 1809, or perhaps 1808, in Gardiner’s Place; No 27 Gardiner’s Place belonged to George Bomford. She was buried with her husband Trevor in the Laracor Churchyard.

18.5.3  **Marriage of Mary Anne Bomford & Francis Chute**  13th February 1810

The date of this marriage has been in Burke for a number of editions and the date matches well with the Dublin Marriage Licences by Betham which state

“Francis Chute of Chute Hall, Co Kerry, Esq., and Marianna Bomford of the Parish of St George, spinster, 9th February 1810.”

From this one can assume that the marriage took place in Dublin and most likely from Gardiner’s Place. Mary Anne was married as a minor aged 20 or younger and her guardian George Bomford no doubt gave her away.

18.5.4  **The Chute Family**

The first Chute to come to Ireland was George Chute, a military officer who arrived at the time of the rebellion of the Earl of Desmond and his son ‘Silken Thomas’ during the reign of Henry VIII. He was granted lands in the Dingle Peninsula but lost them soon after in the later upheavals. His son, Daniel Chute acquired the lands of Tulligaron by marriage and settled there. Tulligaron, subsequently called Chute Hall, was confirmed by patent in 1630 and lies three miles east of Tralee.

Francis Chute’s more immediate relations were

Grand parents:
Francis Chute of Chute Hall, High Sheriff of Kerry 1757, married 8th August 1761 and died 1782. His wife was Ruth, daughter of Sir Riggs Falkiner, Bart, of Anne Mount, Co Cork.

Parents:
Richard Chute of Chute Hall, born 1763, High Sheriff of Kerry 1786, married firstly in 1785 Agnes, daughter of Rowland Bateman of Oak Park. Francis was her eldest son. Her first cousin was John Bateman of Dromultin who married Mary McDonnell in May 1771. Mary married Trevor Bomford secondly (15.8.5), thus Mary Anne and Francis Chute were cousins of a sort.

Richard married secondly Elizabeth Maunsell of Limerick.

Uncles and Aunts:
1. Falkiner, Captain 22nd Light Dragoons, married and had an only daughter, Catherine, Francis’
cousin, who married as his first wife William Cooke of Retreat (see 8.3.1 which connects with Anne Bomford and her husband Owen Daly of Mornington).

2. Caleb, Captain 69th Foot, married Elizabeth Yielding. They both died in 1851 but had no children.

3. Francis married Jane Rowan and had a boy and a girl. The girl married Thomas Sandes of Sallowglen (15.8.5/6).

4. Arthur married Frances Lindsay and died 1863. They had two sons and two daughters.


6. Ruth Chute married Thomas Elliot of Co Kerry and died 1875 having had one son.

Brothers and sisters:

1. Rowland of Lee Brook, near Tralee, Captain 58th Regiment, married Frances daughter of Colonel James Crosbie of Ballyheigue Castle (15.8.6). They had two sons and two daughters, and the eldest son was still living at Lee Brook in 1910.

2. Letitia married William Raymond and had children

3. Ruth married as his second wife William Cooke of Retreat (see above) and died 1862

4. Agnes married Richard Mason of Co Limerick and had children.

Step brothers and sisters by his father’s second wife Elizabeth:

5. William married and died 1850 having had a son and a daughter

6. Richard, doctor of Tralee, married and died 1856 having had two sons and a daughter.

7. Elizabeth Chute married and died in 1862 without children.

8. Dorothea Chute married 1824 and had children.

9. Margaret Chute died 1883 unmarried.

Francis Chute inherited Chute Hall but, since we do not know the date of his father’s death, we do not know when he succeeded to the property. His father was only 47 at the time of the wedding so Mary Anne may not have lived there as ‘the Mistress’. However they go to Chute Hall as their eldest son was born there the year after their marriage. Mary Anne died in 1815 aged about 25. In the five years of her marriage she had three sons and a daughter so most of her married life was spent having children.

Francis Chute was born about 1786 and served for a while as a Captain in the Kerry Militia. After Mary Anne died in 1815 he married secondly Arabella, daughter of the Reverend Maynard Denny of Churchill and brother of Sir Barry Denny of Tralee. He had four more children before Arabella died; Francis who served with the 70th Regiment and died in 1853; Arthur who served with the 94th Regiment and died in 1890; Arabella and Penelope who died in 1863; none of these children appear to have married.

Francis then married thirdly Penelope Antonia, fourth daughter of Richard Townsend Herbert of Cahirnane, MP for Kerry. Francis died on 12th August 1849 without any more children, and his third wife lived on until 7th May 1870.

Children of Mary Anne and Francis Chute

1. Richard Chute was born at Chute Hall on 22nd May 1811. He was educated at Clonmell School and Trinity College, Dublin, (BA 1834, MA 1842).
   He became a JP and was DL of Kerry. He married twice (see below) and died on 13th September 1862, aged 51.

2. Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B, served with the army and became a general. In 1868 he married Ellen the eldest daughter of Samuel Browning of Auckland, New Zealand. He died on 12 March 1886 in his early 70’s without children.

3. Rowland Chute died in August 1851 unmarried aged about 37.

4. Mary Chute married William Harnett. They had children.

The eldest son, Richard Chute, married firstly on 18th October Theodora, daughter and heir of Arthur Blennerhassett of Blennerville and Helen Jane his wife, daughter of Thomas 1st Lord Ventry, and grand-daughter of Sir Rowland Blennerhassett, Bart, of Blennerville. She died on 25th July 1845. Their children were

1. Francis Blennerhassett Chute of Chute Hall and Blennerville, born 18th September 1837, served as a lieutenant in the Kerry Militia, became a JP and was DL of Kerry in 1865. On 6th February 1869 he married Cherubina Herbert D’Esterrer Roberts, eldest daughter of Norcott Roberts of Ardmore, Passage West, Co Cork. He died in 1902 having had five children
   a. Richard Aremburg Blennerhassett Chute of Chute Hall, born 24th June 1870, served with the East Surrey Regiment and became a Captain in the Manchester Regiment
   b. Arthur Torrens Chute, born 5th October 1871
   c. Challoner Francis Trevor Chute, born 2nd April 1885 and married 29th June 1911 Maud E. St Clair, daughter of Edward O’Brien Hobson of Myler’s Park, Wexford
   d. Theodora Evelyn Chute
   e. Cherry Herbert Ada Chute

Stephen the Younger & his children
2. Arthur Rowland Chute, born 20th December 1838, served with the 90th Regiment and died unmarried in Calcutta on 23rd February 1858 aged 20.

3. Trevor Bomford Chute died July 1846 aged about 6.

4. Melicent Agnes Chute, married 30th April 1867 Robert Leslie JP and DL, of Tarbet House, Co Kerry, and had three sons and two daughters. She died 19th October 1904 and he on 12th July 1914.

5. Helena Jane Chute married 30th November 1875 Captain Francis Ogilvie Fuller of the 101st Regiment. He died without children 19th September 1876.

Richard Chute married secondly on 3rd March 1847 the Honourable Rose De Moleyn; second daughter of Thomas Townsind Aremburg, 3rd Lord Ventry of Ventry, Co Kerry. They had 7 children before he died on 13th September 1862; she lived on until 21st April 1898.

6. Thomas Aremburg Chute was born on 14th October 1853.

7. Richard Trevor Chute, born 17th July 1856 and served with the 66th Regiment. He was killed as a lieutenant in the Battle of Miawand during the Second Afghan War on 20th July 1880.

8. Mary Anne Chute married in November 1879 Milhem Shakoor Bey of the Lebanon and of the Ministry of War, Egypt. They had two children, Trevor Konsoor Bey born 1880 and Luceya Rose Bey.

9. Theodora Eliza Chute

10. Rosa Chute married 28th September 1889 Henry Dudgeon of the Priory, Stillorgan, Co Dublin, and had five children; Cyril Henry Dudgeon born 1890, Dorothy, Rose and her twin sister Florence, and Lilian Mary.

11. Frances Ruth died 10th August 1871 as a child.

12. Arabella Emily

The Battle of Miawand in which Lieut Richard Trevor Chute, Mary Anne’s grandson, was killed took place near Kandahar just as General Roberts (later Field Marshall, Earl Roberts) and all the British troops were about to leave Afghanistan at the end of the war.

Ayub Khan, the brother of the deposed and banished Amir Yakub Khan, rose up and annihilated the whole British force at Kandahar. General Roberts at once left Kabul for Kandahar; about 300 miles southwest, with 10,000 picked men and on 31st August 1880 defeated Ayub Khan.

18.5.5

Military Bomford Connections 1849

The Bengal Army List of 1849 lists three Bomford relations all serving with the 70th, or Surrey, Regiment of Foot which landed in Bengal on the 17th May 1849 and were stationed at Dum-Dum outside Calcutta.

1. Trevor Chute Mary Annes second son who later became a General and got the KCB was gazetted a major on 23rd April 1847. Earlier he had served as a Lieutenant with the Ceylon Rifle Regiment.

2. Francis Chute Trevor’s stepbrother, was gazetted a Lieutenant on the same day, 23rd April 1847. Francis died unmarried in 1853 and was most probably still in India.

3. Edward L’Estrange Then was gazetted Captain on 9th November 1846 and was with the other two at Dum-Dum. He became a Major General having served with the 14th Regiment in the Peninsular war and now with the Surrey Regiment in India, (27.10).

Edward was the great-grandson of Edmund L’Estrange, and Edmund was the younger brother of Samuel L’Estrange who married Anne Bomford in 1750. Edward’s nephew was Edward Napoleon L’Estrange (27.10) who was also to serve in India later, and who married Belinda Emily Bomford, daughter of Isaac North-Bomford, in 1878.

Edward L’Estrange had two cousins, Francis and his younger brother Edmund, who were also in India at this time. However they were serving with the troops of the Honourable East India Company. It was not until after the Indian Mutiny of 1857 that the East India Company’s private army became the Indian Army answerable to the Crown.

Francis L’Estrange, born 27th October 1823, joined the army in 1843 and was gazetted a Lieutenant on 19th January 1846. In 1849 he was at Meerut with the 30th Regiment of Native Infantry as an acting Captain. He died at Agra in October 1855, aged 32.

Edmund L’Estrange, born 4th April 1828, joined the army in 1845. In 1849 he was an acting Lieutenant with the 22nd Regiment of Native Infantry at Rawalpindi. He died in India on 20th August 1868, aged 40.
4. Frederic James, another L’Estrange with the Surrey Regiment was Frederic James, who became an Apothecary in July 1848 and was about to join the regiment at Dum-Dum. He does not appear to be a direct relation.

18.5.6 The Blennerhassett Family

This family, which has occurred a number of times in these pages, traces its origin to Blennerhassett in Cumberland. The earliest record is in 1270 when Alan De Blennerhassett was pardoned for manslaughter. The family remained around Carlisle until Thomas received a grant of land in Kerry in the time of Queen Elizabeth. His son Robert was MP for Tralee in 1613 and 1635 - 1639 and got more land including Ballyseedy Castle just outside Tralee. Yet more land was granted to his son John of Ballycarty who died in 1676. This John had three sons and three daughters, the eldest son and his descendants remained at Ballyseedy until the place was sold in 1967 and it is now a hotel. Ballyseedy is in the same parish as the two Chute properties of Chute Hall and Spring Hill, and it is likely that the Blennerhassett’s were the head landlords of the Chutes.

The branch of the family with Bomford connections is from the 2nd son Robert, MP for Tralee 1634, High Sheriff 1682, who married Alice, an heiress of Edward Conway of Castle Conway near Killorglin, Co Kerry. Their first two sons died young and the third son, called ‘Black Jack’ of Castle Conway, was one of the eight Kerry gentlemen who supported King William. He was captured in March 1688 while trying to join Lord Kingston at Sligo with 200 others and imprisoned for 14 months at Galway and then at Dublin under sentence of death. He was released in 1690, married and died about 1738.

Black Jack’s eldest son, Conway 1693 - 1724, had five children, and it was his second son (name not known) who was the father of Conway Blennerhassett of Reen Lodge. Conway married Jane Maria Bateman c1793; Jane Maria was the daughter of John Bateman of Dromultin and Mary McDonnell who married secondly Trevor Bomford. Conway died and Jane Marla married secondly Plerce Crosbie in 1803 (15.8.4).

Black Jack’s second son John, born 1696, married Anne, a daughter of Colonel James Dawson of Ballynacourty (New Forest), Co Tipperary. Anne was a great-aunt of Maria Massy-Dawson who married Robert Bomford of Rahinstown. John and Anne Blennerhassett had a daughter Elizabeth who in 1754 married Robert Bolton of Brazeel. The great-grandson of these Bolton’s was Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey who in 1821 married Frances Georgina Bomford, the daughter of Robert and Maria of Rahinstown (21.6.3) To return to Robert and Avice Blennerhassett, whose third son was ‘Black Jack’, their sixth son was Henry of Gortmasherry. Henry’s fourth son was Robert who married Frances Yielding whose mother was the daughter of Rowland Bateman of Oak Park (Killeen). The eldest son of Robert and Frances died young and their second son Rowland became the first baronet in 1809. Sir Roland Blennerhassett had a number of children and it was his fourth son Arthur who inherited Blennerville. Arthur, 1716 - 1839, married Helena, a daughter of Thomas 1st Lord Ventry, and had two daughters, Millicent and Theodora. Theodora married Richard Chute, the eldest son of Mary Anne Bomford and Francis Chute, and she inherited Blennerville in 1839 (18.5.4). The village of Blennerville used to be the port of Tralee until a canal was dug to Tralee about 1838; since then, Blennerville has become a backwater. It is doubtful if there was a Blennerhassett house in Blennerville.

18.5.7 Kerry Houses

In 1838 Lewis records the following Bomford ‘relations’ residing in Co Kerry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chute Hall</td>
<td>Richard Chute, eldest son of Mary Anne (Bomford).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Hill</td>
<td>Captain Francis Chute husband of Mary Anne (Bomford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>He was then aged 52 and must have left Chute Hall for his son who was just starting his family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee Brook</td>
<td>Rowland Chute, brother-in-law of Mary Anne (Bomford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyseedy House</td>
<td>Arthur Blennerhassett, but occupied by Sir Edward Denny, a relative of Arabella who was Francis Cute’s second wife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Park or Killeen</td>
<td>John Bateman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyheigue Castle</td>
<td>Colonel James Crosbie. The Lewis ‘subscribers’ include in this parish “Rev J P Chute, A M and J P”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ardfert Abbey</td>
<td>William Talbot Crosbie and his mother ‘Mrs’ Crosbie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lislaghtin Abbey</td>
<td>Pierce Crosbie, son of Jane Maria (Bomford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusheen</td>
<td>Francis Crosbie, son of Jane Maria (Bomford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarbet House</td>
<td>Robert Leslie. He later married Melicent Agnes grand-daughter of Mary Anne (Bomford).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most of the details of the following come from the diary of John Pratt Winter. Chapter XX concerns the Winter family; this chapter includes this marriage and the children of the marriage.

From Winter’s diary

“Frances Rose (or Rosetta) Bomford was born c1792 at Rahinstown, the younger daughter of Trevor Bomford (and Mary McDonnell, widow of John Bateman). Orphaned and brought up under the guardianship of her uncle, George Bomford of Drumlargin. She was sent to Rome in 1810 (aged 18) under the care of her spinster aunt, Anna Maria (Winter), to study singing and composition under a Dr Sanctis. On her return to Dublin she gave public singing performances and had her songs published.”

Samuel Pratt Winter was the youngest child of Samuel Winter (1741- 1811) and Margaret Robbins (1735 - 1814). He was born on 25th February 1779 at Agher. In June 1795 he entered Trinity where he got his BA in 1800, but he showed little interest in a professional career. In 1802 his father gave him £3,000 and sent him off “as an assistant to learn business” to a firm at Aldershot. Six years later he was back “having been forced by illness to give up business and having lost every last shilling of the £3,000.” After this he does not appear to have any real occupation and lived on £750 a year bequeathed to him by his father.

18.6.1 Marriage Settlement 27th February 1812

Between 1. Samuel Pratt Winter, 3rd son of Samuel Winter late of Agher, deceased.
          2. George Bomford of Clarkestown and guardian to Frances Rose Bomford.
          3. John Pratt Winter of Agher, elder brother to Samuel Pratt Winter, and, Isaac Bomford of Gallow. (The two trustees)
          4. Frances Rose Bomford, spinster, a minor. (She signs the deed as Frances Rosetta Bomford).
          5. Robert Bomford of Rahinstown. (Uncle of Frances Rose)

(All the above sign this very long eight page document)

Reciting 1. Stephen Bomford’s (c1722-1806) will of 1804 (18.2)
          2. The marriage settlement of Stephen Bomford and Elizabeth Sibthorpe of 1745, (8.2) which lists the entailed lands of Derpatrick, Arrodstown, Baconstown and Rahenstown.

Now Frances Rose Bomford and Samuel Pratt Winter are about to be married. Frances Rose’s fortune is about £600 which George Bomford will make up to, £5,000, out of which £2,990 will be held in trust for the issue “share and share alike” when they reach the age of 21 or their marriage, whichever comes earlier, but the 6% interest will be available to Samuel Pratt Winter. The trustees will be John Pratt Winter and Isaac Bomford.

Witnessed Myles O’Reilly (George Bomford’s solicitor) and Thomas Maguire.

(Book 611 Page 46 No 443488 This was not found in the Registry of Deeds, but the following explanatory text was found in a different book with the same number; Book 639 Page 48 No 443488)

The £600 was the whole of the property, which Frances Rose inherited from her father, Trevor Bomford, and her mother, Mary Bomford, who are both dead.

Signed Samuel Pratt Winter and George Bomford

Witnessed Myles O’Reilly of Margaret Place, Dublin, Attorney at Law

The marriage licence, issued by the Diocese of Dublin (page 241), state “Bomford, Frances Rose, and Samuel Pratt Winter 1812 ML.”

The marriage took place at Wesley Chapel in Dublin on 20th July 1812 and the reception was probably at George Bomford’s town house at 27 Gardiners Place.

The settlement does not state what Samuel Pratt Winter received under the terms of his father’s will, but this was known to all parties as Samuel Winter only died the previous year; in money he may have got the £3,000 which his father gave him in 1802; in land he must have got Oakley Park in King’s County because for some years Burke records him as ‘of Oakley Park, King’s Co’. Indeed he may have got all the King’s County property of Castletown, which included Oakley Park, Fea (or Feagh), Forelacky and Kinnetty. Certainly at some stage he or his eldest, George came into some of the King’s County property because the ‘Landowners of Ireland’ of 1878 records that George Winter was living in the Fiji Islands but owned 773 acres in King’s County with a valuation of £460, and because of Burke’s entry this must include Oakley Park.

This Oakley Park, as opposed to the later Bomford property of the same name at Kells, lies across the parish boundary of Parsonstown (now Birr) and St Kiernan, and adjoins Castletown, which an earlier Samuel Winter (1603 - 1666) acquired from the Cromwellian Settlement. There is no record of any
Winter living there, nor indeed in Castletown, and it can be assumed that at this date the estate was leased - probably to a Mr Stoney. In 1838 Lewis records that Oakley Park belonged “to the late Mr Stoney”. Burke has two Stoney’s of Oakley Park, James Johnston Stoney (1759-1824) and his eldest son George Stoney (1792 - ?) who married Anne (1801 - 1883), a daughter of Bindon (‘The Vampire’) Blood. Bindon Blood’s cousin was Neptune Blood whose grand-daughter married George Thomas Lyndon Bolton, the eldest son of Jemima Letitia Bolton (Bomford), one of the many daughters of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown. Further research is needed to find out who actually owned Oakley Park, but it looks as though the Winters were the head landlords and the Stoneys leased it.

Trevor and Mary Bomford must have been fairly comfortably off, but without any large surplus of money; a dowry of £600 was quite reasonable for a younger daughter of those days. It would appear that £4,400 of Frances Rose’s fortune was due to the generosity of her uncle and guardian, George Bomford, but the following deed clarifies this.

18.6.2 Change of Trustees of 1812 Settlement 27th September 1831

Between 1. John Pratt Winter of Agher (brother-in-law to Frances), and Isaac Bomford of Blessington Street, Dublin (first cousin of Frances, father, Trevor)
2. Samuel Pratt Winter of Agher, and Frances Rose Winter (Bomford), his wife
3. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown
4. Henry Chinnery, Justice, of Denvill Street, Dublin, and John Tew Armstrong of North Frederick Street, Dublin.

In the marriage settlement of Stephen Bomford and Elizabeth Bomford (Sibthorpe) his wife, Robert George Bomford was entitled to two sums, of £1,990 and £1,000. These sums (£2,990) were made over to Frances Rose Bomford on her marriage.

Now the trustees are Henry Chinnery (Justice) and John Tew Armstrong.

(Book 875 Page 375 No 581375)

The inheritance of £5,000 of Frances Rose came in three lots,
1. The £600 from her parents.
2. £2990, the trust money for her children, came from her grandfather Stephen. Stephen died in 1806 and George Bomford was his trustee and so paid the money to Frances Rose on her marriage.
3. £1,410 was apparently a gift from her guardian, George Bomford, and a handsome wedding present considering that George was just starting his own family.

The Trustees:

The original trustees were John Pratt Winter and Isaac Bomford. They are both elderly in 1831, being 63 and 65 respectively, and giving up the trusteeship.

The new trustees are Henry Chinnery Justice, he was not Henry Chinnery a Justice, and John Tew Armstrong. The latter was holding a mortgage on Rahinstown in 1831 and was also a relative; his great-great-aunt was Elizabeth Tew who married Thomas Bomford in 1691.

After the marriage the couple lived at Clarkestown House until 1820 and their first five children were born there. In 1820 they went off for a brief stay with the rest of the Winter family in Paris. Then they went to Christleton, near Chester, whilst Samuel pursued his business interests in Liverpool. They returned to Ireland in September 1827 and leased a house, 78 Phibsborough Avenue, near Clontarf in Dublin before moving to Fitzgibbon Avenue, just off Mountjoy Square, in 1830.

Frances Rose, “who had been in poor health for some years, died of brain fever on 16th October 1830 (see below) and was buried alongside her parents in Laracor Churchyard.” Samuel’s sister, Anna Maria, came to the rescue and looked after their young family. Two months later, on 11th December 1831, Samuel died of ‘apoplexy’ and was buried in the Winter vault at Agher.

I am suspicious of the date ‘1830’ for the death of Frances Rose, because she was party to the deed of 1831; John Pratt Winter might be a year out in his diary or the date may have been copied wrongly. A more likely date is 16th October 1831 when she was aged 39 and her eldest son was only about 16 or 17.

Some years before his death Samuel, whose health was declining, made a trust for his children and made his bachelor brother, Rev Francis Winter, both the trustee and guardian of the eight orphaned children.

The children remained in Dublin under the supervision of their somewhat eccentric maiden aunt, Anna Maria Winter.
The Children of Samuel Pratt Winter & Frances Rose Bomford

Eldest  Mary  born 27th April 1814 at Clarkestown House
George   born 17th May 1815 at Clarkestown House
Samuel Pratt  born 17th July 1816 at Clarkestown House
Margaret  born 21st November 1817 at Clarkestown House
Frances Jane  born 5th August 1819 at Clarkestown House
Arbella   born 4th March 1821 at Richmond in Dublin
Trevor    born 21st August 1822 in Dublin
Youngest  Anna Maria Sarah born 13th August 1824

The Winter history places the family in England from 1820 to 1827, so there may be a discrepancy in the Dublin births of 1821 and 1822. However it is only a night crossing from Liverpool to Dublin.

18.7.1

Mary married her cousin, John Pratt Winter the younger, on 25th June 1835 when she was 21. They lived in Dublin and had two daughters before she died in 1856 in Paris, and he in 1864. A fuller history will be found in 20.6 under John Pratt Winter.

18.7.2

George was educated at Trinity College in Dublin, and then sailed to Australia with his sister Arbella in 1838 to join his brothers, Samuel and Trevor, at Tahara near Portland Bay in Victoria. George was 23 when he set sail, and Arbella only 17, so most probably they travelled with someone they already knew; this may have been Cecil Pybus Cooke, then aged 25, who was on the same boat and later married Arbella. George was considered unsuccessful as a sheep farmer but he remained in Australia for close to twenty years and managed his brother Samuel’s sheep runs until 1845. During that time he married Elizabeth, a daughter of James Cox of Clarendon, Tasmania, on 15th March 1843.

In 1854 the family returned to Ireland and eventually bought an estate at Levuka in the Fiji Islands and lived there. Levuka, in the island of Ovalua, was at first (c1857) selected as the European capital, but in 1882 the government was transferred to Suva on the south coast of the neighbouring larger island of Viti Levu. George died in Levuka on 14th September 1883; there is no information about his wife’s death.

They had four children,

1. Sir Francis Pratt Winter was born 23rd February 1848, and trained for the law. When he was 39 he became acting Attorney-General of Fiji during the years 1887 and 1888. In 1888 he was transferred to British New Guinea as the Chief Judicial Officer and he remained in that office until 1903, the year of his marriage. During these years he was also a member of the Executive and Legislative Council of New Guinea. In 1892 he was honoured as a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG), and in 1900 he was made a Knight Bachelor (KB). In 1903 at the age of 55 he married Edith, a daughter of Sir George Moore who lived in Suva, Fiji. For his work in Fiji George Moore was knighted in 1904; he was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order (ISO); in 1876 he was the First Government Surveyor and in 1880 was promoted to Staff Surveyor; in 1899 he became the Commissioner of Land, Works and Water Supply and the Crown Surveyor. Sir Francis and Edith had no children.

2. St Leonards Crosbie Winter was so named because he was born off St Leonards in the English Channel in 1853. He was drowned as a young man in a hurricane off Fiji.

3. Georgina Winter was born in the same year, 1853, (?twins?), and died unmarried in 1931 at Auckland, New Zealand. She was the last of this branch of the family.

4. Ernest Winter was born in 1856 and was killed by a falling tree.

18.7.3

Samuel Pratt Winter at the age of 18 went to Tasmania in 1834 with his brother Trevor, aged 12, to a family friend, William Bryan.

The Bryans lived at Spring Valley beside Summerhill and so were close neighbours to the Winters at Agher; William Bryan had emigrated to Tasmania in 1824. In 1837 Samuel leased the sheep runs of Tahara and Spring Valley which was later renamed Murndal on the Wannon River near Hamilton, 50 miles north of Portland Bay. He mostly remained in Tasmania until 1845 while his brother George managed the sheep runs. After 1850 Murndal became his permanent residence, but he made long visits to
England and Europe where he collected pictures and books. On 25\textsuperscript{th} December 1878 Samuel died unmarried and was buried at Murndal, which he left to his nephew Samuel Winter Cooke.

18.7.4

Margaret Winter stayed in Ireland and married Nathaniel Preston of Swainstown on 15\textsuperscript{th} October 1839. He was the eldest son of the Reverend Nathaniel Preston, was born in 1813, educated at Trinity and died in 1853. The Preston family had been at Swainstown, which is eight miles northeast of Agher and near Kilmessan, since the early 1700’s.

Margaret and Nathaniel inherited the place, which consisted of about 320 acres in 1840 when Nat’s father died. (Nathaniel is a Preston family name and they all seem to have been called ‘Nat’.) In 1838 Swainstown is described by Lewis as “a handsome residence in an extensive and well planted demesne”; the house which is still occupied by the Prestons has a large two storey centre block joined to wings by curved sweeps of pillars, it was built during the 1700’s.

Margaret died of consumption in Paris on 17\textsuperscript{th} May 1845 aged 28 having had two children, and both children were minors in 1853 when their father died. They were then looked after at Cambridge by their uncle Samuel Bomford.

1. Frances Elizabeth Preston, born 12\textsuperscript{th} November 1840, married 1867, and died 1923 and was buried at Kilmessan. Her husband was Charles Yescombe of Lyme Regis, Dorset, the 3\textsuperscript{rd} son of the Rev Morris Baytum Yescombe of Truro, Cornwall. Charles was said to have been a sailor, “of good family but not a satisfactory husband”. They had 3 children
   a. Edith Morris Preston Yescombe was born before her parent’s marriage and said to have been embittered about it. She appears to have married three times before her death on 18\textsuperscript{th} December 1954. Her last marriage on 27\textsuperscript{th} November 1909 was to Robert Travers of Timoleague, Co Cork, who was born on 19\textsuperscript{th} May 1855, became a barrister, and died 2\textsuperscript{nd} April 1935. He also had been married twice before and had four children by his previous marriages. It is not known whether Edith had children by her previous marriages about which nothing is known, but she had none by Robert Travers.
   b. Mary A Margaret Yescombe died aged about 20.
   c. Lucy Rose Yescombe was brought up at Cambridge by her great-uncle Samuel Bomford with the latter’s children, Lorna and Hugh Bomford (I wonder why since her mother was still alive). In 1896 she married the Rev John Herbert Satchell of Dover, and she died in 1929 having had two daughters.
      Una Margaret Satchell, born 1900 and Nathalie Frances Satchell, born 1904.

2. Nathaniel Francis Preston was born on 6\textsuperscript{th} May 1843, went to Marlborough then to Cambridge where he got his BA in 1865 whilst living with his uncle Samuel Bomford, and then returned to Swainstown where he became a Justice of the Peace. On 25\textsuperscript{th} July 1865 he married Augusta Florence a daughter of Lieut Colonel John Caulfield of Bloomfield, Co Westmeath who died soon after the marriage of his daughter. Augusta was also a sister to Anna Julia Caulfield who married Nat’s cousin, Major Francis Winter in 1850 (20.6). Nathaniel died on 28\textsuperscript{th} June 1903 and Augusta on 1\textsuperscript{st} December 1911. They had no children and Swainstown passed to his cousin, Major Arthur John Preston (1841 - 1930).

18.7.5

Frances Jane Winter 1819-1910

Married Samuel Bomford (1813 - 1898)

The details of these two will be found in Chapter XXVI.

18.7.6

Arbella Winter – Mrs Cecil Pybus Cooke

Arbella Winter went to Tasmania with her brother George in 1838 when she was only 17. Cecil Cooke, her future husband, was on the same boat and they got married the next year on 18\textsuperscript{th} April 1839. It looks as though there was a romance on the boat and they married soon after they arrived. Cecil Pybus Cooke was the eldest son of William Cooke (1782 - 1863, see 8.3.1) and Martha Pybus of Cheltenham, and was born in 1813 at Fort St George in Madras, India. In the same year that they married (1839) they moved from Tasmania to Portland Bay in Victoria where, after failing at squatting, they ran a general store for a couple of years. Five years later in 1844 they took up Pine Hill sheep run in Woomera District, but they only stayed in sheep for four years because in 1848 they sold Pine Hill and bought Lake Condah cattle station where they lived for the next 40 or so years. When Cecil died in 1895, Lake Condah was left to his younger sons, Cecil and Herbert, but neither held it. Arbella died on 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1892 having had six children.
1. Emily Jane Cooke, born 1842 and died the next year.
2. William Francis Cooke born at Pine Hill 1845, married Josephine McCrae in 1875 and died 1888. They had two children
   a. May (‘Midge’) Cooke born c1877, married c1900 H C Swinborne Ward and had two daughters.
   b. Frances Cooke born c1880 and married a Mr Harbottle.
3. (The Honourable) Samuel Winter Cooke was born at Pine Hill on 17th March 1847 and educated at Cheltenham and Cambridge, BA 1870. He was admitted to the English Bar in 1872 and the Victorian Bar in 1873. He was a barrister at Melbourne until 1878 when he inherited Murndal from his uncle, Samuel Pratt Winter. He married twice; firstly on 6th January 1883 to Alice, a daughter of Hugh Lecky Chambers, a Melbourne solicitor, who died in 1903; secondly in 1910 to Margaret Hawdon who died in 1974 in Hythe, Kent. Around 1900 he became a member of the Federal Government but resigned after the death of his first wife. Samuel died in Melbourne on 26th June 1929 without children. Murndal passed to his nephew William Lempriere Winter-Cooke.
4. Cecil Trevor Cooke born 1851 at Lake Condah was educated at Malvern and Cambridge, BA 1873. He returned to Australia and worked with his father at Lake Condah from 1874 to 1878. He then went overseas and tried unsuccessfully to start a cattle station in New Zealand, and then a sheep station in New Mexico, USA. After those ventures he returned to Australia and in 1883 married Annie, a daughter of William Lempriere of Green Meadow, Balaclava, South Australia. For the next 23 years they were at Murndal, which Cecil managed for his brother Samuel from 1884 till 1907. Cecil died in Melbourne in 1922 having had six children
   a. Trevor Cooke, born 1889 and died 1899.
   b. Lorna Cooke who married E Blair.
   c. William Lempriere Winter-Cooke was born c1895, married Marcia Geddes in 1925, inherited Murndal in 1929 and died 1975 having had five children, four girls and a boy. The only son Samuel Winter-Cooke is now at Murndal.
   d. Arbella Cooke married E Trebeck
   f. Bryan Cooke married and had two sons.
5. Edmund Gerald Cooke, born 1st February 1852 and educated at Malvern in England. He returned to Australia and was apprenticed to a solicitor when it was discovered that he was consumptive. He died 13th September 1782, aged 20, and was buried in Melbourne.
6. Herbert Pybus Cooke was born 18th March 1862 at Lake Condah. Educated at Malvern, England, 1872-80 and then worked on his father’s cattle station. In 1885 he married Agnes Jane, daughter of Francis Knox Orme, a barrister from Co Mayo. They had five children and the family continues through the daughters. Herbert died in 1928 at the property of his son-in-law, Edward C. Nicholson, near Corowa, New South Wales

18.7.7  
Trevor Winter  
1822 - 1885

Trevor Winter as a lad aged 12 in 1834 went off to Tasmania with his brother Samuel. Later on he spent some years sheep farming and then digging gold at Ballarat in the 1850’s. He died unmarried on 29th November 1885 at Murndal and was buried there.

18.7.8  
Anna Maria Sarah Winter  
1824 - 1856

Anna Maria Sarah Winter married Charles Gustavus Walsh, second son of John Walsh of Dundrum Castle, Co Dublin. Charles was born in 1810 and educated at Trinity College, Dublin. He joined the East India Company Service and retired as a colonel. The Bengal Army List of 1849 records some of his early military career. He joined the Bengal Army in 1827 and was gazetted a Captain on Christmas Day 1842, and in 1849 was serving with the 14th Regiment of Native Infantry which since 1847 was stationed at Berhampore near Calcutta. He was a linguist and could speak both Persian and ‘Hindoostanee’ and had passed the ‘college examination’ in both. On 16th January 1848 he was granted sick leave and, since this was over a year before the publication of the army list, he may have returned home. It is possible that his marriage occurred during that leave since the first child was born c1850. The marriage lasted only a few years because Anna Maria died in Singapore in 1856. There were three girls.

1. Mina Walsh, born c1850 and died unmarried
2. Arbella Walsh (‘Ella’) born c1852 and married the Rev Courteneay Clarke. Their grandchildren are still alive.
3. Louisa Walsh (‘Lovie’) born c1854, married an army officer and had three daughters.
The Winters and Early Victoria

George, Samuel, Trevor and Arbella Winter were all shipped off to Australia by their guardian John Pratt Winter at the youthful ages of 23, 18, 12 and 17 respectively. The first two to arrive, Samuel and Trevor, went to friends in Tasmania in 1834 and they soon joined the first permanent settlement in Victoria at Portland Bay. The Portland Bay settlement was formed by Edward Henty of Tasmania who landed there on 19th November 1834. This settlement was considered an unsuitable site because the soil was poor and the bay unsafe for shipping. The next settlement was made at what was to become Melbourne in August 1835 and this area proved so suitable that others followed soon after from Tasmania. These settlers brought stock with them and commenced to push their way into the interior. They were met by Thomas Mitchell who had travelled through unknown territory from New South Wales in the north. The reports of Mitchell and the success of the first settlers caused great excitement. Herds of sheep and cattle were driven overland and every available craft brought more animals and passengers from Tasmania, and they speedily occupied the best parts of the new territory. The population of Victoria rose from 177 in 1836 to 11,738 in 1841.

Our two young Winters, Samuel and Trevor, the grandchildren of Trevor and Mary Bomford, were amongst those who pushed inland from Portland Bay and leased the sheep runs of Tahara and Spring Valley (Murndal) in 1837. In 1838 George and Arbella who had just arrived from Ireland joined them. Their life would have been rough and hard initially but it was George, the so-called ‘unsuccessful sheep farmer’, who bore the brunt of such a life. Samuel did not arrive permanently until 1845 and the two ‘just married’ Cookes, Arbella and Cecil, went to Portland Bay in 1839, tried squatting in the outback but failed and returned to Portland Bay where they ran a general store for two years; it was not until 1844 that they leased Pine Hill sheep station and finally settled at Lake Condah cattle station in 1848. Trevor, by then about 30, gave up sheep farming and tried his hand at digging for gold at Ballarat. Gold was first discovered there in 1851 and the gold rush got under way in 1852; the goldfield riots were in 1854 but it is not recorded when Trevor actually moved to the goldfields, only ‘during the 1850’s’.

Summary of Trevor Bomford & his Family

Trevor Bomford, born 1760, attorney, ‘Six-Clerk’ 1781 - 1797 in Dublin, married September 1789 Mary, born c1750, only daughter and heiress of Alexander McDonnell of Dublin and widow of John Bateman of Dromultin, Co Kerry.

(Her first marriage to John Bateman took place in May 1771 in Co Mayo. She had one daughter, Jane Maria Bateman, born c1772, who married twice 1st to Conway Blennerhassett c1793 and secondly to Pierce Crosbie in March 1803. Jane Maria died in 1833 having had children, see 15.8.5.),

Trevor died February 1797 and Mary in 1809 (July probate) in Gardiner’s Place, Dublin. Both were buried in Laracor Churchyard. They had two daughters, both minors, and George Bomford was appointed their guardian.

1. Mary Anne (Marianne) Bomford, born c1790, married 13th February 1810 Francis Chute of Chute Hall, Co Kerry, Captain Kerry Militia, eldest son of Richard Chute (born 1763) and Agnes Bateman. She died 1815 having had four children; Francis Chute remarried secondly Arabella Denny and thirdly Penelope Antonia Herbert, and died 12th August 1849.
   a. Richard Chute of Chute Hall, born 22nd May 1811, educated Trinity College, MA, JP and DL of Co Kerry married 1st 18th October 1836 Theodora Blennerhassett. She died 25th July 1845 having had three sons and two daughters. He married 2nd Hon Rose De Moleyns, second daughter of Thomas, 3rd Lord Ventry; she died 21st April 1898 and he on 13th September 1862 having had a further two sons and five daughters.
   c. Rowland Chute died unmarried August 1851.
   d. Mary Chute married William Harnett and had children.

2. Frances Rose Bomford, born c1792 at Rahinstown, married in Dublin 20th July 1812 Samuel Pratt Winter, 3rd son of Samuel Winter of Agher and brother to Arbella Bomford. He was born 25th February 1779 at Agher, BA Trinity 1800, and died 11th December 1831. She died 16th October 1831 having had eight children.
   a. Mary Winter, born 21st April 1814, married her cousin John Pratt Winter 25th June 1835 and died 11th November 1856, in Paris (20.6).
   b. George Winter, born 17th May 1815, educated TCD, emigrated to Australia in 1838, married 15th March 1843 Elizabeth Cox of Tasmania, moved to Fiji and died there 14th September 1883. They had four children, the eldest being Sir Francis Pratt Winter of Fiji and New Guinea.
   c. Samuel Pratt Winter, born 17th July 1816, emigrated to Australia in 1834, settled at Murndal, Victoria, and died there unmarried 25th December 1818.
d. Margaret Winter, born 21\textsuperscript{st} November 1817, married 15\textsuperscript{th} October 1839 Nathaniel Preston, eldest son of Rev Nathaniel Preston, of Swainstown, Co Meath. She died in Paris 11\textsuperscript{th} May 1845 having had two children who were minors when their father died in 1853. Their guardian was Samuel Bomford of Cambridge.

e. Frances Jane Winter, born 5\textsuperscript{th} August 1819, married 11\textsuperscript{th} July 1839 Samuel Bomford. See Chapter 26.

f. Arbella Winter, born 4\textsuperscript{th} March 1821, emigrated to Australia 1838 and there married 18\textsuperscript{th} April 1839 Cecil Pybus Cooke (1813 - 1895) of Lake Condah. She died 1\textsuperscript{st} April 1892 having had six children.

g. Trevor Winter, born 21\textsuperscript{st} August 1822, emigrated to Australia in 1834 and died unmarried at Murndal 29\textsuperscript{th} November 1885

h. Anna Maria Sarah Winter, born 13\textsuperscript{th} August 1824, married Colonel Charles Gustavus Walsh, EICS Bengal Army, 2nd son of John Walsh of Dundrum Castle, Co Dublin. She died in Singapore in 1856 having had three girls.

18.8 George Bomford, the Elder, 5th Son of Stephen

George was born in 1759 and was brought up at Rahinstown concentrating on farming. He was aged 41 when his father, Stephen the younger of Rahinstown, died in 1806. George inherited all the estates but this must have caused a family row because some were entailed. There are no deeds concerning this row and it may have been sorted out quite amicably between the two brothers, George and Robert, though it must have caused George considerable embarrassment. Two years after Stephen’s death George handed over the entailed estates. It was apparent earlier on that Stephen could not get on with his eldest son Robert and there will be more about this later. We really do not know what happened but it is interesting that in the days when these things mattered, Robert broke away from family tradition and was buried in Rathcore Churchyard where no other Bomford had been buried.

George married Arbella Winter in 1809 and they had four children; George the younger and Samuel who both lived to old age; the other two, Margaret and John, died in infancy. They were married less than five years when George died in January 1814, and Arbella in September of the next year. Both deaths appeared to be unexpected and of course the two children were left as orphans to be brought up by the Winters. The concept of a family row is confirmed by the choice of guardian; Arbella’s brother, a Winter who was so desperately short of cash that he had to lease Agher, rather than George’s older brother Robert Bomford, was chosen.

A portrait of George hangs at Crodara. This large portrait used to hang in the dining room at Oakley Park with the other family portraits. It measures 26 by 27 inches, in a gilt frame six inches deep and there is no clue as to who the artist might be. George is seated facing right with his head turned slightly towards the painter, his right arm is resting on the chair arm and he is holding a paper. He is wearing a black coat with a high collar and this, with a dark background, makes it a very dark picture; however the effect is that the face is highlighted and impressive. He has blue eyes, brown hair going a little grey, and a prominent nose - a good example of what was known in the family as “the Bomford nose”. Incidentally when “the Bomford nose” was combined with a jutting chin they were then known as ‘nutcrackery’, George at least was not ‘nutcrackery’. His face is firm though kindly and one gets the impression of an elderly man, probably in his late forties, who would know his own mind and yet be approachable. George married when he was 50 and the portrait may have been painted about that date, 1809, but it does not look to be by the same artist as any of the other contemporary portraits. There is no portrait of Arbella, but there is one of her father and another of her elder brother who became guardian of her two children when she died.

Before his marriage George was farming and he was a member of the ‘Farming Society of Ireland’, but he has not been mentioned in many land deeds and so the land he farmed must have been his father’s although he may have rented it. We know he was farming because twice before the turn of the century bankrupts had sold his cattle. In 1795 he leased 1,200 acres around Drumlargan and bought it in 1808. This land was expensive and was not fully paid for until just after Arbella’s death. However the Drumlargan land was the foundation on which George’s descendants built and was particularly important to George, since he could not have Rahinstown and the other entailed lands.

We now deal with the documents concerning this period starting with a couple of leases.

18.8.1 Lease - Clonfad 2\textsuperscript{nd} May 1807

George Bomford of Drumlargan leases to Samuel Dopping of Lowtown, Co Westmeath the lands of Clonfad consisting of 186 plantation acres (301 statute) of arable land and 45 plantation acres (73 statute) of red bog in the Parish of Killucan, for three lives or 31 years at a rent of £352.
Witnessed Ralph Dopping, brother to Samuel  
Myles O’Reilly of Margaret Place, Attorney at Law.  
(Book 592 Page 44 No 400465)

Both Samuel and his younger brother Ralph are in the Dopping family tree (9.3.6). They were great greatsons of Antony Dopping the Bishop of Meath. Samuel was born in 1761 and was 46 at this date. Only part of the 567 acres of Clonfad was leased to Samuel Dopping probably that portion which was adjacent to Lowtown.

18.8.2 Lease - Cluide  
(c1809)

There is no initial lease for this townland, but it appears in the rent roll of George the younger when he was still a minor. Cluide, also known as Clude, Clonduchat or Cloondecaacagh is in the Parish of Smarmor in the Barony of Ardee, Co Louth. It is a very small townland of only 25 acres mostly pasture on rising ground.

It is hard to believe that this little townland, so far away from any Bomford land, would have been purchased. It is much more likely that it was part of a marriage settlement and the obvious choice is that it was part of the dowry of Elizabeth Sibthorpe. Elizabeth married Stephen the younger in 1745 and her family all came from County Louth.

Another possibility is that it was Winter land and formed part of Arbella’s dowry. It is with this in mind that the Cluide lease has been placed here and not in 1745. 1745 is more likely but one does not want to appear to grab too much land too early:

18.8.3 Release of Rahinstown etc by George to Robert Bomford  
(10th May 1808)

Reciting 1. 7th February 1714, Garrett Wesley of Dangan released to William Palmer of the City of Dublin the lands of Arradstown or Arratstown consisting of 77 plantation acres (125 statute) in the Barony of Deece, for three lives at a rent of £27.4.3, (4.4).

2. 10th December 1691, Sir Arthur Langford of Summerhill releases to Thomas Bomford of Old Town, Co Meath, the townlands of Baconstown consisting of 507 plantation acres (821 statute), and of Rahinstown consisting of 396 plantation acres (642 statute), both in the Barony of Moyfenrath, for three lives renewable for ever (1.9.1).

3. Previous to 17th April 1745 the estate of William Palmer (Arradstown) passed to Stephen Bomford, father of Robert and George Bomford.

4. The estate of Thomas Bomford (Rahinstown and Baconstown) was vested in Stephen Bomford.

5. 17th April 1745, (8.2), on Stephen’s marriage to Elizabeth Sibthorpe the above land was placed in trust for the eldest son of Elizabeth’s children only, with a guarantee of £3,000 and £1,000 both with 5% interest for the younger children; and £1,000 for whatever the trustees think proper; and an annuity of £150 to be paid to his wife on his death. (The parties to this deed are all listed)

6. 18th April 1745, the marriage took place and resulted in many children, both male and female, some of who died before their father Stephen. Trevor Bomford had died leaving two daughters. Those others who had died had no issue.

7. 4th October 1804, (18.1.2), Stephen made his will and recorded the Deed of Settlement of 17th April 1745. His children who were alive when he made his will were Robert, eldest son, and four younger sons, namely Anthony, George, Ephraim, and Chichester, and two daughters namely Margaret and Frances Jane.

Of the several sums of £3,000, £1,000 and £1,000 - Anthony should get £1,000 but if Anthony should die in Stephen’s lifetime it should go to George. George is to receive all else - Lands, property, personal goods, cattle, furniture, etc; George had to pay for Stephen’s funeral and all Stephen’s debts.

8. Anthony died during Stephen’s lifetime, unmarried and without issue.

9. Those living at Stephen’s death were:
   His wife Elizabeth, Robert the eldest son, George, Ephraim, Chichester, Margaret (Mockler), and Frances Jane (Massey).

10. Elizabeth the widow ‘hath lately died’.

11. Robert Bomford has paid £1,000 to Ephraim Bomford.

“This indenture witnesses that George Bomford doeth release unto Robert Bomford the lands of Arradstown, Baconstown and Rahinstown,” and Robert undertakes the payment of “the several sums of £3,000, £1,000, and all interest” (5%).

Rahinstown, Baconstown and Arradstown were clearly placed in trust for the eldest son, so Stephen’s will had to be over-ruled and George, the younger of the two living sons, had to hand back the
land to Robert his elder brother. Thus, although George lost the land, he gained £3,000 in cash from the settlement, being his share plus the share of Anthony who had died.

Dirpatrick. In 1745 Stephen’s marriage settlement stated that Dirpatrick was to carry the cost of Elizabeth’s annuity. This land has not been mentioned in this document, perhaps because Elizabeth had died but later documents do indicate that Dirpatrick was handed over to Robert even though it was not entailed.

Something very similar to this indenture is to be found in the Registry of Deeds Book 614, Page 249, Number 419086. This was signed by both George and Robert, and witnessed by Miles O’Reilly and John Tew, both Attorneys at Law in Dublin.

18.8.4 Marriage - George Bomford & Arbella Winter 22nd March 1809

One of the earliest marriages in the records of the newly rebuilt Agher Church, which still exist reads

“George Bomford of Clarkestown Esq. married to Miss Arbela Winter,
2nd daughter to Samuel Winter of Agher, on 22nd March 1809.”

This must have been a large wedding since so many of both families were living nearby. Those of the family who might have attended may have been George’s relations: -

Uncle David of Gallow and his wife Sarah
Brothers Robert of Rahinstown and Maria his wife together with a number of their small children
Ephraim Chichester  Both in the army but they might have been home
Sisters Margaret Mockler from Trim
Frances Jane and her husband Col Cromwell Massy
Cousins David’s children-
Isaac of Gallow and Jane his wife
Jane and her husband Duke Cooper of Great Down, Mullingar
Anne and her husband John North of Whitewell, Rochfortbridge
Sarah and her husband John Coates of Bridestream, Kilcock.
Trevor’s children -
Mary Anne Frances Rose  Since they were wards of George they may have been bridesmaids
Arbella’s relations: -
Parents Samuel and Margaret Winter of Agher
Brothers John Pratt Winter and his wife Anne (Gore) of Tullyard, Trim and some of their older children
Rev Francis Pratt Winter, the ‘hunting parson’ of Rathconnell:
Samuel Pratt Winter
Sister Anna Maria Winter
Cousins A number of the Reynell family from both Killynon and Reynella, Co Westmeath

One wonders whether the ceremony was carried out by the Rector of Agher, John Bolton, or by Arbella’s brother Francis Pratt Winter, the Rector of Rathconnell, probably by both.

There are two deeds concerning the marriage; the settlement, a jointure and a Winter mortgage to raise money for the jointure, and a number of references in Arbella’s will and later marriage settlements. These later references clarify the deeds about the marriage and have been brought into the text so that all is included in the right context.

Marriage Settlement 21st March 1809

Between 1. George Bomford of Clarkestown, Co Meath
2. Henry Hamilton of Ballymacoll, Co Meath and
John Pratt Winter of Tullyard, Co Meath (Trustees)
3. Ephraim Bomford, brother to George, then a Captain in the Royal Marines, and
Rev Francis Pratt Winter of Killinan, Co Westmeath
4. Samuel Winter of Agher and his youngest daughter Arbella Winter

On the marriage of George Bomford and Arbella Winter,
(one deed records the date as 5th November 1809 but this is wrong)
1. George Bomford receives £4,000 from Samuel Winter (see mortgage below)
2. George Bomford makes a “Limited Trust for 300 years” of the following lands -
   - Drumlargan
   - Ballydongan, Baldungan or Dunganstown
   - Ordnellstown or Edinstown
   - part of Clonlyon
   - Knock, Knockturn or Knockturin
   - part of Monaloy or Moneloy, all in Co Meath and
   - Clonfad in Co Westmeath

   The trustees are Henry Hamilton and John Pratt Winter.

   From this trust £4,000 is set-aside for the children of the marriage and, if George should die, then
   Arbella is to receive an annuity of £300 (the figure recorded in the 1863 deed) or £500 (the figure in
   this deed).

3. Arbella is entitled, upon the death of Sir John Blunden of Castle Blunden of Kilkenny Town, to the
   principle sum of £3,000 or £1,500 plus interest. (It is clearly written ‘£3,000 or £1,500’). These sums
   are charged upon the estates in Kilkenny, Tipperary and Dublin which were the estates of John
   Robbins deceased-
   - Robertstown or Robberstown
   - Dysert or Dyserbeg
   - Capahensen or Capahensy
   - Ardsign
   - Castlecasker Castlecaquer or Castlecosquer
   - Ballyduffe
   - Coolrodge
   - Coolreany or Coolrany
   - Coolshillagh and
   - Kelmaeshane
   - Coppanasmearc
   - Roper’s Rest in Co Dublin

   These lands were leased by Arbella Winter in trust to Henry Hamilton and Ephraim Bomford

   Witnessed Myles O’Reilly of Dublin, Attorney at Law
   James O’Reilly of Mill Castle, Co Westmeath (Book 610 Page 29 No 416231)

   The trust set up by George records that the £4,000 was ‘for the children’ and there is no mention
   of an entail. One problem to reconciling this deed with the later ones is that the later ones write of George
   and Arbella which could apply to George the elder and his wife Arbella or to George the younger and his
   wife Arbella, and it is very difficult to sort out which George and Arbella were which. However one of
   the Georges did entail the lands because the deeds of 1861 (30.2.2) and 1863 (30.4.1) not only record the
   entail but both record that the £4,000 was for the ‘younger children’, and the words ‘Limited Trust for
   300 years’ also only appears in these later deeds. On balance I believe that it was George the elder who
   entailed the lands.

   Arbella’s money came from her cousin, Lady Blunden, who was one of the Robbins of Ballyduff,
   Co Kilkenny. Originally Joseph Robbins, who died in 1725 (Vicar’s Extract of Wills), acquired property
   in County Kilkenny, probably those estates listed above, and lived at Ballyduff. His son, another Joseph
   Robbins (1695-1761, Vicars), inherited and married Margaret Piers, a daughter of Sir Henry Piers, 3rd
   Baronet of Tristernagh Abbey, Co Westmeath. They had a number of children of whom we are interested
   in two -

   The youngest daughter, Margaret Robbins, born 21st September 1735, married 1762 and died at
   Agher 17th November 1814; her husband was Samuel Winter of Agher (1741 - 1811). They had five
   children of whom Arbella Winter was the 2nd daughter (above and 20.4)

   The eldest son was John Robbins who inherited Ballyduff and died 3rd July 1769. He had an only
   daughter who inherited.

   Frances Robbins, born c1765. She was placed under the guardianship of her aunt Margaret and
   Samuel Winter. On 28th June 1786 Frances married Sir John Blunden, 2nd Baronet of Castle Blunden in
   Kilkenny Town. They had no children and when Frances, Lady Blunden, died on 13th January 1809 the
   Robbins estates passed to her cousins, the five children of Samuel and Margaret Winter, after the death of
   her husband in 1818.

   So the money mentioned above was a one-fifth share of the whole Robbins estate, of which there
   are later references particularly in 20.6.5.

   An interesting side issue: James Freney, the famous highwayman of Co Kilkenny of around
   1780, was the son of one of the servants of Joseph Robbins the younger. One of Joseph’s sons who had
been brought up with James Freney at Ballyduff spent many years trying to capture the highwayman, but never succeeded.

The original trustees outlived George and Arbella and three of them were still alive when George the younger was married in 1832.

Hamilton of Ballymacoll was born in 1760 and died in 1844. He was the second son of 36 children, which his father had by his three wives. (36 children is not a misprint!).

John Pratt Winter of Tullyard and later of Agher died in 1846.

Ephraim Bomford probably died in 1815 or a little later.

Rev Francis Pratt Winter of Killinon, who was party to the deed but does not appear to be a trustee, died unmarried in 1847. It is interesting that this deed places the Rev Winter at ‘Killinan’, which is actually Killinon, whereas the Winter history places him at Clondrisse from 1800 to 1820. These two houses were both Pratt and then Winter properties and are on opposite sides of the Mullingar to Kells road and fairly close to Rathconnell Church, where Francis was the vicar from 1800 to 1819. Killinon was permanently leased to the Reynell family by Samuel Winter (1741 - 1811) and the lease was probably part of the marriage settlement of 1767 when Jane Winter married Rev Edward Reynell, vicar of Rathconnell, until his death in 1788. In any event at least four generations of Reynell’s lived at Killinon from the late 1700’s into the 1900’s, so it is more likely that the Rev Francis Winter was based at Clondrisse.

18.8.5 Mortgage of Tullyard for £4,000 21st March 1809

Between 1. Samuel Winter of Agher, and his eldest son
2. John Pratt Winter of Tullyard, Co Meath and
3. George Bomford of Clarkestown, Co Meath

George Bomford received £4,000 upon his marriage with Arbella Winter youngest daughter of Samuel Winter. This £4,000 plus 6% interest was raised by a mortgage to George Bomford on Tullaghard, alias Tullyard.

This money is exclusive of the money due to Arbella Winter from the estate of Dame Frances Blunden, wife of Sir John Blunden of Castle Blunden in Kilkenny Town.

Witnessed Oliver Bomford (One of the ‘Unplaced Bomfords’)
Myles O’Reilly

This deed has written on it that it was recorded in (Book 607, Page 389, No 16232) but both the number of the book and of the deed were checked and nothing was found in the Registry of Deeds.

Tullyard, pronounced ‘Tullahard’, was the second Winter house and is in the Parish of Trim about three miles north of Trim. It consisted of about 195 statute acres. John Pratt Winter built the house and lived there from 1803 until after his father died when he moved to Agher.

Later his eldest son Samuel lived at Tullyard from about 1825 until 1846.

This mortgage was paid off in 1835 and that deed follows. The amount was £4,000 and not £400 as in the deed.

Settlement of Tullaghard Morgage 17th July 1835

The mortgage on Tullaghard for £400 dated 21st March 1809, given by George Bomford of Drumlargan to Samuel and John Pratt Winter of Agher, was paid off this day.

Samuel Bomford, Cornet in H.M. 3rd Regiment of Dragoon Guards and Legatee in the will of Arbella Bomford, his mother, is party to this.

Witnessed John Barnes of 11 Baggott Street, Attorney of Dublin, and Joseph Barnes of 100 Marlborough Street, Dublin, Esquire.
(Both sons of Thomas Barnes of Westlands House Moynalty).

18.8.6 Death of George Bomford the Elder January 1814

There are no deeds concerning George’s death, but the probate of ‘George Bomford of Clarkestown’ was recorded in the Prerogative Wills and the Prerogative Inventories, and we do have a Tax Return and a copy of the Prerogative Inventory, but no actual will. J.F. Ainsworth (5.7.1) reports that there was a will but it is no longer included with the documents.

The family Bible gives the date of his death as January 1814. He was buried at Laracor.
A list of “Carriages, Servants, etc at residence 27 Gardiner’s Place in the Parish of St Georges Dublin City.”

This printed form is split into columns, which I have not tried to duplicate. The form has not been signed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carriages</th>
<th>Animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 4 wheel Chariot</td>
<td>Three excellent horses for general use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 wheel Gig</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 2 wheel Jaunting Car</td>
<td>No dog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Male Servants

James Commons  
John Murray  

General Capacity”

On the back is written in note form;

“G Bomford Funeral Expenses
For very particular reasons this paper not to be torn.
Remember no person to touch this paper
Front 2 2 1 2 2 2                  11
Back 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 2     15
Total         26”

It looks as though George started this on the 20th, was taken ill and died within the next 10 days. This is one reason why it is thought that George died suddenly. In addition at this date Arbella was about two months pregnant so there was no question of a lingering sickness. The note on the back may have been written by Arbella.

Both the male servants were mentioned in Arbella’s will and they were the only ones to receive a legacy. James Commons was the coachman and John Murray just ‘a servant’, but more likely to be George’s ‘man’; as such they would travel with the family. The conclusion from this is that the family were in Dublin at this time and that George died there.

The series of figures on the back are a mystery; the only thing that I can think of is that they were to do with the Window Tax on No 27 Gardiner’s Place. If so there were 11 windows overlooking the street and 15 at the back, and these numbers would be reasonable for a four-storey house.

A four-wheeled chariot was a smaller version of a coach, drawn by a pair, or sometimes two pair, of horses in which two passengers sit inside facing forward. By this date it would be sprung and so give quite a comfortable drive. The coachman and groom sit high up at the front and there was a platform at the back on which two other servants could stand. Luggage would be carried either on the rear platform or on the roof behind the coachman.

A gig was drawn by one horse inside two long curved shafts. It had a light body but because the carriage was set high it over turned rather easily. They were popular because they were light, fast and fairly cheap.

The jaunting car was a purely Irish vehicle. Two-wheeled and open, it was drawn by a single horse in shafts. The passengers, two or three a side, sat back-to-back facing outwards on a long seat that ran down the centre of the car.

I expect, that George and Arbella would use the chariot to go to town from Clarkestown using two horses, and that the third horse would follow with the luggage and any other servants in the gig. The jaunting car may have been left in Dublin.

18.8.7  

George’s Estate - Prerogative Inventory  22nd ? 1814

This deed is titled

“Attested copy of Inventory of Estate and Effects of George Bomford deceased extracted from the Registry of Court of Prerogative.”

No month was entered in the date although a space was left for it.

The inventory is not a balance sheet in the modern sense, but it would appear that the estate was in credit by £1,791.6.0.
£3,440 for cattle, horses, furniture etc in the country plus the £3,229 credit in sales master’s hands indicates a considerable turnover of cattle every year. The cattle amounted to about £6,000, which at the 1802 rate of £20 a beast represents a herd of about 300, half of which had been sold that winter. The custom was that a new lot of calves would be bought at the fairs in the spring for about £5. However the larger farmers, like George, would breed as many calves as possible and only go to the fair to make up numbers. These calves would be fattened on the lush Meath pastures and sold, not that autumn, but the year after in the late summer or autumn. This would mean that the Bomford herd numbered about 300 in the summer and about 150 in the winter. The pasture in south Meath is most suitable for cattle and it is interesting that no sheep or pigs are mentioned in the inventory. However George probably had a few of each for his own consumption.

The £700 due for corn would be due from the sale of the surplus of the 1813 harvest; much would have been used for winter-feed. George would have had a fairly large acreage under tillage, mostly oats and a little wheat. Hay would not show in the accounts because it would be used as winter feed, but again a considerable acreage of hay would have to be cut to keep a herd of 150 over the winter. In fact hay would be the main diet for the animals in the winter and only a little corn would be used.

The labour used on the farm were apparently the tenant farmers, (Tenant’s wages). It was not always the case that paid labour was used, it was often the custom that tenants had to work in lieu of paying rent and sometimes they even had to work for nothing or loose their lease. However it is good to see that George used the pleasanter system of hiring labour and paying wages.

Rents were due to be paid twice a year so at best these rent figure would be half of the annual figures. In fact these rent figures do not mean much as they would show what owing on a particular day in January or February. However the £320 from rents in Westmeath and Louth confirms that Cluide, the only land that George had in Louth, was one of George’s properties at this date.

The £298 rent, which George had to pay in the country, shows that he may have leased land, perhaps Clarkestown from the Winters. However it is more likely to be ‘head rent’ due to the head landlord unless the land was ‘fee farm’. Other expenses, which had to be covered, were (in 1802)

- Church Cess at 2d per acre
- Tithes at 2/- per acre
- Public Cess at 3/- per acre

all of which totals to £26.5.0 for each 100 acres, but some of this might be paid by the tenant.

£400 for furniture in town must be at 27 Gardiner’s Place, which was not owned but rented at £45, or £90 a year.

£4,000 due from I.W.”. This is clearly ‘I.W.’ and the ‘W’ must stand for Winter. This will be the marriage settlement money which was not paid until 1835 and which was covered by the mortgage on Tullyard. ‘I.W.’ should really be ‘J.W.’ for John (Pratt) Winter.

‘Due from R’. This £500 must be owed by Robert Bomford and probably was left over from the time when Rahinston was handed over to Robert by George.

£4050 ‘Due to Mrs Dalton’ should read Mrs Dallas. This was the final payment on the recently purchase on Drumlargan and surrounds. The interest works out at about 6½%”. (see 20.8).

Mrs Mockler is George’s sister, Margaret. It is not known when she died but this entry at least proves that she was alive in 1814. Her husband had died sometime between the years 1806 and 1812.

Colonel Crosbie must be Colonel Fierce Crosby who in 1803 married Jane Maria Bateman, daughter of Mary and Trevor Bomford, George’s younger brother. George was the executor of Mary’s will of 1809 and this £30 may have been left over from that time.

The debts to Greville the carpenter and to the apothecary speak for themselves, but we are left with

Stephen the Younger & his children  247
Mrs F. (£400 credit)  
H. Higgins (£250 debit)  
F. Coffey (£35 debit) and to date these people have not been identified.

18.8.9 Entries in the Family Bible 1811 - 1815

The following extracts from the ‘Big Family Bible’, printed in 1795, and inscribed on the Book Plate

“Eliz. Bomford 1801.”

were copied out by Wilfred Bamford at Oakley Park. It is not known what happened to this bible. The later bible given to John Francis Bomford in 1866 is at Crodara.

“Eliz Bomford” is Elizabeth (Sibthorpe) the wife of Stephen the younger. Unfortunately she made no family entries but the children of her son George the elder and of George the younger were all entered. The following concerns George the elder, the entries of George the younger will be found in 25.1

“Children of George and Arbella Bomford

George Bomford was born in No 27 Gardiner Place, Dublin, on the 11th April 1811
Margaret was born 25th September 1812; she died aged 2 years & 8 months (i.e. May 1815)
Samuel Bomford was born in Gardiner’s Place, Dublin, 17th of September 1813
John born July 1814, died the same month

George Bomford, their father, departed this life January 1814
Arbella, their mother, Sept 1815.”

Everywhere there was a high death rate of children at this time, but two out of four is particularly hard. Then in addition both parents died and all in the space of 20 months.

George died January 1814 (father)
John died July 1814
Margaret died May 1815
Arbella died September 1815 (mother)

Arbella died of ‘a long neglected disease’ but the other three died within 16 months of each other, which makes one think that some infectious disease was responsible.

18.9.1 George Bomford’s Houses

George had two houses, Clarkestown House near Agher and a town house No 27 Gardiner’s Place. It is apparent that the family moved from one to the other fairly often although latterly most of their time seems to have been spent in town.

No 27 Gardiner’s Place

Trevor Bomford’s wife, Mary, died in Gardiner’s Place in 1809 (or 1808) and George was appointed guardian of her two children who were both married from there. I am assuming that this house was No 27. No lease has come to light but it became George’s town house. It is not known whether George originally leased it and lent it to Mary, or whether Trevor or Mary leased it and it was passed to George on her death.

In those days the area around Mountjoy Square was very fashionable with Saint George’s Church just around the corner in Temple Street. Mountjoy Square was not completed until 1818, and No 27 was new when the Bomfords first got it around the turn of the century.

No 27 is still there but now it is an overcrowded tenement and probably due for demolition, but there is still a ‘court’ behind which no doubt housed the carriages, horses and servants mentioned in the Tax Return.

Clarkestown House

When Rahinstown was handed over to Robert in 1808, George had to find another place to stay and the deeds of 1808 to 1812 show him “of Clarkestown”. This house had been built by Samuel Pratt (1688 - 1771) of Agher and it was mentioned in his will; on his death it was inherited, together with Agher, by Samuel Winter (1741 - 1811). It is sited on the only part of Gallow, which lies to the south of the road between Agher and Ferrans Lock on the Royal Canal, and it became the second Pratt and then the second Winter house. It may well have been where some Bomfords lived prior to 1800, but George was the first Bomford to live there definitely from 1808 until his death in 1814; then his niece and ward, Frances Rose, and her husband Samuel Pratt Winter moved in from 1814 to 1820; it was apparently
empty thereafter but it is thought that, when the Winters were in Paris and Agher was leased, Samuel Winter (1796 - 1867) stayed there; he was left in Ireland to keep an eye on the property until the family returned in 1825.

Clarkestown was accidentally burnt down in 1829 and not immediately rebuilt, but the Ordnance Survey of 1836 states that it was ‘two storied and slated’ and occupied that year by T. Potterton and later by the Rev John Potterton. It was valued at £10 in 1854.

According to a letter of 1936 by G. L. Bomford there may have been thoughts that George Bomford the younger might have lived there; GLB wrote “... During their minority (George and Samuel) their house at a place called Clarkestown near Agher, where their father lived and where I presume they were born, was burned down accidentally. Instead of rebuilding the old house or building a house on Drumlargan, they bought a new property, Oakley Park, ...”

The house was finally pulled down about 1950. During the 1960’s Dr Beryl Moore wrote, “Clarkestown Big House has been removed and a modern house built instead. A row of fine arches survive in the yard and one has ‘1829’ on its keystone.” An indication that a new yard was built immediately after the fire.

**18.9.2 Arbella Bomford Buys a Town House 27th October 1814**

Conveyance of a house in Temple Street, Barony of Coolock, from Gustavus Brooke of Hardwicke Street, Co Dublin, to Arbella Bomford of Gardiner’s Place, Co Dublin, widow.

Reciting 1. On 1st June 1783 the Hon Sackville Gardiner of the City of Dublin and Brussels conveyed to Graves Channey of Platten, Co Meath, a triangular plot of ground on the west side of Temple Street at a rent of £16 a year.
2. On 3rd September 1788 Graves Channey conveyed this land to Francis Graham at a rent of £45.10.0 a year
3. On 10th August 1797 Francis Graham willed all the premises in Temple Street to his son William Temple Graham.
4. On 7th May 1800 the plot was passed to Nicholas Loftus Thomas Wilson and to five others (who are all listed and most of whom were married to women of the Gardiner family). The plot was now split into six plots.
5. On 17th March 1811 Gustavus Brooke acquired a plot and built two houses fronting Temple Street, and insured each against fire for £700. Arbella Bomford bought one of these houses, covering 20 feet along the street and stretching back 140 feet to the rear, for £900 and a rent of £100 a year. Entrance to the stables was through Graham’s Court. Her neighbours were Mr Taylor on one side and Thomas Thompson Esq. on the other. Witnessed Samuel Winter and Myles O’Reilly (Book 680 Page not given No 168182)

The Dublin Almanack shows “Mrs Bomford” living in No 21 Temple Street in 1815 and 1816. Arbella died in September 1815 so she had the house for just under a year. In her will she instructed that the house be sold and this was done before 1817 when the Almanack shows someone else living there.

The Gardiner’s Place house was given up when Arbella moved round the corner to Temple Street. She was only 38 or 39 when she moved with young George, aged 3½. Margaret, just over 2, and Samuel just over 1 (John had died in July). This was to be her permanent residence, Clarkestown House was not used again by her, and so all her servants would be with her - James Commons the coachman, John Murray and her personal maid, Margaret Curry, who also looked after the children. No doubt there was at least a cook as well.

Some of the names appearing in the deed are familiar:

Gustavus Brooke was mentioned in the Oakley Park deed of 7th November 1817. However the William Graham in this deed is not the same William Graham who sold Oakley Park to George the younger in 1837. However John Graham of Platten was the Head Landlord of Oakley Park at the beginning of the 1700’s (24.6) and he sold Platten to Thomas Chamney (died 1735). Thomas’ son, Graves Channey of this deed, 1723 - 1794, inherited but lost Platten over a game of cards.

**18.9.3 Arbella Bomford Dies 11th September 1815**

Arbella made her will at No 21 Temple Street on 29th July 1815. In August she and the children went to England, to Cheltenham, where no doubt she hoped the waters there would cure her trouble, whatever it was. At the end of August she made a codicil to her will at Cheltenham, and, since this was witnessed by a doctor and his aid, she may have been in a hospital. Two weeks later she died, on 11th September 1815. John Pratt Winter’s history of the Winters tells of her death.

“10th Sept 1815. My sister Arbella Bomford died of a long neglected disease. She lived at Cheltenham where she had been since the beginning of August having expressed a wish to be buried at Laracor beside...
her late husband G. Bomford. I proceeded with her remains to Bristol having agreed with the Captain of
the vessel for their conveyance to Dublin and left her servant John Murray to accompany them. I rejoined
Anne (his wife) at Bath who had arrived there with the children. ...I accompanied the last stage of my
sister’s funeral from Dublin to Laracor where she was interred.”

Unfortunately there are no records covering this period concerning Laracor, and no gravestones
have been uncovered in the churchyard. Numerous Bomfords have been buried there since Colonel
Laurence, George’s great-grandfather, was buried there in March 1720

18.9.4 Will of Arbella Bomford 29th July 1815

The will starts with a request to “be interred in a decent but private manner” in Laracor
Churchyard. There follows a number of bequests:

1. The house in Temple Street is to be sold and the proceeds are to be given to my nephew Francis
Winter, 4th son of my brother John Pratt Winter of Agher, when he reaches 21. If he should die
before the age of 21 then the bequest should go to my nephew John Winter, 3rd son of my brother,
and if he should die then to my brother John Pratt Winter.

2. To my son George, - The contents of the Temple Street house, the plate, china, house-linen etc. He is
also to receive all the money, stocks, mortgages etc except the following

3. To my son Samuel who is to receive the money due from the case Bomford v Hamilton now being
heard in the Court of Chancery. (This refer to her marriage settlement of 1809 which is quoted at
length in the will The money was £3,000 and £1,500 to be paid to Arbella when Sir John Blunden
died; he died in 1818.)

All legacies to my two sons are in trust until they reach the age of 21. If George should die before
Samuel then Samuel is to receive George’s share, and vice versa. If both my sons should die then
share and share alike to my brothers John Pratt Winter, Rev Francis Pratt Winter and Samuel Pratt
Winter.

4. To my coachman, James Commons of Drumlargan, a life annuity of £20.

5. To my own maid, Margaret Curry, a life annuity of £20 and “I further request that she should
continue to look after my two sons provided their guardian agrees.”

6. My brother John Pratt Winter is to be my sole executor and guardian to my two sons.
Witnessed Myles O’Reilly and his wife Georgina E. O’Reilly

18.9.5 Codicil to Will 27th August 1815

Codicil by Arbella ‘at present resident at Cheltenham’.

7. To my youngest brother Samuel Pratt Winter, £500

8. To Myles O’Reilly Esq. of Margaret Place, Co Dublin, £500

9. To my eldest brother John Pratt Winter, My four wheeled carriage and my favourite horse,
‘Lawney’.

10. To my servant John Murray, £20

11. To my eldest son George, all my books.
Witnessed Henry C. Boynaque M.D. and David Walsh ‘st. to Dr B’

18.9.6 Probate of Will 12th February 1816

The prerogative wills give this date for the probate, which confirms John Pratt Winter of Agher
as the sole executor and guardian of the children. Arbella’s address is recorded as Temple Street, Dublin.

Thus young George and Samuel are now orphans to be brought up with the Winter household at
Agher. Their story continues in Chapter 20.
Chapter XIX

Robert of Rahinstown & David of Gallow 1802 - 1817

All Stephen’s sons were covered in the previous chapter except for his oldest son Robert who is discussed in this chapter, together with Robert’s uncle David and the early days of his children. The chapter ends with a summary of the Bomfords and their estates about 1820 after Robert, David and George the elder have died.

19.1 Robert of Rahinstown, 2nd son of Stephen the Younger 1751 - 1817

Robert was born in 1751 at Rahinstown and 20 years later he enrolled in the East India Company Service (15.4). He became a Captain in the Bengal Infantry in March 1781 and stayed in India until he came home to get married in 1792 to Maria (Massy-Dawson, 15.5). His older brother died when he was in India so at the time of his marriage he had become heir to his father Stephen and the entailed estates. It is known that he and his father did not get on together and it would appear that after his return from India and his marriage he did not stay at Rahinstown but in England. Indeed since no marriage licence has been found he may have been married in England. In 1802 he was living in Quebec Street, London, and there he probably stayed until his father had died and his brother George had handed back Rahinstown to him in 1808; he was certainly at Rahinstown in 1810 for the baptism of his youngest daughter. He and Maria had one son and six daughters: These were

- Annette Maria probably the eldest and born in 1799 or just before
- Robert George born 1801
- Jane Rosetta born 13th March 1802
- Frances Georgina born 1804
- Jemima Letitia born c1805
- Susan Margaret born c1806
- Sarah Maria born 1810, baptised at Rathcore Church 5th November 1810.

Maria (Massy-Dawson) was born in 1769 and so was 18 years younger than her husband Robert. There are two miniature portraits of her at Crodara.

The first miniature in a deep gilt frame portrays Maria wearing an off-the-shoulder white lacy dress. Her head is draped with a white veil, which is turned back from her face and hangs down to her waist. The only touch of colour is a string of amber coloured beads. There is no clue as to the artist except that in the lower right hand corner the shading of the veil seems to include the letter ‘J’. This ‘J’ is rather vague and no importance would have been attached to it but that a similar ‘J’ appears in the portrait of her daughter, Susan Margaret, so it may be a monogram.

In the other miniature Maria is wearing another off-the-shoulder dress but this time in blue-green. Again she has amber coloured beads but this time in a double string, together with long pendulous amber coloured earrings.

The artists are obviously different, but both show Maria with a similar hairstyle, long lengths of dark ringlets hanging down below her ears. It is difficult to determine the colour of her eyes, in one they look blue and in the other brown. She has an almost sulky look in one, with pouting lips but this is not so noticeable in the portrait in the green dress.

Amongst my father’s letters is one from Joan Clifford written in 1949 from Canterbury. Joan had found a “grand volume of Poore and Massy-Dawson” which gave her much information about the Bomford / Clifford connection. A couple of extracts which cover this period were-

1. “We have quite a nice little gallery on the drawing room walls in the corner between the fire and the window which mother privately calls ‘The Stud Farm’. Ten miniature portraits beginning with
   a. The Hon Massy Dawson, the cause of most of the damage as Brig Gen Poore said, then
   b. her daughter Maria Massy who married Robert Bomford.
   c. Robert Bomford himself (actually it is of Robert George, his son) and their daughter
   d. Susan Margaret who married Charles Rudinge Martin. ….”
   The other portraits are Martins. The last three were bequeathed to my father and are the ones at Crodara. “Maria Massy appears twice, the year after she was married (1793) where she looks like a white faced dying duck, (this is the first one described above), and about 20 years later as a much tougher looking matron quite capable of dealing with 6 beautiful daughters.”

2. “Great-grandmother Susan Margaret eloped with great-grandfather Charles Rudinge Martin, a thing mother did not know. In her youth mother remembers Mansergh and Massy-Dawson cousins visiting them in Dublin.”

There is no book by Brig-General Poore and/or Massy-Dawson in the Catalogue of Books in the British Museum so Joan’s ‘volume’ was probably never published. Brigadier Poore was a grandson of Robert Montague Poore who in 1833 married Anna Maria, daughter of James Hewitt Massy-Dawson of
Ballynacourte. Of the two military grandsons he was probably Robert Montague Poore who was born in 1866, married 1898 the youngest sister of the 13th Duke of Hamilton, and had a distinguished military career.

In another letter my grandmother, Agatha Bamford, writes that her grandfather, John Charles Martin 1797 - 1878, said of Maria Massy “She was a very stern woman”, to which General Clifford, commented, “She had to be to control all those pretty daughters”. From all this we may conclude that Maria ruled the family and that Robert probably took a back seat.

Charles Rudinge Martin was the great-grand-uncle of my father, Wilfred Bamford who married Evelyn Bomford, and Susan Margaret was the great-grand-aunt of Evelyn; so both sides of the Bamford/Bomford marriage were connected through the marriage of Susan Margaret and Charles Rudinge Martin, but this is anticipating the future.

19.1.1 Massy Property 2nd August 1802

Between
1. Honourable John Massey of Massey Park, Co Limerick, executor of the will of the Honourable James Massey Dawson (his uncle), late of Castle Dawson, Co Dublin, deceased, and also guardian of Maria Elizabeth Bolton, now wife of John Arthur of Seafield, Co Dublin, (22.5.1), and John Massey Bolton
2. The following who are all legatees of the late James Massey Dawson, (15.5.1):
   Elizabeth Rose Bolton of Dublin, widow,
   Robert Bomford of Quebec Street, London, and
   Maria Bomford alias Dawson, his wife,
   John Arthur and Maria Elizabeth, his wife,
   Robert James Bolton, cornet in H.M. 18th Regiment of Light Dragoons.
3. William Hyland, merchant of Dublin

The Massey’s lease land to William Hyland for £175.3.0 a year (Book 552 Page 564 No 368505)

The subject of this deed is not important to us, but it does give information about Maria’s relations. Some of them are in the Burke record of the Massy family in 15.5.1; a further tree, which shows the other family connections, will be found after 19.2.2, and this covers those in this deed.

The Hon John Massy of Massy Park is Maria’s cousin, the son of the 2nd Lord Massy.

The Hon James Massy-Dawson is Maria’s father who died in 1790.

Maria Elizabeth Bolton, the wife of John Arthur of Seafield, is the sister of Robert Compton Bolton who married Maria’s sister Elizabeth, and so Maria’s sister-in-law.

John Massy Bolton, Robert James Bolton and Elizabeth Rose Bolton are children of Robert Compton Bolton who married Maria’s sister Elizabeth, and so Maria’s sister-in-law.

It would be nice to be able to say that William Hyland was a son or grandson of James Hyland who married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Col Laurence Bomford, but there is nothing but the name to support this.

19.1.2 Rahinstown Handed over to Robert 10th May 1808

The hand over of Rahinstown and the other entailed lands by George to his elder brother Robert was recorded in the last chapter. One of the consequences of this was that Robert became responsible for the ‘several sums’ to be paid to his brothers according to their father’s will. There were two amounts, which were not covered in the conveyance deed, and these were the legacies to Ephraim and Chichester.

19.2 Settlement to Ephraim Bomford 4th May 1809

Between Ephraim Bomford, Major in ‘Ye Marine Force’, younger son of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, deceased, and

Robert Bomford of Rahinstown, eldest son and heir at law of Stephen Bomford

This memorial states

“Received from Robert Bomford by the hands of George Bomford £1,000 sterling, being my entitlement under my late father’s marriage settlement, and also from Robert Bomford by the hands of George Bomford £500 Irish money being lent to me by Robert Bomford.”

Signed Ephraim Bomford (Book 637 Page 271 No 437759)
19.2.1  Settlement to Chichester Bomford  25th April 1810

Reciting that Stephen Bomford in his will granted £1,000 to be paid to Chichester, younger son of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown, brother of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown eldest son and heir of Stephen. Chichester Bomford, Paymaster of the Waterford Militia, has now received the £1,000 from Robert Bomford. (Book 637 Page 270 No 437760)

19.2.2  Settlement of Robert Bomford  28th June 1811

Between
1. Robert Bomford of Rahinstown and Maria (Massy-Dawson) his wife.
2. John Arthure of Seafield, Co Dublin, and William Leonard of North Baker Street, London. (Maria’s mother was a Leonard). (These were the trustees. William Leonard died about 1820 and John Arthure was alive in 1826)
3. James Hewitt Massey Dawson of New Forest, Co Tipperary, (Maria’s brother), and Bartholemew Dillon of Kildare Street, Dublin, Doctor of Physic.
4. George Bomford of Drumlargan, and John Massey Bolton of Dawson Street, Dublin. (Maria’s nephew who before 1821 changed his name to John Bolton Massy)

Robert Bomford has in fee farm the lands of
- Dirpatrick, 475 plantation acres (770 statute)
- Arradstown, 77 plantation acres (125 statute)
- Baconstown, 507 plantation acres (821 statute)
- Rahinstown, 396 plantation acres (642 statute)
(Total 2,358 statute acres)

In order to make provision for his wife, Maria Bomford, and his children after his death, Robert Bomford leases all the above lands to John Arthur and William Leonard as trustees. They are to raise £3,000 for Maria, £3,000 for his son Robert George, and £15,000, which is to be split between his six daughters.

George Bomford and John Massey Bolton are to be the executors of the trust. (Book 637 Page 270 No 437748)

A large number of later deeds concern this settlement and they will be found in Chapter 21, and further, since this settlement was of prime importance to the Bomford children of Rahinstown, it was deemed necessary to trace the trustees some of whom died well before the trust was completed in the 1830’s. In fact the only trustee alive at the end of the trust was John Massy Bolton and he proved to be most elusive. He was elusive because he changed his name to John Bolton Massy when he inherited Ballywire. Ballywire came into the Massy family through Elizabeth Massy who married Francis Wheeler of Ballywire about 1740.

The first clue concerning John Bolton-Massy was found in Walford’s County Families of 1900, which wrote about his son.

“John Bolton-Massy Esq. of Clareville, (Blackrock) Co Dublin, and Ballywire, Co Tipperary. Only surviving son of the late John Bolton-Massy Esq., JP, of Clareville, who was High Sheriff of Co Limerick 1826 and died 1871, by his cousin Jane, daughter of Major Greene, MP, born 1818. Is MA of Trinity College Dublin; called to the Irish Bar 1840; was High Sheriff of Co Limerick 1875.”

This led to the Greene family in Burke which writes


His third daughter Jane Greene married August 1815 John Bolton Massy of Ballywire, Co Tipperary, and died 21st February 1879. “

These items were confirmed when the will of 1790 of James Massy-Dawson was found which recorded grandchildren including John Massy Bolton. Thus John Bolton-Massy who changed his name between 1811 and 1815 was a nephew of Robert and Maria Bomford.

Ballywire, Co Tipperary is in the same parish as Ballynacourty and is on the border of Co Limerick just north of Galbally; indeed one deed places it in Co Limerick. When John Bolton-Massy married in 1815 he moved from Dublin to Ballywire and so became a close neighbour of his uncle James Hewitt Massy-Dawson at Ballynacourty.

On the next page will be found a tree, which not only covers those relatives in the 1811 settlement and that of the Massy property of 1802 (19.1.1 and 19.2.2) but also shows the major connections between the families of Massy, Dawson, Bolton, Arthur, Greene and Bomford.
Death of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown 18th April 1817

Robert’s will was dated 17th December 1816 but it has not been found. However there are references to it and the settlement of 1811 was included in it. His wife, Maria, was the sole executor.

He died at Rahinstown on 18th April 1817. The Parish register of Rathcore records this and his burial

“Robert Bomford Esq., aged 66, died 18 and was buried at Rathcore 21st April 1817.”

When Robert died Maria his wife was aged 48 and all her seven children were under 21, the youngest being only 7.

19.3 David Bomford - Grandson of Colonel Laurence 1730 - c1809

We will now return to George’s uncle, David of Gallow, and his wife Sarah (Burtchaell) and complete the documents of this branch of the family until their death.

David and Sarah had one son and four daughters, all of whom were now grown up except for a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, who ‘died young’. The eldest was Jane who married Duke Cooper in 1785, then came Anne who married John North in 1786. Their son Isaac was born next and the youngest was Sarah Frances. These last two are about to be married. David’s eldest son Stephen was illegitimate and had died in Madras in South India in January 1782 as a Lieutenant in the Bengal Army.
Marriage Settlement – Sarah Frances Bomford & John Coates of Culcor 27th April 1803

Between

1. John Coates of Coolcor, Co Meath
2. David Bomford of Gallo and Sarah Frances Bomford, spinster, daughter of David Bomford
3. Isaac Bomford of Gallo and William Coates of Dublin
4. Francis L’Estrange of Dublin and Matthew Coates of Knockanaaly, Co Kildare
5. Mary Coates, widow, executor of Matthew Coates late of Knockanaaly.

Reciting

1. On 11th February 1707, William Perm Junior of Co Sussex leased to Rev Daniel Savill, then of Culcoor, Co Meath, (probate 1713, ‘of Roddanstown’), the land of Little Culcoor containing 157 plantation acres (254 statute) for three lives at £4.5.0 (i.e. renewal of a life cost £4.5.0).
2. On 24th September 1778 George Burdett Savill leased to Matthew Coates the land of Great and Little Culcoor containing 151 plantation acres (245 statute) for £151 for three lives.
3. The will of Matthew Coates of 23rd March 1782 bequeathed Coolcor to his fourth son, John Coates (the groom), plus a mortgage debt due to him by George Burdett for £1,500. (Must be George Burdett Savill).

Now as a marriage portion for Sarah Frances Bomford, David Bomford gives £1,000; and John Coates sets aside Culcoor and the mortgage money on his death to the trustees, Isaac Bomford and William Coates, for an annuity of £100 for Sarah Frances. (Book 553 Page 270 No 367779)

The Hibernian Magazine records the marriage

“Miss Bomford of Gallo married May 1803 John Coates of Coolcor”

This is the second Bomford / Coates marriage. The first one was on 22nd June 1750 (8.6) when Sarah Frances’ aunt and David’s sister, Mary Bomford, married William Coates of Abbeyshrule, Co Longford. William Coates died in 1789 and Mary soon after but before November 1790. Their family tree will be found under 8.6.5.

There appears to be no direct link between the Coates family of County Longford and the Coates family of the Meath and Kildare border, in particular of Knockanaally to the east of Dunfierth, but they must be connected somehow because both branches are mentioned in the deed of 1790 (8.6.4) and in the deed of 1750 (8.6.1); probably Thomas of Abbeyshrule and William of Knockanaally were brothers.

Using the information from the previous Coates’ deeds, this marriage settlement, and Walford’s County Families of 1900, the following tree can be built to show at least some of the Coates relations.

William COATES of Knockanaally, Kilcock, Co Kildare, possibly a brother of Thomas Coates of Abbeyshrule, Co Longford, died 1766 (probate) He had at least two sons; his second son was Thomas who married and his second son was another Thomas (8.6.1). The eldest son

Matthew of Knockanaally married Mary who was alive in 1803. Matthew’s will was dated 1782. They had at least four sons.

1. Matthew of Knockanaally, one of the trustees of Sarah Frances Bomford, married and had a son. William Lancake Coates, JP, of Knockanaally. He died without children and Knockanaally was passed to his cousin’s son.

2. or 3. Arthur of Newtown Prospect, Parish of Rodanstown, Kilcock, died 1846. Married Jane, daughter of George Armstrong of Dublin. In 1900 their oldest surviving son was; Rev Arthur Coates, born 1819, MA Trinity College, of Newtown Prospect. He married in 1847 Frances Judith, eldest daughter of Sir Edmund Gonville Bromhead, 3rd Bart, of Thurlby Hall, Co Lincoln who took part in the Battle of Waterloo. He was Rector of Pemberton, near Wigan, 1849 - 1872, and died in 1906. She died at Clifton in 1917 having had two sons
   a. Arthur Edward, born 1848
   b. William Coristine Coates, born 1853 MA Cambridge, of Knockanaally which he inherited from his father’s cousin, William Lancake. In 1878 he owned 1,962 acres in Co Kildare valued at £2,005.

4. John Coates of Culcor, married May 1803 Sarah Frances, 4th daughter of David Bomford. They lived at Bridestream House and had four children, see below (19.4.3).
According to Burke’s Country Houses, the present Knockanally was built in the middle of the 1800’s possibly by Matthew Coates, or his son. It is a two storey Italianate house in a demesne of 515 acres, which take in Ovidstown Rath.

19.4.2 Culcor & Bridestream House

In 1654 the Civil Survey records that “Both the Colcors” in the Parish of Gallow contain 144 plantation acres with “on the premisses a tatch house”. Culcor is east of Gallow and north of Ferrans so in their youth Sarah Frances and John Coates were fairly close neighbours and as such probably knew each other. However the Coates house was not on Culcor townland, even present day maps show no house of note there.

Twenty-one years after their marriage Pigott’s Directory of 1824 records

“John Coates of Bridestown, Kilcock.”

The Ordnance Survey of 1836 states “Culcor, 246 acres, the property of Mrs Bewly of Dublin from whom Mr Coates of Brides Stream holds it in perpetuity.” Two years later in 1838 Lewis lists two Coates in the Parish of Radonstown, Newtown Prospect, A(thur) Coates, and Bridestream J(ohn) Coates; and the Griffiths Valuation of 1854 writes of Culcor that

“Matthew Coates has it.” So John had died before 1854.

In 1906 the Unrented Lands Return shows Culcor belonging to James M. W. Coates containing 246 acres with a valuation of £264 for the land and 15/- for buildings; so there was still no reasonable house on the land. From all this it looks as though Sarah Frances and John lived at Bridestream House about a mile south of Culcor and east of Ferrans. Confirmation of this comes from Burke’s Guide to Country Houses, which states,

“Bridestream House, Knocknatulla, Co Meath; a mid-c18 house consisting of a 2 storey pedimented centre block with small, square wings or pavilions. The fenestration (arrangement of the windows) of the centre block has been much altered and a large porch added; but it is possible to attribute the house to the amateur architect, Nathaniel Clements, from the similarity of the wings to the wings of other houses by Clements or attributed to him. In 1814, the residence of John Coates.”

So here is the record of John and Sarah Frances living at Bridestream as early as 1814 and there seems to be no reason why they should not have lived there from their marriage in 1803. The record also shows that they or their family continued living there until at least 1906.

19.4.3 The Children of the Marriage

This Coates family are mentioned once again in 1835 in the will of Isaac Bomford, the brother of Sarah Frances. Sarah Frances was a legatee so she was alive that year (23.4.1); John Coates was mentioned, as having a lease of part of Ferrans but it may be that he is dead, he was certainly dead before 1854. Most of the information about the children comes from the will but it is convenient to include here all that is known of them.

1. Matthew Coates, the eldest son, was not mentioned in any of the documents, but since he had both Culcor and Bridestream in the 1854 Valuation he was probably the eldest son.
2. John Coates was recorded as the second son in Isaac’s will.
3. Stephen Coates was recorded as the third son in Isaac’s will. He was, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and the Register shows that he was born in 1812
4. A daughter, un-named, gets a bequest of £150 in the will.

This un-named daughter may well have been named Sarah Bomford Coates about whom there are two references, her marriage in 1837 and her death in 1876.

The Marriage Licence Bonds Prerogative record.

“1837 Sarah Bomford and Daniel Nugent Coates”

and the Diocese of Meath Marriage Licence record.

“1837 Coates/Bomford. Sarah Bomford and Daniel Nugent Coates”

The surnames of both parties are not clear; the groom could be either Coates or Nugent and the bride could be Bomford or Coates. There is no known Sarah Bomford to fit these dates but Elizabeth North-Bomford found the following on a tombstone in Moyglare Churchyard

“Johnathon Nugent Esq. of Killarkin and Barrack died 1862, Also, Daniel Nugent Esq. of Killester Abbey who died 15th Nov 1874 aged 69 years and his wife Sarah Bomford Coates who died 26 Feb 1876.”
The tombstone engraving clarifies the situation, Daniel Nugent (1805-74) of Killester Abbey married Sarah Bomford Coates who died in 1876; however there is no certainty that she is the un-named daughter mentioned in Isaac’s will, although it is likely.

The James M. W. Coates of Culcor in 1906 must be a grandson of Sarah Frances, probably a son of Matthew Coates. He is not included in Walford’s County Families of 1900 so he probably did not have enough land; two of his cousins were mentioned, Rev Arthur of Newtown Prospect, Maynooth, and William Coristine of Knockanally, Kilcock.

The entry in Burke, which reads

“4. Sarah Frances, married 1803, John Coates, of Coolcor, Co Westmeath.”

... can now be changed to read

“4. Sarah Frances, b c1770, married May 1803, John Coates of Culcor and Bridestream House, Co Meath, had issue

1. Matthew Coates of Culcor and Bridestream House
2. John Coates
3. Stephen Coates, b 1812, educated TCD
4. Daughter. (Possibly named Sarah Bomford Coates, married 1837 Daniel Nugent of Killester Abbey, Co Meath. He born 1805 and died 15th November 1874, and she died 26th February 1876.)”

19.5 Marriage Settlement Isaac Bomford and Jane Holdcroft

A marriage is intended to be solemnized between Isaac Bomford of Gallow and Jane Holdcroft, only daughter of George Holdcroft of Kells, Co Meath.

Reciting

1. On 17th June 1724 Stephen Bomford leased the lands of Tyrrellstown containing 214 plantation acres (347 statute) from John Stoyte of Eccles Grove, Co Wicklow, and Thomas Marley of Dublin, His Majesty’s Attorney General, and Lewis Meares for a rent of £66 for ever
2. On 29th October 1724 Thomas Bomford of Rahenstown leased to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the land of Ferans or Fennans containing 265 plantation acres (429 statute) fee farm for ever at a rent of £95.3.0 plus 10 guinea pieces in gold at the end of every 21 years.
3. These lands have passed from Stephen Bomford to David Bomford, father to Isaac Bomford, and so to Isaac.

Now Isaac Bomford gives these lands in trust to Francis Henry Holdcroft and to Francis L’Estrange, both of Dublin, so that Jane Holdcroft can have an annuity of £120 after his death.

Signed Isaac Bomford

Witnessed Rev Jason Crawford of Laurencetown (Oakley Park) and Silvester Dempsey of Kells

(Book 583 Page 509 No 399034)

There is no mention of this marriage in Burke, nevertheless it did take place since Isaac refers to his wife, Jane, in his will and she is also mentioned in other documents. None of this gives a clear date for the marriage, nor is it clear where the marriage took place, but, since the bride’s father lived in Kells and those that witnessed the marriage settlement also lived there, one imagines that the settlement and the marriage were about the same date and that the marriage took place in the Church there. Unfortunately there is no such record in the Protestant Church Register, though this does not necessarily mean that it did not take place there, as the records were rather unreliable at that date.

It is not so easy to decide where they lived after the marriage for the first seven or so years. Isaac’s father and his wife Sarah were both elderly and soon to die, and so they may have lived with them at Gallow for a while, but Isaac was an attorney and no doubt had to be in Dublin periodically. By 1815 they had a town house in Dublin (23.1.1). They had no children.

George Holdcroft of Kells. Jane’s father remained a mystery until his broken tombstone was pointed out to me on the south side of Kells Churchyard. The actual date of his death is not clear because of cracks in the stone, but 1810 is clear; the inscription reads – “Sacred to the memory of George Holdcroft 1810…. in the 60th year of his age and his wife Anne, daughter of the late John Kellett of Rathcin, Esq., died February 18th 1815 aged 78 years”.

So he was born in 1750 and she in 1737. In 1777 when he was 27 he became a Kells churchwarden, and again in 1789. In all probability he was a Kells man born and bred. Although no definite trace has been found concerning John Kellett, and Rathcin has not been located, it is thought likely that his daughter Anne Holdcroft (Kellett) came from the Moynalty area where there were at least three Kellett families; around 1760 there were Charles Kellett of Billywood, Edward Kellett of Bellair (between Moynalty and Carlanstown), and James Kellett of Moynalty village; additionally, around 1815 Richard Chaloner (25.3) in his diary mentions three more Kelletts, Rev William rector of Moynalty 1803-
1851, Robert the magistrate who lived at Walterstown, and John who had his own pack of hounds. John Kellett, who died before 1815, and his daughter Anne were surely related to one of these.

Whilst investigating the 1798 Rebellion more about George Holdcroft was found in the Meath Archaeological and Historical Record (Vol IV, No 2). He was the Revenue Officer, postmaster and Magistrate of Kells, and wrote a report to the Dublin Castle authorities describing an attack in 1794 of one of his revenue officers and ten soldiers during a raid for illicit spirits. Another report of his of 1798 concerned rioting in Kells instigated by Napper Tandy; in this later report he describes himself as “The Constable of Kells”.

Reverend Jason Crawford has been well documented in the Oakley Park deeds. The Crawfords had been living at Oakley Park since about 1726 and it was Jason’s son who sold the place to George Bomford in 1837. Jason was the curate of Kells and may have officiated at this wedding.

Francis Henry Holdcroft, one of the trustees, was probably a brother to Jane Holdcroft. The other trustee, Francis L’Estrange of Dublin, was also the trustee of Sarah Frances Bomford and John Coates; it is not clear how he fits into the L’Estrange family.

From the two judgements against the estate of Richard Smith, late of Violetstown, the one for the Principal sum of £321.11.0 plus interest at £2.12.6 and costs, the other is for the Principal sum of £174.2.4 plus interest at £2.11.0 and costs, I empower Antony Cooper of the City of Dublin to receive these sums from the executors of Richard Smith (Rev Samuel L’Estrange, his nephew who died in 1807, and Rev Robinson), and to put out at interest for the use of my grand-daughter, Sarah Cooper, £20 out of the first judgement and the principal sum to be paid to her on her marriage. The remainder of the first judgement to be given to her mother, Jane Cooper. The amount of the other judgement is to be given to my daughter, Anne North.

In addition I bequest to my daughters (Jane and Anne) an annuity of £20, but neither of their husbands are to have any sort of power over these annuities.

To my other beloved daughter, Sarah Frances Coates, having given her a sufficient marriage portion I cannot in justice to my son leave her more than £5 to buy mourning clothes.

I give to my daughter, Jane, in trust for her son Isaac my half of Ferrans and if he does not reach the age of 21 then I leave the same to his brother Duke, and if he does not reach the age of 21 then Ferrans is to be divided equally between the younger children.

I give to my daughter, Anne, in trust for her son David my half part of the land of Tyrrelstown and if he should not reach the age of 21 then I leave the same to his brother Isaac. If Isaac does not live to 21 then Tyrrelstown is to be divided equally between her younger children.

I bequeath to my daughter Anne my Eight Day Clock made by Raymond and I leave to her son John my silver watch, shoe buckles, stock buckle and gold sleeve buttons.

I leave to Mr Duke Cooper my silver snuffbox. I give to my trustee, Antony Cooper, £10.

I give to my beloved son, Isaac, all my real and personal estate and I appoint him and Antony Cooper my executors.

Lastly it is my wish to be buried in a plain deal coffin in the Church of Gallow.

Dated 19th April 1807 in the 77th year of my age.

Signed David Bomford

Witnessed James Lennon Thos Wickham John Wickham
Codical to Will 11th September 1807

I also bequeath to my wife £600 to be paid for by arrears of rent and what stock of cattle I may have at the time of my decease.

I also leave to her my plate, china, beds, bedding, together with all my household furniture except for my clock, which I leave to my daughter Jane.

The £20 legacy to my daughter Anne shall be only in case her husband will not recover the fortune he is now suing for.

I appoint Antony Cooper and my wife, Sarah Bomford, my executors and annull my son Isaac from the executorship.

Signed  David Bomford
Witnessed     Mary Bond   Richard McEnteer   Matt Monaghan

2nd Codical

I bequest to my grand-daughter, Frances Mary Cooper, £100 for her advancement in life

Signed  David Bomford
Witnessed     Richard McEnteer   Matt Monaghan   William McEnteer

The People in the Will

The will confirms the names of all David’s Cooper and North grandchildren, except for John and Jane Cooper, and the un-named North daughter. The will also confirms that David was born in 1730.

Rev Samuel L’Estrange, executor of Richard Smith, was David’s nephew, the third son of his sister Ann L’Estrange.

Richard Smith of Violetstown remains a mystery but he must be related to David’s mother, Anne Smith of Violetstown, Co Westmeath, possibly he was the third son of John Smith and Anne (Pratt) and had inherited Violetstown on the death of his two older brothers, John who had died in 1794 and Benjamin who did not marry. If this is the case then David and Richard were first cousins, but it is possible that Richard was a younger man.

No family tree of the Cooper family has been found, so Antony Cooper also remains a mystery, but he was probably an attorney in Dublin. The 1912 edition of Burke does include the Cooper family of Cooper Hill but there appears to be no connection; these Coopers all seem to have called their houses Cooper Hill which are to be found in counties Meath, Carlow, Limerick and Queen’s. David’s eldest daughter Jane married Duke Cooper in 1785 and the will indicates that their children were minors. This will and that of David’s son Isaac of 1835 give the only information we have on Jane’s children; they were listed in paragraph 16.2.1.

The will also indicates that the children of David’s daughter Anne and her husband John North were minors in 1801, they are listed in 23.8.

The Wickham family first leased Moattown, a part of Gallow, in July 1758 from the Rev John Bomford. No doubt John and Thomas Wickham were of this family, if not sons of the original John Wickham

Similarly the Monaghan family had been tenant farmers of Gallow since March 1731 and Matthew Monaghan might be a son of the original Laurence Monaghan. Another Monaghan, John, was a tenant farmer of over 700 acres of Drumlargan and lived in Drumlargan House in the mid 1800’s.

By 1854 the only other tenant of the same name as those who witness the will was Thomas McEnteer of Ferrans, then spelt McEntire.

It looks as though most, if not all, of those who witnessed the will were local people, tenants or servants. For this reason David must have written this will and ended his days at Gallow. This is mentioned because the ‘Post Chaise Companion’ by William Wilson of 1807 records that “Gallow is the seat of Mr Flanagan”, but this must be wrong.

Isaac may have been living there with his father, but he was an Attorney and so must have gone to Dublin occasionally. It is thought that Gallow House, which by then must have been about 100 years old, had become out-dated, maybe needed major repairs and was considered less attractive by Isaac. It was probably for this reason that Isaac, or more likely his nephew Isaac North-Bomford, built Ferrans House later.
The Land

This will clarifies earlier deeds and in particular the will of Rev John Bomford of c1776 which has not been found. The Rev John left his property to his two younger brothers, half to David and the other half to Isaac. When Isaac died in 1793 his half was left to David’s son Isaac, and now David leaves his own half to his son Isaac. So Isaac ends up with the whole property.

However in this will David places an entail on to his half of Ferrans for the Cooper family, and to his half of Tyrrelstown for the North family. As will be seen later Isaac removes this entail with the agreement of the North and Cooper families.

19.6.1 Death of David Bomford of Gallow 1809

Burke records David’s will of 17th (actually 19th) April 1807 with the probate dated 2nd February 1810. There was no sign of the probate in the box of documents, I was given in the Land Commission Offices, nor was it recorded in the Prerogative Wills. However it is safe to assume that David died aged 79 late in 1809, and in accordance with his will that he was buried in Gallow Churchyard “in a plain deal coffin”.

His wife Sarah and Antony Cooper were the executors.

19.6.2 Death of Sarah Bomford, Wife of David 1816

Sarah’s will has not been found but according to Burke it was dated 26th August 1814 and probate was granted on 23rd March 1816. Probate was granted pretty quickly in those days so a death date of early 1816 is quite likely.

The Prerogative wills record
“1816 Sarah Bomford Portland Place, Co Dublin, widow, will,”
but the prerogative inventories gives the address as Rutland Place. No Bomfords are recorded in the Dublin Almanacks of this period in either place. However the following deed confirms that Sarah did live in Portland Place from late 1813 or early 1814, though how she came into the property is not known since Everald Ryan was legally entitled to the house; this may account for the omission of Sarah’s name in the Almanack.

Isaac her son was her executor, and Sarah was buried with her husband in Gallow Churchyard.

Lease – Portland Place 23rd April 1816

Everald Ryan of Dublin is legally entitled to the house and Isaac Bomford of Dublin, executor of Sarah Bomford late of Portland Place, Co Dublin, agrees to surrender the lease dated 30 November 1813 between Patrick Campbell of Portland Place, builder, and Sarah Bomford deceased.

(Book 701 Page 96 No 480622)

19.7 The Bomford Family & their Estates 1820

The last family summary was made in 1800 and, since most of the older generation are now dead, it is a good time to make another.

Basically we are left with three lots of cousins, Robert’s children, George’s children, and David’s children plus the more distant cousins of Oliver’s branch of the family about whom little is known at this date.

Robert’s Children

Robert’s wife Maria, aged 51, is living at Rahinstown with all her family who are all under 21. The eldest son, Robert George now aged 18 will inherit in three years. None of the children are yet married indeed the youngest is only about 10 years old.

George’s Children

Both George and Arbella have died leaving two young boys, George aged 9 and Samuel aged 7. Their guardian is John Pratt Winter and his wife Anne of Agher. The two youngsters will be brought up at Agher but at this date they are in Paris with their guardian.

David’s Children

David was an uncle of Robert and George and so these ‘children’ are a generation older than the other children who really are children.

1. Isaac, aged 54, has been married to Jane (Holdcroft) for 13 years but has no children. He inherited his father’s property in 1809 when David died. His mother died in 1816.

2. Jane (Cooper), aged about 58, is still alive though her husband Duke Cooper may be dead. Their children consist of three boys and three girls all aged round about 30. Very little is known of the Cooper family but they may be living at Great Down in Co Westmeath. It is possible that two of the
daughters are married, Frances Mary to a Mr Colbourn and Jane to a Mr Richardson.

3. Anne (North), aged about 56, married John North in September 1786. They have three grown up sons and a daughter, all of who appear in later documents. The North family home is Whitewell in Co Westmeath

4. Sarah Frances (Coates) aged about 50, married John Coates in May 1803. They have three young sons and a daughter, all minors. The Coates are ‘of Culcor’ but they live at Bridestream House just north of Kilcock

19.8 Property Changes since 1800

Stephen the younger of Rahinstown in 1800 had considerable estates in Meath, Westmeath and Kildare. When he died in 1806 he bequeathed all the land to his fifth son, George the elder, but some of the land was entailed so George had to surrender it to his elder brother Robert. Previously Robert had no land.

Robert of Rahinstown died in this period and his land passed to his only son, Robert George, who in 1820 was aged 18. His mother Maria administered his lands until he reached his majority.

George the elder in 1800 possessed in his own right some land including Drumlargan. This land, plus his inheritance from Stephen the younger, passed on his death to his son, George the younger, who in 1820 was an orphan, aged 9. His guardian, John Pratt Winter, looked after all his land for him. The lease of Ross lapsed about 1815 and was not renewed.

David and his son Isaac shared property in 1800, but now that David has died, Isaac owns it all. The lease of Gurteen ran out in 1812 and, since it is not mentioned again, it cannot have been renewed. There were no other changes except that at some stage the acreage of Gallow was increased; this extra land may be that of Newtown Gallow to which David referred in his will, if it is then it was the subject of the deed of 1777 (11.11.1) and should have been brought in to the 1800 summary.

Thomas of Cushenstown and later of Crossmacoole and his sisters had 1,634 acres in 1800. Since then the lease of Kilbrew lapsed about 1805 and was not renewed, otherwise there was no change. However their records have become somewhat sketchy so this may be inaccurate.

19.9 The Bomford Estates (Statute acres) 1820

Robert George, of Rahinstown (Administered by his mother)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rahinstown</td>
<td>642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baconstown</td>
<td>821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arodstown</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirpatrick</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,358</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

George the younger (Administered by John Pratt Winter of Agher)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drumlargan</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockstown</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonfad</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mylerstown</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunfierth</td>
<td>771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killyan</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mucklin</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
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<td>Mulgeeth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilmurray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilshanroe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurley Mill</td>
<td>1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballyinemallagh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonkeran</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Lease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluide</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,022</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Isaac of Gallow and Ferrans

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallow</td>
<td>596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrans</td>
<td>429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrellstown</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilglen</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,437</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Robert of Rahinstown and David of Gallow 261
Thomas of Cushenstown and Crossmacoole

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cushenstown</td>
<td>875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilmoon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bodman</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portlester</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossmacoole</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunreigh</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total of Thomas 1,487 acres

Overall Total Acreage (statute) 11,304

About 1,000 acres short of the 1800 total of 12,289 acres.
20.1

In the middle of the triangle of the Bomford properties of Drumlargan, Gallow and Rahinstown lies the 1,150 acres of Agher, the seat of the Winters. Ever since the Winters arrived at Agher in the 1770’s they became involved with the Bomfords, and even now they have inter-married with them twice; firstly in 1809 when Arbella Winter married George Bomford, and secondly when Samuel Pratt Winter married Frances Rose, the daughter of Trevor and Mary Bomford, in 1812.

But now they have become even more deeply involved, for with the death of Arbella and George Bomford, there are two young orphans, George and Samuel, to be taken care of. It was the Winters of Agher who under-took the task of bringing up these two little boys, educating them and looking after their considerable property of over six thousand acres. This task mainly fell on John Pratt Winter but he could not have seen to it all alone; the two young children of age four and two needed a mother’s care and without doubt his wife Anne filled that position.

Furthermore George was a sickly child since he suffered from a “weakness of the spine” which was treated by sea bathing, and his eyesight was weak; by his late teens he had to wear spectacles. Anne was assisted by her unmarried sister-in-law, Anna Maria Winter the author, and it is a dedication in one of her books, which shows the Winter attitude to young George and Samuel. The book is unimportant and is typical of Victorian moralising as the title indicates -

“Thoughts on the Moral Order of Nature”.

This mammoth book of over twelve hundred pages in three volumes is dedicated to George and Samuel. An extract reads-

“My Dear Nephews,

Anxious relatives, fully competent to the arduous task, have, indeed, watched over your early years with such enlightened solicitude, that, though deprived of both your valuable parents at an age at which your memory could not serve to fix their images in your minds, you have always enjoyed precisely the same advantages of education, and the same heartfelt satisfaction, that would have fallen to your lot had you been living under the eye of a careful, yet indulgent father, and of a tender mother.

Your truly affectionate Aunt Anna Maria Winter.”

With this background in mind, the following pages are devoted to the period of the children’s minority, and to the Winter family in particular.

20.1.1 The Early Winters

Much of the Winter history comes from the usual sources, but the more personal and often more interesting items come from the family history written by Samuel Winter Cooke (1847-1929) of Murndal, Victoria, Australia, and later of England. Gordon Forth of Victoria wrote a thesis on the Winter and Cooke families recently and had access to this history I have not seen the manuscript but Forth sent extracts to me and to Brigadier Guy Bomford, and from these extracts and the other sources the following has evolved.

Thomas Winter (c1530 - ?) was born about 1530 of Co Oxford. Burke of 1879 states - (c1530 “This family is a branch of the same stock as that from which sprung the Winters of Lydney, Co Gloucester, and was settled in Co Oxford antecedently to 1600”. A cousin was Sir William Winter of Lydney, Vice Admiral of England at the time of the Spanish Armada of 1588. At the time of Cromwell the Lydney branch was for the King, while Thomas’ grandson, Samuel, was for Parliament. Thomas must have had at least three sons because ‘a younger son’.

Christopher Winter born c1570, moved from Co Oxford to Balshall, Warwick. Residence in this area might be a connection with the Winters of Huddington Court and the ‘Gunpowder Plot’ of 1605; Thomas Winter was a cousin of Robert Catesby, the chief instigator of the plot, and a contemporary print in the Encyclopaedia Britannica shows two Winter conspirators, Thomas and Robert. Christopher’s son Samuel inherited.

Samuel Winter (1603 – 1666) was born 1603 at Temple Balshall, Warwick; educated at King Henry VIII’s School, Coventry, and at Queen’s College, Cambridge, where he got a MA. Studied Divinity under John Cotton of Boston, Lincoln. He became Curate of Woolborough, Notts, and later lecturer at York but was forced to leave on the outbreak of the Civil War in 1640. Then Rector of Cottingham near Hull at £400 a year. Extracted from Burke, 1912 Edition: -

“In 1650 Dr Winter was obliged to resign the living of Cottingham, York, of which
he was Rector, being ordered by the then Government to proceed to Ireland with the Commissioners appointed for the settlement of that country, as their Chaplain, and was soon after (on 3rd June 1652) constituted Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, which the preceding troubles had left almost dissolve. In this office he exerted himself with great zeal and success to reassemble the surviving members, and to re-establish the discipline of the University. He appears to have been removed from the provostship at the Restoration.”

He was removed by a special convention, which met in March 1663, and shortly after he returned to England and lived with his wife’s relations at South Cushing, Co Rutland, and died there in 1666. Whilst in Ireland he acquired estates in King’s County (Castletown, which must include neighbouring Oakley Park, Fea or Feagh 160 acres, Forelacky 99 acres, and Kinnetty 73 acres); in Co Meath (Tullyard 195 acres); and in Co Westmeath.

Samuel married twice. Firstly to Anne Beeston of Boston, Co Lincoln, who died at Cottingham in 1645 having had 5 sons –

1. Samuel (see below)
2. Daniel who inherited a small property
3. Ebenezer They inherited only 100 acres between them, and that only on condition that “they should reform their wicked lives”.
4. Gonaught
5. Thomas who apparently received nothing in the will so may have died before his father.

Samuel married secondly in 1648 a widow; Mrs Elizabeth Weaver. It seems likely that John Weaver, Elizabeth’s brother-in-law and one of Cromwell’s four commissioners in Ireland, was responsible for Winter being summoned to Ireland in 1650.

Samuel Winter

(c1630 - 1670)

the eldest son, was born c1630 at York. (Ex Burke, 1912). “He was confirmed in the estates of his father by letters patent of King Charles II in 1668. He married Elizabeth, daughter or sister of Colonel Sankey”. The Colonel was Elizabeth’s brother since Burke of 1879 lists “Hierom Sankey, born 1621, Colonel of Horse, and Brigade Commander in Ireland, d.s.p. c1687,” he was an officer of considerable note under the Commonwealth.

Elizabeth inherited Griffenrath (421 acres) near Maynooth where the family lived, and Ballygorn, both in Co Kildare.

Samuel Winter died in 1670 and was succeeded by his son

Samuel Winter

(c1650 – 1694)

was born at Griffenrath c1650. He inherited all the estates from his father in 1670 and married c1685. His wife was Mary, daughter of Francis Pywell of Possickstown, Co Kildare, and she was born c1665. They had two sons, Sankey and Francis, before Samuel died in 1694 (will 16th February 1692). Later in 1697 Mary married secondly John Pratt of Agher (see below) but she had no more children.

1. Sankey Winter was born in 1688 at Griffenrath. His father died in 1694 so Sankey inherited when he was just four. He went to Trinity College and got his BA in 1708 and MA in 1711. He took Holy Orders in 1708, became Archdeacon of Killala 1712 - 1724, and then Dean of Kildare from 1725 until he died on 8th February 1736 or 1737. He probably married when he was at Killala since his wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Right Rev Dr William Lloyd the Bishop of Killala who died in 1716. They had no children and so as his will (probate 1737) states, “His estate of £1,000 a year descends to his brother Francis formerly woollen-draaper in Castle Street, Dublin.”

2. Francis Winter (c1690 – 1743) was born about 1690 and as a younger son had to find his own living which he apparently did as a woollen draper in Dublin. However he was nearly 50 when his elder brother Sankey died and he inherited the Winter estates. Before 1738 but probably after he inherited in 1736/7, he married Margaret, the eldest daughter of Benjamin Pratt (1689 - 1771) of Agher and his wife Jane Nugent (see below). Francis Winter died in 1743 leaving one son and two daughters, all minors. In 1745 Margaret married secondly to a Captain Richard Pockridge but, according to the Winter history, it was an unsatisfactory marriage since “he was a profligate from whom she was obliged to separate”. She died in 1746. The children were cared for by her brother John Pratt at Griffenrath and the son would have inherited the following estates:

In Co Kildare:

Griffenrath (421 acres) where the family lived and which came into the family from his grandmother, Elizabeth Sankey, as did Ballygorn (no details). Moorstown (648 acres) in Salt Manor, near Kilcock, which he inherited from his mother Mary Pywell.
In Co Meath: Tullyard or Tullaghard (195 acres) about three miles north of Trim.
In Co Westmeath: Some property of which there are no details.
In King’s Co: Castletown
Oakley Park 
Fea or Feagh (259 statute acres)
Forelacky (160 statute acres)
Kinnetty (118 statute acres) in the Barony of Ballybrid

The Meath, Westmeath and King’s Co properties were all the original Winter property.

It is convenient if we now break into the Winter history and trace the story of Agher and the early Pratt family which has already included a couple of Winter - Pratt marriages.

20.2

Agher, early days, and the Pratt Family

Before Cromwell, Agher belonged to the Lynch family together with Knock, Dungan’s Hill which was part of Drumlargan, and Summerhill. Lynch’s Wood in Drumlargan was got by Lynch from Baron Hussey of Galtrim by a trick; Lynch asked Hussey to rent it to him for the rotation of three crops; Hussey thought these would be oats or wheat, but Lynch chose oak, beech and elm; it is said that the lease has not run out yet and that the Forestry Department has only just set the third crop; George Bomford probably set the second crop.

Lynch (and Hussey) were removed in Cromwell’s Settlement and in 1650 the land was given to Henry Jones, Bishop of Meath and the brother of Colonel Michael Jones who won the Battle of Drumlargan which is also called the Battle of Dungan’s Hill.

Bishop Jones sold Summerhill to Rowley. A later Rowley or, to give him his proper name, Hercules Lord Langford, built the mansion of Summerhill House in 1731. This house was empty during the troubles of 1921 when the Republican Army burnt it down just before the ‘Black and Tans’ took it over as a depot.

Bishop Jones sold Agher to Pratt at the end of the 1650’s. This Pratt was probably Richard of Leicestershire who supported Cromwell with money in 1641 and so was one of the ‘Adventurers’. For his support of the Commonwealth, Richard was given Garadice and his eldest son Joseph was recorded in the Trinity Register as “Armigar De Garradice” (Esquire of Garadice); and Joseph’s four sons were born there between 1666 and 1680. In 1640 the Down Survey records that there was ‘a castle’ in Garadice and this was no doubt the house of the Pratts. It is a townland of 573 statute acres between Drumlargan and Gallow with a neck, which stretches west almost to Agher, and in 1836 was still a Pratt property.

So Richard Pratt bought Agher at the end of the 1650’s when his younger son Benjamin was about 20, and there Benjamin was installed with Joseph in neighbouring Garadice. The 1640 Down Survey states that the Parish of Agherpallac (meaning Agher of the fence but more likely of the ‘Pale’ which at one time ran along its southern boundary) consisted of three townlands, namely Agherpallac, Ballintogher, and the detached townland of Genetts (Ginnetts) near Galtrim to the north. Richard’s grandson is mentioned as being of ‘Agher and Ballintogher’, so both these townlands were included in the purchase from Bishop Jones. Ballintogher was of 81 statute acres in 1640 and had a mill; it lies between Agher, Ferrans, Oldtown and Gallow, the last three places being Bomford property around 1700. There is no definite proof that Ginnetts ever belonged to the Pratts; nevertheless it is thought that the Agher purchase was of Agher Parish, rather than Agher Townland. George Bomford’s account book of 1834 includes a list of tenants of Ginnetts and he received just over £80 in rents from them. Certainly Ginnetts was not a Bomford property in 1834, but George may have been collecting the rents for the Winters who had inherited the Pratt property. Equally certainly, in both the surveys of 1837 and 1854, no Pratt, Winter or Bomford had anything to do with Ginnetts, but that does not necessarily prove that Ginnetts was not a Pratt property 150 years previously.

The townland of Agher is bounded by Gallow, Drumlargan and Rahinstown, all Bomford properties, and in 1640 consisted of 688 statute acres, which had increased to 1,147 in 1836 because of a change in boundaries. The survey of 1640, which was actually carried out much later by Sir William Petty, includes the observation that there was “on the premisses a castle, a church, a pigion hous & som cabins”. Benjamin Pratt must have lived in the ‘castle’ initially, but either he or one of his sons built a house on the site in Anglo-Norman style which became known as Agherpallac or, sometimes, Agher Palace; only later was it known as Agher.

20.2.1

The Pratt Family

A more detailed record of the early Pratts follows. Much of the information comes from Burke, the TCD Register; the Pratt documents in the national Library, and the Agher Church records.

Richard Pratt of Leicestershire supported Cromwell in 1641. He had a number of children but we are only concerned with the two younger sons, (the third and fourth), who came to Ireland.
3rd Son, Joseph Pratt

Joseph Pratt of Garadice, and later of Cabra Castle, married firstly Frances Couch, sister and heir of Colonel Thomas Couch of Cabra Castle, Kingscourt, Co Cavan. They inherited Cabra Castle sometime after 1680. This house was on the other side of the road to the present Cabra Castle, which was not built until the 1830’s. Joseph married secondly Elizabeth Mervyn, a daughter of Sir Audley Mervyn. There were six children, probable from both marriages since one of the younger children was named Mervyn.

1. Joseph Pratt, born 1666 at Garadice and educated at Trinity. Probably died before his father since he did not inherit.

2. Benjamin Pratt, born 1669 at Garadice, BA (TCD) 1689, MA 1692, Fellow 1693, BD 1699, LL D 1702, Professor of Laws 1704, DD 1705, Provost of Trinity 1710, Dean of Down 1717. Married Lady Phillippa Hamilton, daughter of James 6th Earl of Abercorn. Doctor Benjamin inherited Cabra Castle but died without children on 6th December 1721 and Cabra passed to his brother.

3. John Pratt, born at Garadice 1670, BA (TCD) 1689, became Constable of Dublin Castle and Deputy Treasurer of Ireland. Married Henrietta Clements and had children, but his two sons were drowned in Phoenix Park in 1723. He died in 1740 and Cabra passed to his brother Mervyn.

4. Thomas Pratt, born at Garadice 1680, BA, 1701, and died without children

5. Mervyn Pratt inherited Cabra Castle in 1740 and it continued in his family for over 200 years. It was sold in 1966 by the present Mervyn (Sheppard) who resides in Kuala Lumpur and became a Muslim and a Tenko. Mervyn also came into Garadice which his family still owned in 1818 (Rev Joseph Pratt) and probably much later.

6. Margaret Pratt’s 4th son was called Benjamin Pratt

Benjamin Pratt born 1639, was at Trinity in 1653 under Provost Samuel Winter, and inherited Agher. Married c1675 Margaret, eldest daughter of James Mortimer of Lisliman, Co Cavan. She was born in 1655 and died on 26th November 1713. He died on 3rd June 1706 and was buried under the floor of the old Agher Church, having had five children

1. John Pratt, born c1677, married 1697 Mary Winter (Pywell), widow of Samuel Winter of Griffenrath (see above). He appears to have lived at Griffenrath with Mary’s children by her first marriage even though, as the eldest son, he inherited Agher when his father died in 1706. However he had no children when he died in 1720 and the Pratt estates passed to his brother

2. Benjamin Pratt was not born until 1689 so some of his sisters may be older. Educated at Trinity, BA 1708. Married Jane Nugent on Sunday 14th March 1711 at 6 pm at Agher Church by Rev Moneypenny. Jane was the younger daughter of James Nugent of Clonlost, Co Westmeath, and his wife Jane who was a daughter of John Cooke of Cookestown, Co Westmeath: (8.5.2). Jane Cooke had 12 brothers and sisters; one sister, Dorcas, married Richard Reynell and two of their sons, Nicholas and Edward, married the Winter sisters Jane and Mary (see below); another sister, Mary, married Edward L’Estrange and their eldest son married Anne Bomford in 1750. John Cooke’s brother witnessed the earliest remaining Bomford lease, that of Enniscoffey, in 1692 for Colonel Laurence Bomford.

Although it is stated above that the eldest son John inherited Agher when his father died in 1706, it is possible that the place went direct to Benjamin. Certainly Benjamin lived there from 1712 since his children were all born there. However Agher and the other estates would have come to him anyway when his brother John died in 1720. Jane Pratt died in 1728 having had seven children. Benjamin married secondly Elizabeth Moore, a daughter of Judge Moore of Mopstown, but there were no more children.

Benjamin died 14th March 1771 aged 82 and was buried alongside his parents under the floor of the old Agher Church. He outlived all his children, and he left all the Pratt estates to his grandson Samuel Winter, son of his eldest daughter Margaret. His children were -

a. Benjamin Pratt born at Agher 14th October 1712 at 9 pm. It may have been this Benjamin, or his father, who became a trustee to the marriage settlement of Stephen Bomford the younger in 1745. If this is so he died between 1745 and 1761.

b. Margaret Pratt born at Agher 14th December 1713, married around the mid 1730’s Francis Winter (c1690 - 1743) (see above). She died in 1746 and her three children were cared for by her brother John Pratt at Griffenrath (see below).

i. Samuel Winter, 1741 - 1811, see 20.4

ii. Jane Winter They both married into the Reynell family which later became involved with George Bomford the younger (see 24.5)

iii. Mary Winter with George Bomford the younger (see 24.5)

c. Anne Pratt born at Agher 17th March 1715

d. Mary Pratt born at Agher 1st April 1717

e. James Pratt born at Agher 19th October 1718 and died before 1761

f. Elizabeth Pratt born at Agher 2nd December and 1719 married Alexander Swift of Lynn Co Westmeath (2.5.1)
g. John Pratt born at Agher 25th September 1721, educated at Trinity, BA 1743. Married his cousin Anne Pratt, a daughter of Mervyn Pratt of Cabra Castle; They had no children but were the guardians of the three children of Margaret and Francis Winter and brought them up at Griffenrath. John died of fever on 17th May 1761 and his father wrote of him, “a young gentleman of the strictest honour and integrity”. At this date he was described as an only son, so his brothers must have died before 1761.

3. Elizabeth Pratt
4. Margaret Pratt
5. Anne Pratt married twice, firstly to John Smith of Violetstown, Co Westmeath, eldest surviving son of John Smith of Violetstown and his wife Dorcas Wheatley (8.5.1). John’s sister was Anne Smith who married Stephen Bomford of Gallow in 1713. Stephen died in 1759 and John Smith was an executor of his will. They had three children
   a. John Smith of Anneville, Co Westmeath married Louisa Birmingham and died 1794.
   c. Benjamin Smith of Violetstown who died unmarried in 1809.
   John Smith died between 1763 and 1766. Anne married secondly Thomas Walpole between 1766 and 1768.

20.3 Agher Church

Agher Church lies just outside the garden of Agher House, and so gives the impression of a private church. It is not known when it was first built but the Down Survey records, “The Rectory consistinge of all the Tythes of the sayd Parish greate & smale was in the yeare 1640 in the Possession of Mr Robert Bunninge as Parson was in the sayd yeare worth Tenn pounds.” After the Commonwealth resettlement it would appear that Agher Church never had a parson or rector to itself, though it sometimes had a curate.

From 1699 until his death in 1745 Jonathan Swift was Vicar of Laracor and was also Rector of Agher, but he lived at Laracor when he was not away in Dublin or London. As seen above Benjamin Pratt was married in 1711 at Agher by the Rev Moneypenny and not by Dean Swift who was in London from 1708 to 1713. Henry Moneypenny was rector of the neighbouring parishes of Gallow, Drumlargan and Rodanstown, and it was no doubt he who took care of Agher during Swift’s absence. Henry was Rector of Drumlargan Church until 1674 when it was shut down, then Rector of Gallow until 1682 when it also was shut down; Gallow and Drumlargan Parishes were then combined with Rodanstown, and Henry became Rector of the combined parishes. Later the Rev John Bomford was Rector of Rodanstown from 1755 until he died in 1776, and no doubt he also took the odd services at Agher.

In the National Library there is a subscription list of 1744 in the Agher Vestry Minute Book. The money was to go to repairs on the roof and amounted to about £30. Both Stephen Bomford the elder and Stephen the younger contributed £1.10.0 each. This book spans the years 1745 to 1800 and there is no record of any Bomford in the Vestry, their church may have been at Rodanstown although the later Bomfords of Rahinstown attended the Church at Rathcore. However there was one Bomford Agher parishioner from 1790 to 1800, he signed the minute book as ‘Oliver Bomford of Agher’ and can not be placed in the family tree (17.9.1).

By 1793, when John Bolton was in charge, the Church and walls were “badly out of repair since 1641”. John Bolton lived at Ratoath, eight miles away, and his curate was William Major. The curate lived at the Glebe House beside the school on Agher estate just north of Rahinstown. No doubt this state of affairs continued until, in 1804, a new church was built to seat 100. The money was raised by voluntary contribution and both Stephen the younger and George Bomford the elder contributed, but the cost was mainly born by Samuel Winter who made a gift of £450 and later, to make up the short-fall, a loan of £168. The commemorative wall plaques of the Pratt family were erected from the old church, but the new church is still famous for its East Window. This window was made in Dublin by Thomas Jervais (or Gervaise, or Jarvis) and is the second earliest known piece of Irish-made stained glass. The unusual subject is St Paul preaching to the Athenians. It was formerly in the private chapel of Dangan Castle, the seat of the Wellesley family, which was burnt down accidentally in the 1790’s. The chalice and other Communion silver was presented by Hercules Langford Rowley, Lord Langford of Summerhill, in 1747. Soon after the new church was built Samuel Winter built the Winter Vault in the churchyard to the right of the gate. He was the first Winter to be buried in it in 1811. Fourteen Winters, seven on each side, are buried there and the last one was Mary Anne Winter who died in December 1906.

The congregation in 1836 was about 40; many of whom were tenants of the Winters, but some must also have been tenants of the Bomfords. Later Bomfords who lived at Drumlargan went to church at Agher and the record show over a dozen Bomford baptisms, six marriages and three burials.

Laracor was considered to be the Bomford burial ground, although it was too far away to travel
for a Sunday service. Unfortunately the Laracor Church records of the earlier days have been lost, and those records in existence only show the burial in 1886 of George Bomford the younger; the graveyard there would be a happy hunting ground for Bomford tombstones by the energetic with spades because it is terribly overgrown - even the grave of Colonel Laurence and Elinor can not be seen, only the railings are visible through the brambles.

20.4 Samuel Winter and his Children

It will be remembered that Francis Winter (20.1.1), c1690 - 1743, married Margaret Pratt (1713 - 1746) and had a son who inherited as a minor and two daughters (20.2.1). This son was Samuel Winter. Samuel Winter was born in 1741 and was brought up with his two sisters, Jane and Mary, at Griffenrath by his uncle John Pratt (1721 - 1761). Samuel never went to school but was taught farming and estate management at Griffenrath. In 1762 when he came of age he inherited the family property and also in that year, on 4th December, he married Margaret, youngest daughter of Joseph Robbins, who had just died in 1761, of Ballyduff, Co Kilkenny, and his wife Margaret, a daughter of Sir Henry Piers, 3rd Baronet of Tristernagh Abbey, Co Westmeath. Margaret was born on 21st September 1735, died on 17th November 1814, aged 79, and was buried in the Agher vault. Of her the Winter History records, “her strong under-standing had been much impaired and for a considerable time before her death she was in a state of mental imbecility.” Through this marriage her children inherited the Robbins estates in 1819; a deed concerning these estates comes later (20.6.5) and refers to the marriage settlement of 1809 between George Bomford and Arbella Winter (18.8.4) where the Robbins and Blunden history will be found.

In 1771 Benjamin Pratt died and Samuel Winter inherited the Pratt estates, which included Agher, Killeter (c160 acres in Co Cavan) and Killynoon (720 acres in Co Westmeath). Thus the Pratt and Winter estates were combined. Samuel then rebuilt Agher House, left Griffenrath and moved to Agher in 1776; but the cost of building a large three storey square house over a basement and other financial misfortunes caused Samuel to heavily mortgage the estates, and some were sold, (Griffenrath and Moorstown in 1779).

In 1778 and again in 1784 he was High Sheriff of Meath. In 1784 as was the custom he appointed a deputy under-sheriff, Robert Sharman, to perform most of the work; when Sharman misappropriated public funds and fled the country, Samuel was held responsible and obliged to make good the loss. This added financial loss caused him to live quietly at Agher until his death. He died aged 70 on 19th May 1811 and was the first occupier of the Winter vault, which he had built. There were five children who survived to adulthood, altogether there were 13.

1. John Pratt Winter (1768 - 1846) of Agher was born on 25th May 1768 at Griffenrath. When he was 10 he was sent to Rev Oliver Miller’s school at St Mary Abbey, and lived with his uncle, Thomas Barnes, at Usher’s Island, Dublin. At 15 he became a fellow commoner at Trinity and there, in 1787, won the College Historical Society’s medal for oratory, and graduated BA. In 1789 he was made a burgher of Dublin Corporation, and in December of that year travelled to London to enrol at Middle Temple. After a European tour in 1791 he was called to the Irish bar in 1792 and carried out magistrate’s duties in the Northern Circuit 1792 - 1793.

JPW was 26 when he married Anne Gore at Lewisham Church, Blackfriars, London on 4th August 1794. Anne was a daughter of Captain Arthur Gore of EICS who was the youngest son of William Gore of Barrowmount, Co Kilkenny; her mother was Catherine Pocklington. Anne was born on 26th June 1771, died 28th August 1848 and was buried in the Agher Winter vault. The couple lived in Eccles Street, Dublin, where at least three of their children were born; they also lived at Agher until their own country house at Tullyard was completed in 1808 and it was at Tullyard that their two youngest children were born.

In January 1798, at the time of the threatened French invasion, JPW was appointed a captain in the Lawyer’s Corps of the Yeomanry. However he very soon resigned his commission because he felt “great repugnance to aid in any way the coercive measures now adopted by the government and much indigation particularly at the systemic burning of the houses of the peasantry resorted to for the suppression of outrage…..”. This attitude virtually ruined any prospects he might have had in politics or a lucrative government post for which he was trained, and he had to fall back on agriculture for which he had little inclination and no training. Much later he described this act as “a hasty and false step” which he “never ceased to regret” and which apparently “greatly displeased (his) family and friends”.

So he had to give up his work as a barrister and retire to the country. However five years later he raised his own detachment of the Yeomanry and was commissioned on 20th July 1803 Captain of the Rathmolyon Cavalry; his Lieutenant was George Bomford (1759 - 1814) of Drumlargin, his brother-in-law. This must have gone some way to cancel his unpopularity since in 1803 he was appointed a Resident Magistrate (JP) for Meath and Kildare, in 1804 he was made
Deputy Governor of Meath and in 1805 High Sheriff.

His father died in 1811 and he inherited Agher and the other Winter estates all of which were heavily charged to provide portions for the younger children under the terms of his parent’s marriage settlement. He stayed on at Tullyard until his mother died in 1814 when the whole family moved to Agher.

In 1817 his financial position was so serious that he was forced to lease Agher, auction his stock and furniture, and take his wife and the younger members of the family, including young George and Samuel Bomford to live in a boarding house in Paris. They remained there for seven years, returning in 1824. The decline in the Winter family fortune during this period was one of the major factors, which caused younger members of the family to leave Ireland in search of better opportunities, and it was unfortunate that this decline coincided with the slump in prices of agricultural products after the Napoleonic War. JPW used his time in Paris to write a number of reformist pamphlets which he published on his return in Dublin.

Apart from a second term as Deputy Governor of Meath, JPW lived quietly for the remainder of his life with his wife at Agher. He died on 31st August 1846 but was not buried at Agher; this is so surprising that one wonders whether he did not die overseas.

2. Francis Pratt Winter was born at Griffenrath on 4th July 1771. He received his BA at Trinity in 1793 and was ordained in 1795. He was installed Vicar of Rathconnell on April 26, 1800, and became known as ‘the hunting parson’; Rathconnell is now part of the Parish of Killucan but in those days the church was 2½ miles from Mullingar on the Kells road. Francis lived either at Killynon (see 18.8.4) another 2½ miles nearer to Kells, or at Clondrisse on the opposite side of the road. In 1819 he resigned the living after a quarrel with his bishop, Dr O’Beirne, Bishop of Meath 1798 - 1823, who was well known for his dislike of hunting parsons. In 1820 Francis joined the rest of the family in Paris, returning with them in 1824 to Agher where he lived for the rest of his life. Around 1826 he leased a portion of Drumlargan from George Bomford and farmed it. In 1831 he became guardian of his brother Samuel’s eight children. He never married and died on 21st July 1847 being buried in the Agher vault.

3. Anna Maria Winter of Agher, was born on 10th September 1773 at Griffenrath, died unmarried on 22nd January 1837 aged 64 and was buried in the Agher vault. She was the ‘spinster aunt’ who took Frances Rose (Bomford) to Rome in 1810 - 1811; helped care for George and Samuel Bomford from 1815 and went to Paris with the family 1817 - 1825; then from 1831 she helped care for her brother Samuel’s eight orphaned children.


4. Arbella Winter was born at Griffenrath and named after her godmother, Lady Arbella Denny, The Denny family of Co Kerry were intermarried with the Blennerhassett, Chute, Bateman and Crosbie families and were sort of relations of the Bomfords. It is said that Arbella was born in 1773 but this must be wrong as Anna Maria was born that year and they were not twins; 1773 may have been misread for 1775.

Arbella was married at Agher on 22nd March 1809 to George Bomford of Drumlargan (18.8.4). He died in 1814 and she, twenty months later.

It is their children who are the subject of this chapter, the wards of John Pratt Winter.

5. Samuel Pratt Winter was the youngest, born 25th February 1779 at Agher. In June 1795 he entered Trinity where he got his BA in 1800. On 27th February 1812 he married Frances Rose Bomford, the youngest daughter of Trevor and Mary Bomford and ward of George Bomford of Drumlargan. Their marriage and children have been covered under the entry starting 18.6

20.4.1 Lady Arabella Denny

Lady Arabella Denny, godmother of Arbella Winter, 1707 - 1792 was a daughter of Thomas Fitzmaurice, 1st Earl of Kerry, her mother being Anne, only daughter of Sir William Petty (1.4.1.) Her husband Arthur Denny of Tralee died in 1742 and she devoted herself to works of charity in Dublin. She looked after many institutions including the Foundling Hospital, but the Magdalen Asylum in Leeson Street (opened in 1767) was her special care.

20.5 Agher, and young George and Samuel Bamford in 1820

In 1820 young George Bomford was aged 9, and his brother Samuel was aged 7. Their immediate relations were the Winter and Bomford uncles and aunts who that year were

| Uncle John Pratt Winter | aged 52 | and living in Agher House |
| Aunt Jane his wife | aged 49 | and living in Agher House |
| Uncle Francis, the clergyman | aged 49 | and living in Agher House |
Aunt Anna Maria aged 47 and living in Agher House
Uncle Samuel aged 41 and living at nearby Clarkestown House
Aunt Frances Rose, his wife aged 28 and living at nearby Clarkestown House
Aunt Maria Bomford aged 51 and living in Rahinstown
Uncle Chichester Bomford aged about 54 and living in England
and maybe, if still alive in 1820, a couple of much older aunts
Aunt Margaret Mockler aged over 60 and living in Trim or Dublin
Aunt Frances Jane Massy aged over 60 and probably living in Dublin.

So effectively they had only one; Bomford aunt, Maria, and it makes sense that it was the Winters who were selected to bring up the two children.

Agher House would have been pretty full in 1820 if the family were not in Paris. However it was the base of all John Pratt’s children, five sons and three daughters, ranging in age from 24 down to 10; and it was the ten-year-old Arbella whom young George was destined to marry. There were also youngsters across the fields at Rahinstown; the only boy there was 18, and the six girls were between 20 down to 10. The younger family of uncle Samuel Winter and aunt Frances Rose was even closer at Clarkestown, and by 1820 they had five children, the eldest being 5; and young Samuel Bomford was destined to marry one of these children. Thus there were plenty of youngsters about, and we could include the Coates cousins at Bridestream House near Kilcock, and the young Purdons at Ardrums House just south of Agher.

One would like to think of budding romances occurring between young George and Samuel and the Winter girls in the late 20’s and early 30’s, but various sources indicate that it was quite the reverse. Agher was severely encumbered with debts and John Pratt had difficulty in making ends meet, so, as was often the case in those days, John Pratt arranged all the marriages as a matter of finance. It was young Arbella’s fate to be married to young George Bamford from, by Agher standards, was a rich and so eligible young man and so very suitable for John Pratt’s plans.

It is reported by Forth that John Pratt Winter kept Arbella “shut in the schoolroom” to prevent her meeting other young men, and then “married her off to George in spite of the young couple’s dislike of each other”. The union was never considered a truly happy one, even my grandfather G. L. Bomford wrote that George was “eccentric and peculiar”.

Agher remained full of children for some years because both Samuel Winter and his wife Frances Rose (Bomford) had died by 1831 leaving their eight children all minors. They came to Agher and were cared for there. Frances Jane, one of these children, was also kept away from possible suitors since John Pratt planned to marry her to young Samuel Bomford, which he did in 1839. Many of these children were shipped off to Australia in the 1830’s at ages, which now-a-days would be considered very young. However it was not unusual for marriages to be arranged as a matter of finance, but John Pratt’s action might have been tempered by thoughts of the Rahinstown elopement in 1826 of Susan Margaret Bomford and Charles Martin. Nevertheless Samuel Bomford’s family remembered his attitude and, as Guy Bomford relates, John Pratt Winter was known to their family as “The Ruffian”.

20.5.1

But to return to Agher of about 1820, the following comes from the Ordnance Survey Field Name Book of 1836, but could be applied to 1820

“The Townland contains 1,147 acres statute measure, plus 24 acres which are in the Parish of Gallow, (this is Clarkestown); of this there are 68 acres of trees of different sorts and 15 acres of bog; of the remainder about one third (350 acres) is cultivated and two thirds (710 acres) grazing. It is the property of Lord Langford (of Summerhill) from whom John Pratt Winter holds the whole for three lives renewable forever at the annual rent of £92.6.2. A portion is let to under tenants at £1.12.6 an acre. Near the townland centre is Agherpallis. It is an excellent house with good offices (i.e. out-buildings, yards, etc), orchard and garden with a large portion of ornamental grounds. Just to the West of it is the Parish Church without spire or steeple situated in a graveyard and surrounded with trees, built in 1804 capable of holding 100 but only about 40 attend Divine Service. The houses of the tenantry are nearly all built with stone and about a quarter are Protestants. Kilcock 4 miles is the nearest market town.”

Lewis’s Topographical Dictionary of 1837 states;

“Agher House is the residence of J. P. Winter and occupies a beautiful situation in a demesne of about 360 acres. It contains some fine timber. The gardens are extensive and well laid out. The cottages on the estate are excellent manifesting the proprietor’s regard for the comfort of the peasantry.”

It is hard to visualize now-a-days how the place looked then. The house has gone and the timber mostly felled. However the house was on rising ground so the view from the front door must have been considerable, looking across the Rye water and the Royal Canal towards the plains around Naas with the Wicklow Mountains as a backdrop. The ridge of Gallow cuts off the view to the southeast, but woods
were planted to enclose that side and also to the west towards Rahinstown. As usual there were two avenues; the back avenue passed the Church and went to the yard, from there it continued on past the back of the house and came out on the road that winds through Drumlargan and Garadice; the front avenue swept up to the house through 'the plantation', stands of magnificent trees. All this can be seen on the 1836 ordnance survey map which also shows the other woods and roads, and a number of houses which include two schools, a dispensary, RC Chapel, Glebe House and a number of cottages.

It is interesting that both the survey extract and Lewis should comment on the houses of the tenants, and there is more in the Statistical Survey of County Meath, printed in 1802 for the Dublin Society. Agher and the Winters are cited in this book on a number of occasions for their go-ahead farming techniques; the sowing of winter wheat, manuring of land in winter by deliberate flooding, the rotation of tillage and pasture, the introduction of clover as a crop, drainage by covered sewers, moveable fences and hedges of furze were all at least thought about by Samuel Winter and his son John Pratt if they had not actually experimented with them. Many of these ideas are now common practice but in Ireland at that time they were very 'new'.

This Meath Survey condemns the living conditions of the 'peasantry' and the following is an extract in the book from a letter on the subject written by J.P. Winter -

"Here is spacious field for improvement, and one so important and interesting, that, besides the exertions of individuals, it ought, I conceive, never to be omitted in the plan of any Irish society. The contrast between the stately mansion here, and hard by the filthy hovel, so outrages the feelings of human nature: The advantages, in point of moral effect, of a clean, comfortable, and cheerful dwelling, compared with an abode, dismal, dark, and dirty, are so incalculable. ....".

John Pratt Winter continues in like vein for three pages. Nevertheless on Agher his workmen were housed in stone buildings with slate roofs, and as the survey states "the tenants at Augher have more the appearance of real comfort than those of any estate that I have seen in the county, by the addition of a good kitchen garden to each house."

Young George Bomford must have been aware of and affected by the enlightened atmosphere at Agher, which was so far ahead of the times. No doubt his later days at Oakley Park reflected those early days at Agher with the Winters. Certainly the 'good name' of Bomford around Kells must have been forged initially by George and Arbella; they cared about their people, so did the Winters.

The benevolence of the Winters to their tenants around Agher must have also had a bearing on the behaviour of the people during the troubles of 1798, and indeed all the later agrarian outrages. The area was far from peaceful in 1798; there was the case of Mr Philips of Ash Green House on Knockstown, George Bomford’s property, who was chased out of his house, reputedly 'in his night clothes', he was so shaken that he never returned and his house slowly disintegrated; William Major, the Protestant curate of Agher, was attacked twice at the Glebe House and had to fly for his life on both occasions; one of the 'rebels' of 1798 was Laurence O’Conner, the school master at Agher, who was captured and sent to Trim jail where he was publicly hung, drawn and quartered, - the normal sentence for any leading 'rebel'; the village of Dunboyne was completely burnt down; the garrison town of Kilcock was partly destroyed and Colonel Michael Aylmer’s house, Courtown, amongst others were burnt to the ground, and this must have been really serious trouble which the troops of the garrison could not contain; but then the troops were so disgracefully undisciplined that the Army Commander declared in a General Order of 26th February 1798 that the army were “in such a state of licentiousness as must render it formidable to everyone but the enemy”.

It is not possible to judge this period by present day standards. Nevertheless for the Bomfords and the Winters to pass through this period of discontent without trouble, with all the upheavals it must have brought, for George Bomford to be so sure of the future that he bought land at this time, and for the troubles to pass without reference in the documents, indicate that both these families must have been sympathetic to the peasantry, and have shown little interest in politics even though they must have become involved with the aftermath of at least some of the incidents. Indeed it is probable that, like so many of the Meath Protestant landowners, they did not favour the government because they were much more liberal in their outlook. No doubt it was this liberal outlook that caused John Pratt Winter to resign from the Yeomanry in 1798, largely because he could not stomach a government which ill treated the poor people; on the other hand it is equally easy to understand why his neighbours, like the Aylmers, who had been burnt out of their houses by that same peasantry, viewed J.P. Winter’s action in a most unfavourable light.

Incidentally Colonel Michael Aylmer could not rebuild the looted and burnt Courtown House because he was not granted sufficient compensation from the State. However in 1815 his son John did build a new house, which was much enlarged in 1900 and finally sold in 1947. Colonel Michael’s father, Charles Aylmer, married Elinor one of the daughters of James Tyrrell of Clonard in 1749; James Tyrrell was the hard worked executor of Thomas Bomford the elder. Another connection with the Bomfords was the Colonel’s great grandfather, John Aylmer; John married Mary, a daughter of Thomas Whyte of
Pitchfordstown, just outside Kilcock, in 1705 and it was from Henry Whyte, Thomas’ brother, that Thomas Bomford the elder leased Boycetown in 1725. Thomas Bomford bequeathed Boycetown to Patrick Sandys of Cookstown, the other executor with James Tyrrell.

20.6  The Winter Cousins

Young George Bomford’s first cousins were the children of John Pratt and the children of Samuel Pratt Winter, and the former were to become his brothers and sisters-in-law when he married Arbella Winter.

Young Samuel Bomford’s first cousins were of course the same, but the children of Samuel Pratt Winter were to become his brothers and sisters-in-law when he married Frances Jane Winter. So in both cases the relationship was to become closer.

Samuel Pratt Winter’s children have been detailed under 18.7. It now becomes necessary to detail the children of John Pratt with whom both George and Samuel Bomford were brought up. Some were quite a bit older than our two youngsters but the younger ones were their playmates. John Pratt Winter’s family all lived at Tullyard until 1814, then for three years at Agher where young George and Samuel joined them, then for seven years in Paris (1817 - 1824) and finally back in Agher

1. Samuel Winter, the eldest son, was born 2nd August 1796 in Dublin; he was educated at home and then at Trinity, BA 1817, and called to the Irish Bar in 1820. On 18th November 1826, when he was 30, he married Lucy Sanderson, the 2nd daughter of James Sanderson, JP and DL of Cavan, of Cloverhill near Belturbet Co Cavan. Lucy was born 18th October 1800 and died 11th November 1864. Before he was married, Samuel lived at Agher until his father returned from Paris in 1825 and he no doubt looked after the place until the family returned. After the marriage Samuel and Lucy lived at Tullyard until 1846 when he succeeded to Agher, and the next year he came into the bulk of the estate of his uncle, Rev Francis. Their seven children were brought up at Tullyard.

   Samuel was a JP and Deputy Lieutenant of Meath, in 1837 he was elected High Sheriff of Meath and in 1851 of Cavan. He was a guardian of the Trim Union (Workhouse) and in 1861 was Chairman of the Guardians. He died on 6th November 1867 and was buried with his wife Lucy in the Winter vault at Agher Church.

2. Arthur Gore Winter, born 24th February 1798 in Dublin, entered Trinity and got his BA in 1818. He then went to Grey’s Inn but gave up law in 1823 and unsuccessfully sought an army commission. He went to Greece as a member of Lord Byron’s Expedition; this expedition lasted from July 1823 until Lord Byron died in April 1824. Arthur arrived in time to accompany Byron’s remains to Zante where he was imprisoned for several months, contracted fever and died in Greece during October 1824. He never married.

   Note from John Pratt Winters history: Agher was badly damaged in February 1813 when these two brothers, Sam aged 17, and Arthur aged 15, “caused a basin of gunpowder to explode in the upper storey”. He goes on about these two: - “They had never been at any school or received any instructions with a view to their going to college but from myself and that in a very desultory manner except for a short time when Mr Leaky was employed to read with them for their entrance”, they both entered Trinity in October 1813.

3. Anna Maria Winter was born in Dublin on 19th June 1799. She married William Humphrys of Ballyhaise on 10th January 1821. William’s father, another William, bought Ballyhaise House about 1800 from the Newburgh family and extended it on both sides. Burke’s Country Houses speaks well of this important house, which is near Belturbet and Cloverhill, the home of her sister-in-law Lucy (Sanderson); it was originally built about 1733. William Humphrys was born in 1798, became a JP and DL of Co Cavan, and died in 1872. They had four children before Anna Maria died on 10th February 1831. (William married secondly Clarissa, a daughter of Hugh Moore of Eglantine, Co Down.)

   a. William Humphrys, born 1827, inherited Ballyhaise in 1872 but he never married and the place was passed to the second son when he died in 1877.
   b. John Winter Humphrys, born 1829, married 1854 Priscilla who died in 1911 and was a daughter of Rev James Perkins Garrett of Kilgarron or Janeville, Co Carlow. John died in 1884 and Ballyhaise passed to his son William, Anna Maria’s grandson, who served in the Royal Navy. Ballyhaise was sold by William’s second son, Nugent Winter Humphrys, at the beginning of the 1900’s, and is now an agricultural college.
   c. Mervyn Archdale Humphrys was born in 1830 and was killed in the Indian Mutiny whilst attacking Delhi in 1857.
   d. Anne Elizabeth Humphrys was married to Amoric Russell McGuire in 1860.
4. **John Pratt Winter** (the younger), born 31st October 1800, was educated at Mr Feinaigle’s school and in 1817 entered Trinity, but he failed to qualify. In August 1819 he accompanied his aunt Anna Maria Winter to Rome where he studied drawing and painting for five years. He returned to Paris, where the family was, to study art and stayed on there until he returned to Ireland in November 1832.

On 25th June 1835 he married his cousin Mary Winter at Agher. Mary was the eldest child of Samuel and Frances Rose (Bomford) and was born at Clarkstown House in 1814. She had two daughters before she died in Paris on 11th November 1856. As a wedding present they were given Ballyduff in Co Kilkenny (20.6.5); Ballyduff was originally part of the Robbins estate but due to lack of male heirs it passed to the surviving children of Samuel Winter (1741 - 1811) in 1819, in 1834 John Pratt Winter bought up the shares of Samuel’s other children and gave the place to the married couple. However as far as is known they never lived there, but lived in Dublin. John became a portrait painter and the 1913 edition of Strickland’s ‘Dictionary of Irish Artists’ records-

> “Winter John b 1801 d after 1841. Portrait Painter. Born in Dublin in 1801 he was painting portraits about the middle of the century, and exhibited in the Royal Hibernian Academy. Nothing is known about his works. He was living at 29 Richmond Place in 1841.” The Dublin Directories record that he was living at 29 Richmond Place between 1829 and 1841 (the Winter history places him in Paris until 1832, so perhaps his father had this house initially), then at 29 Lower Mount Pleasant Avenue between 1842 and 1844, and finally at Aardeven, Rathgar, until he died. Strickland’s Dictionary has a few dates wrong and two of his portraits have been located; about 1847 he painted twin portraits of his sister Arbella with her eldest son, and the other of his brother-in-law, Arbella’s husband, George Bomford; these portraits are described in 25.4.

Mary Winter was a scholarly woman and had several publications to her name; these include a highly praised translation of Goethe’s ‘Herman and Dorothea’, and a play ‘Where There’s a Will There’s a Way, or, The Old Family Name’ (Dublin 1853), which satirises the circumstances of George Bomford’s marriage to his cousin Arbella in 1832.

John Pratt Winter died on 11th November 1864 having had two daughters.

a. Frances Rosa, born 25th October 1836 and was named after her grandmother, the daughter of Trevor Bomford. Neither she nor her sister Anne ever married and for some time they lived together in France and returned together to live in Bray, Co Dublin. She died there in 1896.

b. Anne was named after the other grandmother, Anne Gore. After her sister died she lived at No 1 Belgrave Villa, Bray, where she died in 1904.

5. **Margaret Winter** was born on 10th October 1802 and ‘died young’ according to Burke. Gordon Forth who had access to the Winter history states that ‘after 1826 (i.e. after the return from Paris) she lived quietly at Agher for the remainder of her adult life’. She was not buried at Agher, which seems strange if the latter is correct; I suspect that she may have died in Paris, or even at Tullyard.

6. **Elizabeth (Eliza) Winter** was born on 25th August 1804, married on 4th February 1834 and died that same year. Her husband was the Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield (20.6.1), Rector of Ballyloughloe and of Mount Temple, both in Westmeath; he died on 8th November 1875. They had no children.

7. **Francis Winter** was born at Agher on 22nd March 1810 at Tullyard. She married her cousin George Bomford in 1832 and we shall hear much more of her later.
The Caulfield Family

There have been three Winter - Caulfield marriages -

1. 1834 Rev Thomas Caulfield and Elizabeth, daughter of John Pratt Winter
2. 1850 Anna Julia Caulfield and Francis, son of John Pratt Winter,
3. 1865 Augusta Florence Caulfield and Nathaniel Francis Preston, grandson of Francis Rose (Bomford) and Samuel Pratt Winter

William Caulfield of Benown, Co. Westmeath, was a cousin to Lord Charlemont the 2nd Earl. c1790 he married Lucy Sanderson of Clover Hill; she is almost certainly a sister of James Sanderson of Clover Hill whose daughter Lucy married Samuel Winter (1796 - 1867). They had three sons and four daughters, we are interested in two of them -

3rd son was Thomas Gordon Caulfield, the clergyman who in 1834 married Elizabeth Winter (No 6 above).

Eldest son was Lieutenant-Colonel (EICS) John Caulfield (1792 - 1865) of Bloomfield, near Mullingar, and now a hotel. He had eleven children and two of his daughters were

1. Anna Julia who in 1850 married Major Francis Winter ‘late of the Bengal Army’. (No 7 above).
6. Augusta Florence who in 1865 married Nathaniel Francis Preston of Swainstown, son of Margaret Winter (1817 - 1845) and grandson of Frances Rose (Bomford) (18.7.4).

Later Winters

The only one of John Pratt Winter’s sons who produced sons to carry on the lineage was his eldest son, Samuel Winter (1796 - 1867) and his wife Lucy Sanderson (1800 - 1864) from Clover Hill. These children were the nephews and nieces of George and Arbella Bomford, and cousins of Samuel and Frances Jane Bomford. They were all born at Tullyard and were:

1. Elizabeth Anne Winter was born on 24th February 1828 and married on 3rd August 1852. Her husband was George Nugent Purdon of Lisnabin near Killucan, who was born 2nd August 1819, the eldest son of Edward Purdon; about the time Edward Purdon married in 1810 he modernised Lisnabin, which was a mid-1700 house, by means of Gothic additions; its old roof and dormer windows being partly masked by fake battlements and tall narrow towers around the front door. According to Lewis in 1838 the house was “a handsome castellated mansion recently erected”.

Elizabeth died on 6th November 1864, a week before her mother, and her husband on 6th March 1910. They had six children and, since Elizabeth’s brothers and sisters produced no children, they inherited the Winter, Sanderson and Purdon properties (see next paragraph).

2. John Pratt Winter was born on 6th April 1829. He became a Captain of the 17th Regiment of Light Dragoons (now 17th Lancers) and never married. He was killed in action as the tablet in Agher Church records,

“He fell gloriously leading the second squadron of his regiment in the heroic but disastrous charge of the light brigade on the Russian Army at Balaklava before Sebastopol in the Crimea, 25th October 1854 in the 26th year of his age leaving no blot on his name.”

3. Lucy Adelaide Winter was born on 13th June 1830, died unmarried on 22nd January 1906 and was buried in the Agher Vault.
4. James Sanderson Winter was born on 15th February 1832. He graduated MA from Trinity, joined the Royal Meath Militia as a Captain, became a JP, was elected High Sheriff of Co Cavan in 1871 and of Co Meath the next year, and became a Deputy Lieutenant of Co Cavan. He inherited Agher when his father died in 1867 and he died unmarried on 10th July 1911. He was the last Winter to be buried in the family vault at Agher, and indeed he was really the last of the true Winters. His estates were passed to his nephew, son of his sister Elizabeth Purdon. In 1878 his estates amounted to 3,647 acres valued at £3,133, these were divided between the four Counties of Meath 1,640 acres, Cavan 940 acres, Kildare 206 acres and Westmeath 861 acres.

5. Samuel Winter was born on 2nd May 1834. He became a JP and a Deputy Lieutenant of Co Cavan, and High Sheriff in 1876 for the same county. On 1st March 1860 he married Anne Nicholson, the second daughter of John Armitage Nicholson (1798 - 1872) of Balrath, Kells. After his marriage he lived at Clondriss near Killucan and farmed 839 acres. In 1873 he took the surname of Sanderson, becoming Samuel Winter-Sanderson, and so inherited the estates of his mother’s family, including, Clover Hill where he then lived. Samuel died 12th December 1905 and was buried in the Agher vault. They had no children and the estates passed to his nephew, son of his sister Elizabeth Purdon.
6. Francis Alexander Winter was born 18th February 1836. He became a barrister and died unmarried on 26th August 1883 and was buried in the Agher vault.
7. Mary Anne Winter was the youngest, being born on 7th November 1839. She lived at Agher and was
a contemporary of George Bomford’s older children. Mary Anne died unmarried on 17th December 1906 and was buried in the Agher vault.

20.6.3 The Future of the Winter Houses

Agher House When James Sanderson Winter died in 1911 unmarried, his estates were willed to his nephew Lieut-Colonel Edward Winter Purdon, the eldest son of his sister Elizabeth Anne, with the proviso that he took the surname of Winter, which he did in 1912.

Lieut-Colonel Edward Winter Purdon-Winter died in 1927 and Agher was passed to his eldest son, Captain Charles Edward Purdon-Winter (1894 - 1953). In 1936 the latter sold Agher to the Land Commission, which split the estate into separate lots. The house was pulled down about 1970 when a new house was built; the old yard survives as does the seven feet square underground passage leading from the basement of the old house to the yard.

Lisnabin House The Purdon house of Lisnabin at Killucan passed to Elizabeth’s eldest son when his father George Nugent Purdon died in March 1910. He was Lieut-Colonel Edward Winter Purdon who inherited Agher a couple of years later and had to take the Winter surname, becoming Purdon-Winter.

On his death on 5th January 1927 the place passed to his second son, Samuel Francis Purdon who died in 1953. The latter’s son Denis John Purdon now occupies the place, and it was he and his wife, Anne Katherine (Cairnes), who kindly stored the Bomford family portraits for a while after Oakley Park was sold.

Clover Hill The Sanderson house of Clover Hill at Belturbet came to Samuel Winter’s third son, Samuel (1834 - 1905), and he took the name of Sanderson in order to inherit it in 1873. This later Samuel had no children and the place was passed to his sister Elizabeth Anne Purdon’s third son, John James, in 1905. John James died unmarried in 1933 and it was passed to his nephew John Nugent Purdon who sold it in 1958.

20.6.4 Winter Family Portraits

No doubt George and Arbella Bomford were pleased to hang a matching pair of Winter portraits at Oakley Park, where they remained until Oakley Park was sold when they were taken to Crodara where they now hang. They are oval portraits, 18” X 14”, in square gilt frames, of Samuel Winter (1741-1811), Arbella’s grandfather, and his eldest son John Pratt Winter (1768-1846), Arbella’s father and George’s guardian. Both portraits are signed in red in the lower right-hand corner “W. Lawrence, Dublin”.

The brown paper backing is still sealed with the artist’s label reading,

“William Lawrence, Artist and Photographer, 5 & 7 Upper Sackville Street”.

Samuel, facing front right, has brown eyes and brown hair going grey perhaps powdered; he is wearing a bottle green jacket with gold buttons, red waistcoat and white stock.

John Pratt, facing front left, has hair and eyes very similar to those of his father, although his nose is not so hooked. He is wearing the same green jacket and red waistcoat, but has on a different white shirt and stock. From this one can judge that the two men were of similar stature and that the portraits were painted at the same time, probably about 1800. This date would match the looks of Samuel, then about 59, and John Pratt about 32. However they could have been painted as early as 1794, the date of John Pratt’s wedding, and this earlier date would fit better into what is known about the portrait painter, William Lawrence.

Strickland’s ‘Dictionary of Irish Artists’ of 1913 record the portrait painter, William Lawrence as flourishing circa 1743. This date comes from his only (then) known work of art, a portrait of one of the Annesleys. To have painted the Winters in 1790 would make him aged about 70, or 80 in 1800. Nevertheless this must be the man as the other listed Lawrence’s have different Christian names and worked from addresses other than Sackville Street, now known as O’Connell Street.

20.6.5 Winter Deed of Assignment 8th May 1827

For some reason the Bomford documents include one Winter deed. This concerns the lands of the Robbins family, which had been left to the Winter family. This land had been divided into five shares according to the 1809 marriage settlement of Samuel Pratt Winter and Frances Rose Bomford; 18.8.4 gives the background to this legacy. The five shares were to be divided among the five children of Samuel Winter and his wife Margaret (Robbins), and the payment was to be on the death of Frances (Robbins) and of her husband Sir John Blunden. Sir John died in 1818 so the division of the shares would have been
completed by this date. Some of the names are difficult to read in this deed so the place names in the 1809 settlement (18.8.4) and the 1834 deed (26.2) have been included in brackets.

Samuel Pratt Winter of Liverpool, Co Lincolnshire gives his brother the Reverend Francis Pratt Winter of Agher, in trust, 1/6th share of the town and lands of

in Co Kilkenny
- Ballyduffe,
- Coolroe
- Coolraney
- Coolsillagh
- Plebertstown
- Dysartbeg
- Coolrobeg
- Castlecoker alias Castlecosquer
- Cappohinsin alias Cappohensey (Ardsignane, 106 acres, Ardsign)
- Kelmaeshane

in Co Tipperary
- Cappanismear (Coppamasmear)

These lands are now charged for £1,000 sterling for the sister of Samuel Pratt Winter

The £1,000, or perhaps the income from it, was to be paid to Samuel’s (not in Registry of Deeds) sister, Anna Maria, now aged 54. This payment to her may have had something to do with the trust Samuel set up for his children (18.6.2) sometime before he died. There is no record of this trust except in the Winter history, but Anna Maria did look after his children and this £1,000 may be her recompense. At this date Samuel and his family were living at Christleton near Chester whilst he was working in Liverpool, later in the year they were to return to Dublin. Four years later, in late 1831, both Samuel and Frances Rose died.

It is thought that the ‘1/6th share’ in the deed is a mistake for ‘1/5th share’. ‘Co Lincolnshire’ is definitely a mistake.

And so we end this rambling episode of the Winters, and return to the time when the two young Bomford boys were removed from Temple Street in 1815 and taken to live at Agher. With them went, one hopes, Arbella’s personal maid, Margaret Curry, who was mentioned in her will with the request that “she should continue to look after my two sons”.

20.7 Education of George and Samuel Bomford 1817-1832

We know that the two youngsters were in Paris from 1817 to 1824 with their guardian and his family; George was there between the ages of 6 and 13, and Samuel from 4 to 11; whilst in France no doubt they both learnt French and this would be a help in their education, but when they returned to Ireland George certainly went to Gregory Feinaigle’s school in Dublin in order to gain entry into Trinity.

These two extracts come from ‘Alumni Dublinenses’, the Register of Students of Trinity College, Dublin, edited by Thomas UlickSadleir in 1924.

1. “Bomford George. Socius Comitatus (paid double fees and enjoyed certain privilages including completing the course in three years instead of four. They were the elite of the college). Mr Feinaigle (from Mr Feinaigle’s school). (Entered) October 20,1828, aged 17. Son of George defunctus (dead). Born Co Meath. BA Summer 1832,"


There is no mention of a degree for Samuel so he did not qualify, and it is not known when he left Trinity, but probably after the three-year course in 1833 when he was 20.

At first it was thought that ‘Mr Feinaigle’ was George’s private tutor and no doubt Samuel’s also, but it transpired that he was Gregory von Feinaigle who was married and had at least one son, Charles Feinaigle, who was born c1817. Feinaigle’s school was in North Strand, Dublin in Aldborough House, which had been completed in 1793 for the Earl of Aldborough. The Earl died in 1801 and the house passed to his nephew who had other properties so he leased it to von Feinaigle around 1807. This very successful school was not only in Aldborough House but also in Rossmore House in Kildare Street. It was closed down by von Feinaigle’s widow in 1830.

At least three of the family went there. -

1. John Winter, the artist, George’s future brother-in-law, was born in 1800 so would have been at the school from about the age of 12 until he entered Trinity, say from about 1812 to 1817.
2. Charles Walsh of Dundrum Castle who was to become Samuel’s brother-in- law and a Colonel in the EICS. He was a year older than George so at the school from about 1824 to 1827.

3. George Bomford attended from about 1825 when he was 14 until 1828 when he entered Trinity.

It is surprising that George and Samuel were separated for their initial schooling, and I wonder whether Samuel really did have a private tutor as the Trinity Register suggests, or whether he and George both went to Gregory von Feinaige’s school. Forth records that when the Winters returned to Ireland from Paris in 1824, both the Bomford brothers were enrolled at the ‘Hemaglian Institute’. Probably what happened was that, with the common copying errors of those days, the word ‘Hemaglian’ should be turned into Feinaigian, and that both boys went to the Feinaigian Institute, or, put in another way, both boys went to Gregory von Feinaigle’s school.

1832 was a very important year for George -
11th April was his 21st birthday and his minority ended, and on
23rd July he not only graduated from Trinity with his BA, but also got married to Arbella.

20.8 Final Payment for Drumlargan etc 4th March 1815

One of the first things that John Pratt Winter had to do as guardian of the two Bomford children was, not only execute Arbella’s will, but to complete the final payment on Drumlargan which Arbella had initiated but died before she could finish it. JPW signed for the ‘Bomford Minors’ in this deed as the second payment was actually 10 days after Arbella’s death.

Between
1. Anne Dallas, formerly Anne Warren, widow of John Dallas, Captain 46th Regiment of Foot, and their only children two daughters Frances Jane Dallas and Elizabeth Warren Dallas
2. Arabella Bomford, widow and sole executor of George Bomford, deceased, of Clarkstown, Co Meath.

Reciting
1. Dixie Coddington, late of Boyne Hill, Co Meath, since deceased, possessed previous to 1789 the lands of Drumlargan, Balldungan alias Dunganstown, Ornellstown alias Edenstown, part of Clonlyon, Knock alias Knockturin, and part of Monahey alias Monaley.
2. Anne Warren, now Anne Dallas, got a judgement in the Court of the Exchequer in 1789 against Dixie Coddington for £2,600.
3. John Woods, one of the trustees in the marriage settlement of Anne Dallas, obtained a judgement in 1792 in the Court of Common Pleas against Dixie Coddington for £700.
4. Anne Dallas’ marriage settlement is quoted and included the debt of £2,600. After the marriage Anne’s husband, John Dallas, died leaving Anne a widow with two daughters. Then Dixie Coddington died but in his will of 28th May 1795 he bequeathed to his niece, Anne Dallas the sum of £2,500 over and above the sum of £1,500, which he ‘at that time’, owed her.
5. George Bomford, formerly of Rahinstown and late of Clarkstown, Co Meath, since deceased, agreed with Henry Coddington, heir of Dixie Coddington, and Henry Coddington the younger, to purchase the fee and inheritance of Drumlargan and the other above quoted lands. This sale was agreed subject to the debts due to Anne Dallas and these debts would be deducted from the £16,000 which was the agreed price of Drumlargan etc, and George Bomford would pay Anne Dallas £2,500 plus interest.
6. In the marriage settlement dated 20th March 1809 between George Bomford and Arabella Winter, George Bomford settled Drumlargan etc on himself for life and “then to his first and other sons in Tail Male”.
7. George Bomford afterwards paid some of the money to Henry Coddington but died leaving the debts due to Anne Dallas unpaid. These debts were passed to his wife Arabella Bomford in his will.
8. Anne Dallas asked for the payments to be made. The amount then totalled £4,050 (i.e. £1,500 plus £2,500 plus £50 interest).
9. Arabella Bomford agreed to payoff this sum to Anne Dallas but could not do so until it was decided whether the money was to come out of her personal estate or from the lands of Drumlargan etc.

Now this indenture witnesses that Arabella Bomford has paid in two instalments to Anne Dallas
a. £1,554.4.4 being the ‘sum due on the foot of said recited Judgement for principal and costs’ on 4th March 1815, and
b. £2,500 on 21st September 1815.

Anne Dallas agrees that there is no further claim on Arabella Bomford or her heirs.

(Book 693 Page 335 No 476070)
The deed was signed for the ‘Bomford Minors’ by John Pratt Winter as the second payment was
made ten days after Arbella’s death. It is clear from this deed that it was George Bomford the elder who
did entail these lands; thus the land now belonged to George Bomford the younger, aged 4, and which his
guardian John Pratt Winter would look after until he came of age.

Although the deed refers to Arabella it is clear from other deeds and the family bible that her
name should have been spelt Arbella, as was the name of her daughter-in-law.

Anne Dallas was the niece of Dixie Coddington, but she is not to be found by name in Burke,
either under Coddington or under Dixie’s wife’s name of ‘de Burgh’. However Dixie’s father had three
sons and seven daughters and none of these daughters are named. One of these daughters must have
married a Mr Warren and Anne must be their daughter (15.13.7).

20.9

The End of the Lands in Co Kildare

These lands first appeared as a Bomford property in 1761 when Stephen the younger leased them
from Lord Boyne (11.2). They represent a block of land of about 3,700 acres and are shown on the sketch
map, which follows 16.9.2.

The McDonnells have been included in depth here as we still do not have the pedigree of
Alexander McDonnell, Mary Bomford’s father, and these McDonnell’s may give us a clue, although there
is no apparent connection.

No-doubt a major reason for the sale of these lands was that they had suffered severely from the
great Rebellion of 1798. On May 26th, 1798, 30,000 United Army occupied the towns of Kildare,
Prosperous, Kilcullen, Rathangan and Newbridge. To those who had property or families in this area it
was no consolation that the rebels were fighting for Ireland or were called the ‘United Army’; they were
united in name only and were a half-disciplined, poorly led mob with little idea beyond plunder. They
were contained in this area of Co Kildare by the government forces, though there were skirmishes beyond
the borders, at Mountmellick, Portarlington, Lucan and Kilcock, - and even Trim in Co Meath was
threatened. As the government forces regained control the rebels took refuge in the trackless waste of the
Bog of Allen, the north end of which covered much of Mucklin, Mulgeeth, Clonkeeran and Ballynemallagh. This was a fearsome summer for the inhabitants who either fled or were massacred, or
joined the rebels. The area was fought over a number of times and by the end of the summer there was
hardly an unburnt farm-house or cottage; the villages of Prosperous, Timahoe, Carbury and others were
burnt on different occasions by both sides.

We have no list of tenants for these lands but undoubtedly if a list was found it would show
considerable changes over this period; no doubt the losses were enormous, not only in human lives but in
livestock and plundered stores as well; to such an extent that no rents could be expected for a number of
years.

20.9.1

Mortgage Re-Payment on Dunfierth etc

14th October 1817

John Pratt Winter of Agher, sole executor of Arabella Bomford, widow deceased, who was the
sole executor of George Bomford, deceased, receive £6,897.19.0½  in payment of a mortgage from the
deceased (George Bomford) by Frederick Hamilton of Dunfierth, Co Kildare, and Mary his wife.

The mortgage on the land was dated 29th September 1767 by John, Lord Bellew for £5,000.

The full sum now being paid, John Pratt Winter on behalf of the minor George Bomford clears
the following estates of all debts -

Dunfierth or Dunfert, Mylerstown,
Doegery or Doegerry, Kilmurray,
Kilshanghoe or Kilshanroe, Ballynemallagh,
Little Clonkyarane or Clonkeeran, and Clunagh

(This last was not included in the original lease but is shown on the 16.9.2 sketch) Containing
1,823 plantation acres (2,953 statute) excluding a large tract of bog (the north end of the Bog of Allen). (Book 722 Page 214 No 493349)

20.9.2

Mortage re-payment on Dunfierth ect

14th December 1817

Between 1. John Pratt Winter of Agher, sole executor of Arbella Bomford, widow deceased, who
was the sole executor of George Bomford, deceased.
2. Frederick Hamilton of Dunfierth, Co Kildare, and Mary his wife.

John Pratt Winter has received £6,897.19.0½ in payment of a mortgage given by George
Bomford to Frederick Hamilton.

The Minority of George the Younger 278
Frederick Hamilton has now settled this debt on the lands of Dunfierth, 476 plantation acres (771 statute); Mucklan and Mulgeeth 343 plantation acres (556 statute); both in the Barony of Carberry.

These lands are now leased to Frederick Hamilton free of any claim by John Pratt Winter or the heirs of George Bomford.

Further, John Pratt Winter leases to Frederick Hamilton the land of Killyon, 93 plantation acres (151 statute).

All this is free of the mortgages of 3rd November 1770 and of 19th January 1771.

Signed John Pratt Winter
Witnessed Myles O’Reilly, City of Dublin, Attorney at Law, and John Hinchy, his clerk

(Book 722 Page 213 No 493348)

20.9.3 Sale of Dunfierth & Mucklin etc

17th February 1821

Between 1. John Pratt Winter of Agher, sole executor of Arbella Bomford, widow deceased, who was the sole executor of George Bomford, deceased.
2. Frederick Hamilton of Dunfierth, Co Kildare.
3. Francis McDonnell of Shrubs, Co Dublin.
4. Major General James Ambrose of Bath, England, and James Baggott of Belchamp, Co Dublin (Balgriffin)
5. Allen Dowell of Gardiner’s Street, Dublin.

Reciting the (above) deed of 14th October 1817

Now the land is being sold to Francis McDonnell by Frederick Hamilton for £10,500.

(Book 814 Page 206 No 548541)

Sir Francis MacDonnell was the son of James MacDonnell. In 1817 he married Bridgett Mary, eldest daughter of James O’Connor of Madrid died in April 1840. They had seven sons and three daughters, and it was the second son who inherited.

Francis Edmond Joseph MacDonnell, JP, High Sheriff 1866/7, born 1823, married secondly 1865 Georgina Mary, only surviving daughter of James Gernon of Athcarne Castle, Co Meath. He died 1878 having had one son.

Francis William Joseph MacDonnell of Dunfierth, JP, Captain Royal Dublin Fusiliers, born 1870, married 9th August 1898 Teresa, daughter of Sir John Lawson, and had three children –

Edward Henry Patrick MacDonnell, born 22nd February 1902
Joan Agnes Mary MacDonnell.

20.10 Rent roll of the Minor, George Bomford

There are three lists of tenants among the documents, one has been signed by Myles O’Reilly but none are dated. John Pratt Winter as guardian probably called for the rent-rolls when he returned from Paris in 1825, indeed he may have written the last two himself. On his return he would want to ensure that the affairs of young George were in order. In fact the third rent-roll, which was written after May 1828, shows that all was not in order.

“List A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenant</th>
<th>Present Rate</th>
<th>Quit Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purdon</td>
<td>£ 354. 5. 6</td>
<td>£248. 7. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drakes</td>
<td>£ 555.10. 9</td>
<td>£512.16. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. P. W.</td>
<td>£ 188.12.11</td>
<td>£174. 2. 8 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>£ 323.14. 0</td>
<td>£298.16. 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockturin about</td>
<td>£ 248. 0. 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dopping</td>
<td>£ 340. 0. 0</td>
<td>£313.16. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glennon</td>
<td>£ 12. 0. 0</td>
<td>£11. 1. 6 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millins (? Melling)</td>
<td>£ 37. 10. 0</td>
<td>£34.12. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrrell</td>
<td>£ 3. 5. 0</td>
<td>(£3.5.6 in G. Bomford’s book page 36)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total £2,062. 18. 2

Glennon 21 years from May 1800 at 15 guineas page 45
Dopping three lives or 31 years from May 1807 at 38 the acre - £352. Quit rent, £12.15.0”
The back of this sheet of paper is covered with sums concerning the reduction in rents of the second column.

List B

The second one lists the rent-roll “as originally let and without showing the reductions made by orders of court from time to time in the original rents. “ There are pencilled notes which give clues to locations and these I have embroidered into the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenant’s Names</th>
<th>Irish Acres</th>
<th>Rent per Acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Drumlargan</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Drake</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>£3. 5. 6½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>£3. 5. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Bryan</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>£3.10. 7½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.E.Purdon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Wrenon (?)</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>£4. 3. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev F.P.Winter</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>£2.15. 4½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Nockturn**            |             |               |
| Hanley & Gresham        | 54          | £2. 8. 0      | £131.14. 0   |
| Healy & Leonard         | 65          | £2. 6. 2      | £150. 9. 9½  |
| Thomas Hanley           | 19          | £1.11. 6      | £30.10. 5    |

| **Clonfad**             |             |               |
| Reps S. Dopping         | -           | £324.18. 5½   |

| **Rattin**              |             |               |
| William Glennon         |             | £11. 1. 6½    |
| Reps John Tyrrell       |             | £201. 9. 3    |
| Clonduchat (Cluide)     |             | £34.12. 4     |

Total £2,833. 8. 0 “

List C

This list is not really a rent-roll but concerns the tenants of Nockturn (Knockstown) only. It is a single sheet of paper, which lists the tenants together with the amount of rent, which they have paid at various dates. The latest entry being for May 1828, which means that, it was dated soon after that date. I imagine that it was made out to see how much the Knockstown tenants owed. They all appear to be behind in their rents, the worst case being the Healy who owed for six years, their debt amounted to £1,139.14.3 but they seem to have paid off £538.3.1, which leaves them owing £601.11.2. It looks as though they were evicted for this debt because there then comes a note “Stock seized £403.17.5” and the balance of just under £200 must have been written off. The Healy do not appear in the 1854 valuation whilst all the other parties do.

A few interesting matters arise from the rent-roll which also adds to our knowledge of the tenants.

1. Now that the Kildare properties have been got rid of, the only property belonging to George Bomford is that listed above. It looks as though the acreage in the rent-roll is in plantation acres and this indicates that, with the exception of about 60 acres of bog in Drumlargan, the whole property is let. It makes sense to let the whole property during George’s minority, as that would simplify John Pratt Winters trusteeship considerably. Although no acreage has been given for the Westmeath lands of Clonfad and Rattin, or of Clude in Louth, these lands were leased even in Stephen’s time.

2. There is considerable agreement in the first two rent-rolls, both of the places and acreage, of the tenant’s names, and of the income. They also agree largely with the ordnance survey of 1836 and the Griffiths valuation of 1854. With this amount of income the purchase of Drumlargan for around £16,000 ought to have been covered easily by the time George comes of age from the Drumlargan rent-roll alone.

3. Some background information concerning the tenants.

Charles Drake and Thomas Bryan - this is the only mention of these two families.

Henry Wrenon is linked with P.E. Purdon and may be a sub-tenant of Purdon. Wrenon is not mentioned again.

The Hanley, Gresham and Leonard families of Knockstown all continue in Knockstown after the 1854 valuation.

The Healy family is not mentioned again and it does look as though they were evicted as the last list...
indicates.
The Tyrrell and Glennon families in Westmeath drop out of the picture. The only major difference in
the two rent-rolls concerns Tyrrell whose rent per acre of £3.5.0 is given, whereas in the second list
his total rent of £201.9.3 is given; this makes the two total incomes very much closer than they
appear.
The Millins or Melling family in Louth does not re-appear.
The Rev F.P. Winter is of course Francis, the brother of John Pratt and uncle of young George. He
had the living of Rathconnell until 1819 when he retired. He eventually settled at Agher and started
farming. He continues to rent the land in ever increasing quantity until his death 1847 when he had a
little over 700 statute acres.
P.E. Purdon might be Peter Purdon of Joristown near Killucan, but is more likely to be a brother or
son of Henry Purdon of Ardrums. Probably a son since in 1836 according to the Ordnance Survey

“386 acres of Clonlyon were the property of Mr Magill from whom Mr Purdon of Ardrums
holds the whole, all pasture”.
The 118 acres leased to P.E. Purdon in the rent-roll may well be that ‘part of Clonlyon’ recorded in
the purchase of Drumlargan etc which so far I have been unable to trace. These two parcels of
Clonlyon would give Purdon a viable and adjacent acreage.
About this time one of these Purdon’s was living in Drumlargan House but had moved out before
1832. In 1854 a Mr Purdon was living in Clonlyon, House. It is not clear just who all these ‘Mr
Purdons’ were, but they were all of the same family who eventually inherited Agher, and there were
at least two of them;

Henry Purdon, who acquired Ardrums in 1800 and died 1845, and his son Bartholomew of
Ardrums, 1818 - 1904, who in 1847 married Maria a daughter of Doctor David Trotter of
Summerhill (24.2). Their descendants were there until well into this century, and P.E. Purdon of
firstly Drumlargan House and then of Clonlyon House.

The Dopping family of Lowtown in Westmeath beside Clonfad have appeared a number of
times, their family tree is recorded under 9.3.6 and there is more about them under 24.4. Samuel
Dopping who leased Clonfad in May 1807 died in 1821 unmarried but had children and this
interesting situation is recorded in 24.4. However George’s Account Book of 1832 (24.2) records that
“Mrs Dopping and Brian” still leased the land. “Brian” might be a son of Samuel or the surname of a
tenant.
Chapter XXI  Robert’s Children – Marriages & Settlements  1821 - 1839

21.1  

Robert Bomford of Rahinstown died in 1817 leaving his wife Maria and seven children, a boy and six sisters, all minors. In 1811 Robert made provision for his wife and children by placing his lands in the hands of trustees, John Arthur of Seafield, Co Dublin, who was Maria’s first cousin, and William Leonard of Baker Street, London, who was a relative of Maria’s mother. The trustees had to raise £3,000 for Maria, £3,000 for Robert George the only son, and £15,000 to be split between the six daughters (£2,500 apiece), making an overall total of £21,000. This was a considerable task for the trustees and an enormous burden for the lands of Rahinstown, Dirpatrick, Baconstown and Arradstown, which totalled 2,358 statute acres. William Leonard died about 1820 and was not replaced. Once the money was raised from the land two other trustees were responsible for allocating it to the members of the family. These trustees were George Bomford of Drumlargan and John Massy Bolton who in 1821 inherited Massy land and so changed his name to John Bolton Massy. George Bomford died in 1814 so the only trustees left were John Arthur and John Bolton Massy.

The pound was devalued after the war and sometime between the settlement and the payments, so the payments appear to be in excess of that stipulated in the settlement. Some of the deeds use the words ‘old currency’ and ‘new currency’, but others are not so good and one is left guessing. This has led to a problem concerning mortgages, particularly those on Rahinstown, which Maria took out to cover payments of the settlement.

There are many deeds concerning the settlement and this chapter takes each child and covers their marriage, their ‘in-laws’ and their settlement. The following tree may help to place the family.

Robert Bomford of Rahinstown  
born 1751, married 1792,  
died 18th April 1817 & buried 21st at  
Rathcore Church, aged 66

Maria Massy, younger daughter  
of Hon James Massy-Dawson,  
born 1769 died 1848 at Bective Abbey  
aged 79 (21.2)

Robert George  
b 1801 m 1826  
Elizabeth (Kennedy)  
(21.5)

Annette Maria  
b c1799 m 1824  
Sir Thomas  
Hesketh (21.4)

Jane Rosetta  
b 1802 m 1822  
Richard  
Mansergh (21.3)

Frances Georgina  
b 1804, m 1827  
Richard Bolton  
(21.6)

Jemima Letitia  
b 1805 m 1833  
Richard Bolton  
(21.7)

Susan Margaret  
b 1806 m 1826  
Charles Martin  
(21.8)

Sarah Maria  
bapt. 1810 m 1831,  
Hon Frederick Tollemache  
(21.9)

There are two Richard Boltons -  
Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey who married Frances and  
Richard Bolton of Brook Lodge who married Jemina

21.2  

Maria Bomford (the Mother)  
17th November 1821  
Maria’s Settlement

Between  
1. Maria Bomford of Rahinstown, widow and sole executor of Robert Bomford, late of Rahinstown.  
2. Rev John Graham of Thornhill, Co Tyrone

Reciting  
1. The settlement of 28th June 1811 (This is quoted at length and agrees with 19.2.2).  
2. Robert Bomford’s will of 17th December 1816 in which he conveyed land in trust and directed that the money, £21,000, should be paid in equal parts to his daughters, Annette Maria, Jane Rosetta, Frances Georgina, Jemima Letitia, Susan Margaret and Sarah Maria at their marriage or at the age of 21 which ever comes first. Robert George is to receive £3,000 at the age of 21. His wife is to be the sole executor and guardian of the children. (This is the only reference to Robert’s will, which is missing. It is also important because it gives a list of the daughters which is normally in order of age, and this confirms that
the order in Burke is wrong, that the last two are the other way around; this was previously suspected from an estimate of their birth dates)

3. That Maria (Annette Maria) and Rosetta (Jane Rosetta) had recently come of age. (Actually Rosetta was only 19 but she was married this year and so eligible for her settlement).

4. That the widow, Maria Bomford, had loaned £2,000 from John Graham by mortgaging the land. John Bolton Massy arranged this mortgage and the money was paid to Jane Rosetta.

Now Maria Bomford has been paid in full, £5,040. (Book 767 Page 132 No 520267) A second deed of the same date is almost a duplicate of the above, but adds that George Bomford has died so John Massy Bolton is the sole executor (Book 767 Page 133 No 520268)

21.2.1 Second Mortgage on Rahinstown 20th March 1824

This states that Maria Bomford, widow, is to receive an annuity of £800;
that Annette Maria is lately 21 and is to receive £3,000;
that John Bolton Massey raises another loan of £2,500 from Rev John Graham of Thornhill, (presumably a second mortgage on Rahinstown);
that Robert George is also ‘lately 21’. (Book 790 Page 250 No 534185)

Technically Annette Maria and Jane Rosetta should have had £2,500 apiece and their mother Maria £3,000 making a total of £8,000, whereas, in the first deed, Maria was paid £5,040 and in the second a further £2,500 making a total of £7,540 or three lots of £2,500, plus £40 which was no doubt interest. There is an anomaly here, which even the devaluation of the pound does not clarify. However no matter how the figures are juggled the settlement was paid to Maria and two of her daughters, and John Graham holds two mortgages on the land totalling £4,500.

The Rev John Graham of Thornhill was a brother to William Graham (24.6.2) who in 1834 bought Oakley Park for £15,000 and in 1837 sold it to George the younger who in 1824 was aged 13.

Canon Leslie states that from 1795 - 1834 John Graham was Rector of Pomeroy in Co Tyrone which he got through the influence of Lord Norbury (1st Earl, 1745-1831) whose wife was Grace, daughter of Hector Graham of Ballinakill. Rev John married Anna, daughter of Rev John Field and had four children: Letitia Graham born 1800, James Jones Graham born 1801, Henry Hope Graham born 1808 and became Colonel of the 77th Regiment and later a General, and Isabella Graham who married William Lowry of Drumreagh, Commander R.N., whose family came from Pomeroy House.

The Rev John’s father was William Graham of the Meath Militia (15.6.3) and Rev John died in 1834. A more extensive tree of these Grahams will be found in 24.6.2.

21.3 Jane Rosetta (2nd Daughter)

As said above Jane Rosetta was paid her settlement on her marriage rather than at the age of 21. She was born on 13th March 1802 so was 13 months short of her 21st birthday when she married.

Much of the detail of the Mansergh family comes from Howard’s Visitations of Ireland of 1897.

21.3.1 Marriage – Jane Rosetta Bomford & Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh 25th February 1822

The Mansergh Family

In the early 1500’s this family were living at Barwicke Hall in England. A century later Bryan and his younger brother James migrated to Ireland and obtained grants of land, Bryan mostly in Kilkenny, and James mostly in Co Cork around Fermoy. James’s line died out in the early 1700’s and most of his land came to Bryan’s son, Daniel, including what was to become the family home of Grenane, two miles north of the town of Tipperary. Much later in 1878 the land around the house totalled 2,086 acres. The present house is late Georgian and so was possibly built by Daniel’s grandson, Nicholas Southcote Mansergh who died in 1818, or, more likely by his great-grandson, John Southcote Mansergh.

John Southcote Mansergh (Jane Rosetta’s father-in-law) was born at Grenane on 3rd April 1773 and was baptised there. Two of his godparents were Richard Martin and his wife, Catherine, of Clifford, Co Cork, and it was their nephew, Charles Rudinge Martin, who in 1826 married Susan Margaret, the fourth sister of Jane Rosetta. Meanwhile on 7th January 1795 John Southcote married Mary, the only daughter of his godparents Richard and Catherine Martin, and Mary eventually inherited Clifford House near Castlestownroche from her father and Bridgetown from her mother.
Mary died on 3rd September 1811 and was buried at Castletownroche, and John Southcote married again. He died at Grenane on 14th September 1817 and was buried in the family vault in Tipperary. They had five sons and three daughters and it was their eldest surviving son, Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh, who married Jane Rosetta Bomford. So Jane Rosetta had four brothers-in-law and three sisters-in-law and ended up with more than 23 Mansergh nephews and nieces.

The Marriage

Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh of Grenane was born at Bridgetown Co Cork, “at half-past 11 o’clock at night” on 14th November 1800. He was baptised privately at Castletownroche and received into the Church at Tipperary by the Rev Bryan Mansergh, his uncle.

His marriage to Jane Rosetta Bomford (born 13th March 1802 and so age 19) took place at Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin, on 25th February 1822. Maria Bomford, Jane’s mother, had taken No 9 Fitzwilliam Square North for the year 1822 according to the Dublin Almanack, so the marriage probably took place from that house. They were married by the Hon Charles Dalrymple Lindsay, Bishop of Kildare from 1804 till his death in 1846. The only parent alive at the time of the marriage was Maria, aged 53; her husband Robert had died in 1817, and both the Mansergh parents had died, John in 1817 and Mary in 1811. However it would have been a social occasion and Maria even took a town house for it. It is doubtful if Jane Rosetta was given away by a Bomford, all her uncles were dead with the possible, though unlikely, exceptions of Ephraim and Chichester, so it is likely that her Massy-Dawson uncle, James Hewitt of Ballynacourty who was a Member of Parliament at this time, did the honours.

Jane Rosetta died 20th February 1836, aged 34, and was buried in the Mansergh family vault at Tipperary. They had five children. Her husband Richard lived on at Grenane and married again in 1843 and had six more children. He died, aged 76, at Grenane on 24th March 1876 and was buried with his two wives in the family vault.

21.3.2 Jane Rosetta’s Children

1. The eldest was John Southcote Mansergh who inherited Grenane, born at 138 North Gate, Chester, ‘at 3 o’clock in the morning’ of 28th June 1823.
   The sponsors at his baptism at Little Neston, Cheshire, were:
   George Bomford who was only 12 that year so it must be Robert George of Rahinstown, the baby’s uncle who was 21. Charles Mansergh, the baby’s uncle who was still at Trinity, and the Hon Mrs Edward Massy of Chester, Jane Rosetta’s mother’s cousin and sister-in-law of Hugh 3rd Baron Massy. It may have been at her house where the baby was born.

   John joined the army, firstly the 62nd Regiment of Foot, then the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen’s Bays) which in 1847 was stationed at Carlow and finally he became the colonel commanding the 4th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, becoming their Honorary Colonel.

   On 24th July 1851 he married in England Mary Elizabeth, only daughter of Charles Walter Wyatt of St Asaph, Flintshire. They had no children.

   He died in Fulham, London, on 8th February 1899 and was buried at the Brompton Cemetery. His wife died a month later (8th March) and was probably buried with her husband. Grenane was passed to his nephew, Richard Southcote Mansergh.

2. Robert George Mansergh, born at 27 Molesworth Street, Dublin, ‘on Sunday at 2 o’clock p.m.’ 17th April 1825. The sponsors at his baptism were Mrs Mansergh his great-great-grandmother (this is according to Howard but I think she was Elizabeth his great-grandmother); Mrs Massy his great-aunt; Colonel Massy his great-uncle (see below); and Rev John Charles Martin, Fellow of Trinity College (and Jane Rosetta’s future brother-in-law). Robert graduated BA from Trinity in 1844 and died unmarried at Cheadle, Cheshire, on 29th May 1869 aged 44, and was buried there.

   The relationship of Mrs Massy, the baby’s great-aunt, and Colonel Massy, the baby’s great-uncle, is given by Howard. The baby’s grandparents were Robert Bomford and Maria (Massy-Dawson), so Mrs Massy and the Colonel must be a brother or a sister of Robert or Maria. They are not relatives of Maria who in any case were Massy-Dawsons and so they must be Robert Bomford’s sister Frances Jane and her husband Colonel Cromwell Massy. This adds to our Bomford information because the last mention of this couple was in 1804 and we now know that they were both alive in 1825 and, in all probability, were living in Dublin (15.10.1).

3. Maria Annette Mansergh was born at 3.45 p.m. on 24th April 1828 at Cheltenham. The sponsors at her baptism were Richard Bolton, Rosetta’s brother-in-law (probably the one of Bective Abbey because the other one had not yet married into the family); Mrs Bomford, Rosetta’s mother Maria who at this time was living in Cheltenham and so, no doubt, it was at her house that Maria Annette was born; and Lady Hesketh of Rufford Hall, Lancashire, Rosetta’s sister Annette Maria after whom the baby was named.
Maria Annette was married at Tipperary on 26th September 1865 to Joseph Edmund Kooystra Nadin who was born in 1826 and was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1850. He died at Nelson Place, Tipperary on 27th May 1900 and was buried in the Churchyard of Tipperary. One assumes that he was the surgeon at the Tipperary Hospital and that they lived in Nelson Place. There were children but they have not been traced. Maria Annette died three months before her husband on 13th February 1900 at Nelson Place and both were buried together.

4. Jane Rosetta Mansergh was born at Grenane at 7 a.m. 12th March 1830 and was baptised there privately. Her sponsors were Mrs Massy-Dawson (who must be Eliza Jane the wife of James Hewitt Massy-Dawson and great-aunt of the baby) Miss Clarinda Mansergh (another great-aunt, the sister of John Southcote), and Southcote Mansergh, 50th Regiment (of Grallagh Castle, Thurles, now demolished, the baby’s uncle).

   Jane Rosetta was married at St Paul’s Dublin on 23rd April 1852 to William, son of John Lane, both of Lanespark, Thurles, Co Tipperary. He was born in 1825 but it is not known when either of them died. There were children but they have not been traced.

5. Rosetta’s youngest child was Richard St George Mansergh who was born at Grenane ‘at 10 minutes to 2 o’clock pm’ 25th February 1833. The sponsors at his baptism were Mrs George Walker (Catherine, 1797-1860, wife of Commander George Walker of the Royal Navy of Fermoy, the baby’s aunt), Richard Southcote Mansergh St George of Headford Castle, Galway, (the baby’s great-uncle, the additional surname, St George, was added to inherit Headford Castle), and the Rev John Dawson of Ballinacourty (unable to trace).

Richard lived at Friarsfield outside Tipperary in the same parish as Grenane. He inherited Friarsfield from his great-uncle Captain Robert Mansergh. He married Sophia Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Richard Oliver Ellard of Newtown-Ellard, Pallasgreen, Co Limerick, and his wife Charlotte Rebecca who was the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Lindsay of Peake, Coachford, Co Cork. Sophia Elizabeth was born on 6th August 1839 and the marriage took place at Pallasgreen on 5th August 1858. Richard died at 5.35 am on 9th August 1897 and was buried in the family vault at Tipperary; Sophia Elizabeth died 7th August 1905. They had three children -

   1. Richard Southcote Mansergh was born at his grandparents place at Newtown-Ellard on 25th October 1859. He was baptised at Pallasgreen in the Parish of Grenan, and his sponsors were Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh and Richard Oliver Ellard, his grandfathers, and Mrs Charlotte Rebecca Ellard, his grandmother. He was educated at ‘The Abbey’ Tipperary, and Rossall in Lancashire. He inherited Grenane when his uncle died in 1899. He never married and Grenane was passed to his younger brother when he died on 22nd January 1906.

   2. Charlotte Rosetta Mansergh was born at Friarsfield 2nd August 1861. Her sponsors were her grandmother, Mrs Charlotte Rebecca Ellard, and her aunt, Miss Elizabeth Mary Mansergh (1845-1868). Charlotte did not marry and died 11th July 1917.

   3. Philip St George Mansergh was born at Friarsfield 12th May 1863. The sponsors at his baptism were Miss Maria Annette Mansergh his aunt, and two of his uncles, Philip Oliver Ellard and Southcote Mansergh. He was educated at ‘The Abbey’ with his brother, and became a Railway Engineer based on Beira, East Africa. His home became Friarsfield, which he inherited when his father died in 1897, and in 1906 he inherited Grenane. On 23rd April 1907 he married his cousin, Ethel Marguerite Otway Louisa Mansergh, only daughter of Major Charles Stepney Percival Egmont Mansergh, 40th Regiment, of Clifford and Bridgetown, Co Cork. Philip died 5th October 1928 and his wife Ethel died 8th February 1963. They had two boys and the elder, Charles Ogilvy Martin Southcote Mansergh, born 1908 inherited Grenane House and the younger one known as Philip has Friarsfield.

21.3.3

There follows a simplified family tree showing Jane Rosetta’s family. It will be seen that she died in 1836 when her family were still very young, aged 13 down to 3. Her husband married again so the children were brought up by their stepmother, Christine, the daughter of the local Rector of Tipperary, Richard Mauleverer. There were also three step-brothers and three stepsisters, but they were much younger.
It is not known when Annette was born, but she was probably the oldest of Robert and Maria’s children. She is first mentioned in the deed of November 1821 (21.2) when she had recently come of age so she was born in or before 1800, probably c1799. She received the money for her settlement in 1824, which was no doubt embroidered into her marriage settlement, which has not been found.

Neither is it known how she or her mother came to meet Thomas Henry Hesketh. The Hesketh family had Irish connections, many of the daughters had married into Irish families in Queen’s Co, Limerick, Tipperary and Tyrone, but basically the Hesketh family came from England.

21.4.1 The Hesketh Family

The Hesketh pedigree goes back to the 1100’s, and their house, Rufford Hall near Ormskirk in Lancashire, came into the family by a marriage in the 1200’s. William Hesketh fought at the Battle of Crecy in 1346 and was knighted by Edward III. Rufford Old Hall was built in the early 1400’s and has been added to at various times since then; the last addition being in 1821, a couple of years before the marriage of Annette Maria Bomford and Thomas Henry Hesketh.

Many of the early Heskeths were soldiers and so were involved in the Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Year’s War. Robert Hesketh was knighted by Henry VIII in 1539 and we are told that “he served the King in France and for his valoure, forwardness, actyvytie and good service was Knighted by the King’s own hand with great countenance and many good wordes”.

Robert’s son, Thomas, was also knighted by Queen Mary at her Coronation in 1553 for service in the Scottish Wars. The family were Royalists in the Cromwellian Wars and would have lost their estates if the head of the family, another Robert, had not been over 80, and his heir an infant grandson.

In 1761 Thomas Hesketh was created a baronet; he died without children and his brother Robert became the 2nd Baronet. Sir Robert’s grandson was the 3rd Baronet and he was the father of our Sir Thomas Henry Hesketh

The 3rd Baronet, Annette Maria’s father-in-law, was Thomas Dalrymple Hesketh, born 1777 and died 27th July 1842. He married twice-

Firstly in 1798 to Sophia, only daughter of Rev Nathaniel Hinde. She died in 1817 having had one son and three daughters -

1. Thomas Henry Hesketh, who married Annette Maria Bomford, was born 11th February 1798 which appears to be the same month and year that his parents married, hopefully Sir Thomas and Sophia
were married in 1797 in February.

2. Harriett Hesketh married in 1832 Rev Joshua Horton of Howroyde in Yorkshire. She had children but died in 1836.


4. Emma Susette Hesketh married a Mr E. Honecker. Secondly in September 1821 to Louisa Allemand who died in 1832 giving birth to

5. Matilda Catherine Hesketh who died unmarried in 1906. No doubt Annette Maria assisted in bringing her up.

21.4.2 Marriage Annette Maria & Sir Thomas Henry Hesketh 3rd April 1824

Thomas Henry was 26 when he married Annette Maria who was perhaps 25. His mother was dead and his father had just married again. It is not known where the marriage took place but in 1826 they were both living at Rufford Hall with Thomas’s three sisters.

Rufford Old Hall is now a folk museum, presented to the National Trust in 1936 by the late Lord Hesketh, great grandson of Annette Maria. It is a medieval timber-framed manor house with an ornate hammer beam roof. The great hall itself was built in the early 1480’s and has remarkable carved wooden screens designed to keep out drafts. The east wing was built about 1662 and is a good example of late Jacobean brick architecture. Much of the original Jacobean oak furniture and a magnificent Tudor tester bed is now in the folk museum which also includes the Hesketh collection of arms, tapestries, ancient coins, porcelain, and books. All of these would have been familiar to Annette Maria.

Thomas Henry succeeded to the title and to Rufford Old Hall when his father died in 1842, but seven months later he himself died on 10th February 1843. This left Annette Maria with Rufford Hall and the two children, both minors. She did not die until 17th April 1879.

21.4.3 The Children of Annette Maria and Sir Thomas Hesketh

They only had two children, a boy and a girl

1. Thomas George, born 11th January 1825, succeeded to the title in 1843 when he was 18, and became the 5th Lord Hesketh. Later he became Colonel of the 2nd Lancashire Militia and Member of Parliament for Preston. When he was 21 he married on 10th March 1846 Lady Anne Maria Arabella Fermor, the eldest daughter of Thomas William, 4th Earl of Pomfret, a title that is now extinct. He took the name Fermor-Hesketh as a result of inheritance contained in the marriage settlement. She died 25th February 1870 and he died 20th August 1872. Their children were -

a. Thomas Henry Fermor-Hesketh, born 9th January 1847, became the 6th Baronet of Rufford Hall. He died unmarried aged 29 on 28th May 1876.

b. Thomas George Fermor-Hesketh, born 9th May 1849 and succeeded his brother in 1876, 7th Baronet of Rufford Hall. He served with the Rifle Brigade and later became Honorary Colonel of the 3rd and 4th Battalions of the King’s Liverpool Regiment. On 23rd December 1880 at San Francisco he married Florence Emily, daughter of William Sharon, Senator of Nevada. Flora, as Florence was called, and her husband took Somerville from Lord Athlumney, and later Killeen from the Earl of Fingall, for the hunting with the Meath. Elizabeth (Daisy), Countess of Fingall of Killeen, has much about her in her book ‘Seventy years young’. She says that Flora had the distinction of wearing the red coat out hunting and goes on to relate... “Flora looked very well on a horse, with her neat figure and charming face. She was most attractive and had all the young men after her. She used to entertain greatly in London later at their house, 111 Piccadilly, and often entertained King Edward there. On one occasion Flora told Lady Annette La Touche that she was to meet the Prince of Wales – as King Edward was then – at dinner, and Lady Annette thought that Flora was making fun of her. And, being introduced to His Royal Highness, refused flatly to curtsey, saying,

‘Oh, I know you are not the Prince of Wales!’

I talked of Flora the other day to Sir Seymour Fortescue. He said, ‘What I liked was Flora’s independence. If she liked you, she like you, no matter who you were. If she didn’t like you, she didn’t like you, no matter who you were.’

In those early hunting days in Meath she went with more courage than knowledge, and couldn’t hold her horses, so that they carried her rather wildly across the country. Once, pulling hard, unable to stop her mount, she landed on top of Harry Bourke – Lord Mayo’s brother, and a great hunting man – at a double. When they were disentangled on the other side he asked her, with much good language, what the devil she thought she was doing. Flora smiled at him enchantingly;
‘Well’, she said, ‘If you will sit roo-oosting on those doubles.’

It was Flora’s victory.”

Their two sons were:-

i. Thomas Fermor-Hesketh, born 17th November 1881, 8th Baronet of Rufford Hall. Served with the Royal Horse Guards. He married and the Hesketh line continues from his marriage

ii. Frederick Hesketh, born 24th September 1883, served with the 9th Lancers

c. Hugh Robert Hesketh, born 11th June 1850, died unmarried aged 29 in 1879

d. Edith Elizabeth Hesketh married 10th August 1871 Lawrence Rawstorne of Penwortham Priory, Lancashire, and had children.

e. Constance Maria Hesketh

f. Augusta Sophia Hesketh died unmarried 1875

2. The only daughter was Maria Harriet who on 15th November 1845 married Lawrence Palk, 1st Lord Haldon.

21.4.4 Lord Haldon’s Family Annette Maria’s Son-in-Law

Lawrence Palk, 1st Baron Haldon of Haldon, near Exeter, was the eldest son of Sir Lawrence Vaughan Palk, 3rd Baronet, and Anna Eleanor the eldest daughter of Sir Bourchier Wrey. He was born in 1818 and became a JP and DL for Devon. In 1845 he married Maria Harriet Hesketh and they had six children, and in 1880 he was made a peer. He died on 22 March 1883 and she lived on until 18th December 1905 when she died. Their children were

1. Lawrence Hesketh Palk, 2nd Baron Haldon, born 6th September 1846, became a JP and saw service with the Scots Guards. On 7th October 1868 he married Hon Constance Mary, the eldest daughter of George William, 7th Viscount Barrington. He died 31st December 1903 having had 4 children

a. Lawrence William Palk, 3rd Baron Haldon, was born 13th July 1869. He was a Captain with the Royal Fusiliers and served in the South African War in 1900 and 1901. On 10th February 1893 he married Lidiana Amalia Crezencia, a daughter of Colonel Jacob William Maichle of the Imperial Russian Army. They had a son

Lawrence Edward Broomfield Palk, born 13th May 1896, the 4th Baron Haldon

b. Lawrence Charles Walter Palk born 28th September 1870 was a Captain in the Hampshire Regiment.

c. Florence Annette Georgina Palk was born 21st October 1871.

d. Mary Evelyn Palk was born 28th October 1875.

2. Robert Henry Palk, born in 1848, served with the 23rd Fusiliers and died unmarried 6th March 1878 aged 30

3. Walter George Palk was a Lieutenant with the Royal Horse Artillery when he died unmarried 1st May 1876 aged about 26.

4. Edward Arthur Palk, born in 1854, saw service with the Devonshire Regiment and became their Honorary Colonel. On 18th July 1883 he married Charlotte Frances, a daughter of the Rev Sir Frederick Shelley, 8th Baronet of Shobrooke Park, Devon. She was born 21st May 1855 and they had no children.

5. Annette Maria Palk married on 16th July 1873 Sir Alexander Baird, 1st Baronet of Urie, Kincardine. She died on 21st May 1884 having had two sons and five daughters, of whom the eldest son was


6. Evelyn Elizabeth Palk married on 26th April 1882 Ernest Gambier Perry of Elmcroft, Goring-on-Thames. He was a Major in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. They had children.

21.5 Robert George Bomford (Only Son)

The deed of 1824 (21.2.1) states that Robert George Bomford is “latelty 21” and so eligible for the money from his father’s settlement, but there does not appear to be any deed which actually states that he got his £3,000. He did not have it in 1827 because the deed of that year only says that he has “become entitled to” it (21.6.1).

Robert George was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and graduated BA as the following extract from Alumni Dublinenses shows.

“Bomford, George, Socius Comitatus, Private Tutor, 5th May 1817 (entered) aged 16, son of Robert, Generous, born Meath, BA Summer 1832.”

This is the only document, which tells us about Robert George’s early days, and immediately his birth date is under dispute. Burke states that he was born in 1802 and, if this is so, then he and Jane
Rosetta were twins since she was born on 13th March 1802; on the other hand the Trinity record states that he was born in 1801 (entered 5th May 1817, aged 16) and this is much more likely and Burke should be amended.

So Robert George was born in 1801 in Meath, most probably at Rahinstown. Later he had a private tutor, also probably at Rahinstown. At the age of 16 he entered Trinity and according to the register 15 years later he got his BA; again this is unlikely and it is more likely that ‘1832’ is a misprint for ‘1822’ which would give him 5 years at Trinity and he would have left there at the age of 21.

In 1826 he married Elizabeth Kennedy in Dublin according to the Marriage Licence issued by the Diocese of Dublin

“Bomford, Robert George, and Elizabeth Kennedy, 1826 ML” Page 373.

The marriage settlement was dated 9th October so it is most likely that the marriage was in October 1826.

The next chapter contains more about Robert George and his wife Elizabeth

21.5.1 Marriage Settlement – Robert George Bomford & Elizabeth Kennedy 9th October 1826

Between 1. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown
2. James Trail Kennedy of Annadale, Co Down, and his only surviving child Elizabeth Kennedy, spinster
3. John Arthure of Seafield, Co Dublin (Trustee of Robert Bomford’s settlement)
4. James Stewart of Belfast, merchant (Trustee with John Arthur of Kennedy property).
5. Thomas Henry Hesketh of Old Rufford Hall, Lancashire (Robert George’s brother-in-law) and Archibald Hamilton Rowan of Leinster Street, Dublin (Trustees of Robert George’s marriage settlement).
6. James Massey-Dawson Junior of Forest (New Forest) Co Tipperary (Died 1837, 1st cousin of Robert George) and Arthur Hill Read of Killeleagh, Co Down (perhaps a Kennedy relation).

Reciting 1. Lease of 27th June 1811. (This is the lease, the day before Robert Bomford’s settlement of Rahinstown etc to the trustees John Arthur and William Leonard, the latter has died.)

Reciting 2. Marriage settlement of the marriage shortly to be had between Robert George Bomford and Elizabeth Kennedy. The land is to be conveyed to Robert George Bomford (this land must be Mullagh), and that Elizabeth Kennedy is to be given, after his death, the sum of £500 of the late currency or £461.10.9 present currency; and further that the sons and daughters of the marriage should receive £4,000. The Trustees are to be Thomas Henry Hesketh (Annette Maria’s husband) and Hamilton Rowan.

3. James Trail Kennedy leases to the trustees, John Arthure and James Stewart, the lands of Mullagh containing 297 plantation acres (481 statute) in the Barony of Deece, Derrylough 89 plantation acres (144 statute) in the Parish of Loughbrickland, Co Down, Ballymacanallin, Ballintagert and Mullabruck, Co Down, half share only Galvally 21 and 32 plantation acres (total 86 statute) in the Barony of Castlereagh, Co Down.

(The list goes on and includes houses in Belfast)

The trustees are to pay Robert George Bomford £400 late currency a year during the life of James Trail Kennedy.

They are to hand over the land of Mullagh to Robert George Bomford (Book 818 Page 198 No 550933)

This deed is really a memorial of a number of previous deeds and includes the details of the marriage settlement; the actual marriage settlement has not been located. However it is clear that Robert George is to get £400 a year whilst his father-in-law is alive, that Elizabeth is to get £500 when Robert George dies and that the children of the marriage are to get £4,000; it is not clear whether this £4,000 is to be shared between the children or whether they are to get £4,000 each, but the question will not arise as Elizabeth had no children.

Mullagh

Mullagh becomes a Bomford property. This townland covers the crossroads of the Kilcock - Dunshaughlin road and the Summerhill - Dunboyne road. Ten years later in 1836 the Ordnance Survey places it in the Parish of Kilmore and states that it contains “496 acres the property of Mr Bomford (Robert George) who has it let at £1.15.0 an acre”, and so bringing in an income of £868. The survey of 1654 also places it in Kilmore Parish but then it had less than half the acreage, only 220 statute acres.
21.5.2 **Portrait of Robert George.**

This miniature portrait by an unknown artist hangs at Crodara. The frame is a duplicate of that of his mother Maria, and Joan Clifford of Canterbury who had the portrait there at one time, thought that it was of Robert George’s father, Robert Bomford; but my father was quite definite in the identification of the picture as that of Robert George. I do not remember his reasons but certainly the clothes indicate the 1820’s rather than the 1800’s.

Robert George is dressed in a black coat with high astrakan collar and white shirt with a black cravat. He looks to be in his early 20’s and has curly black hair with white streaks in it. He has blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He was married when he was 25 and this portrait may be dated about that time, as he looks to be about that age.

21.5.3 **The Kennedy Family**

Elizabeth’s grand-parents were Gilbert Kennedy of Belfast, born 1706 (another source gives 1717) and died 12 May 1773. On 24 December 1742 he married Elizabeth, second daughter of James Trail 1690-1743. She was born 12 October 1712 and died 20 April 1786. They lived at Annadale, Knockbreda, Co Down and had at least one son, James Trail Kennedy of Annadale. He was born c1749 and died 1834. In 1790 he married Ann who was born in 1769 (could she be the “Anna” of “Annadale”?). They had at least two children.

1. James Kennedy, baptised 6 March 1792 and died at Windsor 29 December 1806, aged 14
2. Elizabeth Kennedy married early October 1826 Robert George Bomford (1801 – 11 December 1806)

After Elizabeth married and her father had died, her branch of the Kennedy family ended and Annadale was sold. The Kennedy who underwrote the Rahinstown mortgage of 1838 (22.2.2) was from another branch – the Kennedy family of Cultra on the south side of Belfast Loch in County Down.

See paragraph 2.10 concerning Elizabeth’s second marriage of 6 June to Marcus Gervais de la Poer Beresford, Archbishop of Armagh and Lord Primate of Ireland.

21.6 **Frances Georgina Bomford (3rd daughter)**

There are a number of deeds concerning her settlement and marriage. The settlement was paid in two parcels, £1,800 in April 1827 and the balance in December, and involved another mortgage on Rahinstown.

21.6.1 **Mortgage on Rahinstown etc 20th April 1827**

Between

1. John Bolton Massy of Ballywire, Co Limerick (actually it is just inside Co Tipperary)
2. William Jones Armstrong of Demerara, West Indies (where he was Colonial Secretary, later he lived at the family home of Killylea, Co Armagh. His mother was a daughter of John Tew and connected to the Bomfords through Thomas the elder. See family trees under 9.3.7 and 22.2.2).
3. Maria Bomford of Rahinstown, widow of Robert Bomford deceased, now residing at Cheltenham, Co Gloucester.
4. James Hewett Massey Dawson of New Forest, Co Tipperary, Member of Parliament, and Bartholemew Dillon of Kildare Street, Dublin, Doctor of Physic (These two were party to Robert Bomford’s settlement on his children of June 1811, 19.2.2.)
5. Robert George Bomford, only son and heir of Robert Bomford deceased.

Reciting

1. Lease of 27th June 1811 (Robert’s trust of Rahinstown etc)
2. Will of Robert Bomford of 17th December 1816
3. Frances Georgina Bomford has lately become 21 and has receive £1,800 on 18th April 1827 out of her £3,000

Now Maria Bomford the widow and George Robert Bomford, also lately 21, have become entitled so a mortgage is raised by the only surviving trustee John Bolton Massey. He gets £1,384.12.3 or £1,500 old currency from William Jones Armstrong. (Book 824 Page 491 No 554826)

A continuation of the above deed dated 8th December 1827 lists the land mortgaged. These lands were Dirpatrick 475, Arradstown 77, Bacoastown 507, and Rahinstown 396 all in plantation measure. (Book 830 Page 557 No 558392)

Their mother, Maria, is now living in Cheltenham and has left Rahinstown to Robert George and his wife Elizabeth; later she returns to Dublin. She ends her days with her daughter Frances Georgina at Bective Abbey.
Final Settlement Payment to Frances Georgina Bomford  8th December 1827

Between 1. Richard Bolton of Headfort, Co Meath, (belonging to Thomas, 1st Marquess of Headfort, Kells) and Frances Georgina Bolton, his wife and 3rd daughter of Robert Bomford formerly of Rahinstown deceased.
2. John Bolton Massey of Ballywire, Co Limerick, surviving trustee of the settlement of 8th June 1811 (which is recited).

Reciting that Frances Georgina Bolton was entitled to £3,000.

Now she has received payment in full  (Book 830 Page 445 No 558381)

21.6.2  Marriage Settlement of Frances Georgina Bomford and Richard Bolton  9th May 1827

Between 1. Richard Bolton of Bective, Co Meath
2. Frances Georgina Bomford of Rahinstown, spinster.
3. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown and Thomas H Hesketh of Rufford Hall, Co Lancaster.

On the marriage of Frances Georgina Bomford and Richard Bolton, Richard Bolton places in trust to Party 3 his lands of Bective Abbey and the surrounding land (all listed). (Book 829 Page 379 No 557714)

They were married in November 1827 and it looks as though they spent the honeymoon at Headfort House at Kells. It may be that the Bolton’s and the Taylor’s of Headfort were connected; but of course ‘Headfort’ in the December deed could be a mistake for ‘Bective’.

21.6.3  Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey and his family

Much time was spent in sorting out the two Richard Boltons; but finally the following was found in the 1861 edition of ‘Henderson’s Post Office Directory for County Meath’. Items in brackets come from other sources.


Lineage
Sir Richard Bolton, Knight Recorder of Dublin in 1607, was the son of John Bolton of Great Fenton, Co Stafford, and derived from a branch of the family of Bolton at Bolton Lancashire.

In 1639 he became Lord Chancellor of Ireland. (1639 was a critical year for Ireland and Sir Richard became involved with the constitutional wrangle between King Charles, Pym and Strafford, but he ended up on the right side and literally kept his head although Strafford did not. He was granted the Parish of Bective by King Charles I.)

He married firstly Frances, daughter of R Walters of Stafford. (Frances died in 1641 defending Brazeel against Ruah O’Neill whilst her husband was away. Lady Bolton held off the attackers for some time but the Castle caught fire, was burnt down and Frances died in the flames. The Castle was not rebuilt. Sir Richard married...) secondly Margaret, daughter of Sir Patrick Barnewall of Turvey (at Donabate, Co Dublin, who held the now extinct Viscountcy of Kingsland. (See note). He had nine children of whom the eldest...

Sir Edward Bolton, of Brazeel, Co Dublin, was knighted in 1635 and constituted Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Ireland, but was removed by the Commonwealth. [The Civil Survey of 1654 records “Sir Edward Bolton of Brazele, Protestant” as the proprietor in 1640 of the whole of the Parish of Bective consisting of eight townlands totalling about 2,000 statute acres in the Barony of Navan, plus 226 acres of the townland of Balreeks in Balsoon Parish. All this came in time to Richard who placed it in trust in 1827 for his wife Frances Georgina (Bomford). The Survey updates the above to 1654 and says that Bective Parish “was then in the possession of Sir Edward Bolton, Knt, Protestant, who held the same in ye sayd yeare by Patent and then worth Twenty Pounds of all ye Tythes. Possessed now by Nicholas Bolton Esq. son and heire to Sr Edward Bolton. From this we can deduce that Sir Edward died about 1650.]

His eldest son Nicholas, of Brazeel, married in 1649 Anne, daughter of Nicholaks Loftus of Fethard (died 1666) and ancestor of the Marquess of Ely. They had five children and his second son... Richard of Brazeel, married Anne Catherine, daughter of Stein Bill of Copenhagen, and dying in 1721 was succeeded by his eldest son...

Edward (of Brazeel), MP for Swords, who married Letitia, (youngest) daughter of (Robert 1st) Viscount Molesworth (Ambassador to Denmark) and died 1758 leaving nine children. The eldest son...

Robert married 1754 Elizabeth, daughter of John Blennerhassett, and had two sons. (Elizabeth’s mother was Anne the daughter of Colonel James Dawson of Ballymacourty, and sister to Mary the wife of...
the 1st Lord Massy. Mary was the grandmother of Maria who married Robert Bomford of Rahinstown, see 19.2.2). Robert died 1798 and was succeeded by his son.

Edward of Brazeel who married firstly Miss Donaldson, and secondly ...

Frances, daughter of Joseph Neynroe. The eldest son ...

Robert Compton of Brazeel, had two wives: His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of James Massy-Dawson (and sister to Maria Bomford), they had no children. (But according to the will of 1790 of James Massy-Dawson there were a number of children; Elizabeth Rose, Catherine May, Robert James Bolton, James Dawson Bolton and John Massy Bolton who changed his name to John Bolton Massy when he inherited Ballywire. To these we must add the eldest son Richard who married Frances Georgina Bomford. 19.2.2 shows the interconnection of these families and it also shows, perhaps incorrectly, that the children of Robert Compton Bolton were from his first wife Elizabeth Massy-Dawson.) By the second wife, Charlotte, daughter of Joseph Neynroe, he had a daughter and two sons. His eldest son succeeded him ...

Richard Bolton, now (1861) Bective abbey.”

Richard’s marriage to Frances Georgina Bomford took place in November 1827 probably in Dublin. They had no children and Bective Abbey was passed to their nephew, Rev George Henry Martin, youngest and fourth son of Frances Georgina’s sister Susan Margaret and Charles Rudinge Martin, (21.8.4).

In 1838 Lewis comments: “Bective Parish is the property of Richard Bolton. He resides at Bective House a handsome modern residence, pleasantly situated on the banks of the River Boyne. There is no Church and the parishioners attend Divine Service at either Trim or Kilnessan. The Abbey was dissolved by Henry VIII.” Since previous Bolton’s were ‘of Brazeel” and Bective House was ‘modern’ in 1838, we can presume that it was Richard Bolton who built the house before his marriage in 1827. Burke’s Country Houses places it, as c1790 but this would make Richard’s father “of Bective” rather than “of Brazeel”. Richard also built the Church at Bective in 1851; the Church was closed down in 1990.

Richard Bolton died at Bective on 27th February 1868 and was buried in the church there on 4th March by the Bishop of Meath, Samuel Butcher.

Frances Georgina lived on for another 16 years. She headed the list of subscribers in Bective Parish till her death on the 24th June 1884, aged 80.

‘The Landowners of Ireland’ 1878 edition credits “Mrs Frances G. Bolton of Bective, Navan,” with 3,516 acres in Co Meath with a valuation of £3,034. On her death this all passed to her nephew.

Note on Turvey

I could not resist including this story of Turvey and wonder if it was the origin of the saying ‘topsy-turvy’. It happened when our Richard Bolton was a little boy. Towards the end of the 1700’s, when there was a false rumour of the death of the bachelor 5th Viscount Kingsland, who lived abroad, a Dublin tavern waiter named Matthew Barnewall, believing himself to be the heir, took possession of Turvey with a party of his friends and dispensed ‘rude hospitality’ there to the local populace; cutting down trees and lighting bonfires. After a short while he was evicted and committed to prison for contempt; but in 1814, thanks to the researches of a friendly lawyer, he was actually recognised as the 6th Viscount Kingsland. However he did not succeed in claiming Turvey or any of the other estates, which formerly went with the title, since they had been bequeathed by the 5th Viscount, who died in 1800, to his kinsman the 13th Lord Trimlestown.

21.7

Jemima Letitia Bomford (4th Daughter)

Jemima was probably born in 1805 and this would make her 28 when she was married in 1833. No marriage licence has been found, but the following deed places her ‘of Merrion Square, Dublin’. The Dublin Almanacks record no Bomford living in Merrion Square but ‘Mrs Bomford’, was living just round the corner in No 7 Merrion Street. ‘Mrs Bomford’ would be Jemima’s mother Maria, and it is likely that the marriage took place from this house.

21.7.1 Marriage Settlement - Jemima Letitia Bomford and Richard Bolton 15th March 1833

Between 1. Lyndon Bolton of Monkstown Castle, Co Dublin, and Jane (formerly Carpenter), his wife
2. Richard Bolton of Monkstown Castle, eldest son and heir of Lyndon Bolton
3. Jemima Letitia Bomford of Merrion Square, Dublin, spinster
4. John Massey Bolton, then John Bolton Massey, of Ballywire County Tipperary and late of Dawson Street, Dublin. (Executor of Robert Bomford’s settlement)
5. William Parsons Hooey of Leeson Street, Dublin and Henry Justice of Denzelle Street,
Dublin, Barrister at Law (Trustees of Jemima’s £400 annuity)
6. Thomas Henry Hesketh of Old Rufford Hall, Co Lancaster, and Richard Bolton of Bective, Co Meath. (Both are Jemima’s brothers- in-law)
7. Andrew Bourne of Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, Barrister at Law, (Richard Bolton’s brother-in-law), and Abraham Bolton of Dublin, Captain H.M. 5th Regiment of Dragoons (Richard’s younger brother) (Both were trustees for the children).
8. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown

Reciting
1. Lyndon Bolton leased Richard Bolton several houses in Dublin on 21st May 1831, and land in Co Dublin.
2. Richard Bolton is to receive £3,000 on his marriage
3. In accordance with the settlement of Robert Bomford for his children, Robert (George) Bomford gives Jemima Letitia her settlement of £3,000
4. A marriage is intended to be had between Richard Bolton and Jemima Letitia Bomford.
Now Richard Bolton places his Dublin houses and land in Co Waterford and in Co Dublin in the hands of William Parsons Hooey and Henry Justice in trust for an annuity of £400 to Jemima Letitia to be paid upon his death. Jemima Letitia places her £3,000 in trust to Andrew Bourne and Abraham Bolton for an annuity of £60 for each of her children.

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This is not the only Bomford / Bolton marriage. Jemima and Richard’s niece, Elinor Jane Bolton, will marry John Francis Bomford in 1866 (30.3). The following background to the Bolton family will lead to both marriages

21.7.2

The Bolton Family

There are many Bolton’s in Ireland, but this branch is “of The Island”, their residence at Kilmuckridge, Co Wexford. The house is about half way between Gorey and Wexford Town, and due east of Enniscorthy. It was probably built by John Bolton who died in 1758 without leaving any children and he bequeathed it to his brother William. The centre block of the house was of three storeys with five bays and the wings were of two storeys, the right wing being of three bays and the left of one bay so the wings were not balanced; the rooms had low ceilings which were decorated with elaborate plasterwork in the ground floor rooms during the 1800’s. The Island has been passed from one William to the next until the William who died in 1958 without any children. He left it to his three nieces, Eva, Violet, and Mary Hughes who sold it in 1962, there being no more Bolton’s from that branch in Ireland.

This Bolton family came from Beaumaris in Anglesey and the first Bolton to come to Ireland was Richard, born 1620, who acquired Ballyduff in Co Wexford probably around 1650 - 1660. Richard’s great-grandson, another Richard, 1695 - 1730, is recorded as being of Ballyduff and Cold Harbour, both in Co Wexford. He married Ann, a daughter of Sir John Roberts of Ardamine, Co Wexford, and died in 1730 having had eight sons and four daughters

1. Richard of Ballyduff had two sons
   a. Edward, born 1750, of Ballinstraw (Ballyduff must have been sold), had eight sons and five daughters. Their descendants, many of whom are alive today, have moved out of Ireland after a spell in Dublin.
   b. Richard who had a son, Robert.
2. John who inherited much property and probably built The Island, died unmarried in 1758. His property all passed to his brother, the 3rd son
3. William (see below)
4. The other nine children mostly did not marry, and the only one who did and who had children ended with a grand-daughter who married Joaquin Carrion, the Councillor of State to the King of Spain.

The third son, William, born 1720, was known as “Black Billy”. He became a Commissioner in Co Wexford, married twice and died in 1776. His first marriage was to Grace, second daughter of Denny Cuffe of Sandhill, Co Carlow, a connection of the First Lord Desart. She had three sons -

1. William of The Island married in 1780 Dorothea, daughter of Sir John Blunden, 1st Baronet. Dorothea’s brother was the 2nd Baronet who married Dame Frances Blunden the heir of John Robbins of Ballyduff, Co Kilkenny, and it was Frances who left £4,500 to Arbella Bomford in 1805 (18.8.4).

William and Dorothea had a number of children, but we shall not follow their offspring. The next four generations all started with “William of The Island”; the first William, 1782-1853, kept a pack of hounds which he hunted at his own expense, these hounds were kept on after his death and became famous as ‘The Island’ hunt; the second William, 1815-1905, was Godfather to John Stephen Bomford in 1869 (33.3).

William was made High Sheriff of Co Wexford in 1789 and no doubt was a prime target for the rebels of 1798. Indeed the family must have had interesting tales to tell of the 1798 Rising as they
were very close to the start of the Wexford part of that rebellion. The Island is only 2½ miles from Oulart Hill where the rebels initially gathered, and annihilated all but Colonel Foote, a sergeant and two privates from the whole Loyalist force sent to deal with this threat. Indeed this disaster left the town of Wexford virtually without a garrison and caused a ripple of panic to spread through the countryside. Almost certainly The Island was evacuated and most probably looted. A few days later Enniscorthy fell to the rebels after many hours of fierce fighting, and the garrison with many refugees staggered back along the only road open to them, the road to Wexford. Wexford itself fell the next month and that whole corner of Wexford was in the hands of the rebels. The consequent unrest, pillage, burning and atrocities were horrendous and were carried out by both sides. Dick Clifford’s great grandfather (See Susan Margaret’s grand-children, 21.8.5), Robert Clifford who lived fairly close to the Boltons, was captured by the rebels and about to be killed with a pike, but his life was spared by order of a brewer’s drayman who was their leader, and who said that Robert always gave him a glass of whiskey whenever he left a barrel of beer at his house. He was kept captive with many others in Wexford until it was eventually retaken.

2. Henry Denny Bolton married in 1776 and had two sons, William and Henry, neither of whom married.

3. John was born in 1756, but there is no other information about him.

‘Black Billy’ married secondly in 1754, Mary Lyndon, and it is this branch with which the Bomfords became involved. They had one son,

4. Lyndon Bolton, of Monkstown Castle, Dublin, born 1760. On 2nd November 1793 he married Jane, a daughter of Richard Carpenter, apothecary of Dublin. They had thirteen children of whom the eldest was Richard Bolton who married Jemima Letitia Bomford and they are both party to the marriage settlement.

Lyndon “joined the rebels and was disowned by his father”, Black Billy. It is not known what rebels he joined and one immediately thinks that he sided with the rebels of the ‘98 Rising’, but this could only be so if his father died after 1798 and not as recorded in 1776. However the matter could not have been too serious as he went on to become a successful and wealthy woollen draper in Dublin and took over his father-in-law’s apothecary business.

Jane Bolton died on 3rd September 1834 and Lyndon on 29th January 1852.

21.7.3 Lyndon Bolton’s Children

1. Richard Bolton, see below.

2. Lyndon Henry Bolton was born in Dublin on 10th March 1801, educated at Trinity (BA 1825, MA 1865), and became a clergyman. According to Leslie’s Succession Lists he was installed as ‘P.C.’ in St Luke’s, Dublin, in 1857 when he was living at No 70 Camden Street, and then from 1861 until his death he was Rector of Drumcondra, south-east of Kingscourt. He had land in Carrickmines, Co Dublin, which he passed to his second son and which included Priorisland, Bullock; and in Co Cavan at Burren and Cooleague, which he passed to his eldest son.

On 26th January 1826 he married Anna Maria, a daughter of Walter Bourne, Clerk of the Crown to the Queen’s Bench and to the North East Circuit of Ireland. He died 20 November 1869 aged 68 but she lived on until 14th May 1886 having had nine children. After her husband’s death she moved back to Dublin to No 1 Grosvener Terrace at Monkstown but later when she was elderly she went to live with her daughter Elinor at Drumlargan where she died aged 82. She was buried with her husband in Drumcondra Churchyard.

Their eldest daughter Elinor married John Francis Bomford 1866 and Lyndon Henry’s family will be found in paragraph 30.3

3. Maria, known as Jemima, was born on 13th February 1804. In 1825 she married James Knott of Battlefield, Co Sligo, son of Harloe Knott. James was born in 1777 and educated at Trinity, BA 1796. They had children, not traced.

4. Abraham was born on 18th February 1805 and educated at Trinity. He was one of the trustees for Richard and Jemima’s children mentioned in their marriage settlement of 1833, and at that time he was a Captain in the 5th Regiment of Dragoons serving in Dublin. He rose to become a Colonel and died unmarried.

5. Jane, born 28th March 1806, married twice; firstly to a Mr Lockwood, and secondly in 1835 to the Rev John William Greer. He was Rector of Rugeley in Staffordshire and afterwards incumbent of Amblecote near Stourbridge, Worcestershire. He died in 1866 and she in 1892, aged 86, having had children, not traced.

6. Charlotte was born on 15th March 1811. She married Andrew Bourne, the 3rd son of Walter Bourne and brother to Anna Maria, Lyndon Henry Bolton’s wife. They were living in Birmingham in 1873 and in Rugeley in 1875 probably with her sister Jane Greer. Charlotte died in 1906 having had no
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7. Emily was born on 27th May in either 1817 or 1819, and was married twice; firstly on 9th March 1837 as his second wife to John Irwin of Camlin, Co Roscommon, who died in 1842. They had three sons. She married secondly on 15th June 1852 the Rev John Hall DD who was pastor of the 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York and who died in 1898. Emily died in New York on 13th February 1904 and by her second marriage had a further three sons and a daughter.

It is thought that the three Irwin boys from the first marriage were brought up with the Halls in New York because it was one of their descendants who became very rich in America and in 1966 bequeathed his fortune to relations, amongst whom was Dorothy Cripps, a daughter of George Lyndon Bomford, see 35.7.

8. William Gordon Bolton was born in 1822 and educated at Harrow and Trinity where he got his BA in 1842. It is not known whom he married but she was an actress and they had two daughters who both died unmarried in 1928; one was Frances Gordon ‘Leila’, born 1857, and the other was Constance ‘Conte’ who was born in 1862

9. Belinda was born in 1826 and at an early age, on 21st June 1842, married a brother of John Irwin of Camlin, Andrew Irwin of Ballymore, Co Roscommon. She died on 14th March 1873 having had six sons and one daughter.

In addition there were four children who died young.

10. Mary was born on 20th June 1796, died 9th January 1799, aged 2½

11. Eliza was born on 27th February 1798, died 3rd February 1799, aged 1

12. Lyndon was born on 8th January 1799, died 23rd January 1799, aged 2 weeks

13. Edward was born on 26th March 1809, died 20th February 1827, aged 18

Our Richard was the only child who survived the critical and sad year of 1799 when three of Jane’s babies all died. However at the time of Richard’s wedding in 1833 there were three younger brothers and five younger sisters alive.

21.7.4 Richard and Jemima Letitia and their Children

Richard was born in 1797 and educated at Trinity. We do not know when Jemima Letitia was born but it must have been in 1805 and so she was about eight years younger than Richard. Their marriage took place in 1833, probably soon after the marriage settlement date, and so in late March or April. Richard is recorded as ‘of Brook Lodge, Co Meath, and Bally Shoonock, Co Waterford’. The marriage settlement mentions land in Co Waterford and this may be Bally Shoonock, but no Meath property is mentioned. It is thought that Brook Lodge may have been a purchase after their marriage and, since it is mentioned first, that they lived there, at least until they moved to England, to Suffolk Square in Cheltenham where they were living from at least February 1839 until 1858 and maybe longer. I have been unable to locate Brook Lodge with certainty, but there is a Brook Lodge down a side road from Culmullin cross-roads, about 4 miles north-east of Drumlargan.

Richard Bolton died on 15th November 1868 aged about 71, and Jemima Letitia in 1878 aged about 73. They had three sons,

1. George Thomas Lyndon Bolton must have been born in 1833 or in the first couple of months of 1834. He served with the Royal Navy and on 21st October 1876 married Mary Beatrice (Nina), the elder daughter of Edmund Maghlin Blood of Brickhill, Co Clare. (See “The Crown Jewels” at the end of this paragraph). She died in 1885 and he in 1903 having had no children.

2. Richard Bomford George Bolton was born in 1834 and educated at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He served in the Army and saw active service in the Crimean War in his early 20’s. His first regiment was the 5th Dragoon Guards, the same as his uncle Abraham Bolton, then as a Lieutenant he served with the Royal Horse Guards, and finally he was a Lieutenant Colonel with the King’s Regiment (2nd Lancashire Militia).

Although he is recorded as being of Brook Lodge it is unlikely that he lived there much, if at all; Walford’s County Families credits him in 1900 with “Silliot Hill and Ballyshoonocke, Co Waterford” but make no mention of land in Co Meath, so Brook Lodge had probably been sold by then.

In 1864 he married Beatrice, a daughter of Thomas James Ireland, JP, and Member of Parliament, of Ousden Hall, Suffolk. They had five children before he died in 1890 aged 56. In 1900 she was living at 44 Queen’s Gate Terrace, London SW1; she died in 1926 aged over 80.

a. Richard George Ireland Bolton of Colwood Park, Bolney, Sussex, was born on 15th January 1865 and educated at Eton and Cheltenham. He became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Scots Guards having served in the South African War (1899 - 1902) where he was mentioned in despatches, and throughout World War I. On 24th April 1919 he married Dorothea Louisa Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Thomas Guy Paget, JP, of Humberstone Hall,
Leicestershire. He died 22nd November 1956 and she on 21st October 1958 having had no children.

b. Beatrice Frances Alice Bolton married on 12th June 1892 Captain Dudley Loftus of the Grenadier Guards. The Dudley family came from Killyon, Co Meath, during the 1700’s and early 1800’s. He died in 1938 and she on 18th October 1948. They had one son, Ferrars Patrick Loftus (1893 - 1938) and their grandchildren, Godfrey Loftus and Heather Loftus, are still alive.

c. Violet Emily Caroline Bolton married on 24th July 1894 Lieut-Colonel Cecil Welby Jackson, JP, youngest son of Judge Welby Brown Jackson. He was born on 2nd June 1861, went to India and served with the Bengal Cavalry, later he transferred to the 8th Hussars, and died in 1940. She died in 1955 having had a son Patrick Arthur Dudley Jackson who was killed at Ypres in 1917, and a daughter Moira who in 1918 married Rupert Lewis, MC, Welsh Guards, and had a daughter Anna Myfyanny Lewis.

d. Maude Anette Letitia Elizabeth Bolton married twice. Firstly on the 18th February 1893 to Arthur Bradshaw of Newcroft’s House in Surrey, who died on 22nd March 1900. They had a son and a daughter

   Major William Pratt Bradshaw, DSO, of the Scots Guards, 
   Violet who in 1919 married Captain Geoffrey Blandy. 

   Secondly in October 1903 to Lieut-Colonel Henry William Harris of the West Somerset Yeomanry of Thornton Hall, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. They had a son and a daughter before he died on 4th November 1943. She died on 24th August 1950. Their children were 

   Francis Henry Bolton Harris, born on 12th April 1905, of the Scots Guards, and 
   Nina who in June 1934 married Lieut John Young of the Life Guards.

e. Jemima Amy Bolton (‘Mima’) married on 5th August 1896 Lionel Beresford Bethell, 3rd son of the Hon Slingsby Bethell, CB, DL, JP brother of Lord Westbury. He was born on 29th January 1864 and died on 7th December 1928. She died on 20th September 1961 and had at least two sons, 

   Vivian Lionel Slingsby Bethell, born 1897, and 
   Rupert Patrick Slingsby Bethell, born 1902.

3 Francis Bolton died aged 17.

**The Crown Jewels**

Mary Beatrice Blood had a famous, or perhaps infamous, ancestor who was called “The Reputed Colonel”. He was Thomas Blood of Sarney, near Dunboyne, Co Meath, c1628 - 1680. He served in the Parliamentary Army; in 1663 he took a major part in the plot to abduct the Lord Lieutenant from Dublin Castle, in order to seize the Castle and overthrow the Government, the Lord Lieutenant was the Duke of Ormonde but Thomas was foiled in that attempt; however he tried again in 1670 to abduct and hang the Duke, but again the plot failed although Ormonde was removed from power by King Charles. The Duke of Ormonde had been a thorn in the side of King Charles for some time and since Thomas Blood was only mildly chastised for his action, it is thought that he must have had the private backing of the King.

But what Thomas is really famous for was his attempt to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. Colonel Blood disguised himself as a clergyman and managed to make friends with Edwards, the Keeper of the Regalia, an old man. At 7 o’clock on the morning of 9th May 1671 Blood came to the Tower with two accomplices. As soon as Edwards let them in he was knocked senseless and gagged. Blood took the State Crown and flattened it with a mallet so it could be easily hidden, and the accomplices stole the Orb and the Sceptre, which was first cut in half. But at this point Edward’s son suddenly appeared. Finding the door to the Jewel House open, and his father moaning on the floor, he raised the alarm. In the running fight, which followed all three men, were captured.

Nobody really knows why Blood was not severely punished. His enigmatic remark that “it was a brave attempt, for it was for a Crown”, coupled with the fact that Charles II not only pardoned him but also gave him a pension of £500 a year, and gave him back his Irish estates, led some to suppose that King Charles, chronically in need of money, had commissioned Blood to steal the treasures.

It is also interesting to note that all the Crown Jewels had been destroyed by Cromwell, and that Charles II had that same year, 1671, paid his goldsmiths £31,978 for his new regalia, a very high price which the King could hardly afford. So altogether it does look as though Blood and King Charles were working together.

**21.8 Susan Margaret Bomford 5th Daughter**

Susan Margaret was not the youngest daughter as stated in Burke, but the second youngest. The deed of 1824 lists the daughters in order, Jemima Letitia, Susan Margaret, and Sarah Maria. The
youngest, Sarah Maria, was baptised on 5th November 1810 and if Susan Margaret was born after her she would have been 15 or 16 at the time of her marriage she must have been born in 1806 as the following deed of 1827 indicates. At the time of her marriage she was 20 and there is a miniature painting of her at Crodara, which looks as though it was painted at that time, or a little earlier. The painter is unknown but it has the same sort of ‘J’ in the shading of her red sash as the painting of her mother, so it was probably by the same artist. Judging by the way it hangs she is wearing a white dress of a thick material, perhaps satin. Her head covering is white like her dress and the end hangs down her back. The only touch of colour is a red sash around her waist, which trails behind her. She has prominent eyebrows, blue eyes and curly blond hair, which hangs, below her shoulders.

21.8.1 Charles Rudinge Martin

Charles, Susan Margaret’s husband, was born in 1803 in Cork and brought up in the suburbs of Cork at Blackrock on the south side of the River Lee. His father, John Martin, was a merchant in Cork and no doubt in the same line of business as his father was; John’s elder brother Henry lived in Bordeaux and so it is possible that the family was involved in the wine trade. John Martin died in December 1811 when Charles was eight; it is not known when his mother Mary (Allen) died.

Charles was educated at Dr Maginn’s school in Cork and then entered Trinity College, Dublin, in November 1821 when he was 18. He left in the spring of 1827 with a BA, so he married whilst at Trinity. The story is that they eloped to Scotland and were married 17th June 1826 at Portpatrick (SW of Stranraer), Wigtownshire. It may be that the objection of Susan’s mother to the marriage was that Charles was still at Trinity. Certainly Maria held back Susan’s settlement money until she was 21. This is recorded in the deed that follows which grants “Susanna Margaret Martin” her settlement of £3,000. Indeed this may have been granted on her 21st birthday and, if so, she was born on 29th January 1806.

21.8.2 Marriage Settlement - Susan Margaret Bomford & Charles Rudinge Martin

Susanna Margaret Martin, wife of Charles Martin of Dublin, is now entitled to £3,000 in the terms of the settlement of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown. Charles Martin will place this money in trust for her and her children. The parties to the deed were,

1. Charles Rudinge Martin and Susanna Margaret, his wife
2. George Bomford of Drumlargan and John Massey Bolton of Dublin. (These two were the original trustees of Robert’s settlement, but George Bomford has died long since. This George cannot be George the younger who is now only 15.)
3. Maria Bomford, widow and ‘guardian of her children’
4. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown (now 25) and Sir Thomas Hesketh, 4th Baronet of Rufford Hall, Co Lancaster.

(The deed of 1839, 22.2.5, states that these two were the trustees of the marriage settlement of Charles Martin and Susan Margaret) (Book 832 Page 329 No 559464)

The Marriage Licence was issued by the Diocese of Dublin so they were married in Dublin “Bomford, Susan Margaret, and Charles Martin 1826 ML Page 336”

After the wedding they must have stayed on in Dublin at least until Charles finished with Trinity and got his BA in 1827. At some later date he became a clergyman and was Chaplain to the Grand Duchess of Mannheim in Mannheim on the Rhine where the Neckar joins it. He is not listed in Canon Leslie’s ‘Index to the Clergy of Ireland’ so did not officiate in Ireland at all. However their fourth son was born in 1833 in Cork and was educated in Ireland so they did not sever their ties with Ireland completely; perhaps he was left a house in Cork by his father or perhaps his mother was still alive and living there.

Charles died in 1847, before May, aged 44. At that age he was probably still working so he may have died in Mannheim, Susan Margaret lived on in Germany as the deed of February 1850 places her in Baden-Baden, but in October 1851 (22.9.3) she had returned to Dublin and she was still alive and in Dublin in May 1858 (22.6.3). According to Burke she died on 12th August 1849 but this must be wrong; the Burke date is so precise that there may be a misprint in it, perhaps 1849 is an error for 1859, and if so she died on 12th August 1859; but even at this date she was only 53 so maybe it should read 1869. It is not known where she died but probably in Dublin. They had four sons but no daughters.

Susan Margaret was heir to the Bective estates of her sister Frances Georgina and Richard Bolton. Frances Georgina lived at Bective until her death in 1884 so it is doubtful if Susan Margaret actually inherited Bective though her fourth son George Henry Martin did on the death of his aunt. However Susan may have lived there with her sister.
It is interesting that the original Martins came from Wiche in Worcestershire, and the original Bomfords from Arrow, Wyre and Atch Lench also in Worcestershire. They cannot have lived very far from each other in the early 1600’s and may have known each other, but John Martin went to Ireland a good 30 years before Laurence Bomford.

There follows an abbreviated Martin family tree, which shows the connection between the husbands of the two Bomford sisters, Jane Rosetta and Susan Margaret.

John Martin of Wiche, Worcestershire, married a daughter of Humphrey Rudinge, hence the name ‘Rudinge’. He died at the beginning of the 1500’s and his son was

Gilbert Martin of Creckers, Bedfordshire, his son was

George Martin of Wiche, living there in 1627, married Alice a sister of William Caulfield, 2nd Lord Charlemont. The 1st Lord Charlemont, Sir Toby Caulfield, came from Great Milton, Oxfordshire, and fought for Queen Elizabeth against O’Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and had much to do with the Plantation of Ulster under King James I. No doubt it was with this connection that the Martin family moved to Ireland. George was succeeded by his son

John Martin of Lurgan, Co Armagh. He was MP for Charlemont in the Irish Parliament for a number of years from 1639 and dying in 1656, was succeeded by his son.

Ffulke Martin of Brownlow Derry, Co Armagh. He was a major in the army and distinguished in the Civil War. In 1650 he married a daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Brownlow of Lurgan. He died in 1679. The family of his eldest son Robert died out in the mid 1700’s. His 2nd son

Miles, 1660-1735, was an officer in the army of William III who fought at the Battle of the Boyne and at Limerick. He settled in Co Kerry and married in 1706 Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard McLaughlin and Catherine Blennerhassett of Ballydowney, Co Kerry. By his marriage he acquired considerable estates in Cork and Kerry. He sold the Co Cork estates and purchased land in the City of Cork, where he later lived. His only son was

Henry, 1710 - 1773, who became an eminent merchant in the City of Cork. He sold the Kerry estates and bought more property in the City of Cork. In 1743 he married Elizabeth a daughter of John De la Cour of Cork. He had six children, but we are only interested in two.

1. Richard Martin, the eldest son, of Clifford House on the Blackwater near Castletownroche, 1744-1823, became a barrister. In 1773 he married Catherine, only daughter of Randal Roberts and heir to Bridgetown. They had one daughter, Mary, who was born on 3rd October 1774. Mary married John Southcote Mansergh of Grenane (See the Mansergh lineage, 21.3).

3. John Martin, Henry’s third son, of Blackrock, Cork, was born in 1755 together with his twin brother Charles who died 1821 and left his Cork estates to his nephew John Charles Martin. On 31st December 1791 John married Mary, a daughter of Aylmer Allen of Woodview, Co Cork. He died in December 1811 having had seven children and his fourth son was Charles Rudinge Martin who married Susan Margaret Bomford.

The family connections of the later Martins showing the Bomford, Mansergh and Martin relationship.
The Children of John Martin

The Children of John Martin 1755 - 1811

1. Henry Martin, born 1794, was educated at Cambridge and Trinity College, Dublin, (BA 1828, MA 1832). In 1830 he married Jane, younger daughter of Thomas Higinbotham of Mountjoy Square, Dublin, and 2nd Teller of the Dublin Exchequer; Thomas Higinbotham’s co-heirs were Jane and her sister Anne who married James Martin (1804 - 1812) of Ross, Co Galway, whose youngest daughter was Violet Florence (“Martin Ross”, the writer) (1862 - 1915) co-author with her cousin Edith Somerville of ‘Some Experiences of an Irish RM’ and many other classic novels of Irish life.

Henry was Rector of Inver (Larne), Co Antrim, from 1836 to his death. He died without children on 17th November 1859 at 109 Lower Gloucester Street, Dublin.

2. John Charles Martin was born in Cork on 14th March 1791 and educated at Mr Lee’s School. He entered Trinity in November 1811 aged 14, BA 1816 Fellow 1821, MA 1825, BD and DD 1835. Became Rector of Killeshandra 1831 - 1878, Archdeacon of Ardagh 1854 – 1866, Archdeacon of Kilmore 1866 - 1878.

On 23rd June 1829 at Hollywood he married Agatha, only daughter of Bishop Richard Mant (1776-1848), DD, Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore. She was born 14th February 1806 and died 4th September 1875; he died 17th January 1878 and both died at the Rectory, Killeshandra, and were buried there. Extract from his obituary

“... after great bodily sufferings, born with surpassing patience and Christian fortitude, the Ven. J. C. Martin, Archdeacon of Kilmore, aged 80 years. He was for 46 years the rector of Killeshandra Parish, and was universally beloved and respected by all who knew him...”

They had 12 children who are recorded in paragraph 35.6.2

3. Aylmer Richard Martin was born in Cork in 1798, and became a solicitor living at Vernon Mount, Cork. He was High Sheriff of Cork in 1831 and also Chamberlain of the City until he died. On 23rd October 1824 he married Henrietta, daughter of Robert O'Donoghue of Cork and older sister of Catherine who married his brother.

They had five children before he died on 2nd April 1841, aged 43.

Vernon Mount.
Was built on a hilltop near Douglas c1784 by Henry Hayes 1761 - 1832, who was knighted in 1790 whilst Sheriff of Cork. This small but exquisite house is all curves, oval in shape as are many of the rooms, and the whole concept is towards entertaining and gracious living. This enchanting house is the complete opposite of Sir Henry’s character. Having spent most of his wife Elizabeth Smyth’s large inheritance, he let her return to her family and she died at Ballynatray in 1794. Three years later Sir Henry abducted a plain but very rich Quaker heiress whose fortune he coveted; he imprisoned her for a night at Vernon Mount and went through a form of marriage ceremony. She, however, threw the ring across the room and resisted when he tried to ‘push her towards the bed in the rudest manner’ and next morning was retrieved by her enraged uncle. Sir Henry was charged in 1801 and sentenced to transportation to Australia, where he went in a convict ship accompanied by his valet and a mountain of luggage. He would have remained there but at Brighton in 1812 the Prince Regent took a fancy to one of his daughters, and she extracted a free pardon for him. On the way home his ship was wrecked due to the captain’s drunkeness. Sir Henry and his ever present valet immediately seized one of the boats lowered to take off the women, and ungraciously rowed themselves away to safety. Finally he got back to Ireland and joined his son in his lovely Vernon Mount where he died in 1832. The house would have been bought then, or perhaps only leased, by Aylmer Martin.

4. Charles Rudinge Martin (1803 - 1847) who married Susan Margaret Bomford (1806 - c1869).

5. Richard Caulfield Martin, born 1809 in Cork, and was educated at Mr Maginn’s School and entered Trinity 1823 aged 14, BA 1827. He became a barrister and at some stage had something to do with the defence of a would-be assassin of Queen Victoria. On 10th January 1838 he married Catherine, youngest daughter of Robert O’Donoghue of Cork and older sister of Catherine who married his brother.

He died 29th October 1859 having had one son and three daughters

6. Elizabeth Martin married David Beatty about 1815 and so was probable the eldest child. David Beatty of Borodale, near Enniscorthy, Co Wexford was a Captain in the army and fought at the Battle of Talavera in Spain in July 1809 under Sir Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington. He died in 1855 having had one son, David Beatty of Borodale, who married in 1838 his cousin Mary Elizabeth Longfield. Their grandson, another David, 1871 – 1936, had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy. He was ADC to King Edward VII and during the Great War was Admiral of the battle cruiser fleet, which won the Battles of the Dogger Bank and Jutland; he became Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet and was created 1st Earl Beatty of the North Sea.
7. Mary Martin married Robert Longfield, only surviving son of Doctor John Longfield, MD, of Cork, in April 1815. She was probably the second or third child. Their daughter Mary Elizabeth married David Beatty her cousin, see above.

21.8.4 The children Susan Margaret Bomford & Charles Rudinge Martin

1. John Charles Martin was born c1827 and died unmarried in 1855 of sunstroke in Paris, aged about 28. (See letter below).
2. Robert Martin was born c1829. He became a Captain in the 74th Highlanders and died unmarried.
3. Charles Nassau Martin was born 12th July 1832, joined the army and became a Major General with the Royal Engineers. He served in the Crimea War and was wounded severely in the leg at Sebastopol; see letter below He was decorated with the Legion of Honour. On 10 February 1863 he married Anna Maria, daughter of Peter Horrocks, JP, DL, of Penwortham Lodge, and Masciiads near Faversham, Kent, She died on 4th June 1891 having had four children
   a. Charles Francis Martin became a Captain in the Highland Light Infantry and died unmarried on 24th December 1893
   b. Charles Rudinge Martin
   c. Ethel Martin who married Colonel Pratt and was known as ‘Teetee Pratt’
   d. Eileen Martin

Letter about John Charles and Charles Nassau written to Wilfred Bamford from his mother, Agatha, whose great Aunt was Susan Margaret.

“Aunt Fran’s (Frances Georgina, see below, grand-daughter of Susan Margaret) eldest uncle John (Charles) Martin went to Paris to meet his brother Charles Nassau who was returning wounded from the Crimea, and John fell dead of sunstroke in the streets of Paris. Charles Nassau was called ‘Casey’ in the family. The bullet was in his leg for the rest of his life and at times he suffered greatly from it. Though surgical science had advanced years before his death and an operation was suggested he thought it better not to have it out as he was getting on in years.” It is not known when he died.

4. George Henry Martin was born in Cork in 1833, educated by Mr Alton and in October 1853 entered Trinity College, Dublin, aged 20. He got his BA in 1857 and his MA in 1861, but before that he was ordained in 1860. On 20th December 1859 he married his cousin Edith Agatha, daughter of Archdeacon John Charles Martin, the Rector of Killeshandra. Killeshandra in Co Cavan had Martins for a rector for 99 continuous years, firstly the Archdeacon from 1831 to 1878, then his son another John Charles from 1878 to 1882, then another son Henry Francis John from 1882 to 1906, and finally their nephew Richard D’Olier Martin from 1906 until 1929.

Edith Agatha was born on 22nd April 1835 so was a couple of years younger than her husband. After George Henry became a clergyman in 1860 he went as curate to Killelagh where he remained until 1871. He was promoted in 1871 when he became Rector of Agher, which included the closed down Parishes of Drumlargan and Gallow; he stayed there until 1884. It is not known where they actually lived, perhaps in the Agher Glebe House or perhaps at Bective with his Aunt Frances Georgina. Although this is unlikely since Bective is over 10 miles from Agher. In 1884 Frances Georgina died and left him the Bective Estate amounting to about 3,500 acres, but by then he had left Agher and become Resident at Trinity College in 1884 settling in Palmerston Park, Rathgar, their home until they died.

In 1886 George Henry buried his uncle George Bomford of Oakley Park in the family plot at Laracor.

Bective was leased by him for a number of years to General Sir Charles Fraser, 1829 - 1895, a bachelor and a cavalry-man who had distinguished himself in the Indian Mutiny and in Abyssinia. He had house parties there to which came many lovely ladies and they all hunted with the Meath, he with one arm strapped to his side, the result of some injury, though wags told the girls it was to prevent him from putting it around their waists, something he was inclined to do.

Edith Agatha died on 14th February 1893, aged 58, and George Henry died nearly four years later on 12th December 1896, aged 63. They had eight children, the grandchildren of Susan Margaret and Charles Rudinge Martin. Bective was left to their fourth child Mary Louisa (below) who lived there ‘from perhaps as early as 1895, Sir Charles’ death, or 1896, her father’s death.

21.8.5 Children of Rev George Henry Martin

1. Susan Maria Martin was born on 23rd January 1861 and died in 1891, aged 30. She married Rev Charles W. O’Hara Mease on 6th May 1888. They had no children.
2. Agatha Edith Martin was born on 24th July 1862 and married Captain H. Stanuell of the 21st
Regiment; he was known as ‘Rock Stanuell’. They had four children and their line continues.

3. Charles Robert Hesketh Martin was born on 11th October 1863 and died unmarried in Cyprus on 3rd March 1884, aged 20

4. Mary Louisa Martin was born on 2nd September 1865 and known as ‘Aunt Loo’. She inherited Bective from her father and farmed it herself. It is said that my grandfather, George Lyndon Bomford, was ‘sweet’ on her but it came to nothing and she died unmarried at Portrush on 24th September 1941, aged 76.

My mother as a young child was not certain whether Aunt Loo was a man or a woman because she spoke with a deep voice and acted the tough Irish farmer speaking with a brogue and dressing the part. Sometimes she would ‘blow’ the harvest money and take my mother to London as her chaperone; this was all part of Aunt Loo’s fun as she was about 55 and her ‘chaperone’ about 17. My mother had many tales of these excursions, which took place about 1920 and later. On one occasion Aunt Loo acted scared of the traffic in Oxford Street and made a ‘holy show’ of her chaperone, finally they took a taxi to cross the street. On another occasion they went to visit Aunt Loo’s younger sister, Aunt Fran, who had just left Ireland to settle in Kent; Aunt Fran wrote to Aunt Loo saying that they could not get any decent Irish gardening tools; immediately a set of tools were grabbed from the yard and she set off with them and my mother. The entanglements she got mother into when carrying these loose tools, which included the long-handled Irish shovel and equally long grape would make a hilarious film, particularly with the advice Aunt Loo gave in her brogue. Actually mother was acutely embarrassed whenever an amused crowd had gathered to which Aunt Loo responded, with rich farming advice; but it was all done in fun and she was known and loved throughout the county as a great character.

5. George Bomford Martin was born 16th January 1867 and died unmarried

6. George Henry Ffulke Martin was born 18th October 1868 and died in Dublin on 8th March 1888, aged 19.

7. Alfred Ernest Martin was born 20th October 1871 and died after 15 days on 4th November at the Rectory, Killeshandra.

8. Frances Georgina Martin was born on 24th April 1874 and was named after her great aunt Frances Georgina Bolton (Bomford) who left the family Bective. ‘Fran’ as she was called, together with her brothers and sisters was brought up as a teenager at Bective. On 21st September 1898 she married her cousin, the Reverend Richard Frederick Mant Clifford, the only son amongst six daughters of Olivia Frances (Martin) and Richard Henry Clifford of the Bengal Civil Service who had died of ‘Jungle Fever’ at Almora in India in 1876, at which date he had 480 acres in Newtown, Co Kilkenny; his mother lived on until 10th March 1910.

The Rev Richard F. M. Clifford, or Dick as he was called, was born on 3rd October 1874. According to the Succession Lists in the RCB Library he was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and got his BA in 1897. He was ordained in 1898 and went to Bective as curate and then as rector from 1902 to 1903. He was then transferred to Ballyloughloe, near Clonmacnoise, from 1903 to 1907; this was the same parish in which Rev Thomas Caulfield was rector about 40 years previously and Caulfield was a brother-in-law to George Bomford of Oakley Park. The name Ballyloughloe was changed in the early 1900’s to Mount Temple and the Church was later closed down and demolished. Dick then spent three years (1907 - 1910) as curate at Castletonock, Dublin, before returning to Bective where he was installed as Rector on 10th December 1910. He stayed at Bective until 1917 but he was also Temporary Chaplain to the Forces from 1915 - 1919 and went to France.

In the 1950’s my father showed me an outhouse, which he and his Uncle Dick had built entirely of old railway sleepers at the Bective Rectory which is across the road opposite the Church. From 1917 to 1924 Uncle Dick was Rector of Kells and it was at Kells that my father spent his leaves in the later part of World War I, whilst there he met my mother; and so another Bomford – Martin relationship was made. Uncle Dick was a keen sportsman and a player of repute in hockey, cricket, tennis and when older, croquet. This was at a time when there was plenty of time for sport and the surrounds of Kells produced many international players in particular the three Harvey brothers from Athboy Rectory, Dick’s cousins, who with their father were in the Guinness Book of Records for at one time, the most rugby caps for a family. Uncle Dick was capped for Ireland in Hockey a few times as “half-back” and indeed was sometimes Captain. Aunt Fran also played, most games and became known for her hard hitting of the hockey ball.

From Kells they went to England, firstly as Vicar of New Romney from 1924 to 1929, and then to the Canterbury Parish of Chillenden and Knowlton from 1929 to 1946. In 1946, aged 72, he retired to Canterbury to a house which they bought cheaply during the early 1940’s; the house was cheap then because those German aeroplanes which were driven back from the London blitz dropped their bombs any where, and Canterbury was in what became known as ‘bomb alley’.
They died at Canterbury, Aunt Fran on 4th September 1961, aged 87, and Uncle Dick on 4th January 1966, aged 91. They had three children who all died from inherited creeping paralysis.

1. Joan Olivia Clifford was born and baptised by her father at Bective on the same day, 14th November 1900. She died unmarried at Canterbury on 1st November 1962.

2. George Richard Melville Clifford was also born and baptised at Bective on the same day, 13th March 1903. Archdeacon J. Dennison carried out his baptism. These two baptisms are recorded in the Bective Parish register. In 1924 Melville was best man at the wedding of Evelyn Bomford and Wilfred Bamford (35.6). He served in World War II and retired from the Royal Air Force as a Group Captain. In 1930 he married Dorothy G. Black and had three daughters who all married and had children. She died on 23rd January 1962 and in April 1963 he married secondly Daphne Speechly. He died at Maidenhead, Berkshire, on 31st March 1971.

3. Charles Hesketh Clifford was born on 2nd July 1907 at, probably, either Ballyloughloe or Castleknock. On 27th October 1932 he married Nancy Price and they had a son and a daughter, both of whom married and had children. Hesketh died 27th February 1976.

The Martin, Bomford, Clifford and Bamford relationship might appear clearer from the following tree.

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21.9  Sarah Maria Bomford (Youngest, 6th Daughter)

Sarah Maria, the youngest of Robert’s children, was christened at Rathcore Church on 5th November 1810 and the Parish Register gives her name as “Maria Susanna”. She was probably born in that year of 1810; and was only seven when her father died.

Nothing has been found concerning her marriage in 1831 and there is only the one deed of 1839, which follows concerning her father’s settlement. She died in 1835 so she is not mentioned in the deed, which is a pity as it might have confirmed that her name was really Sarah Maria, and not Maria Susanna.

21.9.1 Robert’s Settlement on Sarah Maria 20th February 1839

Between
2. Richard Bolton of Cheltenham, Co Gloucester. (This is the Richard who married Jemima Letitia, Sarah Maria’s sister).
3. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown
Reciting, £2,769.4.7 has been paid to Sir Frederick James Tollemache by John Bolton Massey. This is the last payment and the lands of Dirpatrick, Arradstown, Bacostown and Rahinstown are no longer charged with this bequest. (1839 Book 3 No 237)

21.9.2 Marriage - Sarah Maria Bomford and the Honourable Frederick James Tollemache

There is no other information about this marriage other than Burke, which states

“5. Sarah Maria, married 26th August 1831, as his first wife, Hon Frederick James Tollemache, 5th son of- Sir William Tollemache 1st Baronet, and died 3rd January 1845, leaving issue. He died 2nd July 1888.”

There are a couple of mistakes here. Firstly Sarah was the youngest or 6th daughter, not 5th, and secondly she died on 3rd January 1835 aged 25, not 1845, which must be a clerical error. We should perhaps add to Burke, Sarah’s only child -

“Louisa Maria Tollemache, born c1833, died unmarried 7th May 1863.”

We do not know where the wedding took place but since no marriage licence has been found it was probably not in Ireland. It looks as though the married couple lived at Hyde Park Place in London after the marriage Frederick and his daughter were living there in 1839 and 1847, and a deed of 1851 shows that the daughter, Louisa, was living at Ham House, Co Surrey, probably with her father and stepsister. The marriage only lasted about three and a half years when Sarah Maria died, so the daughter Louisa would hardly remember her mother. She was probably brought up in London by one of Frederick’s unmarried sisters, and died aged about 30. Her father lived on until 1888 when he died aged 84

21.9.3 The Tollemache Family

This family can trace their descent with certainty back to the reign of King Stephen (1135-54), and possibly to Saxon origin. By the early 1500’s most of their land was in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Lionel was made the first baronet in 1611 and it was his grandson who became the first Earl of Dysart, and Lord Huntingtower by his marriage in the 1630’s. Dysart is in Fife and Huntingtower in Perth. There was the odd Irish connection in marriage but there was nothing permanent.

The following detail starts with the 4th Earl, Sarah Maria’s great grandfather.

Lionel, 4th Earl of Dysart, born 1707 and married in 1729 Lady Grace Carteret, eldest daughter of John, 1st Earl of Granville who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and later Secretary of State to King George II. Lady Grace died in 1755 and Lionel lived on until 1770. They had 15 children, three of whom were

1. Lionel was born in 1734 and became the 5th Earl of Dysart and married in the same year 1770. His wife was Charlotte, the illegitimate daughter of Sir Edward Walpole and sister to HRH Maria, Duchess of Gloucester. She died without children in 1789. Lionel married again but had no children so the Earlom went to his brother in 1799.
2. Wilbraham the 6th Earl of Dysart was born in 1739, married in 1773 and died in 1821 also without children, so the peerage devolved upon his only surviving sister.
3. Louisa, Countess of Dysart, was born in 1745 and married in 1764 John Manners of Grantham Grange, Lincolnshire. He died in 1792 but she lived on until 1840 and became Sarah Maria’s grandmother. When she was living at Ham House she became friendly with John Constable, R.A. the painter, grandfather of Hugh Constable who married Elinor May Bomford in 1892 (33.5). John Constable was a regular visitor at Ham House in the 1820’s and 30’s.

They had a number of children who were Sarah Maria’s uncles and aunt. Those living at the time of Sarah Maria’s wedding were-

1. Sir William Lord Huntingtower was born in 1766 and assumed the name of Talmash only. He was made a baronet in 1793. In 1790 he married Catherine Rebecca, a daughter of Francis Grey of Lehena, Co Cork. These two were Sarah Maria’s father and mother-in-law and they had a number of children (see below). He died in 1833 and she in 1852.
2. John Manners married in 1806 Mary, Duchess Dowager Roxburgh. She died in 1838 and he in 1837 without having any children
3. Charles Manners was born in 1775 and married Frances, niece of George, the 7th Marquess of Tweeddale; the 7th Marquess and his wife died in 1804 within a few months of each other whilst they were imprisoned in the fortress of Verdun by Napoleon. Charles died in 1850 having had a number of children

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4. Catherine Sophia Manners in 1793 married Sir Gilbert Heathcote and died in 1825
5. Maria Caroline Manners married the 4th Earl of Fife and died in 1805
6. Louisa Grace Manners married the 6th Duke of St Albans and died in 1816, three hours after the birth of her only son, Aubry the 7th Duke.
7. Laura Manners married in 1808 the 7th Earl of Stair but this marriage proved to be bigamous as he had another wife, Johanna Gordon, and she was given a divorce in 1809. She died in 1834.

To revert to Lord Huntingtower (1766-1833, ‘1’ above) and his children who were Sarah Maria’s brothers and sisters-in-law. There were a dozen of them -

1. Lionel William Tollemache (or Talmash) was born in 1794 and married in 1819 Maria (Toone). On the death of his great-aunt Louisa, the Countess of Dysart, he became the 8th Earl of Dysart in 1840. He died in 1878 and his wife in 1869 having had one son
2. Felix Thomas Tollemache was born in 1796 and married Sarah Grey of Ballincar, King’s Co. She died in 1831 and Felix married Frances Peters. There were two children before his first marriage
3. Arthur Caesar Tollemache was born in 1797 and married in 1820 Catherine Scheppers. They had five children before he died in 1848 and she in 1868.
4. Rev Hugh Francis Tollemache was born in 1802 and married a couple of times. He had a number of children before he died in 1895.

5. Frederick James Tollemache was born 16th April 1804 and became Member of Parliament for Grantham. The marriage to Sarah Maria Bomford took place on 26th August 1831. She died on 3rd January 1835 having had one daughter Louisa Maria Tollemache who would have been born about 1833. She never married and died on 7th May 1863, aged about 30.
Frederick married secondly Isabella Anne Forbes who died on 30th August 1850 having had a daughter Ada Maria Katherine Tollemache who in 1868 married Charles, 4th Lord Sudelay. They had children, Frederick lived on until 2nd July 1888.

6. Algernon Grey Tollemache was MP for Grantham after Frederick from 1833 to 1837. In 1857 he married his cousin, Frances Louisa, who died 15th April 1893. He died 16th January 1892 and had no children.
7. Louisa Tollemache married in 1816 Sir Joseph Burke, 11th Baronet of Glinsk in Co Galway. She died in 1830 having had some children.
8. Catherine Camilla Tollemache married in 1816 Sir George Sinclair, 2nd Baronet of Thurso Castle, Caithness. She died in 1863 having had children.
9. Emily Frances Tollemache died unmarried in 1864
10. Caroline Tollemache died in 1825 unmarried
11. Catherine Octavia Tollemache was born in 1800 and died in 1878 unmarried.
12. Laura Maria Tollemache married in 1847 Sir James Grattan of Tinnehinch at Enniskerry, Co Wicklow. James Grattan was the son of Henry Grattan the famous Irish politician who was presented with Tinnehinch by a grateful Irish Parliament soon after 1782. James died in 1854 and she in 1888, aged 81.

21.9.4

These close relatives of Sarah Maria Bomford and Frederick Tollemache were alive in 1831 and any, or all, of them could have attended the wedding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bomford</th>
<th>Tollemache</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand-parents</td>
<td>Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisa, Countess of Dysart</td>
<td>Sir William, Lord Huntingtower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Catherine Rebecca</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents</td>
<td>Uncles &amp; Aunts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord John Manners and Mary the Duchess of Roxburgh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Charles Manners and Lady Frances</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Earl of Fife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of St Albans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Laura Manners</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brothers &amp; Sisters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert George and Elizabeth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Annette and Sir Thomas Hesketh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane and Richard Mansergh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances and Richard Bolton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jemima (not yet married)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lionel (future Earl of Dysart) and Lady Maria</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Felix Tollemache</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Arthur Tollemache and Lady Catherine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Sir Hugh Tollemache and Lady Matilda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Algernon Tollemache</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Susan and Rev Charles Martin  
Sir Joseph Burke, Baronet of Glinsk  
Lady Catherine and Sir George Sinclair  
Lady Emily Tollemache  
Lady Octavia Tollemache  
Lady Laura Tollemache  

It is very noticeable how few elderly Bomfords were alive at this time; only Maria and David’s children, Isaac and his sisters, were over 35. All of Oliver’s branch have died out, and the only one alive of Laurence of Killeglan’s branch is Rev Thomas Bomford who is soon to die without children.

One can do extraordinary things with family trees. For instance as said above, -
Sarah Maria married Frederick Tollemache; her great-aunt was Lady Jane Tollemache, sister-in-law to Maria, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester,

Lady Jane married John Delap Halliday whose aunt was Rebecca Delap;
Rebecca Delap married Hugh, 1st Lord Massy,
Hugh’s grand-daughter was Maria Massy-Dawson,
Maria married, Robert Bomford whose daughter was Sarah Maria with whom we started, so Sarah Maria’s mother was also her cousin of a sort.

The same sort of thing can be done with Frances Georgina and her husband Richard Bolton, and, I am sure, with others also. These Irish families were very closely allied with many cross connections.
22.1

By 1833 the last of Maria’s daughters had married and left Rahinstown to the only son, Robert George and his wife Elizabeth (Kennedy). These two were married in October 1826 and so were well established at Rahinstown, and Robert George had taken his place as a country gentleman.

Amongst the documents is a booklet concerning the County Meath Civil Accounts at the Lent Assizes of 1834; the majority of expenses concern road upkeep, but the police, public buildings and ‘malicious damage’ are also included. The booklet shows that Robert George, now aged 33, had already taken the usual responsibilities expected of a landlord. In 1834 he was the 21st Member of the Meath Grand Jury, and he remained a member until his death in 1846. He had been appointed a ‘supervisor’ of the road passing his front gates from Summerhill to Edenderry “between the mearing of Agher and Michael Coffey’s forge at Ballinaskea”, a distance of about two miles. The accounts show that in 1834 he had received £18.1.7 for road repairs and had submitted three claims for current repairs totalling £45.5.9. Taken overall the roads of Ireland were kept in good order at this time and this was largely due to the system. After all, the local landlord would get a bad name from his friends and neighbours, who had to travel over his particular portion, if the road had not been well maintained.

The Dublin directories show that Robert George was made a Meath Magistrate in 1836 and he remained a JP until he died. All this indicates that he and Elizabeth lived at Rahinstown, however they did have a town house in Dublin from at least 1833. This house, No 7 Upper Merrion Street, was where their mother also lived and, indeed, it may have been her house, at least initially. Later, during the 1840’s, Maria lived with her daughter, Frances Georgina Bolton, at Bective Abbey on the Boyne and she died there in 1848. However, in 1836, there is a note in the Ordnance Survey Name Book that “the pleasure gardens appear very much neglected” at Rahinstown and this, coupled with the fact that all the land was let, leads me to think that Robert George and Elizabeth lived in Dublin for most of the time.

Robert George had two major concerns during this period. The first was the clearance of the land at Rahinstown and the other properties of the debts and mortgages consequent to his father’s settlement on his children. The second was consequent to the death of his father-in-law in 1834. Elizabeth was the only surviving child and so heir of James Trail Kennedy her father who had much property in Co Down and around there. We shall deal in this chapter with these two items and complete with the death of Robert George and the sale of Rahinstown

22.2

Rahinstown Mortgages and Release

It will be remembered that Maria took out at least three mortgages on the land in order to pay the settlement money to her daughters.

These were
- £2,000 from James Graham in 1821
- £2,500 from James Graham in 1824
- £1,384.12.3 from William Jones Armstrong in 1827 or £1,500 old currency, making a total of £6,000 old currency or about £5,540 in the new currency.

As seemed to be normal, the mortgages were handed around almost as though they were currency and this happened with these ones, so much so that it is difficult to keep trace of them.

22.2.1

Rahinstown Mortgage 1st November 1831

William Jones Armstrong of Slademore Lodge, Co Dublin, with the consent of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown, made over the mortgage on Dirpatrick, Arradstown, Baconstown and Rahinstown to Hamilton Trail Johnston of Hollybrook, Co Down. (1837 Book 20 No 80)

This is the £1,384 mortgage of 1827. Although we do not know who Hamilton Trail Johnston is, the name ‘Trail’ indicates that he was some relation of James Trail Kennedy, Elizabeth’s father.

22.2.2

Rahinstown Mortgage 30th May 1838

Some of the mortgage money on Rahinstown, Dirpatrick, Arradstown and Baconstown is passed from Henry Chinnery Justice of Ely Place, Dublin and John Tew Armstrong of Dominic Street, Dublin, to Robert Stewart Kennedy of Temple Street, Dublin, barrister, with the consent of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown. (1838 Book 11 No 226)

Henry Chinnery Justice and John Tew Armstrong had become in 1831 the new trustees of the marriage settlement of Frances Rose Bomford and Samuel Pratt Winter both of whom died late in 1831 (18.6.2). The original trustees were John Pratt Winter and Isaac Bomford; the next deed of 1831 concerns
the hand over of Isaac Bomford’s trusteeships. Henry Chinnery Justice was also a trustee of Jenimia Bolton’s annuity of 1833, and the agent for Lady Annette Maria Hesketh.

Robert Stewart Kennedy (1805 - 1854) was the eldest surviving son of Hugh Kennedy (1775 - 1852) of Cultra, Co Down, on the south shore of Belfast Lough to the east of Holywood. The Armstrong connection is clarified in the next deed of 1831, in which Isaac, the son of David Bomford and first cousin of Robert and Maria Bomford, hands over the mortgage because he is elderly, aged 65, and retiring.

Isaac Bomford Relinquishes his Trusteeships 29th April 1831

Isaac Bomford of Blessington Street, Dublin, wishes to be relieved of his trusteeships (which are all listed). This deed concerns the brothers.

1. William Jones Armstrong, late Colonial Secretary in Demerara and Essequebo in the West Indies, and Thomas Knox Armstrong of Fellows Hall, Co Armagh
2. John Tew Armstrong of North Frederick Street, Dublin (Book 871 Page 4 No 579004)

The Armstrong Family

This family can be added to the Tew family tree of 9.3.7.

John Tew, 1722 - c1771, son of David Tew and Elizabeth (Smith) whose sister Anne married Stephen Bomford of Gallow, nephew of Elizabeth (Tew) and Thomas Bomford the elder of Rahinstown, alderman, Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1759, married Margaret, 4th daughter of Robert Maxwell, Captain of Horse, of Fellows Hall, Tynan near Killylea, Co Armagh, whose brother John became 1st Baron Farnham. They had two sons, Robert Maxwell Tew and William Tew, and four daughters, the third being Margaret Tew, born 1757, married 1784 and died aged 103 in June 1860.

She married Rev William Jones Armstrong, born 1764, MA (Trinity), Rector of Termonfeckin in Co Louth, and died 1825. They had three sons and three daughters -

1. William Jones Armstrong, Colonial Secretary in Demerara and Essequebo in the West Indies, and later of Killylea Co Armagh, barrister, born 22nd May 1794 and died 1872. He married and had children. He gave the 1827 mortgage of £1,384 to Maria Bomford.
2. John Tew Armstrong, solicitor of Dublin, born January 1796, married in 1839 Anne, daughter of Ralph Tew of Rodanstown, Co Meath, (who was probably the ‘Mr Tew of Dublin’ who leased part of Kilglin in 1836). He acquired the £1,384 mortgage from his older brother before 1831.
3. Thomas Knox Armstrong, born 13th July 1797, inherited Fellows Hall from his grandmother Margaret (Maxwell) and was living there in 1838 according to Lewis’ Dictionary, and died in Rome in January 1840. In 1833 he married Catherine Frances, 2nd daughter of Wallop Brabazon (1770 - 1831) of Rath House, Louth. They had two daughters.

Incidentally Lewis also records in the same parish as Fellows Hall – “Durtan of Maxwell Cross Esq.”. He may be a grandson of Elizabeth Tew, daughter of John Tew of Mulhusy, who married a Mr Cross.

Rahinstown Mortgage 27th November 1838

Another change of mortgage on Rahinstown, etc, with the consent of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown to (? Hamilton Trail) Johnston. (1839 Book 1 No 207)

22.2.3 Rahinstown Mortgage for £12,000 29th December 1838

The lands of Rahinstown, Dirpatrick, Arradstown and Baconstown are leased to John Martley of Rutland Square, Dublin, by Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown. (1839 Book 2 No 237)

This deed is missing but it is referred to in a later deed, 22.9.2. It is for an additional mortgage by Robert George for £12,000 and was probably taken out to finally settle his sister’s inheritance.

So now, in 1838, the original two mortgages to James Graham for £4,500 still stand. The mortgage for £1,384 is split between Hamilton Trail Johnston and Robert Stewart Kennedy. And there is this new mortgage for £12,000 to John Martley.

Meanwhile the Bomford sisters, who were owed money from the settlement, now officially clear the estate of any further claim by the following two deeds of release.

22.2.4 Deed of Release of Rahinstown 14th February 1839

Between 1. Hon Frederick, James Tollemache of Hyde Park Place, London
2. Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey, Co Meath, and Richard Bolton of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

The End of the Rahinstown Family 308
3. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown

Reciting That John Bolton Massey has paid £2,796.4.7½ to both the Richard Boltons. Now the two Richard Boltons and Frederick James Tollemache release the lands of Dirpatrick 475 Irish acres (770 statute) Arradstown 77 Irish acres (125 statute) Baconstown 501 Irish acres (821 statute) and Rahinstown 396 Irish acres (642 statute)

(1839 Book 15 No 118)

22.2.5 Deed of Release of Rahinstown 17th August 1839

Between 1. Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh of Grenane, Co Tipperary
2. Sir Thomas Henry Hesketh of Old Rufford Hall, Lancashire, and Annette Maria (Bomford), his wife.
3. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown and Sir Thomas Henry Hesketh. Both trustees of the marriage settlement of Charles Martin with Susanna Margaret Bomford (The Martins probably could not sign the deed because at this date Charles was Chaplain at Mannheim.)
4. Robert George Bomford and Hamilton Trail Johnston of Hollypark (or maybe Hollybrook, see 22.2.1), Co Down.
5. John Bolton Massey of Ballywire, Co Tipperary

The above all release the lands as listed in the previous deed. The various sums which were paid off, being £3,000, £3,000 and £3,000, were part of the trust of £15,000 and all in accordance with the will of Robert Bomford.

(1840 Book 1 No 239)

22.3 Ordnance Survey Field Name Books 1836

In 1835 and 1836 a survey was carried out, largely by the Royal Engineers, of each townland in Ireland. This was written up in the “Ordnance Survey Field Name Books”, and was followed by a new six-inch map of Ireland in 1837. The following is the report on those townlands containing Robert George’s property.

Rahinstown

“569 acres the property of Mr Bomford who relets it at £2.10.0 an acre, Rahinstown House is a very good one but the pleasure gardens appear to be very much neglected” (which leads me to believe that perhaps they lived in Dublin, they were certainly not farming it themselves). “The demesne is well planted with fir and round trees.”

Baconstown

“1097 acres is let at £2 an acre and is the property of Mr Bomford. Used chiefly for grazing and the fields in the south are very large, the land is good.”

Arradstown

“1038 acres, the property of Mr Leslie of Glasslough, Co Monaghan, rented to Mr Henry Williams at 10/6 an acre. Mr Henry Williams lives in Curraghmore Cottage, a neat thatched cottage, and Robert Williams lives in Arradstown House, a two storied thatched good farmhouse; first built by King Arod, a Dane, in 900 A.D.”

Dirpatrick, also Derrypatrick

“967 acres, it is the property of Mr Mcvey of Druitststown from whom Mr Bomford has the whole in perpetuity at 4/6 an acre. It is let in farms of 37 to 200 acres at £1.10.0 an acre. The largest of these farms is with Mr Langan of Woodland near Skreen.” (Mr Mcvey of Druitststown is Ferdinand Meath McVeagh, 1789-1866, of Drewstown House, southwest of Kells, who’s grand-daughter Flora Mary McVeagh Sadleir married George Winter Bomford, the son of George Bomford of Oakley Park, see 30.2.2).

Mullagh in the Parish of Kilmore

“496 acres, the property of Mr Bomford who has it let at £1.15.0 per acre.”

Even if we allow that the Arradstown land must really have been part of the neighbouring Dirpatrick township, the acreage recorded in the deed of February 1839 (22.2.4) does not match that of the Ordnance Survey.

The difference is not great, 2,358 acres of the deed against 2,633 of the survey, and this probably occurs because the deed figures are extracted from the deeds of the previous century, and also because there is the muddling difference between the Irish or Plantation measure and the statute acre. We must accept the Ordnance Survey and so Robert George had 2,633 statute acres plus the 496 acres of Mullagh from which we can work out his income, approximately.
Lease/Income  To Head Landlord  Net Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Landlord</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rahinstown</td>
<td>£1,422.10</td>
<td>Sir Arthur Langford</td>
<td>£160.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baconstown</td>
<td>£2,194.00</td>
<td>Ferdinand McVeagh</td>
<td>£217.11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirpatrick</td>
<td>1,450.10</td>
<td>??? 800.00</td>
<td>??? 800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullagh</td>
<td>868.00</td>
<td>??</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This brings in a total of £5,489.8.6 from which will be deducted a further amount due for tithes, cess and so on. We might say that Robert George was worth about £4,500 a year, and, in view of the £12,000 mortgage and the others, that he was living beyond his means. However he was forced to have these large mortgages so that he could credit his sisters according to his father’s settlement of 1811, which amounted to £15,000. These settlements made life very difficult for the next of kin and in some cases they caused the break-up of estates. Indeed it will be seen that on Robert George’s death the land had to be sold to settle the mortgages.

One cannot help comparing the above figures with those of the previous century. In 1743 the Langford’s got the same £160 for Rahinstown and Baconstown, but the Bomfords had never leased those lands before Robert George did, and so there is no comparison there. Rahinstown and Baconstown had always been the ‘home farm’ even in Robert Bomford’s days however we can do better in the case of Dirpatrick. In 1725 the Head Landlord, William Conolly, received £200 a year which compares favourably with Ferdinand McVeagh’s £217. In 1750 Stephen Bomford leased Dirpatrick at about 8/9 an acre, now it is £1.10.0 an acre, an increase of about 350% in about 90 years. It is not known when McVeagh became the head landlord of Dirpatrick.

22.4 Kennedy Property

The detail of the Kennedy property is not recorded here, but it is all listed in the following deeds. It would appear that Robert George and Elizabeth went to Co Down to settle Elizabeth affairs on the death of her father in 1834.

22.4.1 Kennedy Property

This deed all concerns the land and the inheritance of Elizabeth and is

Between 1. Robert George Bomford of Annadale, Co Down, and
   Elizabeth Bomford (Kennedy) his wife, the only surviving child and heiress of James Trail Kennedy, late of Annadale, deceased.
   2. Robert Francis Gordon of Belfast, (1802 - 1883, eldest son of Alexander Gordon, 1762 - 1829, of Castle Place, Belfast; he later succeeded to both Florida Manor and Delamont House, both in Co Down).

22.4.2 Kennedy Property

Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown leases - (two deeds)

1. to Alexander McDonnell of Belfast, merchant
   a. the land of Ballynafeigh, Co Down, consisting of 13 statute acres in the Parish of Newtownbreda in the Barony of Castlereagh for 28 years at a rent of £30 a year.
      (1848 Book 7 No 105)
   b. 91 statute acres in the townland of Galwally in the Parish of Newtown Breda for three lives at a rent of £290 (a bit steep, misprint?). The land of both these leases was formerly belonging to James Trail Kennedy, deceased.
      (1848 Book 7 No 109)

2. to Samuel Gibson Getty of Cromac Park, Co Antrim, the land of Ballynafeigh consisting of 13 statute acres for the lives of their Royal Highnesses.
   Prince Albert of Saxe Coburg
   Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and
   Victoria Adelaide Mary Louise, Princess Royal
   from the date of the original lease of 16th February 1813 at a rent of £30. (1848 Book 7 No 106)
   On 3rd February 1847 Getty leased his 13 acres to Alexander McDonnell of Annadale, Co Down. Annadale was James Trail Kennedy’s place where Elizabeth was brought up, and it looks as though McDonnell now has the house. Although we do not know the exact site of Annadale House because it is now part of the south-east suburbs of Belfast and built over, there are many streets named to commemorate Annadale; for instance Annadale Embankment runs along the River Lagan between what used to be the seat of the 2nd and 3rd Marquises of Donegall, Ormeau Park, and the seat of Viscount Dungannon, Lord Trevor, at Belvoir Park. Galwally is also built over and lies to the east of Annadale. The two neighbouring suburbs of Ballynafeigh and Newtownbreda contain all these places.
Dispute and Lease of Rahinstown and Baconstown

13th May 1841

Between

1. Hon Philip Pleydell Bouverie of London ... and many others
   (Written in full in deed of 20th May 1847, 22.5.2, but including)
5. Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown

Reciting

1. The lease of Sir Arthur Langford dated 11th December 1691 to Thomas Bomford of the lands of Baconstown and Rahinstown for three lives with the right of perpetual renewal at a rent of £160
2. The deed of settlement of 28th June 1811 when the above land was vested in Benedict Arthure of Seafield, Co Dublin. (This was Robert’s settlement on his children and John Arthure, Maria’s uncle, was one of the trustees).
3. The report of Judge Goold dated 7th May 1841 in which he stated that there was a covenant in the original lease for perpetual renewal which was binding on the Hon Clotworthy Wellington, Lord Langford.

So Lord Langford now leases Baconstown consisting of 507 plantation acre and Rahinstown consisting of 396 plantation acres.

(1841 Book 13 No 138)

(Continuation)

13th October 1843

This continues from the above deed of 13th May 1841 and confirms Benedict Arthure (son of Rev Benedict) in the lands of Baconstown and Rahinstown for the lives of John Walker

Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown,
and Elizabeth Bomford, his wife

at the yearly rent of £160

John Walker has not appeared in any of the deeds. However, at a guess, he might be the leasee of Rahinstown and Baconstown, which we know, were leased at this date, and as such it would be normal to make him one of the lives. John Walker and Elizabeth Bomford remained two of the lives after Robert George’s death; the third life substituted for Robert George was that of the Prince of Wales.

The Arthur Family

No actual family tree has been found, but from information from Vicar’s, Canon Leslie and these deeds the following has been put together.

Benedict Arthure (or Arthur) died in 1752, probate. He built Seafield House at Donabate, Co Dublin, soon after 1737 probably by remodelling an earlier house. The house is described in Burke’s Guide to Country Houses and the Arthur family lived there until the second half of the 1800’s when they sold it to John Hely-Hutchinson whose uncle was the 3rd Earl of Donoughmore. Benedict’s natural son whose mother he married just before he died was -

John Arthur of Seafield married Elizabeth Massy, the aunt of Maria (Massy and Robert Bomford. They had two sons, below, and a daughter Elizabeth about whom nothing is known. John Arthur died in 1757, probate, and his wife Elizabeth (Massy) married again (see 15.5.1)

1. John Arthur of Seafield married Maria Elizabeth Bolton (deed of 1802, 19.1.1). The marriage took place in St Anne’s Church, Dawson Street Dublin, and was carried out by the Bishop of Meath (Hibernian Magazine). Maria Bolton was a sister of Robert Compton Bolton of Brazee who married Maria Bomford’s sister. It is thought that they had no children since Seafield passed to Benedict some time after the deed of October 1826, 21.5.1, when John was still alive. It was this John Arthur who was a trustee of Robert Bomford’s settlement of 1811 (19.2.2).
2. Benedict Arthur was a clergyman and his life is reported in Canon Leslie’s Succession lists in the RCB Library which reads, “Arthur, Benedict, son of John Arthur, born in Dublin (1753), entered TCD 29th June 1770 aged 17, BA 1774, MA 1777, LL D 1795. Curate of St Thomas Dublin 1784. Went to England. Married Jane, daughter of Thomas Bunbury of Kill, Co Carlow, ML 1st August 1776. She died his widow of Seafield, Co Dublin, 18th October 1842.”

The deeds of October 1843 and May 1847 show that Benedict took over as trustee of the 1811 Bomford settlement from John Arthur; but since Jane Arthur died a widow in 1842 then this Benedict must be a son, Benedict of Seafield, born c1778, party to the deeds of 1843 and 1847.
Continuing from the above deed, since Robert George Bomford has died, the life of His Royal Highness Albert, Prince of Wales, is substituted. This indenture was between:

1. Hon Philip Pleydell Bouverie of London (in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called England). (A description of London which caught my eye)
2. Hon Clotworthy Wellington William Robert, Lord Langford of Summerhill
3. Dame Annetta Maria Hesketh of Rufford Hall, widow. (Sir Thomas Hesketh died in 1843)
4. John Mansergh of Grenane, Co Tipperary. (Jane Rosetta had died in 1836 and, although her husband was still alive and had remarried John Mansergh is her eldest son aged 24 and has inherited her settlement)
5. Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey, Co Meath, and Frances Georgina Bolton his wife
6. Richard Bolton of Cheltenham and Jemima Letitia Bolton his wife
7. Susanna Margaret Martin, widow of the City of Dublin. (Charles Martin died in 1847 and we now know that he died before May 1847)
8. Louisa Tollemache of London, spinster. (The only child of Sarah Maria Tollemache who died in 1835. Louisa would be about 15 now and has inherited her mother’s property)

Those in party three were the daughters of Robert Bomford, or their heirs and now that Robert George was dead they had come into his property. The deed also tells us where they were living in 1847.

Just before he died Robert George handed over the land of Mullagh in trust for his wife Elizabeth. Mullagh was part of Elizabeth’s dowry and so had become a Bomford property in 1826. The later deeds cover the end of Mullagh as far as the Bomfords are concerned.

Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown leased to George Bomford the land of Mallagh or Mullagh consisting of 297 plantation acres (481 statute) in trust for Elizabeth his wife. (This deed makes no mention of money and although the lease is given to George Bomford, the trustee for Elizabeth is George’s brother, Samuel Bomford.)

Richard and Jemima’s eldest son is recorded here as ‘Richard George Bolton’. In Burke the eldest son is George Thomas Lyndon Bolton and the younger son is Richard Bomford George Bolton; so there appears to be a muddle over the names, and, if it were not for the qualification of ‘their eldest son’, this deed could refer to the eldest or the younger son.
2. Patrick Kenna of Larch Hill, Co Meath, Esq. and James Kenna of Liverpool, salesmaster.
For £ 916.13.4 paid to each of party 1 (the co-heirs of Robert George) by James and Patrick Kenna (a total of £5,500), they make over the land of Mollagh containing 297 plantation acres in the Barony of Upper Dece subject to a life interest to Elizabeth Beresford, (widow of Robert George Bomford) (1858 Book 19 No 116)

For all practical purposes Mullagh ceased to be a Bomford property from this date even though Elizabeth has a life interest. Elizabeth married secondly in 1850 Marcus Beresford (22.10).

22.7 Death of Robert George Bomford 11th December 1846

No documents have been found concerning the death of Robert George, but in Saint Ann’s Church in Dawson Street, Dublin, there is a black and white mural, which reads

“In a vault
beneath this Church
are deposited the remains of
Robert George Bomford Esqr
late of Rahinstown House Co Meath.
He departed this life
on 11th of December 1846
in the 45th year of his age
to the inexpressible grief of
his sorrowing wife and family”

His sorrowing wife was Elizabeth, who was living in Dublin, and the sorrowing family consisted of his mother, Maria, living at Bective Abbey and his sisters, Annette Maria Hesketh living at Old Rufford Hall with her two children; her husband had died.
Frances Georgina Bolton living at Bective Abbey with her husband,
Jemima Letitia Bolton living at Cheltenham with her husband and three children,
Susan Margaret Martin living in Germany with her husband and 4 sons, his sister Jane Rosetta Mansergh had died but her husband and five children were alive and living at Greenane, Co Tipperary and the other sister who had died was Sarah Maria Tollemache, but her husband and a daughter were alive and living in London.

There must have been a strong connection with St Ann’s Church for Robert George to be buried there, and this adds strength to the argument that only occasionally was Rahinstown occupied, and that No 7 Upper Merrion Street was the main residence. The Almanacks record that from 1833 until 1851 Mrs Bomford occupied Number 7. Mrs Bomford was Maria until she died in 1848 and then Elizabeth until she married again in 1850.

This town house must have been fairly spacious because it was valued at £110 which is more than double the 1854 valuation of £50 for Rahinstown; of course Rahinstown was much older and in the country but even so it only compares with the valuation of the same date of £50 for Oakley Park before the extension was added by George Bomford, and so Rahinstown must have been less attractive.

The following deed of 1856 indicates that the Merrion Street house remained the property of Elizabeth who by that date had married Archbishop Beresford. Samuel Bomford and Robert Wybrants were her trustees.

No 7 Upper Merrion Street 13th October 1856

Between 1. Samuel Bomford of Tyne Bembridge, Isle of Wight, and,
Robert Wybrants of Rutland Square, Dublin, barrister.
2. Samuel Athanasius Cusack of Stevens Hospital, Dublin, surgeon
Reciting the lease of 7th February 1839 to Samuel Cusack of part of the north side of Merrion Street now called No 7 Upper Merrion Street including the coach houses, stabling, etc, by Samuel Bomford and Robert Wybrants for 99 years at a rent of £41 1.3.
This memorial re-states the above (1856 Book 29 No 220)
The only known record of the death of Maria Bomford, Robert George’s mother, is a mural in black and white marble, in St Ann’s Church, Dawson Street in Dublin, which reads

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“Sacred
to the memory of
MARIA MASSY BOMFORD
widow of the late Robert Bomford Esq. of Rahinstown House, Co. Meath
who departed this life July the 10th 1848
aged 79 years
Her surviving children record in this tablet
their deep sorrow for the loss of the best and
kindest of mothers and their humble hope that
she sleeps in Christ Jesus to be raised by
Him at the last day unto everlasting life”
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The two tablets for Maria and her son are a matching pair. The memorial is inscribed on white marble, centre top, and the small square below contains the crest, coat of arms and the motto. The surrounds are black marble.

In both cases the motto and the crest are the same, but the coat of arms is different. The motto reads,

“Justus et Fidelis”.

The Bomford arms, crest and motto are discussed in 25.5.

It is not known where Maria was buried, perhaps at Rathcore Churchyard with her husband, Robert, who had died 31 years before Maria in April 1817.

There are three more deeds concerning Rahinstown and the other properties, two about the mortgages and one lease. Robert George died intestate and his sisters became his co-heirs, actually two of his sisters had died and their names were substituted by two of their children, John Southcote Mansergh and Louisa Tollemache. It is not known whether any of them wanted the house or land, but it looks as though it had to be sold anyway to clear the mortgages, particularly the £12,000 one. The 1851 lease is only for part of Rahinstown and really could be ignored except that it does show that the property had not been sold before October 1851. The Griffith’s Valuation of 1854 however states that Rahinstown and Baconstown were the property of Robert Fowler (1797 - 1863), so these properties must have been sold in 1852 or 1853. We can assume that Dirpatrick and Arrodstown were also sold at this time. No deed of sale was found in the Registry under ‘Bomford’ so the price is not known.

It should perhaps be mentioned that Ireland was in a very depressed state just after the famine, which started in 1845 and went on for three years. Robert George died at the height of the famine and it is most likely that no rents were paid at this time; indeed some years probably passed before the co-heirs received any income from the land, and no doubt all this had a bearing on the sale.

Since then Rahinstown has been in the hands of the Fowlers and the present (1990) owner is Brigadier Bryan Fowler. The old ‘Bomford’ house was pulled down after a fire and Robert Fowler’s son built the present house about 1875 on the same site; Sir Charles Lanyon designed it. Robert Fowler, who bought Rahinstown, was the eldest son of the Right Reverend Robert Fowler, Bishop of Ossary; in August 1820 he married Jane Anne (1798-1828) sister of John, the 3rd Earl Erne; Robert died on 6th February 1863.

As previously argued it is thought that Thomas the Elder first built a house at Rahinstown when he married in 1691 and that Stephen the Younger improved it during the second half of the 1700’s. Thereafter it was considered as the best of the Bomford houses and it became the ‘senior’ house of the eldest son. It was a Bomford property for just over 160 years, from 1691 to c1853.

Baconstown, just across the road from Rahinstown, was nearly always coupled with Rahinstown in the deeds and so was also in Bomford hands from 1691 to c1853, about 160 years. The other two properties four miles away to the northeast beyond Summerhill were also coupled together in most of the deeds; Dirpatrick and Arrodstown were first leased in 1725 and so belonged to the Bomfords for about 125 years. The four townlands totalled about 2,375 statute acres.
The sale of Rahinstown not only ended an era but with the death of Robert George that particular branch died out, and George Bomford of Oakley Park became the founder of the new ‘senior’ branch.

22.9.1 Mortgage on Rahinstown 27th February 1850

Between

1. Isabella Jane Martley, widow and sole executor of John Martley of Rutland Square, Dublin, Counsel at Law. (John Martley had the £12,000 mortgage of 1838 on Rahinstown and the land)

2. Elizabeth Bomford (Kennedy), widow and executor of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown
Dame Annetta Maria Hesketh, widow of Sir Thomas Hesketh (d 1843) late of Rufford Hall, Co Lancaster
John Mansergh of Greenane, Co Tipperary, eldest son of Jane Rosetta Mansergh (Bomford) since deceased, wife of Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh
Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey, Co Meath, and his wife Frances Georgina Bolton (Bomford)
Susannah Margaret Martin (Bomford) of Baden-Baden in Germany, widow of Rev Charles Martin (d 1847)
Richard Bolton of Suffolk Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and his wife Jemima Letitia Bolton (Bomford)
Louisa Tollemache, only child of Hon Frederick Tollemache who survived his late wife Sarah Maria Tollemache (Bomford, d 1835)

3. Richard Bolton of Cheltenham

4. Edward John Smith of Rutland Square, Dublin

This indenture concerns a mortgage of £2,990 originally taken out by Robert Bomford on the lands of Derpatrick, Arradstown, Baconstown 396 acres and Rahinstown.

Now that Robert George Bomford is dead Richard Bolton of Cheltenham redeems the mortgage, and all those in Party 2 share the inheritance of Robert George equally. (1850 Book 4 No 143)

It is not known which mortgage this is, it is not the £12,000 one, but it might pre-date Robert George and be one that his father Robert took out; the deed is not very explicit.

The 396 acres is the old plantation measure and belongs to Rahinstown and not to Baconstown.

22.9.2 Redemption of Rahinstown £12,000 Mortgage 4th July 1850

This deed concerns the same land and the same people as in the deed above of 27th February 1850, but the mortgage is different. This mortgage is for £12,000, which originated on 29th December 1838 between Robert George Bomford and John Martley. John Martley died on 6th November 1839; Robert George Bomford died on 11th December 1846 intestate and without issue, leaving his wife Elizabeth Bomford, now Elizabeth Beresford, a widow.

The co-heirs at law were all those in Party 2 of the February deed. Although it is not defined, the deed reads as though the lands of Dirpatrick, Arradstown, Baconstown and Rahinstown were sold to settle this mortgage. (1850 Book 10 No 38)

22.9.3 Lease of Rahinstown 20th October 1851

The landlords of Robert George Bomford’s property lease to George Douglas of Rahinstown, farmer, the land of Rahinstown consisting of 116 statute acres. The landlords (the co-heirs) consist of

1. Henry Chinnerry Justice,
   Land Agent for Dame Annette Maria Hesketh of Rufford Hall, widow
2. Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey and Frances Georgina Bolton (Bomford) his wife
3. John Southcote Mansergh of Greenane
4. Richard Bolton of Cheltenham and Jemima Letitia Bolton (Bomford) his wife
5. Susanna Margaret Martin (Bomford) of Dublin, widow
6. Louisa Tollemache of Horn House, Co Surrey. (Should be Ham House) (1852 Book 3 No 145)

22.10 Elizabeth Marries Secondly Marcus Beresford 6th June 1850

Four years after Robert George died, Elizabeth married again on 6th June 1850. Her second husband was Marcus Gervais de la Poer Beresford, and she was his second wife.

Marcus’s great-grandfather was Sir Marcus Beresford (1694 - 1763). In 1720 he was made Baron Beresford of Beresford, Co Cavan, and in 1746 he became the 1st Earl of Tyrone. His wife was the heiress of Curraghmore at Portlaw, Co Waterford, Lady Catherine De la Poer (or Power). This marriage
had been predicted in 1693 by the ghost of the bride’s uncle, John Power, to the bridegroom’s mother, Nichola, Lady Beresford, at Gill Hall on the Lagan, Co Down. This was the celebrated “Beresford Ghost Story” in which John Power and Nicola made a pact that whoever died first should appear to the other to prove that there was an after-life. John died and appeared at Nicola’s bedside and told her that he was dead and that there was an after-life. To convince her that he was a genuine apparition and not just a figment of her dreams, he made various prophecies, all of which came true; notably that she would have a son who would marry his niece, and that she would die on her 47th birthday. He also touched her wrist, which made the flesh and sinews shrink, so that for the rest of her life she wore a black ribbon to hide the place.

Curraghmore was originally the medieval castle of the La Poers who were ‘of Curraghmore’ as early as 1450, though they had been granted land in Co Waterford in the late 1100’s. They remodelled the castle shortly before 1654 but kept the original tower as part of their new house. This house was further remodelled by Sir Marcus and his son until it had become one of the most famous, and in layout unique, houses in Ireland.

Sir Marcus and Lady Catherine had three sons and six daughters.

The sons were -

1. George, 1735 - 1800, became the 1st Marquess of Waterford in 1789. He erected a copy of an ancient Irish round tower in memory of his eldest 12-year-old son who was killed when jumping his horse over the forecourt railing at Curraghmore. Later Beresfords were renowned for their dashing horsemanship; the 3rd Marquess was one of the most famous MFH’s of his time; while the sporting exploits of the three brothers of the 5th Marquess are legendary, Lord Charles Beresford the Admiral known as ‘Charlie B’, Lord William Beresford who won the VC in the Zulu War, and Lord Marcus Beresford who managed the racing stables of Edward VII and George V. George had three sons and four daughters
   a. Henry De la Poer Beresford, 1772 - 1826, the 2nd Marquess whose line continues. He had sufficient political muscle to get his younger brother John made primate of Ireland, and John in turn arranged that the primacy pass to Marcus, so that for the greater part of the 1800’s the Church of Ireland was ruled by a Beresford
   b. John George, 1773 - 1862, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland
   c. George Thomas, 1781 - 1839, became a general and a privy councillor

2. John, 1737 - 1805, was a privy councillor in both London and Dublin, and ‘Taster of the Wines in the Port of Dublin’. He was the grandfather of Marcus and one of the most powerful and influential men in Dublin.
   He was responsible for much of the present-day grandeur of Dublin, which, in relation to the other European cities in the late 1700’s, may have been less than par for the course, but it was sufficient for it to gain the name of being the second city of the British Empire. There was, of course, another side to the picture to be found in the destitution and disease-rampant older parts of the city.
   John Beresford was the Chief Commissioner of the Irish Revenue and a leading member of the Wide Streets Commission but perhaps more importantly, the credit for the improvement of the Port of Dublin was due to his influence. He remodelled the ‘Ballast Board’, which planned the new port, and it was he who initiated the North and South Walls, which retained the tidal Liffey so that the river could be dredged.
   At this time there was an absolute orgy of building, much of it on a grand scale, which was the direct outcome of the prosperity induced by the Independent Irish Parliament of the 1780’s. John Beresford was largely responsible for Carlisle Bridge, now O’Connell Bridge, he brought James Gandon from England to build the Customs House, and cleared away old buildings on either side of the new North and South Walls to give berths for ships at Eden and Burgh Quays and further downstream.
   John had 7 sons and 8 daughters, of whom the first four sons were
   a. Marcus Beresford, 1764 - 1791, married and had children but died before his father.
   b. George De la Poer Beresford, 1765 - 1841, became Bishop of Kilmore and Ardagh. He was the father of Marcus, and Marcus took over his bishopric in 1845
      i. John, 1796 - 1856, elder brother of Marcus, was Colonial Secretary of St Vincent in the West Indies.
      ii. Marcus, 1801 - 1885 Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland. (See below).
      iii. George died unmarried in 1826
      iv. and two daughters, Charlotte Mary and Frances Beresford
   c. John. Claudius Beresford, 1766 - 1846, Lord Mayor of Dublin and a Privy Councillor
   d. Charles Cobber Beresford, born 1770, whose daughter Emily married Arthur Cole-Hamilton (33.9.1).

3. William Beresford became Archbishop of Tuam and Baron Decies.
Marcus Gervais de la Poer Beresford was born on 14th February 1801, educated at Cambridge, and became a clergyman. From 1845 to 1862 he was Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and his marriage to Elizabeth Bomford was during this period. From 1862 until his death on 26th December 1885 he was Archbishop of Armagh and Lord Primate of Ireland. He died at the Palace, Armagh, and was buried in Armagh Cathedral. Not only was he the Archbishop but a Privy Councillor of Ireland and a landowner; in 1818 he owned a little over 7,500 acres, 6,200 of which was in Co Cavan, which was valued at something over £4,300.

On 25th October 1824 he married Mary, daughter of Colonel Henry Peisley L’Estrange of Moystown, King’s Co. Mary was doubly related to the Bomfords; she was the aunt of Edward L’Estrange who is to shortly marry Belinda North-Bomford; and her grandfather’s brother was Samuel L’Estrange who in 1750 married Ann Bomford, one of the daughters of Stephen the elder of Gallow. Mary died in Rome on 31st December 1845 leaving two sons and three daughters who must have been in their late teens in 1850.

The marriage to Elizabeth Bomford (Kennedy) took place on 6th June 1850. They had no children and she died ‘suddenly’ on 1st July 1870, the Archbishop lived on for another 15 years.
Chapter XXIII  Isaac introduces North-Bomfords  1815 - 1840

23.1  
David Bomford and his wife Sarah (Burtchaell) died leaving one son, Isaac an attorney of Dublin, and four daughters, Jane, Anne, Mary Elizabeth who died young, and Sarah Frances. Isaac married Jane Holdcroft of Kells in 1807 but they had no children and so, when he died in 1837, his property passed to his nephew, Isaac North the third son of his sister Anne who had married John North of Whitewell. In the terms of Isaac Bomford’s will Isaac North had to take the name of Bomford which he did, and this was the start of the lineage of the North-Bomford family of Ferrans. However before we reach that time we must first pick up the threads left from Chapter XIX.

23.1.1  Lease Ferrans  8th May 1815

Between 1. Isaac Bomford of Belvedere Place, Dublin  
2. Thomas Kingston of Cullenter, Co Meath
Isaac Bomford leases to Thomas Kingston the town and lands of Ferrans containing 167 plantation acres (270 statute) for the life of Thomas Kingston the younger aged 21, or for 31 years, at a rent of £417.14.0.
Witnessed John R North (see below)
John Hinds, both Attorneys at Law, Dublin (Book 690. Page 277 No 474228)

Isaac was living at No 9 Belvedere Place from at least 1815 to 1823, and according to Watson’s Almanack he moved out in 1824. From 1824 until he died there in 1837 Isaac was living at 43 Blessington Street. Actually the Almanack shows John Bomford living at No 43 Blessington Street at this time but deeds of 1828 and 1829 place Isaac in Blessington Street and so John must be a misprint for Isaac; in any case there is no living ‘John Bomford’ at this time. Isaac’s widow Jane lived on in Blessington Street until she died in 1840 when the house must have been sold.

Isaac may have had a second town house, 17 Dominick Street, which according to the 1836 Almanack belonged to ‘Mr Isaac Bomford’. This second house became the town house of the North-Bomfords and remained so until 1860, but more of that later.

John R. North who witnessed the deed is probably the eldest son of Isaac’s brother-in-law John North who was also an attorney in Dublin. The initial ‘R’ is not included elsewhere so he may be another North altogether, however the ‘R’ could be a mistake for ‘B’ thus making his name John Bomford North.

23.1.2  Lease -Gallow, Ferrans & Tyrrellstown  31st December 1819

Between 1. Isaac Bomford of Dublin and  
2. Antony Cooper of Dublin
Reciting 1. Lease of 3rd March 1731 in which Roger Jones of Dolanstown leases to Stephen Bomford of Gallow the land of Gallow containing 200 plantation acres (324 statute) at a rent of £88 during the life of Laurence Monaghan and thereafter at a rent of £90  
2. On 2nd May 1735 Roger Jones leased to Stephen Bomford 60 plantation acres (97 statute) of Gallow at a rent of £20.10.0 during the life of Laurence Monaghan and then £27 a year  
3. Marriage settlement of 31st March 1753 between John Bomford and Ann Forster in which Stephen leased Gallow and other lands to the trustees  
4. That Isaac Bomford on the death of his father David Bomford inherited by his father’s will the lands of Gallow, Ferrans and Tyrrellstown
Now Isaac Bomford leases to Antony Cooper the lands of Gallow, Ferrans and Tyrrellstown
(Book 747 Page 597 No 508733)

The deed was signed by Isaac Bomford and witnessed by Duke Cooper ‘Gentleman of the City of Dublin’.

23.1.3  Entail Removed on Gallow Ferrans & Tyrrellstown  1st February 1820

Between 1. Isaac Bomford of the City of Dublin and Antony Cooper of the City of Dublin  
2. John Cooper of the City of Dublin
In reference to the deed of 31st December 1819 (above) some doubts were cast upon its clarity. “All Entails, Quasi Entails, Limitations, and Restrictions” on the land were removed by Isaac Bomford (Book 749 Page 65 No 509400)

On the death of David Bomford in 1809 his son Isaac (1766 - 1837) became the owner of all the land in Gallow, Ferrans and Tyrrellstown. However in his will (19.6) David indicated that half of Ferrans...
should go to his grandson Isaac Cooper (or if he should die to his brother Duke Cooper) and that half of Tyrrellstown should go to his grandson David North (or if he should die to his brother Isaac North); the trustees for David’s will were his son Isaac Bomford and Antony Cooper. Antony Cooper can not be placed as a relation of the Coopers, but little is known about the Cooper family; since Antony was a trustee of the 1807 will it is thought that he must be of the same generation as Jane Bomford who married Duke Cooper in 1785, and perhaps her brother-in-law.

In the deed of 1819 it would appear that Isaac Bomford is handing over the land to the second of the trustees of David’s will, Antony Cooper; and that in the later deed John Cooper, the elder brother of Isaac and Duke Cooper, queried the entail and had the matter clarified so that, with the entail removed, his younger brother could inherit without difficulty.

The removal of the entail seems to have backfired on the Cooper family since Isaac Bomford was no longer tied to his father’s wishes and was able to leave the land to whomever he chose, and he chose the North family. Since we know so little of the Cooper family it is difficult to know why this happened. Isaac’s eldest sister Jane married Duke Cooper of Great Down in 1785 (16.2). Jane was still alive in 1835 but it looks as though her husband Duke had died before 1820 because it was his eldest son who raised the question of the entail in February 1820. They had three sons, John the eldest who may have inherited Great Down if it was not already sold, Isaac and Duke. They all lived in Dublin and must have had some employment there, most likely to do with the law. As the children of Isaac Bomford’s eldest sister they would have inherited in normal circumstances but Isaac chose otherwise; we simply do not know the reason. However we do know that young Isaac North was probably farming part of Ferrans at this date or a little later, certainly he was there in 1836 by which date he had built himself a house, Ferrans House, and had married and had at least three children. It is doubtful if Isaac North would have built a house if he had not known that Isaac Bomford was going to leave the land to him when he died.

We do know rather more about the North family; the eldest son John (possibly named John Bomford North) was an attorney and inherited Whitewell; the second son David was in the Royal Navy at this date and ended as a Captain, he eventually settled at Far View near Rochfort Bridge in Westmeath; the third and youngest son Isaac North was the farmer mentioned above.

Thus it does look as though Isaac North was the most suitable one to inherit Isaac Bomford’s lands.

23.1.4  Lease of Gallow & Ferrans  5th February 1829

Isaac Bomford of Blessington Street, Dublin, leased to William Maher of Gallow the lands of Gallow and Newtown Gallow and Ferrans, the lands late in the possession of Patrick Maher situated in the Parishes of Raddinstown and Gallow containing 197 plantation acres (319 statute) shown on the map drawn by James Vaughan in 1810 (missing) together with the slated house and offices (probably Gallow House) for the life of Isaac Bomford or 31 years at a rent of £475.16.6.     (Book 843 Page 86 No 565086)

After his father David died in 1809 it would seem that Isaac Bomford leased Gallow to Patrick Maher. This deed indicates that Patrick had recently died and his son (?) William continued the lease; in turn; William’s son, another Patrick, continued leasing Gallow until after 1854 (27.3); indeed Mahers remained there until the 1920’s.

William Maher, and probably the two Patricks and later Mahers, lived in Gallow House. William died in 1837 and was buried in the ruined chancel of Gallow Church, which is only a short distance southeast of the house. His massive headstone reads -

“William Maher of Gallow. He was born in the year 1779 and having discharged in the most exemplary manner all the duties of a Christian life, he died full of hope of a blessed immortality in the 58th year of his age on the 2nd July 1837”.

Incidentally although a number of Bomfords were buried in the Gallow graveyard, there appear to be no Bomford headstones.

23.2  Marriage - Isaac North & Belinda Emily Pilkington  8th October 1830

There are no deeds about this marriage, but it is well documented in Burke, which dates the marriage on 8th October 1830. The ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ states the marriage took place in 1829 and that Belinda died in 1854 which Burke places as 1852; I see no reason to doubt the more precise dates in Burke, particularly as the ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ has been proved inaccurate in a number of instances.

After their marriage they lived at Ferrans House, at least they were living there in 1836 according to the Ordnance Survey.

Isaac introduces the North-Bomfords  319
23.2.1 The Pilkington and Emerson Families

The Pilkington family is recorded in Burke, but the Grand Juries of Westmeath (1853 by John Charles Lyons) has interesting additions including the Emerson family, which have not been found elsewhere.

The family of Pilkington is of Saxon origin. At the Battle of Hastings the chief of the family fought on the side of Harold, and on his defeat he disguised himself as a mower to escape from his Norman pursuers. For this event Leonard, who, joined the First Crusade, had a mower in his crest.

In the 1600’s the family were staunch Royalists and lost much of their property in Lancashire under the Commonwealth. Richard Pilkington had to agree to adjust his estates and accepted extensive property in Co Westmeath and King’s County before 1695, and settled at Tore, Co Westmeath. The name Tore has been changed in recent times to Torr and it lies to the southeast of Tyrellspass. Richard was born in 1635 and died in 1711 leaving two sons and eight daughters; the elder son died and so the younger son succeeded Richard –

Abraham Pilkington who died the year after his father in 1712 leaving one son and four daughters.

His only son Henry Pilkington of Tore married twice, and died in 1777 leaving three sons, the eldest succeeded to Tore.

Abraham Pilkington in 1748 married Mary Shaw of Raheen, Queen’s County, and died in 1799. He had three sons and three daughters. Two of the daughters married into the North family; Sarah married Philip North an Anne married Charles North; these two North’s may be sons of Roger North of Newcastle (16.4.2) but this is not certain. The eldest son inherited.

Henry Pilkington of Tore, JP, born 1756 married firstly 19th May 1778 Frances Emilia, eldest daughter of Rev John Mulock (15.1.2) of Bellair King’s Co, (see tree below). Their children were

1. Henry Pilkington of Tore, born 1780, married 1806 and died 1865. He had children and the line continues from him to the present day. Tore House was described by Lewis in 1838 as a ‘pleasant seat’.
2. Abraham John Pilkington, Captain in the Londonderry Militia, of Kilbride Castle, Co Westmeath, married 1803 Maria, daughter of Mr McHugo of County Galway. Kilbride Castle is the original North house, which was renamed Whitewell and Pilkington may have leased it from John North, (see tree below).
   a. Homan Pilkington married firstly Jane, daughter of Mr Lambert of Co Galway. They had two children
      i. Henry Pilkington
      ii. Anna Pilkington
   b. Belinda Emily Pilkington married 1829 Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans, Co Meath, and died 1854. (These dates do not agree with Burke under ‘Bomford’, see above.) He died 10th October 1866.
3. William Lowe Pilkington, Lieutenant Royal Navy, died 1809
4. Frances Pilkington married 1797 John Swift Emerson and had one son.
   a. John Emerson of Clonshanny and Deer Park, King’s Co, born 8th March 1826, BA (TCD) 1846, married May 1850 (ML Diocese of Dublin) Mary Jane, daughter of Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans. They had eight children, but only three have been located to date (see 27.4.4). He died c1870 and she c1893
   b. Fanny Emerson, died young
   c. Elizabeth Emerson married John Roger North, the nephew of Isaac and Belinda Emily North-Bomford, and son of David North of Fairview Co Westmeath. (They inherited Far View in 1863).

Henry Pilkington of Tore married secondly in 1789 Anne Hamilton, daughter of Edward Pilkington and died in 1810, having, had another son

5. Edward Pilkington married in 1818 Eleanor, daughter of Doctor Joshua Bereton, MD, and died in 1836 having had four children.

To put the above into a tree and by following the Mulocks it is possible to tie in both Edward Bomford of Hightown and Stephen of Gallow. The tree also shows many of the Bomford cousins.
The Field Name Books of 1836 give updated information of Isaac’s properties in statute acres, and the following is an extract. ‘Mr Bomford’ is Isaac.

“Gallow 846 acres, 596 acres is the property of Mr Bomford of Dublin and has it let to Mr W. (William) Maher of Gallow House, two storied and slated, for 31 years at £2.10.0 an acre. About 250 acres (the rest of Gallow) is the estate in the possession of Mr T. Potterton of Clarkestown House, two storied and slated.”

“Ferrans 412 acres. The property of Mr Bomford of Dublin who has it let in farms of from 30 to 160 acres at £1.7.0 an acre. The largest is let to Mr I. (Isaac) North of Ferransville, a neat two-story house.”

“Signed: George A. Bennett, Lieut R.E. 7th June 1836.”

Kilglan next door to Ferrans, used to be a Bomford property, but it is not listed as such in the 1836 Field Name Book. It is possible that the 65 acres is now part of Ferrans, but it must be deleted from our list of properties.

Tyrrellstown 347 acres, remains one of Isaac’s properties but the Westmeath Name Books appear to be missing. No doubt he has it all let at, say, £1 an acre.

### 23.3.1

**Isaac Bomford’s Land**

So Isaac, living in Dublin at No 43 Blessington Street and now aged 70, therefore owned

- 596 acres of Gallow leased to William Maher of Gallow House. Part of this lease is recorded in 1829 when the letting value is listed as about £1.10.0 an acre and not £2.10.0 as recorded in the survey. In the late 1750’s Rev John Bomford leased part of Gallow at about 10/- an acre (9.6) so the survey figure is probably high.

- 412 acres of Ferrans all leased. Isaac’s nephew, Isaac North, farms about 160 acres and is living in Ferrans House or, as it was then called, Ferransville.

- 347 acres of Tyrrellstown all leased.

These 1,355 acres would give Isaac an income of between £1,800 and £2,400, depending on the letting value of Gallow, less such payments as tithes, tax, cess and so on.

### 23.3.2

**Isaac Bomford’s Houses**

Gallow House sometimes called Gallow Hill because it lies on top of a long ridge with extensive views.
Isaac introduces the North-Bomfords

Ferransville, “a neat two story slated house” occupied by Isaac North. In 1854 it was valued at £14.

The valuation figures in 1854 were for tax purposes and so were no doubt kept as low as possible. However both these houses must have been fairly small to be valued at such low figures; for comparison both Rahinstown and Oakley Park were valued at the same time at £50, more than three time the figures for Gallow and Ferrans.

Gallow House used to be the major Bomford house. Stephen the elder first lived there in 1711 or 1712 when he moved from Clonmaghan, and he died there in 1759. Then the Reverend John Bomford lived there until he died in 1776. There was then a gap of about ten years when David moved there from Dublin, and he stayed there until he died in 1809. No Bomfords appear to have lived there from that date on.

It is not known when it was built; Francis Isdell who first leased the land to the Bomfords was living there in 1709 and it was probable that he had been there since the 1600’s; however his house would not be a slated one, it was more likely to be thatched or more probably the ‘castle’ which was there in 1640. No doubt Stephen the elder made, improvements, after all he had nine children and extensive lands; it is suggested that it was he who built the two storied slated house around the 1730’s.

Gallow was pulled down during the 1960’s and a new house built on the site, but parts of the yard remain. In 2005 it was a stud farm.

Ferrans House must be comparatively new, 1836 is the first actual mention of the house when Isaac North was living there. There was no previous house of note on Ferrans. It is not known when Isaac North first took his lease of the place, but probably before he married Belinda Pilkington in 1830. If we knew his birth date we could hazard a guess as to when he started working; however we do know that he was under 21 in 1807 and so it is likely that he came of age a bit before 1820, so he may have started farming Ferrans about then, and, soon after, built the house. It is thought that young Isaac North did not pay for the house, after all he only had a lease at that time, but that the house was built by Isaac Bomford some-time during the 1820’s. This 1820 estimate also matches Burke’s Guide to Country Houses, which says of Ferrans, “a two story five bay late Georgian house with an eaved roof”. It is not suggested that the house of the 1820’s was as big as that described in Burke but that it was enlarged later, perhaps during the 1860’s (see 27.3.1).

There was a boom in country house building from around 1800 until the Famine of 1845 - 1846, and these houses are recognisable because they had features, which were rare in the 1700’s. Most were two storied; the three storey house was out of fashion and rare after about 1810. Most had roofs with over-hanging eaves and external guttering, this was a new idea and the older houses had a parapet with enclosed guttering. Most had porches, the older houses initially had none but many had them added about this time; this was probably a reflection on the improvements in the roads, which enabled people to come visiting in their carriages wearing their best clothes. The Famine hit the smaller gentry even worse than the richer families and so not only ended the boom in building but caused many country houses and estates to be sold; some of them compulsorily by order of the Encumbered Estates Court. Indeed this may well have had something to do with the fate of Cushenstown.

Ferrans House was continuously occupied by the North-Bomfords until Isaac North’s grandson, John George, died in 1965 shortly after which the place was sold. The house was deliberately burnt down by the I.R.A in 1923 (28.6.1) and rebuilt with improvements soon after; it was accidentally burnt down in 1972 and was rebuilt. Ferrans, like its neighbour Gallow, was a stud farm in 2005.

Death of Isaac Bomford 1837

Already included are two deeds of 1831 (18.6.2 and 22.2.2), which indicate that Isaac was giving up his work as an attorney when he was 65. In 1835, when he made his will, he was nearly 70. He died in 1837 at No 43 Blessington Street and was buried in the Churchyard at Gallow alongside his father and mother, David and Sarah (Burtchaell), aged 71. Although three of his sisters were alive, Isaac was the last male of his generation and the last great grandson of Colonel Laurence Bomford to die.

The following is a shortened version of his will extracted from the files of the Land Commission Offices.

Will of Isaac Bomford 12th December 1835

“I, Isaac Bomford, of the City of Dublin do make my last will and testament. Whereas I am possessed of interest in the lands of Gallow and Ferrans in Co Meath, and of Tyrrellstown in Co Westmeath, I do leave to my beloved wife, Jane Bomford, an annuity of £280 for her life to be paid from
the lands of Gallow, and £60 to be paid from the lands of Ferrans, and £60 to be paid from the lands of Tyrrellstown. (Making a total annuity; of £400).

I leave to my sisters, Jane Cooper, and Anne North, a £20 annuity each and this is to discharge any claim they may have against the land under the will of my father, the late David Bomford.

I leave to my sister Sarah Frances Coates for her natural life £40 per annum from the lands of Ferrans.

I bequeath to John Cooper, eldest son of Jane Cooper, £20 a year from Ferrans.

I bequeath to Stephen Coates, third son of Sarah Frances Coates, £40 per annum from the land of Ferrans.

I leave, subject to the above bequests, Gallow and Ferrans to my nephew John North (eldest son of Anne North) in trust for my nephew Isaac North (third son of Anne North), provided Isaac shall adopt my surname from my death and that his sons will adopt my surname. In default of such issue (sons) then the property shall be passed to John Coates, second son of Sarah Frances Coates.

I bequeath Tyrrellstown to John North and his heirs subject to the above annuities in trust to my nephew David North, second son of Anne North, then to Isaac North, the third son.

As for my personal property.

I bequeath to Mrs Frances Colbourn, daughter of my sister Jane Cooper, £50; to Mrs Jane Richardson, daughter of Jane Cooper, £100; to the daughter of my sister Anne North (un-named), and to the daughter of my sister Sarah Frances Coates (also un-named), £150 each; to my kinsmen, Sackville Burroughs, William Hamilton Burroughs, and James Lewis Burroughs, sons of the late Archdeacon John Burroughs, £150 each; (see 16.7.3, the children of Anne Trevor Bomford and Archdeacon Jno Newburgh Burroughs.) to John Coates, son of Sarah Frances Coates, any arrears of rent at my death by his father John Coates on the land of Brayfield (part of Ferrans) all else to my dearly beloved wife, Jane Bomford, who I appoint as sole executrix, and I direct that my remains shall be decently but privately interred in the Churchyard of Gallow close to the remains of my much respected father and mother.

Signed Isaac Bomford 19th December 1835

In the terms of the will Isaac North did take the surname Bomford (25.5) when his uncle died in 1837, and became the founder of the North-Bomford family of Ferrans and Gallow, and it is this family, which we shall follow. Tyrrellstown was passed to Isaac’s nephew David North and its future will be found in 23.7.2.

This will is an instance of how estates could become so easily encumbered with debts through no fault of the person who inherited. Before any other debts were paid Isaac and David North had to find £540 from the land to pay the bequests of their uncle Isaac. Luckily for them Isaac obviously had considered his bequests carefully since the £540 only amounted to about 20%, or perhaps 25%, of the income from the land as calculated in 23.3.1 and the full amount only had to be paid during the life of their aunt Jane, or for another three years; after 1840 the annuities amounted to about £140 until their aunts Jane and Sarah, and their mother Anne North died. However in many other less considered wills, estates were so seriously encumbered with bequests and mortgages that it might in normal circumstances be difficult to make ends meet. Thus if abnormal circumstances were to appear, as the famine of 1845 - 1846, when day to day running costs rose astronomically, the only option left to the person who inherited was to sell; this was a fairly common occurrence throughout the 1800’s in Ireland, but particularly so after the famine.

The Cooper and Coates Families

The Coates family has been covered in 19.4.3, and there is nothing to add except that the father John Coates of Bridestream House leased Brayfield consisting of about 78 acres which is part of Ferrans; there is no record of this lease but it appears that he was in arrears with his rent which in the terms of the will was lucky for his son John

Similarly the Cooper family has been covered in 16.2.1 and there is nothing to add. Both these families drop out of the picture and there is no further information about them even though there were probably grandchildren.

23.5

Probate of Isaac’s Will

August 1837

The Land Commission Offices file also includes the probate-

“3rd August 1837 Jane Bomford of 43 Blessington Street, Dublin, the widow proved for probate the effects as under £11,538.

5th August 1837 Probate granted.”

The prerogative wills also date Isaac’s death in 1837.
“Bomford Isaac, No 43 Blessington Street, Dublin, Esq., Will, 1837.”
From all this it can safely be said that Isaac died before August 1837.

23.6  Death of Jane Bomford  27th May 1840

The Dublin Almanacks record Mrs Bomford (Jane) occupying No 43 Blessington Street for the years 1838, 1839 and 1840, but omit her name in 1841. No further Bomford is recorded in this house so it must have been sold on her death.

Jane’s will was lodged in the Four Courts but it is no longer available there; it must have been burnt there in the fire during the Troubles. However part of her will concerning ‘Charitable Donations’ had been extracted and filed separately. This extract reads –

“Jane Bomford of Blessington Street, City of Dublin, widow, died 27th May 1840; Probate 11th June 1840 to Henry Radcliff and Edward Kellett of Blessington Street, Esqrs.”

“I leave to the Poor of St George’s Parish £100,
to the Poor of Gallo in Co Meath £100.

Codicil: I leave to the Rev John Gregg of Bethesda Chapel £250 to be distributed amongst the Poor of Bethesda…. and another £250 to the Rev John Gregg as soon as his own Church in Gardiner Street in the City of Dublin shall be established, to be distributed by him amongst the Poor of his congregation...”

No doubt Jane was buried with her husband in Gallow Churchyard.

Paragraph 25.3.4 contains an account of ‘The Big Wind’ of 6th January 1839. A few days before the Big Wind the Bethesda Chapel in Dorset Street was partially burnt down; it was thought that the fire was out but the Big Wind fanned some still glowing embers and the Chapel was completely destroyed that night. This turned into a major incident as sparks from the burning chapel landed on neighbouring houses, many caught fire and at least one was totally destroyed. At one stage it was feared that the wind would spread the flames and destroy the whole area, as had happened in the Great Fire of London in 1666, so the military were turned out; luckily the wind eased and they were able to contain the fire. It may well be this conflagration, which prompted Jane’s donation of £250 to the poor of Bethesda.

The reason behind the donation to the poor of St George’s Parish might be because of the structural failure of St George’s Church. St George’s was one of the finest churches in Dublin at that time and had not been completed until 1813; it was given an enormous roof span of 65 feet but the architect, Francis Johnston, had failed to give it sufficient support and it nearly collapsed in 1836; it was only saved by the insertion of iron arches which operation was completed in 1840. This church was more likely to have been Jane’s church as it was just round the corner from Blessington Street at the end of Hardwicke Street.

23.7  The North Family  1835 - 1896

Before continuing with Isaac and Belinda Emily North-Bomford’s family, it is convenient if we complete what is known about his two brothers and sister who carried on with the surname of just ‘North’.

Burke records that the children of Anne (Bomford) and John North were

1. David, married Catherine, daughter of J. Pim, and had issue.
2. Isaac North-Bomford of Gallow. (we shall return to his family later)
3. John, married Ellen, daughter of Robert Barbour of Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath, and had issue.”

Isaac’s will of 1835 states that John was the eldest son, David the second and Isaac the third son; the will also records a daughter but she is not named. Thus the order in Burke is wrong though the other details as far as they go are correct.

John North, the eldest son, must have been born about 1790 to agree with the 1807 will (19.6) when he was ‘under 21’. There are no additional details of his marriage to Ellen Barbour, nor have any references come to light about their children, or the Barbour family.

John is referred to as ‘of Whitewell’ which he must have inherited from his father and occupied the place in 1854, though the place was leased in 1838 to ‘A. Grose Esq.’. He is also referred to as an attorney. His full name might have been John Bomford North (see 23.1.1).

In contrast to John we know much about the second son’s family since David North’s will of 1860 has been found. Like John, David was a minor in 1807 so was probably born about 1792. His marriage to Catherine Pim must have taken place before about 1817 because his third son was born in 1820. It must have been during these early days that he joined the Royal Navy; he was a Captain when he
Isaac introduces the North-Bomfords

retired and indeed he may have met the Pim family whilst serving in the navy. There is no firm
information about the Pims family, but there was a Pim family in Mountmellick which is about twenty
miles south of Fairview and Catherine, daughter of J. Pim, might have been one of these Pim’s; if so she
was a Quaker since this Pim family helped to found the Quaker settlement of Mountmellick. David died
at Fairview (or Far View), Rochfort Bridge, Co Westmeath, on 22 March 1863 when he must have been
about 71.

The third son was Isaac North who took the name North-Bomford and so inherited his uncle’s
estates of Gallow and Ferrans, but more of this later in Chapter 27.

Lastly there is the unnamed daughter who was mentioned in Isaac Bomford’s will and received
£150. All that we know of her is that she was alive in 1835 and was aged about 35 and unmarried.

Will of David North

This is an abridged version extracted from the Land Commission Offices. Much of the will was
duplicated and placed with the Bomford documents.

“My last Will and Testament.

I, David North of Fairview, Rochfort Bridge, Co Westmeath, do make my last will and testament.

I request that as soon as possible after my decease my executors will dispose of all my stock and
other property, except for those articles of furniture my wife, Catherine North, might wish to retain for
her own use, and the proceeds be invested and the interest be paid to my wife during her life and also the
profit rent arising out of the lands of Fairview, and after her death the said profit rent to my son John
North free of all incumbrances. It is my desire that my wife Catherine may dispose of any sum during her
life not exceeding £100.

I leave to my son David B. North £50 and my watch
I leave to my son Joseph P. North £100.
I leave to my daughter Elizabeth Trotter £100.
I leave to my son Roger North £5
and I leave to my son Isaac B. North 1/-
If there be any sum over, it should be at my wife’s disposal as my residual legatee
I appoint my wife Catherine North with my son John North as executor
Signed 16th November 1860 David North
Witnessed John Johnston of Rochfort Bridge
William Hill of Newtown”

By way of a codicil I desire to make the following statement.

“In the year 1851 my son Isaac Bomford North’s pecuniary circumstances having become
embarrassed, I came forward and rescued him from the painful position into which he had recklessly
plunged himself, and by so doing deprived myself and family of all my means and resources in cash
investments and insurances. For full particulars of this very sad transaction I refer my representatives to
my son John, and to my esteemed friend Mr William Gibson who acted as my solicitor at the execution of
certain legal documents, by my unfortunate son Isaac, by which deeds or documents he assigned over his
life interest in the property he becomes entitled to after my death; and I hereby record as my wish and
desire that if hereafter any sum or sums should be recovered in consequence of the above assignment, and
that the same comes to the hands of my executor such sum or sums so recovered be divided in equal
shares amongst my children then alive, with the exception of my son Isaac to whom I bequeath one
shilling.”

Dated, signed and witnessed as above.

These documents further state that David North died at Fairview, Co Westmeath, on the 22nd
March 1863; and probate was granted to John North of Garville Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin, on 7th May
1863 with the sum of under £3,000.

Tyrrellstown

The Land Commission has a number of deeds concerning Tyrrellstown together with a schedule
of documents, most of which are missing. It is from these that we can follow to a limited extent the life of
the eldest son, Isaac Bomford North who got into the money difficulties mentioned in his father’s will.

The origin of Tyrrellstown is a mystery, it suddenly appears in 1724 as a property of Stephen of
Gallow, but it may have been in Stephen’s hands as early as 1700 or, indeed, it may have been Colonel
Laurence’s even before then.

In 1753 it was part of the marriage settlement of Stephen’s son, the Rev John on Stephen’s death
in 1759 it was passed to John who died in 1776. John died intestate and the land was divided between his
younger brothers, David and Isaac, who may have been twins. Isaac died in 1793 and left his half share to David’s son Isaac; so Isaac possessed the whole 347 acres when his father David died in early 1810. It is at this point that the history of Tyrrellstown can be followed in the Land Commission papers.

Isaac Bomford’s will of 1835 is referred to, and in it Tyrrellstown was passed to his nephew, David North.

David North’s will of 1860 is also mentioned in the schedule of deeds and the schedule states that the land became the property of David North’s eldest son, Isaac Bomford North, the son who got into money difficulties. There is no mention of Tyrrellstown in the actual will, perhaps because it was entailed and that the entail was not broken in spite of the deeds of 1819 and 1820, which appeared to remove the entail.

According to the schedule Isaac North Bomford died on 17th May 1886 and Tyrrellstown was passed to his eldest son, also Isaac Bomford North. There are three further deeds.

**Disentailing Deed of Tyrrellstown** 10th June 1887

In this deed Isaac Bomford North Junior, in order to defeat the entail created in the will of Isaac Bomford, his great great grand uncle, granted to James Sweeney the land of Tyrrellstown containing 214 plantation acres (347 statute) forever.

**Mortgage - Tyrrellstown** 15th October 1894

Isaac Bomford North Junior mortgaged the land for £1,550 to Henry Willis and conveyed the land to him.

**Assignment of Tyrrellstown** 2nd April 1896

Isaac Bomford North Junior assigned the land to Alfred Henry Collier.

It is not certain whether this is really the end of Tyrrellstown but nothing further is mentioned or has been discovered. For the record Tyrrellstown has been removed as a Bomford property in 1896, though perhaps it should have been removed in 1835 on the death of Isaac Bomford.

23.7.3 David North’s Children.

1. Isaac Bomford North, the eldest son, ran into debt in 1851 when he was about 33 and had to be subsidised by his father. To do so his father had to sell everything and so Isaac was cut off with a shilling. According to the documents he went to Australia in 1852. On 3rd April 1861 he married Sarah Sexton and had, amongst other children, an eldest son who was given the same name as his father, Isaac Bomford North. This son was born on 22nd June 1866 at Hibernian Lead, Rutherglen, in the Australian State of Victoria. Without knowing anything about this place it does sound as though it was a mining town, and Isaac Bomford North senior may have been working at the mines. He died 17th May 1886 when he was aged about 68.

2. The second son was John Roger North who was an executor of his father’s will and inherited his property, including Fairview the family home. It would appear that the name ‘Fairview’ has been changed in recent maps to ‘Far View’, perhaps it was always Far View; it is about half a mile to the west of Rochfortbridge and about 2½ miles north of the Pilkington’s house of Torr. During the 1850’s John married Elizabeth Emerson, born c1830, the sister of John Emerson who married Mary Jane North-Bomford in 1850. In 1863 when he was about 45 he and Elizabeth were living in Garville Avenue, Rathgar, Dublin, and he must have had some employment in Dublin. 1863 was the year his father died and he came into Fairview; he may not have lived there since, at the time of his death sometime between 1866 and 1871, he was living at Glasthule, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) Co Dublin.

3. David Bomford North was educated at Trinity and the records show that he was born in 1820, got his BA in 1851, became a Bachelor of Medicine in 1853 and, one assumes, practiced as a doctor. The birth date of 1820 is one of the few firm dates there are and from it we can estimate the birth dates of his brothers and the date his parents married. He was alive in 1866 and appears to have inherited Fairview from his brother, but it is not known when he died or if he married.

4. All that we know about the fourth son, Joseph Pim North, is that in 1878 he was a JP and living at Moate in King’s County.

5. Elizabeth the daughter came next in the will. It is not clear whether Trotter is her Christian name or whether she had married a Mr Trotter before 1860, probably the latter.

6. Roger North is the youngest. He only got £5 in his father’s will, which seems a very small amount. Perhaps he too blotted his copybook, or perhaps it is a mistake for £50, a more likely figure.
The sequence of David’s children is taken from his will but there is no guarantee that David wrote them down in the correct order, although that was the usual procedure, and there may have been other children not mentioned in the will.

23.8 Summary of the North Family

Anne Bomford, born c1764, married September 1786 John of Whitewell, Co Westmeath, eldest son and heir of Roger North of Whitewell. John probably died some years before 1835, Anne was alive in 1835. Their children were:

1. John (? Bomford) North, of Whitewell, born c1790, Attorney, married Ellen, daughter of Robert Barbour of Tyrellspass, Co Westmeath, and had children (no details).
2. David North of Fairview, Rochfortbridge, Co Westmeath, born c1792, Captain Royal Navy, married c1817 Catherine, daughter of J. Pim, died at Fairview 22nd March 1863 having had six children:
   a. Isaac Bomford North, born c1818, emigrated to Australia 1852, and there married 3rd April 1861 Sarah Sexton. He died 17th May 1886 having had one son and other children
      Isaac Bomford North, born 22nd June 1866 at Rutherglen, Victoria
   b. John Roger North, born c1819, inherited Fairview 1863, married Elizabeth Emerson whose brother married Mary Jane North-Bomford. He died between 1866 and 1871 probably without children since Fairview passed to his younger brother.
   c. David Bomford North, born 1820, BA Trinity 1851, Bachelor of Medicine 1853, inherited Fairview and died after 1868
   d. Joseph Pim North of Moate, King’s Co, born c 1822, JP 1878
   e. Elizabeth Trotter, born c1824, alive 1860
   f. Roger North, born c1826, alive 1860
3. Isaac North-Bomford, c1791 - 1866, married 1830 Belinda Emily Pilkington c1804 - 1852. (See Chapter 27)
4 Daughter, alive and unmarried in 1835.
George and his younger brother Samuel were left in the care of the Winters of Agher when their parents died in 1814/5. They both went to Trinity; Samuel left without a degree but George got his BA in the summer of 1832, the year he came of age. That same year, on the 23rd July, he married his cousin Arbella, the youngest daughter of his guardian John Pratt Winter and his wife Anne Winter. Arbella was nine months older than George and they had been brought up together at Agher.

### 24.1 Marriage Settlement - George Bomford & Arbella Winter

**21st July 1832**

Between

1. George Bomford of Drumlargan
2. Myles O’Reilly of Millcastle, Co Westmeath, and Richard Winter Reynell of Killynon, Co Westmeath (Trustees)
3. George Lucas Nugent of Castle… (? cord), Co Westmeath, and Thomas Barnes of Westland, Co Meath (Trustees of the land)
4. John Pratt Winter of Agher, Co Meath and Arabella Winter, spinster, daughter of John Pratt Winter.

Reciting

1. A marriage is about to take place between George Bomford and Arbella Winter. The sum of £2,000, being the marriage portion of Arbella, has been paid by John Pratt Winter to the trustees, Myles O’Reilly and Richard Winter Reynell. This was the amount in the marriage settlement of her parents, John Pratt Winter and Anne Winter, for the younger children of the marriage.
2. George Bomford hands over in trust to the trustees, Myles O’Reilly and Richard Winter Reynell, the lands of -
   - Drumlargan, otherwise Balldungan or Dunganstown,
   - Orneltown or Edenstown, Part of Clonlyon,
   - Knock or Knockturin, and
   - Part of Monaloy or Moneloy, all in Co Meath,
   - Clonfad in Co Westmeath.

All these lands being free from any incumbrances except for £4,000 according to the marriage settlement of George’s father dated 1st March 1809, which is due to the only younger son, Samuel Bomford.

The trust is to produce, on George’s death, an annuity to Arbella of £300

3. The lands are entailed to the trustees in party three, being George Lucas Nugent and Thomas Barnes, for 300 years to pass to the eldest son; but George has the power to give Clonfad to the second son.

4. The sum of £4,000 is to be set aside and divided between the younger children, (see note below).

Witnessed

Rev John Kellett, Rector of Agher, and
Francis Savage of Ballymadum, Co Dublin. (Book 886 Page 358 No 586858)

This deed and others refer to both ‘Arbella’ and ‘Arabella’. However George always spelt his wife’s name ‘Arbella’ and this must be the correct spelling.

The marriage settlement is particularly difficult to follow because not only does this George Bomford marry Arbella Winter but his father George Bomford also married Arbella Winter; as a result there are two pairs of ‘George and Arbella’ and the deed does not make it clear to which pair it is referring. Luckily this deed is partially quoted in later ones and so hopefully it is right with the possible exception of the last paragraph concerning the £4,000 for the younger children. George the elder certainly set aside £4,000 and I think so also did George the younger; in fact, as will be seen later, the younger children got more than £4,000.

In spite of the statement in the marriage settlement concerning Arbella’s £2,000 from her parent’s marriage settlement, it would appear that she did not receive the money until 1867 as the following deed relates.

### Settlement on Arbella Bomford

**30th December 1867**

Between

1. George Bomford, senior, of Oakley Park,
and Arbella Bomford, otherwise Winter, his wife.
2. George Bomford, surviving trustee of the marriage settlement of 4th February 1834 (between Arbella’s sister Elizabeth and Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield, 20.6)
3. Francis Winter (Arbella’s brother) of 49 Waterloo Street, Brighton, England, late Major in the Bengal Army, sole executor of the late Margaret Winter deceased (another of Arbella’s sisters, 20.6)
4. James Saunderson Winter of Agher (nephew of Arbella who had inherited Agher the previous month).

Reciting the marriage settlement of 15th July 1794 (between Arbella’s parent John Pratt Winter and Anne Gore) in which Samuel Winter (Arbella’s grand-father) and John Pratt Winter granted to James King and Robert Reynell (of Edmonton, Westmeath, brother-in-law of Samuel) as trustees the lands of Castletown and Kinnitty in the Barony of Ballybril, King’s County, to raise, £6,000 for the children of the marriage.

Now the settlement has been paid and Arbella Bomford has received £1,834 as her portion.

Witnessed John Barnes of Stephen’s Green, Dublin, solicitor

(1868 Vol 7 No 227)

24.1.1 Marriage of George and Arbella 23rd July 1832

The marriage took place at Agher Church and, although the Rector of Agher, John Kellett, would have been there, the actual ceremony was carried out by Arbella’s uncle, the Rev Francis Pratt Winter.

Francis was 61, had retired and was then living at Agher. The Agher Parish Register reads -

“George Bomford of Drumlargan, Esq., married to Miss Arabella Winter, youngest daughter of John Pratt Winter of Agher, at Agher, 23rd July 1832 by Rev Pratt Winter.”

This must have been a large family wedding, but George’s only immediate relation was his brother Samuel who was surely his ‘best man’. It would have been a Winter orientated wedding because not only were John Pratt and Anne the parents of Arbella but also the foster-parents of George. However there were many Bomford cousins, and those living near-by might include

Robert George and Elizabeth of Rahinstown,

Frances Georgina and Richard Bolton of Bective, together with George’s only living aunt, Maria (Massy-Dawson) Bomford, who was living with them at Bective,

Jemima Letitia then engaged to Richard Bolton of Brook Lodge,

Isaac North and Belinda Emily of Ferrans, the other North relations were further away in Westmeath,

The Coates family of Bridestream House near Kilcock, and the Mockler cousins from near Trim.

All these would have an easy carriage ride to Agher, and even those from Westmeath could travel comfortably on the Royal Canal. Some of the Bomford houses were fairly empty, for instance Rahinstown and Ferrans, and these could take guests from further afield, like the Mansergh’s from Grenane in Tipperary or even the Hesketh’s and Tollemache’s from England or the Martins from Germany. All of these were much the same age as George and Arbella, and most had only recently married so an excuse to visit home again and meet the family might be very welcome.

Of the Winters, those living at Agher included Arbella’s parents, her uncle Francis Pratt who married them and, possibly, her aunt Anna Maria; her brother Samuel and his wife Lucy were living with their four young children at Tullyard near Trim, though her other brothers, John Pratt soon to marry and even Francis of the East India Company, may have been at Agher. Her sister Elizabeth would have been at home, but Anna Maria was living in Co Cavan with her husband, William Humphry of Ballyhaise. Finally there were the children of Frances Rose, George’s cousin, and her husband Samuel Winter, Arbella’s uncle, who had both died late in the previous year; these children were being looked after by their aunt Anna Maria Winter and were living either in Dublin or at Agher; the eldest child, Mary Winter, was 18 and may have been a bridesmaid.

It is likely that the marriage settlement was signed at Agher so those who were party to it would have been at the wedding. They included Richard Winter Reynell whose grandmother was Jane Winter, a great aunt of Arabella; Thomas Barnes married Margaret Reynell, Richard’s aunt; the Rector of Agher was the Rev Kellett who was a brother-in-law to both Thomas Barnes and Richard Winter Reynell, so the Kelletts, the Barnes and the Reynells were all second cousins to Arabella and George. I have not been able to locate George Lucas Nugent, but the Nugents and the Reynells were intermarried a number of times, and even Francis Savage was related to the Nugent’s. Both the Reynells and the O’Reilly families occur later in this chapter.

The marriage settlement shows ‘George of Drumlargan’ but they did not live in the house. Drumlargan House, then called Bloomfield, was occupied by Mr Purdon and four years later the 1836 survey states that “it is occupied by a herd”. It is uncertain just where they lived after the wedding but it is clear from the next entry, George’s account book, that they were in a house on their own; perhaps there was a spare house on the Agher estate in which they lived until they moved to Oakley Park and it may have been Clarkestown House if it had been repaired after the fire of 1829.
The first entry is dated 17th December 1832 and all receipts and debits for the next two years are included. In December 1834 comes the entry

“Closed in December 1834. Re-opened 24th October 1849 at Oakley Park being the 36th year of our reign and the 38th year of our age and having been at Oakley Park 12 years and 19 days.
(Signed) Geo Bomford Secondu.”

His ‘reign’ started when he was two when his father died, but the most important date we get from this is 5th October 1837 when the family arrived at Oakley Park.

There are no noteworthy entries after October 1849 and very few of them. However various items have been collected together from the two years December 1832 to December 1834 and from these we get a limited but interesting insight into their way of life, and the social life of the time.

George did not have a house in Dublin at this time. The Almanacks mention him occasionally-

1834 (only) Agher, Summerhill, Co Meath.
1836 - 1844 Drumlargan, Summerhill, Co Meath
1842 onwards Oakley Park, Kells, Co Meath.
1847 (only) No 4 Fitzwilliam Square North, Dublin, with a valuation of £125; this is the only mention of a town house and it was during the famine (25.8).

During these two years, 1832 - 1834, Arbella had two children, both born in Dublin, Anne on 13th September 1833 and George Winter on 12th November 1834. It is not known where they were baptised, not at Agher, as were four later children. These two visits to Dublin are not mentioned in the account book although other visits are when they stayed in hotels. It is therefore likely that the children were born in the town house of one of their relations, either Winter or Bomford.

Doctor Trotter of Summerhill (20.10) figures throughout these two years and also, less frequently, Doctor Turner. No doubt Doctor Turner lived in Dublin and had to do with the birth of the children.

Payments were made to Arbella, on average a little less than £5 a week, for housekeeping but there were also entries for vegetables, bread, fowl, eggs, meat, herrings and so on, so the £5 may have been pin-money. All this indicates a house with no garden; milk was bought and even ‘asses milk, £1’, so there were no cows either.

Beer may have been home brewed, ‘beer corks, 3/6’. The only hard liquor mentioned is a ‘bottle of brandy, 4/6’, and this in two years points to medicinal use rather than tippling. George certainly drank for there was an extensive cellar in Oakley Park, but maybe only with guests.

There were at least two servants who went with them to Oakley Park, John Priest who I think of as the coachman, and Warren whose Christian name was never entered and who was perhaps their cook or Arbella’s maid, or even the nurse for the children. Biddy Keeffe was mentioned by name a few times and it was thought at first that she was also a servant, but one entry reads

“to Biddy Keeffe for papers, 10/-” so she may have had the local shop. All these received payments for ‘sundries’.

All George’s land was leased. He does not become a serious farmer until he moves to Oakley Park, and at this date he even had to buy hay for the horses.

Myles O’Reilly, George’s solicitor, was still looking after George’s affairs. The largest receipt for £1,300 was ‘from Myles O’Reilly for Mrs Dopping and Brian’, the Doppings leased Clonfad.

The Rev Francis Winter rented land, probably the same part of Drumlargan, which he had when George was a minor; but now the rent has almost doubled, being £226.16.2½ for the half year. However money was also paid ‘to Rev F. P. Winter, 23rd April, £500’ and no reason has been spotted for this large debt, more than the whole year’s rent.

There were other large receipts of rent and interest. One dated 5th May 1834 reads ‘from B P W for Knockturin etc, £515.13.6’. BPW must be George’s brother-in-law, Benjamin Pratt Winter, who later emigrated to Australia and died there in 1844; Benjamin did not lease the land because the tenants of Knockturin (Knockstown) were the same in the 1820’s as they were in 1854, but he may have been George’s agent for Knockstown and the other properties in that area.

Surplus money was ‘lodged with French’. No check has been made but French must be a banker, perhaps at Kilcock the nearest market town.

Arbella must have had a flower garden. The back of the account book contains a long pencilled list of flowers and shrubs. These may have been for the start of the Oakley Park flower-knot and shrubbery, but some seed and plants were bought before they moved, for instance ‘Polyanthus 3/-’. 

George the Younger comes of age
There was also an aviary. There was a parakeet, seeds for Polly -/6, and goldfinches, seeds -/8, and greenfinches, 3 for 1/-, the cages cost £2.18.0. They also had bantams outside.

In the summer of 1834 there was a blitz on bird pests, perhaps because Arbella was having difficulty with her new garden; two scarecrows at 1/- each, nine magpies at 1/- each, two jackdaws and three ravens at 6d each. The most interesting entry concerns hawks, which are now quite scarce; scattered through that summer are a number of hawk entries which total to no less than 26 hawks killed at 5d each. This large number of hawks show that there must have been much more small wildlife about then. One reason to account for the many small mammals was the appalling state of sanitation in those days around the cottages. Any kitchen waste was simply throw out of the door onto the midden; indeed the manure heap was often across the only door and the Halls comment in their “Tour of Ireland of 1840” that stepping stones were laid so that one climbed up and over the manure heap to get to the door of the cottage. The Halls also complained that the manure seeped onto the floor of the cottage. It was only beginning to be appreciated that this was a health hazard which accounted for much decease and infant mortality, something which had been realized by the Winters who at the beginning of the century had built new stone and slate cottages for their workers and which George was soon to do at Drumlargo.

The age of the horse is well shown. One of George’s horses was aptly named Beelzebub, ‘blisters for Beelzebub, 2/6’, and was sold on “15th December for £13.17.8”. 6d was the normal tip given to the ‘boy for holding horse’; a sixpenny tip was given for the same job in Kells during the 1939 - 1945 war.

There are more than a dozen entries for ‘turnpikes’ ranging from 2d to 5/-, and totalling 19/1; the Maynooth turnpike cost 1/1 ½ and the Dublin one 2/1½d. At this time the roads in Ireland compared very favourably with the best roads of England, indeed many contemporary visitors were full of praise for the Irish roads. Other horsey items included, rug for carriage 18/-, horse shoeing 15/-, post boy 2/-, hostler 2/6, postillion 3/- and they got another 6d if the horse was fed.

‘Passage on boat’ at 2/9 with cabin boy 6d occurs four times in 1834. This must be the Royal Canal boat, which could take the family very conveniently, and comfortably into Dublin or Maynooth from Ferrans Lock, or the other way into Westmeath to Killucan Lock which is just north of Clonfad. Lunch cost 1/- on the boat. Most of the canal boats carried goods but in the early 1800’s a passenger service was started on boats “about 35 feet long having a raised cabin, its roof forming a deck to walk upon we slipped through the water in the most delightful manner imaginable, at the rate of four miles an hour”, Sir John Carr writing in 1805. Faster boats, named Flyboats, were introduced in the 1830’s and carried 46,000 passengers on the Royal Canal in 1836; they took a little under five hours into North Dublin from Ferrans Lock.

On the social side the 17th December 1834 Christmas ‘Ball at Trim’ cost 10/6. These balls were common throughout the country, particularly in the garrison towns like Trim and Kiltiock, and gave the opportunity to meet friends from further a field, and George and Arbella had many around Trim and beyond. They were usually held in the ‘Assembly Rooms’ and some like those in Trim were very successful and went on for a number of years. There was a ball each night during the Trim Race Week; Trim was particularly famous for its race meetings which were first promoted in the 1750’s by Chichester Fortescue, son-in-law of the 1st Lord Mornington who lived with him at Dangan Castle (1.8.2), and by Lord Hercules Langford Rowley of Summerhill (2.11.2). the importance of the former Trim races, (they ceased in 1915), can be gauged from the places the bloodstock came from, since they were compelled to make the arduous trek on foot to Trim, and they came from all parts of the country including Belfast and Cork.

Arbella made at least two visits in February and July 1834 to Killynon, the home of Richard and Frances Reynell. She also visited Tullaghad a few times where her brother Samuel and Lucy Winter lived. To make these visits worthwhile they probably lasted a few days, and no doubt they were returned though there is no mention of this in the account book. Both these families were about the same age as George and Arbella and they had also started their young families, so there was much in common.

Three nights in February 1832 were spent in Dublin, hotel and servant 18/-, and again in July for two nights, hotel etc £1.7.1½ these were not shopping trips, there were no other purchases, so they must have been social and it is interesting that even then hotel charges were seasonal. There were no away trips in 1833, although Anne was born in September in Dublin, but in 1834 there was a longer holiday to Dublin and Enniskerry, and back to Dublin again. ‘Porters at Gresham’s 1/-’, the Gresham Hotel had recently been opened and charged £5.7.0 for an unspecified number of nights, plus 6d for a bath. They went to the ‘Zoological’ where the entrance fee was ‘6d for 3’; the Zoo had opened the previous summer. They took horses to Enniskerry which cost 6/- and the hotel there cost £3.19.8. Then they went to somewhere else where they stayed from August 20th to 27th and the hotel cost £17.7.10. They returned to Dublin where the hotel cost £6.2.0. They must have gone to church because the plate got 1/- or 6d each, and they went to the College Museum (1/-) and to the College of Surgeons (1/-). They also bought a
George the Younger comes of age

24.3 George’s Commission as a Justice of the Peace 7th November 1834

It was not long before George took his place as a county gentleman, and in November 1834 he was created a JP for County Meath and remained so until he died. Much of the Biblical language has been omitted.

“William the Fourth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth to our right trusty and right entirely beloved ... (long list of names) ...

and George Bomford, of Agher, near Summerhill, Esquire, greetings, know ye, that reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Fidelity, Prudence and Care, have appointed, and by these Presents Do appoint You and every of You jointly and severally our Justices to Keep Our Peace in our County of Meath to Chastise and Punish all Persons offending against all manner of Treasons, Murders, Manslaughters, Burnings, unlawful Assemblies, Felonies, Robberies, Witchcrafts, Incantments, Sorceries, Magic Arts, Trespasses, Forestallings, Regratings, Engrossings, and Extortions whatsoever (and much more in like vein) . . . .

Signed for Meath Richard, Marquis Wellesley
Signed and sealed George, Earl of Granard, Our Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland, at Dublin, the seventh day of November in the fourth year of our Reign.”

The long list of JP’s has been omitted but they were all major landowners spread throughout the county, and George as the newly appointed JP is listed last. Relations include Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown, George’s first cousin, John Pratt Winter of Agher, George’s father-in-law and ex-guardian, Richard Bolton of Bective Abbey, husband of George’s first cousin Frances, Samuel Winter of Tullaghard, George’s brother-in-law,

John Mockler of Trim who might be a son of George’s aunt Margaret (Bomford). Thomas Barnes of Westland, no relation but a trustee of George’s marriage settlement.

Given the Vote

In 1832, when he came of age, George was given the vote as a land-owner. There were a number of limitations to those who could vote, one being that they had to have a 20-year leasehold. I have not found a list of the Meath voters on which George would be included, but he could vote also in Westmeath and the extract under the Barony of Farbill reads

“Bomford, George, Agher, Lands Clonfad, (value £) 50, (and in the remark column) Stand over.”

Clonfad was held freehold so there was no entry in the Landlord column.

Grand Jury Member

In 1845 George was made a member of the Meath Grand Jury and appears to have been a member for most, if not all, of the rest of his life. He was probably the last Bomford to be a member of the Grand Jury, since it was replaced by County Councils in Balfords’s Local Government Act of 1898.

Road Supervisor

In 1841 when he bought Oakley Park he also took over responsibility for the upkeep of the road to the south and west, from the crossroads at Dulane to the back road to Mullagh past the old farmyard up to the border with Maperath. The main road past Oakley Park from Moynalty to Mapes Bridge was the responsibility of Thomas Barnes of Westland. There was a footpath, if not two, all along this main road until comparatively recently when the road was widened.

There is much to be said for maintaining your own local road, at least the potholes would be filled or the neighbours would complain. Gravel had to be spread constantly or they would be cut up by the narrow iron-shod cartwheels. The local supervisor had to find the gravel, which is plentiful in Meath, and would use his own labour; expenses were covered and paid at the Lent Assizes.

24.4 Letter from Myles O’Reilly 5th October 1832

Myles’ affairs as a solicitor were being wound up. He was involved with the purchase of Drumlargan and must have been the solicitor to the two Georges for over 40 years. It is not known how old he was but his father, another Myles of Dublin, had died in 1775 and so this Myles must be over 60.
However he is still active and indeed the letter says that he is off to Clonfad shortly. Myles hands over George’s affairs to Samuel Arthur Reynell of Archerstown, and this letter starts concerning the transfer of all the deeds and documents. There is a schedule of documents amongst the papers which must be the consequence of this hand over, but Myles refuses to hand the documents direct to Samuel Reynell “for I never deliver deeds etc to any person but the person to whom they belong”. He goes on to say that “there are some of them I must retain until Dopping’s affairs are disposed of”.

Dopping’s Affairs

The Dopping family first occurs in the papers of October 1757 concerning the lease of Culmullin, and there (9.3.6) will be found their family tree which ends with Samuel Dopping, 1761 - 1821, and the children of his brother Ralph of Erne Head; Ralph’s second son Henry Dopping, 1801 - 1883, married in 1836 Frances Bomford-Jessop a grand-daughter of Thomas Bomford of Clounstown (14.2). In 1794 Samuel Dopping succeeded to his father’s property except for that in Co Longford, Erne Head and Derrycasson, which went to Ralph. Samuel lived at Lowtown, a ‘richly wooded demesne’ in 1836 which was sited between Clonfad and Hightown, which used to belong to Edward Bomford; in 1807 he extended his farmland by leasing 374 acres of Clonfad from George the elder.

It would appear that Samuel’s marital status was suspect; according to Burke he died unmarried but he had a son, Antony John, born in 1791 by a woman named Kenny, and then he formed a connection with Anne Kelly whom he later married; he had several children by her including one named, William. William married the second daughter of the Rev Cecil Crampton of Killucan, Jane Crampton, in 1843 and then moved abroad somewhere, perhaps to Australia. Samuel died in 1821 and in his will he left most of his land to his eldest son Antony John but he left the house and land of Lowtown to William. Antony John had been living at the Dopping House, Culmullen House ‘an elegant residence’ east of Summer Hill. However, the will was alleged to have been a forgery and the case came before the Trim Assizes in 1824 when the jury found for Antony John. Meanwhile Antony John married in 1823; sometime after 1838 he too went abroad and died in Australia. Some of the property was sold in 1849 and the rest in 1851. (Source ‘The Grand Juries of Westmeath’)

It was with this background in mind that we can see why Myles O’Reilly wanted to hold onto some of the documents about ‘Dopping’s affairs’ and why some of George’s land at Clonfad was sub-let. Myles says “on reading the lease made to Mr Dopping I find that there is no covenant in against subletting, indeed in dealing with a gentleman of rank and property I did not think it likely that such a covenant should be introduced”. This would be the 1801 lease of Clonfad for 31 years, which will expire in 1838. No more is heard of this matter so no doubt Myles sorted it all out.

Samuel’s Inheritance.

Another reason for holding the documents is that “it is right I should inform (you) that there is a question remaining between you and your brother (Samuel) respecting debts paid off by your mother affecting your estate”. There are no other clues concerning this reference, but there are a number of possibilities; the money could be Samuel’s legacy of £4,500 from the case ‘Bomford versus Hamilton’ mentioned in Arbella’s will (18.9.3), or his other legacy of £4,000 from his father’s marriage settlement (18.8.4), or, more likely, the balance of the payment due on Drumlargan which their mother paid just before she died. Whatever the occasion some of Samuel’s money had been used by his mother Arbella to pay some debt due on what is now George’s property.

Payment to Myles O’Reilly.

A thorny point made by Myles is that “Mr Reynell also called upon me to furnish your costs, this induces me to think that you are not satisfied with the proposals I made to you thro Mr Winter nearly a year ago...”. He goes on to say that he will do so but that the work will be ‘very voluminous’ and ‘if I mistake not, will considerably exceed the sum I offered to take’. It is clear in the next letter that the original offer of £1,000 costs was accepted by George.

Clonfad Land Burnt

Possibly as a result of the Dopping problems and the sub-letting of Clonfad, some ‘malcontents’ burned the land which, judging from the date of the letter, included the harvest. Concerning this Myles says: “with, respect to the burning of your land that is severely punishable and the parties guilty are subject to a penalty of £10 for every acre burned and in proportion for a lessor quantity. I have given Mr Reynell instructions what is proper to be done, in the first instance that is to get the burned lots surveyed ascertaining who burned and the exact quantity burned by each person, but in case you determined to prosecute for this offence Mr Reynell will not be able to do it, not being legally bred. I shall be in the country, please God, in two or three days time and remain until near the first of November and if he writes to me I will meet him at Clonfad and see everything properly done and prosecute the parties at Petit Sessions.” There is no further mention of this matter but I detect that Myles as an attorney
disapproves of the appointment of Reynell who is not ‘legally bred’ and who queried the matter of Myles’ costs.

24.4.1 The Last Letter from Myles O’Reilly 2nd May 1837

This letter from Myles is from “5 Margaret Place, Mt Joy Square”, now called Mountjoy Square.

“My Dear George

I have been so tormented with blisters day after day that I had it not in my power to write to thank you for the kind and handsome manner in which you have discharged your costs due to me and now that the transaction is finally closed I assure you that in the offer I made and that you accepted I took care to be under the mark. If you had been my own son I could not be more careful of your interest than I was through the whole course of your minority and since you have come of age and had I not so acted I would have been very ungrateful for your father was my warm and firm friend, no doubt he was nearly related to us but we do not always see relations in the first rank of friends.

I here enclose you my receipt for one thousand pounds bearing date the day I received it. It will always afford me sincere pleasure to find you enjoying peace; health, happiness and prosperity and if I can on occasion assist you by advice or information command me freely.

Present my best regards to Mrs Bomford and believe me to be ever most truly yours Myles O’Reilly.”

The letter was folded, sealed and sent to George at Agher. The penny postage was not introduced for another three years and in 1837 the accepted postage was four pence and the figure ‘4’ has been written in ink on the front. The reverse has the O’Reilly wax seal and a red diamond postmark. Inside the diamond is the date “2 My 2” with below ‘1837’ and above ‘4a’ which is the number allocated to one of the Dublin Post Office: The postmark of the earlier letter is similar but reads “3a - Oc 5 – 35”.

24.4.2 The O’Reilly Family

The O’Reilly family trace their ancestors back to AD 435 when St Patrick baptised the twelve sons of Brian, the 4th Milesian King of Connaught. The first O’Reilly of East Breffney appeared about 560 and there are yards of family tree, but I never spotted how Myles fitted in. Myles was a family name from early times being anglicised from the Irish “Maolmordma” in the 1600’s. However the tree of O’Reilly of Baltrasna, near Oldcastle, Co Meath, includes Thomas O’Reilly (1741-1805), who married Margaret Sibthorpe of Dunany (died 1823), a niece of Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown and daughter of Robert Sibthorpe (8.2.1). Thomas O’Reilly’s sister Mary married James O’Reilly of Millcastle, Co Westmeath. This James may well be the James of Millcastle who witnessed the 1809 marriage settlement of George Bomford and Arbella Winter (18.8.4). Since Myles, O’Reilly is recorded ‘of Millcastle’ in the 1832 deed (24.1) it is suggested that Myles and James are closely related, perhaps brothers or even father and son; that James died before 1832 without living children and left Millcastle to Myles.

The next reference about Millcastle in the O’Reilly tree concerns a grandnephew of James of Millcastle; he is Robert John (1813-79) of Millcastle. So it now seems that Myles and Georgina also had no children and willed Millcastle to Robert John. These suppositions also give substance to the contention of Myles O’Reilly that he was ‘nearly related’ to George Bomford the elder.

24.5 The Reynell Family

The Reynell family came to Ireland in the early 1600’s. Later Edmond Reynell of Dublin purchased land in Westmeath and in 1720 his son Arthur purchased Ballynegall which he renamed Castle Reynell. In 1720 Arthur married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Cooke of Cookesborough who in 1734 leased land to Laurence Bomford of Rathfeigh. Arthur’s family died out and Ballynegall was sold to and rebuilt by James Gibbons in 1808; he used the stone of the old house; in 1847 the house was passed to a nephew, J.W. M. Berry; in turn he passed it to his cousin Thomas J. Smyth in 1855, and it was sold by the Smyths in 1963. These Smyths are a branch of the Smith family who had many places around Westmeath including Violetstown. It was Anne Smith of Violetstown who married Stephen Bomford the elder of Gallow about 1720.

Arthur Reynell had two brothers and a sister. The second brother was Richard with whom I have started the family tree, and about 1720 he married another daughter of Robert Cooke, Dorcas; so two brothers married two sisters. Richard a Captain in the 5th Dragoon Guards, had fourteen children, six of whom inherited property in Westmeath – Reynella, Killynon, Woodfort, Killough, Ballinaleck and Edmonton; two of his sons, Nicholas of Reynella and Edward of Killynon, also married two sisters, Jane and Mary Winter, who were aunts to Arbella the wife of George Bomford the elder.
Nicholas Reynell of Reynella married twice and Mary Winter was his second wife; Mary had no children but his first wife, Frances Brush of Kilrush, had two boys and a girl. On the other hand Edward Reynell, a clergyman of Killynon, had five children by Jane Winter and it is this branch in which we are interested. Killynon is on the Mullingar to Kells road, about 6 miles from Mullingar, and Reynella was passed on and eventually ended with Nicolas’ great-grand-daughter Elizabeth who married Townley Balfour of Townley Hall at the site of the Battle of the Boyne. Reynella is described in 1838 by Lewis as an elegant residence situated in a fine demesne adorned with a lake and extensive plantations. Lewis does not comment on Killynon, which Edward used as his rectory for Killynon Church.

Edward Reynell’s eldest son Richard (1768 - 1834) of Killynon married his cousin Harriett in 1795; their daughter Margaret married Thomas Barnes of Donover, near Moynalty; their second daughter Jane married William Kellet the Rector of Moynalty; there was another daughter and a son, none of whom married. Jane and William Kellet had a daughter named Jane who married her cousin Thomas, the son of Margaret and Thomas Barnes. It is likely that it was their son, Thomas Barnes the younger, who in 1832 was living at Westland near Moynalty, who was a trustee of Arbella Bomford’s annuity from her marriage settlement of 1832, and who in 1838 leased the north part of Oakley Park from George Bomford.

When Richard Reynell died in 1834, Killynon passed to his eldest son: Richard Winter Reynell, 1804 - 1887. Richard Winter Reynell was a trustee of the marriage settlement of George and Arbella, and Arbella visited them at Killynon a couple of times in 1834; no doubt one of those visits was for the funeral of Richard the elder. Richard Winter Reynell was educated at Trinity, became a Grand Juror and JP for Co Westmeath where he was High Sheriff in 1839. By 1878 his land was scattered all over, 471 acres in Fermanagh, 162 acres in Meath, the 289 acres at Killynon in Westmeath, and 209 acres in Wexford, so he had a total of 1,119 acres with a valuation of £983. In 1830 he married Frances Alexandrina the youngest daughter of James Sanderson of Clover Hall (originally Drumcassidy) near Belturbet in Cavan. Another Sanderson daughter, Lucy, married in 1826 Samuel Winter who was Arbella’s brother; Lucy inherited Clover Hill and she passed it on to her third son, Samuel Winter, provided he took the name of Sanderson which he did; however he had no children so Clover Hill was passed to his nephew, John James Purdon, who died in 1933 unmarried. Finally his nephew John Nugent Purdon inherited Clover Hill and sold it about 1958.

Richard’s younger son was Samuel Arthur Reynell, JP, of Archerstown and it is to him that Myles O’Reilly hands over all George’s documents. Samuel Arthur is therefore George’s second cousin; he was born in 1814 so is a couple of years younger than George but they were both at Trinity together. In 1836 he married his cousin, Frances Elizabeth, a daughter of General John Nugent. At his death in 1877 he owned 1,519 acres in Meath and 1,566 acres in Westmeath with a total valuation of £1,961 and this was about the same as George’s property.

According to the Ordnance Survey of 1837 “Archerstown House is handsomely situated in the estate, convenient to which and on the north side is Archerstown Lake, containing a small island with a house on it. Attached to the house are a portion of wood and garden. There is more wood 15 chains west of the house”.

This rather involved history due to the marriage of so many cousins is hopefully made clearer below.
24.6 Purchase of Oakley Park

Oakley Park - Before the Bomfords

There are a number of deeds concerning Oakley Park dating from 1709, and these will be found in detail later.

We can trace the ownership of Oakley Park with fair certainty back to 1640 when Laurencetown, the original name, belonged to Thomas Betagh. The name Betagh was later anglicised to Beatty. The Betaghs were of Anglo-Norman origin, although some claim they were of Norse origin. In the 12th Century the Parish of Dulane, then called Tuilen, was in the possession of the families of Mape, Betagh and Plunkett; and we can assume that Laurencetown at any rate was in the hands of the Betagh from that date. As a christian name Laurence (or Lawrence) occurs often in the Betagh family lists and the original townland name of Laurencetown is derived from some member of the family maybe even as far back as the 12th century.
In 1640 the Down Survey states that on Laurencetown, then 226 plantation acres (366 statute), were a ruined castle, most likely the former residence of the Betaghs, and some ‘cabbins’. There is no mention of a house but it is likely that some sort of a house was put up between that date and the early 1700’s. The castle was in the wood in the upper lawn to the east of the avenue and beside a pond; the last of the ruins were demolished in the 1950’s when the land was cleared of timber after the property was sold by Colonel G. W. Bomford. When Oakley Park was remodelled in the 1950’s a heavy and long timber roof beam was found with the inscription

“P. Kiernan Carpenter 1649”

and this inscription indicates that a house was built to replace the castle about 1649 and after the Betagh’s had been removed by the Cromwellian settlement.

The Betaghs were Catholic Royalists at the time of Cromwell and after the Cromwellian War the head of the Betagh family, Francis Betagh of Moynalty, was “robbed of his estates by Anglo-Sectarian perjury, and gallantly served in the Irish Brigade”. This statement needed to be investigated and turned out to be true. The report of the Cromwellian Commonwealth Court of Claims, which investigated the case in 1662 states that various people, swore Francis “to be in arms and in charge of a foot company plundering and stripping the Protestants in October 1641”. This was enough to have his estates confiscated, and so they were, and so too was Laurencetown. Much later it was discovered that Francis was only two years old, some say nine, in 1641. Thus he was in fact ‘robbed of his estates by Anglo-Sectarian perjury’. Although it was later acknowledged that the testimony was false, yet under the terms of the Act of Settlement there was no redress, in any case by that date Francis Betagh had left for France and had joined the Irish Brigade. His grandson formed the ‘Regiment De Betagh’ and saw service in the Battle of Fontenoy (1745) when the Irish Brigade turned the battle in favour of the French. Not all the Betaghs went to France, many were transplanted to Connaught. It will be remembered that Colonel Laurence Bomford was the Secretary of the Court of Claims and may well have been the secretary when this case was re-investigated.

After the confiscation in 1654, at a lottery held in London, the town of Kells had fallen to the Cromwellian Lieutenant Colonel Richard Stephens, and he became the Head Landlord. One can assume that he got Laurencetown at the same time, but he soon leased it to Captain Spering. In 1660 Colonel Stephens sold his interests in Kells to Thomas Taylor who had come to Ireland in 1653 (2.11.3); thus the Taylor family of Headfort became the Head Landlord of Kells. Captain Spering sold his lease of Laurencetown to the Oakley family before the end of the 1600’s. The Oakley family renamed Laurencetown and called the place Oakley Manor, this became Oakley Park, which also became the name of the townland; it is likely that the Oakley family lived in the house on Laurencetown since they went to the trouble of renaming the place and the new name Oakley Manor does suggest a house. The Oakley family had left before the first Bomford document of 1709 at which time it had been leased to Joseph Williams and the townland name had reverted to the old name of Laurencetown. By 1814 the Rev Jason Crawford had revived the name of Oakley Park and this name has been used ever since.

Although Colonel Stephens sold his interest in Kells to Thomas Taylor in 1660 it is probable that he sold his interest in Laurencetown to John Graham of Platten, an alderman of Drogheda, or to his father. At any rate the early Bomford deeds record the Graham family as the Head Landlord. About 1730 Laurencetown came into the hands of Sir Thomas Taylor through his marriage in 1714 with Sarah, one of John Graham’s daughters. Sir Thomas, son of Thomas, was knighted in 1704 and his great-grandson was made the first Marquess of Headfort in 1800. These were the Head Landlords of Laurencetown, receiving £100 a year for the land until sometime before 1886 when the head rent was reduced to £86; around 1900 the Headfort’s dropped out of the picture and the Bomfords owned the land outright; it was probably John Francis Bomford who purchased the lease from the Headforts.

But to return to the house, Mark Bence-Jones who edited Burke’s Guide to Country Houses saw the drawings, which included the extension and were dated about 1840; he estimated that the original oldest part, the centre of the house, was built between 1710 and 1725. However from the documents we can be more precise. Joseph Williams mortgaged the land a number of times between 1712 and 1717 for £1,285 and I believe that this money was used to build the original house between those years. It was a square one-storey house with a basement. The front faced southwest with three bays. Inside it had a long hall with an apse at its inner end where a doorway led to an inner hall containing a partly curved staircase; the ground floor consisted of four rooms, two on each side, and the first floor had six bedrooms; the basement contained the kitchen scullery etc.

Joseph Williams remained at Laurencetown from about 1700 to 1726 but he could not maintain the mortgages and the land became the property of Lord Tyrawley, and in 1726 of Edward Ford. In 1730 the Crawford family took the lease from the Fords and lived there until 1829 but Ford remained as a middleman until about 1747. This was a century of stability and long enough for the Crawfords to make improvements.

George the Younger comes of age
In 1730 a survey was carried out with the long title -

“A survey and plan of Laurencetown situate in the Parish of Duelaine, Barony of Kelles and County of Meath, which contains arable, meadow, pasture and bogg, four hundred and forty eight acres, one rood and thirty two perches (about 727 statute acres). Surveyed at the request of Edward Foord Esqr in the month October 1730 by me Cornelius Shortte.”

This plan, see below with the original spelling, only shows a symbol for the house, but it does show ‘The Old Grove or Out Lett from ye Backyard’ running north-west or, in present day terms, out through the flower-knot and big garden, and so the house faced south-west as it does now. The only other house shown is that of Thomas Sheiles, but there are four holdings shown which would be leases, those of Thomas Sheiles, Constant Smith, McGrain and Daly. Two fields were called “Captain William’s”, and it may be that he was Joseph Williams or a relation.

At that time the Kells to Moynalty road went over the present avenue bridge, passed the site of the old castle and out beside the back lodge; Kinsella’s house, or Thomas Sheiles’ house in 1730, was then at the side of the road. Later, probably in the 1770’s or 1780’s, the line of the road was altered to its present position, and the old road became part of the front and back avenues. Later still the two lodges were built. This let much more space to the east of the house and so a formal garden was laid out between the back lodge and the yard pond. The present yard was probably built about 1815 but this date is uncertain. All these improvements were carried out by the Crawfords and are shown in the survey map of 1837.

The course of the river upstream of the avenue bridge deviated into a mass of ditches stretching to beyond the Duckcoy. This whole area was until recently a marsh prone to flooding, and the ditches shown in the 1730 map are still there. My grandfather remembers punting around the ‘Great Bogg’ and lying up in the Duckcoy awaiting the arrival of wild duck. The Red bog must have been dug in an attempt to drain the bottoms sometime after 1730 because it is not shown on that map, and at the same time the course of the river was deepened and certain sections were newly dug. By 1836 all this work had been completed and the survey of that date shows the new course of the river and the Red Bog, and further states that the “Red Bog Lough of 6 acres contains two small islands and is the only Lough in the Parish”. However none of this work was effective in the long run and the Lough silted up; indeed I never remember seeing any open water there, which probably accounts for the word ‘Lough’ being omitted, it was simply known as the ‘Red Bog’. In the 1980’s another attempt was made to drain the ‘Great Bogg’ and the river was lowered about ten feet along its whole length to the Blackwater. Time will tell whether this will be a success but unfortunately it caused the collapse of the lovely stone single arched avenue bridge, the old road bridge, which must have been built in the early 1600’s, though maybe much earlier; the Kells road bridge over the River Blackwater has recently been dated as c1350 and the Oakley Park stream would have been bridged about that date as well, but whether the avenue bridge was the original one can not be said.

A deed of 1739 states that Laurencetown consisted of 20 cottages gardens and orchards, one dove house, one mill, and 200 acres of meadow, 100 of pasture, 10 wood, 10 moor and 10 of heath and furze. No clue is given as to the site of the mill, but it must have been a windmill and situated on ‘ye Mountain’. The acreage only totals 330 and this only sounds correct if we take out the ‘unprofitable land’ of the Great Bog and such land was often omitted in the deeds of those days.

In 1797 the Rev Jason Crawford married Henrietta Rowley from the neighbouring estate of Maperath, and their eldest son John Maxwell Crawford inherited Oakley Park when his father died in December 1829. John Maxwell and his wife, another Rowley from Maperath did not live at Oakley Park but leased it to Thomas Rowley from 1829 until 1833 whilst the latter was rebuilding Maperath. Finally for the few years from 1833 until George Bomford moved in on 5th October 1837, Oakley Park was in the hands of Captain William Graham who, according to the 1836 survey “resides in the residence”.
Copy of 1730 Survey of Laurencetown (Oakley Park)
The last non-Bomford deed about Oakley Park follows. In it the land is cleared of all mortgages so that the place can be sold to George Bomford free of any encumbrances.

Reconveyance of Mortgages on Oakley Park 8th November 1837

Between 1. William Graham of Newtownberry, Co Wexford and
2. John Downing Nesbitt of Toberdaly, King’s County

Reciting 1. On 12th December 1825 William Graham was given a mortgage for £1,000 by various linen merchants of Lisburn and others (they are all named in the deed). The security being the rents of various lands, not named, in Co Meath. (Oakley Park was included but the actual deed is missing),
2. 20th December 1833. William Graham, Colonel of the Meath Militia, died in July 1808 leaving as his executors John Mockler of Trim (15.6.3 son of Margaret, daughter of Stephen Bomford the younger of Rahinstown), and Michael Neligan, surgeon of the Meath Militia. An annuity was left to his wife of £200, and £500 to each of his children, Oliver and John Graham, Mary and Delia Graham. The eldest son, William then a lieutenant (captain in 1836) of the 71st Regiment of Foot (later Highland Light Infantry), inherited and instructed the executors to continue payments. Oliver died in 1825, and Michael Neligan one of the executors died in 1831.
3. The son, William Graham, married Matilda Manning and the marriage settlement brought in more land. Matilda was to be given an annuity of £200 on William’s death
4. On 18th April 1834 Laurencetown was mortgaged for £13,600. (See the Oakley Park deeds).

Now William Graham has paid John Downing Nesbitt the sum of £15,000, which covers the mortgages of 12th December 1825 (£1,000), 18th April 1834 (£13,600) and the bequests of 20th December 1833. All the lands involved revert to the normal ownership of William Graham.

Signed J. D. Nesbitt
Witnessed William Tucker J. C. Barnes

24.6.2 Conveyance of Oakley Park to George Bomford 9th November 1837

The day after the above document Oakley Park was formally handed over to George Bomford by William Graham, though actually George had moved into the house the previous month. Unfortunately this document is missing so we do not know the price of the place; however it was probably of the order of the £15,000 paid by William Graham to Nesbitt. If it was this figure then it works out at £20.5.0 an acre, which is much more than was paid for Drumlargan, but the pound had been devalued since then so that is not a fair comparison. It would be better to compare it to the next land purchase of Baltrasna, which works out at £19.4.0 an acre. This confirms the price of land and £15,000 for Oakley Park appears to be a reasonable figure when one considers that Baltrasna had no buildings of note.

It would be nice to think that the ownership of Oakley Park in the early 1700’s had gone the full circle, starting with John Graham of Platten and ending with his grandson or great grandson, William Graham of County Wexford. However to date I have been unable to fill the gap in the following tree which has been made purely from the documents.
George the Younger comes of age

John Graham of Platten, Alderman of Drogheda, mentioned in the deeds of 1709 - 1739

Sarah m 1714

Sir Thomas Taylor, ancestor of the Marquess of Headfort

A possible son might be William Graham, Colonel Meath Militia. d July 1808

Mary, alive 1834

Captain William of Newtownberry
m Matilda Manning
Sold Oakley Park

Oliver d 1825

Rev John of Thornhill, Rector of Pomeroy Co. Tyrone 1795 – 1834
m Anna Field & d 1834.
Held Rahinstown mortgages of 1821 & 1824

Mary unmarried

Delia unmarried

Letitia b 1800 James b 1801 General Henry b 1808 Isabella m William Lowry

24.6.3 Conveyance and Indemnity of Oakley Park May 1839

When George took over Oakley Park there remained a middleman; in 1799 he was Hugh Cuming, a public notary of Dublin, and when Hugh died (will January 1830, proved May) his family moved to Shrewsbury in England. In 1837 George’s rent on Oakley Park was £100 to the Marquess of Headfort and £206.15.5 to Robert John Cuming, son of Hugh Cuming.

Both deeds are missing, the conveyance of 13th May 1839 and the indemnity of the next day, but they would show that Robert John Cuming was paid off by George and so George’s only rent from that time was to the Head Landlord, Thomas the 2nd Marquess of Headfort (1787 - 1870) who received £100.

24.7 Purchase of Baltrasna 1793 - 1837

In 1837 George not only bought Oakley Park but Baltrasna as well. The documents include early deeds concerning tenant leases, which were still current. Baltrasna lies just north of the Mullagh crossroads where the Dunshaughlin to Kilcock road crosses the Summerhill to Dunboyne road.

24.7.1 Lease - Baltrasna 1st October 1793

Lease of part of the lands of Baltrasna containing 28 plantation acres (57 statute) in the Parish of Culmullen, Barony of Deece, by John Hussey, Baron Galtrim, to Robert Kerran at a rent of £35.6.3 at £1.5.0 an acre for 41 years or for the natural lives of James Kerran, aged 8, eldest son of Robert Kerran,

Thomas Kerran, aged 6, second son of Robert Kerran, and

William Kerran, aged 2, third son of Robert Kerran

“For every tree cut down, two to be planted”.

“The river to be widened and sunk every third year”.

Lease of part of the lands of Baltrasna containing 51 plantation acres (83 statute) by John Hussey, Baron Galtrim, to John Lenaugham at a rent of £61.4.9 at £1.4.0 per acre for the natural lives of Walter Lenaugham, aged 9, eldest son of John Lenaugham,

Thomas Lenaugham, aged 7, second son, and

Peter Lenaugham, aged 1, third son.

“For every tree cut down, two to be planted. On the above date there were 20 ash trees and 5 elms”.

24.7.2 Lease - Baltrasna 1st April 1832

Between 1. Edward Thomas Hussey, JP, and Edward Horatio Hussey, both of Rathkenny, Co Meath. (Rathkenny Castle is 4 miles northwest of Slane with an estate of 1,600 acres.)

2. John Gavagan, farmer, of Baltrasna
Edward Thomas and his eldest son Edward Horatio lease to John Gavagan the lands of Baltrasna formerly in the hands of Simon Gavagan, deceased, containing 55 plantation acres (89 statute) at a rent of £86.17.0 for 41 years or three lives, those of Barry McGusty now aged about 3 and Alexander Delap McGusty now aged about 1, both sons of George Murray McGusty, solicitor of Dublin, and William Gavagan now aged about 4, son of John Gavagan.

**24.7.3 Lease - Baltrasna**

Between 1. Edward Thomas Hussey and Edward Horatio Hussey, both of Rathkenny, and 2. James Coffey of North King Street, Dublin, corn and hay factor.

The Hussy’s lease part of the lands of Baltrasna, formerly leased to Michael Coffey, deceased, containing 34 plantation acres (56 statute) for 31 years from 1826 at the rent of £54.14.6.

**24.7.4 Baltrasna Mortgages Cleared**


Edward Thomas Hussey paid £1,340 to Thomas Popham Luscombe. This cleared the debts on the lands of Rathkenny, Drominstown, Mullaghmore, and Clogher in the Parish of Rathkenny, Barony of Slane; and of Galtrim, Lennenstown, Baltrasna, Galtrim Boystown, and Bogginstown in the Parish of Culmullen, Barony of Deece. (1836 Book 10 No 27)

**24.7.5 Purchase of Baltrasna by George Bomford**


George Bomford paid £9,300 to Sir Edmund Bacon and Algernon Peyton for the townland of Baltrasna, alias Baltrasnagh, containing 299 plantation acres (484 statute) being part of the lands of Galtrim.

To clarify previous doubts the balance of the lands of Galtrim, the estate of Edward Thomas Hussey and Edward Horatio Hussey, containing 1,318 plantation acres were conveyed to Samuel Winter and George Murray McGusty. (1837 Book 12 No 152)

So George paid £9,300 for 484 acres of Baltrasna of which we have four leases totalling 285 acres, those of Kerran, Lenaugham, Gavagan and Coffey, the last three were still running in 1854. The marriage settlement of 1866 of John Francis Bomford (30.3.1) recites this deed and confirms that all the land was leased, there was a full list of tenants but this is now missing.

**The Hussey Family**

The Husseys were very large Meath landowners in the early 1600’s, but at that time most of them were Roman Catholics and so they lost much of their land at the time of Cromwell. However it would appear that the Husseys of these deeds fought for Cromwell because there is a story that one of them, a heavy trooper, challenged a Captain Kelly of the Irish Army to simple combat and killed him; for this deed Cromwell conferred on him the honour of Baron Galtrim. This title had been in existence previously but belonged to “Pattrick Hussy Barron of Galtrym, Irish Papist”, who was removed during the Cromwellian settlement. (See also 9.3.9).

The first Hussey to appear in these deeds is John Hussey, Baron of Galtrim, of Rathkenny who died in 1803. Rathkenny was then passed to his brother, Thomas Hussey 1749 - 1825 who in 1777 married Lady Mary Walpole, a daughter of Horatio Walpole, the 1st Earl of Orford in Suffolk, and whose great uncle was Robert Walpole, the celebrated Prime Minister of George I and George II from 1721 to 1742.

Thomas had one son only, Edward Thomas 1778 - 1846, who in 1803 married Anne Frances Bacon, died 1866, the elder daughter of Sir Edmund Bacon of Ravenham Hall in Norfolk (party to the deed of 1837) and of the same family as Sir Francis Bacon 1561 - 1626. They also had only one son - Edward Horatio Hussey 1801 - 1876, married in 1840 to Frederica, the fourth daughter of George, 3rd
Lord Boston, and she died his widow in 1885. Their eldest son Horatio Gorge was born in 1846 and succeeded to nearly 3,000 acres in Meath in 1876 when his father died.

Thomas Hussey and Lady Mary also had a couple of daughters, the younger being Isabella Anne who in June 1811 married the Reverend Algernon Peyton, 1786 - 1868, Rector of Doddington in Cambridgeshire and brother of Sir Henry Peyton, 2nd Baronet of Doddington; Rev Algernon Peyton was party to the deed of 1837. Isabella Anne died in 1827 and her eldest son Thomas became the 5th Baronet Peyton.

24.8  Ordnance Survey of George’s Properties 1836

A major source of information of all the Bomford property was the Ordnance Survey of 1835/6 and the companion Field Name Books which gave additional details. This was followed by the first survey map of six inches to the mile, which also showed a wealth of detail.

The Meath survey includes some names and gives a figure for the rent; the Westmeath and Louth surveys give no names or rents, so the rental has had to be estimated from the later 1854 valuation which agrees very well with the deeds; no Kildare Name Books have been located but this is not important since George had no property there at this date.

This survey has proved of prime importance to this study and indeed a number of properties were first ‘discovered’ through it.

24.8.1  Drumlargan 1836

(Extract from survey) “Contains 1,276 acres (plantation) of which 66 are planted with fir and ash trees and about 69 acres is bog. It is the property of George Bomford Esq. and Lord Langford (Hercules, 2nd Baron Langford, 1795 - 1839). Lord Langford has 491 acres, which he has let to Mr Maher of Gallow for 31 years.

George Bomford is the proprietor of the remainder of the Parish (785 plantation or 1202 statute acres), and has it let in two farms at £2 an acre. (Giving George an income of £1,570).

In the Parish are the ruins of an old Church in a graveyard of which the country people can give no information. The inhabitants are all R.C.’s. Their houses are mud cabins. Bloomfield (soon to be called Drumlargan House) is a tolerably good house, at present occupied by a herd, formerly the residence of Mr Purdon (probably P.E. Purdon of Clonlyon House), but it is going into a further ruinous state as time goes on.

(Signed) George A. Bennett, Lt Royal Engineers, 7th June 1836.”

24.8.2  Knockstown (Extract from survey) 1836

“322 (plantation) acres the property of Mr George Bomford of Agher, and Mr Philips of Dublin, the latter has 60 acres known as Ash Green. Mr Philips last lived in Ash Green House in 1798 since when it has been going to wrack and ruin and now only the walls are standing. George Bomford has let the rest (262 plantation or 424 statute) in farms at £1.12.6 an acre. “ (Giving George an income of £425.15.0).

The 1912 edition of Burke records that Michael Phillips, 1730-1802, was willed by his uncle John Wade of Clonebraney (2.7.1) the lands of ‘Coolcor or Ash Green’ in 1776. It must have been Michael or, more likely, his son Thomas Phillips (b c1772) of Ash Green who was chased from his house in his night clothes by the Rebels of 1798. None of Michael’s grandchildren are listed as ‘of Ash Green’.

24.8.3  Baltrasna

This property changed hands in 1837 so in 1836 it was

“1299 (plantation or 484 statute) acres the property of Baron Hussey who has let it all to Mr Keenan at 22/- an acre.”

It would appear that the middleman, Mr Keenan, was deleted when George bought the property as there is no mention of him in the purchase deed or in the previous leases. If this is so then the 22/- an acre to the middleman was also deleted and George received the full sum direct from the tenants whose average rent was about 30/- an acre. This would give George an income of about £450.

24.8.4  Ginnetts 1836

This is a mystery property, which is only recorded in George’s account book of 1834 when he received £80.5.0 from tenants whose names were all written down. When Dangan Estate was sold in 1818, Lot 10 was Great and Little Ginnetts and the leasee was George’s cousin, John Mockler.
The Ordnance Survey of 1836 states – “Great Ginnetts, a detached portion of the Parish of Agher. 694 acres (plantation) the property of Mr Blackwood (of Dublin) and let in farms, the largest being 130 acres. ‘Big House Farm’ is in the possession of Mr William Allen.

Little Ginnetts 74 (plantation) acres the property of Mr Blackwood, nearly all pasture.”

As can be seen there is no mention of a Bomford in 1836, and neither is one mentioned in the more detailed valuation of 1854. Ginnetts has therefore been ignored as a Bomford property and it is thought that George was acting as someone’s agent, perhaps Mr Blackwood, in collecting the rents.

24.8.5 Oakley Park

It was not until 1837 that George bought Oakley Park, the year after the Ordnance Survey, which states

“It is the property of Mr Gunning (should be Mr J. Cuming) and Mr Graham, and contains 741 statute acres. 28 acres are plantation of the demesne of Captain Graham who resides in the residence.”

24.8.6 Clonfad

“To the south of Hightown, in the Parish of Killucan; 443 statute acres (in 1854 George had 440 acres there). There is a patch of bog in the NW corner and a second patch near the western boundary. In the SE corner is a Deer Park. There are three sand pits in the interior. The rest of the land is tillage and pasture.”

From this George would have an estimated income of about £350.

The walls surrounding the Deer Park are all that remain of the Monastery of Clonfad where in the year 550 St Columbkille was made a priest, and where in 577 St Etchen, Bishop of Clonfad, died.

The 1837 map shows a house named Knockawilliam House but it is not clear who lived there.

24.8.7 Rattin

“To the south of Clonfad in the Parish of Killucan; 1,528 acres. There is a portion of bog in the SW corner and a second portion in the SE corner. In the western portion are a cornmill and kiln. Rattin Castle is in ruins and nearby is Clonfad House. Attached to this house in the east portion of Rattin are a small portion of planting and a garden, and there is a gravel pit west of the house; it belongs to Mrs D. Cole.”

In the 1854 valuation George had 923 statute acres including Clonfad House, which was all let. The acreage has increased from the 460 acres of the previous century but no additional lease or purchase has come to light. The reason is probably two-fold; (1) the townland boundaries of Clonfad and Rattin may have been altered; this would account for Clonfad House now appearing in Rattin townland, and the inexplicable drop of 127 acres of Bomford property in Clonfad; and (2) the original leases may have excluded ‘non-profitable’ land like bog, whereas the 1854 valuation does include bog. If we take the original lease acreage of both Clonfad and Rattin, and add in the bog land of the 1854 valuation, then there is a shortfall of only 65 acres below the total 1854 figure, about 4%, and this amount may be an error in the early acreage, which might have been found in some intermediate survey.

Whatever the reason we should accept the valuation acreage as being correct in 1854, and at the low estimate of £1 an acre, because of the poor bog land, George would have an income of at least £923 from the rent of Rattin.

24.8.8 Cluide

“Alias, Clonduchat, Cloondecaagh, Clude or Cluide in the Barony of Ardee (Co Louth) and Parish of Smarnore; 25 (statute) acres, mostly pasture on rising ground.”

At about £1.15.0 an acre George would receive from the rents about £44. He probably got more because Lewis states that the land ‘is of first rate quality and about two-thirds are under tillage’.

24.8.9 Summary of George’s Property

The last summary of 1820 was when George was a minor and his guardian John Pratt Winter was looking after his affairs. At that time he had 6,022 acres, much of which was in Co Kildare. In 1821 the Kildare property of Dunfierth, Mucklan, Killyon, Mylerstown, etc, were sold, so there is no Kildare property now.
George the Younger comes of age

George’s present total is 4,242 statute acres made up as follows - -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Rent Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clonfad (Westmeath)</td>
<td>443</td>
<td>£ 350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattin (Westmeath)</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>£ 923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumlargan (Meath)</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>£1,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockstown (Meath)</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>£426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluide (Louth)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>£ 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltrasna (1837)</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>£450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakley Park (1837)</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,242</strong></td>
<td><strong>£ 3,763</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above rent income of £3,763 is gross and does not include any taxes or the rent to the Head Landlord. The taxes varied with the times but about 1800 they were-

- Church Cess -/- per plantation acre
- Public Cess 3/- per plantation acre
- Tithes 2/- per plantation acre

**Total** 5/3 per plantation acre

4,242 statute acres is 2,617 plantation acres, and at 5/3 the taxes amount to £687.

There are two lots of Head Rent, £100 on Oakley Park due to the Marquess of Headfort, and £6 on Baltrasna due to Trinity College in Dublin, the latter only came to light in the later deeds. All this would reduce the gross figure to close to £3,000. This net figure is the least that George would receive, because no income has been included for Oakley Park, and, also, some of the taxes, if not all, were passed on to the tenants. The figures cannot be precise but they do give some idea of George’s income from the land.

When George came of age he found that John Pratt Winter had accumulated a considerable sum for him, my estimate is about £60,000 and is based on the following: -

- Repayment of mortgage (1817) on Kildare property £6,900
- Sale of Kildare property (1821) £10,500
- Repayment of mortgage on Tullyard (1835) £4,000
- Rent from land during George’s minority, 16 years, at about £2,800 a year £44,800

**Total** £66,200

Less £6,200 for expenses during his minority £60,000

No doubt there was a family discussion as to the best means to invest this money and, as was normal in those days, he invested in the land. I can understand his purchase of Baltrasna, which is just north of Mullagh, one of Robert George’s properties, because this gives George a block of nearly 1,700 statute acres stretching eastwards from Drumlargan; but the purchase of Oakley Park is not so easily understood. It is a good twenty miles away from Drumlargan and his friends and relations, and the quality of the land is not nearly so good as in South Meath. The attraction must have been the mature parkland, a good newly built yard, and the comparative ease by which, the house could be enlarged; of course it may have been the only suitable place for sale at that time.

After buying these two properties George still had a healthy bank balance of around £30,000 and a satisfactory income, so the stage is now set for him, still a young man in his twenties, to improve Oakley Park House and to take his place in society in, as my Uncle George remarked, “the grand manner”.

However this estimated bank balance might be too high since George was soon to borrow money from his brother Samuel to cover the extension of Oakley Park, and further that the estate he had inherited owed Samuel money, see 24.4. Neither of these has been taken into consideration.

24.9 Summary of all Bomford Property 1837

Since Thomas of Cushenstown has died and his property has been divided among his sisters and their children, we can no longer include those lands in a Bomford summary. There remain three distinct land owning Bomford families,

- Robert George of Rahinstown with 3,129 acres (1820, 2,358) and an income of about £4,500 from the land (22.3).
- George of Oakley Park with 4,242 acres (1820, 6,022) and an income of about £3,000 from the land, and.

George the Younger comes of age 345
Isaac Bomford of Gallow and Ferrans with 1,355 acres (1820, 1,437) and an income of about £2,000 plus the amount he received as an attorney (23.3).

Between them they had 8,726 statute acres (1820, 11,304 including those of Thomas of Cushenstown), and these figures come from the Ordnance Survey and must be more accurate than any previous ones.

The drop in acreage since 1820 is accounted for by the deletion of Cushenstown, etc (1,487 acres), and the sale of George’s property in Kildare (3,768 acres).

24.9.1 The Family 1837

All the male descendants of the first four sons of Colonel Laurence (Thomas of Rahinstown, Oliver of Cushenstown, Laurence of Killelglan and Edward of Hightown) had died out by 1837, so there are now only four male Bomfords left, all descendants of the fifth son, Stephen of Gallow.

Robert George of Rahinstown,
George of Oakley Park, and his brother
Samuel, and
Isaac of Ferrans and Gallow

24.9.2 Robert George of Rahinstown and his Sisters

At this date (1837) the senior Bomford is Maria (Massey-Dawson), wife of Robert who had died in 1817, and mother of Robert George, the senior male Bomford. Maria is 68 and lives for another 11 years with her daughter Frances Georgina Bolton at Bective Abbey.

Robert George the only son, aged 36 and his wife Elizabeth (Kennedy) are living in Dublin. It is doubtful if they ever lived for any appreciable time at Rahinstown; the house was in good order but ‘very much neglected’ in 1836, and all their land was leased. It is not known what Robert George’s occupation was, if indeed he had one, he may have simply lived from the money coming in from the land.

They have no children and when Robert George dies in nine years time all his property is shared between his sisters and is eventually sold; so this branch of the family also dies out.

It is perhaps worth noting that the law did not discriminate between girl children; strictly interpreted the law found all the daughters, regardless of age, of equal rank in the division of inheritance. This was quite different with male children, the law recognised the eldest son. It is not generally realized that during the life of King George VI either of the two princesses, Elizabeth or Margaret, had equal rights to the throne. It was not until Princess Elizabeth gave birth to Prince Charles that King George VI had to issue Letters Patent in 1948 ordaining that his eldest daughter Elizabeth would be his heir; without these Letters Patent Princess Margaret and her children could rightfully have claimed the throne.

It was because of this failure in the law to establish any rule of primogeniture among females that, in cases where there was no male heir, so many estates had to be sold and the proceeds split among the girl children; and so here, with the unexpected death of Robert George, Rahinstown and his land had to be sold and the proceeds shared. This also applied to Cushenstown.

Annette Maria and her husband Thomas Henry Hesketh are in their late 30’s. Her father-in-law, the 3rd Baronet Hesketh is alive but his wife is dead and Annette Maria has stepped into her shoes at Rufford Hall in Lancashire. They have two children, Thomas George aged 11 who will become the 5th Lord Hesketh, and Maria Harriet aged 9 or 10 who will become Lady Haldon.

Jane Rosetta died this year in February, aged 34. Her husband Richard Mansergh and their five children are living in the family home of Grenane near the town of Tipperary. The eldest child is only 14.

Frances Georgia aged about 33 and her husband Richard Bolton are living at Bective Abbey on the Boyne about 8 miles north of Rahinstown. They have no children but her mother, Maria (Massey-Dawson), is living with them.

Jemima Letitia aged about 32, has been married three years. Her husband Richard Bolton is 40, and their only children, two boys, have been born. Although Richard Bolton is termed ‘of Brook Lodge’, just north of Drumlargan, it is not clear whether they ever lived there. Richard’s father Lyndon Bolton used to be a merchant in Dublin but his wife has recently died and he, now aged 77, is living at Monkstown Castle in South Dublin; Jemima and her family may be living there with him at this time. However by 1839 they had moved to Cheltenham in England where they settle.
Susan Margaret is now about 31 and her husband Charles Rudinge Martin is about 34. Their four boys have been born, the eldest being about 10. It is not known precisely where they were living at this date but Charles was a clergyman who never took office in Ireland. At some date, probably covering this period, he was Chaplain to the Grand Duchess of Mannheim. In 1833 their youngest child was born in Cork and this casts a doubt on their living permanently in Germany at this time; however Susan Margaret favoured Germany since she continued to live there after her husband died in 1847. In 1850 she was living in Baden-Baden.

Sarah Maria died in 1835 aged 25. She had married the Hon Frederick James Tollemache in 1831 and had one daughter when they were living in London.

Robert George and his six sisters were first cousins to George of Oakley Park and his brother Samuel. Only Robert George and the Bolton’s of Bective were living in Ireland, two of the sisters had moved to England, and one to Germany, and the other two had died.

24.9.3 George of Oakley Park and Brother Samuel

George aged 26 and his wife Arbella (Winter) aged 27 have just moved into Oakley Park with their young family which so far consists of Anne aged 4, George Winter aged 3, and Arbella Anna just 1.

Samuel has hardly been mentioned to date. He is two years younger than George being 24 now. He was educated at Trinity College, which he has left to join the army, and is now a cornet in the 3rd Dragoon Guards.

24.9.4 Isaac of Gallow and Ferrans

Isaac is the son of David Bomford and belongs to the previous generation. He has retired as an attorney and is living in Blessington Street in Dublin. He died during this year (1837) aged 71, but his wife Jane (Holdcroft) lives on for another three years. They had no children and the property was bequeathed to his nephew, Isaac North, the third son of his sister Anne North.

Isaac the younger had to take the name North-Bomford to inherit his uncle’s property. He is now about 45, has been farming Ferrans for some years and it was probably he who built Ferrans House where he is living. He married Belinda Emily (Pilkington) in 1830 and two or three of their nine children have been born.

Isaac’s mother, Anne North daughter of David Bomford, was alive in 1835 so may be still alive, but her husband John North has died. Isaac’s two brothers and the un-named sister are alive; the eldest brother, John North of Whitewell is married to Ellen (Barbour), he is an attorney in Dublin and they have children but how many and their names are not known; his other older brother, David North, is married to Catherine (Pim), and has a young family of six children; David was at some stage, perhaps now, a Captain in the Royal Navy.

There are two lots of cousins, the Coopers and the Coates. Little is known about the Coopers except that there are six of them, all about Isaac the younger’s age, and that they are most likely living in Dublin. The Coates family are younger and are living at Bridestream House and so are close neighbours to Isaac at Ferrans; their third son, Stephen Coates was at Trinity with George and Samuel Bomford.

This generation of the North-Bomford, Cooper and Coates families were second cousins of George and Samuel.
George and Arabella (Winter) were married in July 1832 and they moved to Oakley Park on 5th October 1837; this chapter is concerned with their early days at Oakley Park and starts with the children. Paragraph 18.9 includes the first entries from the ‘Big Family Bible’ about the children of George the elder; these entries continue with the children of George the younger. Details from the Agher Parish Register have been added in brackets.

“Children of George and Arbella Bomford married 23rd July 1832 (at Agher by the Rev Francis Pratt Winter).

Anne born in Dublin September 13th 1833.
George Winter born in Dublin November 12th 1834
Arbella Anna born in Dublin November 17th 1836. Died (three months later). February 24th 1837, (buried at Agher, see below).
John Francis born at Oakley Park December 22nd 1837. (Baptised at Agher 4th of March 1838 by the Rector, John Kellet.)
Arbella Anna born at Agher 19th August 1839. (Baptised at Agher 29th of September 1839 by the Rector, John Kellet.)
Samuel Stephen born at Oakley Park 18th of April 1841. (Baptised at Agher 3rd June 1841 by Rev Francis Pratt Winter who was then aged 70). Died August 22nd 1872 (in India, aged 31).
Elizabeth born at Oakley Park 18th May 1843. (Baptized at Agher 30th of June 1843.)
Victoria Adela born at Oakley Park the 19th November 1849.
Arthur Chichester born at Oakley Park 27th July 1851. (Died 14th October 1854 and buried at Agher 17th October, see below).
Margaret Winter born at Oakley Park 16th October 1855.
Robert Laurence born at Oakley Park 3rd September 1857.”

So when Robert, the youngest, was born in 1857 George and Arbella had nine living children, four boys and five girls. The two who had died were buried in the Agher Churchyard below the east window. The headstones read

1. “Here Lyeth the body of – Arbella Anna – infant daughter of – George and Arbella Bomford – who departed this life – February 1837 – aged 3 months.”
Inscribed on a grey stone headstone.

The headstone is of red sandstone and is to the left of that of Arbella Anna.

There is a third headstone in line with and on the left of these two, but belongs to a great-granddaughter and will be mentioned later (35.51)

As was the custom the Christian names were those of the family and were carefully selected with virtually the same number coming from the Bomford and Winter families. Those commemorated include;

- George’s grandparents: Stephen and Elizabeth
- Arbella’s grandparents: Samuel and Margaret (Winter) and Arthur (Gore)
- George’s parents: George and Arbella
- Arbella’s parents: John and Anne
- George’s uncles: Robert and Chichester
- Arbella’s uncle: Francis
- George’s aunt: Margaret
- Arbella’s aunt: Anna

Laurence probably commemorates the Bomford founder, Colonel Laurence, and this only leaves the one daughter with the names Victoria Adela.
It is not known precisely when George increased the size of Oakley Park. When the family first moved there, only the original c1712 – 1717 centre part of the house was in existence. Work must have commenced after 1837 and after John Francis was born in Oakley Park in December of that year. Arbella Ann, the next and fifth child was born at Agher in 1839, and the sixth child, Samuel Stephen, was born at Oakley Park in April 1841. It is therefore possible that the extension, which was considerable and involved the removal of at least part of the roof with the result that the family could not live in the house, was done in the three years between the beginning of 1838 and the end of 1840, or more likely during the two years of 1838 and 1839 since George was churchwarden in Kells for the year of 1840. It is unlikely that the building was done in 1845 or later because of the disastrous famine (1845 – 1849) with its consequences, which lasted into the 1850’s. Further the rateable value of the house in 1854 was £50 and this figure was repeated into the 1900’s, which indicates that the extension was carried out before 1854. It is of course speculation but the facts do point to the date 1838 and 1839 for the building, and these dates were confirmed in 1900 in a letter of John Francis who wrote that the furniture was brought between 1836 and 1840.

The Actual Extension

There are two plans showing the extension; one shows the ‘Principal Story’, and the other a transverse section through the ‘principal stairs’. The old house is shown in grey and the new part, plus adaptations to the old part, are shown in pink. The plans are not dated and there is no clue as to the architect. The extension at the front almost doubles the size of the house.

The Ground Floor Plan

The old part of the house, 60 feet wide by 52 feet long, consisted of four rooms, partly curved staircase, later to become the back stairs, and a hall. The rooms on the left are shown as ‘Own Room’ later to become the Billiard room, and ‘Drawing Room’ later to become the library with a new door through what used to be one of the windows at the front of the house. On the right was the ‘Dining Room’ which remained as such but had a new door in place of the front window, and a ‘Store Room’. The storeroom was to be divided into two and the old door leading from it into the dinning room was blocked by an alcove to hold one of the sideboards. Some time later, probably around 1860 when the new north wing to the house was added (30.1), this dividing wall was removed.

The new part of the house at the south end, 64 by 34 feet, plus a porch 25 by 10 feet, consisted of only two rooms: on the left a ‘Drawing Room’ taking up the whole length (20 by 33 feet), and on the right the ‘Breakfast Room’ which was later known as the boudoir. The rest of the extension was taken up by the front ‘Hall’ with a floor of black and white chequered flagstones and with a door leading into the open area of the ‘Vestibule’ and the ‘Principal Stairs’. Effectively the centre of the whole length of the house was filled with four halls leading into each other, with three rooms on either side and, on the right, the impressive new rose-wood bifurcating staircase wide enough to take a lady in a crinoline and her escort.
Oakley Park  Copy of the “Principal Story” of the 1839 Extension
The shaded walls are either the new extension or those parts of the old house which were altered
George Bomford of Oakley Park

Copy of the Transverse Section Plan of the 1839 Extension

The ground floor central door used to be the old front door, and the other three doors used to be windows at the front of the old house. One may assume that the old house used to have two additional windows on the first floor.

The Transverse Section Plan

This shows the new staircase and what used to be the front of the old house. The height of the ground floor rooms are 12 ½ feet, the first floor 11 feet and the basement 9 ½ feet. This made the height from the ground level to the top of the chimneys 40 feet, or 50 feet if measured from the stone flags in the basement.

The basement windows got their light from the area on the side of the house, which is shown as 4 feet wide. However this width was changed to a good 12 feet across and this is the only change to the plans. In all other respects the house was built according to the drawing.

Structurally the major change would have been to the roof. We do not know what sort of a roof the old house had, but houses of the 1700’s normally had the outside walls ending in a parapet with the guttering inside the parapet, and since the structure was virtually square, a single roof probably covered it. If this was so then the whole roof had to be removed for the extension. The new roof had a valley, and to give light to the middle of the house, two glass domes were inserted in the valley. A circular dome gave light to the new upstairs hall above the vestibule and a rectangular dome gave light to the hall above the original front hall. However the original ground floor entrance hall now had no window so a well was cut through the first floor immediately below the rectangular dome so that the light could shine right into the centre of the house.
Basement

There are no plans of the basement but it ran the whole length of the house, with a 15 feet wide arched passage below the ground floor halls. There were a number of rooms on either side with a wine cellar underneath the porch. The kitchen, together with the larder and scullery, were underneath the library and the billiard room, so food had to be brought to the dining room up wooden stairs which came out on the ground floor below the curve of the back staircase. Apart from the laundry the other rooms were mostly for the house servants of whom there would have been probably about eight. Access was through the back door at the north end of the passage but, because it was below ground level, there were a number of stone steps leading into the yard, which housed the pump at the yard end. This hand pump was the only supply of water, which at this early date was not piped into the house. The basement was never used in my time; I only remember it as a vast empty area, great fun to play in during daylight, but very spooky at night.

First Floor

This consisted of ten rooms including three dressing rooms so the extended house had seven bedrooms, three with dressing rooms. Later the dressing room over the front hall became a schoolroom; indeed it may always have been the children’s room. It had a triple window looking out over the porch.

25.2.1 Leases of Parts of Oakley Park 1838

A. Lease To Francis Reilly Before 1709

A lease, which George inherited, was of that part of Oakley Park which lay to the west of the back road (see map) and was termed ‘Ye Mountain’ in the 1730 map. This lease was included in the first deed of Oakley Park of 5th of January 1709 at which date Edmund Reilly, then spelt Reily, had 44 acres and which has been in the Reilly family ever since.

B. Lease To Thomas Barnes 21st June 1838

Lease from George Bomford to Thomas Barnes of Westlands, of 128 plantation acres (207 statute) of the northern part of Oakley Park for a rent of £253.14.0 a year (£1.19.6 per plantation acre) for the life of Thomas Richard Barnes, eldest son of the above Thomas Barnes, aged 11, or for 31 years.

George retains the right to hunting, shooting, fishing, all timber and quarrying, and the right to ‘perambulate and view’ all houses, fields and ditches, which Thomas Barnes must maintain. The number and type trees are all recorded and were much the same as in the 1930’s except that one small wood had disappeared; there was a large and deep quarry in one of the leased fields, called at one time the Rampark and later the Horsepark.

It is interesting that George retained the right to hunt ‘all hares rabbits, partridges, quails, pheasants, birds and beasts’ because amongst the documents is a well thumbed pamphlet with George’s name on the front cover and titled ‘Observations on Dog-Breaking’ by William Floyd, gamekeeper to Sir John Sebright (7th Baronet of Hertfordshire), printed in 1828 and priced 2/6. George must have been interested in dogs and have had a number. There was a dog-yard with a couple of rooms below the main yard which was still called the kennels in my day and was where George kept his pack of hounds which family tradition records that he hunted himself (30.1).

C. Lease To Samuel Arthur Reynell 21st June 1838

There was a third lease of land to Samuel Arthur Reynell. This lease appears in the 1854 Griffith’s Valuation but no lease has been found; however it was probably dated from about the same time as the Barnes lease. It consisted of 207 acres and took in the land to the east of the back road to Mullagh up to the line of which was later named the Big Wood and included the marshy land around the Duckoy.

The remaining portion of Oakley Park left George about 270 acres and the three leases would bring in about £500 a year. These leases are shown on the map which, was annexed to the Barnes leases and which also showed the neighbouring townlands together with their owners; however the map has been changed slightly in accordance with the more accurate Ordnance Survey map of 1836.
The Barnes family was first mentioned in the deeds when Thomas Barnes was made a trustee of the 1822 marriage settlement of George and Arbella (24.1). Since then they have occurred a number of times. Not only was Thomas Barnes a second cousin to Arbella but also with the purchase of Oakley Park he was to become one of their closest neighbours.

1. The first Barnes to come to Ireland was Lieutenant Thomas Barnes who probably came from Derbyshire. He was granted at the time of the Commonwealth, lands at Grange (Kiltown) in the south of Co Kilkenny, and at Donore (or Donover) near Moynalty in Co Meath. These land grants were confirmed by Charles II in September 1666. He had three sons and two daughters.

   His eldest son, John Barnes, was ‘Sovereign’ of New Ross on the border between Counties Kilkenny and Wexford in 1704 and on his marriage he was give Donore. The second son, Thomas (will 1710), stayed at Grange, and the third son, Caleb, was of New Ross and was Sheriff of Co Kilkenny between 1709 and 1714.

2. John Barnes had five sons and two daughters, His eldest son George inherited Donore but died without children (will 1732), and left Donore to his brother Thomas. Thomas, the second son, was Alderman of Kilkenny and the Mayor there in 1725. However it looks as thought he moved to Donore, at any rate he married a Meath girl, Joyce Watch of Belair.

   The Civil Survey of 1654 records that before Cromwell “Donnowre” was in the hands of William Betagh ‘Irish Papist’, there being ‘on the premises a castle, three stone howses with bawnes (enclosed yards) and cabbins’. No doubt Thomas improved the castle before he moved in or he may have built himself a house; the site is just to the west of the bridge in the village of Moynalty and I have vaguely remember the place as a ruin but it has since been demolished.

3. Thomas and Joyce had a son and a daughter, Juliana who died in 1751. The son, another Thomas born 1721, was ‘of Donore’ and also of Kilkenny, and he did live at Donore. In 1761 he married Jane, daughter of John Robbins of Ballyduff (18.8.4); she must have died before her father died (will July 1769) since her sister Frances, later Lady Blunden, was the sole heir of John Robbins. It was this Thomas Barnes who built Westlands House about 1790; his will was dated 30th December 1796.

   The 1835 Name Book of the Ordnance Survey reports “Westlands House is in the centre of the townland of Donore and is the residence of Thomas Barnes, JP. The house is a fine building with suitable offices and a garden attached. The family had previously lived at Donover House and the present house gets its name from being West of the previous dwelling”.

4. Thomas and Jane had four sons and a daughter. The second son Joseph became Rector of Ballyboe in King’s Co; he probably married one of the Coote family and had three sons, Thomas born 1803, John Robbins born 1805, and John Oliver Coote born 1809; there must have been a fourth son named Chidley since the 1835 Name Book states that Chidley and John Coote Barnes were brothers and owned neighbouring townlands to Oakley Park; John Coote Barnes had Baltrasna and was living there in 1854, and Chidley had Turkestown but lived with John Coote at Baltrasna. In 1878 John Coote also owed Mahonstown which lies to the east of Baltrasna and Oakley Park on the Moynalty River.

   There is no information on the third son George.

   The fourth son, Samuel Edward Barnes, born 1778 was an attorney and lived on Usher Island in the Liffey. In 1812 he married Letitia, a daughter of John Bateman of Altavilla (15.8.5). One of his grandsons became private secretary to President Theodore Roosevelt of USA, and another become editor of the New York Times. Other grandchildren emigrated to Natal in South Africa.

5. The eldest son Thomas, JP, of Westlands, became a barrister and married twice. In 1794 he married Margaret, daughter of Rev Edward Reynell, DD, of Killynon (24.5). She had one son, Thomas, who was born in 1796, the year she died, so she may have died in childbirth. In 1806 Thomas married secondly Jane, a daughter of Rev Smith of Lismorcaney; this Rev Smith might be Thomas Smith of Lismacrony (8.5.1) and, if so, Jane’s mother was a younger sister of Ann Smith of Violetstown who married Stephen Bomford of Gallow.

6. Thomas, 1796 – 1871, the eldest son by Margaret Reynell, married his cousin Jane Kellet, 1800 – 1850, in 1825 (24.5). She was the daughter of her mother’s sister Jane Reynell who had married about 1798 Rev William Kellet, Vicar of Moynalty 1803 – 1851 and lived at Moynalty Glebe House. Both Margaret Barnes and Jane Kellet were first cousins of the first Arbella and George Bomford, and so the Barnes family were further related to the Bomfords through marriages with the families of Robbins, Reynell, Smith, Bateman, and Kellet.

   Thomas had one stepisister Anne and five stepbrothers; these were John, a solicitor in Dublin, Joseph, a barrister in Dublin, George and William who both emigrated to Canada, and Caleb.
who died in 1869. Thomas lived in Westlands and was trustee of the 1832 Bomford marriage settlement (24.1), and it was he who leased the northern part of Oakley Park in 1838. His son Thomas Richard aged 11 was a life in that lease which lasted until Thomas’s death in 1871.

7. Thomas and Jane’s eldest son Thomas Richard went to Australia but after some years returned. He married but had no children and must have died soon after his father because in 1878 Westlands, consisting of 464 acres, was in the hands of his younger brother, William Arthur.

8. William Arthur Barnes. JP 1839 - 1912 was Professor of Agriculture at Trinity and won a prize for Westlands farm in 1894. In 1876 he married his cousin Frances Georgina daughter of his uncle John Barnes the solicitor. They had one child Hester Frances, 1879 - 1942, who inherited Westlands. In 1908 she married Alfred Hubert Marshall who took the name Marshall-Barnes in 1912 when they inherited.


**25.3 Neighbours and Townlands Adjacent to Oakley Park**

North of Oakley Park:

1. Rathenreigh spelt many ways but pronounced Rath-en-rye and later called Kingsfort consisted of 696 acres in which were two large houses both owned by the Chaloners. Kingsfort, where Richard Chaloner lived, and Cherrymount, where Rev Philip Smith lived as did his father William Smith. Cherrymount was where the first Kingsfort Chaloner, John, lived until his new house Kingsfort was completed in 1735. Kingsfort was a brick-built house of two stories over a basement; Richard Chaloner made changes to the interior around 1815 in which the ground floor rooms were vaulted with stucco decorations on the vaults. One room had plaster panelling and he also rebuilt the staircase. The house was pulled down about 1950 -1960 but the Chaloners had moved back to Cherrymount before then.

Richard Chaloner died in 1832 having spent much of his life planting trees and shrubs in the estate, particularly in the glen, which runs between Cherrymount and Kingsfort, and he was known to his friends as ‘Dicky of the Glen’. When he died he had five daughters and he left Kingsfort to his eldest daughter’s second son, Richard Cole-Hamilton (1810 - 1879). Richard took the name of Chaloner; it is he who is mentioned in the map of the Barnes’s lease. In 1835 he married Harriet, a daughter of Charles Tisdall of Charlesfort on the other side of Kells. One of the Chaloner girls married Trevor Bomford in 1911 and more of the Chaloner family history will be found in paragraph (33.9.1).

2. Knockaranny (Knockreny) a small townland of 40 acres belonged to the Rev George Garnett according to the Ordnance Survey of 1838 but to William Garnett according to the Barnes’s lease map. William Garnett lived at Donover (Donore) which he occupied after the Barnes family had moved to Westlands.

3. Baltrasna, 270 acres, has a small house of the same name. In 1838 it belonged to John Coote Barnes who later leased Mahonstown between Turkestown and Williamstown and in 1854 his brother Chidley Barnes was living with him in Baltrasna House. These brothers were first cousins of Thomas Barnes of Westlands

East and South of Oakley Park

4. Turkstown, 132 acres, belonged to Chidley Barnes. It contains a small house and some farm buildings.


6. Dulane, 231 acres, was owned by Rev George Garnett. There is a crossroads here and there used to be a forge, which is now a shop. Dulane, or Tui, owes its fame to its ancient Church founded by Saint Cairmech, a contemporary of Saint Patrick, who flourished in the fifth century. The Church thrived and even had a bishop in the 10th Century, but it was sacked on numerous occasions by the Danes and gradually succumbed to Kells.

7. Williamstown, 280 acres, has a large house on it in which the Rev George Garnett lived. He had recently married, and died in 1856 leaving the place to his eldest son, William Stawell Garnett who was born in 1838.

(This paragraph continues after the Oakley Park Map).
The early Oakley Park deeds concern both Thomas Williams who lived at Williamstown, and Joseph Williams, probably his brother, who lived at Oakley Park then called Lawrence town. Joseph Williams built the early part of Oakley Park, and Thomas rebuilt Williamstown, which was previously called Boaravely. Boaravely is also the proper name for the river, which is usually called the Moynalty River. However the Williamstown House of the 1830’s was built in the second half of the 1700’s by Rev George Garnett’s father. It is an impressive three-story house, which looks very like nearby Rockfield, and the two houses are probably by the same architect. Towards the end of the 1900’s the Garnetts left and Williamstown was occupied for a while by the Dyas family; they left it to Miss McCormack who died in the 1950’s. Since then the house has been empty and is slowly decaying into a ruin.

West of Oakley Park:
8. Maperath, 683 acres, was the home of Thomas Taylor Rowley (died c 1860), who leased Oakley Park from 1829 until 1833 during the time he was rebuilding Maperath. The Ordnance Survey map show that Maperath had the largest parkland and gardens of all the nearby houses; it also shows a road leading from Oakley Park to Maperath which was laid down by Rowley to give him easy access during the rebuilding period. This road ran from the yard along the back paddock besides the Big Garden and the shrubbery and then along the river and in to Maperath. At some later date the Rowleys sold the house to the Archdales of Athboy, and during the 1930’s the house was left vacant after the Archdale sisters had all died. It was demolished in the 1950’s.

9. Wilmount was the house of John Radcliff (died c 1881), who probably built the present house. The Radcliff family remained there until just after the Second World War when they emigrated to South Africa. They sold Wilmount to Peter Thompson, a brother of Kenneth of Triermore, about 1950 and he lived there for about 10 years when the place was again sold. The new owner locked the door and no one entered the place for the next 30 or so years. In 1990 it was again occupied.

So in the immediate vicinity were five families of about the same age as George and Arbella, and whose land touched theirs, Rowleys, Chaloners, Barnes, Garnetts and Radcliffs, all of whom had large and recently restored or newly built houses. There were probably more Georgian houses around Oakley Park than there were around Rahinstown and Agher, and the social life would be equally greater.

25.3.1 Neighbours Further Away
If we move further afield there were even more neighbours, all within an easy ride and in similar circumstances. It is noteworthy that all these neighbours were resident landlords and it is thought that there were no absentee landlords in the vicinity. One of the first duties of the newly arrived George and Arbella was to visit each of their neighbours and to leave their visiting card. There is no record about their particular friends but cards would have to be left with all neighbours or offence might be taken, and some of those living further away would include the following.

1. Headfort House where the Second Marquess of Headfort, Thomas Taylor 1787 – 1870, lived, consisted of about 1,000 acres. The Marquess had vast estates around Kells and Virginia but for most of them he was the ‘Head’ landlord, only receiving a small rent in perpetuity; he was George’s head landlord as he was to a number of other landlords. His family are recorded in 2.11.3 but Thomas and his first wife Olivia (Stevenson) had a young family of three boys and three girls, the eldest being about 16 at this time. However Olivia had died in 1834 and it was not until 1853 that he married again; his second wife was Frances (Martyn) but they had no more children. They had a shooting lodge outside Virginia on the lake, which was sold in the 1960’s and is now a hotel. Headfort House was sold by the 6th Marquess, Michael, in the 1980’s and is now a preparatory school.

2. The Archdeaconry, called Blackwater Stud in 2005, was occupied by the Kells Rector who was an archdeacon at this time;
   Thomas de Lacy was Kells rector from 1799 to 1844, he was followed by
   Edward A. Stopford from 1844 to 1872, then came
   Joseph Samuel Bell from 1872 to 1887, then
   John Heally from 1887 to 1917, but he refused to live in the big house and built the present Rectory just outside Kells on the Dublin road,

3. Rockfield was where Richard Rothwell and his wife Elizabeth (Sutton) lived. His mother was living at Hurdlestown just off the Navan road, which they had bought from the Lowthers sometime between 1792 and 1829. When Richard died in 1853 his son Thomas took over Rockfield. Thomas was born in 1834 and in 1866 married Louisa Catherine, eldest daughter of Mervyn Pratt (20.2.1) of Cabra Castle.; he died in 1906.

   Rockfield was built in the second half of the 1700’s with nine windows across the front and four deep. It has three storeys but the ground floor was treated as the basement so the dining room
and sitting rooms were on the first floor. The interior was improved in the early 1800’s with a library with Ionic columns and a curving staircase with ironwork balustrade behind a screen of columns. The house is very similar to Williamstown and may have been planned by the same architect. The Rothwell family sold the place about 1960 and Tony Cameron lived there with his family.

4. Balrath Burry was a monstrous long house with 21 windows across the front with a central front door. About all I remember of the house was the long passage going in both directions when you entered. The passage had windows on one side and what seemed like an untold number of similar doors opening into it, and I doubt if I ever entered the correct room first time.

It was built in the first half of the 1700’s by Thomas Nicholson whose father was one of the ‘49’ officers in the Royal Army and was granted land in Co Monaghan; these lands were sold and Balrath Burry bought in 1669. Thomas’ great-grandson Christopher Armytage (1768 – 1849) and his wife Anna (Lenox-Conyngham) were living at Balrath at this time but he was soon to die and his son John Armytage (1798 – 1872) inherited in 1849. John and his wife Elizabeth (Alexander) had seven children at this date, the eldest being 13; his second daughter Anne married Samuel Winter in 1860 (20.6.2).

The Irish Army took the house over as a barracks in 1939 and in accordance with well-established military precedent damaged it considerably. It was rebuilt in 1942 but cut down in size, only the eastern end being used. The Nicholson family have recently moved away.

5. Randalstown was begun about 1710 by Colonel Everard; a third storey was added about 1780, and most imaginative plasterwork was added to the interior at the beginning of the 1800’s. At this time Captain Richard Everard lived with his French wife, Mathilde, daughter of the Marquis d’Amboise. He died in 1863 when his son Sir Nugent Everard took over. In 1873 Sir Nugent married Priscilla, daughter of William Humphrys of Ballyhaise by his second wife, (his first wife was Anna Maria Winter see 20.6). Later Sir Nugent nearly ruined himself by trying to grow tobacco at Randalstown. He died in 1929. More recently, Randalstown was the Headquarters of a Navan mining company.

6. Gibbstown had just been built in the Italian style by John Gerrard (1838); at one end there was a single-storey domed wing ending with a bell tower. John Gerrard died in 1838 and was succeeded by his nephew Thomas of Boyne Hill, Navan, who was just four. The house was demolished after an accidental fire in the early 1900’s but the yard buildings are still in use.

7. Bloomsbury was occupied by Joseph Barnewall, a connection of Lord Trimlestown, who died in 1852; his wife was a daughter of Thomas Everard of Randlestown. The house now belongs to Jack Whalley.

Originally Bloomsbury was called Mount Tisdall and the Tisdall family lived there until about 1753 when they moved to their newly built house called Charlesfort.

8. Charlesfort was occupied by John Tisdall (1815 – 1892). In 1837 he married Isabella Knox. (1st cousin to Richard Chaloner). They had eleven children most of whom were the same age as George’s children. John Tisdall’s sister Harriett (or Henrietta) was married to Richard Chaloner of Kingsfort in 1835, and another sister Juliana married James Noble-Waller of Allenstown in 1838. Charlesfort remained in Tisdall hands until the death of Oliver in 1964; his wife Christina sold the place in 1968. The present owner removed the wing of the house built by John Tisdall in 1854 and the house stands now as it was originally built in the late 1740’s.

9. Drewstown was built around 1740 and was bought in the 1780’s by Major Joseph McVeagh who had married the daughter of a wealthy East Indian ‘Nabob’, the Governor of Madras. At this date his son Ferdinand Meath McVeagh (1789 - 1866) lived there. Ferdinand’s daughter Flora Harriett was married in 1835 to Rev Francis Sadleir, Rector of Raddanstown, and it was their daughter who married George Winter Bomford in 1861 (30.2.2). The house remained a McVeagh property until 1950 when it became a school run by a religious trust.

10. Triermore was occupied by Thomas Rotheram whose daughter married Ferdinand McVeagh the younger (1813 - 1888) of Drewstown in 1847. The lands of Triermore and Drewstown are adjacent. Thomas Rotheram died in 1851 and the place went to his son, Thomas Edward. The house is still there and is now owned by Major Kenneth Thompson, the brother of Peter who had Wilmount.

11. Allenstown was built about 1750 by William Waller (1710 – 1796). The Waller’s trace their ancestry back to the reign of Henry III and one of them fought at the Battle of Agincourt under Henry V. They were strongly royalist and William’s great-grandfather went to Ireland and was killed there in the rebellion in 1641, as was his brother; the third brother was a member of the ‘Long Parliament’ of 1640, led a plot to seize London for King Charles I and was expelled from the House of Commons in 1643, he was imprisoned in the Tower and banished in 1644 but was pardoned and returned to England in 1651.

In 1809 the Waller male line ended and Allenstown went to William’s grand-nephew
named Noble. At this date the place was owned by James Noble-Waller (1800 – 1874) who had four boys and three daughters, born between 1839 and 1862. However in 1920 the male line again failed and Allenstown was passed to James’ grand-nephew Vice-Admiral Arthur William Craig (1872 – 1943) who became Craig-Waller. He sold the place in the late 1930’s and the house was pulled down in 1940.

12. **Moynalty House** was occupied by John Farrell. His father James Farrell bought Moynalty and five townlands nearby for £34,500 in 1790. The Farrells were Roman Catholic and could not own land until in 1782 Grattan’s Parliament relaxed many of the Penal Laws. James had made his money as a brewer and moneylender in Dublin and, although he lived in Merrion Square, he made many improvements around Moynalty. However after James died his son John built Moynalty House around 1830 and lived there, he also rebuilt much of the village at this time. John’s son, John Arthur (1825 – 1904), inherited and in 1860 married Lucretia Pauline, a daughter of Edward Preston the 13th Viscount Gormanston (1796 - 1876). When he died in 1904 his son, John Edward, was recalled from Tasmania to run the estate but he had to sell it largely due to ill health.

   Meanwhile John Arthur’s second son, Colonel Edward Farrell, took over the neighbouring estate of **Walterstown** from the Kellett family and his daughter Dorothy, Mrs de Stacpole, lives there today.

13. **Mountainstown** was bought by John Pollock, a successful solicitor in Dublin from a daughter of Samuel Gibbons about 1796, and he added a wing about 1811. John died in 1825 and was succeeded by his son, Arthur Hill Corwallis Pollock, who continued improving the family’s famous herd of cattle, which won many prizes. In 1846 Arthur died and was followed by his son, John Osborne George, who died in 1871. The Pollooks still live at Mountainstown.

14. **Westlands House** was at this date occupied by Thomas Barnes, 1796 – 1871 and his wife Jane (Kellet), 1800 – 1850. They had a young family of three boys and two girls, the eldest being aged 11 (See 25.2.2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drumbaragh</td>
<td>Woodward family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvan Park</td>
<td>Keating family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnsbrook</td>
<td>Tandy family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boltown</td>
<td>Battersby family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeview</td>
<td>Mortimer family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arch Hall</td>
<td>Garnett family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chamberlainstown</td>
<td>Chamberlayne family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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and many others.

25.3.2 The Town of Kells

Kells is now a market town, but in the early days it was a centre of repute due to its religious ties. At one time it was called Ceanannus Mor, meaning the white-headed fort, referring to the legend of the tribute of white-headed cattle paid to the builder of the fort in prehistoric times; Cenlis Mor and Kenlis are some other forms of the name. Originally a royal residence where ‘Conn of the Hundred Fights’ lived in the 2nd Century and where years later between 544 and 565 it was the palace of Dermot, High King of Ireland. About this time it was granted to St Columcille or St Columba of Iona, an island off the west coast of Scotland, and he founded a monastery about 550, which was to become a centre of learning. During the 7th and 8th centuries the monks erected the first of the stone crosses which were sculptured with biblical scenes and used as teaching aids; the Book of Kells was written about this time; it is now in Trinity College, having been deposited there in 1653 by Henry Cromwell and is reckoned to be the finest example of early Christian art of its kind. The only building of this period still standing is “St Columbicille’s house” which was built in the early 800’s and roofed with stone slabs. About 807 Kells became a bishopric and a little later the monks of Iona had to fly from the Norsemen and they settled at Kells. A century later the Norsemen penetrated as far as Kells and stripped the monastery of all its wealth. The 95 feet high round tower of six floors was built at this time; it still stands by the gate of the Church but it has lost its top and is unusual as it has five windows at the top, one for each of the roads coming into the town. Close to the round tower stand the famous stone crosses in the churchyard except for one which was moved to the market place opposite the castle; the latter was demolished a couple of centuries ago. This cross was used as a gallows in Cromwell’s time and again in 1798.

A quarter of a century after the Synod in Kells of 1152, Hugh de Lacy, was granted Meath after the Anglo-Norman invasion, and he proceeded to build castles around his domain which bordered the English Pale. Hugh de Lacy’s main stronghold was his castle at Trim but he also built a castle at Kells and walled in the town, and Kells became a strongpoint on the frontier of the 15th Century Pale. Under the Anglo-Normans the religious establishments flourished and continued to do so until Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries.

George Bomford of Oakley Park

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It looks as though Kells went through a peaceful period but this is far from the case. For nearly 900 years numerous battles were fought at Kells, firstly between the Irish Kings, then against the Norsemen and finally the Anglo-Normans fought battles defending the Pale against the Irish. Kells sustained several sieges, and was frequently plundered, sacked, burned and destroyed. For instance in 951 the Vikings raided the monastery and at least 3,000 men were said to have been captured as slaves, and a great spoil of cattle, horses, gold and silver taken; even if exaggerated this report demonstrates the scale of the slave trade and the wealth of the monastery. Then in 1108 Kells was attacked by the Danes of Dublin and the Abbey pillaged and destroyed. Edward Bruce defeated Lord Roger Mortimer and burned Kells in 1315. It is not surprising that for safety the famous Book of Kells was buried ‘under the sod’ and lost for a number of years.

The Cromwellian War caused the usual unsettlement and his cavalry stabled their horses in the Church and were largely responsible for disfiguring the priceless crosses, even breaking the crosspiece of the one in the market square. In 1654 Lieut-Colonel Richard Stephens was granted the town and commenced to rebuild it after the devastation but, perhaps daunted by the task, he sold it around 1675 to Thomas Taylor, the ancestor of the Marquess of Headfort. Thomas chose to live in the town in a large house on the south side of what is now Headfort Place; one of the early Corporation records of 1698 state that money was paid for clearing the new pavement leading to Captain Taylor’s gate.

Lewis’ Topographical Dictionary of 1831 states that Kells is “an incorporated market and post-town on the mail-coach road from Dublin to Enniskillen containing 4,326 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated on the southwest bank of the River Blackwater and in 1831 contained 734 houses, in general neatly built, though in some instances without much regularity. A silk and cotton lace manufactory was established in 1824, nearly the whole of the lace is sent to England. There is a brewery and a tannery in the town and a considerable retail trade is carried on. There is a police station and the sessions house, (court house built in 1801), is a neat building. The bridewell, or house of correction, for the county is a spacious and well-arranged building. The church is a spacious ancient structure with a detached square tower on the north side, surmounted by a spire erected by Thomas, 1st Earl Bective. (The bell tower was rebuilt in 1578, the present church was built in 1778, and the spire was put on the bell tower in 1783). The Roman Catholic chapel is a spacious and handsome stone building in the form of a ‘T’ with two towers erected in 1798, (demolished and rebuilt further from the road in 1960). A new national school upon a large scale is about to be built.”

Two other large buildings were about to be built; the workhouse in 1842 at the bottom of the hill into Kells from Oakley Park, and the new fever hospital at the top of the hill. The Dublin and Drogheda Railway Co extended their line to Kells in 1853 and the line on to Oldcastle in 1863.

Kells was a typical go-ahead country town, but there was the not-so-good side, which is not commonly reported. In 1836 Freeman reported that in Kells there were “a number of cabins situated in little courts at the back of the main row of cabins which form the front of the street or road. These courts are seldom more than six or seven feet wide, and that space, which forms the only passage or entrance to the cabins, is usually blocked up with heaps of manure made by the pigs, and with rubbish and filth throw out of the houses at the very doors.”

Thirty years on in 1871 Thom’s Almanack records about Kells, “a good market town in the County of Meath. The principal proprietor of the town is the Marquess of Headfort, whose seat is in the immediate neighbourhood. There is something very imposing about the entrance to Kells - the spacious well wooded avenue - the wide streets adorned with old trees, terminated by the venerable Protestant church and very old round tower, hansome Roman Catholic church and sessions-house; and recently a Presbyterian church has been erected. The town is improving, new roads have been formed; and the schools endowed by Miss Dempsey, the new hospitals, union workhouse, etc, add much to its appearance. There is a good hotel; and at the weekly markets considerable quantities of produce are disposed of. The ‘Meath Herald’ newspaper is published here.

Town revenue 1871 £1,161.13.6
Population 1871 2,953
1861 3,225.”
(1986 2,448)

25.3.3 Disturbances in the Moynalty Area

Moynalty and its surrounds suffered disturbances just before and at the time that George and Arbella moved to Oakley Park, which is exactly half way between Moynalty and Kells. This area of Meath contains more tillage than south Meath around Rahinstown and Drumlargan, and as a result there was a heavier population of agricultural workers; this posed no particular problem whilst agriculture was flourishing, but after the Napoleonic War prices slumped and landlords cut down on tillage with the
The County Meath Association. In 1793 the Association had infiltrated the Defenders ranks and learned "arms". To meet this threat the landowners of Moynalty, Kingscourt, Baileborough and Virginia formed early 1790's they raided houses "at the silent and unprepared hour of midnight and robbed them of their Park and other lands of Jason Crawford. The forerunners of the Ribbonmen were the Defenders and in the subsequently acquired by the Tucker family who in the mid 1700's were party to mortgages on Oakley Kingscourt road; it was renamed Petersville from a notorious Cromwellian planter and priest hunter, and hit the headlines with the Battle of Coolnahinch. Coolnahinch is two miles north of Moynalty on the old Park and which led to the sale of the place by his son to George Bomford. The Ribbonmen were so successful or, depending on one's point of view inspired so much dread that at one stage Jason Crawford of Oakley Park, another magistrate, refused point blank to support Chaloner's deposition to get the Moynalty area proclaimed; to quote Chaloner's diary, "Called at Laurencetown (Oakley Park) to procure Mr Crawford's name to my memorial which to my astonishment he refused; confessing his dread of the resentment of the Ribbon Men". It may indeed have been this dread and the general unsettlement of the area which contributed ultimately to the Crawfords moving out of Oakley Park and which led to the sale of the place by his son to George Bomford.

But to return to Moynalty disturbances, a much earlier occurrence was in 1793 when Moynalty hit the headlines with the Battle of Coolnahinch. Coolnahinch is two miles north of Moynalty on the old Kingscourt road; it was renamed Petersville from a notorious Cromwellian planter and priest hunter, and subsequently acquired by the Tucker family who in the mid 1700’s were party to mortgages on Oakley Park and other lands of Jason Crawford. The forerunners of the Ribbonmen were the Defenders and in the early 1790’s they raided houses “at the silent and unprepared hour of midnight and robbed them of their arms”. To meet this threat the landowners of Moynalty, Kingscourt, Baileborough and Virginia formed the County Meath Association. In 1793 the Association had infiltrated the Defenders ranks and learned that they were meeting at Coolnahinch, so the Association gathered together and laid an ambush. The Defenders were caught unaware, routed and fled into the Tucker house, but they were soon recognised, pulled out and killed or captured. 38 Defenders were killed and many more captured at a cost to the Association of one man wounded. Nothing now remains, of Petersville, the Tucker home, but a few feet stable and peaceful area into one where there was, or had been, much frightening violence.

Young George Bomford must have been aware of this agrarian violence around Moynalty; and around Kells also, but Kells was a garrison town so the military, who acted as the police, were better able to keep a check on outrages. South Meath was not so prone to violence as it was basically cattle raising country and so less populated. However records of outrages were spotted in. Summerhill, Garadice, Dunsany and some other nearby places but none were spotted on either Winter or Bomford land. There must be a conclusion to be drawn from this and it may be that, as we know, the Winters treated their tenants and labour well; that George Bomford was brought up and trained by Winter and so had similar views, and it was for this reason that the Ribbonmen and others left George alone because he was known to be of ‘a good family’; the word ‘good’ in this Irish context being interpreted as ‘just’. Nevertheless the Bomford move to Oakley Park is now even less easily understood as George was moving from a fairly stable and peaceful area into one where there was, or had been, much frightening violence.

Another item of frightening violence follows but is of quite a different kind. This was the “Big Wind” which occurred in January 1839 during the time of the extension to Oakley Park, and hit the whole island.

25.3.4 The Night of the Big Wind 6th January 1839

This night has passed into folklore of Ireland and stories of it have been passed from generation to generation. It was the night of Ireland’s greatest natural disaster and these notes have evolved from the newspaper reports of the day, mostly from the Dublin Evening Post.

In this night, the Twelfth Night, the night of the Epiphany, Ireland was hit by what was perhaps the most violent storm to strike the country in the last six hundred years. The violence of the storm, its sheer brutality, horrified those who lived through it and its magnitude was such that it was widely seen not as an extreme version of the normal but as a supernatural event; the latter being aided by the fact that it occurred on the Twelfth Night, the night traditionally associated with the Day of Judgement and Death; as Lady Wilde wrote
“On Twelfth Night, the dead walk, and on every tile of a house a soul is sitting waiting for your prayers to take it out of purgatory.”

From ‘Mystic Charms and Superstitions of Ireland’ by Lady Speranza Wilde, wife of Sir William Wilde, 1815–1876, a famous ophthalmic surgeon of Dublin, who wrote ‘ Beauties of the Boyne and the Blackwater’ in 1849, recently re-published and very readable.

However 6th January was also a day of celebration because it was ‘Little Christmas’. This was the day that used to be Christmas before the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, after which it had been changed into a day of treats, good food and celebration. Everyone was looking forward to the evening’s entertainment, and in most cases that entertainment was over when it happened.

The storm began innocently, almost casually. Around nine o’clock a light westerly breeze sprang up. There followed a steady, relentless increase. As the Dublin Evening Post recorded of Dublin, “about half past ten it rose into a high gale, which continued to increase in fury until after midnight, when it blew a most fearful and destructive tempest”. Elsewhere its arrival was sudden and explosive; in Kilbeggan in Westmeath “there was at first a rumbling noise, like thunder, heard, which was followed by a rushing blast of wind, which swept across the town like a tornado, and shook the houses so much that the glass and delft were thrown from the shelves. Those who were in bed hastily jumped up and dressed themselves. Many ran out of their houses into the fields and gardens, and in several instances where the inmates fled, the houses were soon after levelled to the ground”.

Disquiet turned into consternation. In Limerick “the watchmen took refuge in terror of their lives…. No living creature being able to stand in the streets, while the spirit of the tempest was careering in all his might through the air, and a shower of slates at every angle which was exposed to the blast, strewing the ground with broken particles, and flying before the tempest like shreds of paper”.

The people became frantic, their fears excited “almost to madness”. Vast numbers deserted their houses, seeking shelter wherever they could find it. In Moate a man got into a barrel for safety and was blown around the town. If their shelter was blow down, as frequently happened, they would all move again, one woman having to go to three houses to give birth to her baby. The wind was so forceful it blew many off their feet and in County Monaghan “those who took courage and volunteered to assist their neighbours had to travel on all fours. They were obliged to embrace each other and shout at the top of their voice to make themselves heard”. Crowds gathered in churches and in Dublin under the Corinthian columns of the Bank of Ireland. Some were seen “walking the roads where no houses were to avoid death”. Others stayed put, huddling together in whatever part of the house they judged to be the safest; in Ross in County Galway, the Martin family including James (21.8.3) emerged from the cellars of their house “groaned like a vessel at sea”, the beds and furniture being “visibly agitated”. Hundreds of well-to-do homes “groaned like a vessel at sea”, the beds and furniture being “visibly agitated”. Hundreds of well-made buildings collapsed, and many more subsequently had to be demolished. Much of the south wall of the medieval Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul at Trim (Appendix ‘C’) was blow down.

Rooks suffered particularly badly. Slated roofs were plucked clean, the back roof of the barrack at Longford disappeared “as if an explosion of gunpowder had taken place inside”. Once the roof had gone the room’s contents were fair game, “beds, pallsisses, pillow cases, and other bedroom articles being carried on high like so many feathers”, (Dublin Evening Mail). In many cases the chimney-stack was blown down, perhaps coming through the roof and on through the house, carrying all before it. This happened to Lady Mountjoy’s ‘fine mansion’ in Rutland Square, and in Clare Street another falling stack ‘destroyed a female’, (Newspaper reports described gentlefolk as dying whereas servants and poor people tended to get destroyed:). The majority of roofs in the country were thatched and many of these simply disappeared, one in Westmeath was blown into the next townland, and another in Leitrim sailed serenely across Fenagh Loch; other roofs simply collapsed and this was often the cause of another hazard of the night, fire.

Few people thought to put out the kitchen fire so, when the straw from a collapsing roof landed on it, the flames spread and sparks and flaming pieces of timber were blown from house to house. Over a hundred houses were gutted in Athlone, eighty-nine in Loughrea, sixty-three in Moate, and in Dublin there were fears that the fires would spread like those in the Great Fire of London of 1666, (see 23.6, Bethesda fire). Along the Tyrone-Monaghan border “there was a fire in every townland”.

As the Dublin Evening Post described the storm-

“Every field, every town, every village in Ireland, have felt its dire effects. The damage, which it has done, is almost beyond calculation. Several hundreds of thousands of trees have been levelled to the
ground. More than half a century must elapse, before Ireland, in this regard, presents the appearance she did last summer. The loss of farming stock, of all kinds, has been terrible; many hundreds of cattle have had to be killed. Many of the most thrifty and industrious husband-men, whose waggons were filled with unthreashed corn on Sunday night, found themselves without a sheaf of grain in the morning. The poor, of course, as being the most numerous, have been the greatest sufferers. Tens of thousands of their wretched cabins have been swept away or unroofed, and many have become a prey to the flames. Trees, ten to twelve miles from the sea, were covered with salt brine. Such was the fury of the storm, that, had it lasted six hours longer, it is not the house that would have been prostrated, but whole streets and towns levelled.”

These days much of the storm damage would be covered by insurance, but in the 1830’s most property was not even insured against fire, and none against storm damage. The idea of insurance in those days being fairly novel outside the cities where the different insurance companies had their own fire fighters. There was no insurance then for storm damage and the dire results of the Big Wind had to be paid for by the householder. The poorer people had a shockingly bad time as there was need for massive relief, and the only relief available was from neighbours and landowners. At first sight this might seem to reflect British indifference towards Ireland’s sufferings; but it was not. Places in England like Liverpool and Manchester which were only a little less smitten by the storm, received no help either. In the 1830’s governments throughout Europe were only just beginning to appreciate that they might have some responsibilities in the fields of relief and welfare. Non-intervention was the rule and even if governments wished to intervene the apparatus to do so hardly existed. In most places it was down to self-help and charity. Schools were opened to accommodate some of those who had lost their homes, soup kitchens were set up, and straw was donated for thatching.

The earliest records of insurance in these documents were, for life insurance, that of David George North-Bomford (27.8.1) of 1867, and, for fire insurance, that of Oakley Park (29.2.2) of 1874. There are no records of any storm damage insurance. Neither are there any records in the documents of any damage done by the Big Wind. No doubt the major damage would have been trees blown down with the consequent loss of cattle, stocks of hay straw being blown away, and probably slates and maybe chimney pots blow off the roofs. Although the newspapers reported losses by neighbours I spotted none by the Bomfords but there must have been some damage. Headfort and Ardbraccan both had over 2,000 trees blown down, and many other estates were noticed in the reports, as at Mountainstown (Pollock, 25.3.1) where “not a large tree remains standing”, Gibbstown (Gerrard, 25.3.1), Collon House (Foster, 6.3, now Lord Oriel) where “the grounds, which have been so much improved, are a scene of desolation; the towering silver firs, the rare black larch, the fine magnolias, the cedar and Goa cedars, and other specimens of the rarest trees which have been collected from all quarters of the globe, now lie prostrate, - nothing can equal the desolation of the scene”, Slane Castle, Annadale (Kennedy, 22.4.2), Clover Hill (Sanderson, 24.5), and many others throughout the country.

In Dublin the police estimated that out of 23,000 houses, 38 were blown down, 119 were partly blown down; 243 house’s were completely unroofed with 1,143 partially unroofed, but ‘there is scarcely a house the roof of which has not been injured’; 4,846 chimneys were blown down and 1,527 windows blown in. No such estimates were made in the country.

25.4 Portraits of George and Arbella 1847

Two large twin framed portraits, 34” x 45”, used to hang in the dining room at Oakley Park. They are now in England with the two sons of Mrs Joan David (Bomford). They were painted by Arbella’s brother, John Winter, in Dublin in most probably 1847 (see below).

George is seated facing the artist but looking to the right, and dressed in a black coat, chocolate waistcoat, white ‘T’ cravat with white shirt and white trousers. A thin gold chain joins the gold buttons in his shirt, a gold watch chain also shows and he is wearing a gold signet ring. He is a smallish, dapper looking man with black hair, trimmed moustache and beard. His eyes are brown and he wears glasses; apparently it is unusual for paintings of this period to show the sitter wearing spectacles and so, if they were only used for reading, George would have removed them probably; they figure twice in George’s account book, firstly in February 1832, ‘spectacles and glass £3.18.0’ and again in August 1834 ‘for new specks £1.5.0’.

The background of both portraits is dark and indistinct, but in the top right corner of George’s portrait is a rampant Griffen, which is the Bomford crest. George’s portrait has the number ‘117’ pasted in the lower left hand corner, which indicates that it was exhibited, probably at the Royal Hibernian Academy where it is known that John Winter exhibited.

Arbella is seated and her portrait includes her eldest son, George Winter Bomford, then aged 11 or 12. George Winter is standing to her right and is dressed in a dark green smock, white trousers, and a wide lace collar, which overhangs his shoulders. He has brown eyes and brown rather unruly hair; the
eyes are looking straight at you with a youthful innocent gaze. Arbella’s blue eyes are looking at her son and her long gold necklace, which George Winter is holding, joins the two. His right hand is clasped by his mother’s right hand. She is dressed all in pink and white; her crinoline is white with pink check and her frilly blouse shows a slight trace of pink; pink ribbons are tied at her waist, elbows and neck. Her brown hair has two partings, fore and aft, and from ear to ear, a bun at the back and two locks hang down almost to her mouth and cover her cheeks. On her bare arm she is wearing a black band with gold on it, and there appears to be additional gold encrusted in the gold.

The clue to the date of the portraits is an inscription on the back of George’s, which reads -

“Portrait of George Bomford Esq. by John Winter, Aardeven, Rathgar.” According to the Dublin Almanack, John Winter moved to Aardeven in 1845 and lived there until his death in 1864. 1845-6 was first selected because of the youthful appearance of their son, but 1847 is the most likely date because that was the year that they rented a house in Dublin and further, a number of sittings would be required and travel would have been difficult during those famine years.

There is a much earlier and smaller, 9” x 6”, portrait at Crodara of Arbella, painted before she married. The artist is not known but the painting in its original mount has a piece of printed paper stuck across the back which reads -

“Alphonse Giroux, Rue du Coq, Saint-Honore, No 7.”

This is followed by five lines in French, which state that Alphonse Giroux sells everything of use to an artist. It is not known whether he is the artist or whether he only framed the portrait, but it can be assumed that it was done in Paris when the Winter family were living there between 1817 and 1825. Arbella looks to be in her early teens so the painting was probably done between 1823 and 1825.

Arbella is looking at the artist with a humorous expression. Her brown hair dissolves into curls, which partly cover her ears and forehead. She is wearing a simple cream dress held in by a black belt at the waist, circular collar and long sleeves puffed out at the shoulder.

Her son, John Francis Bomford (1837 - 1911), has written on the back-  

“Arbella Bomford, my loved mother, John F Bomford, 5th August 1902. Kind gift from my dear sister ‘Nanny’.”

Nanny was the family name for John’s eldest sister Anne (1833-1912).

25.5 Bomford Arms and Crest

The first reference to the family arms and crest is on Colonel Laurence’s tombstone (cl725) which has been described as “an animal standing on its hind legs like a weasel and underneath an elaborate coat of arms which we cannot describe as it is rather indistinct”. (1.3).

During my research the Genealogical Office was in the process of being moved out of Dublin Castle, and the only available references were on microfilm in the National Library. These films are largely illegible, but at least the pedigrees of the Bomfords can be recognised and substantiate what has already been listed. The pedigrees are recorded in May and July 1825 on manuscript 149 pages 287-91, manuscript 160 pages 159 and 160, and manuscript 107 pages 130 and 131, but the portions of these concerning the arms are too illegible to record. These 1825 manuscripts concern the Bomford arms being transferred to the North-Bomford branch of the family, they were confirmed in March 1867, manuscript 109 pages 139 and 140.

However the North-Bomford application is entered in the General Armory by Burke in the 1884 edition, which reads -

“BOMFORD (North-Bomford) Exemplified in 1837 to Isaac North Esq. of Ferrans, Co Meath, on his assuming the additional surname of Bomford.
Quarterly, (for Bomford), (for North),
1st and 4th, Az on Fesse erm, three crosses croislet fitche gu.
2nd and 3rd, Per pale or and az a lion pass, betw three fleur-de-lis countercharged.
Crests, (for Bomford), (for North),
an eagle display per pale Az and Gu, in the dexter claw a dagger ppr. (This is also recorded in Burke 1842 edition.)
a wyvern’s head erased vert Langued gu collared and chained.

The crest of Bomford in the preceding grant having been discovered to be erroneous, a Confirmation was issued in 1867 to John North-Bomford Esq., late Captain 29th Regt., eldest son of the aforesaid Isaac North-Bomford.

Crest, (for Bomford), A griffin segreant or, charged on the shoulder with a cross croislet fitche gu.”
On 22nd August 1900 the Genealogical Office manuscript 111, pages 73 and 74, gives confirmation of arms “to the descendants of Robert Bomford, elder son of Stephen Bomford, both of Rahinstown, and to his great grand- son Richard Southcott Mansergh of Greenane, County Tipperary, eldest son of Richard St George Mansergh of Friarstown, County Tipperary” (21.3.2). This is on microfilm positive 1204 in the National Library, an extract of which follows: -

“To all and singular to whom these presents will come, I, Sir Arthur Edward Vicars, …. send greetings. Whereas application has been made unto me by Richard Southcote Mansergh of Grenane, Co Tipperary, Esquire, one of Her Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County, setting forth that he is the eldest son of Richard St George Mansergh, late of Friarsfield in the said County, third son, but eldest son to leave?? (Illegible, perhaps ‘with offspring’) of Richard Martin Southcote Mansergh of Greenane aforesaid by Jane Rosetta, his wife, second daughter of Robert Bomford, eldest son of Stephen Bomford both of Rahinstown, all deceased.

“That certain Armorial designs were used and borne by the said family of Bomford which do not appear to have been heretofore recorded in my office as appertaining unto them but which were granted and confirmed as a quartering unto Isaac North-Bomford, nephew of Isaac Bomford and grandson of David Bomford of Gallow who was the younger (brother) of the said Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown: That he is desirous that the same may be duly confirmed by lawful authority unto the descendants of his great grandfather the said Robert Bomford of Rahinstown and registered and recorded in this office …. to the end that Officers of Arms there and all others upon occasion may take full notice and have knowledge thereof, and he hath therefore prayed for a full confirmation of the same to be borne and used by him, the said Richard Southcote Mansergh, and all his descendants and all other descendants of his grandfather, the said Robert Bomford, as a quartering with his and these paternal Arms.

“Know ye therefore that I, the said Ulster King of Arms, having taken the request of the said applicant into consideration and having examined into the circumstances, am pleased to comply therewith and by virtue of the power unto me given by Her Majesty … have ratified and confirmed …. the Arms following, that is to say: -

“Azure on a fesse ermine, three cross crosslets fitchée gules.

“Sealed 22nd August in the sixty fourth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lady Victoria”.

Lieut-Colonel George W. Bomford found a number of plates of the Bomford arms in Oakley Park, one of which is in the possession of Joan David (Bomford). This shows the arms as described, however the crest is an erroneous one of a winged rampant dragon. In addition there is a motto which reads – “Justus et Fidelis”. The two sideboards in the Oakley Park dining room, one of which is now at Dowdstown, Ardee, were made with carved griffins acting as legs; the griffin’s head and outstretched wings hold up the top. Although the change from the erroneous eagle with a dagger to the griffin officially took place in 1867, the change must have taken place earlier since the sideboards were constructed in the late 1830’s and also George’s portrait of 1841 included the griffin. 

‘The Bomford Story’ by Theo Sherwen was written in 1978 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Bomford and Evershed Company of Worcestershire. In it there is a coat of arms, which is that of 1837 with the quarterings as granted to the North-Bomfords. Bruce Bomford in his book “The Bomford: of Worcestershire” believes that Theo Sherwen’s illustration ‘is probable derived from the Irish branch since to my knowledge no such achievement was granted to the family in England’. However it would appear that some arms and crest, not these ones, were carried by the family for some considerable time, but were only made official when the Bomford and North families were united. In this context it should be noted that the ratification only goes back to Stephen Bomford (c1718 - 1806) of Rahinstown and not to his grandfather Colonel Laurence whose children inscribed a set of arms and crest on his tomb at Laracor. It is doubtful if Cromwell approved of any arms and, if so, then the arms on the Colonel’s tombstone pre-dated Cromwell and must have originated in England; however these early arms were not recorded by the King of Arms and so were not recognized.

The accepted Bomford arms and crest are as follows with a translation into ordinary English
Arms
“Az on a fesse erm. Azure (blue) with two horizontal lines drawn across the field in ermine (white); so that the whole field, shaped like a shield, is blue with a broad band of white, just under 1/3rd of the total height, drawn across it.
three crosses On the white band are three crosses in line,
crosslet each cross being made of three crosses,
fitchée pointed at the ends,
Gu.” Gules, in red.
The fesse is emblematic of the military girdle worn around the body over the armour, and being white denotes peace and sincerity.
The cross signifies belief in the Trinity, and when tripled signifies taking part in the Crusades. (Our lineage does not go back that far, but it is a nice thought and does give backing to the idea that the arms originated in England).

Crest
“A Griffin segreant A mythical creature with a lion’s body and a eagle’s beak and wings,
or seated with raised wings,
charged on the shoulder in gold,
with a placed on the shoulder,
cross crosslet a single cross being made of three crosses
fitchée pointed at the ends
Gu .” in red. (The griffin must be drawn as a side view so that the cross on the shoulder can be seen. This cross is the same as in the arms)
George and Arbella’s children are growing up and these two letters are written on the same sheet of paper, the original being with Joan David. The first is from Anne, aged 8, and in it she mentions Sammy, her younger brother Samuel Stephen, aged 10 months. The second letter is from George Winter, aged 7, and he mentions Johnny who is his brother John Francis, aged 4.

My dear Mamma  
Oakley Park 13th Febry 1842

On Saturday afternoon Sammy got worse, we sent for the doctor he said it was only his teeth, he lanced his gums, and when he called yesterday, said he was much better: today he is quite well and very merry. Give our best love to dear Papa. Will you buy me some riband for my hair.

I remain dear Mamma  
Your affec”m” daughter  
Anne Bomford

My dear Mamma  
We all continue well. It was so wet yesterday we did not go to church. Will you buy Johnny a spelling book. Miss Chatfield desires me to thank you for getting her boots, the(y) fit very well, and we will go to the lake the first fine day. When will you come home?

I remain dear Mamma  
Your affec”m” son  
George Winter Bomford

Twelve years later another letter was kept; this one in rhyme and beautifully illustrated around the border with spiders, even showing two seated and writing their verse.

“Lament
M. W.’s SPIDERS addressed to G.B. of O.P.
Oh Dear, Mr Bomford: - and so it is you
Who have caused us to bid all our comforts Adieu,
It is you who deserve from our wives to get scoldings,
For turning us out of our lodgings and holdings,
Quite happy we lived with your sister and cousin,
And our beautiful webs you might count by the dozen,
For she gave us house-room in each corner and cornice,
Till you wrote a letter, and taught her to scorn us,
We thought the epistle was nothing but rudeness,
But she - foolish woman - mistook it for goodness,
And, as soon as she read it, so changed were her feelings,
She got out a long brush that reached up to the ceilings,
With a head, which for dusting had many a feather,
And she swept away us and our net-work together.
Where now shall we go? – ’Tis a wholesale eviction,
And to you we appeal from this depth of affliction,
You surely will deem it no subject for laughter,
But will give the poor outcasts some loft or some rafter-
We send you our portraits - our features you’ll mark,
And you’ll know us again in your own Oakley Park.”

It is not known who ‘M. W.’ is, but probably Mary Winter who was George’s sister-in-law who married George’s cousin, and her’s, John Winter (line 5), the portrait painter. They lived in Dublin and this also fits since the letter was postmarked “Round town Penny Post Fe 25 1854”. The authors were two married men (line 3).

It is hard to believe that such a delightful little verse could have real malice behind it, and George did keep it. On the other hand it does look as though George did write suggesting that they be moved on, and this places him as a bit of a busy-body.

The next piece of verse has absolutely nothing to do with the Bomfords but it was found scribbled in a Dublin Almanack of 1746. It is an indication of the male orientated world of the days before women’s lib.

How hard is the fate of Poor Woman kind
For ever rejected, for ever confined,
Our Parents confine us til we are wives
And our husbands enslave us the rest of our lives.

Tho fondly we love yet we dare not reveal,
In secret we long wish compelled to Conceal,
Deny’d every freedom of life to enjoy,
Ashamed if we love and blamed if we’re Coy.

25.7

Drumlargan Rent from F. P. Winter 1st May 1846

Among the documents is a hand-written slip showing the half-year’s rent on Drumlargan due by Francis Pratt Winter £435.14.10 ½ plus half year’s Tithe composition £7.18. 1½

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Total £443.13. 0

The Rev Francis was George’s uncle-in-law, the retired ‘hunting parson’ now aged 75 and living at Agher. When George was a minor Francis rented 94 acres of Drumlargan for £261, in 1832 his rent was £453 so some-time in the intervening years he increased his leased acreage; again between 1832 and 1846 he must have nearly doubled his acreage to match the £887 a year figure of this document. The 1836 Ordnance Survey states that George had Drumlargan leased in two farms at £2 an acre; this would give Francis one of the farms of about 443 plantation acres or 718 statute.

In July the Rev Francis died and his lease was taken over by John Monaghan. John Monaghan was soon to be living in Bloomfield House, later called Drumlargan House, which in 1836 was ‘going into a further ruinous state’ so it must have been done up since then.

25.7.1

Schedule of Deeds 6th June 1846

There are two schedules, the second one being undated, in which John Barnes hands over deeds and documents. The deeds of the first schedule were handed over to George Bomford, and all concern Oakley Park from 1712 to 1839, most of which are at Crodara. The second schedule lists deeds handed over to Samuel Reynell, and mostly concern land currently held by George Bomford, some are missing but many are at Crodara.

Samuel Reynell was George’s land agent who took over from Myles O’Reilly in 1837. Myles O’Reilly was a solicitor but Samuel Reynell was ‘not legally bred’ to use Myles’ words. It was necessary for George to find a solicitor and this appears to have been John Barnes of 69 Stephen’s Green, Dublin, who was the brother of Thomas Barnes of Westlands, the leasee of the northern portion of Oakley Park.

25.8

The Famine 1846 - 1849

A note on the famine was attempted but became too long since it was found impossible to restrict it to Meath only. It has been placed as an appendix. Although there is no specific mention of the famine in the deeds it had an enormous effect on all landlords, including the Bomfords.

All rate payers, and about 90% of them were landlords, had to find the money to feed the starving masses, and many became insolvent as a result. George and Arbella had used much of their credit in rebuilding Oakley Park, but their bank balance was still healthy and would have remained so under normal circumstances. However circumstances were not normal and ever increasing payments had to be made to the Relief Committees during this period; particularly after the Rent-in-Aid Act was passed in London whereby no more aid was to come from the rest of the British Isles and solvent baronies in Ireland had to pay the debits of the insolvent ones. Up to that time Meath and the neighbouring counties had not suffered as badly as the rest of the country. Partly due to the emphasis on profitable pastoral activity, the eastern counties did not experience the same rapid growth in population that occurred in the western and southern counties. The 1841 census states that Meath, probably the most fertile county in Ireland, had an average population of only 201 people per square mile, while relatively infertile counties, Donegal and Kerry, averaged 476 and 415 respectively. As 80% of Meath was classified as arable, this county could have supported a much larger population density of peasants on smallholdings, had the land been subdivided for this purpose. However, the high profitability of sheep and cattle raising in the eastern counties meant that landlords were less inclined to lease their lands to middlemen and to subdivide their estates into smaller holdings as was common practice in the western counties. The more secure and attractive nature of life in Leinster meant that many more landlords were resident, and participated in the management of their estates, than was the case in the west. In counties Meath and Westmeath prior to the
famine, there was less evidence of absentee landlords leasing their holdings to rapacious middlemen who subdivided the land and ‘rack-rented’ the tenancy. Landlords in these eastern counties often farmed their own estates themselves using cottier labour, and leased the remainder to substantial tenant farmers on determined long leases. These leases were mostly for grazing only and did not allow for successive subdivisions that proved so ruinous in the west. This meant that landlords, like the Bomfords, who were resident not only knew all their tenants personally but also knew all their labour; this personal touch meant that whole families were employed from one generation to the next, and both sides respected the other and worked together for their common good. In time of trouble the cottier would rely on the landlord for assistance. This bond also meant that outside families were kept away, since small plots of ground were harder to obtain than in the western counties; this in turn further reduced the incentive for young Irish couples to marry in the hope that they could readily establish their own household on tiny allotments in primitive cabins.

The peasant population of the eastern counties was not only less affected by the pressures of over-population that occurred in the west, but were less dependent on the potato to provide their subsistence. The cottiers of Meath generally had their own vegetable garden as well as potato ground, and raised poultry for their own use. A large portion of peasants in Leinster were cottiers with regular employment as labourers on estates where their annual wages generally exceeded their total rent. In many areas of Meath, tenants gained additional income by raising livestock for sale, and weaving linen at piece rates; there was a bleach-green at Oakley Park though it is doubtful if it was used at this time. Thus the famine caused considerably less suffering and death in the counties of Leinster compared with the misery and devastation in Munster and Connaught with less population to feed, a greater diversity of subsistence crops and additional sources of family income, peasants in the eastern counties were, much better placed than those in the west or south to withstand those dreadful years where, for many, subsidised mass emigration became the only escape from death from starvation.

In spite of the better circumstances in Meath, the scale of payments, to the workhouse to feed the starving and to the fever hospitals to feed and perhaps cure the sick and, later, to assist other insolvent baronies, became so great that only the richer landlords came through the famine period, and many poorer ones went broke and had to sell their land. This is what almost happened to George and Arbella; they had no need to sell but their savings had gone and they had to rely on income from the land only. George found it impossible to pay back to his brother the £10,000 which he had borrowed, and Samuel allowed the debt to continue for a further 40 or so years. If large sums of money were needed then land had to be sold with the consequent loss of income. George managed without having to sell land but the situation got worse and his son and grandson had to sell to make ends meet. It was the famine, which was the root cause, and it was indeed lucky for George that Samuel was so understanding because the price of land slumped in post-famine Ireland and the market never really regained the pre-famine value until the late 1950’s.

Apart from the financial troubles, George and Arbella had two other worrying concerns at Oakley Park; namely the wandering unruly element of semi-starved peasants, and the threat of disease to themselves and their children.

The roving destitute which gravitated to Kells and its workhouse must have overflowed into the surrounding countryside including Oakley Park; in all probability family bands would go out to glean the countryside of roots and berries and anything else that they could find edible; a single turnip was known to have kept a family alive for a day, and there was not a nettle to be found. This problem did not only concern George but also his tenants and above all his labour who were also eating berries, roots and nettles. Any problem with the ‘big house’ caused by the emigrants from other counties would reflect on George’s labour and their families. The whole population of Oakley Park (104 in 1841), as in other townlands, would band together and certainly assist the destitute whenever possible, but they would make certain that none squatted on the land. If those in the big house left for any reason, then assistance to them would cease and the labour would be in the same situation of starvation as the emigrants. There is no doubt in my mind that, like many other landlords, George employed as many of the destitute as possible, and, although nothing specific is mentioned in the documents, it is thought that the estate wall for instance, was built by them at this time, possibly also the wall around the Big Garden, and maybe even that additional sections of the river were dug in a further attempt to drain the bottoms. By giving employment even to starving wretches they were able to buy whatever food was available and so keep alive.

To illustrate what George and Arbella were up against, with a roving and foraging population, the following account, written by General Clifford of Carn Cottage near Belturbet (35.6.2), to my grandmother, is included. The General’s father purchased and transported a convoy of grain from Dublin to Co Cavan by cart during the height of the famine. This was a private purchase for the destitute of his own area and had nothing to do with the government. A begging mob constantly surrounded the convoy but his band of tenant-guards had no real problem until they reached Kells; his convoy was attacked a
number of times as it went through the town by a mob of semi-starved peasants who had congregated there in the hopes of being fed. The General wrote that the mob were bought off by tossing a few sacks of grain from the carts as they galloped through the town.

The other problem, which possibly worried George and Arbella more than anything else, was the very real chance that they and their children might catch one of the many fevers that accompanied the famine. They must have known of many upper and middle class people who had died; in neighbouring County Cavan, for instance, upper class mortality from this cause was estimated at 66%. Indeed it is quite possible that the unexpected death of George’s cousin, Robert George Bomford who was only 45, in December 1846 may have been from one of the famine related diseases. Another fear that they would have had, although possibly not so great, was that the government anticipated a general uprising in the country. Whatever the reason George rented a house in Dublin for the year 1847. This was a large house, No 4 Fitzwilliam Square North, with a rateable value of £125. There was of course fever in Dublin but provided the family stayed indoors as much as possible they were probably better off there than in the country. At this time Anne was aged 14, George Winter 13, John Francis 10, Arbella Anna 8, Samuel Stephen 6 and Elizabeth 4, all tender ages at which the ‘famine fevers’ could so easily cause death.

Although George naturally kept his family as much as possible isolated from the horrors of the famine and consequent disease, George himself was very much involved. The Meath Herald records that he was a Guardian of the Kells Workhouse, and in 1851 was Chairman of the Guardians. In fact he attended the first-meeting of the Guardians on 19th August 1839 together with the Marquess of Headfort, John Rothwell, Christopher Nicholson, Hugh Reilly, Harry Coliston and Patrick Bennet; this meeting was three years before the new workhouse actually opened. Thus George was a Member throughout the famine period. As a Guardian his major concern was to see that there was enough food for the hapless inmates, an extremely difficult and disheartening job since the Workhouse was insolvent. Indeed towards the end of 1847 the whole board threatened to resign, but the British Government would not allow them to do so. (See the appendix on the famine).
Chapter XXVI  Samuel Bomford & his Family  1813 - 1980’s

26.1

Samuel, the younger and only brother of George Bomford, was born on 17th September 1813 at No 27 Gardiner’s Place, Dublin. About four months later his father died, and his mother died when he was just two years old. It is very unlikely that he had any memory of his parents, but he may have remembered his nurse, Margaret Curry. Margaret had been maid to Samuel’s mother and Arbella left her a life annuity of £20 in her will with the additional request that “she should continue to look after my two sons provided their guardian agrees”. John Pratt Winter of Agher was designated as Arbella’s “sole executor and guardian to my two sons” and it is thought unlikely that he would object to Margaret Curry of whom Arbella thought so highly that she left her such a large annuity for those days.

Samuel and George were both taken to Agher to the Winters who were not only their guardians but their uncle and aunt as well; and they remained with them until they came of age. In 1817 John Pratt Winter and his wife, Anne, took Samuel, then aged 4, and George aged 6, and their own children to live in Paris where they remained until 1825. In 1825 the whole family returned to Agher at which date Samuel was 11, consequently the formative years of his childhood were orientated towards France rather than Ireland, and no doubt he was bilingual in French and English.

In 1825 Agher House must have been full with eleven of the family living there
John Pratt Winter, aged 57,
and his wife Anne, aged 54,
Francis Pratt Winter, Samuel’s uncle the retired clergyman, aged 54,
Anna Maria Winter, his aunt, aged 52,
Samuel’s cousins, the children of John and Anne Winter, some of whom were at Agher that year,
Samuel Winter, aged 29 and soon to be married
Anna Maria, aged 26 and her sister,
Elizabeth, aged 21
Benjamin Pratt Winter, aged 17 and the youngest
and of course young Samuel Bomford
and his brother George then aged 14.
The two other cousins who were working abroad that year were - John Pratt Winter the younger, aged 25, who was in Europe and Francis Winter, aged 20, who was in India with the EICS.

Soon after they returned to Ireland, George and Samuel were sent to Mr Feinaigle’s School in Dublin, and then they went to Trinity. The Trinity Register records -

“Bomford Samuel, Socius Comitatus, Private Tutor, (entered) 5th July 1830, aged 16, Son of George Generosus, Born County Meath.”

There is a doubt whether Samuel went to Feinaigle’s school since he is entered in the register as having a private tutor; however Forth, who had access to the Winter diaries and history, writes that he was at the ‘Hemaglian Institute’ which is probably a corruption of ‘Feinaiglain Institute’ (see 20.7). A more likely possibility is that the two boys went to Feinaigle’s school but that Samuel, who failed to get a degree, had special coaching just before he went to Trinity. Whatever happened Samuel left Trinity unqualified, probably in 1833, after the three-year course when he was 20.

Like all younger sons Samuel had to go off and earn his living and he chose the army. He persuaded his uncle to purchase for him a cornetcy in the 3rd Dragoon Guards for £800 in 1833. The next year he came of age and inherited £10,000 from his father’s estate, and £3,000 from his mother’s both of which he invested in Ireland.

26.2

In 1834 there is a most extraordinary deed in the Registry of Deeds dated 11th June; it is so odd that I went back to check it again.

“Between
1. Thomas Barnes of Upper Pembroke Street, Dublin
2. John Pratt Winter of Agher
3. Rev Francis Pratt Winter of Agher
4. Miss Anna Maria Winter of Thevier Street, Dublin, sister of John and Francis Winter
5. Samuel Bomford, Cornet in H.M. 3rd Regiment of Dragoon Guards, second son of Arbella Bomford, deceased.”
Certain Winter lands in Co Kilkenny were leased to Thomas Barnes in trust, Plevestown or Plahertstown 277 acres plantation measure (449 statute) Ardsignane 106 plantation acres (172 statute), Dysart 139 plantation acres (225 statute), Castlecoskee, Cappohiny, Coolwebeg, Ballyduffe, Coolromore, Coolbrany and Coolsillagh.

The marriage took place and £1,500 were charged upon these lands as a marriage portion to Anna Maria Winter. (1835 Book 20 No 198)

It cannot be that Miss Anna Maria Winter married anyone, let alone young Samuel, her nephew, which is what the deed appears to record. Anna Maria died unmarried in 1837 aged 64. It must be that the word ‘Marriage’ in the last sentence is a mistake, and perhaps the word ‘assignment’ or ‘conveyance’ should have been written. If this is the case then the deed makes sense.

The lands mentioned are those in George Bomford and Arbella Winter’s marriage settlement of 1809 which concern a one-fifth share of the whole Robbins estate, and from which Samuel Bomford inherited £3,000. They are also the lands mentioned in the 1827 Winter deed of assignment (20.6.5) in which they were charged with £1,000 for Anna Maria from Samuel Pratt Winter’s share. This deed appears to make over to Anna Maria £1,500 of Samuel Bomford’s £3,000 share and, it is assumed, that it was because of this that Samuel was party to the deed.

The 1827 deed indicates that Thomas Barnes had a share in the land; this deed clarifies that and states that he was a trustee, and probably the trustee for all the Winter shares in the Robbins estate.

26.2.1 Marriage of Samuel Bomford 1839

Although Samuel had come of age, his marriage had been planned by John Pratt Winter as a matter of finance. It was his fate, for good or bad to be married to Frances Jane Winter, one of the orphaned children of Samuel Pratt Winter and Frances Rose (or Rosetta) Bomford. This marriage took place when Frances Jane was 20 in 1839, so Samuel Bomford had to wait until he was 26 before he married. No doubt he spent the intervening years with his regiment.

Marriage Settlement 11th July 1839

Between 1. Samuel Bomford of Agher,
2. Miss Frances Jane Winter of Agher, under age of 21, 3rd daughter, of Samuel Pratt Winter and Frances Rosetta Winter (Bomford) his wife, both deceased,
3. Rev Francis Pratt Winter, Guardian of Frances Jane, of Agher,
4. Samuel Winter of Tullaghard, and,
   Samuel Arthur Reynell of Archerstown, trustee of the marriage settlement of Samuel Bomford and Frances Jane Winter,
5. John Pratt Winter of Agher.

Reciting 1. A marriage “to be shortly had” between Samuel Bomford and Frances Jane Winter. (Actually the same day).
2. Mortgage dated 1st December 1838, for £2,500 to Francis Pratt Winter by Samuel Bomford on the land of Ballymoney and Feaghorse Fea in King’s County.
3. Bond dated 1st August 1837 for £10,000 of George Bomford which became bound to Samuel Bomford with the penal sum of £20,000.
4. On the occasion of the marriage, Francis Pratt Winter is to give a bond of £2,000, being the fortune of Frances Jane Winter, to Samuel Winter and Samuel Arthur Reynell in trust.
5. Samuel Bomford hands over the mortgage for £2,500 of Ballymoney and Feaghorse Fea to the two trustees.
6. Samuel Bomford hands over the bond of George Bomford for £10,000 to the two trustees.

The two trustees are to arrange from the above receipts £100 annuity to Frances Jane Winter on Samuel Bomford’s death £300 annuity at the age of 21 to the first son, with the balance to the other children. (The part concerning the children became very involved and my interpretation may be wrong).

The marriage settlement of 1812 (18.6.1) of Samuel Pratt Winter and Frances Rosetta Bomford was referred to. (1839 Book 14 No 175)

The two trustees were Samuel Winter, the eldest son of John Pratt Winter and Samuel Bomford’s cousin, and Samuel Arthur Reynell, a second cousin of Samuel Bomford. In 1826 Samuel Winter married Lucy Sanderson and 20 years later in 1846 he inherited Agher. Samuel Arthur Reynell’s grandmother was Jane Winter (died 1777); he was living in Westmeath at Archerstown and was George Bomford’s land agent.
The mortgage of £2,500 of December 1838 must have been part of the investment in Ireland of Samuel’s inheritance. Ballymoney in King’s County is a mystery place that has not appeared before in the Winter deeds; Feaghorse Fea is probably Fea or Feagh, which was one of the original Irish properties that Doctor Samuel Winter (1603 - 1666) acquired. Possibly Ballymoney is another name for one of the other King’s County properties which Samuel Winter was granted.

The bond of August 1837 for £10,000 was Samuel’s loan to George Bomford. This sum must have been increased at some later date because the Oakley Park accounts of 1889 include an item – “Major S. Bomford’s interest on £12,300, 6 months at £296.15.0”. The interest is about 5% and if George could not keep up the interest then Samuel could demand the ‘penal sum’ of £20,000.

The combined fortune of the married couple appears to be, at least, £10,000, £2,500 and £2,000, or a total of £14,500, which was given to the trustees. It looks as though my interpretation of the amount to be given to the children is wrong, and is more likely to be a lump sum rather than an annuity.

Forth appears to have found a later and different marriage settlement dated 24th July 1839. He agrees with the £10,000 figure but states that it is to go to the eldest son of the marriage, and this is very likely. He agrees with the £2,500 figure on the lands of Ballymoney and Fea, but adds that from the interest Samuel is to allow Frances Jane an annuity of £300 (not £100) during her lifetime after his death.

Forth gives £3,000 (not £2,000) as the fortune of Frances Jane, and that this money comes from her parent’s marriage settlement. The total amount in her parent’s settlement of 1812 was £5,000, which, had to be shared between the seven younger children. £3,000 a share appears to be rather too much, since the original £5,000 must have increased to around £21,000 over about 21 years. £2,000 a share is more likely as at 5% compound interest the original £5,000 would increase to £14,000 over a similar period and this is just right to give the seven children £2,000 each. However the pound was devalued after the Napoleonic War so the figure of £21,000 might just have been made. Unfortunately to date I have not found any reference as to the amount any of Frances Jane’s brothers or sisters actually received.

26.2.2 Relations at the Wedding 11th July 1839

It is not possible to say with certainty whom was present at the ceremony, which took place at Agher Church, but we do know about the following and can hazard a shrewd guess. John Pratt Winter, aged 71, and his wife Anne, aged 68, hosted the house party. Their brother the Rev Francis Pratt Winter, aged 68, the guardian of the bride, would have given Frances Jane away. George Bomford and Arbella (Winter) were staying at Agher since Oakley Park was being reconstructed and Arbella’s fifth child was born at Agher the next month; their children were also there, Anne the eldest being 6 and a possible bridesmaid. Samuel Arthur Reynell who was party to the marriage settlement signed that day, may have been staying at Agher with his wife, another Frances, so there would be perhaps a dozen in the house.

Four of John Pratt Winters children, Samuel’s cousins, had died; one was in India and another in Australia; of the remainder, Samuel Winter and his wife Lucy (Sanderson) of Tullaghard would have been present together with John Pratt Winter the portrait painter and his wife, Mary, Frances Jane’s sister. Frances Jane’s other sister Margaret would have been there, she was to marry Nat Preston of Swainstown in three months time and it was at Swainstown where Frances Jane’s eldest child was born in 1840. The rest of her brothers and sisters were overseas, three brothers and a sister in Australia, and another sister in India.

Samuel’s aunt, Maria Bomford (Massy-Dawson), was living at Bective with her daughter Frances Georgina Bolton and her husband Richard Bolton, and they most likely came to the wedding. Maria’s son Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown and his wife Elizabeth (Kennedy) may have attended but they were living in Dublin.

More distant relations, but neighbours, who probably came were - Isaac North-Bomford and his wife Belinda Emily (Pilkington) of Ferrans, and perhaps his aunt Jane Bomford (Holdcroft), the widow of Isaac, who was living in Dublin; and the Coates family of Bridestream House. There were other Winter and Bomford relations in Ireland, but they were living further away.

26.3 Later Movements and Houses

After the wedding at Agher, Samuel returned to his Regiment and, according to Forth, was stationed in the south of France. In 1840 their first child, Caroline Frances, was born at Swainstown, the house near Agher where Frances Jane’s elder sister Margaret Preston was living. I therefore visualise that Samuel sent his wife to Ireland to have the baby while he was stationed elsewhere, one report has it that, when Frances Jane was pregnant, they were at Carlsbad, which was why the child was called Caroline.

Samuel retired from the Dragoon Guards in the mid-forties but remained active as a major in the North Gloucester Militia, and reports state that he was very keen on his work with the Militia. On his retirement he used £3,000 of his capital to purchase a good country house with 30 acres called Tyne Hall.
at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, a small resort on the coast at the east end of the island, and the family lived there until the estate was sold. Dates now become a bit hazy since I have had no access to English deeds, only those in Dublin; however there are some Irish deeds which give Samuel’s address, to which we can add the places where his children were born; with such a skeleton we can hazard a guess that he was at -

Tyne Hall
August 1847, November 1849, and July 1851, the birth dates of three children, May 1853, May 1854, October 1856 and June 1857, being deeds. So Tyne Hall was bought before August 1847 and sold after June 1857.

No 6 Gloucester Crescent, Hyde Park, London
Their son Victor was born there in March 1859, and deeds of February and April 1861.

Algeria and Italy.
Their son Trevor had an abscess on the lung so for health reasons they lived there for three years from 1875 to 1878.

Torrington Square, London
A deed of January 1879. There is another deed of December 1883, which refers to the 1879 one and the Torrington Square address might apply to the first deed, so the later date has been discounted.

Fitzroy Street, Cambridge
There are no deeds from Cambridge, but it is clear that they lived there in a relatively humble dwelling in their old age. Samuel is reported to have been sad at having to live in such a small house, but, at least, Cambridge was convenient for the children who were at the University from 1875 to 1886 and the family was living in Fitzroy Street when Rodon Charles enrolled in 1875.

Junior United Services Club, London
Samuel used his club address in the deeds of June 1875, March 1895 and April 1896, probably instead of Fitzroy Street in Cambridge.

Thus we can summarise Samuel’s movements as follows:
c1845 Samuel retired from the Dragoon Guards
c1846 - c1858 At Tyne Hall, Bembridge
c1858 - c1862 At Gloucester Crescent in London
c1863 - c1898 At Fitzroy Street in Cambridge until Samuel died. Frances Jane lived until 1910 and may have kept the Cambridge house for a while but there is evidence that she lived at Salford with her son Rodon Charles after Samuel’s death.

During this Cambridge period they were in Algeria and Italy from 1875 to 1878, and in 1879 were at Torrington Square in London. I suspect that the Cambridge house was leased while they were away, and that the London house was a temporary one until they were able to return to Cambridge.

26.3.1 Death of Samuel and Frances Jane Bomford

Various sources report that Samuel was a pleasant easy-going man and that his wife, Frances Jane, “was a great reader and linguist and knew all about paintings. She had no interest in clothes or people or children or her house” (from the notes of Lorna Bomford, her grand-daughter); her grandson, Guy Bomford, adds “no doubt she was a bit plagued with looking after her own children and grandchildren. She travelled in Algeria, France and Italy. Family tradition says that she read the Bible in Hebrew and Greek”. She must have been a devout and highly intelligent woman.

She died in 1910 aged 90, and was buried at Kensal Green, London.

Her obituary in a Saltford local paper says that she knew “Latin, Greek, and Hebrew and several modern languages, having lately learnt Dutch”. It is this obituary, which makes me think that she must have left Cambridge and settled in Saltford with her eldest son on the River Avon between Bath and Bristol, but Forth states that she died at Cambridge.

Samuel died on 14th April 1898 at Cambridge, aged 85. In addition to bringing up their own six children and, later on, their grand-children whose parents were overseas, they were responsible for the two Preston children, both minors when their parents died; the Preston story is recorded in 18.7.4.

26.4 Deeds Concerning Samuel

Over a dozen mortgages are listed under Samuel Bomford’s name in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin. Many of these deeds are not of great interest to these records of the Bomford family, so have not been included; Samuel was party to them only as a trustee, but they do include his address and from that we can conclude more accurately his movements about England. The deeds can be split into three groups; the last one concerns Samuel’s own money and so has been included in full.

1. On the death of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown in 1846, Samuel was made a trustee for Elizabeth Bomford (Kennedy) his wife. The other trustee was the barrister Robert Wrybrants
(sometimes written as Hybrants) of Rutland Square in Dublin, and later John Maunsell (sometimes written as Maxwell) of 18 Stephen’s Green in Dublin. Robert George’s property around Rahinstown was shared between his sisters, but Elizabeth had her own land, which she inherited from her father, James Trail Kennedy, and it was this land of which Samuel became a trustee.

In 1850 Elizabeth Bomford married Marcus Gervais de Ie Poer Beresford (1801-85) who was at that time Archdeacon of Ardagh but was to become the Lord Primate of Ireland in 1862. The Archbishop’s first wife was Mary L’Estrange, a first cousin of Edward L’Estrange who married Belinda North-Bomford, and whose great-uncle, Samuel L’Estrange married Anne Bomford who was Samuel Bomford’s great-aunt. The Archbishop had two sons and three daughters by his first wife but none by his second wife Elizabeth.

Elizabeth (Kennedy, Bomford,) Beresford died in 1870 and the Archbishop in 1885 at which date the Kennedy land passed to his grandson, Kennedy Beresford a captain in the Royal Irish Rifles. In 1894 Kennedy Beresford married a daughter of J.F. des Barres and the trustees of their marriage settlement were Kennedy’s brother, Marcus Francis Beresford of Shelton Abbey in the Vale of Avoca in Co Wicklow, and Augustus Justly Eyre des Barres who was living in Switzerland; these two took over the trusteeship from Samuel Bomford in 1896. Incidentally this deed, of 4th April 1896, was witnessed by “G. Bomford, MD, Surgeon Lt Col Medical College, Calcutta, India,” so Gerald Bomford must have been home on leave that year. (It should perhaps be pointed out that Marcus Francis Beresford did not own Shelton Abbey, this huge Gothic Revival mansion belonged to the Earls of Wicklow; he had just married the widow of the 6th Earl whose stepson, the 7th Earl, was serving in the Life Guards.)

2. Samuel’s name is also coupled with Robert Wrybrants in deeds dated 1853 to 1870 concerning mortgages to St George Francis Caulfield (1806 - 1896) of Donamon, Co Roscommon. The Caulfield family and their marriages with two Winters and Nat Preston is written in 20.6.1. This Nat Preston was a ward of Samuel Bomford. It is not clear for whom Samuel Bomford was acting but, at a guess, it would be one of the orphaned children of Margaret Preston (Winter), Samuel’s sister-in-law.

Similarly between 1857 and 1871 he was again acting as trustee with Wybrants, but this time the mortgage was that of John Lloyd Bagot of The Hermitage, Ballymoe, Co Galway. The Bagot family married into the North family (16.4), but nothing has been found to tie them to John Lloyd Bagot who was actually John Lloyd Neville-Bagot. John Neville-Bagot’s mother was a daughter of John Fallon of Rannimeed, Co Roscommon and it was this John Fallon or his father, also John Fallon, who was involved with the Bomford dispute of 1762 concerning Oldtown and Enniscoffey; further John Neville-Bagot’s third son Jack Bagot married in 1891 Anna Fleming (Aunt Ann, 30.3.2) whose mother was a sister of Elinor Bolton, wife of John Francis Bomford, Samuel’s nephew. Again it is not clear for whom Samuel was acting, but it is thought that this mortgage of £12,000 may have been that of one of the Preston children, a ward of Samuel, and, at a guess, that of the daughter, France Elizabeth (1842 - 1923), since the male heir got the land as was usual.

3. This third group of deeds is more important as it concerns Samuel’s own mortgages and will apply to the money of his marriage settlement (above, 26.2.1).

26.4.1

Re-Assignment of £4,000 Loan 15th February 1861

2. George Bomford of Oakley Park, Kells
3. John Thomas Hinds of 28 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, Solicitor

Reciting 1. The marriage settlement of 21st March 1809 of George Bomford deceased, the father of George and Samuel Bomford, in which a sum of £4,000 was charged upon the land as a provision for the younger children of the marriage.
2. Only George and Samuel survived their father, George Bomford.
3. George Bomford (the younger) took possession of the land and married Miss Arbella Winter.

Now George asks Samuel to forego the £4,000 payment otherwise the land will have to be split up. So Samuel assigns the £4,000 payment to be charged upon the land at the usual interest.

(1861 Book 9 No 82)

This £4,000 was originally raised by the Winters in 1809 by the mortgage of Tullyard; it was paid off in 1835 (18.8.5) to Samuel, the only one of “the younger children”; Samuel then loaned it to George and now it has become, in effect, a mortgage.
26.4.2 Mortgage to Samuel Arthur Reynell 30th November 1864

On 10th July 1875 this memorial appears, (1875 Vol 32 No 98)

The mortgage of 30th November 1864 by Samuel Arthur Reynell of Archerstown, Co Westmeath has been repaid, and Samuel Bomford returns the lands in Co Westmeath, to him. The lands are now free of any incumbrances.


It was in 1875 that the family set off for Algeria and Italy, and no doubt the repayment of this mortgage was arranged to cover expenses for their three years in a warmer climate to clear their son Trevor’s lung abscess. This was one of Samuel’s problems at this time as the following letter to George dated 2nd June 1875 indicates.

“Junior United Services Club, London SW.
My dear George,

I have written to Mr Mundy authorising him to give Mr J. T. Hinds the copy or copies, which, he may require. Since March there have been many things to withdraw my attention from the subject, but I believe I did, verbally at least, authorise Mr Mundy to give the copies. Of course I cannot blame Mr Micredy (?) for requiring more explicit authority, which I send by this day’s post, I remain
your affectionate brother S. Bomford.”

Perhaps Mr Mundy is Samuel’s solicitor. John Thomas Hinds, the solicitor of 28 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, became involved with George’s mortgage, so the subject may have had to do with Samuel’s loan to George.

All this business leads to an unconnected receipt, which was found in a bundle of Oakley Park receipts. It reads –
“9th December 1874. Received from George Winter Bomford the sum of £3 being half a year’s interest due to me, £150 at 4 per cent per annum.”

Signed “Samuel Bomford”

At first it was thought that Samuel was George Winter Bomford’s brother, but he died in 1872 in India so it must be his uncle.

26.4.3 £10,000 Mortgage on Oakley Park 1st August 1837

The one deed of which I found no registered indenture was the loan or bond of £10,000 by Samuel to his brother George. A later document implies that this bond was actually a mortgage on Oakley Park and as such this paragraph is headed; further credece to a mortgage is in Samuel’s marriage settlement, which, mentions a penal sum of £20,000. It is clearly apparent that George could not afford to pay this back without selling land, and that Samuel did not pursue the repayment of the loan. As mentioned above Samuel was ‘a pleasant easy-going man’ but it must be said that without this considerable sum Samuel, later on, could not afford to live in the style to which he was accustomed, he was “sad at having to live in such a small house” at Cambridge, which he need not have done if George had paid back the amount he owed.

George Lyndon Bomford (1867-1951), Samuel’s grand-nephew, wrote about the two brothers and the loan in a letter to his eldest son George Warren (1900-78) dated 30th March 1936; he states -
“George and Samuel were left orphans when 4 or 5 years old, and were brought up at Agher with the Winters. Their guardian was one of the Winters uncles. My grandfather was eccentric and peculiar. I have always heard that my grand-uncle Samuel was a very good sort. My grandfather was heir to large property, most of which was entailed, including Drumlargan; the entailed portion went eventually to Anne. Samuel, Guy’s grandfather got cash. During their minority their house at a place called Clarkstown near Agher, where their father lived and where I presume they were born, was burned down accidentally. Instead of rebuilding the old house or building a house on Drumlargan, they bought (his trustee and him) a new property, Oakley Park, and proceeded to spend thousands on additional building - hence this huge barrack, yards and garden wall. A considerable amount of grand-uncle Sam’s money was invested in this, £12,000 in all I think. Prices were very good for some years, labour was very cheap (6d a day) and the charge seemed well received, but as things did not improved, corn laws were revoked, American competition for cattle grew up and times got hard, the charge created an unpleasantness between our two families. However the charge has now been paid on the sale of the estate, whether in full or not, I am not sure, but at no very serious loss I feel certain. At all events most of the loss had to be born by those who owned the land, which sunk in value more than anything else.”
The grievance did not however gravitate to Samuel’s children and Guy Bomford comments on GLB’s letter, in a letter of July 1987, that “the feud was trivial: the matter of Samuel lending George cash to make improvements at Oakley Park. As GLB says, I expect all or most of it was paid back. Anyway, I have never heard of any serious grievance…. It was no more than an indiscrete investment…."

Nevertheless the small Cambridge house was a direct result of the ‘indiscrete investment’ and so must have been the cause of some friction by comparison between the way of life of George in his big house in mature parkland and Samuel in his small house on a street in Cambridge.

It is not known when the loan was repaid, but it was probably repaid by John Francis Bomford on Samuel’s death. We do not have Samuel’s will but the money would form part of the inheritance of Samuel’s five children and it is noteworthy that three of his clergymen sons all purchased a living using money from their inheritance after his death.

26.5

Children of Samuel and Frances Jane Bomford

26.5.1 Caroline Frances Bomford 1840 - 1859

She was born on 12th November 1840 at Swainstown, the house in County Meath where her aunt Margaret Preston lived. She was the only daughter in the family. It is related that she was named Caroline after Carlsbad where her parents were living during her mother’s pregnancy. She died in July 1859, aged 19, of meningitis whilst on a holiday at Bath.

26.5.2 Rodon Bomford

Rodon was born in 1842 and died in infancy. Tradition has it that the name Rodon comes from Rodanstown, north of Kilcock, where his great grand uncle the Reverend John Bomford of Gallow was rector.

26.5.3 Rodon Charles Bomford 1845 - 1915

He was born on 10th June 1845, probably in France, the eldest surviving son. He was educated at Cheltenham College and the Royal Naval School at Gosport, but did not join the navy. Instead he was sent out to his relatives in Western Victoria in 1866 in an unsuccessful attempt to find him a career. Relatives in Western Victoria at this date were his uncles Samuel and Trevor Winter at Murndal, and his aunt Arbella, Mrs Cooke, at Lake Condah. He returned to England in time to accompany his parents to Algeria for a short time and then enrolled at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, on 12th October 1875 from where he graduated BA in 1880 and MA in 1883.

He entered the Church in 1880 and became a priest in the Diocese of London. From 1880 to 1882 he was curate of St Peter’s Islington, and held other curacies in London from 1882 to 1893. In 1893 he moved to Wiltshire and became curate of Brinkworth until 1896; then to the Isle of Wight from 1897 to 1898 as curate of Carisbrooke.

His father died in 1898 and he invested his share of his father’s estate to purchase the living at St Mary’s, Saltford in Somerset, where he was rector from 1898 to 1913. After he became established at Saltford he had his mother sell the Cambridge house and she came to live with him until she died in 1910. He married Gertrude Corke, probably late in life, and they had no children.

He became a little unsteady in mind while still Vicar of Saltford and his wife used to conceal herself in the pulpit, on a stool, to prompt him to stop if things got out of hand. At the end of the sermon both would unexpectedly be seen descending. However she took somewhat to drink, and so the descent became more spectacular, though less seemly, as time went on. The Rectory was a very splendid one but with primitive sanitation. Rodon’s mother, Frances Jane, used to walk out of the first floor windows of her bedroom on to a wide garden wall at the far end of which there was a privy. Una Satchell, her great-niece (18.7.4 No 3) told Rodney Bomford (26.7.4 No 3) that it was disconcerting when in the garden to realise that the formidable old lady was perched under much creeper some way above one’s head. Una often lived with them and read to the old lady, who lived until she was almost ninety and she died when Una was about 10. Una’s mother, Lucy Rose Satchell (Yeacombe, Preston), was brought up at Cambridge by her great uncle Samuel Bomford.

In 1913 he resigned the living at Saltford and retired to Boscombe, east of Bournemouth, where he died on 25th December 1915, aged 70. He was buried at Saltford.

26.5.4 Laurence George Bomford 1847 - 1926

He was born at Tyne Hall on 6th August 1847; was educated at Cheltenham College, and in 1874 he married Anne Goold Green. Anne was a daughter of Nathaniel Everett Green, the watercolour artist,
Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of which, at one time, he was the Society President. Anne was born in 1848 and died on 6th March 1908, aged 60. They had no children.

On 15th October 1883, when he was 36, Laurence George decided to become a clergyman and entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge; just how he was employed before then is not known, perhaps he and his wife joined his parents in Algeria for the three years 1875 - 1878. His Cambridge entry record shows that he was living at 18 Warkworth Street in Cambridge. In 1886 he gained his BA with a first class Tripos in Theology, and was ordained. The next year he became a priest in the Diocese of Ely. He was curate of Saint Andrew-the-less in Cambridge from 1886 to 1890; then 1890 - 1895 curate of Trowbridge in Wiltshire, 20 miles southwest of his brother Rodon at Brinkworth; his last curacy was at Barnet in Hertfordshire from 1895 to 1898.

When his father died he was appointed Vicar of Colney Heath in Hertfordshire where he remained for twenty years, 1898 - 1918; like his brother he probably purchased the living with his share of his father’s estate. His wife died when they were at Colney Heath, which is north of Barnet near St Albans, in 1908. There were no children. In 1918 he resigned the living and retired to St Albans where he died on 2nd July 1926, aged 78.

Trevor Bomford
1849 - 1929

He was born at Tyne Hall, Bembridge, on 18th November 1849; entered Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, on 1st October 1868 and graduated BA in 1872. He was ordained in 1873 and joined the Diocese of Durham where he was curate of West Hartlepool 1873 - 1874. He received his MA from Durham University in 1877. About this time he developed an abscess on the lung and his health declined; a warmer climate was suggested and so he and the family travelled in Algeria and Italy during the years 1875 to 1878 in a successful attempt to cure his condition. They returned to Cambridge where Trevor became curate of St Andrew-the-less from 1878 to 1881, the same Church where his brother Laurence was to become curate in 1886. He then accepted a missionary posting with the CMS in India and remained there for the next 43 years, 1881 - 1924, mostly in the Punjab and Kashmir and at one time was chaplain at Srinagar in Kashmir.

In 1883 he married Jane Charlotte Catherine Briggs. She was a daughter of Rev William Briggs who was also with the Church Missionary Society in North India. She died on 9th February 1951. Trevor died five years after he left India on 21st December 1929, aged 80. They had six children (see 26.6) many of whom were brought up by their grandparents at Cambridge, whilst their parents were in India.

Gerald Bomford, Sir
1851 - 1915

Gerald was born 19th July 1851 at Tyne Hall, Isle of Wight, and was educated at King’s College, London. He became a doctor of medicine (MD) of repute, being elected to the Royal College of Physicians (LRCP) the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS) and the Society of Apothecaries (LSA). He was knighted for his various services in India.

In 1874 he joined the Indian Medical Service and the next year he served with the Perak Expedition (1875 - 1876) for which he received a medal with clasp. This expedition was a result of almost continuous fighting between rival factions of Chinese in the tin mining area around Taiping. In 1874 a treaty was signed and a British Resident was appointed. The Resident was murdered in 1875 and this led to the military expedition and the banishment of the Sultan and some chiefs implicated in the affair.

On 17th October 1881 in Simla he married Mary Florence Eteson and they had four children (see 26.7). She was born in 1859, the only daughter of Major-General Francis Eteson of The Buffs, and his wife Isabella Adelaide Wetherall (1836 - 1930). Mary’s grandparents were Colonel Charles Wetherall (1798 - 1860) and his wife Marianne Pritzler. Whilst her parents were in India, Mary Florence was looked
after by her spinster aunt, Marianne Wetherall whose fiancée, Captain Bingham Muller, was killed in the Crimea. Mary Florence died on 7th July 1939 aged 80.

As a Surgeon-Major in 1888 Gerald published in Calcutta ‘Observation on Bacteria in Cholera’, and also in that year he was a member of the Chloroform Commission. From 1893 to 1905 he was Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, which, he had joined some time previously; as Principal he was ranked as a Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Service (IMS). He was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) in 1902. From 1905 to 1910 he was Director General of the Indian Medical Service being knighted in 1909 as Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire (KCIE), when he was living in Simla.

After his retirement he lived at Dover and died there on 12th April 1915, aged 64.

26.5.7 Victor, Reginald Bomford 1859 - 1900

He was born on 21st March 1859 at Gloucester Crescent, London. In the autumn of 1879 he entered Cambridge University as a non-Collegiate and graduated BA in 1883. He was ordained in 1882 into the Diocese of Worcester and became a priest in 1884 in the Diocese of Norwich.

From 1882 until 1898 he had seven curacies; 1882 at Southam, Warwickshire; 1883 - 1885 at Wetherden, Suffolk; 1885 - 1887 at Heigham, Norfolk; 1887 - 1889 at Sproston just north of Norwich; 1889 - 1892 at Halesworth, Suffolk 1892 - 1894 at Deepham; and lastly was curate of Mildenhall, Suffolk, from 1894 to 1898. He then used his share of his father’s estate, purchased the living at Wiggington in Staffordshire, just north of Tamworth, and was vicar there from 1898 until he died at Wiggington, aged 41, on 24th August 1900.

Soon after he left Cambridge, on 3rd July 1883, he married Letitia Sarah Purcell, born 1st January 1860, the eldest daughter of the Rev Francis Talbot Purcell, Vicar of Edstaston in north Shropshire who died in 1911, and his wife Fanny Jane Keane who died in 1926. The Purcell family were in Co Cork at the time of King Charles II and had settled at Glannanore House near Castletown Roche by the late 1700’s. Letitia Sarah died in April 1949, surviving her husband by nearly 50 years.

After Victor Reginald death there is one deed (1906, Vol 64, No 101) in which Letitia Sarah Bomford of Tilly Road, Shrewsbury in Shropshire, widow, was granted an annuity of £50 by her father. The annuity commenced on April 1906 and was charged on various lands in the Barony of Castletown, Co Dublin, belonging to her father, Rev Francis Talbot Purcell.

In 1887 they had their only child, a daughter:

Frances Bomford, born 14th August 1887. Frances married Graham Cameron and died in January 1949, just before her mother. They had one daughter, believed to be named Petrona Cameron and living in the USA.

26.6 Children of Trevor Bomford 1849 - 1929

At the time when his children were born Trevor was a missionary in India, and even though some of his six children may have been born in India, the practise in those days was that the children were brought up at home. No doubt Trevor’s older children were brought up by their grandparents, Samuel and Frances Jane at Cambridge, but it is possible that when Trevor was vicar at Srinagar the children might have been with him at that hill station.

26.6.1 Trevor Laurence Bomford 1885 - 1945

He was born on 8th February 1885 and educated at St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London graduating as a doctor. He became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) and served with the Indian Medical Service, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1912 he was the Marine Biologist in the survey vessel ‘Investigator’ in an expedition in the Indian Ocean. He served in World War I and in 1929 he was the First Physician in the Medical College Hospital in Calcutta. From 1933 to 1936 he commanded the Indian Medical Hospital (CIM) in Waziristan; this was a period of tension on the frontier but no real fighting took place there until 1936. Trevor served in World War II as Physician in the 15th Scottish General Hospital in Egypt, and from there was invalided to South Africa in 1941. He remained in South Africa and died there on 1st June 1945, aged 60.

On 29th July 1914, Trevor married Winifred Dora Green, the elder daughter of Alfred Pierce Green, a doctor in Johannesburg who was the fourth son of Nathaniel Everett Green. Winifred’s aunt was Anne Goold Green (1848 - 1908) who married Trevor Laurence’s uncle, the Rev Laurence George Bomford (1847 - 1926), so this was the second Bomford-Green marriage. Winifred was born in 1888 and
died on 14th September 1932 having had four children; these were the only grandchildren of Trevor (1849-1929).

1. Anne Evelyn Alida Bomford was born on 5th June 1916. She emigrated to South Africa and is living, unmarried, at Sea Point, Capetown.

2. Winifred Dora Bomford was born on 26th October 1920 and died the same day.

3. Michael Stephen Bomford (1923 - 1943) was born on 16th July 1923 and never married. He served in World War II, firstly in the Royal Tank Regiment and then in the Royal Signals as a sergeant. He was killed in action at Tripoli, North Africa, on 2nd March 1943, aged 20.

4. Trevor Napier Bomford born 1st October 1924 and educated at Bedford and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, BA 1949, MA 1952; he became a chartered engineer in 1962 and is a member of the Institute of Engineers, MIEE.

From 1952 to 1962 he was an engineer with the East African Posts and Telecommunications Administration; then from 1962 to 1967 he was with the Admiralty Scientific Service, and from 1970 to 1974 he was with the East African Railways.

On 17th February 1951 he married Mary Lane Maunsell. Her father, Doctor Bertram Sydney Osmund Maunsell, lived at Farnleigh, Kettering in Northamptonshire, and he married twice. Mary Lane’s mother was the second wife of the Doctor, Frances Mary, the youngest daughter of Sir Herbert George Fordham, DL, JP, of Odsey, Cambridgeshire and his wife Fanny Osler Blake. The Doctor’s first wife was Clare O’Shea, the natural daughter of the Irish Statesman, Charles Stuart Parnell and Kitty O’Shea; it was the birth of Clare O’Shea and the divorce proceedings of Captain O’Shea against Parnell, which reversed Parnell’s popularity with the Catholic Irish and caused his downfall in 1890 and his death the next year.

Trevor and Mary Lane are living (1988) at Fareham, Hampshire, and have two sons:
1. Trevor Peter Maunsell Bomford, born 25th March 1954 and educated at St John’s college, Southsea and University of College of Wales at Aberystwyth

26.6.2 Kenneth Chichester Bomford 1886 - 1908

He was born on 16th July 1886 and educated at St Bartholomew’s Hospital London. He died unmarried on 4th August 1908, aged 22.

26.6.3 Caroline Frances Bomford 1888 - 1968

She was born on 15th November 1888 and died unmarried on 5th October 1968 aged 80. Of Caroline, George W. Bomford wrote “By chance I met Caroline dressed as a white rabbit at the Allahabad Bachelor’s Ball, the night before I left our Depot to join the Regiment at Damascus in 1919. Sir Hugh Bomford (see below) was then Commissioner of Allahabad”.

26.6.4 Alan Claude Bomford 1891 - 1914

He was born on 24th February 1891 and graduated from St John’s College Oxford, with a BA. He died unmarried on 2nd November 1914, aged 23.

26.6.5 Marjorie Ruth Bomford 1893 - 1929

She was born on 5th August 1893 and was baptised at Multan, West Punjab, on 24th November. She did not marry. She was on the first passenger flight of a new type of flying boat, which crashed off Brindisi and was killed in the disaster on 26th October 1929, aged 36.

26.6.6 Raymond Francis Bomford 1901 - 1953

Raymond, the youngest, was born on 29th August 1901, educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, and graduated BSc, and MA. He served in World War II, was captured by the Japanese and made a prisoner-of-war in Malaya. After the war, from 1946 until he died, he was Headmaster of Victoria School in Singapore.

It will be remembered that Sir Gerald became Surgeon-General of the Indian Medical Service. He died in 1915 and his wife Mary Florence (Eteson) lived on until 1939. Like his brother Trevor, his four children may have been born in India but would have been brought up in England, mostly by their grandparents Samuel and Frances Jane at Cambridge.

26.7.1  Hugh Bomford (Sir)  1882 - 1939

He was born on 12th August 1882 and educated at Marlborough and Balliol College, Oxford. He gained a History Exhibition at Balliol and was a sportsman of repute, gaining a blue for hockey and at cricket he sometimes kept wicket for the University but did not get a cricket blue.

In 1906 he joined the Indian Civil Service: From 1913 to 1916 was Settlement Officer in Daria State, then Commissioner of Allahabad; in 1920 he became Excise Commissioner for Central India, and from 1921 to 1928 he was Settlement Commissioner for Rewa State. From 1931 to 34 he became Commissioner in the Allahabad Division, during which time he was honoured in 1931 and became a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE), from 1933 he was promoted to Chief Secretary to the United Provinces Government. In 1938 he became Acting Governor of the Central Provinces and was honoured as a Knight Bachelor (KB).

On 6th September 1916 he married Margaret Evelyn Ord, the elder daughter of Doctor Reginald Whistler Ord of Bell Close, Marlborough (see opposite – possible wedding photograph). They retired to Folkestone, Kent, and Sir Hugh died on 19th January 1939. Margaret then moved to Dover and later to Mapledurwell, near Basingstoke, where she died in 1982. They had four children, all of whom had children.

1. Katharine Margaret Bomford was born on 5th October 1917, and married on 31st March 1945. Her husband was Lieut-Colonel Peter Algernon Rodney Reyne, OBE, MC, son of Captain Frederick Algernon Reyne of the Royal Navy and of Pangbourne, Berks. Colonel Peter served with the Indian Army and later with the Royal Artillery. They retired to Mapledurwell where they now live, having had two children:
   a. Christopher Reyne born 26th January 1946 and educated at Tonbridge. He became a computer programmer. On 11th July 1970 he married Penelope Jane Hoare, daughter of Eric Gordon Joyinson Hoare of Christchurch, Hampshire. They were divorced in January 1984. They had three children.
1. Samuel Bomford and his family


b. Pauline Reyne was born 16th July 1948 and married 5th September 1970, Colin Ernest Forster, son of Sidney Forster of Warley Mount Essex. They live in London and have children.

2. Mary Bomford was born 2nd October 1919 and married 9th July 1943, Victor Frank William Clarkson, DSC, ACIS (Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries). He is the son of Albert Victor Clarkson of Ilford, Essex. They lived at Broadhurst, Ashstead, Surrey, where Mary died 6th June 2003, and had two children:


i. Julie Ann Collins, born 25th April 1975, graduated Bachelor of Commerce, University of Victoria, B.C. In August 2004 she was admitted to the Institute of Chartered Accountants (CA). She lives in Victoria with her partner Simon Segato, son of Roberto and Irene Segato of Victoria B.C.

ii. Shannon Mae Collins, born 13th April 1980 of Victoria B.C.


b. Alexandra Susan Clarkson was born 7th May 1948, educated at Exeter University and graduated Bachelor of Science. She was a perfumer in Amersfoort, Holland, then in Middletown, New York, USA. She has retired to Jojoba Hills, California.

3. Peter Bomford was born 12th August 1921 and educated at Marlborough. In 1939 he emigrated to Rhodesia. During World War II he served with the 1st Gurkha Rifles and as a captain with the 1st Northern Rhodesia Regiment; he saw service in Burma and there, in 1944, won the MC and was mentioned in Despatches.

On 14th August 1946 he married Bryony MacIlwaine, daughter of Colonel Herbert MacIlwaine, DSO, MC, Royal Artillery, of Larkhill, Marandellas, Rhodesia. The couple farmed at Marandellas but in 1982 they moved to New Zealand. Peter died 21st November 2001 at his home in Katikati of cancer. There were two children.

a. Patrick Peter Bomford was born 16th March 1948 and educated at Peterhouse and Natal University, graduating with BSc (Agriculture) in 1971. He became a captain in the Territorial Force of the Rhodesian Army. On 9th March 1974 he married Ann Kathleen de Kock daughter of Johan de Kock of Heilbron, Orange Free State, South Africa. In 2005 they were living in Stellenbosch and Patrick is Managing Director of Hartenberg, Wine Estate. They have three children:

i. Lauren Ann Bomford, born 8th April 1975;
ii. Aidan Patrick Bomford, born 29th June 1977;

b. Hugh Bomford was born 14th July 1958, named after his grandfather and on 26th July 1980 married Diana Margaret Cole who was born 25th May 1958. From 1976 to 1980 he served as a Territorial in the Rhodesia Regiment. They moved to Tauranga in the Bay of Plenty region, New Zealand, in February 1981. They have two daughters both born in New Zealand.

i. Karmon Margaret Bomford, born 18th March 1983;

4. Penelope Bomford was born 30th November 1922. On 9th December 1946 she married Brigadier Lionel Harry Edwards, MBE, Royal Artillery. He died 13th October 1971 and Penelope is living at Manor House Farm, Mapledurwell, near her sister Katherine Reyne. They had two children

a. John Edwards, born 6th May 1948. Educated at Sheffield University 1970, Bach Eng. Married in Kuwait in 1977, Amanda Maher (born Liverpool 25th March 1954). She was an arabic translator and is now a solicitor in London. He has a database of economic information in London. They have two sons


i. Thomas Lynn Stevens, born 30th January 1976. Gained a masters degree in engineering from Imperial College. Married 16th July 2005, Sara Hale who was born 19th June 1975.
26.7.2  Lorna Bomford  1883 - 1962

Lorna was born on 29th December 1883 and was baptised in India on 23rd March 1884 and died unmarried on 25th February 1962. She worked in the Food Rationing Office in Dover during both World Wars. From 1919 to 1921 she was a Councillor of the Borough of Dover and became actively concerned with early Council Estate buildings. From 1927 to 1945 she was a Justice of the Peace; much of her spare time was devoted to painting in oils and pastel, and she exhibited in the Paris Salon. Latterly she lived at Milestone House, Temple Ewell, just outside Dover on the Canterbury road. Photograph taken in 1933.

26.7.3  Nora Bomford  1894 -1968

Nora was born on 24th March 1894 and on 8th June 1938, when she was 44 years of age she married her second cousin Major-General Claude le Bas Goldney, CB, CBE, MC, of Woking, Surrey. General Claude was the son of Colonel William Henry Goldney, RE, by his wife Emily Marianne Wetherall, so the second cousin connection was through the Wetherall family and Nora’s maternal grandmother. Before her marriage Nora did much social work in North London. During World War II she looked after her nephew Antony Gerald Bomford whilst her brother Guy was in India. She was interested in nature, particularly birds, and on her death, 12th May 1968; she left a substantial legacy to the Kent Naturalist Trust. General Claude died in 1979 and they had no children. Photograph taken 1939.

26.7.4  Guy Bomford  1899 - 1996

Guy was born on 28th June 1899 at River Road in the Parish of Temple Ewell near Dover Kent and educated at Marlborough, RMA at Woolwich and Queen’s College, Cambridge. He served in both World Wars and retired as a Brigadier, Royal Engineers, in 1948, having been honoured with the OBE in 1946. From 1921 to his retirement he was with the Indian Survey and was Director of Survey in South East Asia Command (SEAC) from 1945 to 1946. In 1935 he became a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Science and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS), and in 1947 a Fellow of the Geological Society of London (FGS). Photograph taken 1946.

After his retirement from the army he became a Reader in Surveying and Geology at Oxford University from 1948 to 1966, being Reader Emeritus in 1966. During this time he received his MA at Oxford in 1948 and became a Doctor of Science in 1953; in 1950 he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS) and in 1968 an Honorary Member of The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). From 1963 to 1961 he was President of the International Association of Geodesy, and wrote “Geodesy” which was published in 1952. Earlier publications included “Three Sources of Error in Precise Levelling” published in Dehra Dun.
in 1928 when he was a Captain; and “The Readjustment of Indian Triangulation” published in 1939 also in Dehra Dun when he was a Major.

On 23rd May 1925 Brigadier Guy married Audrey Edith Barclay, born 1902, the only daughter of Edward Wilfred Barclay of Kearsney near Dover. She died in September 1964 but the marriage was dissolved in 1934. They had one son

1. Anthony Gerald Bomford (1927 - 2003) He was born on 11th January 1927 and educated at Shrewsbury and Pembroke College, Cambridge, from where he received his BA (1952) and MA (1955).

He joined the Royal Engineers, became a Major and retired in 1961. Like his father, his interest was in surveying and he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS). For the two years 1955 and 1956 he was a member of the South Georgia Survey Expedition and in 1958 he was granted the Patrick Mess Award by the Royal Geographical Society. His map of South Georgia won him the award, the citation stating that his work had established a new standard in Antarctic mapping. For more than forty years his map has remained the definitive map of South Georgia, and one of the sharp spires marked on that map bears the name 'Bomford Peak’. He emigrated to Australia and joined the Division of National Mapping at Canberra in 1961. He worked on mapping projects in Central Queensland and the Kimberly (the northern tip of Western Australia) where, in the more difficult country, surveying was done with the use of helicopters. His work in the Kimberleys led one of the features he mapped being named ‘Mount Bomford’. For the years 1975 - 1976 he was President of the Institute of Surveyors in Australia. In 1982 he retired as The Director of National Mapping, died 10th May 2003 at home in Canberra. On 24th September 1951 he married Elizabeth Ann Honey, born 17th September 1928 at Broken Hill, New South Wales, a daughter of Roy Reynolds Honey of Malvern, South Australia. There are four children, he died 10th May 2003. In 2005 Elizabeth was living at Noosaville on the Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane.

a. Richard Bomford, born 13th August 1952, at Cambridge, England. Richard was educated in England and Australia, with a short period in Germany before the family settled in Canberra in 1962. He completed an honours degree in geology from the Australian National University in 1976, and also an electronics and communications certificate from the Canberra Technical College. He worked from 1979 to 2002 as an environment policy adviser for the Australian Government, specialising late in that period in relations between the Australian federal environment department and its counterparts in Asia and the Pacific. His long term parent is Bernadette Frances O’Leary, born 17th September 1958 at Nowra, New South Wales. They have no children, live in Canberra and has a 100 statute acres property at Brogo on the far south coast of New South Wales, which is a registered conservation area under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act.

b. Mary Bomford, born 4th December 1953, Adelaide, South Australia. Mary has a BSc in Zoology from the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, a postgraduate diploma on greenfinch damage to sunflower crops (1976) and MSc on banded dotterel behaviour (1978), also from Otago University, and a PhD from the Australian National University ‘Food quality, diet and reproduction of house mice on irrigated cereal farms’ (1985). She has worked for the Australian government and has many publications on feral animal management. Mary lives in Canberra and is not married.

c. Philip Bomford, born 13th September 1960, Epsom, England. Philip was educated at Canberra Grammar School and has a degree in economics from the Australian National University, completed in 1982 and a graduate diploma in environmental science from Murdoch University (1989). He worked for the Australian (1983-85 and 1995-99) and Western Australian Governments (1991-1994) and in 2005 was a self employed financial manager. He lives in Canberra and is not married.

d. Margaret Anne (Annabel) Bomford, born 20th January 1964, in Canberra, Australia. Annabel was educated at Campbell High School and Narrabundah College, Canberra. She owned and ran Annabel’s Café at Milton on the south coast of New South Wales for several years in the 1990’s and in 2005 was living and working in the Ulladulla area on the NSW south coast. She has a long term partner, Mark Balsom, born 7th May 1960 at Waverley, Sydney NSW.
Guy Bomford married secondly, on 7th November 1935, Annette Isolde Brown, a daughter of Lieut-Commander George Halliday Brown of the Royal Navy, Guy Bomford died at Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, on 10th February 1996, aged 96, and Annette died in April 2001 aged 93. They had two children

2. **Christopher Guy Bomford** (1938 - 2003)
   Was born 21st July 1938 and educated at Cheltenham and the RMA Sandhurst. He joined the Army, became a Captain in the Royal Artillery and retired in 1969. He then became a banker working with the Merchant Bankers, Brown Shipley. He was made a Freeman and Liveryman of the City of London on the commendation of the Haberdasher’s Company, whose investments he managed for many years. On 4th September 1971 he married Philippa Jane Sharples of Boswell, Louth in Lincolnshire, High Sheriff, they have three children. He died in April 2003.
   c. Henry Guy Bomford, born 1st March 1981. Educated at Bristol University, MSc.

3. **Rodney William George Bomford** (1943 - living)
   Was born on 6th August 1943 and educated at Radley and Brasenose College Oxford, from where he received his BA (1964) and MA (1968). He then went to Union College in New York from where he graduated STM in 1969. He joined the Church and was ordained deacon (1969), priest (1970) and became Vicar of St Giles, Camberwell, London, in 1977. In 1993 he became Hon Cannon of Southwick Cathedral, and retired in October 2001 to Modbury Devon.
Chapter XXVII  The North-Bomfords of Ferrans  1836 - 1899

27.1  Isaac North  c1791 - 1866

Isaac North c1791 - 1866, and Belinda Emily (Pilkington), c1804 - 1852, had been living at Ferrans since their marriage on 8th October 1830, but Issac had been there longer, since perhaps 1820. During these early days Ferrans belonged to Isaac’s uncle, Isaac Bomford, and although he rented and farmed the place, he did not come into it until his uncle died in 1837. Part of the terms of the inheritance was that he took the name of Bomford, which he did in 1837, and so became Isaac North-Bomford and assumed the title to Gallow (596 acres) and Ferrans (412 acres).

About 1837, certainly before 1842, he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for County Meath, remaining a JP until his death. He was later made an ex-officio Guardian of the Trim Union (Workhouse) covering the period around the 1860’s.

27.1.1  Dublin Houses  1836 - 1863

The Dublin Almanacks and Street Directories indicate that the North-Bomfords had a town house, but there is no record that Isaac owned the houses.

1. No 17 Lower Dominick Street.

The Street Directories in the Almanacks only started about 1836 in which year the following is recorded: -

‘1836, Mr Isaac Bomford, 17 Lower Dominick Street.’

This Isaac is Isaac North-Bomford’s uncle who died in 1837 and the house must originally have belonged to him although he lived in Blessington Street. It is not know when he first bought the house but he must have left it to his nephew together with Ferrans and his land.

Various deeds record Isaac North-Bomford ‘of Lower Dominick Street’ so it is likely that the family lived there for at least part of each year. For the years between 1838 and 1860 the Directories list the house as occupied by Isaac North-Bomford except for one year which reads: -

‘1850, J. B. Bomford Esq. This house belongs to Mrs Bomford.’

There is no J. B. Bomford or North-Bomford so the name must be an error: it would not be Isaac’s second son John who was only 12 at this date. However the entry is important since it shows that the house was in the name of Isaac’s wife, Belinda Emily.

Dominick Street lies on rising ground in the then fashionable North Dublin between the Rotunda and King’s Inn. The street was built in two phases, Lower Dominick Street in 1775 and Upper Dominick Street in the 1850’s, so Isaac’s house was on the very edge of town. In 1785 it was the most aristocratic of the North Dublin Streets and contained the residences of two peers, six members of the Irish Commons, a judge of the King’s Bench and half-a-dozen other barristers, three sheriff peers, the Seneschal of the King’s Manors, the City Chaplin with the other houses occupied by professional men, lawyers, doctors, etc. By 1800 the legal element was increasing: lawyers occupied 26 houses in 1834, and 31 in 1850: but by 1875 the legal elements had sunk to 17 and ‘trade’ had lowered the tone, there were even two lodging houses. This reflected in the rateable value of Isaac’s house: £80 in 1850, £52 in 1852 and £48 in 1860.

2. ‘1861 - 1863 Isaac Bomford Esq., 8 Upper Temple Street. Rateable value £46’.

47 years previously, in 1814, Arbella Bomford bought No 21 Temple Street for £900 and rent of £100 a year. This used to be another fashionable street but one can see how it deteriorated in those 47 years by the value, from £100 to £46. This was typical of the age when prosperous people were moving to the suburbs.

Isaac North-Bomford had this house for three years after Dominick Street, and on its sale the family ceased to have a town house; although their children lived in Dublin they did not have a house for any length of time.

3. ‘1847, Isaac Bomford Esq., 6 Sidney Terrace, Sandy Mount Strand. Rateable value £20.’

Sandymount was developed in the mid 1800’s to accommodate the general exodus from city to the suburbs. No 6 Sidney Terrace would have been a small house, newly built in 1847, a sort of holiday home beside the sea.

Isaac had the house for just the one year 1847 - 1848 and this move was probably due to the pestilence of the famine which was at its worst that year; the thought no doubt being that the sea air would keep disease away from Isaac’s young family of nine children, the eldest being about 15.
In 1852 Belinda Emily died, the exact date is not known. Her parents Abraham John Pilkington and Maria (M’Hugo) of Kilbride Castle in Westmeath were married in 1803 and had two children, Belinda and Homan, so the earliest that Belinda could have been born was 1804. When she died she could not have been older than 48 but possibly younger. Isaac North-Bomford, himself then aged about 54, was left with a young family of seven ranging in age from 18 down to about 3, with one daughter married and another probably dead.

### Their Children

Isaac and Belinda had nine children, five sons, and four daughters, but a boy and a girl ‘died young’. The sequence of their births can not be given with accuracy as the boys are listed first in order followed by the girls, and the girls birth dates have not been found. However, bearing in mind marriage dates, the age of Belinda Emily and extended gaps in known birthdays, three of the girls have been placed amongst the boys, the eldest child being a girl.

1. Mary Jane, born c1830 (27.4)
2. Isaac, born 6th June 1834 (27.5)
3. Annabella, born c1836 (27.6)
4. John, born 17th July 1838 (Chapter 28)
5. David George, born 5th February 1840 (27.8)
6. Stephen Robert, ‘died young’ in 1856. He is placed in Burke between David and Horatio so would have been born during the years 1841 to 1846, though most likely c1843. Therefore he died aged about 13.
7. Louisa Emily, also ‘died young’. She could have been born c1845.
8. Horatio, born 16th February 1847 (27.9)
9. Belinda Emily was probably the youngest and would have been born c1849 when her mother was about 45. (27.10)

It is a pity that there is such a scarcity of information about these children. If we knew where they were born or were baptised then we would be able to make a better guess as to whether Isaac and Belinda lived more permanently at Ferrans or in Dublin.

### Griffith’s Valuation of Rateable Properties

This valuation was carried out throughout Ireland to ensure that, after the famine, the Poor Law system could be properly financed. It was found to be of prime importance, as was the 1836 valuation, in tracing Bomford property. Each townland is listed and split into six columns

1. ‘Occupier’, -the name of the person who occupied and worked the land. This includes the working men who perhaps only had a quarter of an acre.
2. ‘Immediate Leaser’, -the name of the person who received the rent from the occupier. When these names are the same then that person farmed the land himself. The ‘Head Landlord’ is not recorded.
3. ‘Description’, - of the land; as House, Offices (farm buildings), Land, bog, garden, plantation, etc, are specified separately often in abbreviated form
4. ‘Area’, -recorded in statute acres, rods and perches. In many cases I have altered these to the nearest acre.
5+6. ‘Rateable Annual valuation’ of the ‘Land’ (5) and ‘Buildings’ (6).

The valuation was calculated at 25% below the letting value of the land, and the letting value was 1/3rd above the government valuation.

Although the land increased in value there was little change in the letting value until about 1890 because the tenants rent was not frequently altered, a 30-year lease being the norm at the time. However when it was altered it generally rose to about 1½ times the amount of the government valuation.

The valuations of the buildings give an indication of the leasor’s wealth or poverty. The best houses were valued at £10 or more; those around £5 probably had slate roofs, a few rooms and were built of stone; those at £1 were cabins with a thatched roof, and perhaps two rooms with walls of mud; those at 5/- would be one room, probably without windows and quite likely without a chimney, the smoke going out through the door or out of holes through the thatch at either end of the roof ridge.
The North-Bomfords of Ferrans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ferrans Valuation</th>
<th>Immediate Leasor - Isaac North-Bomford</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupier</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac North-Bomford</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Brennan</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas McEntire</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Martin</td>
<td>Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Tyrrell</td>
<td>House</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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This total of 401 acres is 11 acres short of the 1836 total, which is probably because the south boundary of Ferrans is the River Ryewater, a stream that rises in a spring in Bacontown. In 1797 Ferrans Lock and the bridge over Royal Canal were built, and the Ryewater was given a new course north of the canal. In 1836 the survey map shows two small plots of Ferrans south of the canal which does not seem to be so in the 1883 map; it would be sensible if these two plots were sold and, if so, would just about account for the 11 acres difference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallow Valuation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupier</td>
<td>Immediate Leasor</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Maher</td>
<td>Rev. John Potterton</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Maher</td>
<td>Isaac North-Bomford</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Connell</td>
<td>Patrick Maher</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Fagan</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Allen</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick White</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gill</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Lynch</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaac North-Bomford</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>Land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1836 Mr T. Potterton had about 250 acres, now the Rev. John Potterton (his son?) has 377 acres; whereas in 1836 Isaac Bomford had 596 acres, now his nephew only has 467. The total Gallow acreage is much the same but now Potterton has increased his holding by 127 acres and Isaac has deceased his by a similar amount.

Isaac himself farms 407 acres (Ferrans 393 and Gallow 14), probably assisted by the four men living on Ferrans. In addition he leases 453 acres to Patrick Maher which would bring in a gross income of around £625 (£500 plus 25%); this income is less that that of pre-famine 1836 when the land was leased at £2.10.0 an acre, now it is only about £1.5.0 an acre. Patrick Maher was a big farmer for he not only leased these 828 acres but also 491 acres of Drumlargan from George Bomford.

27.3.1 The North-Bomford Country Houses

The rateable value of the three houses on the two townlands of Ferrans and Gallow were

- Gallow £15,
- Ferrans £14,
- and Clarkestown £10.

**Gallow House:** has not been occupied by a Bomford since about 1809, and, although it remains a Bomford house, a Bomford does not again occupy it. It looks as though at this date Patrick Maher is living there.

**Clarkestown House:** It is doubtful if it was ever actually owned by a Bomford even though some Bomfords had lived there on occasions. It was previously suggested that it was on part of Gallow townland originally owned by the Winters and that it was their property: nothing has come to light to support ownership by either the Winters or the Bomfords, but Forth in his investigation suggests that it was a Winter property. It was burnt down accidentally in the early 1830’s and rebuilt; now it appears that the Rev. John Potterton is living there.
Ferrans House: was the North-Bomford residence and remained so until the family sold the place in 1967. However the house must have been enlarged at some date, since the 1854 rateable value of £14 is far too small for the house, which was there in the early 1900's. An extension to the house may have taken place prior to 1867, because in that year a lodge was built (see below), and a lodge would hardly have been built for an unimpressive house valued at only £14; indeed the whole house may have been rebuilt. In this respect it is noteworthy that the Dublin house was given up in 1863 and, perhaps, a new house was built just prior to that date so that the family could occupy it permanently from 1863. The argument against a completely new house being built is the statement in Burke’s Guide to Country Houses, which states that Ferrans is ‘a 2 storey 5 bay late-Georgian house’, so probably the original house was just enlarged and done-up.

If we accept the fact that Ferrans house was at least improved about this date, it makes sense that a gate lodge be built; this happened in 1867; -

11th July 1867

Reciting the lease of Brayfield, part of Ferrans, by John North-Bomford of Ferrans House, late Captain of Her Majesty’s 29th Regiment of Infantry, to Horatio Bomford (his brother) of Landsdowne Road, Dublin.

Now a lodge or gate-house is to built on part of this land and John North-Bomford gives permission to Horatio Bomford to build it.’ (1867 Book 22 No 228)

This deed reads as though it was Horatio who built the house and he may have done, but he was only 20 at the time and a younger son so it is unlikely that he paid for it. It is more likely that John paid for it; he was then the head of the family since his elder brother Isaac had died in 1862 and his father in 1866.

27.3.2 Census Extracts Concerning Ferrans and Gallow 1871

An interesting census was carried out in 1871, townland by townland throughout Ireland. The number of houses and the population are here compared to previous 10-year numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Townland of Ferrans, 401 acres,</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houses</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Townland of Gallow, 844 acres (including Potterton’s 377 acres),</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houses</td>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1841 is pre-famine and the steady exodus of Irish to America and elsewhere is reflected in the later figures; over the 30 years the total drop was from 116 people to only 27; a decrease of three-quarters of the population which was not considered to be unusual. If each house held one family then we may assume that 11 families left the two townlands because of the famine, but, in addition, the numbers in each family also dropped so many of the older children of those families which remained must have also left; this movement away from the land to the towns was to become the trend in Meath where the farmer concentrated on raising cattle rather than the more labour intensive tillage.

27.4 Mary Jane North-Bomford - The eldest daughter c1830 - c1893

Very little is known about Mary Jane but there are two deeds concerning her marriage to John Emerson. It is largely because of the date of her marriage settlement that Mary Jane has been placed as the eldest child, and even so she would only be about 18 in 1850 at the time of her wedding.

27.4.1 Marriage Settlement – Mary Jane and John Emerson 6th March 1850

Between

1. John Emerson of Glasthule, Co Dublin
2. Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans, and Mary Jane North-Bomford, eldest daughter of Isaac
3. John Roger North of Glasthule, Co Dublin (a trustee)
4. Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans, and Henry Mulock Pilkington of Dublin (probably John Emerson’s and also Mary Jane’s great uncle of Tore, 1780 - 1865)
On the marriage intended between John Emerson and Mary Jane North-Bomford, John Emerson hands over on his death in trust to John Roger North the lands of Castletown in the Barony of Ballygowan (in King’s County) so that Mary Jane North-Bomford will have an annuity of £150 after his death.

(1850 Book 4 No 196)

27.4.2 Part of Settlement Payment to Mary Jane 3rd May 1871

Between
1. Mary Jane Emerson of Banagher, King’s County, Widow
2. Benjamin Whitney of Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, Solicitor.
   (Mary Jane’s brother-in-law)
   James Joseph Scallon of Harcourt Street, Dublin, Doctor of Medicine, and
   Rev. Joseph Samuel Bell of Banagher, King’s County

Reciting the marriage settlement (above) between Mary Jane Emerson, then Mary Jane North-Bomford, and John Emerson in which she was entitled to a jointure of £150 per annum on land therein mentioned.

Some of these lands were purchased for Railway purposes and the money invested in £302.17.1 Government 3% stock in the hands of the trustees (party 2).

Now Mary Jane Emerson has borrowed £277 from the above and the balance is charged upon the lands of Castletown in King’s County.

(1871 Vol 14 No 254)

The marriage licence was issued by the Diocese of Dublin and dated May 1850 (page 488), so the marriage probably took place that month in Dublin from Isaac’s house in Dominick Street.

The groom, John Emerson, must have been a guest of John Roger North who was married to John Emerson’s only living sister, Elizabeth. The father of John Roger North was David North, brother of Isaac North-Bomford; so the Ememors, Norths and North-Bomfords were closely connected; but there is a further connection on the bride’s side of the family. Mary Jane’s mother was Belinda Pilkington and she was a first cousin to John Emerson’s father, Horatio Emerson. Paragraph 23.2.1 includes a family tree showing these ramifications.

Glasthule, where John Emerson was living at the time of the marriage, belonged to the North family and, according to the Dublin Directory was more probably named ‘Fortwilliam, Glasthule, Kingstown’. It was last occupied by Lady North in the mid 1880’s; it is not clear who ‘Lady North’ was, but it does indicate a relationship between our North family and that of Lord North and the Earl of Guildford.

John Emerson

John Emerson was born on 8th March 1826 and was educated at Trinity, gaining a BA in 1846. He was the only son and eldest child of Horatio Emerson and Emily (Mulock); his two sisters were Fanny who ‘died young’ and Elizabeth who married John Roger North of Far View, Co Westmeath. John Roger North, the trustee of the marriage settlement, inherited Far View (Fairview) in 1863 when his father David North died; he was alive in 1866 but died before 1871 when the trusteeship was changed. That later deed also records Mary Jane as a widow, so John Emerson must have died before 1871.

Burke places John Emerson of Clonshanny and Deer Park, both in King’s County; neither of these places have been located. The marriage settlement concerns Castletown that is close to Kilnagarna and Bellair, both Mulock properties in King’s County. Deeds of 1862 and 1863 record John Emerson ‘of Gallow’ so at some stage the Ememors must have leased and perhaps have lived there; prior to this, in 1857, another deed gives his address as No 8 Bachelor’s Walk, Dublin. Yet another deed of 1867 places him at Banagher, King’s County, where he probably died.

27.4.3 Death of John and Mary Jane Emerson

The years in which these two died are not known, but we can speculate.

John Emerson must have died between 1867 and 1871 according to the deeds, but in view of the context of the 1871 deed, probably in 1870 at Banagher.

His wife Mary Jane seems to have remained for a while at Banagher on the Shannon where the Reverend Bell, one of the later trustees, was the rector, (in 1872 he became Rector of Kells where he remained until 1887). In 1878 Mary Jane appears as ‘Mrs Emerson’ in The Dublin Directory and was living at Greenfield, Sutton near Howth, where she stayed until 1882. This had been an Emerson house for some years and Mary Jane’s two sons, Horatio and Henry Robert, had been living there from 1873. In 1883 the Directory stopped recording ‘Mrs Emerson’ as the occupant of Greenfield and substitutes her
son Henry Robert; one obvious conclusion might be that she died in 1882. We could therefore hazard a guess that

John Emerson died c1870 at Banagher and his wife Mary Jane died c1882.

If this is so, both died rather young, John aged 44 and Mary Jane about 50.

27.4.4 Children of John and Mary Jane Emerson

There were eight children but only three have been definitely located with two probables

1. Horatio Emerson, the eldest son, was born 9th May 1851 and so was also the oldest child. He was living at Greenfield in Sutton in 1873 but nothing else is known about him, though, since his younger brother sold Greenfield in 1885, he may have died before that date, in his early 30's.

2. Henry Robert Emerson. In 1873 he was an attorney apprentice to his uncle, Benjamin Whitney, and in 1877 he was admitted as a solicitor; this would make his birth date about 1854. The Directory of 1895 lists him not only as a solicitor but also as a land agent. His offices were at:
   a. 1878 – 1880, 27 Lower Ormond Quay,
   b. 1883 – 1886, 14 Upper Sackville Street (now O’Connell Street),
   c. 1895 – 1897, 61 Dawson Street,
   d. from 1899, 71 Dame Street.

   These addresses show that he was successful. The Directories also give his home addresses
   a. 1873 - 1875, Greenfield, Sutton,
   b. 1880 - 1882, No 1 Belgrave Park, Rathmines,
   c. 1884, back to Greenfield, and it was he, who sold the house in 1885 or 86,
   d. 1886 - 1891, Greenvale, Upper Rathmines,
   e. 1895 -1897, Roebuck Lodge, Dundrum, and
   f. from 1899, No 88 Ranelagh Road.

   No doubt he married and had children

3. Charles, born c1855 and died at Cham, Victoria, Australia, 1934 aged 79. (According to the Australian computer, Charles was an only child). This may be the “Charles H G Emerson Esq. of 21 Harbour Road Dalkey” in the Dublin Directory of the 1880’s.

4. Belinda Emerson, born in Dublin 25th December 1862, married at Portarlington, Queen’s County, 15th June 1887 to James Cooper-Cooper who was formerly James Cooper Tuthill, as his second wife. He was born 16th March 1825, took the name Cooper and inherited Cooper Hill, Co Limerick, from Mrs Honora Cooper. He had 15 children by his first wife, most of whom were older than Belinda. Belinda at the time of her marriage was aged 25, whereas her husband was 62. Not surprisingly they had no children.

5. Doctor John J. Emerson, MD, of No 1 Belgrave Square, Rathmines in South Dublin, witnessed the marriage settlement of Belinda Emily North-Bomford and Edward Napoleon L’Estrange in 1878. He is almost certainly another child, and he witnessed the deed with his brother Henry Robert Emerson.

6. Another probable son came to light from the Shelford family history, see 33.7.1. He was Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Emerson who christened his daughter Patricia Bomford Emerson and she married Edward John Shelford in 1930.

7. That leaves two other children, who may have died young. Another Emerson listed in the Directory in the 1880’s was Rev J. Meadows Emerson of 99 Bushfield Avenue, Donnybrook.

   Other Emersons were found in the Trinity College Register of 1928 that lists graduates living that year. They may be grandchildren,
   
   Rev. George Emerson, qualified MA 1896 TCD, of St Peter’s Rectory, Bandon, Co Cork.
   
   Henry Horace Andrews Emerson qualified TCD Bachelor of Medicine 1905, DSO, Major RAMC.
   
   Donald Bomford Emerson qualified BA TCD 1907, Public Works Department Secretariat, Nainital, United Provinces, India. With that name he must be a grandson of John and Mary Emerson.

27.5 Isaac North-Bomford - The Eldest Son 1834 - 1862

Burke simply records that Isaac was born on 6th June 1834, was a Captain in the 59th Regiment and served in China, and died unmarried on 6th April 1861. A little more information can be gleaned from the Dunlin Almanacks and the deed below. There is also a probable error in his death date.

When Isaac was born in 1834 his parents had been married nearly four years and so it is thought that he was actually the second child, the eldest being his sister, Mary Jane. There are three relevant entries in the Almanack concerning his army career.
In 1854, when he was 20 or 21, he was gazetted a lieutenant in the 59th Regiment of Foot, later to become the 2nd Nottinghamshire Regiment. In 1859 he was gazetted a captain in the regiment, and in 1863 his name was omitted from the Almanack. More information comes from the next deed.

27.5.1

**Captaincy and Annuity**

26th March 1862

Between

1. Isaac North Bomford of Ferrans (father, aged about 64),
2. Isaac North Bomford, (eldest son), Captain in Her Majesty’s 59th Regt of Infantry, at present residing at Ferrans
3. Henry MacNamara Morgan of Kingstown, Co Dublin, and James Blaquiere of 19 Middle Gardiner Street, Dublin
4. John Emerson of Gallow (husband of sister Mary Jane), and Richard Charles MacNevin of Middle Gardiner Street, Dublin.
5. Elliott E. Whitney of Woodlands, Co Wexford, and Benjamin Whitney of Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin, (husband of sister Annabella).

Reciting that both Ferrans and Gallow has become vested in Isaac Bomford. In about 1835 Isaac Bomford agreed that they pass to his nephew, Isaac North (party 1) and his heirs.

Reciting that Isaac North-Bomford for £1,000 out of £4,000 purchased a company in 1857 in the 59th Regiment for his son Isaac.

The other £3,000 was to be invested in the land for Isaac for an annuity of £100 to be charged upon Ferrans and Gallow. (1862 Book 12 No 238)

This deed confirms that Isaac was a captain but adds that the rank was purchased, a common practice in those days, and that the money came from his inheritance of £4,000; there is a discrepancy over the date he became a captain, 1859 in the Almanack or 1857 in the deed. However the important item in this deed is that in March 1862 Isaac was alive and living at Ferrans, whereas Burke states that he died the previous year on 6th April 1861; it must therefore be assumed that the date of his death should be amended to 6th April 1862. He probably died at Ferrans aged 28. He must have died in 1862 since in March of the next year, 1863, there is another deed (28.2) which has the same people in parties 3, 4 and 5 and which concerns the entail and Isaac’s younger brother John who had by then become the heir.

Isaac’s Service in China

The 59th Regiment embarked for China in 1849 and no doubt Isaac joined them in China after training in England before he was gazetted a Lieutenant in 1854. The regiment’s tour of overseas duty ended with a spell in the Cape of Good Hope, and on return home they were stationed at Athlone in 1860.

The years 1856 to 1860 were the period of the Second Foreign War of China, sometimes called ‘the Second Opium War’, and Isaac almost certainly took part in this war, at any rate up to the treaty of 1858. After sporadic fighting the combined British and French army took Canton in 1857, then in 1858 went north to Tientsin and captured the Taku forts guarding Peking. To save the capital, Peking, the Chinese made a treaty in which one proviso was that foreign powers could take up residence in Peking. However in 1859, probably after the 59th and Isaac had left, the foreign powers attempted to go to Peking but found their way blocked and fighting broke out again. Peking fell in 1860, another treaty was made, and there was a period of comparative peace in China for the next 30 years.

27.5.2

**Death of Isaac North-Bomford - The Father**

10th October 1866

Burke only gives the year 1866 as the date Isaac died, but from Lyon’s ‘Grand Juries of Westmeath’ and the deed of 1873 (Vol 4, No 161), we now know it was on 10th October 1866 that he died, aged about 68 or perhaps a little older. He would have died at Ferrans and may have been buried in Gallow Churchyard with his grandparents, unfortunately there are no surviving Bomford tombstones there and the records are missing.

His will has not been located, but his sole executor was his son-in-law, the solicitor Benjamin Whitney. It would appear that his children received a lump sum according to his will or, more likely, his marriage settlement, but it is not clear how much.

27.6

**Annabella North-Bomford**

c1836 - 1899

Annabella was the second daughter of Isaac and Belinda North-Bomford, and she has been placed as the third child with a birth date of around 1836. She was about 16 when her mother died and the job of bringing up the younger children, the youngest being only about 3, would have fallen largely upon her shoulders.

It is not clear whether she spelt her name in one or two words; both ‘Anna Bella’ and ‘Annabella’ have been seen but the latter appears more often. She married Benjamin Whitney on 12th April 1860 when
she was about 23, and the Whitney half of her marriage settlement follows. No trace of the North-Bomford half has been found which is a pity as it might have clarified her parent’s marriage settlement. The marriage probably took place from 17 Dominick Street where she and the rest of the family were living. No marriage licence has been found

27.6.1 Marriage Settlement Annabella North-Bomford and Benjamin Whitney 11th April 1860

Between 1. Benjamin Whitney of Middle Gardiner Street, Dublin, Solicitor.
   2. Annabella North-Bomford of Lower Dominick Street, Dublin, spinster.
   3. Isaac North-Bomford (father) of Lower Dominick Street.
   4. David George North-Bomford (brother) of Lower Dominick Street, and Edward John Irwin of Carranure House, Co Roscommon. (The two trustees).

In view of the marriage intended between Benjamin Whitney and Annabella North-Bomford, Benjamin Whitney hands over in trust to those in Party 4 his Life Policy of Insurance, and his Government 3% Stock for his wife should he die first.

27.6.2 The Whitney Family

Burke’s 1912 Edition records the Whitneys as a County Wexford family from the early 1700’s.

Benjamin’s father was Nicholas Whitney of Castleview, Old Ross, Co Wexford; Nicholas was baptised on 13th March 1805, was married on 21st March 1833, and died just a year after his marriage, in 1834, and during the lifetime of his father, Benjamin’s grandfather; he was buried at Old Ross on the 8th March 1834, aged 29, just under three months after his only child, Benjamin, was born. His wife, Benjamin’s mother, was Mary Gore Jones, the daughter of Thomas Jones. She was born in 1810 and died, aged 85, on 20th March 1895.

Another relative, possibly a cousin of Benjamin, was Elliott Elmes Whitney of Woodlands, Co Wexford, who was coupled with Benjamin in three North-Bomford deeds. Nothing is certain about him.

Benjamin was born on 23rd December 1833 and must have been brought up by his mother although nothing is known about his early life; he became a solicitor in 1855 and as such was party to at least six North-Bomford deeds. He lived initially in Lower Gardiner Street, about 1866 he moved to No 29 Upper Fitzwilliam Street and this house still belonged to him in 1912. In addition, from 1882 he owned No 5 Royal Marine Terrace in Bray, valued in 1884 at £65, and it is thought that perhaps this house became later known as Brayfort House. He remained at Brayfort House until his death and Burke records him as ‘of Brayfort, Bray, Co Wicklow’.

In 1878 he became Clerk of the Crown in Co Mayo and from that year to 1882 his office was at 36 Dawson Street. In the 1880’s he became a JP for Co Roscommon, Registrar of Tithes for Co Mayo, Clerk of the Crown (1878) and Clerk of the Peace for Co Mayo. He opened an office in Castlebar, Co Mayo, to cover these duties, and in Dublin he moved his office in 1883 to No 46 Kildare Street and this remained his office until he died.

He was a successful solicitor and for his public duties he was honoured with a knighthood, becoming a Knight Bachelor on 2nd August 1897.

According to the 1878 edition of ‘The Landowners of Ireland’ Benjamin owned 272 acres in Co Armagh with a valuation of £79, and 563 acres in Co Roscommon with a valuation of £388. No doubt all this land was leased.

He was the sole executor of the will of Isaac North-Bomford, his father-in-law, and a trustee of the marriage settlement of his two North-Bomford sisters-in-law, Mary Jane Emerson and Belinda Emily L’Estrange.

After their marriage on 12th April 1860 Annabella and Benjamin lived in Lower Gardiner Street and it was no doubt there that their two children, both girls, were born; nothing but their names are known-

   Belinda Whitney born c1862, and
   Mabel Rosamond Whitney, born c1865

On 16th January 1899 Annabella, Lady Whitney, died aged about 63, and Sir Benjamin lived on until 1916, he died on 21st December aged 83.

27.7 John North-Bomford 1838 - 1905

John was the second son who eventually inherited Ferrans and Gallow. A number of deeds concern him and his life will be found in the next chapter (28).
David was the 3rd son, and probably the 5th child, and was born on 5th February 1840. In April 1860 he became a trustee of his sister’s marriage settlement when she married Benjamin Whitney, and his address is given as 17 Dominick Street, Dublin, where he lived with his father, his mother had died in 1852, his two unmarried brothers and his unmarried sister; at this date he was just 20 and studying to become a doctor. Seven years later Thom’s Directory lists him as ‘LRCSI’ (Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and ‘LRCP Edin’ (Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh), so he had qualified as a Doctor and Surgeon in or before 1867. He most probably first went to Edinburgh and there qualified as a physician, and perhaps practised there for a short time; later he returned to Dublin and trained there as a surgeon. Thom’s Directories of 1867, 1968 and 1969 give his address as Kilcock which would be the address of Ferrans, but it is doubtful if he ever practised there since the next deed of 1867 records him as “MD of Castleconnell, Co Limerick”. At this date Castleconnell was a spa on the Shannon and full of fine late-Georgian houses, all of which sounds as though it was a rich practise for the ‘carriage-trade’.

It was no doubt at Castleconnell that he met his future wife Mary Gubbins, and they were married in 1867, probably in June. Two deeds have been found concerning the marriage settlement to which the Gubbins family contributed £1,500 and David insured his life and gave £1,300 to the trustees for the premium payments. The deed gives no date for the marriage and no marriage licence has been found, but it must have been after the second deed, in June or later in 1867.

27.8.1 Marriage Settlement between David George North-Bomford and Mary Gubbins

Between 1. David George North-Bomford, MD of Castleconnell, Co Limerick.
2. William Gough Gubbins (father) of Woodstown, Co Limerick.
4. John Russell Gubbins (brother) of Lima, Peru, in South America, eldest son of William Gough Gubbins.
5. Mary Gubbins, spinster, daughter of William Gough Gubbins.
6. John Emerson (David’s brother-in-law) of Banagher, King’s Co, and John Russell (probably a cousin of Mary Gubbins) of Glenview, Co Limerick.
7. James William Gubbins (possibly a brother to Mary) of Lismullane, Co Limerick, and Horatio North-Bomford (David’s brother) of Stephen Green, Dublin.

Reciting 1. A marriage is intended between David George North-Bomford and Mary Gubbins
2. Mary Gubbins has been given £1,500 in trust to Party 7 by her father

Now David George North-Bomford has insured his life with the Standard Life Assurance Company and has paid over £1,300 to the trustees, Party 6, to ensure premium payments. (1867 Book 25 No 100)

27.8.2 Memorial to Marriage Settlement

7th June 1867

This memorial concerns the same people and confirms ‘the intended marriage’. However it lists the various lands in the Town of Limerick from which Mary’s £1500 is to come. (1867 Book 21 No 95)

27.8.3 The Gubbins Family

The only reference to the Gubbins family was found in Walford’s County Families from which most of the following has come –

The eldest son of Joseph Gubbins of Maidstone Castle, Co Limerick, was Reverend George Gough Gubbins of Maidstown Castle married Mary, a daughter of John Bennett. Their youngest son was William Gough Gubbins of Castle Troy, Co Limerick, JP, born 1820, married in 1844 Mary, 2nd daughter of John Russell, JP.

William, (who was alive in 1900), and Mary had a number of children of whom Walfords only records the eldest son, but we can add Mary as a daughter.

The eldest son was John Russell Gubbins, born 1845 and who in 1867 was working in Lima, Peru.

James William Gubbins of Lismullane, Co Limerick could be another brother of Mary and John Russell Gubbins; but he could also be of the other branch of the Gubbins family of Kilfrush, near Hospital.
in County Limerick. According to Walfords this branch consisted of at least three brothers, Joseph, Thomas and John, whose father was Joseph Gubbins of Kilfrush who had died in 1850.

John Russell, one of the trustees, would be a relative of Mary Russell who in 1844 married William Gough Gubbins, perhaps a nephew and so another cousin of Mary and David North-Bomford.

27.8.4 Settlement on David George North-Bomford 3rd November 1868

Between 1. Elliott Elmes Whitney of Woodlands, Co Wexford, and Benjamin Whitney of Upper Fitzwilliam Street Dublin.
2. Benjamin Whitney, sole executor of the will of Isaac North-Bomford late of Ferrans deceased.

Reciting that For the sums of £1,100 and £1,050 paid to David George North-Bomford by John North-Bomford as directed by Benjamin Whitney, so John North-Bomford and his estates are free from any actions and demands. (1868 Vol 34 No 73)

This £2,150 could be the repayment of a mortgage but it is thought more likely that it was left to David in his father’s will since Benjamin Whitney as executor directed the payment.

27.8.5 Death of David George North-Bomford 13th October 1869

David was only 29 when he died on 13th October 1869 (ex Burke). One can assume that he was still a doctor in Castleconnell. His wife Mary and their little daughter, their only child aged 1, went to live at Castle Troy, Co Limerick, with her parents William Gough Gubbins and Mary (Russell).

Two years after David George died, Mary married secondly Francis Burton Keane of Hermitage, near Ennis in Co Clare.

27.8.6 Mary North-Bomford Marries Again 14th November 1871

The marriage settlement of Mary’s second marriage was signed on 13th November, the day before the marriage

Between 1. Francis Burton Keane of Hermitage, Ennis, Co Clare.
2. Mary North-Bomford of Castle Troy, Co Limerick, widow, formerly Mary Gubbins a spinster, widow of David George North-Bomford late of Castleconnell, Co Limerick, deceased
3. John Russell of Glenview, Co Limerick, and Horatio North-Bomford of Stephen’s Green, Dublin
5. Captain Walter James Pollard, RN of Training Ship ‘Southampton’ now stationed at Hull, Co York, and Thomas Pilkington of Water Park, Co Clare.

Reciting that a marriage is about to be solemnised between Francis Burton Keane and Mary North-Bomford.

Reciting that Francis Burton Keane has a £1,000 Life Insurance Policy.

Now Mary North-Bomford makes over to the trustees, Party 4, her property for her daughter Annabella North-Bomford, and Francis Burton Keane makes over to the trustees, Party 5, land in Co Clare (all listed) for Mary should she survive him, and for an annuity of £100 for the children of the marriage. (1871 Vol 34 No 238)

27.8.7 The Keane Family

The Keane family had been living near Ennis since about 1650 and claim ancestry from the ancient Celtic Irish clan of the O’Cahanes.

Francis’ parents were Francis Nathaniel Keane (1803 - 1880) of Hermitage, and Hanna Maria (died 1883) daughter of Sir Christopher Marrett of Limerick.

Three of Francis’ brothers had died before 1871 which left him with an elder brother, Charles (one of the trustees), a Captain in the 86th or Leinster Regiment, but he died unmarried in 1876 so Francis inherited the property when his father died in 1880.
There were four sisters, Hannah Maria, Jane, Sarah and Susanna; in 1863 Jane married Captain Walter James Pollard, Royal Navy, another of the trustees, 1818 - 1879, third son of William Pollard of Castle Pollard, Co Westmeath; the other three sisters did not marry.

Francis Burton Keane was born in 1844, educated at Trinity College and became a JP. He and Mary (North-Bomford), together with Mary’s baby, Annabella North-Bomford, appear to have lived at Hermitage after the marriage and indeed they probably ran the place since his parents were elderly. The marriage lasted for 24 years until Mary died on 15th January 1895. Francis lived on for another 12 years and died on 20th August 1908. They had six children, the stepbrothers and sisters of Annabella.

1. Francis Thomas Keane, born 24th August 1872. He did not inherit so he may have died young.
2. Charles Owen Keane, born 11th September 1875 and died 4th January 1924. He married and had children. His eldest son inherited and sold Hermitage.
3. Robert Giles Keane, born 18th June 1882. He married and had a daughter who was born in 1905 and was alive in the 1970’s
   1. Marie Sarita Keane who in 1897 married William James Macnamara of Co Clare. He was born in 1863 and died without children. She died in 1947. He was a trustee of Annabella North-Bomford’s marriage settlement of 1899.
   2. Olive Maria Keane died unmarried in 1959.

Francis Burton Keane had twelve uncles and aunts; one of his aunts, Anne, married Thomas Pilkington who was a trustee in the marriage settlement. There does not appear to be any connection between these Pilkington’s of Co Clare and those of Tore in Co Westmeath. It will be remembered that Isaac North-Bomford married Belinda Emily Pilkington of Westmeath.

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**27.8.8**

Annabella North-Bomford (Only daughter of David) 1868 - ?

David George and Mary had one daughter, Annabella, who was born in 1868. Her father died the next year and her mother remarried in 1871 when Annabella was about three; so she was brought up in her step-father’s house, Hermitage near Ennis, with six younger step-brothers and sisters.

Annabella did not marry until she was 31, rather old for those days, and one wonders whether her marriage was held back so that she could assist in looking after the children of her mother’s second marriage; for instance when she was twenty the children were aged 16 down to 6. However on 12th April 1899 she married Thomas Griffin, Bachelor of Law, of Baggot Street, Dublin, (ex Burke). Thomas is not mentioned in the Trinity Register of 1928, so either he qualified elsewhere or he had died before 1928, and the only reference to him comes from the marriage settlement, which gives no details.

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**27.8.9**

Marriage Settlement Annabella North-Bomford and Thomas Griffin 11th April 1899

Between

1. Annabella North-Bomford of Hermitage, Ennis, Co Clare, spinster
2. John Russell of Glenview, Co Limerick (trustee of her mother’s marriage settlement of 1867), and Horatio North-Bomford of Tyrrell’s Pass House, Co Westmeath, (her uncle and another trustee of her mother’s marriage settlement).
3. William James Macnamara of Bushy Park, Co Clare (near Ennis, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel Francis Macnamara of Doolan and Ennistymon House, and husband of Annabella’s step-sister Marie Sarita Keane), and Charles Owen Keane of Hermitage, Ennis, (step-brother of Annabella), (the two trustees).
4. Thomas Griffin

Reciting that John Russell and Horatio North-Bomford had in trust a £1,200 mortgage and an annuity of £75 belonging to Annabella North-Bomford

Reciting that A marriage had been arranged between Annabella North-Bomford and Thomas Griffin. (It took place the next day).

Now William James Macnamara and Charles Owen Keane have the above £1,200 mortgage and the £75 annuity in trust for Annabella, and on her death, for her next of kin. (1899 Vol 55 No 106)

It is not known when Annabella or her husband died, or if there were any children, though it is believed that there were none.

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**27.9**

Horatio North-Bomford 1847 – (?) 1935

Horatio was the youngest son and probably the eighth child of Isaac and Belinda. There is very little of substance to be added to Burke’s entry, which reads -
“Horatio, born 16th February 1847, married Alice, daughter of Richard Summers of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath, and had issue with two daughters
Isaac John (Rev Canon) MA, born 14th April 1882 and died 2nd September 1968.”

There are however a number of deeds which mention Horatio but they give no clue to his occupation or the names of his two daughters; on the other hand one deed leads to fuller information about his wife.

27.9.1 Lease - Brayfield 7th December 1865

Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans (Horatio’s father) leases to Horatio North-Bomford of Ferrans that part of Ferrans called Brayfield containing 48 plantation acres (78 statute) for the lives of Horatio North-Bomford and his brother John or for 31 years at a rent of £117.15.0 or £2.10.0 per Irish Acre.

(1865 Book 35 No 157)

Horatio was only 18 when his father Isaac leased this part of Ferrans to him. It is suggested that he has just left school and his father was trying to get him interested in farming. Isaac died the next year and the year after that, in 1867, Horatio was ‘of Landsdown Road’ in Dublin, so it looks as though the idea of farming failed. In 1886 his brother John bought back the lease.

Brayfield Lease Surrendered 12th March 1886

Endorsement on a lease dated 11th July 1867 concerning the building of a lodge to Ferrans House (27.3.1) between John North-Bomford and Horatio.

Between 1. Horatio North-Bomford of Knocknacree, Dalkey, Co Dublin
2. John North-Bomford of Ferrans House, Co Meath.

For £300 paid by John North-Bomford to Horatio North-Bomford, so Horatio surrendered the lease to John North-Bomford of part of Ferrans known as Brayfield. (1886 Vol 12 No 165)

27.9.2 Mortgages Granted by Horatio 1868 - 1877

Horatio appears to have had some money that he invested in land mortgages. It is thought that this money must have been his inheritance on his father’s death. There are five mortgages but the information is incomplete concerning some, which were very long and had legal complications which I did not take the time to master.

1. 19th May 1875 Mortgage of 10th December 1868

Between 1. Horatio North-Bomford and Belinda Emily North-Bomford, spinster, (Horatio’s younger sister), both of Greenfield, Sutton, Co Dublin.
2. Benjamin Whitney of Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, (husband of Horatio’s sister Annabella, the solicitor).

Reciting 1. The mortgage of 10th December 1868 for £3,750.
2. The above principal sum remains but all the interest has been paid.

Now John Shiel has paid the principal sum of £3,750 back to party one and they have returned the land. The mortgage has been discharged

Witnessed Henry R. Emerson, (nephew of Horatio), apprentice to Benjamin Whitney, Solicitor.

(1875 Vol 21 No 238)

It is not known how much of the £3,750 belonged to Horatio or how much to his sister Belinda Emily.

2. 16th November 1875 Mortgage of 20th May 1810

This mortgage by Horatio was for £500 on land in Co Clare owned by Francis Hutchinson Synge of Dysart Lodge, Co Clare; Synge died in 1871, and on 16th November 1875 his widow and executor, Elizabeth Anne Synge, paid back the £500 to Horatio when he was living at Greenfield, Sutton, Co Dublin.

(1875 Vol 48 No 189)

3. 11th August 1870 Mortgage

Horatio gave this mortgage to Plunket Kenny and his wife Margaret Kenny formerly Margaret Irwin of Rocksavage, near Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, on their land in Co Monaghan and near Dundalk. The amount is not clear nor has a deed been found concerning the repayment.

(1870 Vol 21 No 47 & 48)
4. 6th June 1877
This mortgage is recited in Belinda Emily North-Bomford’s marriage settlement of April 1878 (27.10.1). In it Hugh Lyons Montgomery was given two sums, £600 and £1,400. The deed states that the £1,400 was owed to Belinda in December 1877 but had been paid back by April 1878. There is no specific mention of the repayment of the £600, which one assumes belonged to Horatio.

5. 21st April 1890
This deed was very long and very involved; it is thought to be a mortgage by Horatio and is only included here as it gives Horatio’s address as 10 Appian Way, Co Dublin. (1890 Vol 22 No 105)

Since the details of these mortgages are not complete there is not much to be said about them except that Horatio must have had about £2,500 to invest around 1870, a very satisfactory amount for those days. However one cannot help but speculate whether the first two mortgages were ended in 1875 by chance or design. Was 1875 an important year for Horatio? I suspect that Horatio was married in 1875 and required the money for his marriage settlement.

27.9.3 Marriage of Horatio North Bomford and Alice Louise Emily Somers c1875
Burke gives no date for the marriage and simply states that Horatio married “Alice, daughter of Richard Summers of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath.” A complete blank was drawn concerning the Summer’s family until the following deed was found which put the investigation on to a different tack.

12th July 1895 Dublin Lease and Rents
Between 1. Maria Jane Somers of 41 Wellington Road, Dublin, widow, and Alice Louisa Emily North-Bomford of the same place, wife of Horatio North-Bomford
2. George Ridgeway Goodbody of Donore, Bray, Co Wicklow
Reciting that Maria Jane Somers leased to George Ridgeway Goodbody a plot of ground (the dimensions are given) on the south side of Duke Street leading from Grafton Street to Dawson Street. Now the rents are to be paid to Party 1.

A schedule, attached to the deed, lists the individual rents that amount to £146.16.9. (1895 Vol 41 No 152)

The rents are not important though it is interesting that Horatio’s wife receives a share, what is important is the spelling of “Summers”. The new spelling, “Somers”, showed as an entry in Walford’s County Families of 1900.

The Somers Family
The subject in Walfords is John Richard Somers, JP, of Tyrrellspass, Killucan, Co Westmeath, and of Friarsland, Dundrum, Co Dublin. He was the eldest son of Richard Somers of Tyrrellspass, by Anne Sarah, daughter of Thomas Fouance also of Tyrrellspass. John Richard was born in 1814 and succeeded in 1848 when one assumes his father Richard Somers died. In 1836 John Richard married Maria Jane, of the above deed when she was a widow, 6th daughter of Samuel Handy of Bracca Castle, Co Westmeath, and “has with other issue”, Richard John, late Captain 11th Hussars; born 1838, married 1870 Jane, a daughter of the Rev Peter Marsh.

From all this it is clear that Horatio married Alice Louise Emily Somers, a daughter of John Richard (born 1814 and died before 1895) of Tyrrellspass House in Westmeath, and of Friarsland, Co Dublin, and her mother was Maria Jane, 6th daughter of Samuel Handy of Bracca Castle, Co Westmeath. Alice had at least one brother, Captain Richard John Somers.

The Marriage and Later
There is no record of the date when Horatio married Alice. They had a son, Isaac John (see below), and two daughters. Not even the names of the daughters are known but the son was born in 1882, and perhaps he was the youngest. This throws up the possibility of a marriage date of 1875 or 1876, and these years are perhaps backed by the conjecture above concerning the mortgage repayments; so the best that can be suggested is ‘married c1875’, when Horatio was about 28.

It is difficult to state where Horatio lived, he seems to have had no permanent home but lived mostly in Dublin. Using the deeds and Almanacks it would seem that Horatio lived at Ferrans until he was about 20. Then before his marriage, he moved to Dublin.
1867 to 1870 at No 2 Landsdowne Road valued at £47. He sold this house to Robert Maxwell Crawford who owned Oakley Park before George Bomford bought it. St Stephen’s Green was also given as his address in 1867 and 1871, and it is suggested that his work, whatever that was, was there.

1875 at the Emerson house of Greenfield, Sutton (27.4.3) with his sister Mary Jane Emerson. After his marriage c1875 there is scant information; he and Alice seem to have moved around in St Stephen’s Green, St Stephen’s Green being also his address in 1867 and 1871.

1879 to 1883 at Bellavista, Stradbrowk, Blackrock but in 1882 there is mention of Lara in Co Meath (28.4.1).

1886 at Knocknacree in Dalkey which his older brother John probably owned.

1890 at No 10 Appian Way in Ranelagh the home of his mother-in-law.

1895 at No 41 Wellington Road

1899 At Tyrrellspass House, Co Westmeath This house belonged to Alice’s brother, Captain Richard John Somers, whose date of death is not known but he was alive in 1900. Deeds of 1900,1903,1904 and 1905 place both Alice and Horatio at this house.

To date the Dublin Directories after 1900 have not been studied, and these may give further details of Horatio’s residences and even his work and death.

27.9.4 Death of Horatio and Alice North-Bomford

No definite dates have been found, although a reference to Horatio’s will, dated 1935, has been spotted; unfortunately the source is missing so this date may be erroneous. However 1935 is a possible date since Horatio would have been 88 that year; he was alive in 1926 certainly.

Similarly all that can be said about Alice is that she was alive in 1906; she would have been in her 50’s or 60’s then so she may have lived on for a few years.

They had two daughters and a son. The names of the daughters are not known but as supposition from deeds of 1914 – 1918 the name of one might be “Ethel A. J.”. The son, Isaac John, became a clergyman and much of his story comes from Canon Leslie’s Succession Lists.

27.9.5 Isaac John North-Bomford (Son of Horatio) 1882 - 1968

He was born on 14th April 1882, probably in Dublin, and was educated at Trinity College in Dublin. He graduated in 1905 with a BA in modern literature, and MA in 1911. According to Guy Bomford his interests were in French and English literature.

Isaac was ordained in 1907 and became curate at St Nicholas, Galway, from 1907 to 1916. St Nicholas is the second largest ancient Parish Church in Ireland and tradition has it that Christopher Columbus heard mass in this venerable church before the dangers of his voyage. From 1916 to 1924 he was Rector of Headford, about 15 miles north of Galway Town. In 1925 he became Rector of Athenry, 14 miles east of Galway, and was Prebendary of Laccagh. From 1950 to 1960 he was “Provost of Tuam”, this might mean that he was provost of the Diocesan College of St Jarlath, a seminary for the clergy beside Tuam Cathedral.

In 1960 he retired as a Canon, and on 2nd September 1968 he died unmarried, aged 86.

27.10 Belinda Emily North-Bomford c1849 –?

Belinda was probably the youngest of Isaac’s family of nine, and was born about 1849. She was named after her mother, Belinda Emily. In 1852, when she was about 3, her mother died leaving her to be brought up by her father, aged 54, aided no doubt by her sister Annabella then about 16. In 1866 when she was 17 her father died.

Twelve years later in 1878, she married Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Napoleon L’Estrange as his second wife. This is the second Bomford – L’Estrange marriage; the first one was between Belinda’s great-grand-aunt Anne Bomford and Colonel Edward’s great-great-grand-uncle Samuel L’Estrange in 1750.

The early L’Estrange family is recorded in paragraph 8.5.2 and the following gives additional information on the later L’Estrange family. The great-grandparents of Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Napoleon L’Estrange were Anne, the only daughter of John L’Estrange of Churchtown and Downdaniel, Co Westmeath, who married her cousin Edmund L’Estrange of Clonsheeve in Westmeath, the only son of Edmund and Alicia (Ussher). Some sources record these two ‘Edmunds’ as ‘Edward’. Their youngest
son was Edward’s grandfather Antony L’Estrange of Dublin, born 1768, died 3rd January 1848 and married Margaret Harrison (grand-mother). They had three sons

Uncle 1. Edward L’Estrange served with the 14th and 70th Regiments in the Peninsular War and in India, and became a Major-General (see 18.5.5). He died unmarried.
2. Frederick L’Estrange served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, born 1798, married in 1829 and died 10th August 1871. His wife

Aunt Frances Amelia, daughter of John Matthews, the Vicar Choral in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin. She died 1st May 1877 having had two sons and two daughters

2. Margaret who married but had no children, and
3. Elizabeth who died unmarried

Father Francis L’Estrange, born 1803 and educated at TCD, MA 1832, and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. At one time he was a surgeon with the Antrim Artillery. In 1830 he married

Mother Catherine Eliza Matthews, another daughter of the Rev John Matthews (above). She died on 24th August 1865 and he on 6th January 1875, so by the time Belinda Emily married their son, both were dead, as were the uncles and aunt. They had seven children.

Brother 1. Edward Napoleon L’Estrange, Belinda Emily’s husband (below)
2. George Wellington L’Estrange born 1841 became the Colonel commanding the 8th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade. He died unmarried.

Sister 1. Catherine L’Estrange married Captain W. Sheffield Hardinge of the Cheshire Regiment, the same regiment as her brother Edward, Belinda’s husband.

There were three more unlisted daughters.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Napoleon L’Estrange commanded the Cheshire Regiment and also served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers (21st Regiment). He was gazetted a Captain in 1860 and a Major in 1866 in the Cheshire Regiment; his marriage settlement with Belinda records that in 1878 he was a major in the 21st Regiment of Foot, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, so sometime after his marriage with Belinda he must have returned to the Cheshire Regiment to become its colonel; however the Army List of 1884 shows that he was not with either the Royal Scots Fusiliers or the Cheshire Regiment, so, one assumes, that he must have resigned his commission before 1884, although he might have been on the staff.

He must have been born around 1832 and this would make his first marriage about 1860 to Margaret Mitchell Innes of Manchester. Their six children became the stepchildren of Belinda Emily North-Bomford and they would all have been under 20 in 1878 when Belinda became Edward’s second wife. These children were -
1. Francis Napoleon L’Estrange
2. Henry Innes L’Estrange, a Lieutenant in the Leinster Regiment
3. George L’Estrange who died young in America.
4. Ernest William L’Estrange of the 3rd Connaught Rangers who later went to South Africa and joined the Natal Police. He was born in Madras, India, 11 March 1873.
5. Adelaide L’Estrange who on 11th October 1890 married Captain (Royal Artillery, Royal Irish Division) John Thomas Cramer of Ballindinisk, near Kinsale Co Cork. They had children.
6. Margaret L’Estrange was born on 19 June 1875 in Rangoon, just sixteen days before her mother died of fever. She married on 5th December 1908 Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Gerald de Courcy-Wheeler. He served with the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers as an Lt-Colonel and with the Welsh Regiment in South Africa 1899-1902, and in World War I when he was mentioned in despatches and got the OBE in 1918. He was born 8th July 1877, was educated at TCD, BA 1897 and they had one son. Gerald George de Courcy-Wheeler, born 6th October 1910 and educated at the Imperial Service College. He served in the RAF in World War II and died unmarried 11th April 1974. After Margaret died on 22nd February 1923, Samuel de Courcy-Wheeler married secondly on 24th March 1924 Dorothy Tuthill, widow of Captain George Duggan and daughter of Henry Johnson of Assam, India. Samuel died on 6th January 1954; Dorothy was alive in 1993.
Between

1. Belinda Emily North-Bomford of 29 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, spinster.
2. Edward Napoleon L’Estrange of Landour, Raglan Road, Dublin, a major in the 21st Regt of Foot (Royal Scots Fusiliers).
3. Benjamin Whitney of 29 Upper FitzWilliam Street, (brother-in-law to Belinda with whom she was staying) and George Wellington L’Estrange of Landour, Raglan Road, (brother of Edward who was staying with him).

Reciting

a mortgage of 6th June 1877 to secure two sums, £600 and £1400, made between Hugh Lyons Montgomery (MP, 1816 - 1882, of Co Leitrim) by Horatio North-Bomford and Belinda Emily North-Bomford, and as at 6th December 1877 the sum of £1,400 is owing to Belinda Emily.

Reciting

a marriage is intended between Belinda Emily North-Bomford and Edward Napoleon L’Estrange.

So Belinda Emily gives the £1,400 to Party 3, the trustees, as her marriage portion, and Edward Napoleon L’Estrange gives land in Co Leitrim to Party 3 as his marriage portion.

Witnessed

Henry R. Emerson of 27 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin, solicitor, (nephew of Belinda Emily) and
Doctor John J. Emerson (most probably Henry’s brother) of No 1 Belgrave Square, Rathmines, Co Dublin, MD. (1878 Vol 15 No 284)

It is not known when the wedding took place and no other record has been seen; no doubt it occurred later on in April 1878 when Edward was about 46 and Belinda about 29.

Nothing has been found to indicate their movements after the wedding, except that for three or four years Edward was still in the army. The only firm date is the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Edward on 26th June 1890, aged about 58. It is thought that Belinda Emily lived on, as she was much younger. They had one son

Edward Bomford L’Estrange - (only son of Belinda) 1883 - 1951

Edward was born in March 1883. On the 6 January 1900 when he was 17 he was gazetted 2nd Lieut in the 8th (Carlow Rifles Militia) Battalion King’s Royal Rifle Corps and stationed at Templemore, Co Tipperary. On 28th June 1900 he and about 1000 men of the 8th KRR Militia embarked on the ‘Canada’ and left Queenstown for South Africa. On 17th July 1900 they arrived at Capetown and proceeded to Pietermaritzburg to join the 1st KRR Corps in the field. Edward was promoted on 18th July 1900 to Lieutenant in the Militia.

On 5th August 1900 Lieut L’Estrange joined the 1st KRRC at Zand Spruit for active service against the Boer. During August, September and October Lieut L’Estrange's battalion was in active contact with the Boers. At the beginning of November his Militia Battalion was released from active service and Edward and his men embarked on the ‘Yorkshire’ to return to England. They left on the 15th November and arrived at Plymouth on 8th December and Edward returned to his home in Ireland.

On 5th January 1901 Edward was posted to the 2nd Leinster Regiment in Barbados, West Indies. After nearly a year he and most of the 2nd Leinster Regiment embarked on the 26th December 1901 and left Barbados in the ‘Sicilia’ for service in South Africa. They arrived at Capetown on 16th January 1902. During January, February and March he moved from Johannesburg to Harrismith, Frankfurt, Tafel Kop, Heilbron to Pretoria. They remain at Pretoria until peace was declared and the men slowly returned home. However Edward applied for service with the Indian Army.

On 8th June 1904 he disembarked in India and joined the 2nd Royal Scots at Allahabad. Finally on the 5th August 1905 Edward was appointed to the Indian Army and joined the 79th Carnatic Infantry at Cannanore, later to become the 3/3rd Madras Regiment.

Edward was promoted to Captain on 31st December 1909. 6 weeks later on the 12th February 1910 Captain Edward Bomford L’Estrange, aged 27, married in Bombay, Hilaire Frances Elizabeth de Courcy-Wheeler, the youngest daughter of Doctor William Ireland de Courcy-Wheeler, 1844-1899, MD of Robertstown, County Kildare, and sister of Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Gerald de Courcy-Wheeler who married Edward’s youngest step-sister, Margaret in 1908.

In September 1910 Edward was appointed Adjutant Nagpur Volunteer Rifles and remained until 30th June 1915 when he was relieved of his appointment with the Nagpur Rifles. In early July he became Staff Captain with the Jubbulpore Brigade.
In September 1915 he was appointed Major and attached to the 74th Punjabis. In February 1916 he was on active service in Iraq and January 1918 he was with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force becoming 2nd I/C of the 79th Infantry in August 1918.

From November 1919 until August 1920 he saw active service in Iraq, and from October until December 1920 he saw active service in North-West Persia (Iran). From Persia and Iraq he returned to India, reaching Trichinopoly on 10th July 1921.

On 1st September 1925 he was promoted to Lieut-Colonel and appointed OC of the 2/3rd Madras Regiment at Madras. He became Commandant of 11/15th Punjab Regiment at Ambala on 1st November 1928.

At the reorganisation of the Indian Army after the Great War, Lt Col Edward Bomford L'Estrange was found redundant and retired from the Indian Army in June 1929.

Colonel Edward died on 26th June 1951, aged 68, and his wife Hilaire Frances, who was born on the 5th December 1886, died on 7th October 1958, aged 72. They had no children.

27.11 Summary of Isaac North-Bomford and his Children

Isaac North-Bomford, JP, was born c1792 and married 8th October 1830 Belinda Emily Pilkington, c1804 – 1852. He inherited Ferrans and Gallow from his uncle Isaac Bomford, took the name North-Bomford in 1837, and died 10th October 1866, having had nine children.

1. Mary Jane North-Bomford, born c1830, married May 1850 (ML) John Emerson, BA, of Clonshanny and Castletown, King’s Co. He was born 8th March 1826 and died c1870. She died c1882 having had eight children, some of whom are not known
   a. Horatio Emerson of Greenfield, Sutton, was born 9th May 1851, and died before c1885.
   c. Charles H G Emerson, born c1855, of 21 Harbour Road Dalkey and died at Cham, Victoria, Australia, 1934 aged 79.

   d. Belinda Emerson, born 25th December 1862, married 15th June 1887 as his second wife, James Cooper-Cooper, born 16th March 1825, of Cooper Hill, Co Limerick. They had no children, but James had 15 children by his first wife.
   e. Probably, Doctor John J. Emerson of Dublin.
   f. Probably, J. B. Emerson, Lieut-Colonel, married and had a daughter, Patricia Bomford Emerson who in 1930 married Edward John Shelford (33.7.1)

   Another child of one of the above was
   Donald Bomford Emerson, BA 1907 (TCD). Was working in India in 1928.


3. Annabella North-Bomford, born c1836, married 12th April 1860, and died 16th January 1899 aged about 63. Her husband was Sir Benjamin Whitney, born 23rd December 1833, became an attorney with many public offices for which he was knighted (KB 1897), and died 21st December 1916, aged 83, at Brayfort in Bray. They had two daughters
   a. Belinda Whitney, born c1862
   b. Mabel Rosamund Whitney, born c1865

4. John North-Bomford (1838 – 1905) inherited Ferrans and Gallow, married twice and had a son (details in next chapter).

5. David George North-Bomford, born 5th February 1840, became a physician and surgeon, of Castleconnell, Co Limerick. Married 1867, probably in June, Mary Gubbins, daughter of William Gough Gubbins of Castle Troy, Co Limerick. He died 13th October 1869, aged 29. There was one daughter

   Mary married secondly 14th November 1871 Francis Burton Keane of Hermitage, Co Clare, and had six children. Mary died 15th January 1895 and Francis Keane died 20th August 1908.


7. Louisa Emily North-Bomford, born c1845, and died young.

8. Horatio North-Bomford, born 16th February 1847, married c1875 Alice Louise Emily Somers, 6th daughter of John Richard Somers of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath. Horatio died c1935 aged about 88; his wife was alive in 1906. They had two daughters, and a son
   a. Canon Isaac John North-Bomford, born 14th April 1882, MA 1911 TCD, and was ordained in 1907. Curate of St Nicholas, Galway, 1907 - 1916; Rector of Headfort, Co Galway, 1916 – 1924; Rector of Athenry, Co Galway, from 1925; Provost of Tuam 1950-60. He died unmarried
2nd September 1968, aged 86.
b. Ethel A.J. North-Bomford
c. Daughter, name unknown
9. Belinda Emily North-Bomford born c1849 and married 1st April 1878 (ML) Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Napoleon L’Estrange as his second wife, (there were six children by his first wife, Margaret Mitchell Innes). Edward, born c1832, son of Surgeon Francis L’Estrange of the Antrim Artillery, and became Colonel of the Cheshire Regt and served with Royal Scots Fusiliers, died 26th June 1890 aged about 58. They had one son
John was born on 17th July 1838, the second son, though probably the fourth child, of Isaac and Belinda Emily North-Bomford (Pilkington). It is not known where he was educated, but in 1856, when he was 18, he became an ensign in the 29th (Worcestershire) Regiment of Foot. His regiment sailed to India late in 1856 and John went with them since Burke states that he served in Burma and Bengal. 1857 was the year of the Indian Mutiny and the regiment must have been involved with it, however they were sent firstly to Burma, which was then part of India and where the mutiny was not so severe as elsewhere in India, and later to Bengal. John was gazetted a Lieutenant in 1858 and a Captain in 1862. It is not known when the regiment left India but in 1863 John was stationed at Glasgow and in 1866 at Chatham. In 1867 the regiment was in Malta and in 1868 John was excluded from the Army List.

Back at home his elder brother Isaac, who had been serving in China in the 1850’s, died in 1862 and this meant that John would inherit Ferrans and Gallow; in October 1866 his father died and he came into the place. It is therefore likely that he did not go to Malta with the regiment but resigned his commission in 1866 on, or just before, the death of his father. All the deeds of 1867 and later place him at home at Ferrans.

Meanwhile John had to arrange his financial affairs and it rather looks as though the latter part of his army life was more expensive than he had hoped. He firstly arranged an income from the land of £100 a year and then in 1866 he had to borrow a further £200 from his father.

John North-Bomford, Captain of Her Majesty’s 29th Regiment of Infantry, then stationed at Chatham, England, borrowed £200 from his father, Isaac North-Bomford of Ferrans. The £200 were on lands which were entailed, so the entail had to be removed. This was done by leasing the land with the approval of all concerned to John North of Leeson Street, Dublin, and David North of Fairview, Co Westmeath, Medical Doctor. (1866 Book 5 No 75)

In other words the two North brothers, John and David, the nephews of Isaac North-Bomford, gave a mortgage on the land for £200. This loan was repaid in 1868 after John had left the army (28.3.1).
Marriage Settlement of John North-Bomford and Charlotte Maria Devenish-Meares

Between

1. John North-Bomford of Gallow, late a Captain in Her Majesty’s 29th Regiment of Infantry,
3. Charlotte Meares, eldest daughter of John Devenish-Meares
4. William Lewis Devenish-Meares, Major in Her Majesty’s 20th Regiment of Infantry, and Horatio North-Bomford of Landsdowne Road, Dublin.
5. Robert Hume Kelly of Glencarra, Co Westmeath.

Reciting that a marriage is about to be solemnised between John North-Bomford and Charlotte Meares, (it was the next day, 24th July 1867).

Now John Devenish-Meares settles £2,000 from his marriage settlement onto Charlotte Meares. This sum is given to the trustee Robert Hume Kelly. (£2,000 is recorded in the registry No 171, but in No 172 it is £3,000).

Now John North-Bomford leases to the trustees in Party 4 the lands of Gallow, now known as the House Division, Gallow, now known as Little Gallow, and Ferrans or Ferns with the subdivision of Brayfield, to raise the sum of £3,000 for the children of the marriage and to cover the payment of £300 a year to Charlotte Meares on the death of John North-Bomford.

(1867 Vol 23 a combination of Numbers 171 and 172)

So John married Charlotte on 24th July 1867 (ex Burke); no marriage licence has been found. It is not known where they lived initially, probably in the recently restored Ferrans, but this is not certain as the land had been leased to John’s brother, Horatio, and this lease was not terminated until 1886. According to the Dublin Directory they had a town house from 1871 to 1876, number 88 Pembroke Road near Ballsbridge, with a valuation of £66. Later on they certainly lived at Ferrans.

In 1872 John was commissioned as a Magistrate of Meath and remained one until he died. On 7th March 1885 he was sworn in as a member of the Grand Jury of Meath (Meath Herald).

The Devenish-Meares and Kelly Families

Charlotte was the eldest daughter of John Devenish-Meares, DL, JP, of Mearescourt (now spelt Mearscourt), ten miles west of Mullingar; he was married on 6th July 1831 and died in July 1876; Charlotte’s mother was Maria, the 5th daughter of Charles Kelly of Charleville, five miles south of Mearscourt, and later of Glencara, halfway between Mearscourt and Charleville. Robert Hume Kelly, 1800 - 1868, JP, Party 5 of the deed, was Charlotte’s uncle, the third son who inherited Glencara and the father of the first of the Harvey-Kelly’s. Glencara was built in 1824, probably by Charlotte’s grandfather, Charles Kelly; it was sold about 1938 by Major Francis Vandeleur Hume Harvey-Kelly (1877 - 1950), grandnephew of Charlotte.

Charlotte had at least two brothers, Major-General William Lewis (Party 4 when still a major) and Joseph Leycester Devenish-Meares. The General was born in 1832 and in 1870 he married Katherine Charlotte (Folliott) of Vicar’s Cross, Chester; he inherited Mearscourt, but had no children and the place went to his younger brother, Joseph Leycester. Joseph was born in 1838, graduated MA from Trinity College and in 1864 married Frances Georgina, a daughter of Basil George Brooke, JP; their son, John Frederick Devenish-Meares, born 1866, BA Trinity, came into Mearscourt eventually. Mearscourt was a 3 storey, 5 bay front, house built in the early 1700’s and improved in the late 1700’s.

Charlotte had many Kelly, Harvey-Kelly and Devenish-Meares nephews and nieces.

Mortgages

On this date John cleared the land of debts by paying £2,150 (27.8.4) to his brother David George, and £200 to the two North brothers (deed below). This left him free to take out a much larger mortgage of £3,750 which was done on the same day and which no doubt was used to pay these debts. If this supposition is true then he was left with a balance of £1,400, and taking the supposition a stage further, this balance was paid to his sister Belinda Emily; at any rate £1,400 was mentioned in her marriage settlement (27.10.1). It is difficult to state what exactly happened but no doubt John had to make payments to his brothers and sisters in the terms of his father’s will. One reason for supposing that these payments were according to Isaac’s will is that in all cases Benjamin Whitney is involved and he was the executor of Isaac’s will. It was a common practice to make a marriage settlement stating a figure to be paid to the children on the death of the father; this necessarily was a gamble since it was not known at that stage how many children there would be, and many estates had to be sold to pay these legacies, whilst many more were placed heavily in debt, a debt which the young heir might take years to repay.
28.3.1  £200 Loan Repaid  3rd November 1868

Between
1. John North of Leeson Street, Dublin, and David North of Fairview, Co Westmeath.
2. Benjamin Whitney of Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin, solicitor, executor of the will of Isaac North-Bomford late of Ferrans deceased.

For £200 paid to Benjamin Whitney by John North-Bomford so the lands of Ferrans and Gallow were freed of encumbrances by John North and David North.  
(1868 Vol 34 No 74)

28.3.2  £3,750 Mortgage on Gallow and Ferrans  3rd November 1868

Between
1. Elliott Elmes Whitney of Woodlands, Co Wexford, and Benjamin Whitney of Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin.
2. Benjamin Whitney, sole executor of the will of Isaac North-Bomford late of Ferrans, deceased
3. John North-Bomford of Ferrans

In consideration of the sum of £3,750 paid by John Wakely to Elliott Elmes Whitney and Benjamin Whitney under the direction of John North-Bomford, and with the consent of Benjamin Whitney as executor of Isaac North-Bomford, the lands of Ferrans and Gallow are transferred into the hands of John Wakely.  
(1868 Vol 34 No 75)

28.4  John’s Second Marriage

In October 1881 Charlotte Maria died, aged about 46. She had no children. A year later John, then aged 44, married again.

28.4.1  Marriage Settlement, John North-Bomford and Mary Wilhelmina Constance Kaye  4th September 1882

Between
1. John North-Bomford of Gallow, late a Captain in Her Majesty’s 29th Regiment of Infantry.
2. William Squire Barker Kaye, QC, LLD, of 16 Gardiner’s Place, Dublin
4. William Oliver Barker, MD, of No 6 Gardiner’s Row, Dublin, and Horatio North-Bomford of Lara, Co Meath. (The trustees)

Reciting that a marriage is about to be solemnised (the next day, 5th September 1882) between John North-Bomford and Mary Wilhelmina Constance Kaye.

Now John North-Bomford has conveyed to the trustees (Party 4) the lands of Gallow known as the House Division, and Little Gallow, and also Ferrans including Brayfield, as a jointure of £300.

Now William S. B. Kaye promises to pay to the trustees £50 a year for as long as he lives.

Witnessed Benjamin Whitney of 36 Dawson Street (brother-in-law)  
(1882 Vol 32 No 269)

28.4.2  The Kaye Family

Mary Kaye’s grandparents were George Kaye of Markethill, Co Armagh, and Deborah, eldest daughter of Rev William Barker, Rector of Newtown Hamilton. Their youngest son was Mary’s father Sir William Squire Barker Kaye, born 1831, educated Trinity College, BA 1852, and was called to the Bar in 1855. He went on the North-East Circuit, becoming Senior Crown Prosecutor for Co Armagh, and council to the Post Office for the North-East Circuit. In 1865 he was made a Doctor of Law (LLD, TCD) and from 1868 he was one of the Revising Barristers for the City of Dublin. In 1875 he resigned in order to stand for Parliament for Armagh but was not elected. In 1877 he became a QC, a member of the Queen’s Council and a JP. For some time he was one of the editors of the Irish Common Law Reports.

In 1878 he was appointed to be Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland by the Duke of Marlborough and in 1885 the Lord Lieutenant, Earl Spencer, knighted him in acknowledgement of official services. He became a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1887. In 1896 he was appointed Private Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

In 1859 William married Fanny, the youngest daughter of Richard Barker (see below) of Stirling, Co Meath. They had a number of children and Mary was their eldest daughter so was probably born about
1861. Initially the family lived at 16 Gardiner’s Place, and then in 1886 they moved to 62 Fitzwilliam Square where they remained until 1895 when they moved to the Private Secretary’s Lodge in Phoenix Park, now the United States Embassy. Soon after their marriage they inherited Abbey House in Armagh and they also lived there off and on.

Mary’s father, Sir William, died on 15th June 1901.

28.4.3 The Barker Family

Mary had at least two Barker uncles and two Barker aunts. Her grandfather was Richard Barker of Stirling, Clonee, Co Meath, who died before 1836, and who married Mary, daughter of Francis M’Farlane of Huntstown, Co Dublin, (Mary’s grandmother). Their second son (Mary’s uncle and a trustee) was Doctor William Oliver Barker of Stirling and Croboy, Co Meath, born 1818 and educated at Trinity (MB 1841, MD 1844); the eldest son died in 1880 and left his property of Stirling and Croboy to his brother, the doctor; there were other daughters apart from Fanny the youngest, Mary’s mother.

Stirling at Clonee has already figured in the deeds; that of November 1790 (8.6.4) recited a lease to William Coates dated March 1776 by Edward Stirling of land at Clonee. Before that, in June 1750, William Coates married Mary Bomford, 3rd daughter of Stephen of Gallow, and they lived at Clonee for a while after their marriage, most probably at Stirling. It is not known how the land of Stirling changed ownership from Edward Stirling whose family obviously named the place to the Barker family, but it had taken place by 1836; it might be connected with the marriage of Samuel Coates, Mary Bomford’s brother-in-law, and Lydia Barker in 1750 (8.6.5).

28.4.4 After the Marriage

If Mary Kaye were born in 1861 she would have been about 21 when she married on 5th September 1882; her husband, John North-Bomford, was 23 years older than her. On 13th October 1883 their only child, John George, was born.

In spite of the depressed state of agriculture in the last quarter of the 1800’s, John continued to improve his estates, and in May 1890 he received a grant of £800 from the Commissioners of Public Works for works to be carried out on Gallow, Ferrans, Moatown to the east of the road through Gallow, Brayfield which was part of Ferrans also perhaps east of the road, and one other place which is illegible in the deed (1890, Vol 25, No 68) but must have been another subdivision of Gallow or Ferrans. He was able to continue farming and the estates remained intact; so different to many of his neighbours who had to sell parcels of land to make ends meet. Actually there was very little difference in the acreage of Ferrans and Gallow between 1854 and 1943. In 1878 the “Landowners of Ireland” credits John with 871 acres in Co Meath with a rateable value of £921, much the same as in 1854 and 1906.

Although they lived at Ferrans, the Dublin Directory of 1889 does place ‘Captain Bomford’ at No 10 Appian Way in Ranelagh; the next year his younger brother Horatio occupied it.

John North-Bomford died on 16th October 1905, aged 67. He, like so many of his branch of the family, was probably buried in Gallow Churchyard.

28.5 Mary Wilhelmina Marries Again

16th December 1908

John’s second wife, Mary Wilhelmina, was only 44 when he died, and on 16th December 1908 she married again. Her second husband was Lieutenant-Colonel Phineas Barrett Villiers-Tuthill, a surgeon in the RAMC.

The Tuthill family originated in Devonshire and came to Ireland in the late 1600’s, settling in Co Limerick. John Tuthill, Phineas’ great-grandfather inherited Villiers land in 1794 and became John Villiers-Tuthill of Kilmore, Ballyliney and Doorless, all in Co Limerick, and of Rapla, Co Tipperary. Phineas was the youngest son of John Tuthill the younger (1793 - 1876) by his second wife Margaret, eldest daughter of Doctor Robert Lloyd. It is not known when either Phineas or Mary Wilhelmina died but they had no children.

28.6 John George North-Bomford

1883 - 1965

John George, the only child of John North-Bomford, was born on 13th October 1883 and educated at Charterhouse. He inherited Ferrans and Gallow not on his father’s death in 1905 but when his mother re-married in December 1908; actually the ‘Untenanted Lands Return’ in the Valuation Office in Dublin indicates that his mother, and one assumes her second husband, occupied both Ferrans and Gallow until 1912, and only then did John George come into the place, however this is very unlikely. In 1912 Ferrans consisted of 379 acres and Gallow of 465 acres of which 341 acres were leased for about £850 a year; the remaining 124 acres of Gallow and all of Ferrans were farmed by John George, called ‘JG’ by
the family, until sometime during the 1920’s when the various tenants, mainly the Maher family (see 1854 Valuation, 27.3), handed their leases back and JG farmed both townlands amounting to 844 acres.

In 1943 JG sold Gallow but continued farming Ferrans. Gallow had been in Bomford hands since 1709, 234 years; it passed through six generations –
1. Thomas of Rahinstown (c1651 - 1740) and his brother Stephen of Gallow (c1663 - 1759), then
2. John the clergyman (1727 - 1776) and his brother David of Gallow (1730-c1809), then
3. Isaac the attorney (1766 - 1837), followed by his son-in-law
4. Isaac North who became North-Bomford (c1798 - 1866), and his son
5. John of Ferrans (1838 - 1905) and finally his son

On 5th October 1909 JG married Hilda Frances Munn, the youngest daughter of Rev George Shaw Munn, Rector of Madresfield near Malvern in Worcestershire. In 1912 they had a son, David John, their only child. The family considered Hilda a difficult woman who was free with advice, which was often hurtful, and later she dictated to “poor JG” and anyone else about; consequently she was avoided.

On the outbreak of World War I JG joined the army and served with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers; he was a member of the first landing at Gallipoli in 1915 where, after nine months of fighting, the British troops hardly got further than the beaches and had to be withdrawn; he left the army at the end of the war as a major. In 1940 at the beginning of the Second World War he rejoined the forces but being 57 the army refused his services, however he was able to get into the RAF.

28.6.1 Ferrans House Burnt during ‘The Troubles’ 1923

After the treaty of 1921 by which the Irish Free State was set up with the status of a British Dominium, fighting broke out between the republican extremists and the new Irish Government. In 1923 Ferrans was a casualty of this civil war between two Irish parties as is shown by the following contemporary account which comes from a letter of Lady Beatrice, the wife of Lord Dunsany, from Dunsany Castle included in Mark Amory’s book, “Lord Dunsany: A Biography”.

“…On April 16th (1923) they burnt Ferrans, - Major N-B escaped in pyjamas - she dressed, but they (the IRA) poured petrol on her bed before she was dressed, - little David was so busy saving his new puppy that he did not feel the shock. They had sent away two vanloads of their best stuff before luckily, as they saved nothing but the horses. ……And though the country people don’t openly approve still all sense of right and wrong is shaken and they do really feel that Mrs N-B’s unpopularity, she was an indiscreet talker, are quite good reasons for the outrage.”

A fuller description of ‘The Troubles’ is written in paragraph 36.1, but to my mind the intriguing part of this letter, apart from the horror and beastliness of the whole affair, is that the local people did not side with the IRA but thought that the burning was justified because of Hilda’s attitude.

The house was rebuilt, largely as before, and of course re-furnished. As a child in the 1930’s I visited Ferrans but only remember that it was rather dark inside and spooky; after the war the family seldom visited the place because Hilda was such ‘an indiscreet talker’; however JG was liked by all and he often came to Oakley Park and later here to Crodara.

In 1949 their son (David) died leaving no heir. At one time there was talk of leaving the place to various relatives including my uncles, George and John, but none of them came up to Hilda’s expectations and that ended those ideas.

On 31st January 1960 Hilda died at Ferrans in her early seventies. JG was then aged 77 but the next year at Agher Church on 4th February 1961 he married again. His second wife was Elizabeth (Betty) Susan Armstrong, daughter of George Armstrong and his wife Mary Ackeron. Betty was good for JG and even at his age he was again to be seen at the races, which he loved and at parties.

On 11th October 1965 JG died in Navan Hospital aged 82 and was buried in Kilcock Churchyard. Betty built herself a smaller house nearly opposite the Ferrans gate-lodge and sold Ferrans in 1966 or 1967. She died in 1980. So ended Ferrans as a Bomford property and that branch of the family; Ferrans was in Bomford hands for 295 years, the longest period of all the various Bomford lands.

Ferrans House was again burnt down in 1972, but this time accidentally, and rebuilt for institutional use, but now I understand it is a stud farm owned by racehorse-breeding Arabs, as is Gallow.

28.7 David John North-Bomford 1912 - 1949

David was born in 1912. As a young man he was tall with fair hair, but was thought to be rather conceited and pugnacious by his contemporaries. He joined the R.A.F. at the beginning of the WWII and became a fighter sergeant pilot, flying hurricanes with No 17 Squadron. During the battle of Britain on
the 18th of August 1940, his Hurricane was damaged in combat with Messerschmitt 109s off Dover at 13:50 hrs.

On 6th January 1946 he married Molly Moore, the only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Thornton Trevor Moore, 4th Bengal Lancers, of Crosby House, Derry, and later of Lyle Cottage in Richmond, Yorkshire. David died on 28th April 1949, aged 37. He was found on his doorstep, shot through the mouth, with his gun beside him. He was buried on May 2. There were no children.

Molly was married four times: firstly to Captain Cloudesley Shovell Malcolm Brereton, Royal Norfolk Regiment, of Brinningham House in Norfolk; he was killed in action during the Second World War; secondly to David North-Bomford; thirdly on 4th March 1959 to Hugh Keene; Hugh was made a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) for his work with the Indian Police, and died in September 1966: Molly married fourthly, as his second wife, Colonel Richard Crawford Langford, RAMC, on 9th November 1968; Colonel Langford was born 28th May 1907, the only son of Major Charles Langford, DSO (1901), who commanded the Royal Irish Hussars, of The Abbey in Rathkeale, Co Limerick; Colonel Richard Langford was in the RAMC during World War II and retired in 1955 to Tidworth in Hampshire.

28.8

Summary of John North-Bomford and his Family

John North-Bomford (Isaac’s 2nd son), born 17th July 1838, Capt 29th Regt of Foot, served 1857 in Burma and Bengal, 1866 inherited Ferrans and Gallow, 1872 JP, 1885 Meath Grand Jury Member. Married firstly 24th July 1867 Charlotte Maria (born c1834 and died Oct 1881), eldest daughter of John Devenish-Meeares, DL, JP, of Meascourt, Co Westmeath and his wife Maria Kelly. No children. Married secondly 5th September 1882 Mary Wilhelmina Constance, (who married secondly, 16th December 1908, Lieutenant-Colonel Phineas Barrett Villiers-Tuthill, FSA, FRCSI, RAMC, youngest son of John Tuthill of Kilmore, Co Limerick), eldest daughter of Sir William Squire Barker Kaye, CD, QC, LLD, Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland, and died 16th October 1905 leaving one son,

John George North-Bomford of Ferrans, born 23rd October 1883, educated Charterhouse, served in World War I in France and Gallipoli, Major Royal Fusiliers, and in World War II with RAF. Married firstly 5th October 1909 Hilda Frances, youngest daughter of Rev George Shaw Munn, Rector of Madresfield, Malvern, Worcs. She died 31st January 1960 having had


29.1

Previous chapters have taken all branches of the family to their conclusion, except for that of George the younger of Oakley Park. The remainder of this narrative is devoted to George and his family, and, since the documents originated from Oakley Park it is in greater detail, a shortened version was considered but set aside, since the reader who has got so far must be sufficiently interested to continue, and further more, it would be difficult to decide what to miss out.

When discussing George’s family there has to be reference to the land because there were problems over the inheritance. George’s eldest son, George Winter, had a personality problem; his second son, John Francis, farmed much of George’s land and was groomed to inherit. This chapter therefore concerns the land and the next one concerns the family.

In 1836 the Ordnance Survey gave detailed information of land ownership throughout Ireland, the next major survey was as a result of the Famine, carried out in October 1854 and called the “The Griffith’s Valuation of Rateable Properties”. Before going into details let us first compare George’s property of the 1836 survey (24.8) with the new one of 1854.

George has three houses valued at £9 or more in 1854. Oakley Park recently enlarged with a valuation of £50, where he and the family lived. Drumlargan House occupied by John Monaghan and valued at £9 in 1854; it used to be called Bloomfield and in 1836 was occupied “by a herd but is going into a further ruinous state as time goes by”; it will be substantially improved during the late 1860’s before George’s son, John Francis moves into it with his family. The third house was on Rattin in Westmeath, called Clonfad House and valued at £10.10.0; in 1854, it was occupied by The Reverend John Fetherstonhaugh but it was never occupied by a Bomford and so has not been discussed.

In 1854 George has a total of 3,813 statute acres with a rateable annual valuation of £2,952 for the land, and £111 for the buildings which includes the cottages, cattle yards, stabling and so on. This is made up as follows starting with the 1836 summary for comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Townland</th>
<th>1836 Statute acres</th>
<th>1854 Statute acres</th>
<th>Rateable Land</th>
<th>Annual Valuation Buildings</th>
<th>Valuation per acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oakley Park</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>£637</td>
<td>£59</td>
<td>£0.17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumlargan</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>1056</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockstown</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltramsna</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonfad</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluide</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,822</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,806</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,952</strong></td>
<td><strong>£111</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sometime between 1836 and 1854 a portion of Knockstown had been allocated to Drumlargan; it is not known why this was done, but such places as Edinstown, Clonlyon, and Moynalvy of the original deeds have dropped out of the picture and have been absorbed into Drumlargan or Knockstown; this change of boundaries has now been completed and the areas of Drumlargan and Knockstown remain stable from now on.

The last column, ‘Valuation per acre’, is my addition so that one can see at a glance the comparative worth of the various lands; the Westmeath lands of Clonfad and Rattin have a low valuation as they contained quantities of bog, the northern end of the Bog of Allen. The only land which George farmed himself during the 1850’s was 340 acres at Oakley Park; all the rest was either leased (3,473 acres) or bog (Drumlargan 68 acres), and brought in a gross income of about £5,000.

The rest of the chapter is taken townland by townland starting with the Griffith’s Valuation and following the changes of tenants with other items of interest; some lands have been taken to George’s death in 1886 but others, like Clonfad, have been taken to their eventual sale.
Oakley Park or Lawrencetown
Based on 1883 Ordnance Survey showing 1854 Map References

Map Reference 1a
209 acres Leased by
Thomas Barnes, 1838 - 1872.
In 1872 leased by
John Francis Bomford

Map Reference 3
207 acres leased by
Samuel A. Reynell.
In 1861 leased by
John F. Bomford

Map Reference 4a
52 acres leased
by Charles Reilly

George Bomford’s Land
George Bomford of Oakley Park leased to John Francis Bomford also of Oakley Park, the land of Oakley Park containing 128 plantation acres (207 statute) bounded on the

- North-east by Oakley Park in the possession of Thomas Barnes,
- North and north-west, by Maperath in the possession of Henry Rowley,
- South by Wilmount and Dulane in the possession of John Radcliff and William Howell (should be Powell) Garnett.
- East by Oakley Park in the hands of George Bomford, and West by Oakley Park in the possession of Charles Reilly,

for the lives of John Francis Bomford

The Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and

Prince Arthur Patrick (Duke of Connaught)

or for 31 years at a rent of, £1.10.0 per Irish acre (£192). George Bomford reserves the timber and sporting rights.

Drawn up and witnessed by John Thomas Hinds, solicitor of Dublin

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**29.2 Oakley Park or Lawrencetown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map</th>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Area Acres/Rods/Perches</th>
<th>Rateable Land</th>
<th>Annual Valuation Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1a</td>
<td>Thomas Barnes</td>
<td>Herd’s house, offices &amp; land</td>
<td>209 2 26</td>
<td>£200.00</td>
<td>£5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a</td>
<td>Robert FitzSimmons</td>
<td>House, offices &amp; land (Leased by Samuel A. Reynell)</td>
<td>1 3 0</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>House</td>
<td>0 0 18</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c</td>
<td>Christopher Barrett</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>0 0 12</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d</td>
<td>Michael Coyle</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>0 0 22</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2e</td>
<td>William Mulligan</td>
<td>House &amp; garden</td>
<td>0 0 18</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2f</td>
<td>Bryan FitzPatrick</td>
<td>House &amp; garden Waste etc</td>
<td>0 3 22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Samuel A Reynell</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>207 0 21</td>
<td>188.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a</td>
<td>Charles Reilly</td>
<td>House, offices &amp; land</td>
<td>52 0 17</td>
<td>38.00</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>George Bomford</td>
<td>Red Bog Lough</td>
<td>6 2 0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6Aa</td>
<td>George Bomford</td>
<td>House, offices Gate Lodge &amp; land</td>
<td>248 0 26</td>
<td>200.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6A-G</td>
<td>George Bomford</td>
<td>Land (Plantation)</td>
<td>15 0 20</td>
<td>9.50</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 741 3 2 £637.20 £59.11.0

The map references have been listed but no map was found which shows them; however local knowledge has been tapped and nearly all have been located apart from the details of the 15 acres of plantation labelled 6A-G which cover the shrubbery, flower-knot and other plantations close to the house. In paragraph 25.3 there is a map of Oakley Park based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1836 which was made prior to the arrival of George Bomford. The next survey map was made in 1883 and the map on the previous page is based on it. This shows the changes made by George to the house, yards, garden, woods etc. It also shows the new course of the river, the outlying cottages, to which have been added the map reference numbers, and the borders of the three major land leases.

**Map Reference 1a**

In 1838 Thomas Barnes of Westland leased 209 acres from George at the north end of Oakley Park. The 1883 map shows a small house and yard on the Moynalty road which is the only house on the land which Barnes leased, this was probably the “herd’s house and offices” valued at £5. All signs of this house have now disappeared.
In 1872 the Barnes lease was terminated and George’s son, John Francis, took it over.

Map Reference 2a

The exact site of this house is not known, but it is thought to be the one shown on the map on the Mullagh road near Maperath on what used to be called “Daly’s holding” on the 1730 map. In 1854 it was occupied by Robert FitzSimmons, the herd of” Samuel Reynell. In 1861 Samuel Reynell gave up the lease and the house was vacant. At some date before George Bomford’s death in 1886 a new house was built, perhaps on a different site. It was first occupied by Rose Smith, then in 1903 by William Flood, in 1915 by Mary Masterson, in 1927 by Laurence Manning, and finally by his son Lance Manning who bought it from George Lyndon Bomford in 1941.

Map Reference 3

Samuel Reynell’s lease of 207 acres lasted until 1861 when John Francis Bomford took it over, (lease below). It took in the ‘Great Bogg’, later called the Bottoms, to the west of the river, and Ballanescrehoge between the Big Wood on the east and the back road on the west and south.

The Bottoms consisted of about 40 acres of marsh including the Duckoy, but the remaining 170 odd acres was good quality meadow.

By 1886 and perhaps during the late 1860’s John Francis had built a yard on the back road which included a house, called in later valuations the “Caretaker’s House”. In 1887 these buildings were valued at £14, (29.2.1). The caretaker was the Oakley Park steward Charles Reilly who died during the 1890’s and was followed by his son Philip. However, these Reilly’s lived on their own 53 acre farm (Map Reference 4a); it is therefore not known who initially lived in the house in the new yard, though the Reilly’s moved there during the early 1900’s.

Map Reference 4a

The third large lease is the 52 acres occupied by Charles Reilly, sited on the west of the Mullagh-Kells road which in the 1730 map is termed “part of Ballanescrehoge called ye Mountain”. The Reilly’s had this plot in the earliest deed concerning Oakley Park dated January 1709, when it was in the possession of Edmond Reily; in 1739 he or his son is recorded as “Edmond Riley late of Dublin merchant”; Francis Reilly leased it in 1814 from the Rev Jason Crawford. Charles, or maybe his son another Charles Reilly, continued here until after George’s death. In 1854 Charles was living in the house on his land valued at £2; Charles died and his son Philip inherited and in 1897 his house and offices were valued at £4. Sometime during the early 1900’s he vacated this house and moved into the house across the road in the new farm-yard, which John Francis Bomford built.

Map References 2b, .c, .d, .e and f

There was a row of five attached 2-storey houses which appear on both the 1836 and 1883 maps, sited in the south-west corner of Oakley Park to the west of the back road and almost opposite the road T junction. An undated plan of these houses is amongst the documents and they were known locally as the “Soldier’s Houses”; it is probable that they were built for the returning soldiers from the Napoleonic Wars, a supposition which is given weight by a pencilled inscription on the back of the plan which reads “Jan 1818”. These were most likely the houses with a valuation of under 10/-.. Rather than return to them later the history of their occupation is concluded now. The valuation of all five was increased to £2 between 1889 and 1901 when they were either improved or newly built.

Map Reference 2b

Was vacant in 1854, by 1889 it was occupied by John Connell, it then passed to James Connell in 1903, Francis Smith in 1923, John Dalpen in 1927, Edward Neary in 1929 and finally to Laurence Carpenter in 1936; he built a new house nearby in which the Carpenters were living in 1984, the old house slowly disintegrated.

Map Reference 2c

Was occupied in 1854 by Christopher Barrett but was deleted from the record in 1860. Another house was built in 1889 for an unknown tenant. In 1897 John Johnston was living there, followed by John Smith in 1908 and John Cuddy in 1921. Another new house was built in 1936 on another site where Bridget Cooney lived and the old house referenced 2c was allowed to collapse.

Map Reference 2d

Was occupied by Michael Coyle in 1854. In 1889 George Yore lived there followed by Bridget Yore in 1901, Michael McEnerry in 1920 and Mary McEnerry in 1930.

Map Reference 2e

Map Reference 2f

Was occupied by Bryan FitzPatrick in 1854 followed by Edward Boylan in 1897, Rose Mullen in 1903, Christopher Dunne in 1905, Thomas Cahill in 1921, Mary Anne Cahill in 1932 and Owen Lynch also in 1932. Owen ‘Ownie’ Lynch moved to the back lodge in 1941.

The three remaining Soldier’s Houses were condemned in 1940 and the next year George Lyndon Bomford sold the sites. The two that had been rebuilt on separate sites (2b and 2c) were also sold in 1941 to the occupants.

Map Reference 6a

The valuation of £50 for the buildings was not only for the big house but also for the yard with its two corner houses, the mystery house behind the yard called “Mary Anne’s” and the two lodges. All these buildings were shown on the 1836 map but since they were not leased the names of the occupants were not recorded. The front lodge was faced handsomely in stone with a raised stone porch with fluted Doric columns and an arched window on either side; there was nothing special about the lodge on the back avenue.

29.2.1 Land Improvements 1860 - 1866

On 20th August 1860 the Public Works Department loaned George £800 to improve the lands of Oakley Park in accordance with a schedule which was not found (1860, Book 27, No 72). No rate of interest was given in the deed but there are receipts for £15.7.2 for the year 1862 which works out at about 2%.

There are additional receipts for nearly £52 annual interest payments covering the years 1864 to 1866, so the loan was increased to about £2,600 using the 2% figure. It matters little what sum George borrowed, what is important is the work that was done for that considerable sum for those days when labour cost about 6d a day.

There are a number of differences in the survey maps of 1836 and 1883 firstly the 1836 map shows a mass of ditches around the Bottoms, in 1883 these ditches remain but a new one has appeared which is the course of the present day river. To drain the Bottoms would be a major land improvement, even though it was not entirely successful, and no doubt it was about this time that all the ditches were deepened and the river re-aligned as shown in the map.

Secondly George must have built the farmyard, on the back road about this date. It gave his son John Francis a firm base to work from when he took over Reynell’s lease in 1861.

Thirdly the house yard was extended to the north with new cattle yards and a handsome brick arched byre. There were a number of other changes, like the bringing of running water into the house, with the addition of the bathroom wing, but this would hardly be considered as a land improvement, though it was done about this time.

There were many woods in the 1836 map but the later map shows an increase of these. It was probably during this time that the outlook from the house was improved with formal tree planting and crow’s foot vistas, which would lead the eye to the countryside beyond. The many little woods scattered around the estate were not just to beautify the place but were for shelter for the stock in winter. Animals were not brought in for the winter as they are now, but left in the fields where there was shelter in the form of a coppice of hard-wood of beech, oak or ash. The only time when cattle were brought in was when they were about to calve, and that was seldom because it was the practice in Meath to buy young bullocks from the west, fatten them up for a couple of years, and then to drive them to the market. Large herds were driven along the road to Dublin for the boat to England. Prices were good for cattle during the 1850’s and 1860’s; it was not until the late 1870’s, when prices were forced down by economic depression in England, and the importation of cheap foreign foodstuffs including cattle, that places like Oakley Park felt an economic squeeze. Luckily George had sufficient reserves to withstand this squeeze during his lifetime, but by the time his son inherited, matters were very different and he had to start selling land.

29.2.2 Summary of Oakley Park Leases and Rents

More or less ever since George bought Oakley Park there were three farms on the place, and about 1885, just before George died the division was as follows -

1. George himself farmed about 270 acres around the house.
2. About 417 acres to the north and west were farmed by John Francis who paid George a rent of about £446, and
3. About 52 acres leased by Charles Reilly on the far side of the back road, for which he paid George a rent of £42.
Out of this income of £488 George had to pay the Head Rent of £85.13.11 to Lord Headfort, tithes and poor rates of £13.7.6, and quit rent at £4.13.7, to which one could add the insurance of the house, offices and furniture of £11 (in 1889). So George netted about £370 on Oakley Park.

**Head Rent.**

The previous mention of Head Rent was in 1807 when £100 was paid to Lord Headfort. The rent may have been decreased, but it is more likely that the difference was caused by the devaluation of the pound after the Napoleonic Wars.

**Tithes, Poor Rent and Quit Rent.**

In May 1870 tithes of £13.7.6 was paid to the Rector of Kells, Edward Stopford, at the rate of 4/3 an acre. This figure included the poor rate and income tax at 5d in the pound. The Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1869 and the payment of tithes stopped, that money was made available to the relief of the poor; George’s payment of 1870 was therefore technically only the poor rate. The accounts, which John Francis Bomford, made out for his mother in 1889 (32.5) only includes the poor rate. Unfortunately he has recorded a lump sum of £58.6.8 covering all lands as “Poor Rates as by Rental” so it is not possible to compare payments before and after the disestablishment of the Church. Also found in these accounts is the quit rent for Oakley Park at £4.13.7, this was an annual payment.

**Fire Premium.**

On 23rd September 1874 the National Assurance Company of Ireland received from George the sum of £9.10.0 being the premium for Fire Insurance of £9,000 on the property as specified in Policy No 34721. By 1889 the premium had increased to £10.10.0 and the cover was for “Oakley Park House, offices and furniture” with a further 10/- cover for “Cottages”. John Francis Bomford, Agent for Meath, signed the 1874 receipt; John Francis must have been their agent until he became a ‘Sub-Commissioner under the Land Court’.

29.3

**Drumlargan 1854**

1854 Survey. This excludes the 491 acres belonging to Lord Langford and leased to Patrick Maher. The following all belonged to George Bomford who is termed the “Immediate Lessor”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Purdon</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>£250. 0.0 £15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Monaghan</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>781. 0.0 9. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Bomford</td>
<td>Bog, Land,Plantation</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Halford</td>
<td>House, Offices, Garden</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1. 5.0 10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Chanler</td>
<td>House, Garden, Land</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2. 0.0 1. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Seery</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.10.0 0. 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bourke</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1. 0.0 10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>980</td>
<td>£1,055.15.0 £12. 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1836 George had these 980 acres split into three. There was 66 acres planted with fir and ash trees, plus 69 acres of Drumlargan Bog, some of which must have belonged to Lord Langford who owned the balance of Drumlargan. Of the remainder George had it let in two farms at £2 a plantation acre, bringing in an income of about £ 1,570. This division of the bog and the two farms remained until about 1866 when -

1. The bog, land and plantation of 68 acres, although remaining in George’s hands, would have been leased to tenants for fuel and, once dug out, planted with trees. This plot remained until he died.

2. Edward Purdon’s farm of 195 acres was occupied by him in 1836, but sometime before 1854 Edward had died; in 1854 it was in the hands of his ‘representatives’, probably his son, who continued farming it until 1865 when there was a further change.

3. John Monaghan occupied the large farm of 705 acres including Drumlargan House in 1854, but he must have died about that year because very soon after 1854 Andrew O’Connell and a Mr Murphy occupied it. In 1865 the occupier was John Francis, George’s son.

In 1866, according to the Valuation Office in Dublin, the two farms were divided into three and this may have been a consequence of the lease by George to John Francis of a portion on 1st August 1865. The deed of this lease was dated 30th January 1886; it recites the lease of 1st August 1865 of Drumlargan containing 701 acres, excepting the old Churchyard, for 31 years at a rent of £ 1,375.2.7, and further recites that in 1878 John Francis surrendered the land to George Bomford and so terminated the lease. (1886, Vol 5, No 209)
This lease of 1865 and the Valuation Office records of 1866 do not agree. The Valuation Office makes a three-way split of

193 acres  herd’s house and offices valued at 15/-, and land valued at £247.5.0 with the lessor and occupier being George Bomford. This was the Purdon farm and there is no longer any mention of them so they must have left.

369 acres  herd’s house and offices valued at 15/-, and the land valued at £401.5.0. Again both the Lessor and occupier was George Bomford.

337 acres  herd’s house, offices and house (Drumlargan House) valued at £18, and land valued at £381.10.0. This time the Lessor was George Bomford but the occupier was his son John Francis.

It will be noticed that the last two (the 369 and the 337 acres) just about match the 701 acres of the deed. Nevertheless the Valuation Office divisions were the correct ones because in 1905 John Francis sells the 337 acre plot, plus Drumlargan House. It is however likely that John Francis farmed the whole 701 acres although there was a technical difference in the leases of the two plots.

No mention has been made of the four cottages. No later record of the occupiers has been found but, no doubt, these 12 acres continued to be leased until Drumlargan was sold.

To date George Winter Bomford, George’s eldest son who will inherit the entailed Drumlargan estate, has not been mentioned. George complained in court in 1857 that George Winter had taken over for his own benefit the lands of Drumlargan (30.2.1); evidently this was ignored officially although it is possible, but unlikely, that the Valuation Office wrote George Bomford when they should have written George Winter Bomford.

29.3.1 Drumlargan House Improvement c1865

In 1836 Bloomfield House was described as a “tolerably good house, at present occupied by a herd but it is going into a further ruinous state as time goes on.” In 1854 John Monaghan or his herd occupied the house, which was then valued at £9. In 1866 the description was “Herd’s house, offices and house” with a value of £18; thus during the 12 years since 1854 there have been two changes, another house has appeared and the valuation has doubled.

Considerable work must have been done on Bloomfield, now renamed Drumlargan House, to make it habitable for John Francis and his growing family. Burke’s Guide to Country Houses includes this on the house, “A two storey double gable-ended house, probably early c18 century but with c19 windows and a c19 two store gabled projecting porch”; so some of the improvements included new windows and a porch. The question is, when did John Francis move into Drumlargan House? In December 1869 his third child was born at Oakley Park, as were the two previous children; in February 1871 his fourth child was born at Drumlargan, as were all subsequent children. It is therefore thought that, although he may have lived in the house off and on before, the family moved in permanently in 1870, and that the house was improved during the mid 1860’s.

29.3.2 Grants for Land Improvements

On 8th January 1868 George Bomford applied for a loan from the Landed Property Act Commissioners of £ 1,100; this was granted for work on Drumlargan, (1868, Vol 1, No 272). Similar grants were agreed on:

5th June 1868 for £500 (1868, Vol 18, No 258)
18th October 1869 for £350 (1869, Vol 29, No 204)
20th June 1871 for £600 (1871, Vol 19, No 169)

These grants totalled £ 2,550 but it is not certain what was done, possibly drainage of the bog. A small part of the grant may have been used to put a wall around the graveyard, which Dr Beryl Moore says was done about this date. However this loan was from a different source to that of Oakley Park, and so some of the money may have been allowed for improving Drumlargan House.

29.3.3 Drumlargan Balloon Houses

A farcical error took place about the middle of the 1800’s concerning two little houses on the Drumlargan road belonging to Lord Langford. Lord Langford of Summerhill designed a straight avenue to run one mile from Lynch’s Knock beside his house onto the road at Drumlargan. An architect was asked to design two gate-lodges to be placed at the end of the avenue on either side of the main road; the same architect also had to design two block-houses for the Indian Army to be sited to guard the Khyber Pass leading into Afghanistan. Needless to say the plans got mixed up and two low square block- houses with roofs like balloon-shaped pyramids were built on the road at Drumlargan. It would be interesting to...
know what the Indian Army thought about their blockhouses, but the Irish were intrigued with their “Balloon Houses” as they were soon named, and they remained an outstanding piece of local architecture until they were unjustifiably pulled down quite recently.

Incidentally the road through Drumlargan was one of the very first highways of Ireland; it led south from Tara and was in existence in A.D. 900, if not before.

29.3.4     Drumlargan Income

Using the lease of August 1865 of 701 acres at a rent of £ 1,375.2.7, we can calculate the rent out of Drumlargan. The original leases were at £2 an acre; the 1865 lease was at £1.19.2½ an acre, which is virtually the same. Ignoring George’s own holding of the bog, Drumlargan would produce a gross rent of just over £ 2,788.

29.4     Knockstown

1854 Survey, Parish of Kilmore.
This excludes 96 acres belonging to William R. Miller and others. All the rest belongs to George Bomford, the ‘Immediate Lessor’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Leonard</td>
<td>House, Offices and Land</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>£45. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Gresham</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Hanley</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas McNally</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>40. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hanley</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42. 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 225 £183.10.0 £7.15.0

George the elder entailed the lands which he purchased in 1808; these were Drumlargan, Dunganstown, Edenstown, Knockstown, and parts of Clonlyon and Monloy, amounting to 1202 statute acres. Now the only named lands are Drumlargan and Knockstown (or Knockturin) and the others with their variety of spellings have disappeared. The boundaries were changed soon after their purchase but the area remained much the same, 1209 acres in 1836 and 1205 in 1854.

The five farms on Knockstown in 1854, which continued until after George died, were much the same as in the c1828 rent-roll (20.10). The only family name change was that of McNally who has taken over the farm of the evicted family of Healy.

61 Acre Farm The Leonards had this farm since before 1828 until 1860 when the occupier was John Francis Bomford. In 1866 the lease was taken over by his sister Elizabeth Bomford who sold it in 1898 to John Marmion (32.2).

45 Acre Farm The Gresham, or Graham or Greham, family leased this farm before 1828 and remained there until 1906 when the Flynn family took it on, Thaddeus in 1906 and Michael in 1910.

22 Acre Farm The Hanley family, were here before 1828 and remained until Lawrence Mulligan took it over in 1906.

44 Acre Farm The McNally family leased this farm in 1828 or soon after, and remained until 1906 when the Brien family took over, Stephen in 1906 and Thomas in 1910.

53 Acre Farm The Hanley family, who one assumes were another branch of the other Hanleys, occupied this farm before 1828 and continued there until Knockstown was sold.

Each farm had its own house and yard, which were a cut above the usual valuations; the exception was that of McNally, and his house had disappeared from the records by 1910.

No rents have been recorded for Knockstown but rents were collected by one of the tenants of neighbouring Baltrasna, which, most probably, included those of Knockstown (see 29.5.1).

29.4.1     Tithes

A receipt from George on behalf of John F. Bomford for tithes in the Parish of Kilmore is amongst the documents. This indicates that by 1870 John Francis was the immediate Lessor rather than his father, but there is no other indication of this change. The receipt is for £5.8.3 due to the Rev William A. Kempston being half a year’s “rent charge” from the holding in Kilmore Parish. It was broken down into “Poor Rate 5/10, Income Tax 2/3 at 5d in the pound”, and “Cash £5.0.2”; and would cover Knockstown and that part of Baltrasna (106 acres) in the Kilmore Parish.
George Bomford is the ‘Immediate Lessor’ in all cases

a. In the parish of Culmullen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot</th>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>John Tyrell</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>£17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Andrew Sheridan</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Peter Lenehan</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>67.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Reps of James Reynolds</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Thomas Maguiness</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>John Duffy</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>John Gavagan</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>James Carroll</td>
<td>House, Garden, Office, Land</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>John Byrne</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Thomas Mulvany</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Thomas Cummins</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>William Carroll</td>
<td>House, Garden</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Chris Coffey</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>46.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Slight differences in area occur in the 13 plots of Baltrasna from year to year, but the overall acreage remains much the same at 479 statute acres.

Plot 1. 22 acres was occupied by John Tyrell in 1854 remained in his hands until at least 1867. Joseph Tyrell had the farm in 1898 when his rent was £20.

Plot 2. 37 acres was occupied by Andrew Sheridan in 1854 but he had no house there in 1859. On 27 April 1867 he got a new lease from George Bomford for 38 acres for 31 years at a rent of £34. This lease was drawn up by George’s solicitor John Thomas Hinds of 28 Westmoreland Street in Dublin and was witnessed by John Francis and Charles Reilly, who farmed part of Oakley Park. The 31 years ends in 1898 but there is no reason to suppose that the Sheridan family was not still there when Baltrasna was sold. The farm was bounded on the north by Woodtown, which used to belong to the Rev John Bomford, on the east by John Tyrell’s farm, on the south by Peter Lenehan’s farm and on the west by Kilmore.

Plot 3. 75 acres in the Parish Culmullen and Plot 3A. 7 acres in the Parish Kilmore. This 82 acre farm first appears in October 1793 when Baron Galtrim, John Hussey leased it to John Lenaugham at a rent of £61.4.9 for the lives of his three sons, Walter aged 9, and Thomas aged 7 and Peter aged 1. It is probably this third son who had the farm in 1854; they lived in a house valued at £3, which must be Baltrasna House. Peter must have died in 1854, aged 62, because in 1855 the occupier is termed “Reps of Peter Lenehan”.

This state must have remained for some years, but in August 1861 Samuel Reynell of Archerstown, who looked after George’s property and who signed himself as “Your affectionate cousin, S. A. Reynell”, wrote two letters to George. His writing is difficult to read but the first one of 17th August is about the half-year rent of Baltrasna amounting to £435.8.5 (or about £870 a year) paid by Andrew Lenehan. Andrew must have become the occupier of Peter’s farm, and also the rent collector for Baltrasna. However £870 is far too high a figure for Baltrasna only and so it is thought that the rent he collected must have included Knockstown also.

The second letter of 26th August is about meeting George at Baltrasna to go over the land, meet the tenants and to agree their rents.

Sometime before 1870 this 82 acre farm was split into two. The 75 acres in Culmullen which Peter Lenehan had in 1854, followed by Andrew and then in 1881 by John Lenehan, was detached from the 7 acres in Kilmore.

The 7 acres in Kilmore went to James Sheridan in 1870, followed by John Callaghan in 1885.

Plot 4. 24 acres in the Parish Culmullen was occupied in 1854 by the representatives of James Reynolds was held in 1859 by Jeremiah Dunne until 1880 when it was leased to John Francis Bomford (see below 4A-D).
Plot 4A. 99 acres In the Parish Kilmore was also occupied by the representatives of James Reynolds was split into two farms in 1855 (4B and 4C).

Plot 4B. 46 acres were farmed by Francis Reynolds who was still there in 1898 when his rent was £46.

Plot 4C. 53 acres belonged to Mrs Jane Barry in 1855. In 1859 the Lessor was changed from George to John Francis Bomford and the occupier was Peter Barry. In 1864 the occupier was Daniel O’Brien, then in 1878 both the lessor and the occupier was John Francis Bomford.

Plot 4D. In 1881 the 53 acres of 4C were combined with the 24 acres of 4; these 78 acres were leased by George Bomford to John Francis Bomford in the deed dated 20th January 1881 (1881, Vol 5, No 83) at a rent of £100 for 31 years or three lives, - the lives of

1. Prince Albert Victor Christian, son of the Prince of Wales. (He was the Duke of Clarence, 1864 - 1892, the son of the future King Edward VII).
2. Prince George Frederick, son of the Prince of Wales. (He became King George V, 1865 - 1935).
3. John Francis Bomford.

Bounded on the north by the farm of Peter Lenehan deceased, on the south by Mullagh, in the east by part of Baltrasna occupied by William Hickey (he does not appear on any list but may be a tenant of that part of Baltrasna which the Winter’s of Agher owned), on the north-west by part of Baltrasna occupied by Patrick Reynolds deceased, and on the south-west by Kilmore townland, the property of George Bomford. George’s signature was witnessed by his son, Robert Laurence Bomford and by Charles Reilly, both of Oakley Park; John Francis’ signature was witnessed by William Shaw and by his coachman, Thomas Pattison, both of Drumlargan.

On 17th April 1881 John Francis mortgaged his lease of these 78 acres to Christopher Barry of Little Ardrams, south of Agher, a grazier and sales master for a loan of £250 with the principle sum of £400. This mortgage was draw up by John Thomas Hinds the solicitor, and the memorial, which goes with it, was witnessed by John Francis’ sister, Anne Bomford of Oakley Park, (1881 Vol 15, No 212, and Vol 16 No 107).

In 1882 the occupier was recorded as Christopher Barry who had also given John Francis another large mortgage in 1880, but more of that later.

Plot 5. 9 acres. Thomas Maguiness occupied these 9 acres in 1854 and he was there in 1859 but no later record appears.

Plot 6. 37 acres. John Duffy occupied this in 1854. George Bomford gave him a new lease dated 27th April 1867 for 31 years at a rent of £41.10.0, which would take him to 1898. The 37 acres were in two parcels, 20 and 17 acres. The 20 acres were bounded on the north by James Gavagan (No 8) on the east by John Byrne (No 9), on the south by John Reilly (No 13), and on the west by Carraghtown: The 17 acres were bounded on the north by Peter Lenehan (No 3), on the east by Woodtown, on the south by William Hickey, (see 4D), and on the west by John Daly (a new name). The lease was witnessed by John Francis and Charles Reilly, and drawn up by John Thomas Hinds.

Plot 7. 87 acres belonged to John Gavagan in 1854. The Hussys gave John a lease in April 1832 of the 89 acres which his father, Simon Gavagan, had before him at a rent of £86.17.0 for 41 years or three lives; one of the lives was John’s son, William Gavagan then aged 4. In 1859 the land was occupied by John Lawless so the Gavagans must have died out or moved away.

Plot 8. 6 acres belonged to James Carroll in 1854, but in 1859 he only had one rood, just enough to contain a cottage and a small garden. In 1898 Thomas Goodwin had this rood of land. The remainder of the 6 acres was taken over in 1859 by James Gavagan.

Plot 9. 17 acres. In 1854 these belonged to John Byrne who was still there in 1873, but then they drop out of the picture.

Plot 10. 1 acre consisted of a cottage and a garden belonging to Thomas Mulvany in 1854 and he was there in 1859. In September 1886 the Sanitary Authority of the Poor Law Union of Dunshaughlin purchased one rood of his land compulsorily from J. Mulvany; the Union paid £1 rent for this to the Bomfords. The Mulvany were mentioned in Arbella Bomford’s accounts of 1898 when their rent was £2.

Plot 11. 1 acre. Thomas Cummins had a cottage and a garden here in 1854. He was there in 1859 after which there is no further record.

Plot 12. ½ of an acre consisted of a cottage and a garden occupied in 1854 by William Carroll. He was still there in 1886 when the Dunshaughlin Union made a compulsory purchase of one rood of his land; the rent paid by the Sanitary Authority was £1 paid to the Bomfords. In 1902 the whole plot was taken over by the Rural District Council, Dunshaughlin.
Plot 13. 57 acres this was in 1854 leased to Christopher Coffey. Back in 1793 John Hussey leased this plot to Robert Kerran for 41 years at a rent of £35.6.3; then in 1826 the Hussey’s leased it to Michael Coffey at a rent of £54.14.6 for 31 years; in 1834 James Coffey, corn and hay factor of North King Street, Dublin, took over the lease. Christopher Coffey must have died before 1859 because that year it was in the hands of Margaret Coffey.

On 21st April 1861 this plot was leased by George Bomford to John Reilly for 31 years at a rent of £60. The farm was bounded on the north by John Duffy (plot 6), on the east by Mullagh, on the south by what might be read as Coxtown and on the west by Leonardstown.

Plot of 57 acres not included in the 1854 survey

My guess is that this was part of the 87 acres of Plot 7, which drops out of the picture sometime after 1859. On 7th August 1873 these 57 acres were leased to John Reilly for 31 years at a rent of £61.4.0. Culmullen bound it on the north, on the east by Bogganstown and Woodcocktown, on the south by Leonardstown, and on the west by the lands of John Duffy (plot 6) and John Byrne (plot 9). These bounds are different to the 57 acres of plot 13 which were also leased to John Reilly. There were in fact two men named Reilly as the following letter from George Bomford to John Francis informs us. The letter was written on 7th August 1873, the same date as the lease, from Oakley Park.

“My dear John I have no objection to give Mr John Reilly the lease you mention. I hope it will be in time. I was about to write to you when he came to the door. I will not give the other Mr Reilly any lease. I should have written to you sooner but have been obliged to have an adjourned Petty Sessions in Kells yesterday as we could not get the cheque which the porter got from Miss Smith on Monday in consequence of the Bank Holiday. The porter was sent to Trim for six months with hard labour.

I remain your affectionate father George Bomford.”

There are no clues as to who “the other Mr Reilly” might be except that George did not consider him a suitable person to have a lease, and so John Reilly now had two different plots each of 57 acres on Baltrasna.

As a Justice of the Peace George acted as the judge in Petty Sessions at the Courthouse in Kells and the letter gives an interesting insight to the duties. It sounds as though the porter embezzled Miss Smith’s money.

The letter is surrounded with the thick black mourning edges, which were used so much in the Victorian era. It was most probable that the family were mourning the loss of George’s son in India Samuel Stephen aged 31. The Suez Canal had been opened in November 1869, three and a half years before but, even so, mail took about six months from India, most of it still travelling in sailing ships around the Cape of Good Hope. Samuel died on 22nd August 1872 so it would be February or even March the next year before they heard of it at Oakley Park.

29.5.1

Rents from Baltrasna and Knockstown

Using the later leases of Baltrasna the average rent is £1.1.6 an acre, or nearly £516 for a year. This figure confirms that the £870, covering rent collected by Andrew Lenehan as recorded in plot 3A above, must have included Knockstown and that the balance of £354 must be the rent of Knockstown. In 1825 the rent from Knockstown came to £312.10.2 so the figure of £354 is reasonable.

Gross rent to George Bomford - Baltrasna £ 516
Knockstown £ 354

The head rent on Baltrasna was £6 paid to Trinity College, Dublin.

29.6

Cluiee

Survey of 1854

1854 Survey in the Parish of Smarmore, Co Louth, George Bomford is the ‘Immediate Lessor’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laurence Fedigan</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>£8. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Corbally</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Corbally</td>
<td>House, Offices, Garden, Land</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
<td><strong>£27.15.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is nothing more to add at this stage about this little townland which is isolated from all the other Bomford properties and sited south of Ardee in Co Louth. It appears to have been trouble-free and so there was little or no correspondence about it. Around 1828 the rents collected amounted to £34.12.4.
### Rattin

Survey of 1854

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>£12. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Offices, Land</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>£1.15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetherston-Haugh</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>326. 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bog</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>1. 0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 923 £431.15.0 £12. 5.0

### Clonfad

Survey of 1854

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rateable Annual Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Curran</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>£4.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Judge</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0. 7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Farrell</td>
<td>Land, Bog</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>3. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Beglan</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Glennon</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Dardis</td>
<td>Offices, Land, Bog</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>30.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Fagan</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2. 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cunningham</td>
<td>Land</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget FitzSimons</td>
<td>House, Offices, Land</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5. 8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Connor</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Gaynor</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Flynn</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cleary</td>
<td>Offices, Land</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>87.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 433 £203.10.0 £7.12.0

There are a considerable number of letters and accounts concerning Clonfad and Rattin during the second half of the 1800’s, and Clonfad in particular was a typical Irish estate suffering rent problems and evictions consequent upon the social and economic climate of the time. George had mortgaged Clonfad and John Francis, who came into Clonfad in 1861, inherited the mortgage. The interest had to come from the rents, which on paper were sufficient, though in fact were insufficient because the rents were paid in arrears, in some cases a number of years in arrears. John Francis was in a difficult position; he could not sell the place, even if he wanted to, because the prices were so bad for encumbered (mortgaged) estates, and he could not redeem the mortgage because he did not have the money which, one imagines, was spent educating his seven boys. It became a question of muddling through and hoping that the harvests would be good so that the tenants could pay their rent so that, in turn, he could pay the mortgage interest. In fact the harvests of 1879 and 1886 were disastrous and the wretched tenants fell even further behind in their payments.

However there are really two subjects here, the question of the rent and that of the mortgage and, although it is these two subjects which makes Clonfad so typical of the times, it is more convenient if they are treated separately, and more convenient if the narrative is carried beyond George’s death to the sale of Clonfad and Rattin.

First the question of the rents and a bit of historical background—

1708 the Head Landlord was Francis Heaton who re-leased Clonfad to Thomas Bomford (c1651 - 1740) at a rent of £135 for 1,168 statute acres. Clonfad may have been a Bomford property since about 1677.

1710 two years later Francis Heaton leased neighbouring Rattin to Thomas fee farm forever at a rent of £66 for 460 statute acres.

1740 both places were surveyed and came out at 1,027 statute acres, rather than the original 1,628 acres. This does not necessarily mean that the original figure was very wrong since rents were paid for usable land, and the bog land may not have been included. Rattin, for instance, contained at least 218 acres of bog, which is the northern end of the Bog of Allen and for which, in 1854, the Rev John Fetherston-Haugh paid a rent of only £1.

In 1740 Thomas Bomford leased both properties to James Tyrrell at a rent of £260, and the Tyrrell family remained there until about 1830. When Thomas died the lands were passed firstly to Edward of Hightown (c1660 - 1756) and then on his death to Stephen the younger of...
Rahinstown (c1722 - 1806). From about this date there is no further mention of the Head Landlord and Stephen probably took over both places outright.

1806

on Stephen’s death the property passed to George the elder of Drumlargan (1759 - 1814) who leased most of Clonfad to Samuel Dopping in 1807.

1814

When George died the land passed to his son George the younger, later of Oakley Park, then aged three.

From about 1825 the area of Clonfad and Rattin appeared to be rather odd, but a letter of 1903 clarified the mystery; it appeared that the townland boundaries were adjusted and much of Rattin became Clonfad. This letter states that the old townland of Clonfad was leased to the Tyrrell family for a rent of £218.5.6 and the old townland of Rattin was leased for £236.16.6, actually the figures were the other way around.

About 1830 the Rev John Fetherstonhaugh (1796-1874) either inherited or took over the lease of Rattin after John Tyrrell died, and it must have been about this time that the boundaries were changed. This brings us up to date with the 1854 survey. Incidentally in 1826 John Fetherstonhaugh of Griffinstown, Co Westmeath, married the Hon Susan Maria Massey, 3rd daughter of the 3rd Lord Massey, and so she was a sort of relation to Robert and Maria (Massey) Bomford of Rahinstown.

In 1835 there was trouble at Clonfad according to a letter from Myles O’Reilly, just after the young George had come of age; the harvest was “burned by malcontents”. There are no other details but this snippet of information does show that Clonfad was under the plough. The trend throughout Ireland at this time was to turn to pasture; this was cheap and more profitable from the landowner’s point of view because animals needed little labour and the market for beef was good. However the population was such that by turning to pasture and less labour-intensive cattle, large numbers of labourers were turned off the land. This caused much suffering since to find work the labourers had to wander the country, or even cross over to England; many of them gravitated to the already overcrowded towns.

29.7.2 John Francis Bomford becomes a Landlord

In 1861 Clonfad and Rattin passed to John Francis Bomford and in 1865 the properties were settled on him. The two relevant deeds being;

4th February 1861

In accordance with the marriage settlement of 21st July 1832, George Bomford of Oakley Park settles Clonfad on John Francis Bomford of Drumlargan, one of the younger sons of George Bomford, for the payment of £700 by John Francis Bomford.

19th April 1865

Between

3. John Thomas Hinds of 28 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, solicitor.

Reciting the settlement of 21st July 1832 on the marriage of George Bomford and Arbella Winter in which George Bomford leased to the trustees the land of Clonfad in the Barony of Farbill to raise the sum of £4,000.

Reciting the marriage settlement of the previous George Bomford dated 21st March 1809 in which the lands were entailed except for Clonfad, which could be given to a younger son.

Reciting that John Francis Bomford was one of the younger sons and was aged over 21 and that he was granted the lands of Clonfad.

This Memorial records that Clonfad now belongs to John Francis Bomford. Only Clonfad is mentioned in these deeds but John Francis also got Rattin.

29.7.3 Tenants and Rents of Clonfad and Rattin

Most of the documents concerning Clonfad cover the period 1869 to 1903, and all are addressed to John Francis who was living initially at Oakley Park but by 1870 had moved to Drumlargan, and remained there until 1900. In some cases the tenant’s rents were given but here the valuation amounts are given as we can trace them more constantly from the Valuation Office records in Ely Place, Dublin. It is often difficult to follow some of the changes because the system used was a colour code; each year had a different colour, but now the inks have faded making it difficult to decide on the correct year. The Griffith’s Valuation of 1854 is listed in the first column and the valuation figures are for the land only.
Parish Clonfad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>1854</th>
<th>1869</th>
<th>1871</th>
<th>1876</th>
<th>1882</th>
<th>1897</th>
<th>1903</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Curran</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>£4.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£4. 9.0</td>
<td>£4. 9.0</td>
<td>£4. 9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Judge (Cathy Judge in 1869, later Christopher Judge)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0. 7.0</td>
<td>£0.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.11.0</td>
<td>0. 6.0</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Farrell (later James and then Thomas Farrell)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>3. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3. 2.0</td>
<td>3. 2.0</td>
<td>3. 0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Beglan (later Thomas Hughes)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2.10.0</td>
<td>2.13.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£4.0.0</td>
<td>3.10.0</td>
<td>3.10.0</td>
<td>3. 7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Glennon</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.14.6</td>
<td>3.14.6</td>
<td>3.11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Dardis (later split between Richard and John Dardis)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>30.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>£21. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>34.11.9</td>
<td>29.12.0</td>
<td>29.14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Fagan (later Thomas Whelihan)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2. 0.0</td>
<td>2.15.0</td>
<td>2.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2. 2.6</td>
<td>2. 2.6</td>
<td>2. 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Cunningham (Mrs in 1876, then William again)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.15.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10.0.0</td>
<td>7.10.0</td>
<td>6.15.0</td>
<td>6.15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridget FitzSimons (later Patrick FitzSimons)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5. 8.0</td>
<td>7.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6. 0.0</td>
<td>5. 5.0</td>
<td>5. 5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Connor (later John Connor, JFB’s bailiff paid £3 pa.)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.10.0</td>
<td>12. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10. 4.0</td>
<td>9. 5.0</td>
<td>9. 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Gaynor (later Martin Gaynor)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>5.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7. 4.0</td>
<td>not included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Flynn</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51.18.4</td>
<td>51. 0.0</td>
<td>not included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cleary The Deer Park, includes ‘his man’ W. Kelly (later Thomas Cleary)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>87.17.0</td>
<td>122. 7.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>123. 7.2</td>
<td>112. 0.0</td>
<td>162.12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mangan (new name)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.0.0</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
<td>1. 4.0</td>
<td>1. 4.0</td>
<td>1. 3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Flynn 53</td>
<td>42.10.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51.18.4</td>
<td>51. 0.0</td>
<td>not included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cleary The Deer Park, includes ‘his man’ W. Kelly (later Thomas Cleary)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>87.17.0</td>
<td>122. 7.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>123. 7.2</td>
<td>112. 0.0</td>
<td>162.12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Mangan (new name)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.0.0</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
<td>1. 4.0</td>
<td>1. 4.0</td>
<td>1. 3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parish Rattin but listed as Clonfad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>1854</th>
<th>1869</th>
<th>1871</th>
<th>1876</th>
<th>1882</th>
<th>1897</th>
<th>1903</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reverend John Fetherston-Haugh</td>
<td>218 of bog</td>
<td>1. 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.0.0</td>
<td>3.0.0</td>
<td>not included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverend John Fetherston-Haugh</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>430.15.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>not investigated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total valuation for these years amounted to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Valuation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>£635.12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>£675.15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>£684.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>£686.2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>£693.4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>£666.5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>£662.8.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is not possible to average out the valuation per acre and so determine the amount received in rent, because much of the land was bog; for instance Mary Farrell’s plot of 52 acres was valued at £3 and Michael Flynn’s plot of the same size was valued at about £50, the former must have been largely bog whereas the latter would have been good ground. However these figures do show that the mortgage interest of £150 a year was a feasible proposition at the time when the mortgage was taken out.

It can be seen that there was an increase in the valuation, and so probably the rents, up to 1882 and then a fall. This downward trend was largely brought about by the Land League, an organisation of tenants founded by Michael Davitt that was intended originally to deal with the problems of high rents and evictions. But the agitation was political as well, and it derived much of its strength from the support of the Fenians. Unrest over rents was such that in 1881 the Government made provision for the settlement of rents in land courts. The judicial settlement of rents was necessarily downwards in the social and economic conditions of the time, and, after a court hearing at Mullingar in April 1891, the rents of Clonfad were judicially set.

29.7.4

The Gaynor Valuation

However John Francis did not wait for the organisation of the land courts to come into operation. In 1884 James C. Trench valued the land, and there are two letters from him.

14th June 1884

“Dear Mr Bomford I have not the Ordnance Map of Clonfad, but in the copy of my valuation report sent to you (which is now missing) I notice under Matthew Gaynor: -

“Irish acreage 2.0.0, rate per acre 22/-, £2.4.0, nice field, 8 inches resting on black gravel, part good upland, and part mossy, detached piece.”
“There may be trifle more than 2 Irish acres in it, scaling from your tracing, say £2.10.0 for the field. I shall go down and value Cleary’s farm as soon as I can get a free day, which I trust will be the week after next. James C. Trench.”

I can not match Matthew Gaynor’s plot with any in the rent list, however another letter, from Mary Gaynor dated 18th November 1884, confirms that Martin Gaynor’s rent was £5 and Matthew’s £2, making the £7 listed as Martin’s 16 acres.

Mary Gaynor’s letter is so natural that one can almost hear the shouting that went on between her, her husband and his brother, and it was this strife, which caused it to be written to Elinor, John Francis wife.

“Dear Lady Bompford Please let me know did Mr Michail Flynne pay your Ladyship 2 years rent for me as it anoyes me very much that I got no receite or no answer about it and there is great contension between my husband and his Brother that I dont own one perch of the ground and let me know who does Mr Bompford Demand the rent of (it) is it me or Matt I remain your obed Mary Gaynor

Please Lady Bompford I depend on your Ladyship not to delay in letting me know.”

On the back of the letter John Francis has written a draft of his reply dated 22nd November 1884 from Dungannon – “Mr Flynn paid 2 yrs rent at Mr Trench’s valuation which cleared your farm to 1st November 1882. I shall give you a proper receipt when next in Clonfad. Send me now £5 a year’s rent to 1st November 1883. Your husband’s brother has nothing to do with the farm.”

No doubt that put the brother Matt in his place; but they were not paid up as Mary thought, they were over a year in arrears.

29.7.5

Cleary Valuation

Trench did go back and value Cleary’s farm a month later and an extract from his second letter reads -

19th July 1884

“Very nice grass farm, all good feeding land, the Deer-park enclosed within high walls being the best of it. No waste, and water obtainable on the lands, which are capable of fattening stock. Nice slated dwelling house and offices unoccupied, not valued.”

The acreage came out at 92 statute acres. The Deer park is shown on the ordnance map and is all that remains of the ancient Clonfad Monastery. John Francis has noted that the house and yard should have been valued. It seems that James Cleary lived elsewhere, perhaps at Kilpatrick (see below), and that his man, W. Kelly, looked after the place.

The only lease to be found for these Clonfad tenants is for this farm of James Cleary dated.

13th October 1869

George Bomford of Oakley Park leases to James Cleary of Kilpatrick 58 plantation acres (94 statute) of Clonfad known as the Deer Park for 31 years at a rent of £122. The land is bounded on the north by the land of Lowtown (the property of William Dopping, abroad), east by the land of Rattin, south and south-east by the road from Dublin to Athlone, and west by part of the lands of Clonfad held by Michael Flynn.
Witnessed by John F. Bomford, William Bolton and Thomas McDonnell

It is likely that the Cleary and Flynn families took over a portion of the Dopping lease which was not renewed in 1838 (18.8.1); the dates match nicely, 1838 plus a 31 year lease comes to 1869, and this lease of another 31 years will be up in 1900. Michael Flynn was not included in the 1903 rent list and it looks as though his 53 acre farm was taken over by Cleary since his rent was increased by the £50, which Flynn used to pay.

29.7.6

Other Valuations and some Politics

A letter of 14th April 1891 gives more details of the tenant’s farms.

“My dear Bomford (John Francis) I have been over Clonfad these two days. Butler had to go to bury his Aunt. I send with your papers a copy of the Ordnance Sheet with the boundaries marked (now missing).

“Farrell (52 acres) has in his possession all the plot of rough grazing lying between the road and Currans (21 acres) holding, also a triangular plot on the extreme north of the townland. These together correspond with the certificate of valuation”

George Bomford’s Land 423
Glennon says the large field south of his holding, marked into his holding on your map, is not his, it would take this field to make up his area of 15 acres, the part I have marked in for him is about 10 acres…. 

Dardis says the cottage at the south western corner of his holding is a freehold, not included in his farm. He does not care to have turf.

Mangan has built a second house on his holding. So also has Curran. 

I had two months in Mayo at the potatoes. Very troublesome work it was. I had to see after the picking of 500 tons in places 60 miles apart and no railways. I was a great deal knocked up and when I went home for vacation the Doctor ordered me to bed. He feared an attack on my lungs. I was not fit to return to work here (Mullingar) till 9th. However I am all right again. 

The row among the Nationalists has given the land purchase bill an easy passage. I have not heard what appointments are likely to be made under it, do you know anything of it.

Very Truly your   Hugh V. Simpson.”

“The row among the Nationalists” refers to Parnell and the National League, and their liaison with Gladstone and the Liberals. In 1890 the prospects for home rule had never seemed brighter because the Liberals would almost certainly win the coming election; but before the year was out Parnell’s career lay in ruins and his party had been shattered. This sudden reversal arose out of Parnell’s private life. A long-standing liaison with Mrs O’Shea (see Trevor Napier Bomford, 26.6.1), the wife of one of his followers, resulted in an action for divorce, in which Parnell was cited as the co-respondent. He offered no defence and in November 1890 the verdict was given against him. Victorian Britain could tolerate sexual immorality in its statesmen provided it was decently disguised; but on this open admission of guilt the Liberals demanded that Gladstone should repudiate all alliance with the Irish party. Parnell was urged to resign but obstinately refused to do so. The result was that his party was split and this was “the row among the Nationalists”.

The Liberal Party leader Gladstone with Parnell favoured Home Rule for Ireland, whereas the Conservatives under Salisbury favoured land purchase for their Irish policy. A pamphlet of February 1870, amongst the documents, titled “A correct report of the speech of the Rt Hon W. E. Gladstone on proposing the Irish Land Bill”, makes interesting reading and shows how skilfully Gladstone presented an unpleasant pill to the landed interest, but history now maintains that as a Bill it was a failure. As with all landlords, George Bomford was vitally interested but he could hardly argue against the two main provisions of the Act relating to security of tenure and compensation for improvements by the tenants. Twenty years later the Land Purchase bill, introduced by Balfour, which had ‘an easy passage’, was to guarantee an advance of £33 million to be loaned to tenants who wished to purchase their land. The result was not a great success since the tenants were discouraged from purchasing by the complicated nature of the new financial arrangements, and the landlords from selling by the fact that they were to be paid, not in cash, but in Land Stock redeemable in thirty years.

The administration of such a bill would give additional employment to many throughout the country and such employment would fall into the hands of land agents like Hugh Simpson and indeed to Land Commissioners like John Francis.

Although it must seem that John Francis was singularly uninformed about what went on at Clonfad, it must be remembered that he was travelling the country on the Land Commission and, even if he did have the time, it was a good 20 miles to Clonfad from Drumlargan; this distance would be a hard four hour ride on horseback which would in turn mean a night stop in some doubtful inn. It is understandable that he was not aware of the situation and would employ someone else to investigate the land and communicate by post at a penny a letter. However the following letter from his bailiff dated 10th October 1903 shows another method of exchanging views with his tenants and of getting home the same day.

“Sir I received your welcome letter, and I am very glad we are all going to meet your Honnor at Killucan Station on Tuesday next at the time you appointed, as I have gone round and told all the tenants.

your Obdient Servant John Connor.”

Census of Ireland 1871

The comparison of the three decades in the 1871 census of the number of houses and the population of George’s lands show comparative stability when compared to the west or south-west of Ireland; but even here the population shows a steady drop after the famine of 1846-9, which reflects the exodus from the land to the towns, and by emigration to America and England. Those foreigners travelling the country after 1850 all remark that the population consisted mainly of old people and young
children; there were practically no young men or to a lesser extent young girls about; they had all left the country to find work elsewhere.

The numbers of houses of the 1854 valuation are shown in brackets alongside the 1851 census figure; the townlands of Oakley Park, Baltrasna and Knockstown were totally owned by George, whereas he only owned portions of the townlands of Drumlargan, Clonfad and Rattin; this accounts for the differences in the number of houses in the latter townlands. The census of Cluide was not found.

<table>
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<th>Houses</th>
<th>1841</th>
<th>1851</th>
<th>(1854)</th>
<th>1861</th>
<th>1871</th>
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<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(13)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>(6)</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockstown</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(5)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>23</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>(10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>(0)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>81</td>
<td>(48)</td>
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<th>(1854)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>78</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>526</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>423</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The number of persons in each house works out at close to 6 for the first 20 years, but just ‘under 5 for 1871’; this is lower than expected, but it was the young people who would emigrate.

It is worthy of note that on Oakley Park virtually all the wage earners would have been employed on the estate, there was no other employment in the vicinity, and that an estate of 740 acres could sustain between 80 and 90 people; something that it could not possibly do nowadays. The system employed later at Oakley Park, and there is no reason to suppose that it did not happen in George’s time, was that a drill or two of potatoes for each household was planted and harvested with the main crop; similarly a bag of flour or grain was given out; at Christmas a beast was slaughtered and the various cuts apportioned to each family. There was no turf on the estate but the families were free to gather sticks or any fallen branches from the woods; the nearest turf bog was about two miles away and George rented a strip of Emlagh Bog for the house fires.

When that basic food grown by George is added to whatever the cottage garden and poultry produced, it can be seen that the cottagers did not fare too badly and indeed were comparatively happy and settled. The same cannot be said for the tenant farmers and their labour, at for instance Baltrasna, they were on their own and had no ‘big house’ to fall back on for help. Some of the landlords were uninterested and so were termed by the local people ‘bad’, they were only interested in getting their rents cared little for their labour; it is of the sad plight of their labour about which one reads.

By the time George arrived at Oakley Park all his labour probably spoke English, however at the time of the harvest when extra labour came from the west some of them would have been Irish speakers, and so George must have had some knowledge of that language. English was more widely spoken in the eastern counties than those in the west, but during the previous century much more Irish was spoken throughout the land. Stephen of Gallow, for instance, must have been able to converse in Irish in order to communicate with his labour. The 1841 Census revealed that Irish was still the common language of the majority and in 1834 Dr Cantwell wrote, “There are some good Irish scolars in the neighbourhood of Kells; it is the language of the people of that country”.

In 1831, when the first National School curriculum was introduced, the Irish language was excluded, oddly enough on the recommendation of the priests who were afraid that it might become the secret language of the Protestant Societies; as a result knowledge of Irish was soon restricted to isolated parts of the West and southwest of the country. It was not until 1944 that Irish was taught compulsorily in the National Schools to save it from becoming a dead language; however the means by which it was introduced was poor and unfair to some, indeed it set many people against the language.
On 27th April 1865 Robert Neville went to court and got a judgement against George Bomford for £6,000. What happened previously is conjecture, but there must have been a mortgage, probably for £3,000, which George took out some years before. The judgement for £6,000 sounds to be the penal, or default, figure for a £3,000 mortgage.

Also in April 1865 Clonfad, was settled on John Francis. Some of the money was recovered from the judgement and no doubt was paid by George; however the remaining amount was inherited by John Francis who took out a new mortgage with Robert Neville for £3,000 at 5% interest or £150 a year. The two relevant deeds read -

6th June 1884

In the High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench, between Robert Neville of Rockfield House, Ballybrack, Co Dublin, Plaintiff and George Bomford of Oakley Park, Defendant.

Robert Neville swears that on 27th April 1865 he got a judgement against George Bomford for £6,000. He was then a Major in Her Majesty’s 41st Regiment of Infantry and is now retired.

Some of the money was recovered from the 1865 judgement but the sum of £3003.1.11 remains outstanding, (in 1884, the date of the deed).

Now the defendant is John Francis Bomford of Oakley Park, a sub-commissioner under the Land Court. Robert Neville claims from him the sum of £3,003.1.11, which is still outstanding.

20th April 1865

With the approval of George Bomford of Oakley Park, John Francis Bomford also of Oakley Park mortgages the land of Clonfad for £3,000 to Robert Neville, Major of Her Majesty’s 41st (Welsh) Regiment of Infantry.

The Neville Family

The Neville family first appear in Co Wexford near Gorey as early as 1247, but they sided with Silken Thomas, the son of the Earl of Kildare, in an uprising and their land was forfeited in 1535.

Robert was the 3rd son of Brent Neville, a merchant of Dublin and Sheriff there in 1810. Robert was born in 1824 and joined his regiment in 1843. He served in the Crimea and at Scutari, became a major and retired to Rockfield at Ballybrack, Co Dublin. In 1857 he married Emma, who died in 1916, the only surviving child of William Helsham Candler-Brown of Tilney in Norfolk; she inherited land in Ireland, mostly near Callon, Co Kilkenny. They had two sons and two daughters. It was their eldest son, Colonel William Candler Neville, who bought 443 acres of Clonfad in 1913; The Colonel was born in 1859 and saw service in the Burmese Expedition and in the South African War in which he received the DSO in 1900.

Clonfad Unable to Sustain Interest

So Clonfad, and maybe Rattin as well was mortgaged for £3,000 at 5% interest. The interest had to be found from the tenant’s rents and since the valuation of the land came to over £650 a year, there should have been easily enough to cover £150 a year; the trouble was that many of the tenants were behind in their payments, some being in arrears by a number of years, and there was little hope that they would ever catch up. Under these circumstances the full amount of the interest was not paid and Robert Neville took the Bomfords to court, firstly George and then John Francis. There is reference to another court case at some date before 1888 when the Chancery Division of the High Court appointed a receiver for Clonfad. He was William James Roe of 11 Westland Row, Dublin, and many of his accounts are included in the documents.

Roe took over the rent collection and was tough with the tenants who had not paid. By April 1899 there had been three evictions, or, as the documents call them, “ejectments”; the first one was in June 1888 and the other two in 1899 in January and March. The landlord had to bear all the costs and these three evictions cost John Francis £10.3.0.

Nevertheless there was no easy solution; the tenants simply did not have the money as they were still suffering from yet another bad harvest of 1886. In October 1888 interest payments had fallen behind by £121.17.6; in June 1889 more money was found but £75.10.0 was still overdue; by 1892 payments had again lapsed by a whole year’s interest of £150.

Naturally there were a number of letters of complaint from Robert Neville to John Francis, and the most enlightening one is dated 26th December 1892.
“My dear Sir, I called upon Mr Roe for the interest, all he had is £15. It is quite evident Clonfad cannot make the interest due and it is running into arrears. Unless you can arrange matters I must allow Messrs Moore (Neville’s solicitors) to wind it up. I do not wish to give you any trouble or Law Expenses but I cannot do without the interest, there is a year due now….”

There is reference in a deed of 9th June 1899 concerning the Hinds mortgage (31.4) to a Land Judge Order of 14th November 1894, which concerns the Neville mortgage of £3,000. The figure quoted is £3,236.5.9, the additional £236.5.9 being court charges which have mounted up. The interesting thing is that the mortgage was due on Drumlargan, so it is apparent that the lands concerned were enlarged and were Clonfad and Drumlargan. However this is the only reference to Drumlargan in the Neville mortgage.

In 1895 the Court instructed Claude Chaloner of King’s Fort which lies immediately to the north of Oakley Park to carry out an independent valuation. Naturally John Francis had to bear all the costs and Chaloner’s fee of £7.7.6 appears in Roe’s accounts.

In 1897 the receiver, Roe, produced accounts which showed that the tenants were in arrears to a total of £236.15.9, and as a result he recommended that two tenants ‘be got rid of’, and one, John Dardis, was evicted in March 1899. Later accounts show that Robert Neville was receiving his interest and there were no more personal letters from him although there were letters from his solicitors.

26th May 1899

Subject – Bomford’s Estate (Neville).

“Dear Sir, I had to evict John Dardis of Clonfad for non-payment of rent in March last. I have a caretaker in charge of the place. There will be of course some meadow on it which will be fit to be cut in July, do you know of anyone who would be likely to take it, or if not would it be possible for you to send some of your own men to cut and save it. The farm contains about 50 statute acres.

William J. Roe.”

John Francis must have replied immediately because on 31st May another, letter from Roe was written-

“I am much obliged for yours of 30th, if I can effect a sale of the meadows on Dardis’ late farm I will do so. I have not heard that Judge Ross has decided anything so far about the sale of Clonfad.”

So there were three evictions from Clonfad. It is not certain who the first two were, though I suspect that they were George Beglan and Thomas Fagan who had the only farms in which the names of the tenants were changed at about the right date. Christopher Dardis must have been the father of John and Richard Dardis, and when he died his farm was divided between the two brothers, one of whom, John, was evicted.

The first mention of a possible sale of Clonfad is in this last letter, but nothing was decided then; however four years later there is a letter from Neville’s solicitors (Moore, Keily and Lloyd). In May 1903 they suggest that a buyer might be found for the whole estate of Clonfad; they argued that a single buyer might be found to take over all the leases, whereas a number of purchasers would not look at the leases split into small lots, as they would consider them to be “undesirable investments”. This may well be true but the main problem was the system in operation at the time; that the purchaser of an encumbered estate took over the encumbrances; in other words the mortgage went with the land, as it did when John Francis took over Clonfad from his father.

John Francis must have considered the sale seriously because later in the year in September the solicitors write, “We are obliged for your letter of yesterday’s date and will be most happy to meet you for the purpose of conferring as to an advantageous sale of Clonfad estate.”

As already mentioned John Francis met the Clonfad tenants at Killucan Railway Station in October 1903. No doubt the question of a possible sale was the subject under discussion, and it very much looks as though John Francis recommended that the tenants purchase their own farms making use of the latest Land Purchase Bill of 1903, which was a great improvement on the previous bills of 1890 and 1896.

This new act, known as Wyndham’s Act, was passed in 1903 and proved most satisfactory to both sides. The landlords found that the price they received was substantially higher than those of the previous acts. The tenants had to pay less interest on their loan and had a longer period to pay it back, and the state rather than the tenants now paid the legal costs. The act encouraged the sale of whole estates when the land-lord and three-quarters of the tenants agreed on a price, the sale could go through, the Land Commission would take over the landlord’s responsibilities to the tenants who did not wish to buy; finally when an entire estate was sold the landlord received a bonus equal to 12% of the total sale price.

In 1905 the records show that some of the holdings had been bought by the tenants, but only 113 acres so it is doubtful if the terms of Wyndham’s Act were met at that date. However by 1912 more holdings had been bought by tenants and perhaps the Act then came into force and the Bomfords got the bonus.
It is not clear just what happened, as there are no accounts after 1903. It is to be hoped that John Francis received some of the sale price before he died in 1911. The end of Clonfad is recorded in a document in the Land Commission Office dated 19th June 1913; it concerns the sale of 433 acres of Clonfad to William Candler Neville, executor of Robert Neville. The sale includes ‘a portion of Rattin’, but the map only shows Clonfad, and the portion that Neville bought was in the northwest corner from the Deer Park to the borders of Lowtown and Kilbride. The yearly rent from this area was £135 with a quit rent of £12.13.0¾. The farms of Flynn, Cleary and Curran were certainly in the sale but if a portion of Rattin was really included then not all of Clonfad was in the sale. However it can safely be said that two years after John Francis had died, his son George Lyndon successfully got rid of Rattin and Clonfad. Whether he got any money from Neville is doubtful, the estate was probably sold for the £3,000 mortgage money. Actually the valuation records show that George Lyndon sold one small plot as late as 1936 and another, the last, in 1956; but these dates are within living memory, the last one being after the death of George Lyndon, and none of the family recollect any property in Westmeath; it would seem that the Valuation Office records had not been updated correctly.

Clonfad was held by the Bomfords from about 1677 to 1913, a period of 236 years, and was the longest held of all the Bomford properties apart from Ferrans, passing through seven generations. Rattin was not held for so long as it was not acquired until 1710, but even so it was a Bomford property for 203 years.
Chapter XXX  George and his family  1850 – 1890’s

30.1

Chapter 25 recorded the birth of George’s children, the extension of Oakley Park and the famine; let us set the scene for this chapter by recording the state of his family in 1850 – George’s 39th birthday was on 11th April, and his wife Arbella’s 40th birthday was on 22 March. They were both in their prime and no doubt lived full lives; but there have been reports that the marriage was not a truly happy one and that George was ‘eccentric and peculiar’. No doubt in typical Victorian fashion a bold front was put on any differences.

There were seven children alive in 1850, one girl having died in 1837:

Anne was the eldest, aged 17 in September, (30.5)
George Winter aged 16 in November, (30.2)
John Francis aged 13 in December, (30.3)
Arbella Anne aged 11 in August, (30.4)
Samuel Stephen aged 9 in April, (30.6)
Elizabeth aged 7 in May, (30.7)
Victoria Adela had just been born in November 1849, (30.8)

three more were still to be born,
Arthur Chichester on 27th July 1851, (25.1)
Margaret Winter on 16th October 1855, (30.9)
Robert Laurence, the youngest, on 3rd September 1857, (30.10)
Arthur Chichester died aged four, and so nine children grew to be adults.

Even the newly extended house only had seven bedrooms with three dressing rooms, and these would have been nearly filled by a family of eleven living in the fashion of the mid 1800’s. Thus around 1860 a northern wing was added to the house. This was not so high as the rest of the house but it had the same number of floors, basement, ground and first floor.

This addition meant some changes to the back of the house, the most noticeable being the landing half way up the back stairs to make an entry to the top floor of the new wing; this landing had a new and very large window facing north which gave light to the stairs and passages; there must have been a window there before flush with the stairs, but the new one stood back from the stairs and was an attractive addition giving a view of much of the yard. With this additional wing plumbing was first introduced into the house, which now had a bathroom and three toilets, one on each level; it also meant that a new range had to be installed in the basement kitchen to heat the water. My grandfather would never use one of these new-fangled water closets but had his own ancient earth closet hidden in the wood amongst the laurels along the outside of the yard wall; no doubt all earlier males did the same and left the indoor toilets to the ladies. The family never spoke about ‘going to the loo’, it was always ‘going up the nine steps’, a purely family saying because the ground floor toilet was approached by nine unlit and dark steps.

30.1.1

George and Arbella lived in the ‘grand manner’. They were typical of the time with an up-to-date large house set in parkland where they could entertain the neighbours. Prices were good at this date and remained so for some years; labour was cheap at sixpence a day (ex GLB) or in the present currency, an unbelievable 2½ pence a day, so they could afford to make improvements not only to the house but also to the farm and lands. It was the age of luxurious living with plenty of servants in the house and labour in the yard.

Perhaps the major improvement was a 2½ acre walled ‘Big Garden’ for fruit and vegetables laid out to the west of the house. This garden is shown on the 1883 ordnance survey map but not on that of 1836; it was probably built in 1848 or 49 during the famine to give work to the destitute. The wall was at least twenty feet high and three deep with coping stones on the top sufficiently wide to run along, a form of sport banned to us children but enjoyed nevertheless. It had handsome wrought iron entrance gates of the same height as the wall with matching iron railings on the south wall beside two ponds which were surrounded by a ring of Irish yews; I often wondered why these very fine railings were sited where they could not be seen, and it was only recently, when the timber was felled, that they re-appeared and could be seen to advantage from the front of the house. Mention of the two ponds in the Big Garden reminds me that they were joined to the ditch in the Sixteen Acre field by a beautifully made cut-stone underground stream of about four feet high and four wide; this must have been built at the same time as the garden wall and joined another similar stream from the house and yard with its outfall into the river further down.
Another similar but even longer underground stream ran under the Upper Lawn and joined the yard pond to the pond in the wood beside the avenue bridge and so on to the river.

There was another formal garden between the yard pond and the back lodge which is shown on the 1836 map; by 1883 this had largely disappeared though many of the paths were still there; my mother remembered these paths and the remains of the garden as late as 1910. However yet another garden was to developed alongside the west of the house known as the ‘flower-knot’, (see opposite); this is not shown on the 1883 map but was in existence some time before my mother was born in 1902. Here the flowerbeds were laid out in a geometrical design radiating from a raised centre, each bed was surrounded by a low box hedge and the larger ones had matching wrought iron urns, which in summer overflowed, with flowers. The space between the flower-knot and the Big Garden was filled by the ‘shrubbery’, which stretched in an arc from the yard down to the river, and many paths meandered through it.

The cobbled-stoned yard was filled with carriages and horses belonging to the family, and would have been kept spotless; there were three coach houses filling one side, another side was filled with about twelve loose-boxes for the horses, and the third side was devoted to harness rooms and other equipment. In addition the two corners were designed as two houses, the coachman had one and, later on, the steward had the other. The first floor above the stables were haylofts with hatches in the floor through which hay was thrown, and the very long loft above the coach-houses was where the grain was dried and stored. The cattle yards and cow-bye were to the north of the main yard.

No payroll has come to light so one can only hazard a guess at the staff needed to run the place. In the house there would be a butler and a liveried manservant, all the rest would have been women, - a cook, pantry and scullery maids, parlour maid (the pretty one), a couple of house maids, nurse or governess (Miss Chatfield in 1842) and a few ‘boys’ for odd jobs like cleaning the boots; say about 10 who lived in the basement. The house yard would have had a coachman and a couple of postillions or workmen who lived either in the yard or in the two-storied six room house behind the yard with the mystery name of “Mary Anne’s”; this house was still in use in the early 1900’s since the upstairs rooms had been carefully papered with contemporary newspapers which gave me much interesting reading on wet days as a boy. Then there would have been a head gardener with a number of underlings to rake and maintain the gravel paths, and the 1883 map shows about three miles of these. In all there would have been a workforce of about fifteen or twenty in or around the house, and this excludes the men on the farm and the extra numbers needed for the harvest.

With all these servants one can see why the family referred to George and Arbella living in “the grand manner”, and one really wonders what they did to occupy the time. Arbella would have organised the running of the house but this probably only entailed the giving of orders, however she did have a number of children, but, having had them, they were then looked after by others; children were to be seen but not heard. Provided the nanny or governess was a decent type the children most likely had very happy times about the place, certainly John Francis’ children did, as did all later generations; the place was big enough to get lost in and to do your own thing. After early nursery training the boys would have been sent to boarding school; there is no record of this except for the youngest son but it is likely that the other boys were too.

The documents include Robert Laurence’s school bills from the Royal School at Armagh when he was 15. The fees were £56 a year for ‘Boarding and Lodging’ plus incidental charges of about £21 a year. My grandfather used to reckon that schooling amounted to the sale of a bullock a year per child, and indeed this was true until the 1960’s when even a good bullock would not pay the fees. Judging from the books Robert had to buy, the curriculum included arithmetic, Latin, chemistry, French, German, Greek and scripture in Greek. The clothing list starts with “1 Silk Hat” and ends with “a suit of flannel (to be worn during games)”. The Holidays of 1872/3 were not very different to those now, but the previous year they were five weeks at Christmas, one week over Easter and two months in the summer; the latter being determined by the harvest when the children were needed to help.
30.1.2

At one time it was thought that George was responsible for the planting of the many varieties of oak and other hardwood trees about the place, but when the trees were felled in the 1960’s it was found that many were past their prime and were between 150 and 200 years old; a monster beech was blown down at Croodara in 1987 and it had about 165 rings, so it was one of the Crawfords, probably Jason, who planted them. Trees were then very much in vogue and this was the golden age of private planting. The wooded demesne being seen as one of the landscape’s chief embellishments, they protected privacy and announced importance. Undoubtedly George planted many trees and shrubs, but that would not have been his main interest. The only major change in the woods between the maps of 1836 and 1883 was the enlargement of the ‘Big Wood’ on the far side of the Red Bog. A nice idea of the time was that birthday trees were planted; my grand-father, George Lyndon, was proud of his birthday tree planted on 29th September 1867; it was a Wellingtonia or giant sequoia in the shrubbery which has been allowed to stand to this day, although isolated.

Whilst on the subject of trees, during the late 1700’s and early 1800’s estate owners showed their political party by planting trees, oaks for Whigs and elms for Tories. There were virtually no elms on Oakley Park but very many oaks, indicating that the Crawfords were Whig supporters; this idea may have had much to do with the revival of the name Oakley Park around 1813. Only oaks were planted by Dickie Chaloner at Kingsford and by the Rowleys at Maperath so they, too, were Whigs. Regrettably too many trees have been felled around the other Bomford houses and Agher to indicate to which party they and the Winters belonged, but they were probably Whigs too.

Much of George’s time would be spent out-of-doors about the place with spare time devoted to “hunin’, shootin’ and fishin’ “. There was little evidence of fishing in the house in my day but plenty of evidence of hunting and shooting. In 1860 George paid £25.6.0 for a new type of gun, a ‘Lockfast’ breech loader which looks very like the modern 12 bore shot gun judging from the pamphlet. Leases of Oakley Park all contain a clause allowing George the right to shoot over the leased ground; these shooting clauses were actually fairly general and so do not prove that George did shoot, but there were plenty of old guns and gun-cupboards in the house. Even in the 1930’s the grounds were good for a rough shoot and many meals were had of rabbit, hare, pigeon, snipe, duck, geese, pheasant, woodcock and partridge. Grandfather remembered punting across the ‘bottoms’ and shooting duck from the Decoy Wood; decoys were put out to attract wild duck or geese and the guns lay up in the Decoy Wood. A gun licence cost George £3 in 1873 with no restriction on the type of game, and he had a “Brown Retriever dog named Zero” according to a dog licence costing 2/- in 1881.

The only mode of transport was the horse and naturally many were kept, not just for the carriages but for riding and the farm as well. One of George’s early horses was named ‘Beelzebub’ and I visualise him inspecting his acres on horseback. The top passage in the house had etchings of famous animals, mostly horses, around the walls; one of these was the bull Sovereign, owned and bred by Richard Chaloner which won outright both the Farmer’s Gazette Plate and the Railway Plate in 1871 at the Royal Dublin Show. I also visualise George and his elder children attending all the hunts in the vicinity.

At the start of the 1800’s many families around Kells had their own packs of foxhounds, the Nicholsons of Balrath, Pollocks of Mountainstown, Gerrards of Gibbstown, the Tisdalls and the Everards. About 1816 they amalgamated their own packs and called them the Clonghill Hounds, which in 1832 became the Meath Hounds. The Waller family kept the Meath hounds initially at Allenstown, but around 1880 they were moved to new kennels built by John Tisdall of Charlesfort on his property at Nugentstown; they are still there. When George first arrived in Kells the Meath was the only pack in the district; it was well established then and still has a full programme of hunts all over the county. However between the 1850’s and 1870’s a number of estates again had packs of hounds not foxhounds but packs for coursing, possibly greyhounds. George had a pack of these hounds which he kept in the dog-houses at the bottom of the yard; his son, John Francis, hunted this pack until he went to live at Drumlargan about 1870, the next year George was 60 and he probably gave them up about then. The Oakley Park pack may have lasted 10 to 15 years.

30.1.3

As a landlord George undertook the usual public duties, which normally fell to the landlord’s lot. Chapter 24 includes his commission as a Justice, his membership of the Grand Jury of Meath and the very onerous and unpaid duty of a member and chairman of the Board of Guardians of the Kells Workhouse. He must have undertaken these duties seriously and effectively since in 1860/61 he was made the High Sheriff of Meath (ex Henderson Post Office Guide); being the High Sheriff he was the Queen’s representative in Meath with wide judicial and executive powers.
He followed the family trend of being a successful farmer and was able to cover expenses without having to sell land or take some additional employment. Judging from the books in the Oakley Park library he was well read in agriculture, and horse and dog management. For a number of years he was a member of the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland; receipts for £2 a year are among the documents covering the years 1866-73. However there is no evidence that he showed produce or animals in the Royal Dublin Society show though I imagine that the family attended the shows which were the core of the Dublin ‘season’; they probably went to Dublin by train on the recently opened branch line running through Kells to Oldcastle.

George was a mason and a member of Lodge 244, the ‘Headfort’ Kells Masonic Lodge. There is a lease of a house in Kells by Thomas Taylour, Marquis of Headfort, to the Headfort Masonic Lodge (1881, Vol 8, No 58) dated 5th February 1881. George signed on behalf of the Lodge together with Christopher Armitage Nicholson of Balrath, Thomas Rothwell of Rockfield, John Keating of Cabra, John Tisdall of Charlesfort, John Radcliff of Wilmount, William Arthur Barnes of Westland and John Ringwood MD of Kenlis Lodge; the deed is witnessed by Thomas R. Lynch, solicitor of Kells and George E. Radcliff, Manager of the Hibernian Bank in Kells. The house was in a prime site in Kells being on the corner of John Street and Kenlis Place, and facing the Courthouse. It was a stone-faced two-storey building with a pillared entrance porch, previously an inn and now a commercial office. George might have been the first Bomford to be a mason but he was not the last; his grandson George Lyndon, and his great-grandson John Lyndon certainly were masons.

30.1.4

There are a few letters of this date but the following one, both damaged and illegible in places, was included in a bundle of receipts of 1874/5. It was written probably about this date to either George or his son, John Francis, by the steward of Oakley Park, Charles Reilly. It is a nice mixture of business, gossip and banter, which to a large degree shows the friendship and easy-going atmosphere between the master and his workforce in the rural Ireland of those days. It is reproduced as written but, for the sake of clarity, it has been punctuated.

“Sunday Sir I recd your cheque for £106.10.0 on acct for labour, herd and ewes; the ringer will be sent home tomorrow but the chym wont be (..?) it is needed here and more.

I told Mrs Farrilly this day that you said she had no hate (heat) in her for siting (sitting) on eggs, her answer in troth - I have as much heat as Himself.

I will distribute the papers and will inquire for the cloathing at Westland. I will look over the book, I believe you left no mistakes that you did not correct, if you left any the (they) will be corrected, but I think you did not.

(.. illegible words ..) poor Paddy Daly of the (..?) died on Friday night after going to bed, just as he went to bed he got as well as ever he did, he got very ill in a minute, he sd (said) his hart was broke and would not live, so he died very soon.

I am Sir your obedient Charles Reilly.”

The reference to the ‘ringer’ or sheep shearer, a word used in Ireland and taken to Australia, shows that the letter was written in the early summer. The word ‘chym’ has been heard in a farming context but the meaning has been forgotten unless it is the machine used for pulping mangels for cattle fodder. It would be nice to know what caused John Francis (it was probably him rather than his father as he was living at Drumlargan) to observe that Mrs Farrelly had insufficient heat in her for hatching chickens, but the retort with the veiled implication, and the way Charles Reilly disclaims all responsibility with his ‘in troth’, do show the informal atmosphere of the time. The death of heart-broken Paddy Daly also leaves much to the imagination.

It is not surprising that there was a flock of sheep; the Bomfords probably always had some sheep though the main stock was cattle. However in 1874 George bought a “shearing Leicester ram” from John Francis for £8; this was an expensive young ram, being between the first and second shearing, and of the popular breed of Leicester, a heavy fleeced animal. The latter indicates that sheep were bred in earnest and not just as mutton for the house.

30.2

George Winter Bomford 1834 - 1884

George Winter was the second child but the eldest son and so heir of George and Arbella. He was born in Dublin on November 12th 1834, and educated at Trinity College in Dublin. He became a barrister and was called to the Bar of Lincoln’s Inn, London. His nephew, George Lyndon, commented that he was “very clever in parts”, but he also said that he was “a most irresponsible person” and “a perfectly irrational man”. With this in mind it is understandable how a legal battle developed in 1857 between George Winter, when he was only 22, and his father who is also reported to be “eccentric and peculiar”. 
Many of these quotations come from a letter written in 1936 by George Lyndon Bomford (1867-1951) to his son George Warren who was then in India. The first part of the letter was included in 26.4.3; the second part is to be found in 32.1 and concerns his uncle George Winter.

**30.2.1 Affidavit of 20th June 1857**

(1857, Book 19, No 227)

George Bomford of Oakley Park, JP, makes oath and swears that on 9th January 1857 in the Court of Common Pleas he obtained judgement against George Winter Bomford also of Oakley Park in the sum of £1,600 plus costs.

He further swears that George Winter Bomford has taken over for his own benefit the lands of Drumlargan. That £800 is still due to him out of the £1,600.

Sworn at Kells before Joseph Clinton and John Barnes of 69 Stephen’s Green.

In the next chapter this affidavit has been placed with other documents and the argument has been put forward that George Winter, perhaps as a minor, borrowed £400; that he was unable to repay this loan, which has now risen in stages to £1,600. He probably tried to get money by taking over “for his own benefit the lands of Drumlargan” and using the rents. Whatever happened he appears to have mismanaged his affairs to such an extent that he has been the cause of considerable friction with his father by the dishonest or at least improper way he went about paying it back.

Indeed there was trouble between George Winter and his father all his life and it has been said that his father “could not abide him”; it led to further trouble with the family later on and indeed it is thought by some of the family that George Winter was actually disinherited; certainly there are no records that he ever visited Oakley Park after this affair and later he takes himself off to Australia. It is doubtful if he was actually disinherited as this would have changed the entail and the entailed lands including Drumlargan, or part of it, did go to his children.

**30.2.2 Marriage of George Winter Bomford and Flora Mary McVeigh Sadleir**

(1861, Book 13, No 227 and 228)

Two Marriage Settlement deeds have been found and combined

16th/17th April 1861 Marriage Settlement

Reciting 1. That a marriage is intended between George Winter Bomford and Miss Flora Mary McVeigh Sadleir.

Reciting 2. The marriage settlement of 21st July 1832 (that of George and Arbella). In this the lands of Drumlargan, Ormelstown or Edinstown, Knockturin, parts of Clonlon and Monaloy were entailed “to the use of the first son of George Bomford and the heirs male of his body”.

Reciting 3. That there were, two male sons, George Winter Bomford the eldest, and John Francis Bomford and other younger children

Reciting 4. That George Winter Bomford “was desirous of burring the estate tail in the said lands”, (i.e. of changing the procedure of the entail), and that George Bomford “has agreed to join in effectuating such object” as have all parties.

Reciting 5. That the entail continues. The land goes to the eldest male heir of George Winter Bomford and Flora Mary McVeigh Sadleir, thereafter other males then females, finally to John Francis Bomford and his heirs. (The inclusion of daughters in the entail was probably the change agreed).

Reciting 6. That the lands of Drumlargan (etc) are handed over to the trustees Samuel Bomford and Samuel Reynell for an annuity of £300 for George Winter Bomford during his life and that of his father George Bomford. Flora Mary McVeigh Sadleir to have the £300 as an annuity if she survives George Winter Bomford.

The parties concerned were
1. George Bomford of Oakley Park
2. George Winter Bomford of Oakley Park, eldest son and heir of George Bomford and Arbella Bomford (Winter), his wife.
3. Richard Winter Reynell of Killynon, Co Westmeath, (1804-1887, the remaining trustee of the 1832 marriage settlement.)
4. John Thomas Hinds, solicitor of 28 Westmoreland Street, Dublin. (Holder of a mortgage on Drumlargan).
6. Samuel Bomford of No 6 Gloucester Crescent, Hyde Park, London, (George’s only brother now aged 48), and Samuel Reynell of Archerstown, Co Westmeath, (1814-1877, George’s land agent and a relation. These were the two trustees covering the £300 annuity on Drumlargan)

7. John Francis Bomford of Oakley Park.

8. Ferdinand Francis Sadleir of Leeson Street, Dublin, (1841-1870, Flora’s eldest brother), and Francis Ralph Sadleir (Flora’s father, the other trustees).

In addition to these settlements George Winter carried a life insurance policy for £400 with the Scottish Assurance Co. In 1875 the premium was £11.4.4.

30.2.3 The Sadleir Family

The Sadleir lineage starts in 1400 with Henry Sadeleyer of Hackney, Middlesex. His son Sir Ralph (1507 - 1587) was a Privy Councillor for forty years to Henry VIII, Edward VI and Queen Elizabeth. Twice he entertained Queen Elizabeth at his home, Standon in Hertfordshire. He held many offices including Guardian of Mary, Queen of Scots.

Sir Ralph’s nephew, John Sadleir, was Alderman and High Bailiff of Stratford-on-Avon, 1570 – 1571. A close friend of Shakespeare, father to the playwright, William Shakespeare. A relation, Hamnet Sadleir, witnessed William Shakespeare’s will, and with his wife Judith were godparents of Shakespeare’s twin children, Hamnet and Judith, who were baptised at Stratford-on-Avon on 2nd February 1585. It looks as though the young Shakespeares were named after their Sadleir godparents. John Sadleir’s offspring settled in Co Tipperary and his descendants left Ireland only recently.

Sir Ralph’s son, Sir Thomas, was knighted by King James I in 1603 when the King was staying at Standon, and his son, another Ralph, was known as “Noble Mr Sadler” in Walton’s “Compleat Angler”. However this last Ralph died without children and the titles continued through Sir Ralph’s second son Edward. Edward married an heiress and eventually Sopwell Hall in Hertfordshire became the family place.

Sir Ralph’s great-grandson, Colonel Thomas (died c1680), joined the Parliamentary Army in 1643 and went to Ireland with Cromwell as his Adjutant-General. He obtained estates in Co Tipperary and Galway including Kinelagh Castle and Castletown. The family settled in Kinelagh Castle which is still standing, but in 1745 Francis Sadleir, (the Colonel’s grandson, 1709 - 1797), built a new house in the grounds which he renamed Sopwell Hall, near Cloughjordan in Co Tipperary, after the family home in Hertfordshire. Another residence was Sadleir’s Wells just outside the town of Tipperary, about which Lewis writes in 1838 “the residence of W Sadleir Esq., a handsome house in a fine demesne, the grounds and gardens of which are tastefully laid out”.

Our branch of the family stems from the great-great-grandson of Colonel Thomas. He was Thomas (1753 - 1815), a barrister who inherited Castletown, one of the original Irish grants. He married twice and fathered six sons and seven daughters. His second son was Francis, a clergyman and the grandfather of our Flora Mary.

The Reverend Francis, DD, of Mullagh, King’s Co, born 3rd May 1775, became Provost of Trinity College in Dublin and as such had many other titles as an educator. In 1801 he married Letitia Abigail Grave (1769 - 1850), third daughter of William Grave of Ballynagar, King’s Country. Flora’s grandfather Francis died on 14th December 1851 leaving four sons and a daughter. The second son was Flora’s father, Francis Ralph.

Francis Ralph, born 22nd April 1806, married Flora Harriet McVeagh, daughter of Ferdinand McVeagh of Drewstown, Kells, on 15th September 1835; her mother was Charlotte Brooke, daughter of Henry Brooke of Brooke Lodge, Co Kildare; she died in 1883 and Ferdinand McVeagh died in 1886. Francis Ralph was a Doctor of Divinity (Dublin) but he must have started preaching late because it was not until the 1840’s that he was the last curate of Killallion Church in the Parish of Delvin which was his first appointment; he then became curate of Paynestown Church in the Deanery of Slane in 1850, and two years later, in 1852 he became Rector of Rodanstown where he remained until 1870. In 1861, the year of the marriage, Henderson’s Post Office Guide gives his address as The Rectory, Rodanstown, and named his curate Henry Burrowes. Almost a century earlier, from 1755 to 1776, the Rector of Rodanstown was George Winter Bomford’s great-great-uncle. According to the 1878 edition of “The Landowners of Ireland”, the Rev Francis was that year living in London at Hyde Park, and leased over 500 acres in Co Meath; Griffith’s Valuation of 1854 places much of this 500 acres in the Parish of Moynalty.

Flora’s mother, Flora Harriet, died 14th January 1874, and her father, Francis Ralph, died 21st April 1875. They had four sons and eight daughters including Flora. A deed of 1893 (Vol 30, No 96) gives further information about the children, which is not included in Burke and is included now. This deed was the repayment of £13,000 by George Joseph McVeagh of Drewstown (first cousin to Flora) on a mortgage of Rodanstown and Dirpatrick, Flora received a quarter share.
Flora’s Brothers and Sisters

1. Charlotte Letitia Sadleir born c1837 married in 1860 Captain Thomas Quin of the 6th Punjab Rifles whose father served in India as a Lancer. No doubt Charlotte spent much of her married life in India, but by 1893 she was a widow living in London.

2. Flora Mary McVeagh Sadleir born in 1839 and married George Winter Bomford

3. Letitia Margery Gordon Sadleir born c1840 and died unmarried in 1909. In 1893 she was living in Queen Anne’s Gate, London.


5. Josephine Gertrude Sadleir born c1842, did not marry. She was living in London in 1882 and in 1893 with her brother in New Brunswick.

6. Francis Digby Henry Wynch Sadleir born 1843 and died unmarried in 1887, aged 44. In 1882 he was living in London.

7. Frances Sadleir born c 1844 and died unmarried. She does not figure in the 1893 deed so may have died before then.

8. Anne Sadleir born c1846 and died unmarried in 1871

9. Edith Sadleir born c1848 and died unmarried in 1871

10. Isabella Beatice Sadleir born c1850, was unmarried in 1893 and living in Notting Hill, London.

11. William Henry Brooke Sadleir born 1851 and emigrated to New Brunswick in Canada before 1874. He married out there and had three boys and a girl. In 1893 his address was 66 Pitt Street, New Brunswick, Canada.

12. Thomas Otway Sadleir born in 1853 and emigrated to San Francisco where he died unmarried in 1907, the year after the destructive earthquake. In 1893 he was living with his brother in New Brunswick

Thus the only Sadleir nephews and nieces were living in New Brunswick.

Flora married George Winter Bomford on 17th April 1861, and she was probably married from her home at the Rectory of Rodanstown by her father, the Rector, assisted by his curate Henry Burrowes. At the time of the wedding both lots of parents were alive, but the only grand-parents alive were those of Flora’s mother, Charlotte and Ferdinand McVeagh of Drewstown; of the brothers and sisters there were eight Bomfords, the youngest being aged four, and eleven Sadleirs, the youngest also being about eight.

It is not known where they went after the wedding but it is assumed that George Winter continued as a barrister, perhaps at Lincoln’s Inn in London. In a deed of 1867 his address was 22 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, London, and he is recorded in that deed as a ‘Barrister-at-Law’.

They had two children, both probably born in London.

Arbella Anne, known as ‘Nellie’, was born on 13th June 1862, and George Sadleir Bomford was born on 1st December 1864.

30.2.4 The Australian Visit

The friction between George and his son may have continued as this letter from Francis Sadleir to George Bomford dated 6th April 1866 might imply.

“From 14 Dawson Street. My dear Sir, I received your letter last night, too late for yesterday’s post. I will take a proper opportunity of conveying your messages with compliments to Mrs. Sadleir. I regret that I was too hasty in laying your former letter before her, as she was far from well at the time in either body or mind, and is at present suffering from derangement of her nervous system, and appears to have little or no control over herself.

I can never forget your perfectly candid, honourable and generous disposition evinced at the meeting I had the pleasure of having with you, to which you allude. If I outlive my wife, or ever have the power, which at present I have not, I will to the utmost of my power, fulfil any promises that either Mrs Sadleir or myself have made. For Flora’s and George’s interest and for my peace and quiet, and therefore the prolonging of my life, the quieter mothers are kept the better. Please to consider this as private and confidential, and with my best compliments and regards to Mrs Bomford and the rest of ...(looks like ‘your girls’) ...

I am my dear sir, most faithfully yours Francis Sadleir DD.”

There is probably insufficient evidence to assume that George had written concerning George Winter and Flora, but whatever was in George’s first letter had upset Mrs Sadleir. It may have been, as George Lyndon writes, that George Winter “married Miss Sadleir, leading her to believe, so I have always been told, that he was heir to all the entailed property which was free of all charges”, and that
friction had come about from this pretence. Alternatively it could have been about the impending visit to Australia, a matter that would undoubtedly upset a mother.

George Lyndon’s letter continues, - “My uncle took his young family to Australia and deserted them there. He spent the last years of his life on Valentia Island (in Co Kerry) and tried to become a Nationalist Member of Parliament.” GLB gave no opinion about his uncle becoming a Nationalist because it was common knowledge that such a thing was unthinkable by the vast majority of landowners and the result could only cause further estrangement from his parents and family.

It is not known when the Australian visit took place but it was probably in the late 1860’s. Concerning the “desertion” in Australia, Brigadier Guy Bomford, who knew Flora in later life, never heard Flora complaining of this, so it is doubtful if the word ‘desertion’ had the same meaning as it has now.

Another reason for placing the Australian visit in the late 1860’s was the following loan of £1,000, which may have been for expenses.

30.2.5 Indenture concerning £1,000 loan 17th May 1867

Between 1. George Winter Bomford of 22 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury Square, London, Barrister-at-Law
2. George Bomford of Oakley Park, Kells.
3. Arbella Bomford, wife of George Bomford.
4. John Thomas Hinds of 28 Westmoreland St, Dublin, solicitor.

Reciting that 1. That Arbella Bomford has made advances out of her own money to George Winter Bomford amounting to £1,000.
2. That according to the marriage settlement of 17th April 1861 of George Winter Bomford and Flora Mary McVeigh Sadleir, a maximum of £1,000 could be raised on the lands placed in trust (Drumargan etc).

Now therefore George Winter Bomford promises to mortgage the lands, after his father’s death, to John Thomas Hinds for £1,000.

Witnessed by George G Radcliff, (died 1905) Manager of the Union Bank in Kells

(1867, Book 18, No 117)

This debt was still outstanding to Arbella in 1898 and was one of the many items that John Francis had to settle, and of course the mortgage never took place because George Winter died before his father.

Other amounts of money were borrowed by George Winter about this time; His father George paid the interest for which there are receipts covering the year 1874 - 1875. Firstly there was a loan from Charles Reilly, the Oakley park steward, of £100 at 5% interest; the other was a loan of £70 at 5% interest from Catherine Kelly who signed the receipt with a cross, ‘her mark’. These receipts are an added reason for the Australian visit being about this time, but they also show chronic money shortage since George Winter had to borrow from the local people.

In October 1882 a deed concerning the change of trustees of the marriage settlement was registered (1882, Vol 36, No 235). The two original trustees had died, Ferdinand Francis Sadleir in 1870 and Francis Ralph Sadleir in 1875. The new trustees were Robert Laurence Bomford, George Winter’s younger brother of Oakley Park, and Francis Digby Henry Wynch Sadleir, Flora’s younger brother of 18 Southampton Street, Bloomsbury, London; the next house but one to that of George Winter in 1867. This deed adds to the Sadleir information in Burke; Josephine Sadleir was “a spinster of Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, London,” and Francis Digby Sadleir’s full name is recorded.

George Winter’s whole family had returned from Australia by 1882, he was living at No 9 Holles Street in Dublin, and Flora at No 7 Cambridge Terrace with her sister in London. One imagines that it was around this date that George Winter was trying to become a Nationalist M.P., hence the apparent separation, or perhaps there really was a separation after he had “deserted” Flora in Australia.

30.2.6 Death of George Winter Bomford 22nd June 1884

George Winter died two years before his father on 22nd June 1884, aged 49. His will of 2nd November 1878 is in the Public Record Office, it reads

“This is my last will and testament. I hereby revoke all other testamentary writings. I appoint my mother, Arbella Bomford, to be sole executor and trustee of this my will. I appoint my wife, Flora Mary McVeagh Bomford, her uncle Ferdinand McVeagh of Drewstown and John Radcliff Battersby of Lower Leeson Street, Dublin, to be guardians of my children Arbella Anne Bomford and George Sadleir Bomford during their minority, both of their persons and property. As to my property of which I may die
possessed whatsoever and whosesoever it may be, I leave the same after the payment of my just debts to my mother aforesaid, as witness my hand this 2nd day of November 1878.

Signed Geo Winter Bomford
Witnessed Fanny Magee
Robert Laurence Bomford.”

“Probate granted 22nd July 1884 to the will of George Winter Bomford, late of 9 Holles Street, Dublin, Esq., who died on or about 22nd day of June 1884, to Arbella Bomford of Oakley Park, Kells, with a gross value of estate of £ 1,167.19.6.”

30.2.7 George Winter Bomford’s Family

George Winter died leaving his mother; aged 74, as his sole executor and this shows the state of estrangement with the rest of the family more than anything else. Indeed George Warren Bomford (1900 - 1978) wrote that he was disinherited by his father, but this could not have come about legally since the entailed estate of Drumlargan, or at least most of it, passed to his son and later to his daughter.

At his death Flora was 45, their daughter Arbella Anne was just 22 and their son was 20.

George Sadleir Bomford was soon to join the Army. He became a Captain in the Prince Of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment. Probably whilst still in the Army he died on 1st December 1894 on his 30th birthday. His dates come from Burke’s Irish Family Records and neither have been corroborated elsewhere; it may be that they are correct, but it is a strange coincidence that he should die on his birthday.

It is not known where the family were living between George Winter’s death in 1884 and 1891, perhaps at Holles Street off Merrion Square in Dublin; however the Dublin Directories for the years 1891 to 1899 place both mother and daughter at No 50 North Great George’s Street in a house valued at £58 near the north end of O’Connell Street, then called: Sackville Street. They were there in the only two deeds concerning the daughter Arbella Anne, nicknamed ‘Nellie’.

1. Dated 3rd August 1901, in which Drumlargan and Knockstown were mortgaged with her consent by the trustees Canon John Heally and Doctor Thomas MacDowell to raise £3,300. The grantee was Charles Pepper of Ballygarth Castle, Julianstown Co. Meath, Colonel of the Meath Militia. (1901, Vol 64, No 65). The trustees were those of George and Arbella’s marriage settlement of 1832; the original trustees had died and Canon John Heelly had been made one in 1890 and Doctor Mac Dowell had been appointed during the previous month, July 1901, (see 32.7.1, No 8). One assumes that this large amount was raised to pay the settlement to George and Arbella’s children, Nellie’s uncles and aunts, but this is discussed at the end of Chapter 32.

2. Dated 12th February 1903 in which Arbella Anne sold one statute acre of Drumlargan for £33 to the Trim Rural District Council. This was witnessed by Flora M. Bomford, widow. (1903, Vol 24, No 72)

As a side issue there is a nice story about the Pepper family. At the time of Cromwell the Pepper family was living in a tall tower-house, probably Ballygarth Castle, but since they were Roman Catholics their land had been confiscated and allotted to one of Cromwell’s officers. This officer with the deeds in his pocket had been riding the roads for many days looking for his new estate, and tired and weary he stumbled on the Pepper house late at night. The soldier was politely entertained but, although he was talkative about his search, the Pepper family did not admit that he was staying in the very house he was looking for. In the morning he found his horse unable to continue so he offered the deeds in exchange for a fine white horse belonging to the Peppers. The swap was made and the Peppers were able to retain their lands. For many years they always kept a white horse.

At some later date Flora bought a house in England at Baldock, Hertfordshire, between London and Cambridge. According to Guy Bomford, whose mother and elder sister used to visit them, Flora and her daughter ‘Nellie’ lived there comfortably.

Flora lived to the ripe old age of 95. She died on 16th January 1935. Her unmarried daughter lived on at Baldock and died there aged 80 on 17th September 1942.

30.2.8 Summary of George Winter Bomford and his Family

George Winter Bomford, eldest son of George Bomford of Oakley Park, born in Dublin 12th November 1834; educated Trinity College, called to the Bar of Lincolns Inn. He married 17th April 1861 Flora Mary McVeagh Sadleir (born 1839), 2nd daughter of Rev Francis Ralph Sadleir, DD, of Mullagh, King’s County, (1806-75), Rector of Rodanstown, and Flora Harriett McVeagh (died 1874). He died 22nd June 1884 and she died 16th January 1935 at Baldock, Hertfordshire. They had two children –

1. Arbella Anne (‘Nellie’) Bomford of Drumlargan, born 13th June 1862 and died unmarried at Baldock.
on 17th September 1942.
2. George Sadleir Bomford of Drumlargan, born 1st December 1864, Captain in Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment, died unmarried 1st December 1894.

30.3 John Francis Bomford, His Early Life 1837 - 1911

John Francis was the second son and the fourth child of George and Arbella. He was the first of the children to be born at Oakley Park, on 22nd December 1837, and on the 4th March 1838 he was baptised at Agher Church by the Rector, John Kellet.

There is no record of his schooling, and, since he did not go to Trinity, one is left wondering what he did between his school days and 1861 when he started farming in earnest; it is possible that he did some type of training to gain experience not only in farming but to enable him to become a Land Commissioner. One reason for this supposition is that he was 24 when he inherited Clonfad and it would have been more normal for this to happen when he came of age; the implication is that he was otherwise engaged at the age of 21.

In contrast with his elder brother he and his father got on well together and it was John Francis who was groomed to inherit George’s land. Initially he lived at Oakley Park leading the leisurely life of a young man in the country, hunting his father’s pack of hounds, shooting, and so on. However in 1861 he started work in earnest; that year he took over Clonfad and Rattin, leased part of Oakley Park and probably supervised the land improvements there and the building of the new yard; also small parcels of Baltrasna and Knockstown were in his name. Gradually he became more involved and probably his father’s land agent sometime before Arthur Reynell. George’s previous one died in 1877.

Meanwhile in 1866, on 29th November, he married Elinor Bolton. He was then aged 29 and Elinor was three years younger. Elinor’s father was Lyndon Henry Bolton (1801-1869), a younger brother of Richard Bolton (1797 - 1868) who in 1833 married Jemima Letitia Bomford (c1805-1878) a daughter of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown (21.7.3). So Richard Bolton was Elinor’s uncle and his wife Jemima was John Francis’ second cousin. The early Bolton family history will be found in paragraph 21.7.

Lyndon Henry Bolton, Elinor’s father, married Anna Maria Bourne on 26th January 1826. They had eight children, six boys and two girls, and Elinor was the seventh child and the elder of the two girls. When Elinor was 21 her father became Rector of Drumcondra, Co Meath, about 12 miles northeast of Kells. It is likely that their boys had left home and that only the two daughters, Elinor and Jane, went to live in the Rectory at Drumcondra with their parents from 1861. Lyndon died aged 68 when he was still the incumbent of Drumcondra, on 22nd November 1869; after his death Anna Maria lived at No 1 Grovesnor Terrace in Monkstown and then, at some later date, she went to live with Elinor and John Francis at Drumlargan, and she died there on 14th May 1886 when she was in her 80’s.

30.3.1 Marriage of John Francis Bomford and Elinor Jane Bolton 29th November 1866

Marriage Settlement

Between
1. George Bomford of Oakley Park
2. John Francis Bomford of Oakley Park (left), 2nd son of George Bomford.
5. Nathaniel Francis Preston of Swainstown, Co Meath, (nephew of John Francis’ uncle Samuel Bomford, his grandmother was Frances Rose Winter (Bomford) a daughter of Trevor Bomford), and Abraham Irwin Bolton, Assistant. Surgeon of Her Majesty’s Royal Navy (brother of Elinor).
Reciting

1. That George Bomford possesses in fee simple the lands of Laurencetown or Oakley Park containing 466 plantation acres (755 statute, but actually 741) in the Barony of Upper Kells, Baltrasna or Baltrasnagh or Baltrasney being part of the townland of Galtrim containing 293 plantation acres (475 statute) situated in the Parishes of Culmullin and Kilmore. Baltrasna was conveyed to George Bomford by deed dated 12th June 1837 in which there is a list of tenants (24.7.5). Cloodeacagh or Cloodegagagh or Cludochatt, commonly called Clude in the Barony of Ardee. (Drumlargan etc being entailed was not included in the marriage settlement).

2. That Clonfad containing 721 plantation acres (1168 statute, so must include Rattin) was made over to John Francis Bomford on 4 Feb 1861 and entailed to the male heirs of John Francis Bomford, on payment of £700 (29.7.2).

3. That the entail was removed on 19th April 1865 (29.7.2)

4. That Clonfad was mortgaged on 20th April 1865 for £3,000 to Robert Neville (29.9).

5. That on 28th November 1866 (the previous day) Anna Maria Bolton, wife of Lyndon Henry Bolton, settled £500 on her daughter, Elinor Jane Bolton. Also that Lyndon Henry Bolton settled 5/12 of £6,150.10.9 being a portion of the trust fund from his marriage settlement of 25th January 1826 (just over £2,560).

Now George Bomford gives the following land to the trustees, Party 5, Laurencetown or Oakley Park, Baltrasna, Clude, and Clonfad, plus the money mentioned above.

(1866, Book 35, No 84)

The purpose of the trust is not mentioned, but one can assume that the trustees had to raise from the land a set amount of money for the children of the marriage.

Since the settlement is the same date as the wedding, it is safe to assume that all parties to the settlement were present at the ceremony, which may have taken place from the Rectory at Drumcondra with Elinor’s father marrying them. In addition John Francis’ brothers and sisters would have attended with the exception of George Winter and his family who were in London; they were

Anne, the eldest daughter aged 33,
Arbella Anna aged 27 and her husband George Ruxton aged 29; they were living just the other side of Ardee at Rahanna and since he was a party to the settlement almost certainly they were present.

Samuel Stephen aged 25 was probably in India.
Elizabeth aged 23.
Victoria Adela aged 17.
Margaret aged 11.
Robert Laurence aged 9 were all at Oakley Park.

Two of Elinor’s brothers attended her marriage, as they were party to the settlement; they were Richard with his wife and two young daughters, and Abraham the Royal Navy surgeon who was probably still a bachelor. Hallowes Henry may have been in New Zealand, but her eldest brother Lyndon may have been there with his wife and young son aged 6. Elinor’s sister Jane Mary Anne was married that same year though since we do not know which month we cannot be certain if she was present.

These younger Boltons were not included in 21.7.3 and so are included now together with their children. Many of these Bolton cousins kept in touch with the Bomfords and will re-occur in later chapters.

30.3.2 Elinor Bolton’s Brothers and Sister, and their Families.

1. Lyndon Bolton eldest son of Rev Lyndon Henry Bolton and his wife Anna Maria (Bourne), born 20th November 1826 in Dublin, married 15th December 1858 and died 4th April 1900 at Drumlargan, his sister Elinor’s house. He inherited Burren and Cooleague, Co Cavan, his sister Elinor’s house. He inherited Burren and Cooleague, Co Cavan, from his father in 1869. His wife was Elizabeth Henrietta, a daughter of Edward Creed of Ballyclough House, Co Cork; she was born on 12th October 1821 and died 17th December 1893 at Ealing in England. They had one son

a. Lyndon Bolton of Burren and Cooleague, MA sometime in the Patent Office in London; born 31st May 1860, married 6th June 1895 and died 8th April 1957 having had four children

i. Lyndon Bolton, Brigadier, DSO 1942 and Bar 1945, DL born 25th May 1899, educated at Bedford and R.M.A. Woolwich, married 17th March 1934. He rode in the Olympics and was trainer of the British Olympic Equestrian team at the Tokyo Olympics. His wife is Elizabeth Inglis, daughter of John Cran of Kirkton, Bunchrew, Inverness. They were both alive in 1983 and had a son, Lyndon Bolton and three grandchildren, Lyndon, William and Timothy.
iii. Rachel Gertrude Bolton born 16th July 1902, married 19th April 1928 and died 21st April 1941. Her husband was Leslie Frederick Ryley who was living in 1983. They had a son, Patrick, and three daughters, Lesley Mary, Jane Ann and Jennifer, all of whom are married and there are eleven grandchildren.

2. Walter Hooke Bolton born on 22nd January 1828, educated at Trinity in Dublin in 1844, and died unmarried in East Africa on 23rd April 1855 aged 27.

3. Richard Knott Bolton, Reverend, BA 1861 TCD, of Carrickrmines, Co Dublin; Rector of Fenny Bently, Ashbourne, Derbyshire born 1st May 1830, married 17th April 1856 and died 11th April 1909. Elinor’s marriage settlement places him as Rector of Newbold-cum-Dunstan in 1866. His wife was Josephine Ruth Susanne, daughter of Rev James Taylor, the Vicar of St John’s at Newcastle-on-Tyne; she was born in 1832 and died 11th June 1931 aged 99 having had two daughters and a son.
   a. Evelyn Mary Bolton (‘Bird’), born 1858, married 3rd February 1881 and died 21st September 1951. Her husband was Edmund Wilson Barnes, JP, MA, of Gladwell Hall, Derbyshire, only son of Edmund Barnes of Ashgate House, Chesterfield, who died 2nd June 1920. They had two sons and a daughter
      i. Rev Richard Barnes
      ii. Edmund killed in action in World War I
      iii. Marjorie (‘Daw’) Barnes
   c. Josephine Ann (Fye) Bolton, born 1864, married 20th May 1886 and died 4th October 1947. Her husband was Rev Ernest Edwin Morris, MA, of Bakewell in Derbyshire in 1888, and became vicar of Ashbourne, Derbyshire; second son of Henry Morris a solicitor of Swan Hill Court, Shrewsbury, and Mary Meeson (1819 - 1895). He died 7th July 1924 and they had six children.
      i. Evelyn Mary Morris born 30th September 1887 became a deaconess and died c1980.
      ii. Lyndon Henry Morris born 1889, served in World War I as a Major, then emigrated to USA and became a fruit farmer in Florida. However he lost everything in this venture so returned to England and was employed as a prison officer. He rose to become Chief Constable of Devon and at the time of his death in 1946 he was Governor of Dartmoor Prison. Around 1924 he married Phyllis and they had three children
         1. Patrick born deaf and dumb; he went to Florida and, died in the late 1960’s.
         2. Patricia is alive (1992). She married and went to Rhodesia.
         3. Pamela is also alive. She married Peter Holden, a land agent in Totness in Devon.
      iii. Noel Meeson Morris born 19th January 1892 at Bakewell and after service in World War I, went to India where he became Secretary of the Bombay Port Trust. On 19th October 1930 he married Jessie (born 18th May 1911) daughter of William Bird an engineer who at one time worked on pipelines in Egypt and who died of diabetes and was buried at sea in his 50’s. During World War II Noel served with Hodgson’s Horse being demobilised as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1945 they bought and settled at Dowdstown, Ardee in Co Louth. Noel died in 1977 at Copper Close, Cheltenham, and Jessie finally settled in a house at Knockbridge near Dowdstown. They had three children
         1. Michael Edwin Morris of Dowdstown, born 3rd February 1932 and, whilst serving with the Royal Navy, married on 18th December 1965 Evelyn (born 19th March 1929) daughter of William George Illing of Buckinghamshire. Michael gave up farming as the dust affected his lungs and Dowdstown was sold in 1998. Bohernamoe, just outside Ardee was bought. Michael died on 23rd March 2003. There were no children.
         2. Rachel Morris Rachel Morris, born 3rd February 1935, and married in 1960 Doctor Roderick Ingles of Penicuik south of Edinburgh. They emigrated to South Africa and had four children before the marriage was dissolved in 1986.
            b. Amanda, born 1963, who is a doctor,
            c. Ian who is married and has a son, Joshua
            d. Alexander who is a doctor.
         3. Richard Morris born October 1944, and married in 1967 Anne McGeough. In 1995 he had a heavy trucking business and lived near Dundalk with their five children;
            a. Simone born 1968,
            b. Lyndon born 1971,
iv. Ruth Zephine Morris; her fiancée was killed in action during World War I and so died unmarried.

v. Ernest Bottton Morris married Madelaine. They are both dead but had a daughter Joy who is married.

vi. Francis St Vincent Morris born late 1890’s, joined the RFC in World War I and was killed in action in 1917.

4. Abraham Irwin Bolton, Doctor (MD) born 28th March 1832 in Dublin and educated at TCD, BA 1860, and MA 1861. He was surgeon in the Royal Navy in 1866 (see above marriage settlement), but later settled as a vice-consul at Constanta (Kustenjie), the chief sea port of Roumania; he died there on 25th May 1909. Abraham married three times, Firstly, c1861, to Frances Geraldine Orpen, second daughter of Doctor Thomas Hungerford Orpen; they had a son and a daughter who both emigrated to the USA.

Secondly, c1865, to an Italian lady. They had four children who all died c 1875, and

Thirdly, c1870, to a Roumanian lady. They had two sons and a daughter who was born on 14th January 1872 at Constanta. Abraham third wife, the Roumanian one, died of the plague c1875 in Constanta, together with one of her sons and all four children of his second wife, the Italian one. The remaining son, possibly named Lyndon, joined the Roumanian Army and later went to live with his sister at Odessa in the Ukraine, at that time the second city of Russia. There both were murdered in 1917 at the start of the Russian revolution.

5. Hallowes Henry Bolton born 13th June 1833 and died unmarried in Auckland, New Zealand, on 28th July 1875, aged 42.


7. Elinor Jane Bolton, born 6th May 1840, the eldest daughter, would have been 26 when she married John Francis Bomford.

8. Jane Mary Anne Bolton born on 11th May 1842 and married the same year as her sister Elinor in 1866; she died in April 1922. Her husband was Lieutenant-Colonel William Fleming of the 95th Regiment, the (King’s Own Royal Rifle Regt), of Mayfield, Ashbourne in Derbyshire. He died on 14th December 1917. They had an only daughter,

a. Anna Catherine Fleming born 1867, and married 20th October 1891 John (Jack) Christopher Bagot of Ballyturin House, Gort, Co Galway, JP, who was born 20th October 1856, third son of John Lloyd Neville Bagot (1814 - 1890) of Ballymoe Castle, Co Galway, who was involved with Samuel Bomford over the Preston mortgage (26.4). Jack’s cousin, Frances, married General Glubb and their only child was ‘Glubb Pasha’, the British Commander of the Arab Legion from 1939 to 1956. Ballyturin House on Lough Cutra came to Jack from his mother’s family, the Kirwans, it is now a ruin. Jack Bagot died 27th April 1935. But Anna, known to us as ‘Aunt Ann’ lived on until 17th January 1963; when she came to Dublin she used to stay at the Standard Hotel where we used to be summoned to tea with her, very grand affairs. She died died in London aged 96 and was buried at Gresford Church near Wrexham, North Wales. They had two daughters

i. Mary (Molly) Eileen Lilian Bagot born 20th October 1896, married 21st April 1925 Brigadier James Gerald Bruxner-Randall, CBE, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, son of Colonel Richard George Bruxner-Randall of Thurlaston Holt, Hinckley, Leicestershire. The marriage was dissolved in 1947 after they had three children.

1. Peter Dennis Bruxner-Randall born 25th September 1927, Captain Royal Welsh Fusiliers and now a solicitor, married October 1957 June Caithness of Jamaica. They have three children,

   a. Belinda born March 1955,
   b. Annabel born 1957 and

2. Patricia Ann Bruxner-Randall born 26th August 1930 and married April 1955 Brian Mayhew of Kemmerton House, Tetbury, Gloucestershire. They have a daughter Alexandra Mayhew born April 1957.


ii. Kathleen Anna Bagot born 21st January 1900 and on 26th June 1923 married Kenneth Haldane Watts, son of William Arthur Watts of West Garth, St Ives, Cornwall. He died on 13th August 1953.
George and his family

The Bagot family of Kilcoursey, King’s County, previously appeared in 16.4 in connection with the North family. There were three Bagot-North marriages according to the Betham will extracts but only one is recorded in Burke. However the two families, Bagot and North-Bomford, were undoubtedly related fairly closely around 1800 but by now rather more tenuously.


30.3.3 The Move to Drumlargan

The year after the wedding John Francis and Elinor had their first of ten children and it is thought that by 1870 they had moved out of Oakley Park into the newly restored Drumlargan House. They were the only Bomfords to live in Drumlargan House and they stayed there for 30 years, so all their children were brought up there. Elinor’s mother, Anna Maria Bolton, lived with them after her husband died in 1869 and she died at Drumlargan in May 1886. Later her eldest brother (Lyndon) also lived there with them and died there in April 1900.

Meanwhile John Francis continued farming but he also started to work for the Land Commission; the first record of this was in 1884 when he was termed a ‘Sub-Commissioner under the Land Court’, but he must have started with the Land Commission earlier. In addition he was agent for Meath for the National Assurance Company of Ireland; the first record of this was in 1874 but, again, he had probably been working for them for some years. According to Thorn’s Directory he became a Justice of the Peace in 1872 and remained one until his death.

30.3.4 A Wild Oat?

When John Francis was still a teenager and before his marriage, he had a liaison with a local girl. Her name was Annie Glennon.

There is no tenant farmer named Glennon on Oakley Park but there is one on Clonfad named Thomas Glennon. Clonfad is too far from Oakley Park for a liaison to develop, but it was not an uncommon name and there may have been a Glennon family nearby, perhaps in one of the Soldier’s Homes.

In about 1858 Annie Glennon gave birth to an illegitimate daughter at Oakley Park and she was christened Elizabeth Mary Bomford. The baby girl grew up on the estate and eventually went to a Kells convent school; but she never did learn to write as she made her mark ‘X’ on the church marriage register and other records.

Meanwhile Thomas Fisher Allan, son of James Allan, cabinet maker and his wife Jane Crewsly, was born in 1852 and was to become a coachbuilder living in Christchurch, New Zealand. When he was on a world tour in 1876/77 he met Elizabeth Mary in Ireland. It sounds as though they fell in love and the marriage took place at a Catholic Church in Christchurch on 14th November 1880. Elizabeth had to promise to bring up her children as Catholics. He was about 28 and Elizabeth about 22.

John Francis Bomford gave her a farewell present of £36 which probably covered the fare to New Zealand. She died in Nelson on 9 June 1917 there were children.

It was Elizabeth’s great-grand-daughter who produced the above information.

We must leave John Francis and his family for the time being, in order to bring up to date the remaining children of George and Arbella. Chapter 33 introduces his children.

30.4 Arbella Anna Bomford (Mrs Ruxton) 1839 - 1910

George and Arbella’s third child was born 17th November 1836 christened Arbella Anna, but she died in infancy three months later on 24th February 1837 and was buried in Agher Churchyard (25.1).

On 19th August 1839 their fifth child and third daughter was born at Agher and christened there with the same name, Arbella Anna, on 29th Sept 1839 by the Rector, John Kellet. The family returned to Oakley Park where Arbella Anna was brought up until her marriage when she was just 24. She married George William Ruxton according to Burke on 20th August 1865 but the marriage settlement is dated 20th August 1863 and it is assumed that 1865 is a clerical error for 1863.

30.4.1 Marriage Settlement 20th August 1863

Between

1. George Ruxton of Rahanna, Co Louth, formerly a major in the Army, and his eldest son George William Ruxton of Rahanna.
2. George Bomford of Oakley Park, and his daughter Arbella Anna Bomford, one of the younger children by his wife Arbella Bomford.

Whereas
1. Samuel FitzHerbert, formerly Samuel Ruxton, late of Swinnerton, Co Meath (uncle of George Ruxton), in his will dated 20th January 1826 bequeathed to the trustees Rev William Lee and Arthur Barlow the sum of £33,000. This sum to be invested and the interest paid to his three (youngest) nephews, Charles, George, and Arthur Ruxton. Out of this sum £11,000 is the portion of George Ruxton.
2. On 17th September 1835 George Ruxton married Mary O’Dell and set aside the interest of his £ 11,000 for an annuity for his wife Mary and their children.
3. They had children, an eldest son and five others (none named), and Mary Ruxton (his wife) is still alive.

Now George Ruxton sets aside £3,000 for his son George William Ruxton.

Whereas
4. George Bomford, under the terms of his marriage settlement of 21st July 1832, grants £1,500 to Arbella Anna Bomford.

Now the £3,000 and the £1,500 are made over to the trustees John Francis Bomford and William Ruxton, for Arbella Anna and her children when they reach the age of 21 or on their marriage whichever comes earlier.

Signed
George Ruxton, George Wm Ruxton, Geo Bomford, Arbella A Bomford, John F Bomford, William Ruxton.

Witnessed
Samuel R Bomford, and John Thomas Hinds

(1863 Book 29 No 97 & 99)

Enclosed with this document are two letters dated 1901. The first is to John F Bomford of the Land Commission from Mr. Moore Lane who points out that the trustee William Ruxton has died and that Mrs Ruxton (Arbella) would like to appoint Mr John Faxall as the new trustee. In the other letter John Francis agrees provided Mr J Clarke approves the appointment. As will be seen later by 1901 John Francis and his sister Arbella were hardly on speaking terms and one imagines that all communications were through their lawyers, such as Lane and Clarke.

30.4.2 The Ruxton Family

Captain John Ruxton of Ardee received grants of land in Co Louth and Co Cavan from King Charles II. His great grandson John Ruxton married Letitia who was the sole heir to her brother, William FitzHerbert of Black Castle, Navan. The FitzHerbert family was a junior branch of that of Lord Stafford who was beheaded by Charles II in 1680 for alleged complicity in the ‘Popish Plot’; they had settled in Shercock, Co Cavan. With these two estates John Ruxton was able to leave, when he died in 1785, all the Ruxton estates to his eldest son, William who settled at Ardee House, and split the FitzHerbert estate between his other two sons, John of Black Castle, and Samuel of Swinnerton, Co Meath, provided they took the surname FitzHerbert.

John Ruxton and his father and his eldest son were all members of the Irish Parliament for Ardee. At the Act of Union the two Ardee Members of Parliament were John’s eldest son William, and one of his two cousins, Charles Ruxton or William Parkinson Ruxton of Red House, Ardee; both of these cousins were at some time MP’s. The compensation for the two Ardee members was £15,000; half of this sum went to William and the remainder was shared between Charles and William Parkinson Ruxton.

William Ruxton of Ardee House married and had eight sons and four daughters who were the aunts and uncles of George William and Arbella Anna Bomford, but at the time of the wedding only seven were alive.

1. John FitzHerbert Ruxton, the eldest son, of Ardee House and Shercock, High Sheriff of Louth (1823) and Cavan (1824). His wife was Anne Elizabeth, a daughter of Nicholas Coddington of Old Bridge and Letitia a daughter of Gaynor Barry of Beau, Co Dublin. Both Nicholas Coddington and Gaynor Barry have appeared in the deeds (15.13.7). John Ruxton died in 1826 leaving his wife to bring up the four children who were all minors -
   a. William Ruxton was born in 1823 and educated at Oriel College, Oxford. He inherited 2,262 acres, became JP and DL and High Sheriff (1848) in Co Louth, and was a JP in Co Cavan. He lived at Ardee House with his wife Caroline (Vernon) whom he married in 1854 and their seven children. He died in 1895 and was one of the trustees of the above marriage settlement.
   b. John Ruxton died unmarried in 1879
   c. Anna Frances Ruxton
   d. Elizabeth Henrietta Ruxton married Captain Richard Olpherts, the son of Rev Richard Olpherts Rector of Charlestown, in 1849.
5. Clarges Ruxton (fifth son) inherited Rahanna. He married Mary Anne, only daughter of Sir Robert Barnewall, 8th Baronet of Crickstown, but they had no children and Rahanna passed to his younger brother, the 7th son.

7. George Ruxton of Rahanna, JP, DL, High Sheriff of Louth 1851, a Major in the Army born 1804, married 17th September 1835 and died 18th May 1869. His wife was Mary, a daughter of the Hon William Frankland O’Dell, Colonial Secretary to New Brunswick. They had seven children, our George William Ruxton and five other sons and a daughter about whom there is no information.
   a. George William Ruxton, born 1837 in Co Monaghan and educated at Trinity (BA 1858). He became a civil engineer and was a JP. At the time of his marriage to Arbella Anna Bomford he was 26, his father was 59 and his mother was alive.

1. The eldest daughter Isabella married in 1809 Rev Townley Filgate, the fourth son of William Filgate of Lissreny and the Rector of Charlestown. Charlestown is north of Ardee and of Drumcondra Parish where Lyndon Bolton was Rector.

Other uncles and aunts were Henry, William, Roger, Charles, Arthur, Anne, Helena, and Letitia, of whom Roger, Helena and Letitia were certainly dead in 1863.

30.4.3 The Ruxton Houses

Ardee House, the senior Ruxton house, was built in the late 1700’s of red brick with three storeys, probably by William Ruxton. It passed to his eldest son John and in 1838 Lewis reports that it was in the hands of John’s wife Anne Elizabeth and that it had a “handsome demesne attached to it”. Their eldest son William lived there until his death in 1895 after which it was sold. It is now a hospital and was probably the hospital in which Victoria Adela Bomford (30.8) died.

Red House, just north of Ardee, was built in the late 1700’s for the Parkinson family. William Parkinson Ruxton, whose mother was Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Robert Parkinson, inherited it. In 1838 Lewis reports, “a handsome demesne was attached” to it and that William Parkinson Ruxton then occupied it; in 1861 Henderson reports that Mrs Anne Parkinson Ruxton, William’s wife, occupied it. They left it to their nephew Chichester Fortescue, a politician who became in 1874 the first, and last, Lord Carlingford. Lord Carlingford lived at Ravensdale Park, Dundalk, and Red House was leased to a Ruxton relative Robert Olpherts, (see mortgage of 1885 below), son of Captain Richard Olpherts. The house remains a private residence.

Rahanna was originally a square two-storey house built around 1820 by Clarges Ruxton who passed it to his brother George. It was left to George’s son William who married Arbella Anna Bomford and lived there but sold it in the 1890’s. It is still a private house.

Black Castle at Navan was originally a single storey “Gentleman’s Cottage” with a thatched roof built around 1760. In 1785 it was left to John Ruxton who had to change his name to FitzHerbert, and in 1791 he added a slated two-storey wing at the back. In turn it was left to his second son Richard and it was probably he who replaced the ‘cottage’ soon after 1826 by a much larger two-storey house. Richard died without children so it was left to his aunt Mary’s grandson, Thomas Rothwell 1814-79, who had to change his name to FitzHerbert. Black Castle then went to his son Richard, 1841-1920, and then to his grandson Bertram, 1871-1939. Bertram never married so finally it was left to another relative Ivo FitzHerbert who was living in Argentine until 1960. Recently it was destroyed by fire.

30.4.4 Arbella Anna’s later Life

After the marriage, which one would expect to have been in Kells but there is no record of it in the Parish records, George William and Arbella Anna lived at Rahanna from where George William carried on his career as a civil engineer. On the death of his father in 1869 he inherited Rahanna where they lived until the early 1890’s.

Meanwhile on 8th June 1865 their only child was born; he was baptised Cecil FitzHerbert Ruxton at St Columba’s Church in Kells.

Between January 1878 and November 1879 problems arise for the two trustees, John Francis Bomford and William Ruxton. They concern the purchase of about 3½ acres by the Coleraine Town Council for £1,100 sold to them by George William Ruxton without the knowledge of the trustees, and the mortgage of other Coleraine property for £3,000 to Captain Richard Olpherts, the husband of George William’s cousin Elizabeth Henrietta. Both John Francis and William Ruxton, the trustees, agree that the £1,100 does not belong to George William but to the trust. However George William “is in difficulty” over money and needs it to clear his debts. Rather than go to law the trustees try to get George William to have the £1,100 included in the mortgage and so legalise the matter. As William Ruxton says “I think as trustees we are in great difficulty, for my own part I should be very glad to be out of it”. Reading between the lines George William comes out badly and I cannot make up my mind whether William Ruxton
considers him a fool or a scoundrel. The correspondence ends in 1879 but there is a mortgage (1886, Vol 4, No 208) between the two trustees and Robert Olpherts of Red House, Ardee, for £1,000. Although George William is not mentioned in the deed it does look as though the trustees got their way.

It is doubtful if the marriage prospered and indeed George William and Arbella Anna may have separated since at some time during the early 1890’s Arbella Anna returned to Oakley Park without her husband. Also since Rahanna was sold out by this time it would appear that George William continued to be in difficulties over money. John Francis refers to Arbella Anna in an affidavit, which reads in part “Mrs Ruxton is a married woman with a husband and a grown up son, and as she states an independent income, and I believe that she is not justified in residing at Oakley Park making an additional burden upon the income which has to support Mrs Bomford and four unmarried daughters and a son, and that if she is vested with authority the result would be perpetual family dissention and strife”. The last sentence indicates that in John Francis’ view she was a difficult woman, probably strong willed whereas George William was weak.

George William Ruxton died on Christmas Day 1899, aged 62; there is evidence that he died in a nursing home so he may have been ill for some time. Arbella Anna continued to live at Oakley Park and her son who was then 34 may have been there as well, but if so it would be unlikely that he had a job.

In January 1900 Arbella Bomford, her mother, died and John Francis inherited Oakley Park. There had been friction in the family for some years, which is written about fully later, and John Francis gave Arbella Anna permission to stay at Oakley Park until 19th January; in fact she had to be instructed to leave. She went to live in Dublin and set up house at No 9 Ashfield Terrace in Harold’s Cross with her unmarried sister Elizabeth Bomford who also had been removed from Oakley Park. She died on 19th February 1910, aged 71, presumably in Dublin.

The only child, Cecil FitzHerbert Ruxton, married Helen Bolton Morris, known as ‘Lottie’, on 18th June 1903. Nothing is known about Cecil or ‘Lottie’ except that she was a daughter of Peter J Morris of Dunluce, Bray Co Wicklow. No Morris family tree has been found but to be christened ‘Bolton’ indicates some connection with that family; in 1886 Josephine Anna Bolton, a niece of Elinor Jane Bomford, married Ernest Edwin Morris a son of Henry Morris, (see 30.3.2); it could be that the father or grandfather of Peter Morris married a Bolton. This is speculation but it is possible that Cecil Ruxton was a relative of ‘Lottie’. (Post script: Dublin Directory of 1928 records “Ruxton, Cecil F. of 4 Sugarloaf Terrace, Bray”, so he was alive that year.)

30.4.5 Summary of Arbella Anna, Mrs Ruxton

Arbella Anna, 3rd daughter of George and Arbella Bomford, was born 19th August 1839 and baptised at Agher, Co Meath. Married 20th August 1863 George William Ruxton, BA, JP of Rahanna, Co Louth, born 1837, son of Major George Ruxton (1804 - 1869), JP, DL, High Sheriff of Louth 1851, of Rahanna. He died 25th December 1899 and she 19th February 1910 having had one son.

Cecil FitzHerbert Ruxton, born 8th June 1865, baptised at Kells, Co Meath, married 18th June 1903 Helen Bolton (‘Lottie’) Morris, daughter of Peter J. Morris of Dunluce, Bray, Co Wicklow. He was alive in 1928.

The rest of George and Arbella’s children never married and so a short note on each is all that is required. Their personalities evolve in Chapter 32 concerning the death of their mother.

30.5 Anne Bomford 1833 - 1912

The eldest child, born in Dublin on 13th September 1833. She lived nearly all her life at Oakley Park and died unmarried on 8th January 1912, aged 78.

It is worth noting that Anne was in her early teens at the height of the famine and at this impressionable age it must have had a considerable influence on her later life. The other children were younger and not so likely to be affected adversely.

30.6 Samuel Stephen Bomford 1841 -1872

Samuel Stephen was the sixth child, born at Oakley Park 18th April 1841 and baptised at Agher on 3rd June 1841. When he was 21 his father gave him £1,000, which, according to a deed dated 30th September 1862 (1862, Book 33, No 300) was “in consideration of natural love and affection to enable him to enter as a Cadet in Her Majesty’s Royal Artillery”; this sum was “quite independent of any sum mentioned in the marriage settlement” and was “an absolute gift”. So Samuel went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and was there aged 22 when the paymaster sent his father a bill “of £62.10.0 for the residence of Gentleman Cadet S.S. Bomford at the Academy for the half-year ending 30th June 1863”, to which George has noted “Paid 7th Janr by Bank Order” That must have been his last term at Woolwich.

George and his family 445
since in 1863 he was gazetted a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery; from 1865 to 1872 he was a lieutenant serving with the 22nd Brigade in the Royal Artillery and sometime between these dates he and the brigade went to India. On 22nd August 1872 he died unmarried in India aged 31.

30.7  Elizabeth Bomford  1843 - ?

Elizabeth was the seventh child, born at Oakley Park 18th May 1843 and baptised at Agher on 30th June 1843. She lived all her life at Oakley Park until 1900 when she moved to No 9 Ashfield Terrace, Harold’s Cross in Dublin, with her widowed sister, Arbella Anna (Mrs Ruxton).

In 1866, when she was 23 George gave her the lease of a 61 acre farm on Knockstown; according to her elder sister Anne she sold it during the winter of 1897/8; one assumes that this came to her as part of George’s marriage settlement and it would have brought in a small annual income.

It is not known where or when she died.

30.8  Victoria Adela Bomford  1849 - ?

Victoria was the eighth child born, at Oakley Park on 19th November 1849 and baptised at Kells. She lived all her life at Oakley Park until; at some date after 1900 she was admitted to Ardee Mental Hospital where she died, possibly from Alzheimer’s disease.

30.9  Margaret (Meggie) Winter Bomford  1855 - 1928

Meggie was the tenth child, born at Oakley Park on 16th October 1855. There is no record of her baptism at either Agher or Kells Church. She lived all her life at Oakley Park until 1900 when she and her younger brother, Robert, went to live in Kells. Their house was nearly opposite the Round Tower and below the old Police Barracks and their small garden overlooked one of the bastions of the town wall, which is the only remaining part of the ancient town wall. In her later years she became known as ‘Mad Meggie’ by the family because it was her habit to appear at Oakley Park late at night and trundle the wheelbarrow around the flower-knot.

On 20th November 1928 she died unmarried, aged 73, and was buried in St Columba’s graveyard in Kells near the wall opposite the Church door.

30.10  Robert Laurence Bomford  1857 - 1931

Robert was the youngest and 11th child. He was born at Oakley Park on 3rd September 1857 and educated at the Royal School at Armagh, (30.1.1). He never married and it is doubtful if he ever had a proper job. He lived at Oakley Park until 1900 when he and Meggie moved to the house in Kells. As a child I just remember him as a big man with an enormous white beard.

He died 14th June 1931, aged 73, and was buried with Meggie in the Kells Churchyard; their tombstone reads

“Sacred to the memory of Robert Laurence Bomford died June 14th, 1931, and Margaret Winter Bomford died November 20th, 1928, son and daughter of George Bomford, Oakley Park.”
Not only did George Bomford mortgage much of his own property but also he and his son, John Francis, were trustees of a number of marriage settlements. Neither the mortgages nor the settlements have been fully investigated, but what has been discovered has been included.

31.1 **Caulfield - Winter - Preston marriage settlements**

The Caulfields of Westmeath were cousins of the Earl of Charlemont of Co Tyrone. There were two Caulfield - Winter marriages and one Caulfield - Preston marriage.

The first one to occur was in March 1834 between the Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield of Benown Glebe, Co Westmeath, and Elizabeth (Eliza) Winter (20.6 No 6). Elizabeth was a sister of Arbella Bomford (1810-1900) and George Bomford was the trustee of the marriage settlement. Elizabeth was granted £2,000 by her father, John Pratt Winter, which was charged on the lands of Castletown and Kinnetty; Thomas Caulfield received two sums, one of £300 and the other of £1,700 from his family. They had no children and Elizabeth died the same year that she married, so George as the trustee had no particular problem. I have not seen the marriage settlement which has been extracted from Forth who in turn extracted it from John Pratt Winter’s History of the Winter Family; in it the Rev Thomas is recorded as being the son of Lieut James Caulfield, Royal Navy, but according to Burke, James was his brother and their father was William Caulfield (died 1839) of Benown; the date of the settlement from the History is 22nd June 1832 but the marriage did not take place until 4th February 1834.

The second Winter - Caulfield marriage was in 1850 between Major Francis Winter (1805-1883), son of John Pratt Winter, and Anna Julia Caulfield, the eldest daughter of Colonel John Caulfield (1792-1865) of Bloomfield, Co Westmeath, (20.6 No 7). Major Francis Winter was a brother of Arbella Bomford, and Anna Julia (died 1909) was a niece of Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield who married Major Francis’ sister Elizabeth. Their marriage settlement has not been found so it is not known who the trustees were.

The third marriage was in 1865 and was between Augusta Florence Caulfield, a younger sister of Anna Julia and daughter of Colonel John Caulfield, and Nathaniel Francis Preston (1843-1903), (18.7.4). He was the nephew of Samuel and Frances Jane (Winter) Bomford and they were his guardians, he was also the grandson of Frances Rose (Bomford), 1792-1831, and Samuel Pratt Winter. A deed of 1867 (Book 22, No 53) gives details of the marriage settlement. The trust was arranged by Augusta’s brother, Robert Caulfield (1829-1905) then of Bundoran, Co Donegal, and a major in the Madras Cavalry; he was later of Camolin House, Co Wexford, and a Colonel in the 7th Madras Cavalry. The two trustees were John Francis Bomford and another brother of Augusta, St George Caulfield (1837-1898) formerly of the 108th Regiment of Foot, later to become the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, but at the time of the deed he was Asst Superintendent of Police of Poulquant in South Malabar, Madras; later he retired as “Colonel, Madras Staff Corps”.

In February 1889 (Vol 8, No 156) John Francis terminated his trusteeship, no reason was given, and instead Laurence Bomford Molloy of Glendis, Waldeeth Avenue, Bedford in England, took on the trust. This deed is interesting since it re-introduces Laurence Bomford Molloy who last appeared in paragraph 8.9 under the marriage of Anne Bomford, daughter of Edward Bomford of Hightown, and John Molloy of Clonbela dated 4th June 1755. Laurence Bomford Molloy is the great-great-grandson of Edward Bomford. A further deed of February 1890 (Vol 9, No 292) amends Laurence Bomford Molloy’s address to Clonbela, Parsonstown (Birr), King’s Co, and so he was back in the family home of the 1730’s. This last deed caught up with John Francis when he was on Land Commission work at Kilbeggan; those who witnessed his signature were the Kilbeggan Hotel proprietor, Thomas Kelly, and John Golding, assistant land commissioner, of Galway.

In October 1876 (Vol 54, No 129) there is a seven-page Caulfield deed in which John Francis Bomford of Drumlargan is a party. It would appear that this was a mortgage given by John Francis to St George Caulfield of £1,294 and the deed records that the money was repaid to John Francis and that he has freed all the Caulfield lands in Co Westmeath, which were involved. It is doubtful if John Francis had that amount of money to lend so it is likely that he was only acting as a trustee, perhaps as a trustee to the Caulfield - Preston marriage settlement. George Bomford of Oakley Park witnessed the deed.

Another long Caulfield deed is recorded in March 1877 (Vol 24, No 46 & 47) in which John Francis Bomford and Nathaniel Francis Preston of Swainstown were trustees. This would not have been the Preston - Caulfield Marriage of 1865 because Nat Preston could not have been a trustee of his own marriage settlement, but it could be yet another Caulfield marriage.

Finally a deed of January 1904 (Vol 4, No 279) records that on 16th September 1875, John Francis was made a trustee of £200 charged on Swainstown and due to Augusta Florence Preston on the
death of her husband. The deed states that this situation continues and that Augusta’s husband is now dead. (He died 28th June 1903, aged 60.)

31.2  

George Bomford’s Mortgages

When George Bomford married Arbella in 1832 all his lands were “free from any incumbrances except for £4,000 according to the marriage settlement (of George’s father) dated 1st March 1809 which is due to the only younger son, Samuel Bomford”. Shortly after his marriage George bought Baltramsn and Oakley Park, which were also free from any mortgages, so, initially, George’s only debt was the £4,000 due to his brother.

31.2.1  

£1,000 Mortgage to Hinds on Drumlargan and Clonfad

This state of affairs did not last long and in July 1832 George borrowed £1,000 from John Thomas Hinds, a solicitor of Westmoreland Street in Dublin, at 5% interest. It is difficult to follow through these mortgages since the records do not always give the full story; for instance in this loan we do not know the penalty figure, nor the lands on which the debt is charged. However in this case a deed of 15th February 1861 (Book 9, No 80) states that the £1,000 borrowed in 1832 was charged on Drumlargan and Clonfad, and that it has to be paid back by 15th February 1862. George could not find the money in 1862 so John Thomas Hinds took him to court and “on 10th July 1862 he obtained a judgement in the Court of the Queen’s Bench against George Bomford for £2,000 plus £3.1.11 costs“, (Book 28, No 199) in other words the penalty figure of £2,000 was invoked rather than the actual loan of £1,000, so George now has to pay the 5% interest on the higher figure and pay back double the original loan - a costly mortgage, and if he cannot then he will loose the lands charged.

Hinds continues to demand his money and so George persuades his wife’s sister’s husband, Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield of Mount Temple, Co Westmeath, to put up £1,000; this is related in the deed of February 1868 (Vol 8, No 144 & 145) in which John Thomas Hinds received £1,000 from Caulfield and the lands of Drumlargan and Clonfad are transferred to Caulfield. However the deed continues, “there remains the sum of £1,003.1.11 which is now laid upon Oakley Park” at 5% interest with the penalty figure of £2,000, and which continues to be a mortgage of John Thomas Hinds.

31.2.2  

£800 Mortgage to Hinds on Oakley Park

In October 1863 John Thomas Hinds obtained another judgement against George for £800 plus costs of £3.1.11 (Book 37, No 65) It is not really known how this mortgage came about, but it is thought that perhaps it has to do with George’s eldest son, George Winter.

Amongst the documents is one dated 7th October 1856 headed “Costs of Loan of £400” which states the plaintiffs, Joseph Barnes and Arabella Abbott, obtained a judgement in the Court of Common Pleas for the sum of £1,600 against George Bomford. It is suggested that possibly George Winter Bomford borrowed £400 when he was still a minor, he was 21 in 1855, and that his father had to take over the debt which, due to non-payment, had increased from £400 to £1,600, the two sums mentioned in the document. The Document itemises the costs, amounting to £7.7.10, of registering the £1,600 as a mortgage by George on Oakley Park. No reference to any of this was found in the Registry of Deeds and it must be left as a mystery. Nothing is known about the two plaintiffs although a Joseph Barnes witnessed the deed of 1835 concerning the repayment of the Tullyard mortgage to George Bomford, and he may be a son of Thomas Barnes of Westlands by his second marriage (25.2.2).

In January 1857 George obtained a judgement against his son, George Winter Bomford, for £1,600 and stated that his son had taken over the lands of Drumlargan for his own benefit. This matter has been discussed in the last chapter to a limited degree, but if we put all these deeds together they begin to make sense. By June 1857 George Winter had been able to raise £800 of the £1,600, possibly from the rents of Drumlargan, leaving £800 outstanding; his father then took over the outstanding £800 and raised a mortgage with John Thomas Hinds which was the judgement mentioned initially in October 1863.

In April 1868 (Vol 15, No 128) George William Ruxton and Richard Knott Bolton took over the mortgage and, one assumes, paid off John Thomas Hinds. George Ruxton was George’s son-in-law and Richard Bolton was John Francis Bomford’s brother-in-law. So once again the ‘in-laws’ of the family had come to the rescue and saved George Bomford from losing his land.

31.2.3  

Loan to George by Samuel Bomford

In addition to the £4,000, which was still due to Samuel, there was a further £10,000, which George borrowed from him in August 1837. All this has been discussed in Chapter 26, however in 1861 George asked Samuel if he could defer the payment of £4,000, otherwise he will have to sell some land;
Samuel agreed and “assigns the £4,000 payment to be charged upon the land at the usual interest” which one assumes to be 5%. Some of this total debt to Samuel of £14,000 appears to have been paid off before, or just after, George’s death since the amount listed in 1889 was £12,300.

31.2.4 £3,000 Mortgage by Neville on Clonfad

In Chapter 29 the Neville mortgage on Clonfad was considered. In 1865 John Francis Bomford inherited Clonfad together with his father’s mortgage of £3,000 at 5% interest. John Francis finally paid off this mortgage by selling Clonfad.

31.2.5 Mortgage Summary

Around the time of George’s death, the following mortgages were outstanding –

1. £1,000 due to John Thomas Hinds and charged on Oakley Park.
2. £1,000 due to Rev Thomas Caulfield and charged on Drumlargan and Clonfad.
3. £800 due to George William Ruxton and Richard Knott Bolton and charged on Oakley Park.
4. £12,300 due to Samuel Bomford, some of which was charged on Oakley Park.
5. £3,000 due to Robert Neville and charged on Clonfad, initiated by George but now belonging to John Francis.

These come to, a total borrowing of £18,100, two thirds of which was due to Samuel. If we assume an interest rate of 5% this means that George or his son had to find a little over £900 each year. This was not a particularly large figure for many landowners of those days when one considers some of the estates, which were in debt. As many as 3,000 estates had been sold as a result of the “Encumbered Estates Act” of 1849. However it was not easy to sell an estate, which was bound by entail, limited by family settlements and charged with mortgages. It is very doubtful if George ever considered selling; he had an income from the land of something over £4,500 net, so the interest could be met. In any case the 1850’s and 1860’s were prosperous years for Irish agriculture, and prices favoured the farmer. It was not until the late 1870’s and the early 1880’s that the trade depression of Britain caused prices to slump; the year 1879 was especially critical because of the disastrously bad harvest, and this would mean that people like George would have little income since the tenants got nothing from their harvest with which to pay their rents. In 1881 the “Judicial Rent Act” was passed and, on average, rents dropped by about 20%. George and John Francis, who had seen that their tenants could not sustain the previous high rents, had already lowered the rents in many areas. Nevertheless there was a 20% cut in their income and they now had to watch expenses. By the mid-1880’s income was down to about £4,000, and at the time of his death it was down to about £3,500; but even this lower figure was still sufficient to meet the interest demands on his mortgages provided the capital sums were not demanded. If that situation should arise then it would be necessary to sell land.

In March 1886 George died and left his property to his wife Arbella to administer. However Arbella was aged 76 so in practice John Francis had to keep a watching brief on the estates; but he was living at Drumlargan and his mother at Oakley Park, so it was not easy for him; furthermore he had to tread gently since his brother and sisters who were living at Oakley Park were living in a persistent state of private enmity between themselves and their mother.

31.3 ‘Accounts with Mother’ 1889

In 1889 John Francis drew up a list of income and expenses for his mother Arbella that he titled “Accounts with Mother”. No attempt was made to make a balance sheet, but the income was £3,508.3.9 and the expenses were a little less. Most of the rents were paid in arrears, some going back to 1884; they were collected by an Agency who paid in £3,187.3.0 and took 5% (£159.7.2) for their services. John Francis has not detailed the Agency figure but he has included income, which did not go through the Agency and also some expenditure.

a. The Head Rent of Oakley Park of £85.13.11 for one year went to Lord Headfort. Charles Reilly received “one year’s wages, £35.9.6” for supervising the work on Oakley Park. The money from his lease of 52 acres must have been paid to the Agency.

b. Much of Knockstown and Drumlargan was leased by “George A. Tisdall £320”. George Archibold Tisdall, 1860-1922, JP, was a barrister in Dublin and a relative of the Tisdalls of Charlesfort, Kells. This is the only reference to him and it is difficult to see how he fitted in to those lands; even if he was a middleman he should have shown up in the Valuation Office records.

c. Some of Knockstown was leased by “E Bomford’s ½ years rent, £33.5.0”. This was the 61 acre farm, which Elizabeth was given in 1866.
d. The caretaker at Drumlargan was John Larkin whose wages for 2½ months was £1.2.3, and the herd was “L. Clinch, wages 4½ months £7”. Clinch paid back £2.1.0 for grazing his cattle on that part of Baltrasna leased by Christopher Barry of Little Ardrums.

e. John Francis leased parts of Baltrasna and Clonfad for £73. Mulvanny paid £2 for his cottage and garden in Baltrasna, and “Judge, Flanagan & Fetherston H” paid £1.15.6 to cover some of their rent of Clonfad. The bailiff of Clonfad was John Connor who was paid £1.3.4 wages for 4½ months; he farmed 25 acres of Clonfad.

f. Arbella withdrew £70 in cash.

The largest drain on the estate was the various mortgages and settlements. The three settlements listed in these accounts are –

1. The settlement of £2,000 a year on Arbella, which the land of Oakley Park had to produce. This figure must have come from George’s will which has not been found; it is not the figure in their marriage settlement which was only £300 a year.

2. “Mrs G. W. Bomford jointure and succession duty, 6 months, £119.6.9”. Arbella had been made the sole executor of George Winter Bomford’s will and no doubt much of this payment to Flora Mary was due to that. ‘Succession Duty’ implies the entail of Drumlargan.

3. “J. F. Bomford’s marriage settlement, £400 at 5%, £7.10.5, paid to trustees”. The marriage settlement which has been found does not include the amount of money, only that it was to be charged on Oakley Park, Cluide: Baltrasna and Clonfad. On 5th March 1875 John Francis signed a receipt for £10 from his father being a half-year interest on £400 at 5%.

Only three mortgages are listed in these accounts –

1. “Major S. Bomford’s interest on £12,300, 6 months at £296.15.0”.

2. “Colonel Robert Caulfield’s interest on £2,000, 2½ months at £21.3.6”.

3. “Colonel Robert Caulfield’s three years interest on £1,500 at £180”.

The last two are a mystery; there is no documentation on them. The Colonel (1829-1905) was a nephew of Rev Thomas Caulfield who died in 1875 without children; he may have bequeathed the £1,000 mortgage on Drumlargan and Clonfad, but if so then it was the penalty figure of £2,000.

Another mystery concerning a £2,000 mortgage is on a sheet of paper dated 31st October 1874. It reads, “I acknowledge to have received from John F. Bomford Esq. the sum of £49.11.8, which with 8/4d deducted as income tax makes up the sum of £50, being one half years interest due to me by George Bomford Esq.” The only certainty about the signature is that it is ‘Caulfield’; the initials could be ‘JWG’ or ‘FWJ’, but however one interprets the initials there does not seem to be a suitable Caulfield; Colonel Robert’s eldest son, Francis William John, might be the answer but he was only born in July 1859 so was only 15 in 1874.

The only other mortgage is the Hinds one which the next deed appears to terminate (31.4). It includes much of interest, which has been made use of elsewhere. However these accounts would not be complete without the following payments due to Arbella and which might be part of these accounts of 1889.

31.3.1 Money Owed to Arbella Bomford

An undated schedule, which was probably written soon after George died records money owed to Arbella, it reads –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Money lent to John Francis Bomford secured by his registered bond</td>
<td>£ 500.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Money lent to the late George Winter Bomford and said to be secured by Deed of Appointment under power reserved in his marriage settlement</td>
<td>£1,000.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Money lent to J. F. Bomford secured by his registered bond</td>
<td>£400.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Legacy under the will of Mrs Caulfield</td>
<td>£500.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Arrears of jointure payable out of Clonfad and lent to John F. Bomford</td>
<td>£100.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Amount of Judgement Mortgage on Oakley Park entered in 1842 and bequeathed to Mrs A. Bomford by Miss Winter</td>
<td>£1,000.0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-- Eight ten-pound shares in the Farmer’s Gazette now the Official Guide. -

Gross value of property £ 3,500.0.0”

“Mrs Caulfield” was probably Arbella’s sister Elizabeth who actually died in 1834 but her husband, Rev Thomas Gordon Caulfield, did not die until November 1875.

“Miss Winter” was probably Arbella’s aunt Anna Maria Winter who died in January 1837.
Payment of Hinds Mortgage 9th June 1899

Between
1. Robert Laurence Bomford of Oakley Park and Anne Bomford of Oakley Park, spinster (Children of George)
2. Adelaide Potterton of 22 Albert Road, Kingstown, Co Dublin, spinster.
3. Arbella Bomford of Oakley Park, widow.
4. John Christopher Bagot of Ballyturin, Gort, Co Galway, (husband of Anna Catherine (Fleming), niece of Elinor and John Francis), and William Eden Holmes of St Grattan, Monks town, Co Dublin.

Reciting
1. the marriage settlement of 21st March 1809 (between George the elder and Arbella Winter, and concerning the entail)
2. the indenture dated 15th February 1861 (Re-assignment by Samuel Bomford of his £4,000 as a mortgage).
3. the will of George Bomford and probate granted on 15th October 1886 to Arbella Bomford.
4. the death of John Thomas Hinds, intestate, and that no new trustees have been nominated.
5. that Adelaide Potterton was granted letters of Administration of John Thomas Hinds on the death of his wife, Emma Hinds.
6. the Order of the Master of the Rolls concerning the 21st March 1809 marriage settlement in which, on 24th April 1899, Robert Laurence Bomford and Anne Bomford were appointed the new trustees of the lands and premises for 300 years. (The first trustees were Henry Hamilton who died in 1844, and John Pratt Winter who died in 1846; then they were Thomas Barnes of Westlands who died in 1871, and George Lucas Nugent of Westmeath who must have died about the same date).
7. the Order of the Land Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice dated 14th November 1894 made in the matter of the estate of John Francis Bomford, owner, and Robert Neville, petitioner, concerning the principle sum in the mortgage of £3,236.5.9 still due on the lands of Drumlargan, Ornellstown, Knock and Monaloy.

Now John Christopher Bagot and William Eden Holmes have paid this mortgage out of moneys belonging to them by the direction of Robert Laurence Bomford and Anne Bomford, and Adelaide Potterton as the personal representative of John Thomas Hinds.

Witnessed
Arbella A. Ruxton of Oakley Park, married woman (30.4)
A. Winter of 1 Belgrave Villas, Bray, spinster (Anne Winter, niece of Arbella Bomford).

Thus ends the Hinds mortgage, but really it has only been transferred into the hands of Jack Bagot and William Holmes. Mortgages after 1900 have not been studied so this matter is left open-ended.

John Francis Bomford’s Mortgages

Many of John Francis’ mortgages were initiated during his father’s lifetime and the original intention was to include only those, but since the Registry of Deeds records have been investigated up to 1900 but not after, it was decided to list all the mortgages here.

Mortgages to Christopher Barry

1. £1,600 against Oakley Park, Baltrasna, Cluide and Clonfad.
   In the deed dated 2nd June 1880 (Vol 30, No 92) Christopher Barry of Little Ardrums, south of Agher, grazier and salesmaster, agrees to lend John Francis of Drumlargan £1,600 at 6% interest against the lands of Laurencetown or Oakley Park containing 466 plantation acres (755 statute), and of Baltrasna being a sub denomination of Galtrim containing 293 plantation acres (474 statute), and of Cloodecaagh or Clude in the Barony of Ardee.
   Also in the expectancy of the death of George Bomford, the lands of Clonfad 721 plantation acres (1168 statute) in the Barony of Farbill, Co Westmeath, (this must include Rattin), and of Oakley Park containing 128 plantation acres (207 statute) bounded on the
   N & NE by Maperath and Oakley Park in the possession of Thomas Barnes
   N & NW by the land of Maperath in the possession of Henry Rowley
   S by the lands of Wilmount in the possession of John Radcliff and by Dulane in the possession of William Powell Garnett
   W by the lands of Oakley Park in the possession of Charles Reilly
   E by the lands of Oakley Park, the estate of George Bomford.
   (These bounds cover the lease by John Francis of Oakley Park from his father.)
In a later deed of 29th October 1896 (Vol 69, No 147) John Francis passed the mortgage to his eldest son George Lyndon Bomford. It recites the lease of March 1861 and covered the same 207 acres. So John Francis leased to his son the same parcel of Oakley Park, which his father had leased to him on the back road with the ‘new’ farmyard. Whether GLB took over the whole £1,600 mortgage or only that part applicable to Oakley Park is not known.

2 £250 Mortgage on Baltrasna
In January 1881 George leased 18 statute acres of Baltrasna to John Francis for 31 years at a rent of £100. In April the same year John Francis sold the lease to Christopher Barry for a loan of £250 with the principle sum of £400.

31.5.2 £1,000 Loan from Arbella Bomford
These four deeds have been put together simply because they are for £1,000; it is possible that there was more than one lot of £1,000 but it is thought that there was only one.
1. The will of Arbella refers to two bonds given to her by John Francis amounting to £1,000;
   Firstly, “1859, money lent to John Francis Bomford secured by his registered bond, £500.” (31.3.1) Secondly, Arbella’s will includes the following, “debt of £500 owed to me by my son John Francis and which is secured by a bond dated 18th August 1880.”
2. 9th October 1880. Elizabeth Bomford, spinster, and Robert Laurence Bomford, both of Oakley Park and over the age of 21, took John Francis to court; “in the High Court of Justice, Exchequer Division, the plaintiffs obtained judgement against John Francis Bomford for £1,000 plus £3.3.0 costs”. The lands are all listed. Just why these two younger children were going to court against their older brother, when their parents were both alive, is not known; but Elizabeth and Robert eventually were to become executors of both their parents wills, and they were also to cause a split in the family due to their treatment of their mother, and, perhaps, this is an early example of the division in the family.
3. 8th May 1885. (Vol 22, No 110) In the High Court of Justice, Queen’s Bench, Arbella Bomford, wife of George Bomford swears that on 8th May 1885 she got a judgement against John Francis Bomford of Drumlargan for £1,000 and costs of £3.1.1 which sum remains outstanding.
4. Extract from Arbella’s will of 11th February 1891. “The £1,000 which John Francis owes me, and which is secured by two bonds, is to be divided in equal shares between my four daughters, Anne Bomford, Arbella Anne Ruxton, Victoria Adela Bomford, and Margaret Winter Bomford. I have already given to my daughter Elizabeth Bomford and to my son Robert Laurence Bomford a sum of £250 each.”

31.5.3 £425 PWD Loan 22nd October 1891
John Francis Bomford of Drumlargan, tenant farmer, received a loan of £425 from the Commissioners of the Public Works for work to be carried out on Drumlargan.
Witnessed: Edward Richardson, Caretaker of Ferrans, and John North-Bomford of Ferrans (Vol 49, No 288)

More improvements on Drumlargan, but note that John Francis carefully and rather unusually describes himself as a “tenant farmer”; this no doubt has to do with the entail and the row with George Winter Bomford’s family and John Francis over the inheritance of Drumlargan.

31.5.4 £1,700 Drumlargan Mortgage 2nd August 1893
John Francis Bomford of Drumlargan, JP, mortgaged for £1,700 to the Hibernian Bank Ltd of 27 College Street, Dublin, the land of Drumlargan containing 336 statute acres.
Witnessed: John Clark, solicitor, 37 Westmoreland Street, Dublin. (He was John Francis’ solicitor.) (Vol .59, No 218)

It will be remembered that in 1865 John Francis had 705 acres of Drumlargan, and his father was the occupier of the rest. In 1878 John Francis terminated this lease with his father; however a new lease of which there is no record was then made for 337 acres around Drumlargan House, and it is this land, which the mortgage concerns.
Two family problems are dealt with in this chapter.

1. The inheritance of Drumlargan which caused a feud between John Francis and the family of his brother George Winter Bomford, and
2. The two wills of Arbella causing her children to divide into two sides, each trying to prove the will they favoured. This led to a mass of court cases and to the maltreatment of the elderly Arbella.

32.1 The Inheritance of Drumlargan and Knockstown

On 30th June 1936 George Lyndon Bomford wrote a very enlightening letter about the family to his son, George Warren. The first part of this letter has been printed in Chapter 26 (26.4.3) concerning the loan to his grand uncle Samuel; the second part is below and introduces the question of the inheritance of Drumlargan.

Letter from George Lyndon Bomford

“. . . But there was a much more serious affair between George Winter and John Francis. George Winter Bomford, my uncle and the father of my cousin Anne (Nellie), who owned Drumlargan was, to say the least of it, a most irresponsible person. He married Miss Sadleir, leading her to believe (so I have always been told) that he was heir to all the entailed property, which was free of all charges, but that my father was heir to the unentailed. This place Oakley Park was naturally unentailed, as it was not bought until long after the death of my great-grandfather, who created the entail. It has always been a white elephant, as it was heavily charged, whereas the entailed property could not be charged. My uncle took his young family to Australia and deserted them there. He spent the last years of his life on Valentia Island, and tried to become a Nationalist Member of Parliament, a perfectly irrational man, though very clever in parts. His wife Flora whom I never met, must have had a dreadful time, and so far as we are concerned she has, I am sure, always been led to believe that my father had ousted her husband out of part of his inheritance, and the worst of it was that when George was in Australia the tenant of Drumlargan died, and my grandfather gave my father a lease of part of Drumlargan. In course of time, the Irish Land Act came into existence, and the leaseholder under the new law could not be turned out so long as the rent was paid, and he could sell his interest in the land. So when we came to live here after grandfather’s death, my father sold his interest in the part of Drumlargan he had the lease of. That was the last straw that broke the camel’s back. We were anathema, beyond the pale.”

Two years before George Bomford died, George Winter died in June 1884 leaving a son aged 20, and a daughter aged 22, with his wife Flora aged 45. His family were living in Dublin and had shown no interest in the land, in fact the son, George Sadleir, was soon to join the army. In 1886 George Bomford died and the entailed lands came into the hands of George Sadleir Bomford, George Bomford’s grandson. The entail had been changed as recorded in the marriage settlement of George Winter and Flora so that the sequence of inheritance was George Sadleir Bomford followed by his sister Arbella Anne and finally to John Francis and his family. George Winter never inherited the land since he died before his father, however his son did inherit but he died at the early age of 30 and so in 1894 the land went to his sister Anne, or ‘Nellie’ as she was called.

The entailed lands were “Drumlargan, Ornelstown, Knockturin or Knockstown, part of Clonlyon and part of Monaloy”. Many of these names had become obsolete and so now basically the entailed lands were Drumlargan consisting of 980 statute acres and Knockstown of 225 statute acres. Chapter 29 lists the various tenants of these two townlands.

The “Irish Land Act” referred to in George Lyndon’s letter is that of 1881 in which Gladstone virtually conceded all the basic demands of the Land League agitation. It was popularly known as the “Three F’s”: Fair rent, to be assessed by arbitration; Fixity of tenure, while the rent was paid; Freedom for the tenant to sell his right of occupancy at the best market price. 1881 is therefore the critical year, at which date there were three farms on Drumlargan, plus 80 acres of bog.

Two of the farms, totalling 562 statute acres (193 and 369), and the 80 acres of bog were recorded in the Valuation Office in 1886 with George Sadleir as both the lessor and the occupier; in 1898 the lessor and occupier was Anne Bomford, as it was in 1906 although at this later date the bog was recorded as being 75 acres. Anne sold much of this land in 1912 to the Land Commission, but see 34.4. There does not appear to be any record that the entail was officially terminated, but it must have been, and Anne may have had permission for the sale from the next in line for the inheritance that was then George Lyndon Bomford. Thus these two farms passed, as they should have done according to the entail to Anne.

It was the third farm of 337 acres including Drumlargan House, which was the one under dispute. Before George Bomford died he was the lessor with John Francis as the occupier; he had been the occupier since about 1865 and the tenant who had died, mentioned in George Lyndon’s letter, must have
been John Monaghan. In 1865 George Winter could not have foreseen the Land Act of 1881 and so could not have seriously objected to the lease going to John Francis. As previously discussed Drumlargan House was done up and John Francis and his young family moved in around 1870, they were to remain there for the next 30 years, during which time they established themselves in the house.

However when George of Oakley Park died in 1886 the lessor for the whole of Drumlargan was recorded as being George Sadleir Bomford, George Winter’s son; this is as it should have been according to the entail, but not according to the 1881 Land Act. After George Sadleir died in 1894, the Lessor of the first two farms was Anne Bomford but Drumlargan House and the farm around it was John Francis; this last farm was the disputed one but it must be said that, according to the 1881 Land Act, John Francis was technically correct but it is easily understood how bitterness arose between John Francis and his niece Anne and her mother Flora.

There are two deeds at this time; in October 1891 John Francis raised a loan for improvements at Drumlargan (31.5.3) in which he is careful to have himself described as a “tenant farmer”; and in August 1893, before George Sadleir’s death, John Francis raised a large mortgage on Drumlargan from the Bank (31.5.4). Therefore it is thought that between those two dates, 1891 and 1893, John Francis claimed the title to the third farm of 336 acres and Drumlargan House and, to use George Lyndon’s word, “ousted” Anne and her mother from part of the inheritance.

When Guy Bomford sent me George Lyndon’s letter of 1936, he enclosed comments, which are enlightening. He wrote, “...the letter I enclose gives your grandfather’s version, which sounds pretty reasonable. We, Samuel’s offspring, are of course quite neutral, apart from being indoctrinated by Flora.” He continues concerning the feud, “...Your great-grandfather John Francis had an elder brother George, who married Flora Sadleir. George was an unsatisfactory type, while John prospered. George died and Flora lived with a grievance (over Drumlargan) for the rest of her life, and made the most of it. She lived comfortably at Baldock with her unmarried daughter Nellie (Anne). My mother and my elder sister used to see them occasionally. They just lived for their grievance.” Guy also mentioned that John Francis was known as “Black John” to Flora and her daughter Nellie.

32.2 Knockstown Ownership

Knockstown or Knockturin was also part of the entailed property, which one would have expected to go to George Winter Bomford’s children. Paragraph 29.4 records the occupiers of the five small farms on Knockstown and in 1854 the “Immediate Lessor” was George Bomford. When George died the Valuation Office left his name as the immediate Lessor and only his name appears until the land was sold. Unfortunately no other supporting documents have come to light and Knockstown is only mentioned in the letters about the inheritance feud concerning Elizabeth’s lease.

Back in 1866 Elizabeth, a sister of John Francis, was given the lease of one of the five farms and these 61 acres certainly did not go to George Winter’s children; Elizabeth’s mother Arbella received £33.5.0 from Elizabeth being her half-year’s rent. Elizabeth was the lessor of this parcel of land until she sold it in 1898, as the following deed shows:

8th February 1898 Sale of Knockstown Lease
For £315 paid by John Marmion, Senior, of Bogganstown, Drumree, Co Meath, farmer, to Elizabeth Bomford of Oakley Park, Spinster, as beneficial owner, so she leased the lands of Knockstown containing 61 statute acres at a rent of £60.
Witnessed Margaret B. Folliott, married woman of Kells, and Robert L. Bomford of Oakley Park. (1898, Vol 10, No 57)

In 1904 the occupier was Sylvester Marmion and the Bomford name has been deleted, even as the ‘immediate lessor’, which indicates a complete sale and not just a sale of the lease. It would, therefore, appear that Anne Bomford never inherited these 61 acres.

The 1906 Untenanted Lands Return shows that John Francis leased the other four small farms amounting to 164 acres, but it is not clear from whom he leased them. He may have leased them from his mother’s estate, which had not been settled in 1906; but it is also possible that he leased them from his niece Anne as the mortgage of 3rd August 1901 (30.2.7) of Drumlargan and Knockstown indicates. These 164 acres were sold to the Land Commission in 1916 but the name of the seller was not recorded. The ownership must remain a mystery until more research is done. However my personal opinion is that the four remaining farms on Knockstown did go to John Francis and not to Anne; I feel that my grandfather would not have written so strongly if the only part of the inheritance Anne did not get was the 337 acres of Drumlargan out of a total, including Knockstown, of 1144 acres, close to 30%; that “we were anathema” would apply if Anne lost 562 acres out of 1144, close to 50%.
32.2.1 The Sale of Drumlargan House & Home Farm

John Francis sold his interest in Drumlargan in 1903 to George Wilson of Oberstown, Tara, (1903, Vol 85, No 248). George Wilson paid him £1,000 and took over the PWD loan of 1891 of £425, together with the £1,700 mortgage of 1893 with the Hibernian Bank. The sale therefore amounted to £3,125 for the 337 acres with Drumlargan House.

For the sale of Anne’s portion of Drumlargan, see 34.4.

32.3 Death of George Bomford (21st?) March 1886

George died at Oakley Park when he was 75. He died in March 1886 but the day is not known; however Arbella’s account of 1889 (31.3) states that his funeral was on 24th March and that he was buried at Laracor by the Rev George Henry Martin of Dublin. George Henry Martin was the fourth son of George’s cousin Susan Margaret Martin (Bomford) (21.8), and at this date he was Resident Rector of Trinity College and had recently inherited Bective estate.

Arbella’s accounts give the funeral expenses which came to £35.12.0, most of which went to the undertaker, Joseph Lowry of Kells; the sexton of Laracor was given £1 5.0 and 2/6 was paid for an obituary in the Irish Times. I have spent an afternoon trying to locate his obituary but have failed to find it. There is no mention of his death in the Meath Herald, the local paper published in Kells, but it is referred to in the issue of 10th April, which includes an item on the Kells Petty Sessions. This reads -

“Mr McCarthy said it being the first session since the death of the late lamented Mr George Bomford, one of the oldest magistrates on the bench, he proposed that as a mark of respect to his memory, the Court should adjourn. Mr Rothwell seconded the proposition.”

Since the previous session was on March 15th he must have died between the 15th and the 24th, probably on the 21st.

His will has not been found but his children, Elizabeth and Robert, were the co-executors; these two were an unfortunate choice and became the source of much hardship and worry to Arbella. From later letters two clauses of the will are known; Arbella was to be paid a ‘jointure’ for the rest of her life, and this was to be charged against Oakley Park and amounted to £2,000 a year; and, secondly, that if Arbella chose to hold and reside in Oakley Park she could do so at a charge of £600 a year which she had to pay to the estate, this she chose to do and so her jointure amounted to £1,400 (£2,000 less £600).

Before discussing Arbella’s problems with some of her children let us set the scene by recording the state of the family on George’s death together with my thoughts on their personalities gleaned from the letters which are included later.

32.4 George’s Family 1886

Arbella, George’s wife, was aged 76 and, as might be expected at that age, rather doddery. Perhaps ‘doddery’, which the dictionary defines as ‘decrepit in mind and body’, is too strong a word for the year 1886 but it becomes more accurate as the years pass.

Anne, the eldest daughter known to the family as ‘Nannie’ was aged 53, unmarried and living at Oakley Park. She seems to be the stabilizing factor of all those living in the house, but, as her letters will show, she could not stand up to the more forceful characters living with her. It was she and Adela who later took care of their ailing mother.

George Winter was dead and his wife and two children were living in Dublin (30.2.7) so did not enter in to the affairs of Oakley Park.

John Francis, aged 49, was living at Drumlargan with his wife Elinor, who, also, was known to the family as ‘Nellie’. (The other ‘Nellie’ was George Winter’s daughter Anne). Their family of ten ranged in age from 19 down to one, and three or four of the older boys were at Denstone College at this date. John Francis’ work with the Land Commission took him all round Ireland and he was away from home quite a lot; but his wife was capable, kindly and, I suspect, shrewd. She certainly gave John Francis, who was known as ‘Johnnie’, all the support he needed.

On his father’s death John Francis inherited but, in accordance with his father’s will, Oakley Park and that part of the estate in George’s hands were set aside to support Arbella; this meant that there was no immediate improvement in his finances, and the land he had was the ‘home farm’ of Drumlargan, Clonfad and Rattin, and parts of the other lands which he leased from ‘the estate’. On his mother’s death he inherited the rest of ‘the estate’, which, in this interim period, was run by the executors of George’s will, Elizabeth and Robert. However it was known that he would inherit and so it fell to him to keep a watching brief on ‘the estate’; this was a duty which became more and more difficult as time passed because ‘the estate’ was mismanaged and his mother mistreated by the executors; it was even more...
difficult since Drumlargan was so far away from Oakley Park and he was away for so much of the time. Even after his mother’s death it was ten years before the affairs of ‘the estate’ were wound up and he came into his full inheritance.

Arbella Anne, aged 47, was married to George Ruxton and in 1886 they were living at Rahanna, near Ardee. In the early 1890’s Rahanna was sold, probably because George Ruxton was in money difficulties (30.4.3), though there is evidence that George Ruxton ended his life in a nursing home so he may have been a sick man. Whatever happened Arbella Anne came to live at Oakley Park in the early 1890’s with her son, aged 21, but without her husband. She is reputed to have been strong willed and she was probably rather clever, in the sense of being a good ‘schemer’.

Elizabeth, unmarried and aged 43, was a domineering and probably an unscrupulous woman who was rightly accused of mistreating her mother and mismanaging ‘the estate’ of which she was co-executor. She appears to have had the rest of the family at Oakley Park firmly under her thumb.

Victoria Adela, called Adela was aged 37 and unmarried; she was mentioned in the letters of the 1890’s and from them she appears to be a reasonable, though perhaps rather a weak character - though not too weak as she did stand up against Elizabeth occasionally. It was Adela who looked after the farming affairs and assisted Anne in caring for her mother, so she must have had a certain amount of sense.

Margaret Winter, aged 31, was unmarried and known to the family as Meggie. She was completely dominated by Elizabeth, and hardly mentioned in the letters, possibly because she was the youngest of the girls.

Robert Laurence, aged 29 and unmarried, was dominated by Elizabeth. He was probably a weak-willed insensitive man who on at least one occasion physically attacked his aged mother. With Elizabeth he was co-executor of ‘the estate’, but he never had a proper job and this may have accounted for his boorish attitude.

There were therefore six adults living at Oakley Park and all living off ‘the estate’, Arbella and her daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Adela, and Margaret, and the son Robert. Later on the married daughter Arbella Anne Ruxton was to join them there, making seven adults.

Apart from Mrs Ruxton, the only income for these six adults came from ‘the estate’ and no doubt money and its offshoot, greed, was the root cause of the unpleasantness of the 1890’s amongst the family. With this in mind let us now consider whether there really was a shortage of money, or, whether the money was there but had been inefficiently put to use by the executors, as John Francis thought.

32.5 ‘Accounts with Mother’ 1889

‘The estate’ accounts were written in draft form by John Francis in 1889 and titled ‘Accounts with Mother’. Already much information has been extracted in paragraph 31.3, but in this record an attempt has been made to convert them into accounts for the year. John Francis made no attempt to make a balance sheet; the following is in balance sheet form except that some incidental expenses have been omitted, such as the £70, which Arbella withdrew for her own use.

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rent collected by Agency</td>
<td>£3,187. 3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent from George A. Tisdall</td>
<td>320. 0.0</td>
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<td>Rent from Elizabeth Bomford</td>
<td>66.10.0</td>
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<td>Rent from J.F. Bomford</td>
<td>72.19.8</td>
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<td>Rent from Mulvanny of Baltrasna</td>
<td>2. 0.0</td>
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<td>Rent from Judge, Flanagan &amp; Fetherston H of Clonfad</td>
<td>1.15.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent from Cluide</td>
<td>0.12.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Barry, grazing</td>
<td>2. 1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>W. A. Wallis, grazing</td>
<td>2. 1.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>£3,655. 2.2</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oakley Park Head Rent to Lord Headfort</td>
<td>£85.13.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baltrasna Head Rent to Trinity College</td>
<td>5. 7. 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Reilly, wages</td>
<td>35. 9. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Larkin, Drumlargan caretaker, wages</td>
<td>5.10. 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Clinch, herd, wages</td>
<td>19. 0. 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Connor, Clonfad bailiff, wages</td>
<td>2.13. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent Collection Agency, 5% fee</td>
<td>159. 7. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major S. Bomford, interest on £12,300</td>
<td>593.10. 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditure</td>
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Mrs Bomford under jointure 1,400. 0. 0  
Mrs G. W. Bomford, jointure & succession duty 238.13.  6  
J. F. Bomford, marriage settlement, £400 at 5%  20. 0. 0  
Col. Robert Caulfield, interest on £2,000 110. 1. 4  
Col. Robert Caulfield, interest on £1,500 82.11.  0  
Fire insurance premium   10.10.  0  
Poor rates  58. 6. 8  
Income tax  189. 3. 9½  
Quit rent 20. 1. 2  
Credit Balance  790. 3. 4½  

£ 3,655. 2. 2

So ‘the estate’ had a credit balance of £790; in other words it could afford to give Arbella £1,400 a year to live on and to pay the interest on the various mortgages, loans and other expenses. From this £1,400 Arbella had to pay her servants in and around the house, and of course to feed and cloth herself and those who lived with her. In addition the estate received the profits from farming Oakley Park, however since the 1889 accounts do not detail these it may be that such money went direct to Arbella. It is not known what money she had in the bank, but, on the face of it, she should have been able to live quite comfortably. However the truth was a long way from these paper facts, so the charge of ‘mismanagement’ of the executors must be justified.

The following letter to John Francis from Arbella indicates a definite shortage. Arbella did the underlining; the comments in brackets are mine.

Letter from Arbella Bomford

“Oakley Park, 2nd May, (no year but thought to be 1890)

My Dear Johnnie I want you to pay my half-year’s jointure to me as soon as you possibly can, for I am very badly off for I did not get any of my jointure last year. My daughters must have got it paid to them although they certainly had no right to it, on the contrary they should have paid me for their board and lodging for the house and place belongs to me. My husband left it to me in his will but I have not been getting one penny either of my jointure, on the property left to me by my husband, or that which you borrowed from me. The first year that it was taken from me I did not mind much because I was ill, although I was not a lunatic, but the last year I have been quite well, but I have been living altogether in my own room because I have been treated as a lunatic. I think the doctor was told that I was, but for the past year I have had no doctors attending me. The only thing that has kept me from going downstairs was finding myself treated as a lunatic. I wish you could come and see me, and judge for yourself.

With love to Elinor I am your affectionate mother A. Bomford”

Such a sad letter needs little comment; it is enough to say that it sounds to be the letter of an aged person but certainly not a lunatic. However it does lead to other matters. Firstly the executors, Elizabeth and Robert, apparently pocketed the money and secondly they treated their mother as a lunatic, so much so that the poor woman kept herself in her bedroom and did not go downstairs. It is not known what happened to the missing jointure though one may assume that the bills had been covered, however the ‘lunatic’ theme runs on for ten years and really includes the money side of the question.

John Francis was in a difficult position, he had nothing to do with the settlement money; that was the duty of the executors and without going to court he could not interfere; but there were two things that he could do, he could visit his mother and this he did in January 1891, he probably made other visits but this is the only one actually recorded; and he could settle what he owed to his mother (see 31.3.1). This last may have been impossible as he was in the middle of educating his children, in any case if he did pay the money there was no way that he could ensure that Elizabeth did not get her hands on it.

Meanwhile Arbella had made her will, the first one, and she had appointed Elizabeth and Robert to be the executors; one source implies that Elizabeth used persuasive methods to induce her mother to appoint her. This will was made, according to Anne and the solicitor John Clark, in 1889 and was drawn up by Mr Fottrell who was Elizabeth’s solicitor; 1889 was also the most likely year that Arbella was ill. No doubt the contents were known to Elizabeth and Robert, and no doubt Arbella threatened to make another will if they did not give her the money due to her; so the threat of a second will which would not have been so favourable to her would have been particularly infuriating to Elizabeth. They therefore tried to prove that Arbella was a lunatic and so incapable of making a second will; to do this they had to turn her into one and the easiest way to do this to an old woman would be to mistreat her and constantly attack her mentally by making her out to be one. It is the cry from the heart in Arbella’s letter about being
treated as a lunatic, which makes her letter so full of pathos. Elizabeth and Robert were so effective in their methods that Arbella Anne (Mrs Ruxton), who later acted in concert with Elizabeth, felt herself compelled to send John Francis a telegram summoning him to come as Arbella “was in great danger”.

32.6.1 Visit of John Francis to Oakley Park January 1891

In December 1899 John Francis had to make an affidavit concerning his mother’s affairs. This is not amongst the papers, but a pencilled undated draft is. It is a most enlightening document and although it was written much later it is included here in full, as it gives a good summary of what John Francis found when he visited Oakley Park in January 1891: -

“Mrs Bomford’s (Arbella’s) mental faculties are perfectly sound excepting the lapses of memory natural to 90 years.

Elizabeth as Co-executor under the will of George Bomford so mismanaged the property under that will so that the valuable farm and effects left were completely frittered away, and that instead of profits which should have been available out of Oakley Park there was nothing to meet the current expenses or the charge of £600 a year which Mrs Bomford was to pay if she elected to hold and reside in Oakley Park. The arrears due to her now amount to £... (not stated). This is the first cause of embarrassment.

Mrs Bomford made a will in or about 1890 (the first will of 1889), to which she appointed EB (Elizabeth), and Robt LB (Robert Laurence Bomford), whose will is apparently completely under the domination of EB, executors but in consequence of their mismanagement of affairs and misconduct, she made a will in 1891, (Note in margin, ‘See letter of 11th February 1891’), drawn up by A. V. Montgomery, revoking the will of 1890, and appointing as executor J. S. Winter (James Sanderson Winter, aged 59 in 1891) of Agher, her nephew and next of kin outside her own children.

In January 1891 I went to Oakley Park to protect Mrs Bomford from EB and RLB, summoned by Mrs Ruxton by wire in which she stated Mrs Bomford was in great danger. On arrival she (Mrs Ruxton) informed me of many acts to prove that they were destroying the property, also bullying and ill treating Mrs B. She stated that RLB had violently shaken his mother because she refused to agree to the course EB and RLB were pursuing in the financial, farm and household affairs.

I found that some of the servants were acting in such a way (margin note, ‘thieving’) that, with Mrs Bomford’s desire and consent I at once dismissed them from her employment. Margin note, ‘overpayment to Reilly’. The constabulary also complained of firearms being given to objectionable persons in their employment and I removed the said arms. (Robert had got a gun licence for the coachman and allowed him to shoot over the property whenever he wanted.)

Latterly the lands have been chiefly managed by, and cared under the direction of Mr Freeman who is receiver and accounts to the Court. (Margin note, ‘Cheque Book’ and ‘Freeman appointed 2nd Sept 1898’). (Previously) the farming affairs have been chiefly looked after by Miss Adela Bomford. All the family have taken part in household affairs, but Mrs B has been nursed and attended to, and cared day and night by Miss Bomford assisted by Miss Adela Bomford. Miss Bomford, the eldest daughter (Anne or Nannie) is the healthiest and strongest and best able to attend her, and Mrs Bomford has repeatedly told me that she did not know how she could get on if it were not for “the affection and care of Nannie and Adela”, and has more than once asked - Had the others any affection for her? (Note added, ‘see letter and complaint of treatment - and trying to make her a lunatic’)

Except to concur with me in the desire that my mother may end her days in peace and quietness and free from vexation and unkindness, and also in the belief that if Mrs Ruxton and EB were vested with any authority or control, my mother would be treated not as a gentle affectionate old woman in dotage, but as a lunatic in Bedlam, and that residence in the house would be intolerable for anyone not completely under their control, also that any property now remaining would be completely frittered away by mismanagement as before or in legal schemes - except in believing this, Miss Bomford (Anne) is not acting with me in any way, nor is she under my influence beyond the ties of sisterly affection.

Mrs Ruxton is a married woman, a wife with a husband and grown up son, and as she states an independent income, and I believe that she is not justified in residing at Oakley Park making an additional burden upon the income which has to support Mrs Bomford and four unmarried daughters and a son, and that if she is vested with authority the result would be perpetual family dissention and strife.

Mr R. L. Bomford and Miss Margaret W B are apparently completely under the domination of EB and Mrs R and are otherwise unfitted for any business transactions.”

(End of quote)

John Francis made some additional notes to his draft:
1. (His mother) “always very particular that all money should be lodged and paid to herself and not to EB or RLB, and directed Agents and Receiver to that effect.”
2. “Freeman latterly lets most (of Oakley Park) in grass.”
3. “House and..? are paying no rent.” This is the £600 a year from her settlement of £2,000, which Arbella ought to have paid; the illegible word may refer to the other adults staying in the house free of charge.”
4. “Got offers to take it, also to buy.”

This affidavit was written in December 1899 and the items referring to the receiver, Michael Freeman, and the offers to lease and buy Oakley Park do not come into the story until much later.

So positive action was taken by John Francis on his visit in January 1891, but it did not put an end to the scheming of Elizabeth and, it now appears, of Mrs Ruxton. He was probably able to frighten Robert sufficiently over the police complaint to stop him attacking his mother physically. It is now clear that the only ones who were kind to and assisted their mother were Anne (Nannie) and Adela, but they were not able to stop the others from trying to make their mother into a lunatic. However to be fair we must remember that this is John Francis’ affidavit which has been recorded; we do not have any idea of what Elizabeth’s argument might have been.

Another important result of the visit was that Arbella made a new will during the next month and the executors were changed.

32.6.2 2nd Will of Arbella Bomford 11th February 1891

1. She revokes all other wills.
2. “I bequeath to each of my daughters, Anne Bomford, Elizabeth Bomford, Victoria Adela Bomford, and Margaret Winter Bomford, the furniture of such bedroom at Oakley Park as is occupied by her at the date of my signing this my will.”
3. Also bequeathed to the above daughters, - “the tea caddy in the dining room, and the rosewood cabinet in the library, the Indian box in the drawing room and the tea table, and all the books, drawings, engravings and ornaments left to me by my sister Elizabeth Caulfield.”
4. To Anne, “the pianoforte in the drawing room.”
5. To Robert Laurence, “the harmonium and pianoforte in the morning room.”
6. To “my grandson George Sadleir Bomford, all the books belonging to his late father George (Winter) Bomford which are now at Oakley Park.”
7. To John Francis, “the remainder of the household furniture, pictures, books, linen, china, glass, plate, and other articles in the house at Oakley Park.”
8. The £1,000 which John Francis “owes me, and which is secured by two bonds, is to be divided in equal shares between my four daughters, Anne Bomford, Arbella Anna Ruxton, Victoria Adela Bomford, and Margaret Winter Bomford. I have already given to my daughter Elizabeth and to my son Robert Laurence a sum of £250 each which is the amount of a debt of £500 owed to me by my son John Francis which is secured by a bond dated 18, August 1880.”

Nominated Executors: James Sanderson Winter of Agher (her nephew who died 10th July 1911) and Lyndon Bolton of Burren (eldest brother of John Francis’ wife, Elinor, who died at Drumlargan 4th April 1900).

Witnessed A. V. Montgomery, solicitor, (33.9.1) and W. Magorn.

This will became known to the family as “The Bedroom Will” because of the first bequest. The story goes that much of the house furnishings, plate china and so on ‘disappeared’ into the bedrooms. Just how much vanished in this way is not known, as no inventory is available for the date Arbella signed her will. I vaguely remember discussions on this subject but they meant nothing to me as a child and the details have been forgotten; but I do remember the excitement when two cartloads of furnishings were returned from the house in Kells occupied by Robert who died in 1931 and Margaret who had died in 1928. Certainly some of these things would not normally be in a bedroom, like the Chinese lacquer bureau with matching chairs or the roll-top desk, and it was with these that the ‘boudoir’ was furnished. Quite a number of items must have gone, for even in my time the drawing room was not used for lack of furniture, and some of the bedrooms were scantily furnished.

From this distance in time it is difficult to know why Elizabeth and those who sided with her took such exception to this will, but then we do not know the contents of the first will. On the face of it the only thing that they might have taken exception to is the £250 which Elizabeth and Robert had each previously got from Arbella and which they might have considered as a gift. It is therefore thought that they must have taken exception to the change of executors; previously Elizabeth and Robert were the executors and now the executors were hopefully neutral but probably inclined to the views of John Francis. James Sanderson Winter was a close neighbour of John Francis and Lyndon Bolton was a brother.
of Elinor who died at Drumlargan two and a half months after Arbella died and may have been living there for some years.

Nevertheless Elizabeth and company (Robert, Mrs Ruxton and Margaret) still insisted that the first will was valid because their mother was a lunatic and so legally could not have written the second will. There are no papers or deeds until 1898 but sometime during these seven years the lawyers had been dragged in. The various officials were –

Acting for John Francis, Anne and Adela
  John Clark, solicitor of 37 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, who came to Trim every Saturday.
  Mr Molony, barrister and council, of Dublin.

Acting for Elizabeth, Mrs Ruxton, Robert and Margaret
  George Drevor Fottrell and sons, solicitors, of Dublin, who drew up the first will.
  Mr Smith worked for them.
  George Lett, solicitor of Dame Street and his son George Carr Lett.

Michael Freeman of Kells was appointed by the Court of Chancery as Receiver of Oakley Park on 2nd September 1898.
Mr Colles was the Registrar of the Court.

Doctors attending Arbella
  Dr John Ringwood of Kells, the family doctor and a trustee of the marriage settlement of George and Arbella of 1832.
  Dr O’Reilly of Trim was an official of the Court of Chancery
  Dr John Heally of Kells was the Rector of Kells (1887-1917) and a trustee of the 1832 marriage settlement.

It is not known what the court cases were between 1891 and 1898 but there is reference to the case of Arbella’s “Irish Money”, and of course the receivers had been brought in as a consequence of some charge of indebtedness. It is this debt that John Francis refers to as “the first cause of embarrassment”, and the very fact that a valuable estate had been placed under the receiver gives credence to John Francis’ argument that the place had been mismanaged.

The following letter of May 1898 shows that yet another court case is about to take place or continued, but it also indicates that Arbella’s affairs had been in the hands of the receiver before Michael Freeman was appointed later that year on September 2nd.

32.6.3 From J Clark to John Francis (at a hotel in Dungannon) 17th May 1898

“I now send you a copy of the Opinion which I have at last got from Mr Molony, (the Opinion is missing). However it is satisfactory, and what we should do now, is to go back on the accounts and ascertain what money has been paid out of the tenant ed lands during the time your mother was receiving the rents without the aid of the Receiver so as to be in a position whenever the time comes, to put forward figures.”

It was probably as a result of this letter that John Francis put a number of questions to his sister Anne; these are on a loose undated sheet with Anne’s answers in the margin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Francis questions</th>
<th>Anne’s answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. When did Elizabeth get Judicial Rent fixed on Knockturn?</td>
<td>I think 1891.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. When did she sell the farm?</td>
<td>I think either end of 1897 or beginning of 1898. (It was February 1898).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Did she tell you or Adela she was going to do it?</td>
<td>I never was nor was Adela asked, I believe that she saw it in the paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Did she tell mother? or do you believe she told her?</td>
<td>I have no reason to think she told mother.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Were you and Adela ever consulted or told anything about any of the various lawsuits started?</td>
<td>We all knew about the first application to Chancery to look after the Irish money but neither Adela nor I knew anything else.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Or about the present application to Chancery?</td>
<td>This Adela or I knew nothing about until Mr Lett came with the notice to serve on my mother.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anne’s fifth answer is interesting, it is this, which makes me think that there were previous lawsuits, at least two, and that the receiver was appointed before Michael Freeman in September 1898. These comments also show the complete lack of communication between the sisters; it is as though they were not on speaking terms with each other, and this may well be true.
Between 28th October 1899 and 22nd December 1899 there are 17 letters on file, probably a complete set. They are included in full as they really bring out the tension and, indeed, hostility amongst the family, and the resultant worry to their mother now aged 90 and about to die. The letters also give snippets of incidental family life.

1. 3rd November 1899

   Anne to John Francis

   “My dear Johnnie,
   In great haste I write a line to tell you that Arbella Ruxton had Mr Lett down here today serving my mother with a copy of a petition to the Lord Chancellor to make her a Ward of Chancery. (This must be the application to Chancery referred to in ‘6’ above.) Mrs Ruxton and Elizabeth are the petitioners. You certainly ought to look about it for they decidedly want to get everything into their own hands. Neither Adela or I were told anything about it so if you can put a stop to it I think you should at all events inquire about it, perhaps write to Mr Lett or get Mr Clarke to do so, it was George Lett junior who was here today, he is the petitioner’s solicitor, the petition was presented to the Chancellor on the 30th of October. I think certainly the two petitioners ought not to be guardians. Poor mother is just going on fairly well, we are going to get a new nurse on Monday (6th) I think, with fond love to you all, I remain your attached Sister Anne Bomford

   PS I hope you will forgive this scribble I hardly know what I am doing.”

2. 4th November 1899

   Anne to John Francis (The next day)

   “My dearest Johnnie,
   As I hardly knew what I was writing yesterday I write again today to say if possible I really think you ought to try and squash this Chancery business, it seems to be the greatest rubbish I ever heard of besides great expense. I understand that Dr Ringwood thinks it is the greatest nonsense making Mother a ward but he could not avoid giving them a certificate of her present mental state of health, but I believe they wanted one to prove she had been in an unsound state of mind for some years, would it not be well for you to write to Dr Ringwood yourself to get his exact opinion. Dr O’Reilly from Trim was here today sent by the Court of Chancery, he only asked to see the Nurse and Mother. He told nurse that Mother has no delusions at all, that she is only not able to manage her affairs from pure old age; he told nurse that he was a great friend of yours. I enclose you a copy of the Notice that was on the outside of the petition Mr George Lett gave Mother yesterday so you see by it if you can do anything to stop it you had better hurry. With best love to you all, joined by Adela, I remain your attached sister Anne.”

3. 6th November 1899

   John Francis to Mr Clark

   “My dear Mr Clark,
   Enclosed I send you a copy of a letter and enclosure I have now received. I hope you will have the matter attended to promptly. The only business my Mother has to manage is signing cheques for cash to cover the household expenses, which is a very small matter and hardly one for the Court of Chancery. I believe the course hitherto has been that whenever Mother was bedridden the cheques have been filled by Miss Elizabeth Bomford and signed by Mother. The natural person for this would be Miss Bomford (Anne), but Mrs Ruxton and Miss Elizabeth are so overbearing and meddlesome that for peace sake she lets them manage it. If my Mother was left to Miss Bomford’s care she would have the peace and rest which is all she wants on Earth. She is in her 90th year. She frets greatly over these schemes and worries started apparently by Mrs Ruxton, and I fear they will kill her. Surely for her time she might be left in peace. Yours sincerely, John F. Bomford.”

It is a pity that there is no documentation to give the other side of the case, for it seems inconceivable that a court case could be made on such petty grounds. Even the officials appear to agree; however once the Notice was served on the old lady the process of the law had to grind on.
4. 7th November 1899
John Clark to John Francis
“Dear Sir, I got your letter with enclosures. I saw Mr. Colles the Registrar and discussed the matter with him. He seems to be familiar with the circumstances. He got Dr. Ringwood’s Report, and said that Dr. O’Reilly has also reported and they both agree it is purely a matter of old age with your Mother, but that she is not capable of looking after her own affairs. When Medical Inspectors make a Report of this kind the only one who can oppose at this stage the making of the Order taking the person under the care of Court, is the alleged lunatic herself. The matter will come before the Lord Chancellor on Saturday week (18th) who will direct the Enquiry as to her means and appoint a committee etc. I am to get Notice on your behalf of the steps that are taken and our time to appear would be when it is referred to the Registrar to approve of the committee. You will have notice and we, I hope, will be able to get a Committee appointed of whom you will approve.
Yours faithfully, John Clark”

5. 9th November 1899
Anne at Oakley Park to her sister-in-law Elinor at Drumlargan
“My dear Elinor,
I was very glad to get your letter this morning with enclosures from Mr. Clark, which I return. I saw Dr. Ringwood last Sunday (5th), he seems to be very much put out about Mother being made a Ward and was very much surprised to find that I knew nothing about what was going on until Mr. G Lett came down, he also said when he was asked to write a certificate of Mother’s present mental state of health he was told there was nothing else to be done as, if the affairs were not settled before Mother’s death, there would be nothing for all of us but the Poor House. I sent Johnnie a copy of the schedule of the property that was put in the Petition; you will see that it was Adela wrote it out. I think I may say Mother is going on pretty well, sometimes she looks very well and her appetite is generally very good, the new nurse seems very nice but she is a huge big fat woman, she is Mrs Gildea. I am so glad to hear Annella is enjoying herself so much. I am sorry to say I do not know where we would put Trevor to sleep if he comes here with you as the nurse has the front room to dress in, of course you would sleep with me. With best love to you all joined by Adela I remain Dear Elinor your attached sister Anne Bomford.”

The schedule included in the petition, which Adela copied out, might be that included in paragraph 31.3.1, which gave Arbella a gross credit of £3,500 on her property. Certainly the handwriting was unfamiliar to me and may have been Adela’s.
Annella, who was “enjoying herself so much” was Elinor’s daughter Ann Arbella; in July that year she had married Rev Claude Longfield at Agher Church and they were then living at Frankfield Co Cork, where he was Rector. Trevor is another of Elinor’s children, aged 19.

6. 14th November 1899
George Carr Lett, Junior, to John Francis
“Dear Sir,
Herewith I send you by registered post notice of petition and order made thereon in connection with Mrs Bomford of Oakley Park.”

7. 16th November 1899
John Clark to John Francis
“Dear Sir,
Since Mrs Bomford (Elinor) was here today I have heard from Mr. Lett that the case will not come on before the Lord Chancellor, that the notice was not served in time. It was this notice Miss Bomford (Anne) evidently referred to as being left on the foot of the bed and taken away by Mr. Robert. I expect to be in Trim on Saturday.
Yours faithfully John Clark”

John Francis has written on this letter “Have the case put off if possible until Sat 2nd December at soonest.” Of course he was still working for the Land Commission and it would appear that he had to be away from soon after the 16th until the end of the month; he was certainly away between the 21st and 24th.
8. 21st November 1899  Elinor at Oakley Park to John Francis

“My darling,

Things are much worse than we thought, I had a long talk with Ringwood today, he says he refused to give any certificate, and that a Govt Notice, ‘Lunacy’, was served on him stating that it was understood that he, as magistrate and a doctor, was concealing a lunatic here, and had also a letter, or notice, from Mr Colles (the Registrar) telling him that he must sign and that he had no option in the matter. Ringwood was also told that all the family agreed, at the same time Ringwood says owing to these notices he could not possibly write such a letter, as we want, but I was to say he was quite of the opinion that it is a most scandalous case etc. All of which I have written to Mr Clark. It is thought Arbella (Ruxton) and Elizabeth will appear on Saturday (24th) and try to have Robert appointed and that this is the reason his name is not in the paper. I have asked Mr Clark can he possibly get the case postponed till Saturday week (2nd December) for you to appear and if not to get Nannie named. Neither Doctors Ringwood or Healy can as they are trustees, but when we know the others have never stopped at lies to gain their own object I would not believe what they would swear on oath and I think you would be the only one who could keep them within bounds. Everything ought to be done to prevent Robert being appointed, particularly over the property.

Your Mother is much the same; she does not sleep except with sleeping draughts. She was greatly pleased with some flowers I brought her today, and told me they were Chrysanthemums and to put them in water. She also told the nurse, I am told, when served with the notice the other day that “they seemed to want to make someone out a lunatic”. Good night my darling, fond loves in which Nannie and Adela join, ever your fond wife Nellie.”

Since Arbella was to be made a Ward of Court, a committee of guardians was required to run the estate and to deal with money matters on a day to day basis. It was as a committee member that Elizabeth was trying to get Robert appointed. Trustees concerned with the estate could not be committee members and “Doctors Ringwood and Healy” were trustees; they were made trustees in 1890, and a further change of trustees was made in 1901.

6th December 1890  George Bomford’s Estate,  Appointment of New Trustees

Between 1. Arbella Bomford of Oakley Park, widow  
2. Rev John Healy of Kells, Rector, and John Ringwood of Kenlis Place, Kells, MD.

Reciting the Marriage Settlement of 21st July 1832 which was between  
1. George Bomford  
2. Myles O’Reilly, and R. W. Reynell  
3. George Lucas Nugent, and Thomas Barnes  
4. John Pratt Winter, and Arbella Winter now Bomford.

Now Arbella Bomford appoints Rev John Healy and Dr John Ringwood as trustees to replace Myles O’Reilly and R W Reynell, both dead  
Witnessed Robert L Bomford of Oakley Park  
(1891, Vol 9, No 186)

1st July 1901  Further Appointment of New Trustees

In lieu of George Lucas Nugent and Thomas Barnes deceased, the new trustees appointed are  
Canon John Healy, Rector of Kells, and  
Thomas Murdock MacDowell, MD, of 19 Rathgar Road, Dublin  
(1901, Vol 62, No 251)

To return to the letters, Elinor’s concern was that the case would come on while John Francis was still away, so it was imperative that the case be postponed until after he returned. She was afraid that Elizabeth and Co would lie to the court and so have Robert elected and she thought that only the presence of John Francis “could keep them within bounds” and so be truthful.

9. 22nd November 1899  Doctor Ringwood to Elinor

“Dear Mrs Bomford,

Miss Bomford (Anne) told me that you were anxious to hear how I found Mrs Bomford to be when I visited her this afternoon. She is weaker than when I last saw her, but much less exalted. Her heart action is very weak, but what can one expect of anyone of her great age. Her life is now most precarious and though she may with care, such as she is getting, live for some time longer, still you must be prepared for her sudden and painless passing away. Nurse Gildea seems to be very kind, attentive and in every way efficient and manages Mrs Bomford very well. In fact no one could be better cared or more comfortable than she is. She seems to like her nurse, which is a great point with a childish old lady who has to be humoured and pleased like a child. She gets a fair amount of sleep and is taking plenty of nourishment. With kind regards, believe me Dear Mrs Bomford, Yours sincerely John Ringwood.”
10. 23rd November 1899  
J Clark to Elinor at Drumlargan (John Francis is still away)

 "Dear Mrs Bomford,  
I have received your letter, also a letter from Misses Anne and Adela Bomford. I have seen Mr. Molony, Counsel, and discussed the matter with him. We decided to appear on Saturday (24th) but do not consider anything can be gained by asking (for) an adjournment as I said to you there will be nothing done save the formal order; it is not usual to appoint a Committee on that occasion, but it would be safer for us to be there in case any attempt was made to appoint either of the Petitioners (Elizabeth or Mrs. Ruxton) or Robert Bomford. If when the case comes on anything occurs which would make it expedient to have Mr. Bomford present, we will try and get an adjournment but I think, otherwise there is not the slightest use in doing so. As I informed you and Mr Bomford, the chief contest will come on when it comes to the appointment of a Committee. I have read a copy of Dr Ringwood’s affidavit. He swears Mrs Bomford has been incapable of managing her affairs since 1890. When was her will made?"

That last query is the crux. If Arbella was incapable of managing her affairs in 1890 then it could be argued that she was a lunatic from that date. This has been the argument of Elizabeth and Co all along. If they can prove this, and Ringwood’s affidavit goes a long way to help prove it, then the second will is invalidated and Elizabeth and Robert will be the trustees of everything; this is the very thing which the rest of the family think should not be allowed to happen because they have proved themselves already to be incapable.

11. 24th November 1899  
Elinor to John Francis

"My darling,  
I enclose a letter from Clark and Ringwood, the latter was not quite honest in what he said to me, but though your Mother was ‘incapable of’ managing her affairs since 1890’ that would not make her mind unsound then. Ringwood told me I could make whatever I liked anything he said to me, so I have copied out the beginning of his letter and sent it to Clark. The Oakley Park people thought your Mother better than when we saw her, I thought her much weaker and I think you ought to be sure of going to see her when you come home again. I do not know the date of your Mother’s will. All going well here, Trevor only saw one pheasant the day he and Radcliff were shooting, I brought it home, and he got one the day before which I left. Fond love, ever your loving wife, Nellie. Keep Ringwood’s letter safe."

The two letters she sent to her husband were probably Ringwood’s of 22nd November and Clark’s of 23rd. (The postal service was vastly better than it is now.)

Trevor apparently did go to Oakley Park and perhaps, since there was no bed for him there, he stayed with the Radcliffs at Wilmount, the neighbouring 540 acres estate to the south of Oakley Park. He may have been out shooting with Thomas Radcliff or his son John who was about the same age.

12. 3rd December 1899  
Anne to Elinor

"My dearest Elinor,  
I was very glad to get your letter this morning also the enclosed from Nannie Winter which I return as you wished. I think I can say our poor old Mother is pretty well, her appetite is not at all bad, but she has got into the way of sleeping a great deal in the daytime so of course she can not sleep at night, and in consequence the nurse is kept awake as well as herself. Mrs Gildea is going away tomorrow by the early train at her own request, she seemed to find the case too much for her, there is a new one coming tomorrow evening whose name is Wilson. I believe she is not a trained nurse but do not think that matters much as I think Mother really only requires an attendant and some one that is strong as it (is) sometimes very hard to move my Mother when necessary.

Now about Mother’s will, I can hardly tell you anything but as far as I can make out I think the one before the last was drawn out by Mr Fottrell about 1889. Of course you know the last one was drawn out by Mr Montgomery I think about the middle of February 1891. I must say goodnight now as at is time to send this to the post, so with my very best love to you all, I remain your attached sister Anne Bomford."

Anne was right about the dates of both wills.  
‘Nannie’ Winters letter is not amongst the documents. It is not clear who she is, but if ‘Nannie’ is the family name for Anne, then there are three alternatives –

Anna Julia, the wife of Major Francis Winter of the 59th Bengal Lancers and a brother of Arbella; he is dead but Anna did not die until January 1909.  
She might be Ann, the spinster daughter of portrait painter John Pratt Winter; she died in Bray in 1904 and was a niece of Arbella.
Or she might be Mary Anne, the unmarried daughter of Samuel Winter of Agher; she died in 1906 and was another niece of Arbella.

13. 14th December 1899  J Clark to John Francis
   “My dear Sir,
   I have received Summons to proceed on the Statement brought in by Miss Bomford (Elizabeth) and Mrs Ruxton. The Summons is for Thursday next, 21st Inst, I have asked Mr Lett for a copy of the Statement; he promised to let me have it tomorrow, if so, I shall bring it with me to Trim on Saturday, and if you are not in I shall post it on as it is probable we must make an affidavit in the matter. I hope you will be able to attend yourself on the 21st.”

14. 16th December 1899  Elinor to John Francis
   “My darling,
   You did not say anything about paying the men so I am using some of the children’s money. Trevor says he is getting another first from George Mason. I am just off to Trim where I shall post this. What dreadful news from the War, such a lot of valuable lives lost; I hope our boy will be safe. I am sending the paper; you can judge for yourself, Clark says he must see you as early as you can on Wednesday to make an affidavit. In great haste, your fond wife, Nellie.”

15. 16th December 1899  (same day) Elinor to John Francis
   “My darling,
   I sent on the paper from Trim, Clark was going to keep it, but I thought it better to let you think it over. Clark says you must try and make out a very strong reason against the appointments, as there would never be an end of law if they get in, he wants you as early as you can on Wednesday (20th), and all day on Thursday; he was very busy today, I had a very long wait for him. I think a person who gets a gun licence for a coachman and allows him to shoot on your property without leave is one reason against the appointment, (this refers to Robert), however we can talk it over when you return.
   The dreadful war news quite upset me today; the whole week has been a chapter of calamities. I have a very bad pain and it is after 12 o’clock and time for bed. We have just been looking at the eclipse; there is a dreadful wind. I hope it will be calm for Willie on Monday night (18th). Good night darling, your loving wife Nellie.”

John Francis was again away on Land Commission business and again Elinor steps in and does all that is necessary. He returns before the 21st to answer the summons in court. Letter 14 was probably written at Drumlargan, Elinor then went to Trim, collected the paper from Clark and posted the whole lot; on return home she wrote No 15.

There is no record of Trevor continuing his education after leaving Denstone in 1897, but “another first from George Mason” does sound as though he did. It may be that George Mason was assisting him with the Indian Army Exam (33.9).

Willie was William Harold, aged 14 and the youngest boy; no doubt he was returning home for the Christmas holidays from his school in England.

The South African War had started on October 11 and Elinor’s reaction was typical of the whole of Britain to the early reverses in what was termed ‘Black Week’; Kimberly, Mafeking and Ladysmith were all besieged and attempts to relieve these towns were defeated during that week by the Boers with the loss of over 2,800 British troops against 400 Boers. One consequence of ‘Black Week’ was that local forces were recruited in South Africa and it was probably as a result of this recruitment that ‘our boy’, Samuel Richard aged 26, joined the Cape Mounted Rifles and fought in the 2nd Boer War ending as a Captain.

16. 18th December 1899  Anne to Elinor
   “My dear Elinor,
   I only got you letter today by second post. I was in Kells today and Elizabeth too and she was at the post office before I was so got the letters. Anne Day was the name of the Cook that was here the time of the row and she was afterwards with Elizabeth in Dublin but whether she was actually stopping in the same house I do not know, and as to Mat Geoghegan being there I know nothing about, perhaps he went up to see Anne Day sometimes. Elizabeth was stopping in a Temperance Hotel in Townsend Street and afterwards went to Bray.”
About Mrs Ruxton being made a guardian I really do not know what to say. My own idea is that she is not at all a fit person. I think it ought to be some one that is not a member of the family and I feel almost sure the whole thing is got up to spite Johnnie and I think I often said that to you before. I think my Mother is pretty well but she has restless nights. She was up sitting in her chair for a while this evening and it did not seem to do her any harm. The last nurse, Mrs Gildea, lives generally in Curzen Street but I do not know the number, but if you write to Miss Powell the matron of Charlemont Street Hospital I think you will hear of her. With best love from Adela and myself to you all, I remain always your attached sister Anne Bomford.”

“The time of the row” was back in January 1891 when John Francis visited Oakley Park and finding some of the servants misbehaving dismissed them. It now appears that the cook, Anne Day, was one of them, and also that Elizabeth left Oakley Park for a time after that row. Mat Geoghegan might have been the coachman for whom Robert got the gun licence, but that is not so clear.

17. 22nd December 1899 George Lett to Mrs Ruxton

“Dear Madam,

This matter came on before Mr Colles yesterday but was adjourned as Mr J.F. Bomford put in a long affidavit, which requires to be answered. I enclose the affidavit in order that you may send instructions for the preparation of the answering affidavit.

Faithfully yours, Geor Carr Lett Jr.”.

John Francis’ affidavit was that recorded in paragraph 32.6.1.

This adjournment led to the Christmas recess and it is doubtful if the Court met again before Arbella Bomford died on the 8th January 1900. Anyway the question of the guardianship or committee concerning Arbella’s affairs was not pursued and this particular subject died a natural death on her death.

32.8.0 Death of Arbella Bomford 8th January 1900

Arbella died peacefully in her bed on 8th January 1900. She was not buried with her husband at Laracor, but was buried at 9 a.m. on 12th January in Dublin.

In 1884 Cecil FitzHerbert Ruxton, grandson of Arbella, purchased a grave site in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Harold’s Cross; this was handed over to “Mrs Arbella A. Bomford” on 29th July 1891. The grave is numbered 6255 and situated in Sub-Division 361. From this it would appear that Mrs Ruxton perhaps arranged the funeral, but it was John Francis who settled the funeral expenses amounting to £23.10.0. No doubt most of the family attended.

32.8.1 Death Certificate 9th January 1900

J.F. Griffith, the Assistant Registrar of Births and Deaths in Kells registered the Certificate of Death in the District and Union of Kells. It reads -

Number 177, Name Arbella Bomford. (This was initially entered incorrectly as Anne Bomford and corrected by the Registrar “in the presence of me, Robert Laurence Bomford, son”).

Sex Female, Condition Widow, Age last birthday 89 years,

Rank, Profession or Occupation – A Lady

Cause of Death – Cardiac failure, 2 hours, senile decay, Some years certified.

Signature of Informant Annett Wilson, present at death, of 52 York Street Dublin. (The nurse).

When registered – Ninth January 1900.

32.9.0 The Disposal of Arbella’s Property

With the death of Arbella the question of the guardianship died.

However the matter of the inheritance then raised its head. There was no question about the house or land, those went to John Francis. The argument arose concerning the farm stock and the movable contents of the house, which were the ‘estate’ of Arbella. A figure in cash had to be arrived at for the probate, but I suspect, the validity of the second will remained the issue between the two divided parties in the family. The second will clearly defined what Elizabeth and Co were to receive - the contents of their bedroom, plus odd specified furnishings, and a division of £1,000 between four of the daughters; the rest all went to John Francis. That is all quite clear and there should be no need to wrangle over the disposal of the property; but there was a dispute, though not a big one, and so it is thought that the first must have contained a clause which divided additional disposable property between those living at Oakley Park.
However there is another and more likely possibility; that, since the receiver had been brought in, Arbella’s estate had actually been more in debt than previously thought, and so the movable items in the house had to be sold to pay those debts; the first probate of April 1901 gave the value of her estate as £636 (32.9.6) and this included the amounts gathered from the various sales up to that date. This figure must have been approximately the amount received for the livestock, farm equipment and house furnishings etc so at the time of her death the estate was worth nothing or have been in the red. The second probate of July 1911 was for £1,070 (32.9.7), a healthier figure. This last supposition is given weight by the following letter written before Arbella was buried, by Elizabeth’s lawyers, George Drevor Fottrell.

10th January 1900

Fottrell & Son to John Clark

“Dear Mr Clark, We have just seen in today’s ‘Irish Times’ the announcement of the death of Mrs Arbella Bomford. As we have already informed you an order has been made by the Master of the Rolls directing the furniture etc at Oakley Park to be sold, and your client Mr John F. Bomford now succeeds to the mansion and demesne lands of Oakley Park, we shall thank you to bring this letter under his notice with a view to having the furniture etc kept safe pending the realization thereof. You may remember that it was at your request we did not put the order of the Court into force, and we shall be glad to receive any suggestion, which may occur to you with reference to the matter. Of course on behalf of the creditors it will be necessary to bring the facts before the Court at an early date.”

From this it would appear that all the furniture was to be sold to pay the creditors and that the estate was in debt. Incidentally this would also mean that effectively John Francis was to succeed to an empty shell of a house, unless he bought the furniture himself.

17th January 1900

John Clark to Elinor

“Dear Mrs Bomford, I had a letter on my return from Mr Lett in which he enquires whether Mr Bomford is prepared to have the will he got made in ’91 condemned, so that the will of ’89 should be propounded. He followed up his letter with a call today. I told him I am sure the last will would be propounded in due course, and that I thought it would be better if there was not such undue haste exhibited. They are evidently disappointed at the turn events have taken, and we may expect another row over the will.”

In fact eventually the 1891 will was propounded. ‘They’ had good cause to be disappointed since there could be no cash grant for them until the lawyers had settled everything, and this would take time; ‘they’ must also have realized that they would have to move from Oakley Park fairly soon and that, although they were left their bedroom furniture, money would be needed to furnish the rest of their new house. Speaking personally and judging from the evidence available my sympathies are not with ‘them’. It was after all they who brought in the lawyers in the first place, intrigued and mismanaged the estate, but above all caused worry to their old mother. One could excuse mismanagement but never excuse a plot to make their mother out to be a lunatic.

Meanwhile a voluminous correspondence was written, much of which is missing and much of which concerned minor matters; therefore it has been edited and split under different headings with extracts quoted from the letters.

32.9.1

Family Movements

1900

John Francis, Elinor and their family remained at Drumlargin for a few months. John Francis finally moved to Oakley Park on 4th May 1900, but it would appear that Elinor was there in April with her daughter-in-law Maude; Maude’s eldest son, George, was born at Oakley Park on 22nd April.

Mrs Ruxton was given her marching orders by John Francis “on condition that all keys of the doors, tables, and other pieces of furniture are at once given to me, and that my ownership of the House is in no way disputed, (on this condition) I am willing to permit Mrs Ruxton to remain in the house until 19th of January 1900, and that the others remain subject to my permission until I shall require them to leave”. Even this was not as simple as it sounds because Mrs Ruxton claimed some furniture as her own and John Francis had to get permission from the Receiver for her to take it away; as he said, “if I may offer an opinion, I consider it would be much better to let them (the pieces of furniture) go now than have the empty bother about them later on”. Mrs Ruxton went to live in Dublin at No 9 Ashfield Terrace, Harold’s Cross. She died there on 19th February 1910.

Elizabeth probably departed soon after Arbella’s death, and probably before Mrs Ruxton left on 19th January since it would have been her who would have had the keys. She is not specifically mentioned again but she ended up living with Mrs Ruxton at the Harold’s Cross house. It is not known where or when she died.

Robert and Margaret went to live in a house in Kells nearly opposite the Round Tower. Margaret also claimed some of the furniture as her own.
Anne’s future is doubtful. She certainly moved out of Oakley Park and it thought that for a time she lived at Drumlargan when John Francis moved out; but it is not known where she went when Drumlargan was sold in 1904. Anne died, aged 78, on 8th January 1912.

Adela’s future is also uncertain. There is an unclear reference to her in the letters indicating that she had a mental breakdown soon after Arbella’s death, and in April Elinor commented, “I hope Adela will not go wrong”. It is thought that initially she lived with Anne but at some later stage she was admitted to the Ardee Mental Hospital where she died, date not known.

All these had moved from Oakley Park before John Francis moved in, with the possible exception of Anne and Adela. However these two could only have stayed for a short time since John Francis’ family would have filled the house, and his eldest son had also started his own family.

32.9.2 General

Even though John Francis moved into Oakley Park the place was still in the hands of the Receiver to the Court of Chancery, Michael Freeman of Kells and Trim. This meant that he could only farm the portion of Oakley Park, which had been leased to him some years previously; this portion was the 209 acres at the northern end of the townland which John Francis first leased in 1872, and the western 207 acres which he originally leased in 1861 but had passed to his son George Lyndon in 1896. These leases would continue but the rent would have to be paid to the Receiver. However the 269 acres around the house which Arbella controlled during her life and which was now in the hands of the Receiver could not be farmed by John Francis until the Receiver had sorted out the money and this, in the hands of the Law, took time. However John Francis was still away for much of the time on Land Commission work, so this may not have worried him unduly, and with an independent income he could face a delay.

Another problem, which runs through the correspondence, is that Lyndon Bolton died on 4th April 1900. He was one of the executors of Arbella’s will and was living at Drumlargan with his sister when he died. At some stage around 1899 he in turn became involved with a Court Case over Arbella’s will and there are a number of letters headed “Case of Bomford versus Bolton”; the cause is not known. Elinor was an executor of Lyndon Bolton’s will and as such she inherited his court case and became “The Defendant in the Suit that has been instituted to dispute her (Arbella’s) will”. Thus Elinor became an official ‘partner’ with her husband, if not a full-blown executor of Arbella’s will, as well as being an executor of Lyndon Bolton’s will. However the Bolton dispute, whatever it was, introduced yet another set of lawyers to further complicate the issue; an issue which really was rather petty and could only cost Arbella’s estate a mass of money.

32.9.3 Sale of Livestock and Vehicles January 1900

An auction was held towards the end of January of the farm stock, tools and vehicles. The list written by John Francis includes-

17 cattle including four milking cows, one breeding pig, one ‘aged’ draught mare and a harness mare, one jaunting car, one hack car, one dray, and two carts, plus a number of farming implements like ploughs and harrows. John Francis comments that the lot are not worth much, and that the draught mare is the only animal left from his father’s days. It is noteworthy that there was no closed carriage; it must have been sold since his father died, as must a number of animals since this is such a low figure for the acreage.

Altogether the list shows that a very small amount of farming was carried out during the 1890’s. For instance no ground could be under tillage without a couple of strong draught horses to pull the plough, and for the same reason it is unlikely that hay was harvested. This state of affairs must have begun after George’s death because the other items listed such as a metal roller, iron American rake, cake crusher and sack weighing machine do indicate that considerable tillage and hay-making had at one time been done. These observations give substance to John Francis’ charge that the estate was “so mismanaged that valuable farm and effects left (by George) were completely frittered away” (32.6.1), and that no attempt had been made to farm the place.

32.9.4 Leasing of the Oakley Park Land

Until probate on Arbella’s will could be set, all income from her estate went into her account under the Receiver who had to ensure that the place was run as profitably as possible. Thus the land had to be leased. The Sixteen Acre field of 21 acres was let under grass without trouble for £38, but it was not so easy to let the rest of the land, particularly the park-land of the two ‘lawns’ through which the avenues wandered. Indeed at one stage John Francis discussed the possibility of selling the whole of Oakley Park. One imagines that he and Elinor were so fed up with the tangle of family affairs that they felt they should cut their losses and remain at Drumlargan where they had been quite content. His son, George Lyndon,
wrote in 1936 of Oakley Park being a “white elephant” and of “this huge barrack”, but George Lyndon in 1900 had never lived at Oakley Park, and his father’s memory of the place was in its heyday during the 1850’s and 1860’s when it was very different to the run down place he had just inherited; so neither of them at that time had the same fondness for the place that later generations were to develop. However the selling idea came to nothing.

By April 1900 the rest of the land around the house had not been leased and it was agreed, after much discussion, that John Francis would lease it himself, including the Sixteen Acres field for £150 a year. The other two portions of 207 and 209 acres never entered into these proceedings, as they had been leased already to John Francis neither did Charles Reilly’s plot of 52 acres. Thus John Francis (and his son George Lyndon, and Reilly) rented the whole townland until he officially inherited it.

32.9.5 Sale of Household Effects

In June 1898 Michael Freeman carried out an “Inventory and Valuation of Household Furniture, Plate, Books and Outdoor Effects, by order of Messrs G. D. Fottrell and Sons, Solicitors”. The outdoor effects had been sold by auction in January 1900. Concerning the house effects a small notebook lists each room, its contents and value. The valuation is ridiculously low to our eyes today, for instance the dining room table with its rack of leaves together with 18 chairs and two chairs with arms is valued at £17, and the two dining room sideboards with carved legs portraying griffins are the most valuable items at £20 the pair. The total value broke down as –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>£199.12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Plate</td>
<td>50.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Tea Service</td>
<td>1.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner Service</td>
<td>4.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books in Library</td>
<td>50.0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>305.2.6</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In January John Francis made an offer for the various items.

24th January 1900 John Francis to Fottrell & Sons

“If the price of two items (in the inventory) were amended, which are really un-saleable to the public, and one item of £1 struck out, which is a fixture - I would agree to take the furniture at Mr Freeman’s Valuation. I would also take the ‘tea service’. I would give a reasonable price for a good deal of the silver, but I am told by those who know more about silver articles than I do, that the price put on (the cutlery of) ‘5/- per doz’, is far above the value, and that all the articles being crested spoils them for sale very much.

I have gone carefully through the library. Fully two thirds of the books are old books, which become of no value when out of date, and the best books, the rare ones, are of such a nature that unless you caught a buyer with a special fancy for the work, you would not get a bid. If I know the lowest price that would be taken for them, I would endeavour to meet you. I believe that the bulk of the books would not pay for removing them...”.

Late February 1900 John Francis to Fottrell & Sons

“In reply to yours of 23rd forwarded to me in Derry (in which it is suggested that a list of the books be made), I have written home to have the keys of Oakley Park library sent to Mr Freeman to enable him to prepare a list of the books as you directed him.

I hope Messrs Molloy & Co understand that my offer for the books is contingent upon their acceptance of my offer for the furniture and that it is only to furnish the library that I value the books at all. If they were removed even from the shelves, I would set no value upon the bulk of them, and if the most interesting or ornamental went to another buyer I would not care for the rest on any terms.

To a certain extent my offer for the furniture is only for it in an undisturbed state. In case of an auction I would not take a great part of what I now propose to take at the valuation. Much of the furniture is quite out of fashion; such as the beds many of which are old four post bedsteads, very good in their day, but now un-saleable.

In any case I think it would be advisable if the matter were decided as early as possible. The house and the furniture, including the books, will be seriously injured if it is left shut up and unaired, and my chief reason for offering to take the furniture at the valuation was that I might be in a position to go and get the house and entire premises into presentable condition which they badly need.”

From the many other letters it is clear that from the very start John Francis was not particularly interested in the furniture except that it was a convenience to “have some sticks in the house” and, one supposes, that the furniture from Drumlargan would be available to furnish at least some of Oakley Park.
It was all “about 60 years old, bought between 1836 and 1840”, and it was “old fashioned and fitted for very few houses”.

At the end of January John Francis made an offer of £200 for all the furniture. This was not considered enough and the solicitors felt that selling the lot by auction in Dublin would get more. It was pointed out that the carriage for it all would come to £70, that much would be damaged in the “cartage” and that many of the large bedroom cupboards would have to be dismantled to get them out of the house. In March George Lyndon wrote -

“Dear Father, Mr Smith of Fottrell & Co says it will probably take a long time to settle about the furniture, he advises you to go to Oakley Park and sit close, and he does not see how anyone could object. The only thing they could do, would be to ask the Court to have the furniture removed, and that would take some time, and the sale would most likely be completed before that would be done. He says that is what he would do himself and he only gives that advice personally and not from the office.

Your affectionate son, George L Bomford.”

It will be remembered that Fottrell & Sons were the solicitors of Elizabeth, Mrs Ruxton and Robert, and, although they are not mentioned directly, it is they who are instructing their solicitor.

During April Elinor and her daughter-in-law Maude did go to “sit close” in Oakley Park. Maude was about to have her second child and no doubt was concerned about the birth having tragically lost her first child only six months before, in September 1899. In fact George Warren was born at Oakley Park on 22nd April 1900, so the two women must have moved there in mid-April or before. The birth could not have been an easy one as on 30th April George Lyndon, on Land Commission work at Ballyconnell, Co Cavan wrote to his Father.

“Dear father, I am sorry to hear you are having so much worry over the furniture at Oakley Park. It is also extremely awkward for me as Maude is quite unfit to be moved for some time. It seems to me a very false move to take things up to Dublin for sale, the expense of moving and packing and storing would I imagine far more than counteract any additional price that might be obtained. It would also prevent you from buying any of it, as the cost of getting it back would be too great. Of course the furniture in the house as it stands at present is more valuable to you than anyone else, and for this reason and also to prevent bother to Maude and the baby, I am willing if they insist on an auction, to pay them at once a sum of fifty (50) pounds in addition to your offer. Of course we could subsequently, if this took place, agree to a division if necessary.

Your affect. son G. L. Bomford”

The offer of an additional £50 to the £200 was accepted in May and a cheque was sent on 29th May 1900. Another letter made clear that the additional sum was to include both the dinner and tea services. The question of the books and the silver was not yet agreed, but this did mean that Maude and the baby would not have to be moved out. John Francis moved in officially on May 4 and, since there was now no fear that they might come to remove the furniture, started to pack up Drumlargan and have the contents plus any furnishings he needed transferred to Oakley Park.

These are the bald facts, but the next letter from Elinor gives some idea of the troublesome nature of the arrangements on a more personal basis.

18th April 1900

“From Elinor at Oakley Park to John Francis

“My own darling, I came back from Dublin too late to write to you but I suppose my second wire (telegram) eased your mind; I never had such a day running after the beastly law men. I first went to Clark, he was in; I ran then to Fottrell who was not very amiable who said, “I really know very little about this case and care very little. The old lady is dead; Smith knows about it, he will be here in half an hour. You had better call on Mr Molloy”. I said I was afraid of lawyers as I might say the wrong thing, at which he smiled and left, then went to get some things for Maude (her daughter-in-law) at McBirneys. Then called again and heard that Mr Smith would not be in till 2 o’clock. Went off then to Molloy’s and saw him, he said “what can I do for you”, I said “plenty if you will do it”. I told him of Maude (who was very soon to have a child) and also explained that if the furniture was removed they would lose us as buyers and we most likely would give more than most people as the good things are crested and strangers would not care to buy them, but if removed we would not follow to Dublin and cart back old furniture. Mr Molloy said he had not the carriage of it that Mr Fry had, so (he) brought me to him and was leaving me when I requested him to remain also there; Mr Fry was rather hard to manage but Mr Molloy said he quite understood it all and said I might tell Mr Fottrell that they did not wish to press for a sale in Dublin and that they would postpone it. Mr Fry was not agreeable but I asked Molloy to give me a letter to Mr Fottrell saying he would not press for sale etc, and after a little talking I got this and went back to Fottrells and fortunately just caught Smith. Now I really think he is the man we must manage, he said that unless I had brought the note from Molloy he could not do anything but the note will save him etc; but he
bothered about no one about here (Oakley Park) to buy etc. However he partly gave in and promised he would do what he could for me.

The silver is to go up as soon as you come home and he wants to know what about the books. Now you must settle everything at once and I think you had better go on your way up from the North; if you wished I could meet you in Dublin and we could talk it over before going the rounds again. It would cost them about £70 to cart the furniture to town, that is what Hugh paid, and by having the sale here (at Oakley Park) that would be saved. I also told them there were only old wooden beds here, at which Mr. Molloy made a queer face. Altogether I had a dose of the lot of them.

Mr J Murphy is sending two of his good mares to you this week, one has not yet foaled. Maude is sick and may foal soon, (she did four days later). I remain with fond love ever your loving wife, Nellie.”

To wind up the sale of the household effects, the following undated letter from John Francis, which must have been written in late April, states that “the Plate and the Library from here have now been handed over to Mr McKeogh for auction in Dublin. I have no doubt it is the right course for the plate but I fear that the books wont clear the expense of removal. I hope to send a bidder for some of the plate and possible for a few books. Of course my proposal for the library has lapsed ...”.

The books and plate were crated and sent by train to Dublin in May.

John Francis did send a bidder for some of the plate and some books, which eventually were returned to Oakley Park.

32.9.6. Initial Probate of Arbella’s Estate 2nd April 1901

This copy of the probate was extracted from the Public Records Office and gives the estate as £636.15.0; a figure which is pretty close to the 1898 valuation figure of the household effects plus the farm stock and equipment.

“In the High Court of Justice in Ireland, King’s Bench Division. Be it known that Arbella Bomford late of Oakley Park, Kells in the County of Meath, widow, deceased, who died on or about the 8th day of January 1900 at the same place and duly executed her last will, a copy of which is annexed, and did therein name as sole executor James Sanderson Winter who has duly renounced his right to probate. And be it further known that on the 2nd day of April 1901 letters of Administration of all personal estate of the deceased was granted by the aforesaid Court to Arabella Mrs Ruxton of 9 Ashfield Terrace, Harold’s Cross in the City of Dublin, widow, daughter of the deceased, one of the residual legatese named in the said will, she having been previously sworn well and faithfully to administer, the same according to the tenor of the said will and it is hereby certified that an affidavit for Inland Revenue has been delivered wherein it is shown that the gross value of the personal estate of the said deceased, exclusive of what the deceased may have been possessed of, or, entitled to as a trustee and not beneficially, amounts to £636.15.0 and that it appears by a receipt signed by the Inland Revenue Officer on the said affidavit that £4.2.9 for estate duty and interest thereon has been paid, the duty being charged thereon at the rate of £1 per cent. This will was proved in solemn form of law; see judgement dated 15th January 1901 Bomford v Bolton.

Signed  Henry G Warren Registrar.”

So ended the personal estate of Arbella, but there remained the exclusion clause in the probate; this is ampliﬁed in the next letter from John Francis addressed to J Clark for Mr Lett.

32.9.7 Suggested Settlement by John Francis 23rd April 1901

“If they release me from all liability for the £1,500 and all back interest, I would make no claim against my mother’s estate for the balance of arrears due by her, (this is the £600 a year for occupying Oakley Park). And, if I am accepted as Court Tenant here on terms which I could accept, with a view to purchase under the Act as I propose, I would pay 4% interest on the £1,000 mortgage (of) my mother’s estate, to be divided among my six brothers and sisters, out of my private means if necessary until the sale of the estate is completed or broken off.”

This sounds complicated and it is not certain what he meant, but I believe that John Francis was trying to swap the £1,500 mortgage by Col Robert Caulfield on, Oakley Park (31.3) plus the back interest, for the amount owed by Arbella for living in the house after her husband died.

No doubt John Francis had done his sums but it sounds as though his suggestion was favourable to the estate. The Caulfield mortgage was £1,500 plus, say, 15 years of interest totalling £900, making a total of £2,400, against this was Arbella’s £600 a year for say eight years making a total of £4,800. £2,400 against £4,800 is too favourable to the estate so, I am adrift or the £1500 mortgage had increased to the
penal figure, usually double the original figure; this would make the figures £3,900 against £4,800 and more likely, but still not certain.

John Francis was also offering to pay interest at 4% on the £1,000 owed by the estate provided he was made Court Tenant. The meaning of ‘Court Tenant’ is not clear, but probably a tenant to the receiver until the final probate when he would officially inherit the place.

All this sounds reasonable but there must have been problems because the matter dragged on for another ten years when the final probate was granted. There are no documents during this time so we do not know what the problems were.

32.9.8 Final Probate of Arbella Bomford 20th July 1911

“Administration with the will of the un-administered estate of Arbella Bomford, late of Oakley Park, Kells, Co Meath, widow, who died 8th January 1900, granted at Dublin to Elizabeth Bomford, spinster. Effects £1,070.12.6. Former grant 2nd April 1901”.

Mrs Ruxton did not live to see the final result and the administration was granted to Elizabeth.

One cannot help but wonder what the final effects of Arbella would have been if the entire legal tangle had been avoided, certainly a great deal more. But apart from getting so little they all had to wait so long for the law to complete its business. At the best the five daughters and Robert got a share of the £636 in 1901 and then had to wait until 1911 for their share of, not £1,070 but of £1,070 less the initial £636. In other words they each got a total, at the most, of £178 from their mother. If that is all they received they must have been really hard up for the rest of their lives; but then they may have received from their father another sum which according to his marriage settlement (24.1) amounted to £4,000 to be charged on Drumlargan and Knockstown and “divided between the younger children”, six of them at around £666 each; however they may not even got that amount since in 1901 the trustees had to mortgage Drumlargan and Knockstown for £3,300 (30.2.7), one assumes to raise the money. We are left wondering who had to repay that loan Flora or her daughter Anne, the technical owner of the land - or John Francis?

Altogether a very sad ending to George and Arbella’s estate which had started off so hopefully though, in truth, probably too grandly.
33.1.0

One of the wedding presents John Francis received from his mother was a “Polyglot” Bible that she inscribed

“John F. Bomford from his Mother, 29th November 1866.”

In the fashion of previous generations (18.9 and 25.1) John Francis and Elinor kept the record of their family in the Bible. The Bible is at Crodara and the later entries were written by different people and are incomplete. John Francis has written the following on the inside flap but to make the entries more complete additional information has been added in brackets.

“Father, Geo Bomford, born 11th April 1811, (at No 27 Gardiner’s Place, Dublin). Died March 1886 (at Oakley Park, and buried at Laracor on 24th March, by his cousin the Rev George Henry Martin of Bective and Rector of Agher),

Mother, Arbella Winter, born 1810, (at Tullyard, Trim). Died 8th January 1900 (at Oakley Park and buried at Mount Jerome Cemetery, Harold’s Cross, Dublin), of Oakley Park, Kells, Co Meath.

(Married at Agher Church by Rev Francis Pratt Winter, 23rd July 1832.)

John Francis Bomford, born 22nd December 1837, (at Oakley Park). Died 13th September 1911 (at Oakley Park and buried in Kells Churchyard). Married 29th November 1866 (at Drumconrath , Co Meath).

Elinor Jane Bolton (elder daughter of Rev Lyndon Henry Bolton, Rector of Drumconrath), born 6th May 1840 died 14th July 1924 (at Oakley Park and buried in Kells Churchyard).”

The entries concerning their ten children and the fourteen grandchildren listed were made on a long sheet of folded paper and stuck to the inside flap of the Bible. These have been embroidered into the text, which follows.

33.1.1 The Children’s Younger Days

With the exception of 1870 the first six of the ten children were born during the seven years between 1867 and 1873, and it was largely because 1870 was Elinor’s “year off” that it was selected for the move from Oakley Park to Drumlargan House. It was a tightly knit family and the eldest, George, was only 18 years older than the youngest, William. In addition to the immediate family, Elinor’s mother who died in May 1886 lived at Drumlargan for the last ten or so years of her life.

As young children their education must have been at home or perhaps at the Agher Glebe School. Their cousin, George Henry Martin, was Rector of Agher from 1871 to 1884 and he most probably had much to do with the early education of the first seven children. At the age of 11 or 12 all the boys, except for the youngest and the girls, went to Denstone College, a Public School near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, which was originally known as St Chad’s College. This school had been opened only five years before George entered in 1878, so the whole place was new and such buildings as the Chapel were only under construction when George left. The school Archive Master was able to find this information about the boys.

All six boys left from the Sixth Form and were all in the same house, called Shrewsbury House.

1. George Lyndon was there from 1878 to 1885. He became a prefect, Captain of Rugby Football in 1885, and won the Athletics Challenge cup in 1885.
2. John Stephen was at the school from 1881 to 1888, and won the Athletics Challenge cup in his last year.
3. Lyndon Henry, 1883 - 1887, was a prefect in his last year.
4. Samuel Richard, 1885 - 1892, was a prefect from 1890 until he left, and gained Higher Certificate.
5. Charles Francis, 1891 - 1898, was a prefect for the years 1897 and 1898, gained Higher Certificate, and was a member of the First XI (cricket) during his last year.
6. Trevor Broughton, 1891 - 1897, was a prefect in 1896 and 1897, a member of the 1st XI (cricket) in 1896, and also in the same year a member of the 1st XV (rugby football). Since he did not play either cricket or rugby for the school in 1897, one can assume that he left after the Easter term.

As can be seen the athletical ones were George, John, Charles and Trevor, and, although none disgraced themselves in their education, the brainy ones were Samuel and Charles. Only John was not a prefect. George used to talk very happily about his school days and had many tales about Denstone, particularly about the cross-country running; Trevor also spoke happily of his days there and his family still has many of the cups he won.
Memorial to the Bomford Family

Although out of context much background information concerning the children comes from the memorial in St Columba’s Church in Kells, so it is included now. It must have been after 1924 that this white marble tablet in the shape of a scroll with a black marble surround was finally placed on the church wall beside the pews where the family sat. It commemorates the death of those members of John Francis’ family, who died between 1891 and 1924, but it was erected in two parts; the first part was erected in 1907 and then in 1924 it was increased in size and further inscriptions were added to the scroll.
“IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JOHN STEPHEN BOMFORD, INSPECTOR BURMAH POLICE,
WHO DIED AT MANDALAY 9th OCT 1891, AGED 21.
SAMUEL RICHARD BOMFORD, CAPT CAPE MOUNTED RIFLES AND
ADJUT CITY VOLUNTEERS, GRAHAMSTOWN,
WHO DIED AT GRAHAMSTOWN 13th FEB 1907, AGED 33.
THE 2nd AND 4th SONS OF JOHN FRANCIS AND ELINOR BOMFORD,
OAKLEY PARK, KELLS. THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY
THEIR AFFECTIONATE PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
ALSO IN MEMORY OF THEIR 3rd SON
LYNMOND HENRY BOMFORD, CE, DIED AT OAKLEY PARK
3rd AUG 1907, AGED 36.
ALSO OF
JOHN FRANCIS BOMFORD WHO DIED 13th SEPT 1911
IN HIS 74th YEAR.
ALSO IN MEMORY OF THEIR 7th SON
WILLIAM HAROLD BOMFORD, MD, FIJIAN GOVT.
WHO DIED AT SUVA 31st MARCH 1920, AGED 34.
AND ELINOR JANE BOMFORD OF OAKLEY PARK WHO DIED
14th JULY 1924, AGED 84.”

The rest of the chapter is devoted to the younger children of Elinor and John Francis. The history
of the eldest son, George Lyndon and his family, will be found in Chapter 35.

33.2 Anna Arbella Bomford (Mrs Longfield)

Anna Arbella was the eldest daughter and second child. She was
born on Sunday 1st November 1868 at Oakley Park and it was not very long
before her name was shortened to “Annella”. Her baptism was in Kells
Church and her uncle Samuel Stephen Bomford, who may have been away
in India, and two of her aunts, Jane Mary Fleming and Anne Bomford, were
her sponsors.

When she was 30 she married the Rev Claude Robert Longfield on
12th July 1899 at Agher Church. Claude was the fifth son of the Rev Richard
Longfield, Rector of Mogelly and Canon of Cloyne, Co Cork, who had died
the previous year in April 1898, and Claude’s mother was Wilhelmina
(Gollock) who died in 1915. Claude was born in 1871 and so was a couple
of years younger than Annella. Since he was educated at Denstone all the
older Bomford brothers knew him, and it was no doubt through them that he
met Annella although the Bomford and Longfield families were remotely
connected (see below). From Denstone Claude gained an Exhibition to
Emmanuel College, Cambridge (BA 1893); he was ordained in 1894, became curate in Kilmore Diocese
in 1897 and Rector of Frankfield, Co Cork, in 1898 and 1899. He was at Cambridge with Leonard
Shelford whom he asked to be ‘best man’ at the wedding, so was responsible for bringing together
Gwendoline, Annella’s younger sister, and Leonard Shelford and they were married the next year.

It looks as though Claude resigned the living at Frankfield at the time of, or soon after, his
marriage, because in 1900 he became a Chaplain in India. Their only child was born in 1901 at Dum-
Dum outside Calcutta. Two years later on 26th September 1903 Claude died of enteric fever at Sabatha in
the Punjab. Annella and her baby returned home and stayed for a while with her parents who had
meanwhile moved to Oakley Park. Before World War I Annella moved to Clifton leaving for a while a
room full of furnishings in the basement at Oakley Park. Her house at Clifton was near the College where
her son was educated and she used to put up three or four boys who attended the College as dayboys;
amongst these were her nephews, Leonard Shelford and George Warren Bomford. She died on 17th
August 1941, aged 73.

33.2.1 The Longfield Family

John Longfield originated in Denbigh and went to Dublin about 1660; he died in 1669. His eldest
son Robert, 1652 - 1711, obtained extensive grants of land in Meath, Westmeath and Clare, and settled in
Kilbride, Co Meath; his family died out in the late 1700’s.

Meanwhile the other son, John Longfield 1655 - 1730, moved to Co Cork. His family flourished
and his descendants lived at Castle Mary which was burnt down c1920 and that family made a new house
in the stable quadrangle, Longueville which was recently sold and is now a guest-house, Waterloo which
was sold around 1946, Kilcoleman near Bandon which was burnt down 1921, and Sea Court at Lislee which was sold about 1920 but is still a private house, all in Co Cork. Claude’s branch, which incidentally is noted for its use of humorous nicknames like ‘Ugly Dick’, ‘Hideous Harry’, and ‘King Dick’, lived at Longueville near Mallow which was acquired by marriage in the early 1700’s; the house was built in 1720 and was added to and improved about 1805 and again in 1866 when a delightful conservatory of curved iron work was added. As can be seen three of the five branches of the family had a bad time during the ‘troubles’ and either sold out or were burnt out. The rather remote connection with the Bomford family occurred when in April 1815 Robert Longfield of the Castle Mary branch married Mary Martin. Mary Martin was a sister of Charles Rudinge Martin who in 1826 married Susan Margaret Bomford, a daughter of Robert Bomford of Rahinstown.

33.2.2 The Longfield Children

Richard, ‘Dick’, Charles Longfield was the only child; he was born at Dum-Dum near Calcutta on April 17, 1901, and was brought up by his mother since his father Claude died when he was only two. He was educated at Clifton College and then at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich from where he entered the army and became a gunner. He just missed World War I but served between the wars and became a brigadier during the Second World War. He was mentioned in despatches and was granted the Order of Leopold of Belgium and the Belgian Croix de Guerre, all in 1945. He retired in 1952 to a lovely ‘olde worlde’ house in Amport near Andover called “The Cottage-on-the-Green”, and died in 1985.

On 2nd November 1930 he married Olive Isabel (Ann) Newman, the second daughter of Felix Laurence Newman of Cork. They had three children
1. Noreen Ann Longfield born 23rd September 1934, and on 2nd April 1955 married William Lorimer Selby Lane, eldest son of Captain Selby Lorimer Lane of the Cheshire Regiment. William was a major in the Royal Artillery but has retired. They have three children
   a. Charles William Selby Lane born 5th July 1956
   b. Paul Richard Lorimer Lane born 6th August 1957
2. William Richard Claude Longfield born 12th April 1939, educated at Clifton and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, but he chose not to be a soldier and went to Harvard and became a director of various companies. On 17th January 1970 he married Rosemary Jane Pearce, a daughter of Neil Pearce the cricketer, one time Captain of Essex and a Test Selector. They have one son
3. James Charles Longfield born 29th December 1946 and he served as a Captain in the Royal Artillery and as an Army Pilot. He was educated at Clifton and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, and is married

33.3 John Stephen Bomford

John Stephen was the second son and the third child, being born on Boxing Day (26th Dec) 1869, at Oakley Park. He was baptised at Kells and his two Godfathers were his uncles, Abraham Irwin Bolton and William Bolton, and his Godmother was his aunt, Elizabeth Bomford. After leaving Denstone in 1888 he joined the Indian Police and became an Inspector in Burma, which was then part of India. At the early age of 21 he caught some tropical disease, died in Mandalay on 9th October 1891 and was buried there. Naturally this was a sad blow to the family.

33.4 Lyndon Henry Bomford

Lyndon Henry was the third son and was born on Wednesday, 1st February 1871 at Drumlargan. He was baptised at Agher Church on 13th April and the record shows his name incorrectly spelt as ‘Lindon’. His godfathers were John North-Bomford of Ferrans, his third cousin, and his uncle Robert Laurence Bomford of Oakley Park; his godmother was Victoria Adela Bomford of Oakley Park, his aunt.

Although he was a prefect at Denstone he did not succeed there so well as his brothers. He became a civil engineer but later he lived at Oakley Park with the family, so it is doubtful if he was fully employed. No doubt he was bored and this may account for the family tradition that he died of
delirium tremens on 3rd August 1907 at Oakley Park at the early age of 36, and was buried at Kells.

33.5 Elinor May Bomford (Mrs Constable)

May was the second daughter and fifth child being born on Monday, 13th May 1872 at Drumlargan; no doubt her birth date had much to do with her name ‘May’. On 16th May she was baptised at Agher Church; her godfather was her uncle, George Winter Bomford, and her two godmothers were her aunt Josephine Bolton and her cousin Evelyn Mary (Bird) Bolton, a daughter of Richard Knott Bolton.

May was the first of John Francis’ children to be married and she was only 20 when the wedding took place at Agher Church on 12th July 1892. Her husband, Hugh Golding Constable, was four years older, being born on 28th August 1868. When he left school he was apprenticed in the railway workshops at Crewe, but at this time he was in the Royal Indian Navy or as it was then called the Indian Marine, and like his father he was also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

33.5.1 The Constable Family

Although the family may have originated in Yorkshire they had moved to Suffolk by 1603 when the records show that John Constable married Kathleen Cooke at Dedham. John and Kathleen’s son and grandson were buried at Boxted. The grandson had four boys, John, Hugh, Daniel and Abram. The second son Hugh had three sons and maybe a daughter; his second son was Golding Constable who married Anne Watts, she died in 1815 and he in 1816. Golding was ‘a rich miller owning land and a number of mills including Flatford Mill’ made famous by his son’s painting. Golding and Anne, the great-grand-parents of Hugh, had three sons and a daughter Martha who married Mr Whalley; the sons were John the famous landscape painter, Abram the miller and farmer, and Golding.

Hugh’s grandfather John Constable was born on 11th June 1776 at East Bergholt in Suffolk, and educated locally at Dedham Grammar School. He was destined to enter his father’s counting house and indeed did so for a while but he was so interested in painting that eventually his father let him go and become a student at the Royal Academy School. In 1811 he became engaged to Maria Louisa Bicknell, the daughter of Charles Bicknell of the Admiralty, whose family lived near the Constables. However before he had made his name, painting brought no financial security and he was not allowed to marry her. The death of his father in 1816 brought him some security and he took Maria off to London, some say he eloped, and on 2nd October 1816 the marriage took place at St Martin’s-in-the-Fields. They lived in Charlotte Street where their children were brought up. Maria was delicate and had lung problems, she may have suffered from consumption, which was not helped by the birth of six children, including Hugh’s father, and she died in 1829, or maybe 1828. John lived on and died at midnight on 31st March 1837, some record the date as 1st April.

A few world renowned Constable paintings were, - “Flatford Mill” 1817, “The Hay Wain” 1821, “Salisbury Cathedral” 1823, “The Cornfield” 1826 and “Waterloo Bridge” 1832. There were of course many more and his daughter Isabel donated over 300 drawing and oil studies to the Victoria and Albert Museum. His fame as an artist was largely because he broke with tradition and introduced a freer and more natural approach, but monetarily to break with tradition was dangerous and it was not until 1829 that the Royal Academy only grudgingly admitted him as a full member; indeed it was the French who first acclaimed him publicly in 1824. If it were not for various bequests from members of both their families John and Maria would have had difficulty in raising their six children who were:

1. John Charles Constable, born 1817, studied medicine at Cambridge and was a pupil of Michael Faraday. He died in 1841, aged 24.
2. Maria Louisa Constable was born 1819 and nicknamed ‘Minna’. Her mother died when she was about 10 but she soon took charge of the family and became a somewhat alarming old lady. She died in 1884, aged 65.
3. Charles Golding Constable, Hugh’s father, was born in 1821. He took to the sea, joined the Indian Marine and eventually became a Captain. Around 1836 he left on his first voyage to China and did not return until after his father’s death so missed his large funeral in London. During the 1850’s he gained a place in the reference books for having conducted the first survey of the Persian Gulf. He had to struggle with navigation as a youth so he must have shown considerable determination to be entrusted with this survey. Shortly before his survey the Arab sheikhs bordering the southern end of the Gulf gained their income largely by piracy; this was ended by a treaty or truce arranged by the British, and the Sheikhdoms that signed the truce have been called ever since the Trucial States. Charles was made a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He died in 1879, aged 58.
4. Isabel Constable was born in 1823 and died unmarried in 1885 aged 62.
5. Alfred Constable was born in 1826 and died unmarried in 1853 aged 27. He was drowned whilst boating on the Thames.
6. Lionel Bicknell Constable was born in 1828 and died unmarried in 1884 aged 56.

So Hugh Constable, Charles Golding’s second son, had no uncles or aunts alive at the time of his marriage to May Bomford. His father was also dead; unfortunately I have no information about his mother. However he did have three brothers - Eustace, Cyril and Clifford, and a sister - Ella.

33.5.2 Their Life after their Marriage

Their initial movements after the wedding of Hugh and May are not clear, nor do I know when Hugh left the Navy; but they must have left for New Zealand very soon after the ceremony because their first child was born there in April 1893. The next firm date we have is the birth of their second child in 1896 at Rathwade House in Co Carlow, which they had leased from Alistair Forbes-Gordon. At this date he was only 28 but it looks as though he had resigned from the Navy by then, even though it seems to be rather young to terminate a career. For a few years before 1911 they lived at Lakefield overlooking Caragh Lake with fine views of the Macgillycuddy Reeks; my mother remembers staying with them there as a young girl, probably around 1909. In 1911 they were staying at Oakley Park having given up Lakefield. This information comes from a mortgage dated 5th October 1911, which Hugh gave to his brother-in-law George Lyndon Bomford, so Hugh could not have been short of cash. The mortgage states-

Mortgage of Oakley Park  (1911, Vol 90, No 224)
Between
1. George L. Bomford, JP, of Oakley Park, Farmer,
2. Hugh Golding Constable, late of Lakefield, Caragh, Co Kerry, but at present residing at Oakley Park.

Reciting that G. L. Bomford mortgaged for £1,000 206 statute acres of Oakley Park, Kells, to Hugh Constable.

At some later date they leased Ardtully, near Kenmare, Co Kerry, from the Orpen family and again my mother used to visit them there. This was a fine Victorian House with a high roof, stepped gables and dormers, and a battlemented round tower and turret at one corner. The Orpens had lived there since the early 1700’s and the house was rebuilt by Sir Richard Orpen (1788-1876). It was Sir Richard’s grandson who worked as a doctor in West Africa who leased the place to the Constables. The Constables had moved to England before the house was burnt down in 1921 during the ‘troubles’, now only the shell remains standing. Hugh and May finally settled at Hoe Mill House at Maldon in Essex.

Although Hugh never reached the heights of painting that his grandfather did, he was no mean artist and a number of his paintings and sketches hang at Crodara; his attraction to the soft colours of the Kerry Mountains was probably founded in the eyes of the artist. Hugh taught May how to paint and she became quite good and exhibited at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dawson Street, Dublin. The only Bomford to exhibit.

They had two children, a boy and a girl, before Elinor May died on 26th January 1947, aged 74, and Hugh died two years later on 21st February 1949, aged 80.

33.5.3 The Constable Children

1. Arahenua Ella Constable was born on 3rd April 1893 at Temuka in the District of Canterbury on the South Island of New Zealand, and was given the Maori name of Arahenua, which the family soon shortened to “Winoa”. Just to the east of Temuka is another town called Arowhenua, which may have something to do with Winoa’s name. She never married and, when her parents died, lived quietly at Dedham in Essex, not too far from East Bergholt from where her famous great-grandfather came. She too was quite an artist and painted a lovely watercolour of Oakley Park for my mother during the 1950’s. She died on 3rd October 1966.

2. John Hugh Constable was born at Rathwade House, Co Carlow, on 27th February 1896. He was educated at Clifton College and was there with his two cousins, George Bomford and Dick Longfield. On leaving school he joined the army being commissioned on 10th February 1915 into the Royal Field Artillery and served in both World Wars, becoming a Lieutenant Colonel. During 1920 and 1921 he was in Germany as a member of the Allied Control Commission and at various times served in France, Belgium, Germany, Malta and India. He retired in 1947 and settled at The Old Rectory at Kettleburgh near Woodbridge in Suffolk.
On 25th March 1927 he married Eileen, the second daughter of Sir George Saltmarsh. They had two sons before John died on 23rd November 1974, aged 78, and Eileen died in 1984.
a. John Charles Philip Constable born 28th September 1928, educated at Marlborough, and married Freda Keable in 1963. He served for a while as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery being commissioned in 1947. He carries on the family tradition of being an artist having attended both the Chelsea and the Ipswich Art Schools. They have a son
   i. John Bowden Constable born 20th October 1963 and he also has a son

b. Richard Golding Constable was born on 8th June 1932 and educated at Marlborough. He served in the Korean War as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. On 1st June 1954 he married Elaine Good and they had four children
   i. Yonne Elizabeth Constable born 28th October 1955
   ii. Julia Margaret Constable born 16th May 1957
   iii. Caroline Anne Constable born 3rd March 1959

In 1970 Richard married secondly Valerie Zelle and have two more children
   v. Alexandra Emily Constable born 28th November 1970
   vi. Richard Constable born 28th March 1972

33.5.4  Covent Garden Ticket

Amongst the documents is an indenture dated 5th September 1855 for a ‘Free’ ticket to the New Theatre Royal, called Covent Garden, to Isabel Constable, daughter of John Constable, R. A. and aunt to Hugh.

Drury Lane, Covent Garden, was burnt down in 1808, and the raising of prices after the opening of the new theatre in 1809 led to riots, which practically suspended the performance for three months. One way which John Kemble, the actor and the principal proprietor, of the many other proprietors listed in this document, raised money for the new theatre was to sell documents, like this indenture, and then give free admission for a number of years.

This indenture was issued to John Kemble himself on 1st January 1810 for £500. Kemble then had free admission to the Theatre for 85 Years. John Kemble died in 1825 and the indenture was willed to Maria Louise Constable the wife of John Constable RA; she died in 1829. The indenture was auctioned in 1855 though there is no clue to what happened to it in the intervening 25 years. Isabel Constable, the unmarried daughter of John and Maria and aunt to Hugh Constable, bought a share of the indenture for £66.11.4. The other two shares amounting to £160 was divided between Heaume Sandford and William Henry Woollett.

The theatre was one of John Constable’s pastimes, as it was of his wife Maria. They gradually became intimate with the back-stage world and knew John Kemble well, hence the legacy.

33.6  Samuel Richard Bomford

Samuel was the fourth son and sixth child being born on Monday 15th December 1873 at Drumlargan. He was baptised at Agher Church on 17th February 1874; two of his godparents were Nathaniel Francis Preston and his wife Augusta of Swainstown, Nat was his third cousin; the other godfather was John Jones who might be a neighbour and a descendant of Roger Jones of Dollinstown, later called Dolanstown, between Gallow and Kilcock.

Samuel did well at Denstone but was not particularly good at games. He left Denstone in 1892 and then went out to South Africa. It is likely that he was destined to go to India but his older brother John had died there at the end of 1891 and South Africa was thought to be healthier, at any rate South Africa was new territory for the family. It is not known what he did out there initially, but he was there when the Boer War started in 1899 and he joined a locally raised levy, the Grahamstown City Volunteers, as adjutant; so it is likely that he had settled at Grahamstown which was then a dignified cathedral city about 80 miles north-east of Port Elizabeth. He might possibly have joined the army before the war started because in a letter, which Elinor wrote to John Francis (32.1.1, No 14) on 16th December 1899, she refers to the reverses of the army and hopes “our boy will be safe”. However it was as a result of these reverses that the local levies were raised, so Elinor’s worry may only be that “our boy” was in the area and not actually fighting. At a later date Samuel became a Captain in the Cape Mounted Rifles. He may have stayed on in the army after the war ended in 1901,
and it might be that it was after the war that he transferred to the Cape Mounted Rifles, a permanent Regiment.

He died at Grahamstown, aged 33, on 13th February 1907. Another piece of family tradition is that he shot himself after a disastrous love affair.

33.7 Gwendoline Bomford (Mrs Shelford)

Gwendoline was the seventh child and third daughter, being born on Wednesday 31st May 1876 at Drumlargan and baptised at Agher Church on 5th July. Her godfather was her uncle, Lyndon Bolton the younger, and her two god-mothers were Georgina McKay (Fox) and Susan Martin; Susan Martin, 1861 - 1891, later Mrs Mease, was the daughter of Rev George Henry Martin of Bective and grand-daughter of Susan Margaret Bomford; Georgina McKay would have been Georgina Frances McKay eldest daughter of Rev McKay, vicar of Laracor and Galtrim, who married James George Fox, 1842 - 1919, the Chief of his name and titled “The Fox”, of Galtrim House north of Summerhill, on 30th May 1877.

On 3rd October 1900 Gwendoline married the Rev Leonard McNeill Shelford at Kells Church. Leonard had been educated at Cambridge where he got his MA; there he became friends with Claude Longfield and when Claude was married in 1899 to Annella Bomford he asked Leonard to be his ‘best man’, so Claude and Leonard travelled to Drumlargan. There Leonard met Gwendoline who no doubt was one of the bridesmaids, and just over a year later they married. After the wedding the Shelford’s settled in Chelsea, London, where Leonard was a curate; they remained there until 1909 when he became Vicar of St Michael’s in Chiswick, London. Their first three children were born at No 10 Walpole Street in Chelsea, and their fourth child (and maybe fifth) was born at No 152 Sutton Court Road in Chiswick.

Gwendoline died in April 1952 aged almost 76, and Leonard who was born in 1871 died in June 1956 aged 85. They had five children.

33.7.1 The Shelford Family

The Shelford pedigree starts with Leonard Shelford of Weston in Hertfordshire in 1580. Since then most generations have kept the family names of Leonard, William and Thomas. ‘Our’ Leonard’s grandfather, Rev William Heard Shelford, 1798-1854, was Rector of Preston in Suffolk; he had five sons of which the second was ‘our’ Leonard’s father, Leonard Edmund Shelford.

1. Sir William, 1834-1905, was a civil engineer who became a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG) and a Chevalier of the order of the Crown of Italy. He married and his descendants are alive.

2. Leonard Edmund Shelford, father-in-law of Gwendoline Bomford, was born in 1836 and died in 1914, aged 78. He became a clergyman and was Rector of Stoke Newington in London at the time of his son’s marriage; later he became Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields and Prebendary of St Paul’s Cathedral. In 1867 he married Flora Agnes Mackay, daughter of the Rev William Mackay, and they had one child, Leonard McNeill, before she died in 1892 when Leonard the younger was 21. Leonard Edmund married secondly in 1895 Alice Mary, daughter of David Duffield, and they had no children. So Leonard McNeill was the only child.

3. Thomas Shelford, 1839-1900, CMG, became a merchant in Singapore where his eldest son continued the business. He married twice and had seven children; many of his grandchildren are alive.


5. Edward John Shelford, 1853-1930, became a merchant in Madras, India. He married and had a boy and a girl. The boy, Frederick Leonard Deshon Shelford, born 1889, Colonel in the Wiltshire Regiment, married in 1930 Patricia Bomford Emerson, a daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Emerson. Patricia has an interesting name, even though there is no further information, because to be given the Christian name of ‘Bomford’ indicates a previous Bomford - Emerson marriage, and there was such a marriage (27.4). Mary Jane North-Bomford married John Emerson in 1850 and they had eight children but only three have been definitely located. It is highly likely that now we have another son, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Emerson whose initial ‘B’ also probably stood for ‘Bomford’.
John Francis’ Children

33.7.2  

Children of Leonard and Gwendoline Shelford

1. Flora Elinor McNeill Shelford was born at No 10 Walpole Street, Chelsea, London, on 24th July 1901. In 1922 she married Ralph T. Coombs and they had a boy and a girl, Flora died in 1940 aged 39 and Ralph in 1949.
   b. Sally Coombs born 1931.

2. Gwendoline May McNeill Shelford was born on 16th December 1902 also at Walpole Street. In 1933 she married William (Bill) H. Matthews. They had two girls, Bill Matthews was a son of Thomas Burton Matthews of Rewa River in Fiji, and his older sister Bessie married May’s uncle William Harold Bomford (33.10); so Bessie was May’s sister-in-law as well as being her aunt, if that is possible. Bill was a ship’s engineer and served most of his time on sugar boats of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) sailing between the Pacific islands, New Zealand and the company base in Sydney. On a visit to England, probably at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1925, he met May Shelford and they eventually became engaged. Just before the war Bill developed an ulcerated leg, was in and out of hospital and died in a Sydney hospital. May lived on in Sydney and died there in 1971 aged 69.
   b. Anne Matthews born in 1936.

3. Leonard Vere McNeill Shelford was born on 21st September 1905 at No 10 Walpole Street in Chelsea and educated at Clifton as a dayboy, staying with his aunt Annella Longfield. He became a banker and served for over thirty years in Egypt and Sudan. He married firstly in 1935 Barbara Lee Archbald, a daughter of Major R. H. Archbald of Burgh Heath in Surrey; they had no children. In 1945 this marriage was dissolved. In Khartoum in 1947 he married secondly Kerstin Olivia Lindberg, daughter of Torvald Lindberg of Uppsala in Sweden, a member of the National Bank of Egypt. Kerstin died c1953 and Leonard married twice more and retired to Brighton with his fourth wife, Alison. He died there in December 1992. He had two boys, with his second wife
   b. Peter Bengt McNeill Shelford born in Khartoum in 1951 who married Patricia Pullen of Zimbabwe in 1977 and they have a boy and two girls.

4. John Ridgeway McNeill Shelford was born on 23rd March 1909 at No 152 Sutton Court Road, Chiswick in London. In 1931 he married Beatrice a daughter of J. W. Deuchar of Dissington Hall in Northumberland. In 1935 John was killed in a motor accident. They had no children.

5. Gordon Hope McNeill Shelford was born in 1916, was ordained and became Rector of Haslemere in Surrey, but later he left the Church. In 1943 he married Ethel Patricia (Pat) Hargreaves Bolton, a daughter of Col G. H. Bolton, OBE, MC, DL, of Newchurch Rossendale in Lancashire. They had three girls and a boy,
   a. Judith Patricia, born 1944
   b. John Leonard, born 1947, married with two children;
   c. Bridget Anne, born 1951, married
   d. Victoria, born 1953, married.
   In the late 1960’s Gordon married secondly Ann, but they had no children and Gordon died in 1989 aged 73.

33.8  

Charles Francis Bomford

Charlie Bomford was the fifth son and eighth child being born on 10th March 1878 at Drumlargan, and baptised at Agher Church on April 12. His godfathers were his father, John Francis, and George Turner (no information), and his godmother was the wife of John North-Bomford of Ferrans, Charlotte Maria who died three years later. He left Denstone in 1898 having excelled in both work and games, and then he qualified as an architect and engineer, becoming an Associate Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Ireland (AMICEI). After he had qualified he lived at Oakley Park and became engineer to the Kells Rural Council, but he had given up that job by September 1911.

On 12th August 1914, a week after war was declared, he married Dorothy Maud Price, ‘Bobbie’, born 1888, the youngest child of thirteen of Rev John Price, Rector of Lanwergan (? Llanfigan) in Brecon. They settled at Robinstown in 1915, one mile on the Kells side of Kilskeer; then in 1922 they moved to Riversdale, four miles from Kells on the road to Charlesfort and
Ballybeg; finally they settled at Priory Cottage, a large bungalow which Charlie built just outside the Headfort estate wall on the site of the now ruined Priory of the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem founded by Walter, or, more likely Hugh de Lacy c1174, which was dissolved by the edict of King Henry VIII and converted into a fortified house or castle.

During the war Charlie joined the Leinster Regiment and became a Captain; he was badly gassed during the war but recovered fairly well. Between the wars I remember him as a crafty tennis player, but he also played cricket, was a great fisherman spending many hours on the Blackwater behind Priory Cottage, and an excellent shot. The tennis court at Priory was much used and the standard of their tennis parties was very high, particularly in the 1930’s when their children took part. Bobbie however was a keen gardener with green fingers, a skill she passed on to her daughter May. On a more serious note Charlie, as an architect and engineer, was responsible for many of the houses in Kells and developed those of Maudlin Street and around the Fair Green. Charlie and Bobbie had four children –

1. Charles Powell Bomford ‘Bunty’, as he was called, was born on 5th May 1915 in Robinstown and baptised in Kells. He was educated as a dayboy at Wickham House Prep School and whilst there lived with ‘Aunty Gwen’ (Gwendoline Shelford, 33.7) whose youngest son Gordon was about the same age and may have gone there too; later he went to Eastbourne College. He was a fine sportsman, being outstanding at Cricket and tennis. He joined the Royal Air Force on the outbreak of World War II and became a flying officer. On 10th June 1940 he was shot down in his bomber and killed over France, soon after the Allied retreat from Dunkirk. He was only 25.

2. John Trevor Bomford born on 27th August 1916 and died aged 4½ on 7th March 1921. He was buried in the Kells Churchyard beside his uncle George Bomford.

3. Harriet Eleanor Bomford was called ‘May’ and was born on 7th May 1918 in Southsea. When World War II broke out she joined the ATS; she served first as a heavy truck driver, then she was commissioned, became a Commander and served with the Ack-Ack. After the war she returned to Kells and there married her cousin on 14th September 1948. He was Edward ‘Ted’ Willoughby Thompson, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Artillery and son of Colonel Albert George Thompson, CMG, DSO, of Moresk House, Truro in Cornwall, who had married one of “Bobbie’s” elder sisters. They lived at Shoby Lodge near Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire. Ted died in 5th October 1974 and May died 2nd October 2001 at her home aged 83 They were both buried at Saxilby near Shoby. They had two children
a. Antony Stephen Thompson was born 7th March 1957 and adopted. He was educated at Haileybury and c1979 married Janet, daughter of Howard Marshall. They have a son Edward Antony, born in May 1985.

b. Jennifer Susan Thompson was born on 13th December 1958 and is unmarried.

4. Richard Lyndon Bomford known as Dick, born on 3rd April 1922 at Riversdale and educated at Denstone between 1934 and 1941. He was not particularly academic but excelled at sport being Captain of Tennis for three years, and on the 1st XV (rugby) and the athletics’ team. On leaving school he immediately joined the army becoming a Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade. While serving in Italy he trod on an anti-personnel mine and was killed on 28th May 1944 and buried at Cassino.

The loss of their boys badly upset Charlie and Bobbie and they lost interest in Priory Cottage where the tennis court, the river and the shooting brought back too many sad memories; so they sold the place in 1950 and settled at Inglenook at Ballywilliamroe near Bagenals town in Co Carlow. Charlie died there on 31st March 1961, aged 83. Bobbie sold Inglenook in 1964 for just over £2,000 and moved to England to live with her daughter May at Shoby Lodge. She died there on 22nd January 1973. They were buried together at Kells and the inscription on their gravestone reads -

“In loving memory of Captain Charles Francis Bomford, AMICEI, died 31st March 1961 aged 83, also Dorothy Maud his beloved wife, died 22nd January 1973. I thank God upon every remembrance of you. (Phil 1.3).”

Their two sons, Bunty and Dick, who were killed in action, are commemorated on the War Memorial inside Kells Church.
at home for at least a couple of years. There are references to him in the letters of November and December 1899 (32.7.1); numbers 5 and 11 mention his visit to Oakley Park where he went shooting at Wilmount; number 14 states "Trevor says he is getting another first from George Mason" which sounds as though he was studying under George Mason, perhaps for the Indian Army entrance exam or for his commission out there. It was, perhaps, in 1900 that he went to India and was commissioned into the Surma Valley Light Horse Infantry Regiment. This was a militia unit formed for defence against native uprisings, and as such the officers were only paid during the times the unit went on exercises each year. It was therefore necessary that he had secondary employment.

The Surma River runs through Assam and Trevor’s militia unit was probably based at either Silchar or Sylhet, the only two largish towns on the river and the centres of the tea industry. It was in a tea plantation that Trevor found his other job, and there he was put in charge of the native labour. He enjoyed his time in India and he lived there, as he said “like a king” for possibly seven years between about 1900 and 1907; he only left because he became very ill with malaria and was sent back to Oakley Park to recuperate. Eventually he fully recovered but his mother, Elinor, did not want him to go back to India; she had already lost one son out there, (John Stephen died in Mandalay in 1891), and did not want to lose another.

During his convalescence Oakley Park would have been a lively place since his brothers George, Charles and possibly William Harold were based there. No doubt he enjoyed the usual round of sports and parties at the country houses in the area. It was at a tennis party at neighbouring Kingsfort that he became engaged to Henriett Frances Chaloner, ‘Birdie’, the youngest Chaloner daughter born 1st January 1881. However before he married he had to find another job. Opportunities were few in Ireland but Canada was looking for settlers, so Trevor who loved adventure decided to have a look at that country.

Much of the information about Trevor has come from his daughter, May Julyan, who has the diary, which Trevor kept on his first visit to Canada to find a place to start a homestead. He left Belfast on 14th April 1909 aboard SS ‘Lake Erie’ with the intention of looking around Duck Lake in Saskatchewan, but on the boat he decided to join another passenger, Mr Roberts, who was going to Ashern in Manitoba which lies between Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba. In Winnipeg he and Roberts bought supplies and the necessary gear and took the train northwards to Oak Point, which was then the end of the line. There he bought a team of oxen for £20, but unfortunately his wagon had not arrived from Winnipeg so he could not use them. However the next morning they set out with another party of men going north who had two wagons drawn by oxen and a horse buggy. Only one of the party had been in that part before and he only for three months, but none were completely inexperienced; two were Boer War veterans and another was a farmer from Portage la Prairie further south. They had to cover about a hundred miles to Ashern district across rugged unsettled terrain, which was soon to be opened up as the railway line pushed northwards. Trevor’s idea was to find suitable land and claim it before the railway line brought settlers into the territory. The journey was tough going, the horse buggy was used to scout ahead and pick the best route, but even so the wagons became bogged in mud holes and swamps or muskegs because of the spring thaw of winter snow. At the end of the first day they had only managed about 12 miles, the second about 15 miles, and the third day only 3 miles because the land was so badly flooded. The fourth day was another bad one as, when they were crossing a very rickety bridge, one of the oxen fell off almost taking the whole outfit with it. However the beast was none the worse and the bridge led them on to a trail, which ran along the eastern shore of Lake Manitoba where the going was better. On the fifth day they camped about 6 miles southwest of Dog Lake.

The next day Trevor and Roberts left the others to travel up the east side of Dog Lake where they met and joined another party of settlers and were very pleased to dump the gear they were carrying in their wagon. Somewhere north of the lake they passed the last settlement they were to see for some days. Up to that point there had been a few isolated settlements, a Mrs Millar had made them a supply of bannocks to replenish their supply of bread, and at the last settlement they were able to buy food from a Mrs Oakley; nevertheless it was unlikely that they would have gone hungry as there was plenty of game around and Trevor was amazed by the number of large and small fish in the streams; there were so many that they were able to spear them with pitch-forks. On the second day after leaving the Oakley place they were cut off by a bush fire and had to wait on a previously burnt patch for it to blow away.

Finally after about eight or nine days travelling from Oak Point they came to the Ashern territory where Trevor and Roberts had a good look around and decided on their pieces of land; they then set off back to Winnipeg to get the title to their tracts of land. The return was much swifter as they followed the railway survey line. About three-quarters of the way back to Oak Point they reached Deerhorn tired and footsore, a memorable place for there they slept in a bed for the first time in nearly, two weeks. At Oak...
Point Trevor found that his wagon had arrived so he packed his gear into it and left it in a barn whilst he went by train to Winnipeg to have his claim and title agreed. He returned to Ashern in his wagon drawn by his two oxen; he stayed there on his own for over a year clearing the land and building himself a cabin for the winter of 1909 and of course suitable for his wife to be.

In the autumn of 1910 he returned to Ireland and on 18th January 1911 he married Henrietta Chaloner at Moynalty Church; this is a small church, which would have been full to overflowing.

After a few months, and after the Canadian thaw, they set off for Ashern in 1911 and settled down to a life of hard work with little monetary return. Trevor was then aged 31 and Henrietta 30. Their return was easier as the railway had by then reached Ashern, but it was still tough going with no roads, and it must have been a considerable culture shock for Henrietta who was uprooted from her comfortable Georgian mansion complete with servants, and transferred to a cabin in the middle of nowhere.

Neither of them ever crossed the Atlantic again and no member of the family ever visited them; that seems almost incredible and unfeeling now, but travel was more difficult in those days and all the family on both sides of the Atlantic were struggling to make ends meet. Trevor devoted all his cash to improving his place, clearing the land and building a better house for his growing family. The land only amounted to about 160 acres but this was enough when one considers that all he had was a single blade plough pulled by two oxen, and that the land had first to be cleared of trees and stumps. It was not for another year or so that he purchased workhorses. In 1918 Henrietta received a windfall of £1,000 from her brother Willoughby and no doubt this was put to good use. This money, an inheritance which also went to her other brothers and sisters, had been charged against the land of Kingsfort for some years in accordance with the wills of her granduncle Richard Chaloner (will 24th March 1873, died 1879) and of her father Captain Claud Chaloner who died on 21st June 1917. (Deed dated 1918, Vol 57, No 288 of 3rd December.)

In 1928 the Ashern farm was sold and a new one of about 480 acres bought at Oak River, Manitoba, 30 miles north-west of Brandon. Here the land was much better and they were full of hope, but then the depression started. Life was just beginning to improve about the time of the start of World War II. As May Julyan says, “We never went hungry, but were never well off. As a family we had a very good up bringing and we could not have had better parents.”

Trevor retired from farming in 1946. He had developed Alzheimer’s disease. He and Henrietta lived their last years in Hamiota, around ten miles west of Oak River; Trevor died there on 3rd October 1963 aged 83, and Henrietta on 27th March 1970 aged 89.

33.9.1 The Chaloner Family

The Reverend John Chaloner was born in 1658 in Shropshire, England, was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, BA, MA, and became a clergyman. His first appointment, to the Parish of Errigal in Co Donegal, bored him and after two years he got something more exciting, becoming chaplain on the Royal Navy ship ‘Royal Sovereign’. His ship was despatched to the West Indies to clear the seas of pirates and the bounty the Government paid was considerable; the result was that the ship’s company returned rich.

As May Julyan says, “We never went hungry, but were never well off. As a family we had a very good upbringing and we could not have had better parents.”

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John Francis’ Children
and they were married on 10th October 1805 in the old Moynalty Church, the present building was built in 1819. Richard, known as “Dickey of the Glen”, died in 1832. (See also paragraph 25.3).

Meanwhile Nicola Sophia Cole-Hamilton had two sons, Arthur and Richard, before her husband died on 25th April 1822. In 1826 she married secondly Joseph Pratt of Cabra Castle near Kingscourt (see 20.2.1) where she went to live with her two teenage sons.

1. Arthur Willoughby Cole-Hamilton was born in 1806, and inherited the Cole-Hamilton estate of Beltrim, Co Tyrone, on the death of his grandmother in 1823. He served with the Tyrone Militia and became a major. In 1831 he married Emily Catherine, daughter of Rev Charles Beresford who was the grandson of the 1st Earl of Tyrone and nephew to the 1st Marquess of Waterford. Emily Catherine was also a first cousin of Marcus Gervais de la Poer Beresford, Archbishop of Armagh, who married Elizabeth Bomford (Kennedy) wife of Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown (22.10). She died in 1869 and he in 1891 having had five sons and three daughters. We are interested in the two oldest boys.
   a. William Claud Cole-Hamilton born 1833, Captain in the 88th Connaught Rangers, who inherited Beltrim Castle. His wife Caroline was a grand-daughter of the 1st Earl of Castle Stewart whose ancestry goes back to Robert II, King of Scotland, 1315 - 1390.
   b. Claud Cole-Hamilton born 1838, see below.

2. Richard Chaloner Cole-Hamilton was born in 1810, Lieut 12th Lancers, and married in 1835 Harriett, 1812-1890, daughter of Charles Tisdall of Charlesfort, Kells. When his grandfather Richard Chaloner died in 1832 he inherited Kingsfort provided he took the name of Chaloner. He died in 1879 and since he had no children, Kingsfort was left to his nephew Claud, see above.

   Claud Cole-Hamilton succeeded to Kingsfort in 1879 and assumed the name of Chaloner in the terms of his great-grandfather’s will. He was born in 1838 and on 2nd June 1875 married Henrietta Ann; she was the eldest daughter of Alexander Montgomery of Kilmer, Co Meath, and her mother Frances was the daughter of Charles Tisdall of Charlesfort, 1782-1835, (25.3.1). It was Henrietta Ann’s brother, Archibald Vernon Montgomery of St Mary’s Abbey in Trim, who drew up the second will of Arbella Bomford in 1891 (32.6.1); A. V. Montgomery must have lived to a good age since he had a collecting card for the Meath Protestant Orphan Society in 1864, was elected its President in 1935 and died in office in November 1943, just missing the MPOS centenary.

   Claud died on 21st June 1917 and Henrietta in 1927. Their eight children included Henrietta who married Trevor Bomford. To be strictly correct the surname of the first few children was Cole-Hamilton since their father Claud did not change his name to Chaloner until he inherited in 1879.

1. Sophia Elizabeth (Mrs Harman) was born 22nd February 1877 and on 5th August 1914 she married Arthur Stuart Harman of Killeagh House, Co Meath. He was the third son of William Harman, 1837-1932, of Crossdrum, Oldcastle in Co Meath, and was born 22nd May 1880 and died 14th March 1956. They had two daughters
   a. Emily Rosalie Harman born 14th March 1917 and married Desmond O’Neill, a veterinary surgeon of Oldcastle, on 1st July 1953. They had a son
   i. Susan Elizabeth Cole born 14th August 1953.

2. Emily (Mrs Shirley) born 11th May 1878 and on 8th June 1914 married Rev Robert Francis Shirley MA then of Killasser Rectory; but they later moved to Rathconnell Rectory near Killucan in Co Westmeath. They had three children –
   b. Selina Agnes Shirley born 1st June 1917 and died unmarried.
   c. Madeleine Emily Shirley was born 15th September 1918 and married on 20th April 1938 John Nathaniel Preston of Swainstown, Killasser. He was born 27th January 1915, the only son of Arthur John Dillon Preston who was killed in action that same year, and educated at Malvern. His grandfather, Major Arthur John Preston, 1841-1930, who inherited the place in 1903, left him Swainstown. (18.7.4). They have five children-
   i. Jennifer Beresford Preston born 20th January 1939.
   ii. Meriel Tara Preston born 2nd January 1941.
   iii. Madeleine Anne Preston born 24th April 1942.
3. Richard Alexander Chaloner was born 2nd June 1879 and became a Lieutenant in the Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers and served in the Boer War. On 22nd April 1902 he died from wounds received at Rooival in Western Transvaal; he was wounded by a stray Boer bullet, which was fired a few days after the armistice, unfortunately no one in that area knew that the war was over.


5. Claud Willoughby Chaloner was born 22nd January 1882 and became a Major serving with the 3rd Battalion Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers. On 18th October 1918 he married Adelaide Winifred Grove, born 19th October 1888, youngest daughter of Colonel Alexander Grove of the Indian Army who settled in Northern Ireland. He inherited Kingsfort on the death of his mother in 1927, but meanwhile he and his wife ‘Winnie’ had settled at Cherrymount where they stayed; the bigger house of Kingsfort was leased for a while but in 1937 Willoughby sold it and some land, the house is now in ruins. On Willoughby’s death Cherrymount was also sold but it is still occupied. He died 18th January 1963 and she on 6th June 1970 having had two children-
   b. Nancy Winifred Chaloner born on 10th August 1921. She married Frank Louis Crosbie who changed his name to Cornwall when he inherited Rathmore, Co Kildare, from his uncle. He died from food poisoning. She married secondly Seton Pringle.

6. Nicola Chaloner born on 25th November 1884 and died two months later

7. Shirley Chaloner was born on 22nd March 1886 and died at his school, King William College on the Isle of Man, on 30th May 1902, aged 16.

8. John Cole Chaloner was born on 27th May 1889. On 14th February 1922 he married Monica Katharine Roberts, daughter of Ralph William Westropp Roberts, MD. She was born on 12th November 1889 and he died on 12th January 1940 having had three daughters.
   a. Charity Patricia Chaloner ‘Cherry’, born 17th March 1923 and married Henry FitzGibbon, MD. They have two sons, and two daughters -
      i. John FitzGibbon.
      ii. Thomas FitzGibbon.
      iii. Frances FitzGibbon.
      iv. Pamela FitzGibbon.
   b. Mary Frances Jonet Chaloner born 16th December 1925 and in 1950 married Richard John Shackleton of Anna Liffey House at Lucan; their house is adjacent to their still operating watermill producing flour. Richard is cousin of the explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. They have two daughters and two sons -
      i. Christine Shackleton
      ii. Jonet Shackleton
      iii. Richard Shackleton
      iv. Michael Shackleton
   c. Henrietta Sophia Chaloner ‘Sophie’, born 29th December 1930 and married to Robert Twigg. They have a son and three daughters -
      i. Robert Twigg.
      ii. Nicola Twigg.
      iii. Fiona Twigg.
      iv. Sarah Twigg.

33.9.2 The Children of Trevor Bomford and Henrietta Chaloner

Trevor and Henrietta settled at Ashern, Manitoba, in the spring or early summer of 1911, and all their seven children were born there, the oldest in February 1912 and the youngest in January 1925.

(Photo), Mrs Trevor Bomford of Ashern, with three of her children, (left to right) Claude, May and Dick, taken October 1918.

1. Elinor Henrietta Bomford born 8th February 1912 at Ashern, and died there aged 7 on 19th November 1919, in the great ‘flu epidemic of 1919’.

2. Richard Trevor Bomford born 23rd February 1914 at Ashern and became a farmer at Oakner and later Hamiota, Manitoba. On 29th March 1943 Dick as he was known, married Myrtle Rosa, daughter of Harry Bridgeman of Bradwardine, Manitoba. He died on 20th September 1983, and Myrtle died on 23rd November 2003. They had five children-

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a. Richard James Bomford born 21st December 1943 at Hamiota, Manitoba. Gained a BSc from Brandon University and became a farmer and research scientist at Brandon Agricultural Research Station. He also took over his father’s farm near Oakner. On 11th September 1965 he married Carol Ann Smith of Hamiota. They have two daughters:
   i. Kerry Lynne born 12th June 1969 at Calgary, Alberta

b. Gwendoline Joyce Bomford born 17th January 1946 at Rivers, Manitoba and became a schoolteacher. On 8th July 1967 she married Keith McBurney, a real estate insurer. They live at Cobble Hill, British Columbia and have four children, two boys and two twin girls.
   iv Kelly was married 31st August 1996 to Mitch Antoniuk of Duncan, British Columbia. Kelly and Mitch have two girls,
      1. Emma May, born October 1998

c. Eileen May Bomford born 14th April 1949 at Hamiota, Manitoba. In 1968 she married William John Paddock, a schoolteacher at Cartwright, Manitoba. They have two boys and a girl,
   i. Michael John Paddock, born 15th October 1968. Married 1990 to Tammy Martens, and they have two girls and a boy,
   iii. Clinton David Troy Paddock, born 28th June 1974. Married 18th July 1998 to Trisha Dawn Phillips. They have a son,
       Brett Jayden Paddock, born 31st May 2000.

d. Mervyn Harry Trevor Bomford, born 16th June 1952 at Hamiota, Manitoba and entered into the automobile and implement business at Boissevain, Manitoba. On 26th February 1972 he married Joan Wright of Brandon and they have three children -
   ii. Richard Robert Trevor Bomford born 14th June 1975 at Brandon, Manitoba, and died April 1999 after a car accident.
   iii. Sean Patrick Bomford born 12th May 1977 at Hamiota, Manitoba. Sean and partner Char have two children,

e. Dianne Lynne Bomford, born 21st August 1960 at Hamiota, Manitoba and on 15th July 1978 she married Douglas Calverley of Melita, Manitoba. They have three children, two girls and a boy.
   i. Amanda Michelle Calverley, born 19th November 1981 at Melita.
   ii. Garrett James Calverley, born 14th April 1984 at Melita.
   iii. Sarah Lynne Calverley, born 21st December 1987 at Melita.

3. Claude Edmund John Bomford born 28th July 1916 at Ashern and married on 8th April 1941 Lucy Joyce, another daughter of Harry Bridgeman. He became a farmer in Manitoba, retired to Armstrong, British Columbia, and died 15th March 1992. Their two children -
   a. Alvin John Bomford, born 25th October 1942 at Hamiota, Manitoba. On 1st September 1962 he married Donna Kirk of Hamiota. He works in the building construction business at Calgary, Alberta. They have two children -
      ii. Donna Michelle Bomford, born 31st May 1966, a nurse. On 10th September 1994 she married Allan Driver, born 4th November 1965 in Scotland and have 2 children,
         1. Jesse Allan Driver, born 16th December 1993 at Calgary.
b. Margery Anne Bomford, born 27th May 1945 at Hamiota, Manitoba, became a stenographer. She is a single parent and has a son, 

4. Emily May Bomford born at Ashern on 11th February 1918 and became a stenographer, now retired to Comox, British Columbia, and then moved to Victoria, British Columbia. She is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease. On 9th September 1944 she married Frederick Edward Julyan. He was a warrant officer in the Royal Canadian Engineers in World War II and was later employed as an Engineer with the Manitoba Department of Highways. He died 19th April 1979.

   (Photo), May Bomford in Winnipeg, 1940.

They had two children,

a. Charles Richard Julyan born 23rd February 1947 at Winnipeg, Manitoba, became an insurance agent in Comox. On 6th September 1969 he married Judith Anne, daughter of Alvin Klatt of Morden, Manitoba. The marriage was dissolved 2001. They have two daughters -


5. John Chaloner Bomford born 14th October 1920 at Ashern, served in the Royal Canadian Signal Corps, 3rd Division, during World War II (photo 1942). He then became a farmer near Oak River, and retired to Oak River. On 5th November 1946 he married Viola Elizabeth, ‘Lena’, daughter of William Bedwell of Oak River. She died in April 1955 and he died 26th February 2001, aged 80. They had two children –

a. William John Larry Bomford born 2nd August 1947 at Oak River, Manitoba, and entered the building construction industry at Medicine Hat, Alberta. In 1967 he married Sheila Pohl of Gladstone, Manitoba. They have two children -
   i. Patrick John Bomford, born 22nd March 1968. In 1992 he married Caroline Jane (Kraska) who was born 29th December 1969. They have 2 boys.
   ii. Theresa Dawn Bomford born 28th June 1971 and has a child (single parent), Ashley Lynn Bomford, born 29th January 1994.

b. Ethel Lenore Bomford born 19th February 1950 at Oak River, Manitoba, and became a stenographer. On 5th July 1969 she married Allan Williams of Birtle, Manitoba. They have two girls-
   i. Allana Rae Williams born 15th March 1973,

6. Norah Gwendoline Annella Bomford born 28th May 1922 at Ashern. On 2nd October 1940 she married Charles Leonard Knight, son of Harry Knight of Oakner, Manitoba. In World War II he served as a flying officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force, Squadron 407. He later became a farmer at Oakner, Manitoba but then retired to Hamiota, Manitoba. Nora died 7th July 1999 with Alzheimer’s disease. (Photo, Nora Knight in 1941 at Winnipeg). There are four children

   a. Elinor May Knight born 30th January 1942 at Hamiota, Manitoba, and became a schoolteacher. On 19th August 1961 she married Roy James Little, son of Allan Little of Brandon. Elinor died on 30th March 1970 having had a girl and a boy -
ii. Kevin Charles Little born 13th September 1966, is a fireman of Winnipeg. On 10th September 1994 he married Shannon McCormick, born 14th October 1966. They had one son before the marriage was dissolved in April 1996, Brandon Roy Little, born 16th February 1994

b. Phyllis Noreen Knight born 14th January 1947 at Hamiota and became a nurse. On 26th August 1968 she married firstly Dennis Cosgrove of Souris, Manitoba. They had two girls -

   The marriage was dissolved in 1972 and Phyllis married secondly on 7th October 1972 Ronald William Houck, a farmer of Hamiota, and had four more children,

c. Gordon Charles Knight born 25th August 1950 at Hamiota, became a farmer and accountant at Hamiota. On 5th September 1970 he married Joyce Lorraine daughter of Harold Hunter of Decker, Manitoba. Their two boys are -
   i. Carey Brendan Knight born 31st March 1974
   ii. Timothy Darren Knight born 30th January 1977

d. Ronald Murray Knight born 30th October 1956 at Hamiota, also became a farmer and accountant. On 20th December 1980 he married Airdrie Ann Stewart and their three children are -
   i. Jeffrey Stewart Knight, born 8th November 1984.
   ii. Meridith Blair Knight, born 9th January 1989.


      i. Tracy Bomford, born 14th January 1975. She and her partner Wade have three children, two girls and a boy
      ii. Angela Bomford, born 31st October 1978.

   b. Carol Lynn Bomford, born 23rd September 1953 at Calgary, Alberta, and married firstly Michael Calvert on 9th October 1971, a constable in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Their two children are -
         Karla Monique Mitchell who was born 18th January 1975. They have a boy,

      The marriage was dissolved and on 12th August 1989 Carol Lynn married secondly Jerry Morin of High River, Alberta.

   c. Patricia Louise Bomford, born 12th August 1958, and on 1st October 1977 married Kent Davie of Vulcan. Their children are -
      i. Kendra Lesley Davie born 11th October 1980 at Vulcan.
      ii. Reed Robert Reginald Davie born 7th December 1982 at Vulcan.
      iv Jenna Michelle Davie born 26th January 1986 at Vulcan

So Trevor and Henrietta had

7 children
18 grandchildren
45 great grand children

all in Canada, and of whom only 14 bear the name of ‘Bomford’.
William Harold Bomford

William Harold, known in the family as ‘Willie’, was the youngest of John Francis’ children, being born on New Year’s Day 1885, Thursday 1st January, at Drumlargan and baptised at Agher Church on 1st February. His godmother was his sister Anna Arbella, Annella, later Mrs Longfield, and his godfathers were his brother George Lyndon and Francis George Hodder, Bachelor of Law, (no information). It is not known where he went to school but unlike his brothers he did not go to Denstone. There is reference to him in 1899 when he was 14 in one of Elinor’s letters to his father dated 16th December, “...there is a dreadful wind. I hope it will be calm for Willie on Monday night”, (32.7.1, No 15), the supposition is that Willie was returning home for the Christmas holidays from his school in England, wherever that was. Another, more amusing reference to him as a youth was on the fly-leaf of Elinor’s prayer book which for many years lay in the Oakley Park pew in Kells Church, it read “Tell Willie not to stare:” There is also a report that Willie was a ‘sickly’ child, but the source of this report has been forgotten though it might account for the fact that Willie did not go to Denstone; however a more likely reason is a shortage of funds in the family at that time. Wherever he went to school he completed his education at Trinity College in Dublin and graduated in 1908 as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (FRCSI) and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (FRCPhI). After graduating he became a House Surgeon of York Dispensary but soon after, probably in 1910, he took up an appointment as a District Medical Officer in the Fiji Colonial Service. He went to Fiji via America following the route of his elder brother George to Ellis Island fifteen years before. Ellis Island was the point of entry to New York where he arrived on the 26th August 1911 on the vessel “Philadelphla” from Southampton. The Ellis Island records show that he was aged 26, a physician travelling to Fiji who paid his own fare. His health was good, he was not deformed, and 5’9” in height. His complexion was fair and he had black hair and brown eyes. His last permanent address was Park (Oakley was omitted), Kells, County Meath, where he was living with his parents.

At this date many of the family were in India, Australia and New Zealand, but the only family connection with Fiji appears to have been Sir Francis Winter and his father George Winter, a second cousin of John Francis; the father George Winter bought an estate at Levuka, Fiji, and his eldest son became Attorney-General of Fiji, but in 1888 transferred to New Guinea (18.7.2). In 1903 Sir Francis married a daughter of Sir George Moore, the Crown Surveyor of Fiji, who lived at Suva. Whether the Winters were alive in 1910 is not known, but the Moore family were still at Suva. It is thought that William Harold had an introduction to the islands through these families.

It is likely that when he first arrived in the islands he was moved from place to place, but he was soon settled at the hospital at Suva, the capital. There he met his future wife, Bessie Matthews, a nurse at the hospital who was born on 8th June 1886. They were married on 21st December 1912 at Drekinikilo. Bessie, or more correctly, Elizabeth Kathleen, was the daughter of Thomas Burlton Matthews who had a cotton estate at Drekinikilo on the Rewa River, near Suva; the estate was in the wrong place for cotton and the crops were lost three years in succession through rain and mildew. The other Bomford / Matthews marriage was in 1933 when Bessie’s younger brother Bill married May Shelford who was a niece of William Harold Bomford (33.7.2).

William Harold had four children before he died on 31st March 1920 at Suva at the early age of 34. He was due to go to Ireland on leave in 1920 and since he had a hernia he decided to have the operation in Dublin so that his leave would be extended; unfortunately just before he left he became impatient with a servant who was trying to lift a heavy trunk and lifted it himself, the hernia strangulated and this was fatal in those days.

A short obituary was found in the Dublin Journal of Medical Science, Volume CXLIX of May 1920:


Bessie took her young family, the eldest being only 6, to Takapuna across the bay to the north of Auckland in New Zealand; there she bought a house which was conveniently near the beach, a good school and where she could get work as a nurse. She successfully raised her family, lived until she was 85 and died at Takapuna on 24th November 1971.
The Children of William and Bessie Bomford

1. Stephen Robert William Bomford was born in Fiji on New Year’s Day 1914. He was educated at Takapuna Grammar School, St John’s Anglican College in Auckland from where he gained a scholarship to Auckland University, leaving as a Bachelor of Science in 1936. He became a chemist with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the same company that his uncle Billy Matthews was in, and then, at the outbreak of war, he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and went to North Africa as a medical Assistant. On 21st October 1943 he was killed in a car accident in Egypt when returning from helping entertain troops.

2. Marie Elinor Bomford was born in Auckland, New Zealand, on 12th October 1915 and brought up there. She trained as a kindergarten teacher and met her future husband in 1936 but, because of money shortage, they did not get married until 22nd May 1941. Her husband Alan Kennedy Wylie, son of Douglas Stuart Wylie (marriage dissolved in 1921) of Roseville, Sydney, Australia, was born on 3rd July 1916 in Auckland, NZ. Alan won a bursary to Auckland University and in 1936 got his science degree, concentrating on mathematics, but he found time to play cricket for the university. Because no work was to be found in New Zealand he went to Sydney, Australia, to take the second part of his exam (M Sc) and where he had been promised work in life assurance. In 1940 he became an associate of the Institute of Actuaries and later became a Fellow. After war service in the Air Force from 1941 to 1946, he and Marie moved around, Sydney until 1948, then 1948 - 1953 in Perth, 1954 - 1955 in Melbourne, 1955 - 1959 in Wellington New Zealand, 1960 - 1965 in Sydney again, this time as General Manager of Friend’s Provident Life Office. After a spell in industry, which took him to USA and the UK, he became a consultant in actuaria work. They retired to New South Wales, Alan is still alive but Marie died on 10th June 1990 having suffered for some years from Alzheimer’s disease. They had four children, all married and all living in Australia.
   a. Elizabeth Jean Kennedy Wylie was born at Hamilton, Victoria, on 2 March 1944; she married firstly Ross Alexander Cole, LL B, of Sydney. They had three children
   b. Robert John Wylie, born 20th August 1949, went to university (BA) and became an Associate of the Institute of Actuaries (AIA). On 23rd November 1971 in Perth he married Antonette Ristuccia, born 14th January 1950. They have
      i. Mark Kennedy Wylie, born 19th July 1973
      ii. Jacqueline Wylie, born 1975
      iii. Michael Wylie, born November 1976
      iv. Paul Wylie, born 8th July 1979
      v. and Peter Wylie, born 1984
   c. David Alan, Wylie, born 13th March 1951 and graduated BA in economics. In September 1985 he married Robyn and they have one son
      i. Steven Wylie, born 8th July 1986.
      i. Catriona Webster, born July 1982
      ii. Malcolm Webster, born 19th December 1983

3. John Hamilton Bomford was born in Auckland on 14th June 1918. He became a cub reporter with the New Zealand Herald but on the outbreak of war joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force. He was trained in Canada on bombers, went to England and saw action over Germany on Blenheims. On 18th October 1942 he was doing a conversion course on Lancasters when he came in to land, touched down and for some reason took of again, banked the wrong way and flew straight into the ground.
Marguerite May Jane Bomford, ‘Peggy’, was born in Fiji on 19th August 1919 and educated at Auckland University. Having got her BA she became a teacher. She married Hans Georg Frimmel, a son of Erwin Franz Maria Erwin Franz Maria Frimmel von Traisenau of Baumannstrasse, Vienna. They met at a youth camp in England in 1948 and became engaged. Unfortunately he came from the Russian Zone of Vienna and so had difficulty in emigrating to New Zealand. However finally everything was arranged and they were married on 22nd September 1951. Photo – Peggy and Hans. Peggy died of Alzheimer’s disease in September 1997 and Hans is living (1998) in Pirongia, New Zealand. There are three children.

a. Robert Erwin Frimmel, born 7th September 1953 and graduated B Sc in 1974. In 1982 he married Jay Moore and they are living in North Carolina, USA, with their son,  

b. Margaret Jane Frimmel, born 21st June 1955, and married in 1974 to R. Goldingham. They have no children.  

c. Sonia Mary Frimmel was born on 26th July 1961, and lives at Pirongia, New Zealand.

33.10.2 Alzheimer’s Disease

Alan Wylie and later, quite independently, May Julyan brought to my notice the subject of Alzheimer’s disease, loss of memory in old age. Marie Wylie (Bomford), Peggy Frimmel (Bomford), Trevor Bomford and his daughters May Julyan and Norah Knight, and his sons Claude (died 1992) and Reginald (died 2003), all suffered from this hereditary disease to such an extent that not only did they not recognise friends and relations, but would go out, forget why they went out and, much worse, would not remember where they lived.

When Peggy Frimmel visited Oakley Park and other relations soon after the war ended, she thought that both George Lyndon Bomford and his sister May Constable also suffered from it. It has further been suggested that Arbella Bomford, who died in 1900, and her daughter Adela may have had the same disease.

Marie Wylie, Peggy Frimmel, Norah Knight and May Julyan, have all been medically, diagnosed as sufferers of Alzheimer’s disease, and, since it is hereditary there is no real reason to suppose that the others did not also have it.
Chapter XXXIV  Death of John Francis & the End of the Irish Land  1911-1933

34.1.1

When John Francis moved to Oakley Park from Drumlargan in April 1900 he was 62 and his wife Elinor was 60. Three years later he retired from the Land Commission “under Civil Service Rules”, but let it be known by a circular letter that “he would undertake valuations and carry out cases in the Land Courts concerning rent, sales, mortgages, etc” It is not known whether he received much work as a result of this letter but he remained in contact with those who administered “Wyndham’s Act” of 1903 (29.9.2), and so was ideally placed for the sale of much of his own land which became necessary to clear his inherited debts. It is probable that he did receive work privately after his retirement because Wyndham’s Act was such a success that, between 1903 and 1909, some 316,000 purchases had been negotiated or were pending. Little more than a decade later, landlordism in rural Ireland had become a thing of the past.

Speaking generally the sale of land proved a final solution to the long-standing problem of landlord-tenant relationships; but in fact by the late 1890’s the dominant problem of rural Ireland was no longer landlord oppression and excessive rents that threatened the farmer’s security, but the growing competition of the overseas producer who was able to grow and sell grain and dairy produce so cheaply. Only the export trade of cattle continued to prosper, but on an average sized farm it was difficult to make more than a bare subsistence out of raising cattle. Even though John Francis and his son George Lyndon were able to clear their debts, they had to sell more land to make ends meet. George Lyndon in particular was always pressed for money and as he said in a letter to Wilfred Bamford he could just about make ends meet during the 1930’s but when wages rose during World War II he did not know how he was going to manage. It is in this context that we must view the sale of land, which follows.

34.1.2  Death of John Francis Bomford  13th September 1911

There appears to be no information about the cause of the death of John Francis, just the engraving on the wall plaque in Kells Church and on his headstone in the churchyard which reads-

“In loving memory of John Francis Bomford who died at Oakley Park, 13th September 1911, in his 74th year.”

Neither do we have his will. However his eldest son George Lyndon inherited the land and Oakley Park House. There could have been no problem over the will as probate was granted at Dublin on 11th November 1911 “to the Revd McNeill Shelford, Clerk, and H. T. Radcliff Esq. Effects £5,540.15.0”. From this we can deduce that the two executors were his son-in-law Leonard McNeill Shelford, 1871 - 1956, (33.7), then Vicar of St Michael’s, Chiswick, and H. T. Radcliff who was probably Thomas Radcliff of neighbouring Wilmount.

The effects of around £5,500 would indicate a slim bank balance and would go mostly to George Lyndon. The marriage settlement of John Francis (30.3.1) set up a trust for the other children to be paid when they married or came of age.

The apparent lack of information at this date is largely my fault. Having spent days in the Registry of Deeds recording information up to about 1900 which was freely open to inspection, I found that there was a different system for the later deeds; they were not freely open to inspection and had to be produced by Registry staff, this was both time consuming and costly. I therefore gave up that line of search and concentrated on the records in the Valuation office, which naturally only covers land.

34.1.3  Death of Elinor Jane Bomford  14th July 1924

Elinor lived on in Oakley Park and died there, aged 84, on 14th July 1924. She was buried in Kells Churchyard alongside her husband.

One of the last photographs of her was taken on the steps of Oakley Park at the wedding of her grand-daughter Evelyn Bomford, three months before she died. She is standing between Evelyn and Wilfred and looks, frail but by no means an invalid. (See Wedding Photograph, para 35.6.)

34.2.1  Untenanted Lands Return  1906

The last survey recorded was the 1854 “Griffith’s Valuation” of Chapter 29. Below is the comparison between that survey and this 1906 survey. It will be noted that Drumlargan has been split between John Francis and his niece Arbella Anne Bomford, and that John Francis’ portion has been sold (32.1 and 32.2.1).
### Overall Total of Bomford Lands

The only other Bomford in 1906 to hold land was Captain John North-Bomford, or, more accurately, his widow Mary Wilhelmina since John had died in 1905. In 1906 Ferrans consisted of 393 acres and Gallow 465. All this was discussed in Chapter 28, but we can now strike the overall total of Bomford land in 1906.

- **John Francis**: 2,577 acres
- **Arbella Anne**: 636 acres
- **Knockstown**: 164 acres
- **J. G. North-Bomford**: 858 acres

**1906 Total**: 4,235 statute acres

### Surveys of 1933 and 1955

By 1933 Drumlargan, Knockstown, Baltrasna, Clonfad, Rattin, Cluide and part of Oakley Park had been sold, and by 1955 Gallow were gone; so the total acreage were

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1955</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oakley Park</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrans</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallow</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutes</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Complete Summary of all Bomford Lands

Summary of all the Bomford lands starting with Clonmaghon (a shrewd guess) in 1670, and so making a spread of 285 years. (Statute acres)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Statute acres</th>
<th>Statute acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1670</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1702</td>
<td>10,401</td>
<td>1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1722</td>
<td>14,809</td>
<td>1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>18,489</td>
<td>1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1762</td>
<td>18,097</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>12,289</td>
<td>1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Valuation of Oakley Park

Extracted from the “Untenanted Lands” of 1906, which follows the same format as the 1854 valuation by Griffith’s. Those map reference which are known are shown on the map in paragraph 29.2. Oakley Park was all owned by John Francis Bomford.

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*Death of John Francis & the End of the Irish Land*
It can be seen that there are really three farms on Oakley Park, as there had been for the past 70 years. The borders are as shown on the map in paragraph 29.2. and labelled according to the map reference numbers.

Farm 1 (6A-G) John Francis had the ‘home’ farm of 263 acres based on Oakley Park House and yard. His land stretched from the Decoy to the field on the east of the Moynalty road.

Farm 2 (1a – 2) John’s son George had 416 acres based on the farmyard on the back road. This was in two plots.

(la) 209 acres at the north end of the estate that Thomas Barnes leased in 1838, plus the extra fields to the north and west of the Decoy that Barnes leased before 1854.

(3) 207 acres, which Samuel Reynell leased and which were in the southwest corner of the estate along the back road

Farm 3 (4) Reilly had the 53 acres on the far side of the back road which was called ‘ye Mountain’ on the 1750 map.

34.3.1 The Wind-down of Oakley Park

Now let us trace the future and the eventual sale of each of these plots and the cottages

1a. The 209 acres occupied by George in 1906.

There is no change in the area or the valuation since 1854. The immediate Lessor was John Francis who leased it to his son George in 1902. In 1907 this plot was sold to the Land Commission but leased back from them; this was a satisfactory method of raising capital without loosing land. The re-lease was such that John Francis became the occupier of 89 acres and George of 117 acres; on the death of John Francis the whole was farmed by George until 1920 when he relinquished the lease of those 206 acres.

The balance of 3 acres were divided three ways: The “Herd’s House” with one acre of land was also sold in 1907 to the Land Commission and occupied by Mr Smith: Two further plots each with one acre were sold, had houses built on them, and in 1910 were occupied by Mr Brien and Mr Malin.

2a. - 2g. The Cottages Paragraph 29.2 covers the story of these seven cottages with their occupiers. Originally five of them made up the row of Soldier’s Houses on the back road, but as time passed new cottages were built, mostly during the 1890’s, and their valuation was raised from 5/- to £2. All these cottages with their half-acre of land had been sold by George by 1941 to the occupiers.

3. The 207 acres occupied by George. In 1901 John Francis leased this land to his son George who, like his father, based the farm on the farmyard on the back road. In 1907 an acre was sold to the Rural District Council and a cottage occupied by Thomas Tobin was built on it. The remainder of the farm including the farmyard was sold in 1923 to the Land Commission.

4. Philip Reilly’s 53 acres.

In 1891 John Francis considered selling this land to Charles Reilly, the father of Philip and the steward of Oakley Park, and Charles was prepared to buy as indicated in this letter.
“14th October 1891 at Oakley Park,
Dear Sir,
I received yours of 11th Inst in due course, with Fire Renewal receipts enclosed, for which I am very much obliged.

With regard to the rent fixed by Land Commissioners I must say it is very hard on me to have my rent raised after I spending so much money trying to improve it; a farm no man would take but myself, a farm not worth the taking. You know I laid out a great sum of money draining and manuring this farm; land is not much value at present, there is no price for cattle that has not good condition, I sent 10 Polly Bullocks to Navan Fair and could not sell them. I could not sell a beast of (from) any of the Grass Land I have taken up to the present. With regard to the selling of my Farm I am very much obliged to you for thinking of me. If this farm were to be sold when first I took it, I would not give what it cost me to manure and drain it and building.

However if you let me know what you intend selling it for I will see what I can do about it. I am sorry to say since Mrs Bomford (Arbella) stopped taking the rent from me, I am not allowed any interest out of the money, so it is very hard for me to get on without getting what is due to me. Hoping Mrs Bomford (Elinor) and all the family are quite well, I remain Dear Sir your obedient Servant Charles Reilly.”

There are a few side issues in Charles’s letter; firstly, just like Clonfad and the other places, rents had been set by the judiciary and it is interesting that Charles’s rent went up and not down as was the trend, this indicates that he previously paid an abnormally low rent; secondly, the failure to sell his animals is a reflexion of that date, which had made farming so difficult in Ireland, due to the importation to England of cheap foreign animals. Lastly, it is apparent that Charles used to take his rent to Arbella personally and she used to return some of it, but when the Oakley Park troubles arose and Arbella became old, the system changed and Charles no longer got back his “Luck Penny”. However in spite of all his complaints he was still prepared to buy his farm.

In 1897 Charles Reilly died and his son Philip inherited the lease. Philip also wanted to buy and confirmed this in a letter of 6th October 1899.

“Dear Sir, I would feel obliged if you would rent me the portion opposite my house, as it is accommodation for turf, potatoes etc, as I intend buying my farm if I can.”

James Carolan surveyed this ‘portion’ and sent a note to John Francis that it contained “one rood statute measure”. The lease and the valuation were duly amended.

Meanwhile John Francis had written to his solicitor, John Clark, concerning Reilly’s farm in 1898, so that Clark could prepare a “Final Notice”, but it would appear that nothing was finalised in his lifetime. It was not until 1923 that George Lyndon was deleted from the records in the Valuation Office; so one may assume a sale to the Reillys at that date. These 53 acres, plus some more recently acquired land, are still farmed by the Reilly family who came to Oakley Park from Dublin in the very early 1700’s and have been there ever since, close now to 300 years.

5. Red Bog. Sometime between 1916 and 1922 the Valuation Office records that the Red Bog Lough was drained and the land reclaimed. George Bomford then sold it to the Land Commission in 1923.

6. Oakley Park House and the surrounding 263 acres.
This was the same as in the 1854 survey and remained so until John Francis died and George inherited.

In 1915 two acres from Nelson’s Field, a large field surrounded by the Big Wood and the main road, were sold to the Kells Rural District Council and two cottages were built and occupied by Edward Griffen and James Smith.

In 1923 George sold some of the southern fields amounting to 81 acres: leaving him with a total of 174 acres. A further three acres to the north of the front lodge was sold to his son-in-law, Wilfred Bamford, who built his house named Crodara there.

In 1951 Colonel George Warren Bomford inherited 171 acres and in 1955 the place was sold, see below. In this area were the two lodges and one other occupied cottage; unfortunately no occupiers were shown, as these buildings were included in the valuation of the main house and farm buildings. In the 1920’s a carpenter named McLoughlin who had a brood of daughters occupied the front lodge. From about 1935 the Rattigans had it. Johnnie Rattigan was the herd at Oakley Park and had been a loyal worker there for all his life. He and his two sisters remained until Johnnie died and his surviving sister, Julia, later moved to a new house which had been built on her field, part of Ballanescrehogue on the back road. The shell of the front lodge is still there together with its pillared portico.

The last occupant of the back lodge was Ownie Lynch who was the ploughman for many
years. That lodge has been demolished, and incidentally the wrought iron gates were stolen in 1980’s and are still missing.

The third cottage was sited near the well, west of the front lodge. This was not shown on the 1836 or 1883 maps, but was shown on the 1730 map and called “Thos Sheiles House”. The same site was used for the new house and may have been built around 1910 for Kinsella who was brought in that year by George Bomford as his steward. He had two sons and a daughter, Annie. The eldest son, John Kinsella, joined the British Army and served through World War I, and Joe worked the land, which the Kinsellas had purchased from George in 1923. Those Kinsellas are all dead now and their house is a ruin.

34.3.2 Oakley Park Summary

Before George Bomford died in 1886 he farmed that land around the house and yard, and his son John Francis farmed the two areas which were further away; the latter were the 209 acres which Thomas Barnes originally leased, and the 207 acres which Samuel Reynell leased, and John Francis based his farm on the yard on the back road.

When John Francis inherited after his mother’s death, he took over the house and the neighbouring land, and gave his son George the two distant areas. In 1907 the northern 209 acres were sold to the Land Commission but leased back from them and re-allocated between father and son; with this change John Francis farmed about 352 acres and his son about 324 acres.

When George inherited in 1911, his total farming land amounted to about 676 acres. In 1920 he returned the lease to the Land Commission of the northern 209 acres. Then in 1923 he sold 355 acres in three areas -

The southern area of 207 acres together with an adjacent 89 acres, The six acres of the Red Bog Lough, and Reilly’s 53 acres. This left George with a holding of 174 acres much of which was marsh, called the Bottoms, and woodland around the house.

In 1941 all the cottages were sold and in 1948 another two acres. This left 171 acres, which Colonel George Warren inherited in 1951. In 1955 the house and the remaining land were sold. Thus Oakley Park had been a Bomford property for 118 years.

34.3.3 Auction of Oakley Park

George Warren Bomford, known locally as ‘The Colonel’, after over 30 years soldiering in India returned to Oakley Park in 1948. His father was then aged 81 and his mother 76, so effectively he found himself farming the place alone with little knowledge of the business. He therefore had to rely on his labour, and in this he was lucky since the three men had worked the land all their lives, knew what had to be done and, above all, were loyal. However when his parents died he realised that he was unable to run the place without a large injection of capital and, as early as October 1950, he told his sister Evelyn that he might have to sell. Naturally such a decision was a major one affecting the whole family and his sister, Dorothy decided to help and try to keep the place going. The two of them carried on and even though Dorothy went in for hens in a big way, it was clearly a failure. In November 1954, after much heart searching, the house and land were placed on the market.

I have been unable to find a sale figure for the house and the 171 acres, but it is thought to be in the region of £14,000. If this is true then the sale price was about the same as the purchase price in 1837, though of course then there was about 740 acres. In addition there were three sales of effects, which took place in March 1955

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>£ 2,301.12.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Implements</td>
<td>1,271. 3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Effects</td>
<td>1,649. 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Less £250 for expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>£ 4,971.17.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

So the overall total came to something less than £20,000. In fact George could not have sold at a worse time as the post-war slump was then at rock-bottom and prices did not start to recover for a couple of years.

An alternative total was found in a letter from G W B when he was living in Rome. “In 1956 the house and lands were sold to two local farmers for £6,000. The auction of the contents of the house and farm equipment brought in another £12,000”. It looks as though George’s figures should be reversed – the land £12,000 and the auction £4,000 however the total comes out at £16,000; even less than the £20,000 amount above.
The house, yard and the two lawns, amounting to 68 acres, were bought by Laurence McGuinness. He did not want such a large house so he pulled down two-thirds of the house and filled in the basement. This left the front 1839 extension that he redesigned internally. He and his family still live there, although Laurence died in 1997.

34.4 1906 Valuation of Drumlargan

Drumlargan House and the adjoining 337 acres had been sold in 1903 by John Francis (32.2.1), that left Anne Bomford, John Francis’ niece, in 1906 with 562 acres with a rateable valuation on the land of £647.10.0 and on the buildings £215.0, plus 75 acres of bog with a value of £20, and also some cottages (32.1).

The 75 acres of bog and some of the land were sold to the Land Commission in 1912; this left her with 347 acres, a largish house and four cottages as shown in the 1933 valuation.

34.4.1 1933 Valuation of Drumlargan

The ‘Immediate Lessor’ is Anne Bomford

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupier</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Rateable Land</th>
<th>Rateable Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McCuddy</td>
<td>House, Office, Land</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>£377.10.0</td>
<td>£16.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Larkin</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 .5.0</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael McGawley</td>
<td>House, Land</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 .5.0</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Malone</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
<td>0.5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Bourke</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 .0.0</td>
<td>0.10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

347 acres

Although we do not have the intermediate occupiers since 1854, the details of the four cottages show a marked similarity with the 1854 survey. It is likely that John Larkin’s cottage was occupied in 1854 by John Halford, that of Michael McGawley was occupied by Michael Chandler, that of James Malone by Catherine Seery and that of Anne Bourke by Christopher Bourke.

By 1950 McCuddy’s house and 333 acres had been sold; since Anne died in 1942 it is thought that perhaps they were sold on her death. However it is clear that the four cottages together with their 14 acres were not sold at that date. One of the cottages was sold in 1959, another in 1966 and the other two remain on the Valuation Office books as belonging to Anne Bomford in 1984.

The 1933 valuation also shows that John Francis (an error for George Lyndon) was still the Immediate Lessor of one cottage, valuation £1.10.0, with an acre, valuation £2, occupied by James McNally. Nothing more is known about this cottage which still may be technically a Bomford property, but it is more likely to be yet another error on the part of the Valuation Office.

George Bomford the elder first leased Drumlargan in 1787, he later bought it. If we say that it was in Bomford hands until Anne died in 1942, then it was a Bomford property for 155 years, though the house and land, which John Francis sold, was a Bomford property for only 116 years.

34.5 1906 Valuation of Knockstown

Knockstown ownership was discussed in 32.2 and no definite conclusion could be made. It was sold to the Land Commission in 1916 and, having been first leased by George the elder in 1787, had been a Bomford property for 129 years.

34.6 1906 Valuation of Baltrasna

The various farms on Baltrasna, which were individually leased, have been discussed in paragraph 29.5. John Francis inherited the original 479 acres. During the early 1900’s he lost 1½ acres by compulsory purchase order by the Guardians of the Dunshaughlin Union of Parishes, later known as the Dunshaughlin Rural District Council. In 1911 George Lyndon inherited 478 acres and in 1916 he completed the sale to the Land Commission. Some of the tenants may have bought their land outright but for most the sale only meant a change of landlord. No mention of price has been found.

Baltrasna was a Bomford property from 1837 to 1916, 79 years.

34.7 Clonfad and Rattin

The sale of this land has been covered in paragraph 29.9.2; but basically some sales had taken place in 1905 and the last sale occurred in 1913.
34.8

1906 Valuation of Cluide

One of the very few documents concerning the little townland of Cluide in Co Louth concerns its sale; it is the following final notice to tenants dated 14th July 1899.

“In the matter of the Estate of George Bomford continued in the name of John Francis and Arbella Bomford, widow, owner or owners, and Richard Caulfield, Petitioner.

The Land Judges have ordered a sale of part of the Town and Lands of Cloondeecacagh, otherwise Cloondeecacagh, otherwise Clude (now Cluide), containing 25 acres and 6 perches, statute measure, situate in the Barony of Ardee, held in fee simple….”

The date of the hearing was set for 26th October 1899 and the papers include a schedule of a map of the area, and another schedule of the list of tenants which is much the same as the 1854 survey (29.6) and identical to the 1906 survey. The schedule reads -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tenant</th>
<th>Yearly Rent</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Rods</th>
<th>Perches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Carraher, rep of Laurence Fedigan</td>
<td>£9.16.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Corbally</td>
<td>16. 0.0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Corbally</td>
<td>8.16.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>£34.12.0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The deed does not record a reason for the sale but one may assume that it was a mortgage taken out by George Bomford before his death, and which is now due to the petitioner, Richard Caulfield, who demanded repayment during the 1890’s.

There is no record of the ‘hearing’ of October 1899 but the land continued in Bomford hands so the place was not sold then and, one assumes, the mortgage money was found elsewhere. George Lyndon finally sold Cluide in 1921 to the Land Commission.

The date when Cluide became a Bomford property is not clear, but see paragraph 18.8.2 where it is suggested that it may have come into Bomford hands either in 1745 or 1809. It was therefore a Bomford property for either 176 or 112 years, depending on the acquisition date.

34.9

Some Childish Memories of Pre-War Oakley Park

Since this chapter deals with the sale of the land and of Oakley Park it might be appropriate if I added some memories of an age which has past and will never return; an age when farming was dominated by horse-power and manual labour. Since farming was so slow to change it is likely that my memories of the 1930’s would be very similar to those of the early 1900’s and even earlier, and that my memories would be much the same as those of my great-grandfather John Francis, and even to a certain extent of his great-grandfather, George the elder of Drumlargan; only the specifics would be changed.

34.9.1

The Place

The approach to the house up the front avenue was impressive. The entrance consisted of curved cut-stone walls which swept from the road towards large heavy wrought iron gates. Just inside the gates was the front lodge with a handsome porch supported by fluted stone columns in keeping with the main house. It was occupied by Johnnie Rattigan, the cowman until 1955, and his two sisters. It was their duty to keep the gates shut and to open them for the family or visitors. The half-mile front avenue started in the wood at the front gates, twisted through the lower lawn, over a bridge into upper lawn, skirted more woods and finally swept up an incline to the house. The bridge was the original road bridge and may have been built as early as 1350; it had a parapet of enormous moss covered stones and a very high single arch. The front avenue really ended at the large gravel sweep in front of the door; at least every week the sweep was hoed and neatly raked. My grandfather used to “have a pipe” sitting in the porch and cast his used matches onto the well kept gravel; this annoyed my grandmother who made us children pick them up as a punishment for our minor
misdemeanours, often a major task as it seemed that a pipe could not be lit with less than half-a-dozen matches and there were a number of pipes in the day.

The yard and the back of the house were sheltered by another wood so that coming up the avenue one only saw the front and side of the house on a slight rise and backed by trees. This wood ran between the flower knot and the big garden on the far side of the house, and so down to the river in what was called “the shrubbery”. As money became short the shrubbery was the first to suffer, the paths became overgrown and the shrubs and trees fought for light with many casualties; but it must have been a magnificent pleasure garden in its heyday. The back avenue was not used very often but it finally emerged through more woods in the lawn onto the main road. A similar set of wrought iron gates were there together with the back lodge where Ownie Lynch and his sister lived. Ownie looked after the carthorses and was the ploughman.

There were four largish woods in the two lawns and many isolated specimen trees, some of great size and girth. The present owner has felled all but a few of these great trees but now finds that he has to winter his stock in the yards, something that only in the very worst weather was necessary previously, since the cattle, sheep and horses found ample shelter in the woods. The woods also provided firing for the house including the kitchen range. The cutting and splitting of timber occupied many hours with a two-man cross-cut saw and an axe; we children spent many happy hours with our hand-saws working alongside ‘the men’; no doubt we were a horrible nuisance to them but it made us feel grown-up and was a great boost to our childish morale.

The other three fields only had trees in the hedges. The low lying Bottoms were across the river and about half was covered with rushes where snipe fed, but in the summer amongst those rushes grew a lush grass which fattened many a beast; hay was often cut from the higher ground in the Bottoms. The 37 acre field to the north of the house, which for some reason was always called the “Sixteen-Acres”, was the main field set aside for the harvest. Usually about half of it was ploughed and the other half left for hay. The only other field was behind the Big Garden and between the Sixteen-Acres and the Bottoms; it was continuously under grass until after the war when Uncle George ploughed it and got a huge crop of oats.

The animals were fed hay in the winter supplemented with oats and chopped mangles. These were the major crops, plus potatoes for the house, pigs and hens; regardless of what else was being cooked, the kitchen range always had a couple of large iron pots simmering with potatoes, one for the pigs and the other for the hens, which was made more mealy by the addition of crushed oats. I used to enjoy operating the mangle slicer; it was like a huge kitchen mincer with a large handle which I whizzed round and delivered a stream of chunks like over-blown potato chips; but I did not enjoy the back-breaking job of pulling them out of the ground and throwing them into the pony cart.

### 34.9.2 Haymaking

Three men and a ‘boy’ ran the place, though anyone staying in the house was invited to give a hand and this was expected during the harvest. Hay was the first to be cut by one man on the mower pulled by two huge shire horses. He started on the outside of the field and went round and round until he got to the middle. The cut hay was left on the ground to dry and a couple of days later it was raked by the horse rake which had a lever to lift the tines and so leave the gathered hay in long rows. Next came another horse with the tumbler, which slid along the ground and gathered the rows of hay into one place; the man walking behind would heave the tumbler up by the handles and it would somersault over. The idea was that sufficient hay be gathered into one place so that other men could make it into a haycock. Each haycock, and there would be over a hundred of them, had to be made with a base of around ten feet so that it could be drawn in later and, of course, it had to be made so that its fifteen foot high head did not slide off. The latter was a job for the experts so that the amateurs like me made the base and then one of the experts came along, tidied my work and topped it. The acknowledged expert amongst the experts was my grandfather whose heads never slid off. Later the haycock was tied down with ropes made of twisted hay from the butt. All this was done with one eye on the weather since hay had to be cocked dry, if it was wet it would become mouldy and inedible, and in extreme cases it would heat and possibly catch fire. If we were caught by the rain the hay had to be spread out again and when dry made into lap-cocks of about five large fork-fulls, and finally carried by hand to make the large cock. So to avoid all this extra work we continued until dark. It was a tiring day when one got hot, sweaty and itchy with hay falling inside one’s shirt; the tedium and thirst was relieved by the women of the house bringing out buckets of tea and butter-milk, sour milk left over after churning and tasting rather like yoghurt, together with hunks of home-made bread spread liberally with bright yellow salty home-made butter. We never had “baker’s” bread that had to be bought; our bread came from our own wheat. Weeks later during a slack time the haycocks were drawn in, the lofts above the stables filled and a hayrick built in the hay barn in the haggard. A hay slide
drawn by one horse brought in the cocks one by one. The hay slide had a low wooden platform which
could be tilted onto the ground and the horse backed into the haycock; ropes fitted to a bar and ratchet
wheel were jointed around the butt of the cock and with levers the cock was drawn onto the slide which
would tip back and lock itself when the cock was drawn up sufficiently. Riding on the hay slide was great
fun for us children. When empty it was a test of balance to stand upright on the slide as it bounced along,
and going back we lay on top of the cock clinging precariously to the hay ropes as it swayed from side to
side, and sometimes the men ‘accidently’ guided the horse under a tree so that the branches would
sweep us off, this added to the excitement. The hayrick was also a great place to play, particularly on a
wet day when we would make houses by burrowing into the loose hay at the top just below the roof of the
barn. As the rick was used large steps of it were removed, the back of each step being cut vertically with a
hay knife; we used to entice the men to make these steps as high as possible so that we could jump down
onto the soft hay below.

34.9.3 The Harvest

All hands to the harvest were also the case with the more valuable oats and wheat. The corn was
cut with a two-horse reaper-and-binder, which gathered the cut stems on a shelf, tied them with string into
a sheaf and dumped it onto the ground. The harvesters spread themselves around the field, gathered the
sheaves, one under each arm, and stood them up leaning against each other with the ears in the air. This
was repeated until there were six sheaves upright on the ground and firmly leaning against each other.
You had made a stook. If rain was forecast the stooks were headed with a couple more sheaves tied
together with their stems upside down on top of the stook. This made a watertight hat on top of the stook
and was much too difficult for the children. We did not like stooking as the spiky stem ends tore the
inside of our arms and, although no blood flowed, they were very sore at the end of the day. However all
got a bonus at the end of the cutting when there was only a little rectangle left to be cut. Here all the
wretched rabbits, isolated from their burrows in the hedges, congregated and broke out into the open to be
chased and often caught by dogs, men and children. A mad helter-skelter of arms and legs ending on the
unfortunate rabbit.

Rabbits were then so numerous that they were a costly nuisance, but they were a source of
income to us children as the butcher paid around 6d for each one, big pocket money then. Many a warm
summer evening was spent sitting comfortably in a tree beside the warren at the river with a book and a
.22 rifle, waiting for them to come out. Later on Uncle John kept ferrets and days were spent netting the
burrows and then waiting until a rabbit was chased out by the ferret, and tangled in the net. One had to
move fast to pounce on it before it managed to untangle itself. In his whimsical fashion John named the
ferrets after the family, the original pair being George and Maude until it was discovered that George was
not doing his stuff because he was female; eventually a real George was obtained and it was not long
before the names of the Bomfords of Oakley Park had been used and we had to start on those of Priory
Cottage; indeed it was ‘Bobbie’ who turned out to be the best ferret.

The real harvest fun-day for the children was when the steam driven thrashing machine came. It
did not arrive until all the sheaves had been brought in to the haggard. A rick of sheaves was sited
carefully, well away from the hay barn but in the open so that the thrashing machine could be parked on
either side with the wood burning steam engine down wind. The fear was that sparks from the steam
engine chimney might set fire to the straw or the hay. Since the thrashing machine toured the country it
might be as late as December before it arrived; so the rick had to be carefully made with the ears of grain
either side with the wood burning steam engine down wind. The fear was that sparks from the steam
engine chimney might set fire to the straw or the hay. Since the thrashing machine toured the country it
might be as late as December before it arrived; so the rick had to be carefully made with the ears of grain
inside and the whole capped with a thatch of rushes to keep out the rain. There were two stacks, one of
wheat and the other of oats. On the day the machine was due we children would wait on the road so that
we could ride on the clanking noisy monster belching smoke and towing the thrashing machine and
tenders of water and fuel. It was a tricky business getting this train through the yards and into the haggard.
Extra men were employed that day because two were needed to throw sheaves to the top of the thrashing
machine, another two to receive them, cut the string and to feed them evenly into the bowels of the
machine, another man on the ground at one end organising the flow of grain into sacks, at least another
three at the other end making a stack of the straw, and finally another clearing the chaff; nine men plus
the engine driver. Once steam was raised in the boiler the whole operation continued all day with a break
for a midday meal; a good one as it celebrated the end of the harvest and the men ate in the kitchen and
then the family ate. Eventually the sacks of grain were carried into the drying loft above the coach-houses
and spread thinly over the floor. About twice a year a cart load or two of grain in sacks was taken to the
water mill beyond Moynalty to be crushed. We were self sufficient in meal and flour, and any surplus was
sold.

Many other crops had to be harvested. Potatoes were dug and stored in a room in the basement;
they were dug and scattered by a machine which broke into the drills and threw them out sideways, row
by row; then they had to be collected by hand and sacked, a slow back-breaking job. The fruit had to be
piked; apples and pears brought in and stored on racks in another basement room; the soft fruit was stored in bottles which were stewed and the screw tops tightly fitted whilst still hot, this had the effect of sealing the tops and in a year we used to consume dozens of bottles of raspberries, plums, currants and so on. Other roots such as carrots, beet, turnips, parsnips etc also had to be dug and stored in dry sand. The list is endless, but the more we could gather and store the better we ate; there were no shops in Kells selling vegetables or fruit out of season but we all ate well throughout the year.

Having finished the harvest it was time to start all over again. Ploughing took a long time, two horses only managed a drill at a time so perhaps an acre could be ploughed in a day, and there were at least 20 acres to be ploughed. Then in the spring the ploughed land had to be broken up by the harrow and in due course sowed and rolled. In the Big Garden beds for onions and peas and so on prepared, and the seed boxes sown and placed in the cold frame for planting out later. My grandfather spent many hours pruning the fruit trees trained against the garden wall which he had planted when he first came to Oakley Park, but it was my grandmother’s job to sow and plant out the vegetables for the house; although everyone gave what assistance they could in whatever job was going on.

34.9.4 The Animals

It is difficult to remember precise numbers of the animals on the place in the 1930’s, but the list of stock in the clearance sale of Oakley Park of February 1955 will give some idea of numbers.

“11 dairy cows, 2 cows with 4 calves at foot, 2 2-year-old heifers, 7 1½ year-old heifers, 8 yearlings, 11 weanlings, 4 suck calves; 22 ewes and 1 ram; 8 sows in pig, 56 bonhams; 1 working mare; 250 pure-bred blood-tested Light Sussex laying hens.”

In the 1930’s the cattle numbers would have been much the same, around 50 of various ages, though the dairy herd was a little larger and a bull was kept in its own paddock. We were not allowed in the bull’s paddock and the only time I ventured in the bull saw me off exceedingly quickly. Milking by hand took the three men about an hour, first thing in the morning and again last thing at night. No matter how raw or nasty the day, the byre was beautifully warm from the heat of the animals; milking was a relaxing job with the rhythmic pull on the teats and the swish of warm frothy milk into a bucket held between the knees; it was the time of discussion and planning, of scandal and ribaldry; it was possibly the only time when all the men were together before they set off on their different tasks of slashing hedges, ploughing, digging or whatever. A bucket of milk was brought into the house morning and evening, and the rest separated; the cream was used to make butter and the skimmed milk was fed to the calves and little pigs. The sale of 1955 included a tractor but before the war there was only horses, three altogether, a pair of huge ponderous Shire horses with hairy fetlocks and enormous hoofs, and a lighter ‘pony’. The horses were trained as a team and used for heavy work, like ploughing and pulling the reaper and binder. The pony was used for lighter work with a cart, but was also trained for the trap, an open inside car in which four could travel facing each other; this was used when we went visiting or to Kells for the messages. We had a car, initially an old model ‘T’ Ford and later a Vauxhall, but seldom used it for the shorter trips that could be done by trap.

“Mousie” was really Aunt Joan’s hunter but she went at a spanking pace in the trap and was very popular. So many of these animals developed a personality; there was even a blue coloured cow which allowed me on its back and I regularly rode it when collecting the cows for milking or letting them out, but if any other child tried to do so he found himself on the ground in a twinkling. My little pony was called “Hector”; he was a good jumper and followed me everywhere; whenever he found the front door open Hector would come into the house, nose the other hall doors open and stand in front of the kitchen cupboard which held the sugar; he would not budge until someone gave him a lump and then he would amble out. Brian’s pony, Kim, was much more useful; not only did he gallop well but was also trained for a small sized trap and a cart. Other ponies and hunters came and went. My mother’s ‘Tony’ was regularly hunted and won many cups at the Navan Showground; my grandfather’s favourite hunter, ‘Aynak’, died in the late 1920’s and so ended regular hunting, but I suppose someone went hunting a couple of times a month in the 1930’s. It must have been in the 1920’s that my grandfather had one finger bitten off by a horse; he managed to recover the finger and had it bottled, the bottle remained for many years on the mantelpiece until Maude got fed up with the sight of the grisly relic and threw it away.

The numbers of sheep and pigs were about the same; we did our own shearing and the wool was sold. We did not have a boar and so when a pig was considered interesting it was led down the avenue to the Kinsella’s boar and stayed the night. There seemed to be masses of piglets but farrowing was troublesome as the mother was inclined to roll over on a few of her babies with fatal results. This was one of Johnnie Rattigan’s jobs and if the birth were at night he would build a good fire in the harness room and sit there waiting. The birth of a lamb or a calf might go wrong to but Johnnie never complained and we lost very few animals.
There were less hens before the war, but there were also numerous ducks, geese and turkeys. These fowl were looked after by the women of the house, never the men. The birds were free-range which meant that we had to look for their nesting sites, but once a bird found a good place to nest it usually kept to it. Collecting the eggs was a job for the children and in the summer we usually gathered a couple of dozen each day. The turkeys were thought to be ‘difficult’ and we only had them off and on.

All these birds went to their own houses before dark but someone had to go out to shut them in or a fox might get them; there were foxes in the Red Bog, and a badger set in the shrubbery. Eggs were incubated in the basement and, once hatched, the chicks were put in a foster-mother, which was outside on the tennis court, or, in the flower-knot. A foster-mother was a long heavy box with a sliding roof, which disclosed two rooms, an inner one heated with a kerosene lamp and an outer one for feeding.

We killed our own animals when the larder was empty, although our butcher in Kells usually took the bullocks and heifers. I think there was some sort of a barter system, the butcher did not buy the animals but let us have meat whenever needed. In fact we never paid cash in any Kells shop, the item was entered in our book and payment was made monthly. Meat was eaten twice a day at least and our Sunday lunch was always a large sirloin of beef with all the trimmings. Indeed we ate well and all from the place except for tea and sugar; the menu was far from boring when there was available beef, lamb, pork or a bird, plus vegetables and potatoes; the vegetables included many seldom seen now-a-days, such as seakale, artichokes, asparagus and water-cress; there was fruit of all kinds from figs to damsons, either fresh or stored; we never bought bread, jam, porridge, milk, cheese or cream; and of course there was eggs and bacon, plus anything found with the gun like hare, pigeon or pheasant. Nothing was wasted; either the dogs or the pig’s pot took the leftovers. In this fashion we were self-sufficient and the bank balance was kept hopefully out of the red by the sale of surplus animals and produce, plus grandfather’s work with the Land Commission.

Mention of the purchase of tea and sugar and the slender bank balance reminds me of a row one lunchtime, when my grandmother discovered that by mistake grandfather had doubled the usual annual order of a chest of tea and two hundredweight of sugar. He sat grinning whilst her tirade about money wasting flowed over him; finally she saw the futility of her argument and ended with “Silly old man”, sat back and grinned too. However he had the last laugh since the year was 1939 and wartime rationing made those two items uncomfortably scarce, particularly tea when the weekly ration amounted to about 4 or 5 cups. Later on during the War I happened to visit Miss Nevin’s in her cottage and she regretted that she had no tea, so we sat down to “this new stuff called cawfie”. It was the shortage of tea during the War that introduced coffee to the country people, but they brewed it like tea and the pot would sit on the range for days stewing, becoming more and more bitter and more and more disgusting; it would never have caught on if their children had not travelled after the war and discovered how to make it properly.

With all this food and grain around rats and mice were a problem, but the ‘yard’ cats kept down their numbers; these were quite wild but came to the byre daily when milk was put down for them. One morning I counted 23 of these cats waiting for their milk. Ratting was a sport which the dogs loved and they would go wild if you called ‘rats’; it was particularly successful when the rat’s nests were disclosed when the piles of manure were being removed to be spread on the fields. Rick and Michael were two famous ratters of the 30’s. These vermin were kept at bay in the main house by the house cats and dogs; my black Persian, Ben, slept on top of one of the grain bins outside the kitchen with one eye open, and the dogs were shut in the basement at night.

34.9.5

The Dairy

To the left of the arched yard double gate was the way to the back door in the basement. Here was the well, dairy and engine house. The cut stone 80-feet-deep well never ran dry. It was grandfather’s job to pump water to the house roof tank every morning. The engine was coupled to the pump by a belt driven shaft, which was mounted near the ceiling and went through the wall into the dairy. Other belts came down from the shaft to drive the pump or the churn in the dairy. This was the closest we got to automation and it was fun to watch the pistons clanking in and out and the wide belt flapping round, such were our childhood innocent pleasures. The engine would not start on load so the belt had to be ‘knocked on’ and ‘knocked off’, a hazardous job which I suppose was the reason why it was always done by my grandfather; it was certainly not because he was mechanically minded, he was horse orientated and when driving the car it was not unusual for him to pull on the steering wheel and shout ‘Whoa’, an error which my grandmother would correct by shouting “The brake, George, the brake”.

My grandmother was the ruler of the dairy. When she first arrived at Oakley Park she was so horrified at the malnutrition of the country children that she built it with her own money, and, ever after, the country children came to the dairy can in hand twice a day to collect milk. After each milking the surplus milk was separated; the cream being kept in white pails and the skimmed milk being given to the suck calves and piglets.
Once a week we churned and made between 20 and 100 pounds of butter depending on the season. Oakley Park became renowned for its good butter and later on it was sent by train to Findlaters in Dublin. The art was to stop the churn at just the right moment when the butter had ‘come’, to roll squeeze it to get out the butter-milk, which was used to make bread, then to wash it and sprinkle in enough salt. The result was a deep yellow, firm butter, which tasted quite unlike the modern creamery stuff. On churning day the dairy was a busy place with buckets of water being sloshed around and ‘butter hands’ slapping and beating the butter into shape; then it had to be weighed and made into pound slabs wrapped in butter-paper; finally everything had to be scrubbed and scalded with kettles of boiling water brought from the kitchen. In the summer when there was too much cream, cheese was made and hung to drip dry in muslin bags from the dairy rafters.

34.9.6

The House and Garden

Grandmother was also the ruler in the Big Garden where she arranged the planting and harvesting of the fruit and vegetables; but her pride and joy was the flower-knot where she spent many happy hours up-ended in the flower beds. She had green fingers and the riot of colour in the beds was a joy to all. To give some idea of size, the central raised part of the flower knot consisted of 12 triangular beds radiating from a central urn, at their base another 12 round beds each with a cast iron urn; 24 in all and each surrounded with a little clipped box hedge and gravel; around the grass perimeter were another 10 beds and a large rockery. It is difficult to imagine how she was able to cope with all this since the only help she had was an occasional man to mow the grass and to hoe and rake the graver paths; but manage she did and the results were admired by all.

The help in the house consisted of three maids, a parlour maid, a housemaid and a kitchen maid who did some cooking. Their jobs also seemed to be never ending; for instance every week the bare boards of the passages were either scrubbed by hand with soap and water or polished, and then every year spring cleaning went on for a couple of months; the library took the longest to spring clean since all the 4,000 books were taken out-side and dusted. Some of these girls left to get married but most stayed for years and were part of the family, as were the men in the yard. None were thought of as servants but as friends, and I don’t think I ever heard an order given, it was always a suggestion. A suggestion like, “Mary, would you ever go to the Big Garden and get some peas for lunch”, might be said equally to one of the house guests or to one of the maids. Another instance of the friendship which built up was that, if I was hurt as a child, it was quite likely that I would run for attention to one of the men in the yard, for with them or the maids I knew that I would be coddled very satisfactorily. Yet another instance occurred quite recently when Aunt Joan was reminiscing with Johnnie Rattigan and he retorted “And why shouldn’t I remember that, sure didn’t I rear you,” an assured declaration that the whole tricky business of bringing up Joan had fallen only on his shoulders. They all had considerable pride in the place and loyalty to the family, and on no occasion did anyone leave because they did not like their work. The hours were long, 8.30 to 6 with an hour off for lunch, and they were paid a pittance, but all worked happily and there were many jokes and much banter. The men’s pay during the 30’s was about £2 a week, paid every Friday during milking; there were virtually no days off and the only concession to Sunday was that only the animals were ‘done’. By custom the men were given a proportion of the crops, a couple of drills of potatoes, and grain or flour; milk was free, as was firewood, and if they were housed on the estate there was no rent or rates. The maids in the house were paid much less, but they lived in and were fed free.

One could ramble on, but even though we all had our jobs there was ample leisure for parties and outings. Even during the harvest there was time for all to have a picnic on Emlagh Bog in the trap, to take the car to the sea for a day, to go shopping to Dublin by train or to bicycle to neighbours for tennis. Our spare time was filled very differently to that of today; only on the wettest days did we want to be inside; we were out-door types who made our own amusements and so did not have time to be bored. A happy time with a nice balance between work and play.

(Painting) The ‘Flower-knot’ at Oakley Park by Dorothy Cripps.
First floor plan of Oakley Park showing occupants of bedrooms c1934

Large high window on landing half-way up stairs.

Lumber room

John's Bedroom

Dorothy's Bedroom

Maude's Bedroom

George's Bedroom

Guest Bedroom

Glass dome in roof

Evelyn +
Wilfred's Bedroom

School Room

Nursery
C.P.B.
+ B.P.B.

(Porch)
Chapter XXXV  George Lyndon and his Family  1890’s - 2004

35.1  George Lyndon Bomford

George Lyndon Bomford, the eldest son of John Francis and Elinor (Bolton), was born on 29th Sunday September 1867 at Oakley Park, and baptised at St Columba’s Church, Kells. His two godfathers were his uncles Richard Knott Bolton and William Fleming (30.3.2), and his godmother was his aunt, Margaret Winter Bomford. George was about three when the family moved to Drumlargan and about 11 when he went to Denstone College in England. His early schooling was at home and largely undertaken by the Rector of Agher, his cousin Rev George Henry Martin of Bective. These early days have been covered in Chapter 33.

After leaving Denstone in 1885 George was sent to America. He used to joke that he was given £5 and sent off to make his fortune. It was not altogether a joke since his name is to be found on the Ellis Island Computer as an immigrant of 1892. It is quite possible that all he had was £5 since only steerage passengers were screened on the island. Those passengers with money were screened on the ship and not taken to the Island. As a steerage passenger he would have mixed with the poor in a way to which he was not accustomed, (very good for character). He did not talk much about those days but when he did he enthralled us children with tales of the Wild West, now made famous by Hollywood. He was a natural horseman and spent some time in Texas as a Pony Express rider. Whilst there he was made a sheriff and met some of the famous, and infamous, characters. Later he moved to Chicago where he worked in a large livery stable. That job ended one night when the stables caught fire; he was able to rescue many of the horses before the building collapsed.

He then worked in a butcher’s shop, from where, one evening, he set off with the money for the bank and he was mugged in a dark alley. His attackers kicked in his teeth and he was taken to hospital. From that time he had false teeth and, as a little boy, I remember being intrigued by the way he could drop his upper set onto the lower without any change of facial expression, and try as I might I never succeeded in that feat. In the Chicago hospital he became engaged to his nurse, Kate Corbould-Warren. Kate was famous for her temper and the story goes that the engagement was called off after she, in one of her tempers, flung boots at George.

Eventually George returned home, probably in 1895 after only three years in the United States, and went to Tacolneston Old Hall, the Corbould-Warren place near Norwich, to try and make it up with Kate. There he met and fell in love with Kate’s younger sister, Maude. There may well have been another temper tantrum because Kate was never mentioned in the family again, and her absence is noted in the wedding photograph. George however had to win Maude over as she was attached to a neighbouring clergyman, Evelyn Burnaby. He persuaded Maude to visit his family at Drumlargan and brought her back, suitably chaperoned. In 1896 he popped the question on the Dunsany cricket ground and Maude accepted. It is doubtful if Maude ever forgot Evelyn Burnaby since my mother was named after him and his photograph was found in her bedside cabinet on her death. The Burnaby saga ended happily as he later was to marry Maude’s younger sister, Dorothy.

Maude was a fun-loving and outdoor girl and the family at Drumlargan may have done as much as George to win her over. The house must have been pretty full at this time as four of George’s brothers and two of his sisters were at home, and they ranged in age from 28 down to 11. The meeting was boisterous and the household much more lively than Maude’s Norfolk home where her father was not only the magistrate but the Patron and Rector of Tacolneston, and her only brother was also a clergyman. It was a new life for her and the ‘wild Irish’ came to life before her eyes.

She told a rueful story of her first Sunday at Drumlargan. She was offered a seat in the wagonette to Agher Church, 2½ miles away, for the morning service, but the young men insisted that she should walk with them to the Church. Instead of following the road they took her the short cut through the woods and fields, jumping ditches and scrambling through the undergrowth. This test she passed with distinction as far as the boys were concerned. They arrived late, the sermon had started, and poor Maude was very aware that all eyes were upon her as she was escorted up the aisle upon this her first official outing. She was even more aware that her hair had come down and that her shoes and stockings had suffered badly on the way. However she was no prude and without doubt got her own back at some later date.
The Times of London dated Tuesday, 10th August 1897, recorded the marriage.


The Family Bible more simply records, “Married at Tacolneston, 5th Aug 1897, Helen Maude Mary, daughter of the Revd. John Corbould-Warren of Tacolneston Old Hall, Norfolk.”

The wedding photograph was taken in front of a creeper covered Tacolneston. Frock coats and Toppers, large flowery hats and long white dresses, were worn. The younger bridesmaids carried beribboned shepherd’s crooks with posies of flowers. The bride wore a tulle veil trimmed with orange blossom which 27 years later was worn by her daughter, Evelyn, at her wedding. Those in the photograph include:

Back Row: Edward Corbould-Warren(cousin), John Francis Bomford (father), and the Rev Evelyn Burnaby,

Middle Row: Rev John C-W (father), Agnes C-W (Maude’s sister), Rev John C-W (brother), Rosie C-W (sister), Edith C-W (sister), Elinor Bomford (mother), Mr Todd of Yorkshire (possibly the best man), George Lyndon Bomford (groom), Dolly C-W (sister), Edward C-W senior(uncle), May C-W (cousin), and Rosie C-W (aunt).

Front Row: Winnie C-W (bridesmaid, cousin), Miss Boileau (bridesmaid), Louisa C-W (mother), Maude C-W (bride), Master Boileau (page), Trixie C-W (bridesmaid, cousin), and another Miss Boileau (bridesmaid).

The honey-moon was spent at the Woodenbridge Hotel in Co Wicklow, a delightful spot at the “Meeting of the Waters”, where the Avoca and the Gold Mines Rivers unite at the charming village of Aughrim.

The Corbould-Warren Family

No record has been located concerning the early Corbould-Warrens. The wedding photograph of 1897 plus contributions by a number of the family, including Diana Pott, have all assisted in putting together the following.

The three young Boileaus in the photograph were the children of Colonel Francis William Boileau CB who served in the Indian Mutiny 1857/1859, Abyssinian Expedition 1868 and the Afghan
War 1878/1879. He was born 11th April 1835 and married 1861 Mary Letitia, daughter of Rev Bradford. The Colonel is the declared male heir of the Boileau family headed by Sir Francis George Boileau, 1830 - 1900, of nearby Tacolneston Hall, (not to be confused with Tacolneston Old Hall of the Corbould-Warrens).

The great-great-grandfather of Maude is John Corbould, 1720 - 1801. He became one of the City Fathers of Norwich and was granted the Freedom of the City in 1789. He amassed a considerable fortune and in 1765 purchased Bracon Lodge at Bracon Ash, and enlarged it in 1798. His son Rev John Corbould, 1768 - 1810, was educated at Cambridge (MA 1793) and ordained 1790. He was appointed Curate of Tacolneston in 1790. In 1794 he married Elizabeth, 1769 - 1852, whose father Rev Thomas Warren was the Rector of Tacolneston, 1764-1796. Tacolneston is about 4 miles south of Bracon Ash.

The Rev John and Elizabeth Warren appeared to be well off, but there must have been some monetary trouble when he died. His will of 1810 was not proved for 20 years and his trustees, his wife being one of them, sold Bracon Lodge in May 1813. However this does not seem to have affected any of their eight children. His eldest son Lieut John RN was lost at sea in 1822; his second son, 1796-1869, was ordained and became Rector of Tacolneston 1858 - 1869.

Charles, his fourth child, 1799 - 1892, had an early recollection of Lord Nelson dining with his father at Bracon Ash Rectory prior to the Admiral’s departure on the voyage that culminated in the Battle of Trafalgar. At the age of 13 he joined the Royal Navy as a midshipman in the Battleship Elizabeth, commanded by Post Captain Gower, and served in the Mediterranean. He met the Duke of Wellington and at Elba was spoken to by the Emperor Napoleon I. After the war he retired from the Navy and entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge. In 1825 he qualified as an attorney and solicitor and practised at Gray’s Inn, London. In 1837 he emigrated to Canada and settled at York Mills, which later became Toronto. He was involved with extensive farming and milling projects. In 1840 he married Mary Durie; her father had been posted to York Mills as Surgeon-General in 1814. The Duries are an old Scottish family, their history going back to the time of Mary, Queen of Scots. Charles and Mary finally settled at Orilla, 50 miles north of Toronto, and had five children, 12 grand-children and a couple of dozen great-grand-children, most of whom are in Canada with many in British Columbia. They call themselves Corbould, omitting the ‘Warren’.

The youngest son of Rev John and Elizabeth was another clergyman. Rev William (1806 - 1858), Rector of Tacolneston 1836 - 1858 assumed the additional arms of Warren from his mother’s family in 1853 under the will of his uncle Rev John Warren. He assumed the name of Corbould-Warren and inherited Tacolneston Old Hall. In 1839 he married Anne Cubitt, 1812 - 1864, and they had ten children who all took the name of Corbould-Warren.

It is worth following two of these ten children.

1. Rev John Corbould-Warren of Tacolneston Old Hall and of Caistor, Norwich was Maude’s father. He was born 28th October 1843 and educated at Norwich Grammar School until 1861, and at Downing College, Cambridge; he matriculated at Emmanuel College in 1862, and at Lichfield Theological College 1867, ordained deacon 1868 and priest 1869 by the Bishop of Ripon, and made curate of Yafforth North, Yorkshire, 1868 - 1869. He was Rector of Tacolneston from 1869 to 1918 and Patron of Tacolneston for 50 years. He was also a Norfolk Justice from 1879 until his death on 19th August 1918. On 14th January 1867 he married Maria Louisa, daughter of Henry Reynes, MD, MRCS, LSA, of Potton, Bedfordshire, and his wife Martha Race. Louisa, Maude’s mother, died in April 1924 having had six children and was the father-in-law of George Lyndon Bomford.

a. Edith Margaret (Edie) Corbould-Warren born 1867 and died unmarried on 25th September 1943, of Framingham Earl, Norfolk.

b. Elizabeth (Kate) Corbould-Warren born 3rd April 1869 became a nurse who looked after George Bomford in Chicago. She died unmarried at Framingham Earl, Norfolk, on 6th November and was buried at Tacolneston on 8th November 1928.

c. John Warren Corbould-Warren born 30th June 1870 and educated at Felsted and Downing College, Cambridge, BA 1894, MA 1899. He was ordained in 1894 and became curate of Broadwinsor 1895 – 1898, curate of Blechingley in Surrey 1898 - 1901. From 1901 to 1910 he was Vicar of Dersingham and finally from 1914 the Rector of Caistor-with-Marshshall. He was Lord-of-the-Manor of Caistor and Patron of the livings of Caistor and Tacolneston, and a Justice in Norfolk.

On 15th April 1896 he married Agnes Elizabeth, daughter of James Stephen Edward La Fontaine, JP, of Berkhamstead and of Constantinople, by his wife Helen, daughter of Benjamin Barker. They lived at Caistor Hall, Norwich, and she was thought to be a very grand lady by the Bomford family since she travelled with a lady’s maid and talked about the fine pheasant shoots of Caistor, and so on. She died on 6th November 1948 and he died in 1944. They had two children -
George Lyndon and his Family

i. John Derek Corbould-Warren born 1899 and educated at Rugby and the RMC Sandhurst. On the 10th July 1917 he was killed in a riding accident at Sandhurst

ii. Enid Helen Corbould-Warren born 1901 and was married at Caistor on 12th September 1929. Her husband was Lieutenant-Commander Richard Pennell Caesar Hawkins, RN, born 27th December 1899, son of Edward Caesar Hawkins of Shelton Hall, Long Stratton, quite close to Tacolneston. They had one daughter and the marriage was dissolved. On her father’s death, Enid inherited Caistor Hall, which she sold, and it is now a hotel; she and her daughter then went to live in the Channel Islands where she died in November 1983.

1. Diana Elizabeth Hawkins born at Caistor Hall on 24th November 1930. She married Mr Antony Pott in 1953 and had 3 children. In 1998 they were living in Southampton.
   a. Helen Pott born in 1955, is married and has sons.
   b. Antony Pott born in 1957, is married and lives in Cardiff.
   c. Richard Pott, was born in 1966, is married and has a son.


3. Helen Maude Mary Corbould-Warren born on 3rd October 1873 so was nearly 24 when she married George Lyndon Bomford in 1897

4. Dorothy Ann (Dollie) Corbould-Warren born in 1874 and married at Tacolneston in c1905. Her husband was Rev Evelyn Beaumont Burnaby, MA, born 24th February 1872, son of Rev Sherard Beaumont Burnaby. He died at Tacolneston on 10th November 1912 having had three children. At some later date c1928 Dollie took her three children to New Zealand and settled at Richmond, Nelson.

i. Sylvia Maude Beaumont Burnaby born 22nd July 1907 and married Milton Glyman of Motueka, Nelson. During WW2 he served with the N.Z. Air Force in the Pacific and then bought a tobacco farm. They persevered with tobacco but the land was unsuitable and they had to sell. Milton died of cancer in 1968. Sylvia visited her aunt Maude at Oakley Park three times, firstly with her mother in 1917 when her uncle George was in France, then in 1920, and again in 1947, they had three children.

2. Roger Glyman is a travel agent in Auckland. He is married with 3 children born in the 1970’s.
3. Pamela Burnaby Glyman lives near her mother in Motueka. She is married and has five children; three sons in Motueka, of whom 2 are married, although one lost his wife in a car crash after the marriage; her other two children are married and live in Australia.

ii. Hugo Philip Beaumont Burnaby born 14th October 1909, married Jessie and died in 1971. They had two children

1. Philip Burnaby born c1950 has an apple orchard near Nelson. He married Julie and has three children: Kim, Mark, and Anna.
2. Barbara Burnaby married Bob and has a girl, Sally.

iii. Patricia (Pat) Margaret Beaumont Burnaby born 23rd December 1910 and married Hugo Pike, a sheep farmer of Canterbury. He died in 1971 and she died in 1973. They had two girls

1. Judy Pike who married Harvey and had Jonathon and Sarah.
2. Virginia Pike

2. Edward Corbould-Warren of Bracon Ash was born 15th April 1848 and died 2nd March 1913. On the 28th August 1878 he married Rose Henrietta Mackarness who died 21st August 1927. These two and their children were in the wedding photo of 1897. He became entitled to the residual estate of his uncle Edward Corbould (died 1878) of Weasenham and so re-purchased Bracon Lodge in 1885. He died in 1913 and left Bracon Lodge to his wife and then to his second son, William. Their four children were,

a. Rose Corbould-Warren was born 21st July 1879. Married 25th November 1914 Captain James Sidney Granville Kay. She died in 1951.

b. Edward Corbould-Warren of Bracon Ash Lieut. Colonel, R.A. (ret 1926) of Tideworth was born 21st May 1881 served in the South African War (medal with 3 clasps), 3rd Aug 1912 awarded Royal Humane Society’s Medal for saving life in the Goomtie River at Beslapur 1870, served in the Great War in Mesopotamia at the siege of Kut-el-Amara under General Townshend mentioned in despatches 5 times, 3 medals; created Brevet Lieutenant Colonel 1916. In 1st October 1908 he married Joan Steward and died 1941. They had two children,

i. Margaret Peggy Corbould-Warren born 11th October 1909 at Srinagar, India died 1st February 1990.

iii. Willy Corbould-Warren born 3rd May 1883 of Bracon Ash and later of Tacolneston Old Hall. He served with the Essex Militia in the Boer War and in WWI with the Royal Fusiliers, when he was wounded he transferred to the Indian Army Reserve and served on the North West Frontier Campaign in 1919. On 2nd July 1926 he married Jessica Perkins and sometime later emigrated to New Zealand, eventually settling in Tauranga, 19 Grace Street and died in 1963. They had three sons and the family became known as just ‘Warren’.


ii. Richard Corbould-Warren born 19th June 1933. In 1960 he visited the Bamford’s at Crodara (35.6.5). He married Georgina Langley born 1938. They went to live in New Zealand, where his three daughters were born, before moving to Australia. He died in 2000.

1. Virginia Catherine Corbould-Warren born 17th July 1964, married Lyndon Campbell Chandler and have three sons,
   - William Chandler born 28th July 1988
   - Hayden Chandler born 5th February 1992
   - Lachlan Chandler born 6th September 1993

2. Laura Elizabeth born 25th June 1967, married Christopher Fraser. They have one son


iii. Antony Corbould-Warren was born 1937 and educated at Rugby. In September 1953 he visited Col G.W. Bomford at Oakley Park. He married Susan Cunliffe from New Zealand. He visited the David’s at the Miramar Hotel in the late 1950’s (35.9).

   They have two children a girl and a boy

1. Gillian Corbould-Warren born 8th June 1966, married and has one son Antonio.


e. Beatrice Harriet (Trixie) Corbould-Warren was born 8th October 1887 died 1942 unmarried.

f. May Frances Corbould-Warren was born 8th July 1889 married 31st April 1917 Geoffrey Gordon Richardson who died the 5th March 1926, she settled in Christchurch and died c1960.

3. Mary Corbould born 6th May 1850, died 14th February 1851.

4. Mary Corbould-Warren born 19th July 1851, died 4th November 1921 Married 20th February 1874, Lieut Colonel Walter John Boyes, 18th January 1841, died 12th may 1917 they had seven sons and four daughters.

5. Elizabeth Corbould-Warren born 25th October 1852 Married at Ferozepore, Punjab, India, 23rd December 1873, Colonel Francis Frederick Cotton of Clifton Bristol, born 8th June 1843, died 14th October 1909 they had one daughter.


   It is curious that the Corbould-Warren of New Zealand became known as ‘Warren’ whilst those of Canada were known as ‘Corbould’.

   The following were all cousins of George L. Bomford and were in the wedding-photo of August 1897.

   Edward and his wife Rosie of Bracan Lodge at Bracon Ash and their children Rosie, aged 18, Edward, aged 16 but looks older Winnie, aged 12, Trixie, aged 10 and May, aged 8.

   The Old Hall at Tacolneston has long since been pulled down. In the late 1940’s I visited the site which was surrounded by lovely trees and beside the 15th Century All Saints Church. There is a photograph of the house at Crodara; two stories with three windows on either side of the front door, probably late Georgian. It is a pleasant looking house but not particularly outstanding, however my mother who used to visit there with her mother thought it a very comfortable house.

35.4 Death of George and Maude Bomford

   George had joined the Land Commission in 1895 on his return from the United States, he and Maude set up house on the north coast of Antrim, at Portrush. In April 1900 George and Maude moved to Oakley Park with their parents, John Francis and Elinor. Because of his work as a land valuer, which continued until the 1940’s, and the difficulty of getting around Ireland in those early days, George was away from his family much of the time. Later on he bought a car, a Model T Ford, so travel became much more convenient but even so, he was often away for a few days each week. He used to say that he had travelled every road in Ireland and he did have encyclopaedic knowledge of the roads.
Shortly after he inherited Oakley Park in 1911 there was a very bad thunder storm when eighteen cows were killed by lightning whilst sheltering in the wood to the east of the house; a big loss which a number of neighbours also suffered. He continued to live there happily in spite of the upheavals of the World War and the later Troubles. He took on all the usual duties of a country gentleman; he was a Justice of the Peace 1908 - 1850, was elected as a committee member of the Meath Protestant Orphan Society 1910 - 1949, was a very active member of the Meath Hunt, and so on. Before World War I, as he travelled around the country, he was ideally suited for another job which he took on for the British Army; that of buying horses for the Remounts. His son George wrote the following about this period:

“On the outbreak of war in 1914, I had travelled round Ireland with my father, during the summer holidays, while he purchased horses for the Government. The family coffers were never very flush, so great was my sense of wonder as he signed away vast sums in a cheque book, provided presumably by some Government official. He was a very good judge of a horse. Later I spent another holiday at his first military post at Ormskirk in Lancashire. A few weeks before, we had found him sitting in his chair in the Oakley Park library, minus his beard, clad in a Captain’s uniform. He loved springing a complete surprise on the family.”

He did not stay long during the war at Ormskirk but spent most of his time with the Remounts in France, at Dieppe. At the end of the war he returned home and was there for the Troubles of the early 1920’s. The Troubles affected the whole family and there is a note on this period in the next chapter.

The remainder of the 1920’s and the 1930’s were happy, quiet times at Oakley Park, punctuated with bursts of social activity when their children returned on holiday from foreign parts. In the 1930’s I knew my grandfather as a country gentleman, neither rich nor fashionable, popular with his neighbours of all ranks of life. He liked country life and all country pursuits; farming was a perpetual interest to him, and he was fond of hunting and shooting and was a good judge of a horse. He was very good-natured, always in good spirits, and with that sort of manner, which made him exceedingly popular with both men and women. He was efficient for all the ordinary purposes of life but had no intellectual interests and did not care greatly for reading or any deep discussion such as politics.

My grandmother was one of the gentlest of human beings and yet, at times, could be quite stern. Generally she shrank from argument and, in order to make life go smoothly was prepared to efface herself but only in cases of secondary importance. This made it possible for the arrangements of a home to work smoothly and my early recollections are of an uneventful and exceedingly happy home. In the usual fashion of such an upbringing I assumed that the world was therefore a happy place, in which no grown-up did anything which was wrong.

The wartime 1940’s were however a time of worry for both Maude and George, or as I used to call them “Gaga and Pa”, since, not only were their children engaged in the war in one way or another, but they were becoming old and short of money. As George wrote to his son-in-law Wilfred Bamford, “A thousand a year (from the Land Commission) was sufficient to keep the place going (before the war) but now with rising wages there will be difficulties.” It was therefore a relief when the war ended and their eldest son, George, retired from the Indian army and took the ropes of Oakley Park into his own hands. In 1949 when George was 82 he became very ‘difficult’; for instance he lost all sense of time and might get up at 2 a.m., wake the house and demand breakfast. Maude, who was then 76 and had developed high blood pressure, became very upset at these antics and after a particularly difficult week Doctor Desmond Eustace, a lifelong friend of the family, came to the rescue and George was admitted to Palmerston Convalescent Hospital in Dublin in January 1950. He lived there quite happily and contented for a year. He died, aged 84, at 2.30 p.m., on 2nd March 1951 and was buried beside his parents at Kells on 4th March.

Meanwhile Maude carried on with the help of those of her children who were at home, but her high blood pressure still troubled her although it was held at bay by medication and a day in bed each week. On 22nd July 1950 when she was 77 she had a stroke in the morning with paralysis down the right side. She died in her own bed that evening about 7.15 and was buried in Kells on 26th July, seven months before George died. Needless to say, after 50 years in Kells, they both had enormous funerals, and of Maude, John Carson, the Rector of Kells wrote in the Diocesan magazine.
George Lyndon and his Family

“This brief notice of the death of Mrs Maude Bomford records the passing of one who will be remembered and sadly missed not only by her devoted family but by a very wide circle of friends in this parish and far beyond, and in lands beyond the seas.

She took a leading part in all parish activities, giving not only material aid but also invaluable personal service. Sympathetic and generous, she was ever ready to help anyone in difficulty or distress, and was one of those rare souls who seem to divine when help or sympathy is needed and gave it, with both hands, before it was even asked for, not only as a duty but joyously and warm-heartedly like the true Christian she was. A very gracious lady has passed from our midst but her memory and example will remain as an inspiration and encouragement.”

Her will, executed by Wilfred Bamford, was very simple; her possessions were to be divided between her three daughters, Evelyn Bamford, Dorothy Cripps and Joan David.

35.5 Children of George and Maude Bomford

George and Maude had six children, four girls and two boys, born between 1898 and 1917. They were all born at Oakley Park except for their eldest child.

35.5.1 Elinor Louise Bomford

The eldest child was born on 18th September 1898 and named after her two grandmothers. She may have been born in Portrush, Co Antrim, but more probably at Drumlargan. During the summer of 1899 Maude, George and the baby were in England, perhaps visiting Maude’s parents in Norfolk and showing them their first grand-child. They decided to take the comfortable way back from London by sea to Dublin, a journey of three or four days.

This used to be a much easier way to go, particularly with a young child, compared to the cross country train journey followed by a night crossing of the Irish Sea; the boats were cattle-boats returning empty but they had accommodation for a number of passengers. Unfortunately Elinor Louise who had been ailing, developed meningitis on the boat and without proper medical attention she died at sea on 13th September 1899. She had almost reached her first birthday. Her distressed parents buried her at Agher Church alongside two other Bomford infants (25.1). Her headstone below the Church’s east window reads,

“In loving Memory of Elinor Louise, dearly loved daughter of George and Maude Bomford, died 13th Sept 1899, aged 1 year.”

35.5.2 George Warren Bomford

George Warren was born at Oakley Park on 22nd April 1900. His was the first birth there since that of his aunt ‘Annella’ Mrs Longfield, in 1868. He was baptised in Kells by Richard Bolton, Rector of Fermoy. The only traceable relative of this name at this date was Richard Knott Bolton, a brother to George Warren’s grandmother Elinor, who died in Dublin in 1909; he was aged 70 at the christening and was also the godfather of George Lyndon, George Warren’s father.

George Warren’s first ten years were at Oakley Park. In 1910 he went to Clifton College as a day boy staying with his aunt, Annella Longfield; already at Clifton and staying with Annella was his cousin John Constable, and they were joined a couple of terms later by Annella’s son Dick Longfield; finally, just before George left, they were joined by another cousin, Leonard Shelford. He left school in 1917 and joined the Indian Army (See 36.2.1 et sec, George’s own account of his early life).

From 1917 to 1947 he served with the Indian Army, being commissioned into the Second Lancers, which he first joined in Syria in 1919. By World War II he had risen to major and was second-in-command of his regiment in India. In 1940 he was detached from the 2nd Lancers to become the liaison officer of the “Ganga Risala” or Camel Corps of the Maharajah of Bikiner, which he took to Aden. In June 1941 he returned to India, picked up reinforcements for the 2nd Lancers and two months later was in Egypt.

He took command of the Lancers in April 1942 and the next month they were rushed to the front line at Bir Hachim to help stem Rommel’s attack, an attack which on the last day of June was to reach El Alamein. The 2nd Lancers were over-run and did well to get back with so few casualties. However they had lost so much equipment that they had to be withdrawn from the battle and were
not reformed until late July. George returned to India and joined the 76th Cavalry which he commanded until March 1946. From then until his retirement in November 1947 he had various staff appointments, including commanding an Italian Prisoner-of-War camp at Dehra Dun and a spell in Singapore after its recapture from the Japanese.

He arrived back at Oakley Park as a Colonel in 1948. His mother died there in 1950 and his father in 1951. He stayed on at Oakley Park assisted for a time by his sister Dorothy, but the place was unsuitable for the modern mechanised type of farming as there was too much parkland, and, having spent his life very differently in India, George found farming hard going. After much heart-searching he sold Oakley Park in March 1955.

From 1956 to 1959 he lived in Malta. During a train journey home his pocket was picked whilst passing through Italy; all his documents and money were taken, but he did not realise this until the ticket collector asked for his ticket. Since it was at that time a criminal offence in Italy to travel without a ticket the collector sent for the train policeman. The policeman duly arrived to arrest George but instead embraced him in Gallic fashion and called him “Mon Commandante”. He was one of his Italian ex-prisoners from the camp in India. The eventual outcome of this meeting was that George bought a flat in Rome and his ex-prisoner’s son, Nino de Marco, went to live with him as his ‘major-domo’. During the 18 years in Rome before his death and in between visits to and from the family and friends, he wrote extensively on what he called “A Collection of Notes” for his sisters Evelyn and Joan. These ‘notes’ are too bulky to reproduce here but a few extracts are added in the next chapter. These shed light on the family and on a way of life, which has passed, including that of “The Raj” in India. Also included are two letters from George to his parents about Rommel’s break-through at Bir Hachim; the original letters have disappeared but my mother had made copies for my father who was at that time in Nigeria.

George died in Rome on 8th December 1978, aged 78. He had been admitted to a Rome nursing home in November suffering from tachycardia, abnormal rapidity of heart beat, and breathlessness, but this seemed to have been controlled and he returned to his flat for three weeks before he died peacefully in his sleep. He was buried in Rome on 11th December. Of the many letters, which his sister Evelyn received after his death, all spoke of his great sense of fun, his kindness and his good temper; but his friends from the Indian Army also told how he was loved by those who worked with him, and that this applied to, all ranks from officers to the men of his regiment. Many also applied this to his friend Nino who was with him at the end.

Evelyn Maude Bomford

Evelyn, the eldest surviving daughter, was born on 13th February 1902 at Oakley Park and baptised at Kells, one of her godmothers being Evelyn L. Nugent. Apart from a term at Lowther College in North Wales with her younger sister, she had no formal education, as we know it now, but had a governess. She absorbed all that was necessary from her upbringing at Oakley Park and lived there a very full life. When her father George returned from the war he bought five hunters, including his favourite, Aynak, and hunted all over the county with his teenage daughter and some times with her younger sister, Dorothy. I am amazed at the distances they hacked to and from these meets, often 10 or 15 miles away, and it is not surprising that Evelyn became a excellent horse-woman and developed the technique of sleeping in the saddle. Her horse was named Tony, and she and Tony won many prizes at the showground at Navan. She had a very happy childhood and loved her home and close-knit family. One of the advantages of such an up bringing was that the children of those days were completely innocent of the world outside their sphere of friends. It was therefore an enormous and exciting adventure for a child to go, for instance, to Dublin, a day-long excursion by train; even more so to England, perhaps accompanied by her mother on a visit to her grandmother at Tacolneston in Norfolk. This journey took two days with a night on the Liverpool boat, very comfortable then, and a day-long cross-country train journey; meals on a train without a corridor being arranged by one station master phoning ahead to the next stop for a hamper of food. All these excitements Evelyn never forgot, including those with her aunt Loo, Louisa Martin of Bective, which are recorded in 21.8.5(4).

One anecdote illustrates this unworldliness. Sometime during the first war the calm of Oakley Park was disturbed by the arrival of a large army detachment of mounted troops and their baggage. After the initial turmoil of making camp, erecting tents and laying out the horse lines on the front lawn, Maude served afternoon tea for the officers in the flower-knot. This was in full swing when Evelyn, far too excited to eat, discovered a most gorgeously dressed and handsome man giving out orders in the yard. To her he had to be a high-ranking officer, so she led him to the tea party in the flower-knot. On seeing his destination the poor man became embarrassed, hung back and would not attend. This completely mystified Evelyn and it had to be explained to her that he was the Regimental Sergeant-Major and so not eligible to have tea with the officers.
On 30th April 1924 she was married by the Rector, Rev Francis Beere, who had just been installed at Kells. Her husband was Wilfred Clifford Bamford, a nephew of the previous Rector of Kells, Dick Clifford (21.8.5). They first met during the war at Church when Wilfred was on leave from France, and it was a case of love at first sight; Wilfred was tall, dark, handsome and in uniform; Evelyn was slim, short, blond and pretty. They met often and it speaks much for the attachment when Wilfred who was no horseman even went hunting with Evelyn; he used to say that he spent more time catching his horse after falling off than he spent in the saddle. They saw a lot of each other in 1920, for instance, Wilfred who only recorded bald facts in his diaries, records – “August 7, Bomford tennis; 27th, Bomford dance; September 1st, Bomford picnic; 8th, Bomford paper-chase; and on 13th, Emlagh Bog picnic, Evelyn and I found white heather”.

However in 1920 Wilfred was not earning a living so it was not until his first leave from Nigeria in September 1922 that they agreed to marry and the announcement was made after Sunday lunch at Oakley Park on September 10. The story is that Wilfred proposed during a tennis tournament at Armagh when their male opponent, under stress of losing, removed his wig and hung it on the tennis net post; the young couple, trying to suppress their mirth, lost their concentration and the match, and that, almost as a consolation to Evelyn, Wilfred proposed. Incidentally the tournament organisers mistook the entry of Wilfred and Evelyn, whose tennis standard was only mediocre, for that of Wilfred’s brother Percy and his wife Geraldine who both played a fine game of high standard.

The actual wedding did not take place until Wilfred’s second leave from Nigeria starting in March 1924. Unfortunately Maria Louisa Corbould-Warren, Evelyn’s grandmother, died in early April so the wedding, which could not be put back, was a quiet one. The Church was decorated with primroses and there were two floral arches over the Oakley Park Avenue. My mother loved primroses, they were her favourite flower, but what stuck in her memory was the number of local people who greeted them outside the Church, in Kells and on the road home. She had a great fondness for the cottagers, and they for her, and when she came home from Nigeria spent many hours visiting her friends of the cottages and discussing their affairs and families.

The Drogheda Independent reported the wedding and, as was usual then, recorded the wedding presents and their donors. This list is intriguing as, quite apart from the many items still in common use at Crodara, the donors represent forty-six different families ranging from the maids in the house, the country folk around the place and in Kells, the local gentry and of course relatives on both sides of the family.

Back Row: Olivia Florence Clifford, Edith Eveline Clifford, George Richard Melville Clifford, Agatha Mant Bamford, Elinor Jane Bomford, Helen Maude Mary Bomford, George Lyndon Bomford, Dorothy Maude Bomford, Charles Francis Bomford, and Mary Louise Martin.

Middle Row: Wilfred Clifford Bamford, Evelyn Maude Bomford, Dorothy Eileen Bomford.

Front Row: John Lyndon Bomford, Harriet Eleanor ‘May’ Bomford, Joan Annella Bomford, Charles Powell ‘Bunty’ Bomford.

The wedding photograph taken on the steps of Oakley Park includes one grandmother, Elinor Bomford then aged 84, who was to die two and a half months later; three of the four parents, George and Maude Bomford and Agatha Bamford; the bride and groom with the ‘Best Man’ Melville Clifford,
Wilfred’s cousin and the son of Rev Dick Clifford; Uncle Charlie and auntie Bobbie Bomford who were then living at nearby Riversdale, with two of their children, May aged 6 and a bridesmaid, and Charles or ‘Bunty’ aged 9; Aunt Loo Martin of Bective; “The Aunts” Obie and Edie Clifford; Evelyn’s two sisters, Dorothy aged 19, and Joan aged 7 who were both bridesmaids; the other youngster in the photograph was Evelyn’s brother John aged 12. The two youngest bridesmaids, Joan and May, nearly missed the ceremony as they had disappeared during the morning, were finally found playing in the river and had to be scrubbed from head to toe. The only members of the immediate families who were not present were both in India, newly promoted Captain George Bomford, and Percy Bamford of the Indian Police.

And so on April 30th Evelyn only had to make a slight change in her maiden name, a change, which the postman and the local people still find confusing. A confusion, which will no doubt continue since sixty years later I am frequently called ‘Mr Bomford’.

Evelyn and Wilfred left more or less immediately for a honeymoon in Norway where a new sport, skiing, was almost mastered.

35.6.1 The Bamford Family

Not much has been traced concerning the Bamford family, and the earliest document, which has been found, is the birth certificate of Wilfred’s father, Frederick William Bamford. This certificate tells us that Wilfred’s grandfather was Edmund Bamford, a coal miner who lived at the village of Swallow Nest near Aston in South Yorkshire, and that his grandmother was “Sarah, formerly Brown”.

Subsequently a Bamford entry was discovered in the Church records at Aston: Ellen Bamford was baptised there on 25th October 1866, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Bamford of Fence Colliery, and Samuel’s occupation was “engine tender”. It is possible that Samuel and Edmund were brothers but only the location definitely links the two. It is more likely that, if they were related, they were cousins, since Wilfred Bamford wrote that he always understood that his father Frederick was an only child and that his grandfather Edmund was an only son and, further, that Edmund and Sarah both died when Frederick was quite young and that he had no near relatives.

Another piece of local information was that a Bamford family of the 1800’s occupied a farm then named ‘Aston Common Farm’ but now known as Fox’s Farm. This proves nothing but Wilfred had heard that his father did own land in the vicinity, which he sold during the 1890’s.

Another line of investigation concerned the family crest which is a serpent tied in a knot like a figure eight on a chapeau or “Cap of Maintenance” or “Cap of Dignity”, a head-gear of crimson velvet turned up with ermine, and both superimposed on arms consisting of a horizontal silver wavy band on red. The official description being, for the crest “On a chapeau a serpent nowed”, and for the arms “Ar. a fesse wavy gu.”. The Windsor Herald of Arms of the College of Arms was asked to check the crest and arms. The Herald reported that arms and crest had been granted in one isolated case sometime between 1623 and 1633 to John Bamford of Bamford, a village in Derbyshire just across the county boundary from Aston, but that neither were the same as described. The Herald further wrote, “it does not seem that any subsequent confirmation of these arms has been made to any descendant of this” John Bamford and no pedigree has been entered”. Concerning the arms and crest described above, the Herald wrote that “ no such crest or arms has ever been granted or confirmed or in any way authorized by the King of Arms to anyone with the surname Bamford”. Another dead end had been reached but with the additional information that the family crest and arms passed from Frederick to his sons was in fact unauthorized.

So Wilfred’s grandparents were Edmund Bamford, a coal miner from Swallow Nest, and his wife Sarah whose maiden name was Brown. Wilfred’s father was Frederick William Bamford who was born on 1st June 1858 at Swallow Nest, and according to the fly leaf of his Bible, he was still at Swallow Nest in February 1870 when he was aged 11½; Frederick was an only child whose parents married about 1855 and died about 1865 when he was about 7; this confirms Wilfred’s belief that his father had no near relatives.

Frederick’s intention was to enter the Church and the documents include a testimonial from St Bees College dated 19th April 1883. The testimonial states that he had successfully completed the full college course of two years and that he was considered to be a fit person to be admitted “into the Sacred Ministry”. The belief in the family was that Frederick had been educated at St Bees School, a public school in Cumbria, but the testimonial indicated otherwise, so the Public School was contacted and replied as follows:

“As you guessed, he (Frederick) was not at the School, but at St Bees Theological College which was one of several founded in the 19th Century to educate and prepare men to take Holy Orders. St Bees College was founded in 1816 and closed in 1895. We have a copy of The College Calendar for 1893 which contains a list of all those admitted and the following is the relevant entry:
Bamford, Frederick William, ch (Church) Jhelum, Dio (Diocese) Lahore, Michaelmas term 1880.”

From this we can assume that at the age of 22 Frederick entered the College and left after the two year course was concluded in 1882, and also that prior to entering the college he had been attached in some way to the Church in Jhelum near Lahore in India; he was probably doing some type of Missionary work out there, and had been there for about five years, the duration of a normal tour in India, so had left England around the age of 17.

On leaving the College Frederick was ordained deacon on 2nd April 1882 by the Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, and the next year on 20th May he was made priest by the same Bishop. His first appointment was in 1882 as Curate of Killashandra and his Rector was the Rev Henry Francis Martin whose father, Archdeacon John Charles Martin, had also been Rector there since 1831. The Archdeacon and Charles Rudinge Martin, who married Susan Margaret Bomford in 1827, were brothers (21.8.3).

35.6.2 The Martin and Clifford Families

The first Martin to settle in Co Cavan was the Archdeacon, John Charles, 1797-1878, and his wife Agatha, 1806-75, the only daughter of Richard Mant, Bishop of Down, (21.8.3). They had twelve children all of whom were brought up at Killashandra and many of whom were well known to Frederick Bamford.

1. Elizabeth Mary Adelaide Martin 1830 - 1891, married secondly Doctor G. M. Hearn who may have been a local Co Cavan doctor. They had eight children.
2. John Charles Martin 1831 - 1899, Rector of Killashandra until 1882 when he went as rector to a North Wales parish. He never married.
3. Richard Luther Martin 1833 - 1872, joined the Educational Service in India but had died in Calcutta of cholera. After his death his wife returned to Ireland and settled there with her ten children. Their second son Richard became Rector of Killashandra from 1906 until he retired in 1929, and there brought up six children; he was the last Martin to be Rector of Killashandra and so terminated a continuous Martin connection with the parish which had lasted 98 years.
   One of Richard Luther’s granddaughters, Frances Burrows 1885 - 1963, was for many years headmistress of Ancaster House School at Bexhill where Dorothy Bomford worked for a while and where Ann Bamford was educated. As headmistress Frances was the cause of acute embarrassment on a bus to a total stranger whom she thought was one of her school parents; in a loud voice she asked him, “Are you not the father of one of my children?”
4. Edith Agatha Martin 1835 - 1893, married in 1859 her cousin George Henry Martin, 1833 - 1896, Rector of Agher, heir to Bective and son of Charles Rudinge Martin and Susan Margaret Bomford. Their family is fully listed in paragraph 21.8.5, but they had eight children including ‘Aunt Loo’ (Louisa) who inherited Bective estate, and ‘Aunt Fran’ (Frances) who married her cousin Dick Clifford, Rector of Bective and later of Kells.
5. Henry Francis John Martin 1836 - 1906, married in 1865 Barbara, youngest daughter of Doctor Robert Collins of Ardsallagh near Navan. He was the Rector of Killashandra from 1882 until his death. No doubt their curate, Frederick Bamford, had something to do with the early education of their five children who were aged between 15 and 10 when Frederick arrived in Killashandra.
6. Frederick Walter Mant Martin born in 1838 and died unmarried in 1863 aged 25.
7. Mary Emily Martin 1839-47, was only 8 when she died.
8. Charles William Wall Martin 1841 - 1907, married in 1866 Gertrude, the only daughter of the County Cavan Resident Magistrate William Hickson. Charles served with the Indian Civil Service at Madras, and his twelve children, the eldest in 1882 being 15, were based with the Hicksons in Cavan when not in India. His third son, William Frederick, 1874 - 1947, married Lady Christina Bowes-Lyon, the widow of Major Bowes-Lyon who was brother to Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and wife of King George VI.
9. Caufield Aylmer Martin 1842 - 1915, became a Director of Public Instruction in Bengal, India. The eldest of his five children was 11 in 1882 but it is not known where they were brought up, perhaps in Co Wicklow with his wife’s parents, the Beatty’s of Lakeview.
10. Olivia Frances Martin 1844 - 1910, married Richard Henry Clifford, 1831 - 1876 (See 21.8.5 and the spider family tree). He had just completed 25 years service as a Resident Magistrate and Collector in Bengal, India and was about to retire when he died of Jungle Fever in Almora, India. However he owned Greenville, a country house between Ballyconnell and Killashandra in the Parish of Kildallan, where Olivia Frances brought up her seven children. Their eldest daughter, Agatha Mant Clifford, 1866 - 1951, was to marry Frederick Bamford in 1884, and the other children included the two “Aunts”, Obie and Edie, who were at Wilfred and Evelyn’s wedding; and “Uncle Dick”, the Rev Richard Clifford, Rector of Bective 1898 - 1917 and of Kells 1917 - 1924, whose son Melville was ‘Wilfred’ s best man.

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It can be seen that the families of four of these Martins were brought up at or near Killashandra. In addition there was another Martin, a nephew of the Archdeacon whose name was also John Charles; he was ordained in 1883 and became curate of Killeshandra, 1883-88, so he was there with Frederick Bamford. In 1888 he was made Rector of nearby Downra where he remained until 1900.

In addition to the Cliffords at Greenville, mention should be made of their cousins of Carn Cottage at the other end of the Parish of Kildallan. Both branches of the Clifford family worshipped at Kildallan Church in which there are a number of Clifford wall memorials and many were buried in the churchyard. Robert Clifford, 1792 - 1855, a Captain of the East India Marine (HEICS), bought Carn Cottage around 1833 and brought up his eight children there, but on his death his wife Mary Jane let the place in 1858. Incidentally the marriage of Captain Robert and Mary Jane in 1825 was an unusual double wedding of two brothers, Robert and Richard Clifford, and two sisters, Mary Jane and Catherine Morgan-Williams. General Robert Clifford, 1839 - 1930, Captain Robert’s second son known as ‘Bob’, of the 22nd Sam Browne Cavalry and the 2nd Punjab Cavalry who served during the Indian Mutiny, settled his family of six children at Carn Cottage in 1881, and lived there himself after his retirement in 1894 until he died in 1930. Carn Cottage was sold in 1933 for £1,900 by the General’s son Jack, 1877 - 1970, and is now derelict. And so two generations of Cliffords, the children of Captain Robert and those of General Robert, were brought up at Carn Cottage and a number died there and were buried at Kildallan Church where General Robert’s brother-in-law, Archdeacon William Creek, was Rector until he died in 1899. Thus in 1882, when Frederick Bamford arrived at Killashandra, there were five unmarried daughters at Greenville and four at Carn Cottage.

Like the Martins, these Cliffords were either living in Co Cavan or working in India. Even the sad death of two Cliffords in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 did not deter them from going out to India. The story of these two from the Carn Cottage branch is worth recording. General Bob’s sister, Mary Jane, had gone out to India to keep house for her brother, Wigram Clifford of the Bengal Civil Service, and also, no doubt, to find a husband. When the Mutiny broke out Mary Jane was in Delhi acting as a bridesmaid for the daughter of six children at Carn Cottage in 1881, and lived there herself after his retirement in 1894 until he died in 1930. Carn Cottage was sold in 1933 for £1,900 by the General’s son Jack, 1877 - 1970, and is now derelict. And so two generations of Cliffords, the children of Captain Robert and those of General Robert, were brought up at Carn Cottage and a number died there and were buried at Kildallan Church where General Robert’s brother-in-law, Archdeacon William Creek, was Rector until he died in 1899. Thus in 1882, when Frederick Bamford arrived at Killashandra, there were five unmarried daughters at Greenville and four at Carn Cottage.

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George Lyndon and his Family

Greenville. Dad (Wilfred’s father Frederick) stayed with Cliffe Tottenham, best man, in Brady’s Hotel, Killashandra. (Cliffe Tottenham, 1858 - 1931, was District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary and four years later was to marry Isabella, the only child of Emilia and Rev William Creek). The Allens, Dick an old family friend whose father had run Croughan School at which Martin and Clifford uncles and cousins started school, with his wife, brother-in-law Billy Halpin (Richard ‘Dick’ Allen married in 1819 Lucy Halpin whose younger brother William ‘Billy’ Halpin was a solicitor in Cavan), Percy French (1854-1920, who no doubt entertained with some of his humorous Irish songs that evening) and a couple of other bachelor engineers on the Belturbet railways came from Cavan and many stayed after the wedding breakfast for dances at night to which near neighbours came back later.

“The four aunts, (Agatha’s sisters, Catherine Aunt Kitty, Adela Aunt Della, Olivia Aunt Obie, and Edith Aunt Edie), Gerty whose home was then with us, (she was the eldest daughter, aged 11, of Gertrude and Charles Martin of Madras, India), Isabella Creek (see above), May and Nellie (neither identified, but could be two of the daughters of General Bob Clifford of Carn Cottage) were bridesmaids.

“We left in the landau with Charles Darcy driving in time to catch the 5 pm train at Crossdoney for Dublin about 10 miles off, and then had an adventure en route. It was the big Ballinasloe fair day and a cattle train ahead of ours had broken down and we never got to Dublin till about 2 am. Dad (Frederick) had booked a room at Martin’s Hotel then in Baggot Street recommended by the Hamiltons (James and Mary of nearby Castle Hamilton) en route to Woodenbridge next day. It took a lot of knocking before the proprietor appeared in his dressing gown, having stayed up till 12 o’clock and then gone to bed. Then he proceeded to cook some food for us which was badly wanted after all that had taken place in the morning and the early lunch.”

On return from their honeymoon at Woodenbridge, they settled into Killoughter Rectory. Their eldest child, a daughter, was born prematurely at Redhills Rectory on 6th May 1885, and survived only a short time. Their second child Percival (Percy) Clifford Bamford was born on 28th April 1886, not in the Rectory, but at Greenville where Agatha’s mother was living. Percy was baptised on 24th June at Kildallon Church by his great-uncle William Creek. Meanwhile Frederick’s health was beginning to deteriorate in the damp climate among the lakes of Cavan and he found it necessary to move. Testimonials from local clergy and dignitaries speak of him as kind, efficient, popular and a good speaker who did much in the Temperance cause. They all regretted his departure and a couple gave the reason, “in consequence of the dampness of this climate affecting his health”. He may have had the early symptoms of consumption or tuberculosis.

In 1887 they left Killoughter for India and remained there until 1892. Not much is known about this Indian period, one record states that he was an ‘Army Chaplain’ but this was not the military army though it could be the Church Army since he was also referred to as a missionary. His son Wilfred wrote that he was “in missionary work on the Jhelum in Kashmir” and it will be remembered that only 10 years previously he was at Jhelum before he went to St Bees College; but Agatha was a constant collector in her later life for the Chota Nagpur Mission indicating that they served there, probably both are true. Frederick wrote a novel, which was published in 1900 called ‘Revengeful Fangs’; the story shows that he had made a study of snakes and knew the country of the River Jhelum just south of Kashmir and near the town of Jhelum.

Generally speaking their time in India was not happy. Two more boys were born out there but both died. Richard Eric was born at Lahore on 18th January 1889 and died almost a year later on 4th December 1889; he was buried in Jhelum so they must have been living there then; Richard Eric’s headstone was photographed in 1949 by Denys Martin. The other boy, Henry, was born on 12th September 1890 prematurely at Sakesur, and survived only six hours and died the same day. However Percy then a 4-year-old seems to have thrived. About this time Frederick sold his property at Swallow Nest in aid, my father had been told, of the missionary work. The other problem was that Frederick’s health did not improve, but completely broke down, and he was advised to take brandy as a cure. No doubt this was on medical advice since he had been such an ardent supporter of the temperance cause in Ireland and had always been considered as ‘the perfect gentleman’. The inevitable occurred and he became addicted. In August and September 1891 he wrote a number of letters from Srinager in Kashmir to Agatha who was perhaps in Ireland recovering from the loss of her two sons; these are good letters, showing no sign of his addiction concerning his holiday on a house-boat on the lake; much of his holiday was spent fishing, a couple of nights sitting on a platform hoping to shoot a bear, at the horse races and playing cricket, and in the bazaar collecting brass-ware as souvenirs; there is only one minor reference to his health but it could not have been too bad in the mountains of Kashmir. However a year later in 1892 his health was in ruins and caused the family to return to Ireland and he became Curate in Delgany Parish, south of Dublin in Co Wicklow. At Delgany their fourth and last son, Wilfred Clifford Bamford, was born on 16th March 1893.
In 1894 he was made Rector of Donabate, north of Dublin. He never recovered his health and developed angina pectoris amongst other things. The addiction to alcohol became worse; nowadays alcoholism is a recognised affliction and he could be dried out, but at that time there was no such care and he and the family suffered social disgrace. In 1899 he gave up his parish and separated himself from his family, He died nine years later aged 50. Agatha wrote in her Bible that he died “July 13th 1908 at Mill Hill Farm, Chelmsford, of Pneumonia” and was “laid to rest close to the church door of Sandon near Chelmsford on July 16th”. His grave headstone records

“In loving memory of Frederick William Bamford, Rector of Killoughter, Ireland, 1884 - 1887, Chaplain in India 1887 - 1892. Born June 1st 1858. Died 13th July 1908. In hope of eternal life, Titus 1.2”.

When Wilfred was at school he made a collection of postcards up to about 1908. It is apparent from these and other letters that his parents were not living together from about 1900, but they did meet on occasions. In early 1900 Agatha’s mother, Olivia, and her two sisters, Obie and Edie, left Greenville which was rented to the Kinnear family until 1907, and went to Switzerland for about a year. Agatha was not with them there but she did join them in 1901, when they moved to New Ross to look after ‘Uncle Ardo’, Rev Richard D’Olier Martin, and his three young children when his wife Catherine died. In 1902 another family death occurred, that of Barbara the wife of Rev Henry Martin, so they all moved to Killashandra Rectory and stayed there until Henry died in 1906. At this time Agatha’s sons were at boarding school, Percy at ‘The College’ Navan (1902 - 1903) and then in London studying for the Indian Police exam until 1906 when he left for India, and Wilfred at Castlebar Court, Ealing in West London (1903 - 1908). In 1903 Rev Frederick was living at 3 Grove Road in Epsom, whilst Agatha and her two boys stayed for much of the year with her cousin, Rev John Charles Martin, and his sister Mary Elizabeth at Villa Chimère, Paramé in Brittany. They were joined there by Rev Frederick for a few days in May.

The winter of 1903 was spent in Ireland, firstly at Killashandra and then for Christmas with Uncle Dick and Aunt Fran (Clifford) at the Mount Temple Rectory, the new name for Ballyloughloe, near Moate in Westmeath; then back to Killashandra, Agatha’s base in Ireland. For most of 1905 Agatha lived at 233 Kennington Road, near the Oval in London; Christmas that year was spent with Aunt Della and Uncle Walter (Davies) at 37 Village Road, Oxton, Birkenhead. At this time Rev Frederick lived in Norwood in southeast London, and tried to visit Wilfred at school every fortnight. The Norwood postcards mention that he was typing a fair copy of another book, unfortunately this is the only reference to another book, which probably was never published. The postcard collection continued until 1908 when Frederick died and Wilfred went to Mountjoy School in Dublin. Meanwhile in late 1906 Agatha joined her mother, Olivia, and Obie and Edie at Mount Temple where their only brother Dick was the Rector. The next year they all moved back into Greenville.

Olivia died on 10th March 1910 aged 66, and Obie and Edie remained at Greenville until 1920 when the place was sold. That year they bought The Manse in Killylea, Co Armagh, where Obie died in 1952; Edie moved to Bray in 1953 with her nephew Marcus Martin and died in 1959. Agatha was not with them all the time but she did stay at Mount Temple, Killashandra and Greenville, and in 1915 and 1921 at Mount Falcon, north of Borrisokane in Co Tipperary. Amongst her belongings were a couple of letters addressed to Mrs Falkiner and censored by the I.R.A. in 1921. She also stayed with Dick and Fran at Bective, Kells and New Romney.

With limited money Agatha became an authority on wild flowers, pricked out literature for the blind in braille and was a prolific letter writer. Much of what is written here is quoted from her letters to Wilfred. Her kindly nature led her to such places as St Leonards in Sussex close to her grandchildren at school and, finally, to Rostrevor in Co Down about 1936, which was midway between her sisters at Killylea and a grandson at school at Kilkeel. She liked Rostrevor and died there on 21st June 1951, aged 85. She was buried in Clonallon Churchyard, part of the neighbouring Parish of Warrenpoint.

35.6.4  Percival Clifford Bamford

Percy to some, Paddy to others, was born at Greenville, Co Cavan on 28th April 1886 and baptised on 24th June at Kildallon Church by his great-uncle William Creek. He was taken to India with his parents the next year and returned to Ireland aged 6 in 1892. There he remained until 27th October 1906 when he sailed to India to join the Indian Police. He retired in 1939 as Deputy Director of the Intelligence Bureau in India, having been honoured with the CIE in 1931. On his return to England he continued his intelligence work until 1950, and during this time he lived at Woodstock and worked at Blenheim Palace, and then in 1945 at London. He finally settled in Woodbridge in Suffolk in September 1950.

On 20th November 1919 at St Paul’s Cathedral in Calcutta he married Geraldine Beatrice, daughter of the Hon. F. C. French, CSI, ICS, and at that date Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust. One of the wedding, photographs show Geraldine’s father, Miss Molly Beare (bridesmaid), J. Spenser of the Indian Police (best man), Lady Ronaldshay, Geraldine and Percy, Lord Ronaldshay the
Governor (2nd son of the Marquess of Zetland), Mrs French, the Maharajah of Burdwan, Lady Wheeler, Lord Wheeler and little Miss Margaret Wilson (bridesmaid). Geraldine was born on 26th February 1894, so was aged 24 and Percy 33 when they were married.

In 1972 George Bomford wrote the following entitled-

“The Percy Bamfords in Delhi.

“About Christmas time I think of Percy some 40 years ago (c1932). The ‘best’ people would congregate in Delhi for a week of Jollity - a polo tournament, the Imperial Delhi Horse Show, not to mention some pig sticking along the banks of the Jumna. Hospitality was indeed open handed. A certain large bungalow with a garden about an acre in extent would have many guests, and the overflow lived in tents among the flowerbeds, and what tents they were - a boarded floor, a fireplace, and electric lights to switch on. The Delhi cold weather provided the best climate in the world and the countryside was filled with partridge, duck, peacock and other delights. Himself was one of the best shots in India, while Herself excelled in knowledge of the old City, and a trip to the Kashmir Gate and round the old walls was indeed a super Cook’s tour under her guidance.”

Percy died at Debenhurst, Woodbridge, on 11th March 1960 of cancer, and Geraldine died there on 21st January 1976. They had one child, a daughter,

Patricia Ann Bamford was born at Felixstowe in Suffolk on 5th May 1924 and educated at Ancaster House, Bexhill. She was employed with the War Office and subsequently with the Ministry of Defence. She served in such places as Pakistan and Ghana, but mainly in London. She is now retired and lives in Woodbridge.

35.6.5 Wilfred Clifford Bamford

Wilfred was born at Delgany on 16th March 1893 and educated at Castlebar Court in Ealing, England from 1903 to 1908, and then at Mountjoy School in Dublin from 1908 to 1912. From 1907 his holidays were mostly spent at Greenville and then later with his Uncle Dick at Bective Rectory. His intention was to join his brother in the Indian Police, but in 1913 he failed the exam and so set his sights on engineering. From 1912 to 1914 he attended what he called ‘WRENS’ in London, which had something to do with the College of Science. In 1914 he started at the Crystal Palace Engineering School in London, but interrupted his studies to enlist on 21st December 1914 as a driver in the Army Service Corps. A month later, in January 1915, he was in France and in March he was promoted sergeant. In December 1916 he joined the Cadet School in St John’s Wood and was commissioned on 28th March 1917 into the Royal (Garrison) Artillery. Apart from leaves, mostly spent in Ireland, he was in France throughout the war, often at the front in the trenches. He stayed in the army in France until he was discharged in April 1919 as a Lieutenant.

In 1919 he resumed studies in the Crystal Palace Engineering School, passing out at the end of 1920 as A. M. I. Struct.E. (Associate Member of the Institute of Structural Engineers) and a couple of years later he became a Member. He applied for and got a job with the Nigerian Railways as an engineer on construction and left for Port Harcourt on 9th February 1921. His engagement to Evelyn took place on his first leave in 1922 and they were married during his second leave in 1924. Evelyn first joined him in Nigeria on 8th August 1925.

Up to 1928 Wilfred was building a new line near Bukuru in the middle of Nigeria. This meant that Evelyn’s initiation to the country was “in the bush” miles from any town. Her first house was of grass, which, as the railway line pushed ahead, was torn down, and another built at the next staging post. The only neighbours were pagans who were normally naked and who had never seen white people before, let alone a blond white woman. It was quite an occasion when they returned to the base camp where other Europeans were stationed. All their stores had to be collected back up the line and if fresh meat was needed Wilfred went out and shot a bird; if he missed they ate tinned food, so by necessity he became a good shot.

Wilfred’s third leave was in 1926 and in June their eldest son, Peter, was born at Oakley Park. Wilfred had to return in July leaving Evelyn and the baby at home. Nigerian tours lasted 18 months as the place was considered a “white man’s grave”, due largely to yellow fever, and children were not allowed out there. Evelyn would follow six months later and stay for a year, both returning together for leave of six months. This meant that Evelyn had a year at Oakley Park and then a year in Nigeria, and this scheme continued until the outbreak of World War II.

Much could be written about their experiences in the early days of Nigeria before the country had been opened up. When they were “on line” they lived in a converted railway carriage and in total many years were spent in their coach which became uncomfortably hot and which was usually shunted into some out of the way siding whilst Wilfred dealt with a derailment or washed out line, both common occurrences. They were in the centre of the “Woman’s War” of 1929, lived amongst cannibals, and had

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some extra-ordinary meals and entertainments laid on by the local king or headman; but running through these primitive and unusual episodes there was the more normal side. Wilfred diary records parties, tennis tournaments, fishing and shooting trips, and every station had its club which drew its members in from the country each weekend.

1933 was the only Christmas Wilfred had at home in the twenty-five years between 1921 and 1946. During their next leave their second son, Brian, was born on 29th May 1934. The children were left at Oakley Park in charge of a nurse or governess, Miss Walters (Wally), Miss Cousins and lastly Amy White. In Nigeria Evelyn and Wilfred were looked after by two loyal ‘boys’, Dick the head steward boy, and Gabriel the cook; both these boys disappeared during the Biafran war of the late 1960’s. There were numbers of other boys like the cook who rolled the pastry on his sweaty naked chest whilst lying on his bed, and the garden boy who was a cannibal and who enjoyed eating ‘monkey’ until Evelyn became suspicious, both were fired. This next letter from a carpenter whom Wilfred fired for laziness is a masterpiece of the English language and worth recording.

“Sir, On opening this epistle you will behold the work of a dejobbed person; and a very much bewifed and childrenised gentleman who was violently dejobbed in a twinkling of your goodself. For heaven’s sake sir, consider yourself the catastrophe falling on your own head and remind yourself as walking home at the moon’s end to five savage wives and sixteen children with your pocket filled with non-existent f.s.d. Not a solitary sixpence. Pity humble state.

Sir, when being dejobbed and proceeding with a heart filled with misery to this den of doom, myself did greatly contemplate culpable homicide, but with him whom protected Daniel, poet, safely through the lion’s den will protect his servant in this home of evil. As to reason given by yourself esquire for my dejobment, the reason was laziness. No, sir. It is impossible for myself, who has pitched sixteen children into this valley of tears, can have a lazy atom in his moral frame, and the sudden departure of all monthly has left me on the verge of destitution and despair. I hope the vision of honour will enrich your dreams tonight and that the good angle will melt and pulverise your heart with kindness and with much alacrity as may be for satisfaction and safety you will haste to rejobulate your servant.

I am, kind sir, your obedient servant, Joseph.”

During the war they had leave in 1940 and, as usual, Wilfred left for Nigeria on his own in July on the ‘Accra’. U-boats attacked the convoy northwest of Ireland and in the middle of lunch they were struck amidships by a torpedo. The ship sunk in 30 minutes with the loss of 19 lives, but Wilfred was lucky as he was able to get into his lifeboat without getting his feet wet. The survivors of the Accra, and another ship which was sunk, were collected from their lifeboats after about four hours by a rescue ship, which, after an uncomfortable four-day journey on deck, returned them to Liverpool. After further leave whilst he bought replacement stores and kit, he set off again in September but had difficulty in getting to Liverpool, which was being heavily bombed. At one stage his blacked out aeroplane from Dublin landed on the Isle of Man and Wilfred, having never heard of the name of the airfield and not being able to see out of the plane, asked the name of the county they were in; this was too much for the inn-keeper, where they were having refreshments, in an island full of German prisoners-of-war and the police were sent for.

Evelyn was not allowed out that tour due to the war and stayed at Oakley Park. Wilfred’s next leave started unexpectedly in April 1943 when he and his brother-in-law John Bomford were ordered to fly to Takoradi within 12 hours. In May they left Takoradi on the “China Mail” and sailed towards the West Indies to avoid U-boats. They broke down in the Sargossa Sea and drifted there helplessly for three days whilst repairs were carried out; every moment they expected to be found and sunk by a U-boat, but they were lucky and eventually were able to crawl into Newport News, Virginia, in mid-June. Thence by train to New York from where they travelled to Glasgow in the Queen Mary. The Queens had been fitted out to carryover over 20,000 troops with 1,000 crew and relied on their speed to avoid U-boats. That leave ended in October 1943 and he set off again leaving Evelyn behind. However she was able to get a passage on 3rd March 1945. Her ship joined a convoy of 72 ships which from the 9th to 14th of March was constantly attacked by packs of U-boats; this was considered to be the longest naval engagement in the North Atlantic during the war and was considered, rather naturally, by Evelyn to be her most uncomfortable and unnerving voyage. After these adventures they decided not to come home for their final leave but to spend it in Africa. They travelled mostly by rail and zig-zagged through the Belgian Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanganyika, North and South Rhodesia to South Africa, and back by boat to Lagos.

Wilfred and Evelyn sailed finally from Nigeria in August 1947 and arrived at Oakley Park on 3rd September with all the furniture and effects from their Nigerian house in fifty-three packing cases. Their leave ended in April 1948 and Wilfred went on pension. Their plan was to build a house on part of the Lower Lawn of Oakley Park but there were delays, mainly due to the shortage of building material as a result of the war. To fill the time before ‘building could be started and to save money which was always short, they raised the gravel from beside the river and made over 4,000 concrete blocks with a hand
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machine, dug the well and planted the vegetable garden. Wilfred drew up the plans for the house, which Austin McGuire built for just over £3,000. It was first occupied on 22nd June 1950 when Evelyn was 48 and Wilfred 57. The packing cases were unpacked and Wilfred who was a keen carpenter made additional furniture from the African mahogany of which they were made. In 1957 a small additional plot in the front of the house was purchased from Larry McGuinness, the new owner of Oakley Park, and this made the place just over three acres; and in 1961 a wing was added making the house a five bedroom one.

The house was named ‘Crodara’ which in Irish is two words, ‘Cro’ meaning an enclosure, and ‘Dara’ meaning an oak tree; but the intention was simply a play on words indicating a piece of Oakley Park. Quite by chance the 1730 survey (24.6) shows that the house is in a field then called Deeragh which is another way of spelling an oak tree in Irish.

In 1977 Wilfred’s health deteriorated and he developed pneumonia, he never really recovered and needed constant nursing. He was admitted to Desmond Eustace’s hospital in north Dublin and died there on 10th January 1980, aged 87. Meanwhile Evelyn, who was normally fit, had an unexpected heart attack on 11th November 1979 and was taken to the Lourdes Hospital in Drogheca. She did not regain consciousness and died there on November 26, aged 77, just seven weeks before Wilfred died. They were both buried in St Columba’s Churchyard, Kells, where Evelyn had worshipped all her life and where Wilfred had held every office in the Select Vestry. In their memory their two sons restored the church bell with automatic electric ringing equipment.

35.6.6

Clifford Peter Bamford

Peter was born on 18th June 1926 in Dublin and baptised in Kells. His godparents were his uncles George Bomford and Percy Bamford and his aunt Dorothy (Cripps). He was educated at Mourne Grange near Kilkeel, Co Down, 1935-40, and Sedbergh School near Kendal, 1940 - 1944. All his holidays were spent at Oakley Park with his grandparents.

His military service during and after World War II started when he was at Sedbergh in the Home Guard, which he joined when he was 16. He enlisted as a volunteer in February 1944 and was called up in September. After initial training in England he was sent to the Officer’s Training School in Bangalore, South India, and was commissioned in January 1946 into the Border Regiment but attached to the Indian Army and posted to Queen Alexander’s Own 3rd Gurkha Rifles. He remained with the 3rd Gurkhas until after the partition of India, mostly in the Punjab and the North-west Frontier Province in what is now Pakistan.

Soon after he joined the 3rd Gurkhas in Dehra Dun he and three other officers caught typhoid fever which put him on light duties, so he was transferred to 20 Brigade Headquarters as Intelligence Officer and then after a leave at Oakley Park in August 1947 he was appointed ADC to General O (Oz) de T. Lovett, CBE, DSO, GOG 7th Indian Division in Rawalpindi during the time of the India-Pakistan riots prior to the partition of India. Photo left Evelyn and Peter, 1947.

The 3rd Gurkhas was one of the Gurkha Regiments allocated to India after the partition, so he left the Indian Army on the last troop ship out of Karachi and reverted to the Border Regiment based in Carlisle. In February 1948 after leave he was transferred to the 1st Battalion King’s Own Regt, which was stationed in Trieste, and he served there and in Austria until October 1948. Peter was discharged from the Army on 13th January 1949, having served a few days short of five years.

In February 1949 he took employment with the Kuwait Oil Company, which was partly owned by British Petroleum and the American Company Gulf Oil, and which was in its infancy and just beginning to export crude oil. His responsibility became the export of crude oil and he saw the company expand from a very minor exporter to the second largest exporter in the world. When he arrived the town of Kuwait was surrounded by mud walls and the gates were shut at sun-down; the Kuwaitis were either armed Bedouin tribesmen or pearl fishermen and neither had any idea of any trade useful to an oil company; when he left 23 years later the town had expanded out of all recognition and the Kuwaitis had become sleek and rich business men. The Oil Company’s expansion was similar and Peter was engaged with the building of the two piers, the sea island for the loading of giant tankers, the refinery and tank farms; all of which have figured on television as a result of Saddam Hussein’s scorched earth policy after his abortive 1990 invasion of Kuwait.
As time passed a lively social life built up in Kuwait, usually around some type of sport, and Peter played them all but mainly cricket. He travelled to all the Middle Eastern and Gulf countries for a weekend of cricket and returned to many such as Persia, Lebanon, Cyprus and Egypt for his ‘local’ leaves. His longer ‘home’ leaves were spent at Crodara. One of his more adventurous leaves was in 1955 when he drove his little Austin car home to Ireland; the route took him across the desert to Baghdad and Beirut where his mother joined him, and thence through Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, and then rather boringly over tarmac roads through Austria and France to England where Wilfred joined them; after nearly 10,000 miles the journey ended with a tremendous welcome from the David’s, Joan and Armine (35.9) who were then at the Miramar Hotel at Herne Bay.

The oil company expansion had virtually ceased in 1970 and Peter left Kuwait in June 1971 and returned home. He was only 45 then so in January 1972 he took a major change in employment and joined the local boarding Preparatory School at Headfort House in Kells. There he taught science until he retired in 1995.

35.6.7

Brian Philip Bamford

Brian was born in Dublin at 6.45 am on 29th May 1934, and christened on 14th July in Kells. His uncle, John Bomford, his aunt, Joan Bomford (later David) and A. A. (Ack) Allen were his godparents. He was educated at Castle Park, Dublin, May 1943 - 1947, and Sedbergh School, Yorkshire, 1948 - 1952, where he was head-boy of Lupton House and a school prefect. In January 1953 he joined The Army as a Volunteer and in February was posted to the 17th Training Regiment at Park Hall in Oswestry. In April he was selected for a short-term commission and went to Woolwich and then to Mons Officer Cadet School at Aldershot. In September 1953 he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery and posted to the 14th Field Regiment in Hong Kong where he went firstly by air to Singapore and then by sea aboard HMS Newcastle. When his term was completed he did not resign his commission but remained as a Territorial Officer. In June 1955 he sailed to Malaysia as a rubber planter with Boustead & Co who had a number of interests in Malaysia including rubber and oil palm plantations. The War Office asked him to attend training courses in England each year, and each time Brian replied that he would like to attend but that they must send him a ticket; no ticket was forthcoming and he heard nothing more until he was discharged from the Territorial Army as a Captain about 1979.

Brian was Manager of a number of rubber estates, which later branched into oil palms and cocoa. His first estate was at Sungei Patani in Kedah and others were in Province Wellesley, Perak, Johore, Kelantan and Selangor. He had to retire when he was 55 in 1989 and is now living on the island of Penang.

The first five years of Brian’s service in Malaysia were during the “state of emergency”, which had been declared in 1948; Chinese Communists operating from jungle camps attacked lonely police posts and the bungalows of isolated European planters and miners. The worst of this terrorist activity was over by 1954 but a small hard core of extremists continued to give trouble and the state of emergency was not ended until 31st July 1960. In October 1957 Brian and an English friend were ambushed whilst motoring between estates in Kedah; Brian escaped unhurt but his companion was murdered by the gunfire.

On 11th November 1965 Brian married Molly Hong Siew Hun of Penang. Molly’s grandfather, Lee Man Yip, was born in 1874 in Canton, China, became a tin miner and died in 1962 at Serandah, Malaysia; her grandmother, Fong Look, was born in Shanghai in 1881 and died in Hong Kong in 1942 during the Japanese occupation. They had two children, Molly’s uncle, Lee Weng, who in 1991 was living in Kuala Lumpur, and her mother, Lee Ah Loi, who was born in Canton in 1909 and died in Penang in 1956. Molly’s father was Hong Ah Kow, born 1898 in Penang. He was an engineer in the tin mines and died in Penang in 1939 just before Molly was born. Molly was born on 8th April 1940.

Brian and Molly had two children: -

Alice, born 22nd November 1956, was adopted; she emigrated to Australia and married Larry Doyle (was Booth); they live in Perth with their three children.

1. Jarrod Lee Doyle, born 4th November 1976
2. Aaron John Doyle, born 4th October 1979
3. Amanda Jane Doyle, born 16th June 1981

John, Philip Bamford was born at Kuala Lumpur on 26th September 1970 at 6.45 pm. He was christened John after his great-uncle John Bomford (35.8) at his baptism at Kells Church on 3rd October 1971 when his sponsors were his uncle Peter Bamford, and Michael Morris of Dowdstown, Ardee, (30.3.2), and godmother was Anne Bamford (35.6.4). John was educated at Headfort Preparatory School, Kells, and at St Columba’s College in south Dublin. In 1990 he started training as a pilot in Perth Australia.
Dorothy was born at Oakley Park on 7th March 1905. She was educated at Lowther College in North Wales where she became Head Girl. After a spell at home she got a job as house-keeper at Ancaster House, a school for girls at Bexhill, Sussex, around 1930; the Head-mistress was a family connection, Frances Burrows (36.6.2). In 1933 Dorothy worked in a lovely ‘Olde Worlde’ teashop in the main street of Battle with the two Misses Foot. There she met her future husband, Marten Cripps, who was then looking after Mr Krushen of ‘Krushen Salts’ fame.

John Marten Rush Cripps, the son of John Marten Cripps of Novington Manor at Lewes in Sussex, had served in World War I and had been badly gassed which had affected his lungs. He ended the war as a Captain in the Royal Flying Corps.

They were married at Kells on 1st February 1934 by the Bishop of Meath, John Orr. As Wilfred Bamford’s diary relates: “Sandwiches and coffee lunch 12.45; dressed; Church 2.30; over 60 guests at Oakley Park afterwards. John’s going away phaeton a great success”. As a child aged 7, all I can remember about wedding was the phaeton borrowed from Barnes family of Westlands, cleaned and decorated with suitable signs concocted by John Bomford and Desmond Eustace. This was kept as a surprise and astonished both Dorothy and Marten and, in the excitement of going away neither initially recognised their driver or the postillions, three faithful farm labourers. This vehicle took them, at as smart a pace, as the two farm horses were capable, to the train at Kells for their honeymoon in England. The wedding photograph taken on the steps of Oakley Park porch includes with the bride and groom, Joan Bomford (bridesmaid) Desmond Eustance (best man), Bishop Orr, Dorothy’s parents George and Maude, Marten’s sister Miss Cripps, Dorothy’s sister Evelyn with Wilfred and their son Peter Bamford, Dorothy’s uncle Charlie and Bobbie Bamford from Priory Cottage with their children Charles (Bunty), Dick and May, Dorothy’s brother John and Neville Ambler who was staying at Oakley Park whilst his parents were in India. Also staying for the wedding were Mrs. Todd and Miss Rossiter who, one imagines, were relatives of Marten.

The honeymoon ended disastrously since Marten had kept secret the fact that he was absolutely penniless and could not even pay the hotel bill. When Dorothy discovered this she collapsed and Marten took to the bottle, of which he was rather fond, and become completely intoxicated. Dorothy’s father had to come to the rescue and took her home, leaving Marten to complete the honeymoon alone. Dorothy went back to the teashop at Battle for a while but eventually they made it up and Marten got a job on Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour. This suited them admirably as Mrs. Christie, who owned the island, ran it as a nature reserve and allowed no visitors. Dorothy and Marten had to see that the animals and birds were fed and to keep visitors off the island. However the war put an end to this idyllic island on the south coast. Marten’s health deteriorated and he developed Parkinson’s disease, which put an end to his working life, but Dorothy found a number of jobs. From the end of the war Marten stayed a few years at Oakley Park, but later he was cared for by his sister, but he became worse and died at Exeter Infirmary on 25th August 1950 aged about 58.

Meanwhile George had returned from India in 1948 and had taken over Oakley Park. Dorothy also returned in October 1948 to help George and the two of them stayed there until the place was sold in 1955. She then went to Haslemere in Surry to help her friend Margaret Elphick run a convalescent home and stayed there until she and Margaret retired to a house at Sidmouth in Devon.

Early in 1967 a ‘millionaire’ connection in America died and left Dorothy a sum well in excess of £100,000; this came as a complete surprise and the donor was not even known by the family. The millionaire was John V. Irwin and the legacy indicates that he came from New Canaan in Connecticut.

John V. Irwin was a great-grandson of Lyndon Bolton (21.7.3) who had at least 13 children, four of whom are shown below-
As can be seen John Irwin of Camlin, Co Roscommon, died in 1842 whilst Emily lived on for another 60 odd years, dying in New York of 13th February 1904, aged 87. On 15th June 1852 Emily married secondly the Rev John Hall, D.D, Pastor of 5th Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York. They had three sons and a daughter before he died in 1898. These Hall children with their stepbrothers, the three Irwin boys, were undoubtedly brought up in America, probably in New York. One could speculate about Emily’s movements during those ten years after her first husband had died in 1842. She may have lived on in Camlin, sold the place at the time of the famine (1845 - 1849) and then moved to America to meet and marry John Hall in New York; or she might have met him in Ireland and married him before going to New York; whatever she did, Camlin was sold and she ended up in New York.

Poor Dorothy who never had surplus money was now the richest of the family, but never lived to see it. On 9th September there was a large family gathering at Canterbury for the marriage of Michael David, Dorothy’s nephew. During the reception she had a heart attack and was admitted to hospital and died there eight days later, on 17th September 1967 aged 62. She was cremated on the 20th September and her ashes buried in the Bomford plot at Kells. In her will she gave her inheritance in equal shares to her five nephews and her niece (two Bamford’s and three Davids) with some of the interest going to her friend Margaret Elphick during her lifetime.

35.8 John Lyndon Bomford

John was born at Oakley Park on 23rd October 1912 and educated at Arnold House, Llanddulas, North Wales, from 1923 to 1926 from where he passed into the Nautical College at Pangbourne overlooking the Thames in Berkshire, from 1926 to 1929. He wanted to join the Royal Navy but was sadly disappointed when it was found that he was colour blind. However in spite of the slump he managed to find a job with the Celtic Insurance, 1930 - 1933, from where he transferred to the Yorkshire Insurance Company, 1933 - 1936, both in Dublin; he never really cared for the work though he did learn accountancy there, and sat and passed the preliminary examination of the Chartered Insurance Institute in 1933. One of his early investments was a motor cycle and he managed to get home most weekends; later he procured a variety of motor cars and I remember well his 2-seater Delage with a ‘Dickey’, the boot which opened into a back seat from which elevated and exposed position two hardy and well muffled passengers were seated. John was a social type with a lively sense of humour and a large circle of friends in Dublin, many of who came to Oakley Park for the weekend. Although he never seriously learned to play the piano he had such an ear for music that he only had to listen to a tune once and then could play it with the right hand, the left hand strummed the same bass which the family fondly called ‘dum-dum’; he was truly gifted in this respect and was in great demand for parties.

In December 1936 a vacancy occurred with the Nigerian Railways and he was delighted to be appointed an assistant accountant at the Railway Head Office in Lagos. Wilfred Bamford, his brother-in-law, was also with the Nigerian Railways though he and Evelyn were at this time usually ‘on line’ and it was not until the 1940’s when they were in Lagos together that they saw much of each other. John progressed through the ranks of railway accountancy, February 1947 to Senior Accountant, August 1948 to Principal Accountant, March 1949 to Assistant Chief Accountant and in March 1953 he became the Chief Accountant of the Nigerian Railways. In June 1954 he transferred to the Lagos Executive Development Board and became its Finance Officer in 1958. Finally in April 1961 he transferred to the newly formed Western Nigeria Radio-Vision Service at Ibadan as their Chief Accountant. In 1967 he
John and his mother riding through the Gap of Dunloe, Killarney, September 1949.

On the outbreak of World War II John joined the 1st Nigeria Regiment in September 1939 with the rank of Lieutenant. His battalion as part of the Nigerian Brigade left Lagos and arrived in Nairobi on 1st July 1940. They expected a period of training but were immediately sent out into the desert in the northeast corner of Kenya to stop the advance of the Italians. On 27th July John was in action for the first time at Dobel some miles east of Buna. At this time the white officers were dressed differently to the Nigerians, a fact which the Italians soon spotted; John was the first officer to fall and probably would have died if his orderly, a private, had not returned under fire and carried him to safety; his orderly was awarded the East African Force badge for his gallantry.

On 15th August 1940 a telegram arrived at Oakley Park stating that John had been wounded and was on the danger list, he remained in danger until August 28. He had been hit in the left wrist which in itself was serious, but the main problem was that the bullet had hit his wristwatch and blown pieces of it through the flesh of his lower arm into his upper arm, breaking tendons and muscles as they went. It was thought at first that his arm would have to be amputated but, after he had been evacuated to Nairobi, the surgeon removed the pieces of his watch and reset his wrist. This was a wonderful piece of surgery and eventually John recovered the use of his left hand except for the little finger, although the hand never regained its full strength. He remained in Nairobi where he was placed in command of the pay and allowances for the West African Brigades. On conclusion of the Abyssinian campaign he returned to Nigeria in April 1942 and was posted to the Command Pay Office in Lagos, where he served with the rank of Captain. He was discharged from the army on 2nd March 1943 and resumed his civilian duties with the Nigerian Railway. In April 1943 he was able to take his first home leave since the war started and, joined by Wilfred, he travelled on the ill-fated “China Mail” (35.6.5).

In May 1967 whilst in Nigeria he underwent a major operation against cancer. At first it was thought that the surgery was successful but this proved not to be, so he resigned and left Nigeria. In February 1968 he was again operated on at University Hospital in London, but again this was not a success and he was declared incurable. His friend Doctor Desmond Eustace came to the rescue and offered him a bungalow in the grounds of his hospital in Dublin with full nursing facilities. John died there on 26th April 1968, aged 55, and was buried in Kells on the 29th.

Just before he died John was delighted to receive a letter from the Duke of Kent appointing him "Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Grand Lodge of England". This was a wonderful Masonic honour and much appreciated by the whole family. Like his father and grandfather, John had been a Mason since the early 1930’s. In 1963 he had researched and compiled a book on the early history of Freemasonry in West Africa, and the progress of Freemasonry in Nigeria under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England from 1868 to 1962; the book was to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the District Grand Lodge of Nigeria.
another night of the rhythmic stamping of the polka, the gallop and the other energetic dances typical of pre-war hunt balls.

In November 1938 whilst Joan was visiting her ‘Aunt Ann’ (Anna Catherine Bagot, 30.3.2) at Gresford near Wrexham in North Wales, she met Armine David who was Catering Manager to a large firm in Chester, and they became engaged in May 1939. At this time Armine was also an officer in the Territorial Army (Welsh Fusiliers) and so he was called up immediately war was declared. During the initial stages of the “Phoney War” when nobody knew what would happen, Armine was told he was to be posted overseas, so they decided to get married immediately. On 10th October 1939 they were married at Aunt Ann’s Church at Gresford and Joan’s parents, George and Maude, just had time to get to the wedding. During their short honeymoon they were told that the overseas posting was only across the Irish Sea to Belfast, and so their speedy and rushed wedding was not really necessary as they could have been married from Oakley Park at their leisure.

Joan followed Armine around the British Isles in his various army postings whenever possible, but in 1944 his regiment joined the advance into France and Joan and her young baby Michael returned to Oakley Park. Armine was wounded twice by mortar bombs at the end of the Battle of the Bulge near Falaise, when his regiment was trying to close the gap through which the Germans were retreating. His first wound was a messy one to the head in August 1944; as he was going to the aid of a Frenchman wounded in the foot, he heard the mortar shell coming and fell flat, the bomb exploded close by and after the initial shock he managed to walk to the first aid station with blood pouring from his head; later he was sent to the Field Hospital where they discovered that no metal had entered his head and he only had superficial wounds - and a sore head.

A month later he received his second wound; this was more serious and gave him considerable pain and shock. He was in the process of paying the men when two mortar bombs fell amongst them. He was hit by the first one but managed to put the money away and then the second bomb fell and also hit him and a sergeant whom he managed to pull into a ditch for shelter. They were rescued by the doctor who was hit by another bomb and the three of them were evacuated eventually by a carrier. This time shrapnel had entered his lungs and there had to be an operation.

He was demobbed from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers as a Major on 1st Feb 1946. Before the war Armine had been in catering, and so after he had been demobilised he looked around for similar work. In 1946 he was made manager of a hotel in the North-East of England but the place was simply ghastly and they left as soon as possible. They then went to a much nicer hotel at Lochcarron in Ross-shire in the north-west of Scotland; this was beautifully situated on the shore of the Lough but only had guests in the summer and was virtually isolated in the winter, and no place to bring up a young family. In 1949 Armine became manager of the “Slieve Donard”, a large hotel overlooking the golf course and the sea at Newcastle, Co Down, where they remained for four years. By 1954 Armine had raised enough capital to purchase his own hotel and they settled in the Miramar Hotel at Herne Bay in Kent. Over the years they were able to build it up into a very successful concern so that by 1962 they were able to put in a manager and live out. They purchased a delightful old oak-beamed cottage in the country near Lower Hardres, a few miles south of Herne Bay, from where Armine was able to supervise the running of the Miramar.

By 1970, when they were both in their early 50’s, they decided it was time to retire, so in 1973 they sold the Miramar and went to live in West Cork. There they bought a gorse-covered site on a steep hillside overlooking the sea at Leap, near Skibbereen, and near Armine’s brother Felix who had also just settled at Leap. Here they built a fine two-storied house which they designed and which made full use of the lovely view down to Glandore Harbour. Over the years the gorse was attacked and they developed a magnificent garden filled mostly with exotic and specimen shrubs which, like their camellias, grew so well in the mild climate of South West Ireland.

As they became older they found themselves isolated from their family, so in 1990 they sold their West Cork house, “Inchera”, and moved to England, at Weobley near Hereford in England. In 1999 they moved to a sheltered accommodation for the older generation in the grounds of a nursing home, near to Ross-on-Wye. Joan often mentions that the grounds are like that of her old home ‘Oakley Park’.

35.9.1  

The David Family

The surname David goes a long way back into Welsh history. Our branch can trace its origin with certainty to Evan David, 1690 - 1772, of Coity near Cardiff. His son, 1724 - 1761, his grandson, 1755 - 1814, and his great grandson, 1789 - 1862, were all named Evan David, and the last Evan was the great-grandfather of Armine David. He married Anne Williams and had nine children. Their fourth son, the seventh child, was Armine’s grandfather Rev William David, MA (Oxford), BD (Bachelor of Divinity), of St Fagans, Glamorgan, who was born in 1823 and died 1897. He married on the 28th April 1857 Margaret Harriet, a daughter of Tannatt Houston Thompson of Canada, and they had –
1. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Tannatt William Edgeworth David, Doctor of Science, Fellow of the Royal Society, Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (1920), Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, DSO, born 1858, died 1934. Of the more recent Davids he is perhaps the most famous, having made his name in Antarctica. He joined the 1908 Shackleton Expedition and before the winter set in he led the first party to reach the summit of Mount Eribus, a feat he achieved on his 50th birthday. The following summer he and two companions sledged to the magnetic pole at an elevation of more than 7,000 feet; they were the first to reach this pole.

During World War I he was going to go back to Antarctica but thought the Western Front would be more exciting; he tried to enlist but was turned down, so he joined the ranks as a private and in 1916 sailed to France with the Australian contingent; he was then aged 58. He was discovered in France and made Head Geologist of the Western Front with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and put in charge of all tunnelling companies in the trenches. He supervised the blowing up of the Messines Ridge, which was the largest explosion during the war. On one occasion, whilst being lowered in a bucket to the bottom of the shaft to the tunnel, the ratchet broke and he fell 70 feet to the bottom; the Germans, whose attention had been drawn to the disturbance, began shelling and he had to place the remains of the bucket over his head as protection against falling debris; he was lucky to get away with only minor injuries. He was honoured with the DSO for his wartime work, and in 1920 further honoured with a KBE.

After the war he travelled through Australia and discovered much of its mineral wealth. He was in the process of writing a book on the geology of Australia when he died. He died almost penniless as he was never rewarded for his discoveries, but he was given a National Funeral, and a street in Sydney and the Geology Centre of the Sydney University were named after him. He married and had children.

2. Ethel Margaret David 1859-1950, died unmarried.

3. Edmund Ussher David, Armine’s father, see below.

4. Arthur Evan David 1861-1913, Archdeacon of Brisbane, Australia, married and had children.

5. William Ontario David died unmarried.

Armine’s father, the third child, Edmund Ussher David, JP, of Twiniheth, Margam Park Port Talbot, Glamorgan, was born in 1860. In 1899 he married Laura Gwendoline Webber (1877 - 1965), a daughter of Felix Hussey Webber, and grand-daughter of Sir John Armine Morris, 1813 - 1893, 3rd Baronet of Clasemont in Glamorgan. They retired to smaller country house near bye by the name of Shortlands, where he died in 1942 aged 82. Later Armine’s mother moved to Blackaldern near Narbeth, a beautiful house with magnificent grounds full of rhododendrons and azaleas. They had four boys, the youngest being Armine David.

1. Major Humphrey Edmund David 1900 - 1963, served during World War II. He married Anne Romilly Allen, a daughter of Rev W. B. Allen of Canada. They had 3 children.
   a. Sarah Wilmot David, born 1945. She had 2 children.
      i. Harriet Bartie born 1985
      ii. Hugh Bartie born 1990
      i. Tannatt David born 1981
      ii. Lowri David born 1984
   c. Andrew Edgeworth Ussher David, born 1952 married Jacquie Watson. They had 2 children.
      i. Madelaine David
      ii. Felix David

2. Major Rodney David born in 1907 and died in 1964. He served in World War II and married Lois Keitha Ritchie, a daughter of Keith Ritchie of Tasmania. They had two daughters
   a. Susan Joan David, born 10th June 1942 and married Antony Jarman of Yorkshire. They had 2 sons.
      i. William Henry Jarman born 1965 Has a degree in Graphic Designing. At Cambourne College, a part of Exeter University.
      ii. Benjamin Jarman born 1966 has a degree in Marketing with languages at Salford University in Manchester.
   b. Angela Margaret David born 1947 and married Reginald Duquesney. They had daughters are -
      i. Lois Duquesney born 1979 has a degree in English at Leeds University
      ii. Celine Duquesney, born 1981, is in her fourth year of a degree in Venetary in London.

3. Major Felix Ussher David was born in 1912 and died at Leap, West Cork, in 1974. He served in World War II and married Jane Elizabeth Piercy, a daughter of Mr Piercy of Swansea. He had three children and his wife has married secondly.
b. Charles Vivian David born 1956 and married to Rebecca Roberts, a. daughter of J. Roberts, works in Cornwall/Devon nature reserve. They have 2 children
   i. Tom David, born 1985
   ii. Anna David, born 1987
c. Veronica David born 1959 married David Robertson, into the Pottery business. They have two children
   i. Benjamin Robertson

Thus Armine has three brothers, four nephews and four nieces. Although his family is basically from Wales it can be seen that their Christian names commemorate marriages with the Irish families of Ussher and Edgeworth. The connections are shown below.

35.9.2 The Ussher Family

The Ussher family were living in Co Wexford and Co Dublin in early 1200’s and since then, amongst many leaders of the Church, politics and the army, have produced two famous clerics. Firstly Archbishop Henry Ussher of Balsoon in Co Meath who was Primate of All Ireland for 18 years, from 1595 to 1613; he was a noted preacher in the Irish language and obtained the warrant for the foundation of Trinity College Dublin from Queen Elizabeth I in 1591. Secondly his nephew Archbishop James Ussher also Primate of All Ireland for 31 years, 1625 - 1656. It was James who acquired the Book of Kells and presented it to Trinity College, Dublin, on his death.

The connection with the David family is through the marriage of Rev William David, 1823 - 1897, and Margaret the daughter of Tamatt Houston Thompson, Deputy Commissary General in Canada. General Tannatt Thompson married Margaret Anne Ussher, the eldest daughter of Captain John Ussher who emigrated to Chippewa, Canada, and grand-daughter of Christopher Ussher, died 1772 of Eastwell, near Loughrea, Co Galway. Christopher’s eldest son, another Christopher, succeeded to Mount Ussher Co. Wicklow, from his uncle, and his son, John who died in 1851 therefore inherited both Eastwell and Mount Ussher. This John married Mary, the younger sister of Margaret Anne Thompson (Ussher), and c1840 sold Mount Ussher to the Walpole family who planted the spectacular river gardens, which are now open to the public. John lived at Eastwell, which was not sold until the death of his grandson c1927.

35.9.3 The Edgeworth Family

The Edgeworth - David connection is also through General Tannatt Thompson and his wife Margaret Ussher whose grandfather was Christopher Ussher (died 1772, see above). The David connection is through Christopher’s sister, Martha, who married Rev Robert Edgeworth of Firmont in Co Longford; so Martha was Margaret Anne Thompson’s great-aunt.

The Edgeworth family originated from Cheshire and the first Edgeworth in Ireland was Francis who was granted Cranalagh Castle near Mastrim, Co Longford, which was later, renamed Edgeworthstown. His grandson raised a regiment for King William III during the 1689 - 1692 war in Ireland, and was knighted. His son Colonel Francis commanded his Regiment and inherited Lisard (near Edgeworthstown and demolished c1955); his second son, Robert 1659 - 1730, inherited Kilshrewly; and his fifth son, Rev Essex Edgeworth, was the father of Rev Robert Edgeworth of Firmont who married Martha Ussher. The Rev Robert and Martha had a number of children including Henry Essex Edgeworth, 1744 - 1807, who was born at Edgeworthstown Rectory and become better known as the Abbé Edgeworth de Fermont; he was the confessor to King Louis XVI and attended him on the scaffold in 1793. Another child of Robert and Martha was Elizabeth who married her cousin, Newcommon Edgeworth of Kilshrewly.

Edgeworthstown House was built c1750 by Richard, 1701 - 1769, Colonel Francis’ son, and much enlarged by his second son Richard Lovell, 1744 - 1817, the inventor; he filled the house with his labour-saving inventions including a water hand-pump, which automatically dispensed ½d for beggars provided they pumped for half an hour. Richard Lovell married four times and had seven sons and eleven daughters, including Maria Edgeworth the novelist.
35.9.4 Children of Armine and Joan David

1. Armine Michael David born at Oakley Park on 15th November 1941 and educated at Sutton Valence School in Kent and the RMC Sandhurst. Michael was commissioned in 1963 and became a Captain in the Royal Artillery. He resigned his commission in 1972 and joined the Territorial Army in which he is now a Major. He then trained as a teacher but finally became a chartered surveyor and is now living at Gorsley near Hereford. On 9th Sept 1967 at Canterbury he married Marie Priscilla Jane, born 8th August 1943, daughter of Colonel Evan Thomas Rowland-Jones of Bradley Hill House, Wrexham. They had two children before their marriage was dissolved.
   a. Armine Simon David, born at Woolwich on 5th August 1969 and educated at Newent School, Gloucestershire. Simon is a qualified legal executive in Cheltenham and in 2004 is on his last year to qualify as a solicitor. He has three children with his partner Jo Cave-Brown-Cave, born on 20th September 1967
      i. Holly David, born March 10th 1997
      ii. Toby Edward David, born October 7th 1999
      iii. Daisy David, born August 25th 2003
   b. Sara David born at Bangor, Co Down, on 7th May 1971 and educated at Newent School. She has one son by her partner Eduardo Beasley.

2. Philip Edmund David born at Oakley Park on 3rd November 1945 and educated at Wellington and Trinity College, Dublin, where he gained a BA. He has an antique furniture business in Aberystwyth. On 14th June 1966 at Canterbury, Philip married Carol Ann, born 14th August 1947, daughter of Major William Reeves, MBE. They had two children before their marriage was dissolved.

3. Patricia Catherine David born at Lochcarron in Scotland on 6th April 1948. On 30th May 1969, at Beltinge, Herne Bay, she married Charles William Holman, born 19th September 1945, son of Major William Holman of Silver Birches Barham Kent, 1903 - 1973. Charles went on to become a computer engineer in Manchester and is now retired. They have two children:
   a. Nicholas William Holman. Born 4th September 1973 in Urmston, Manchester. Went to Stretford Grammar school then Royal School of Mines, part of Imperial College, University of London, where he obtained a BSc (Hons) in Mining Geology (1995). Then (2000) obtained a MSc at Cambourne School of Mines, a part of Exeter University. In 2002 he became a Fellow of Geological Society, London. In 2005 worked for a gold exploration consultancy company, based in Ireland and has worked in numerous countries, including Portugal, Malaysia, Australia, Hungary and Angola.
   b. Nigel Armine Holman, born 6th October 1981 in Urmston, Manchester and baptised at Leap, Co Cork. He went to Urmston Grammar school, then to Loughborough University where he obtained a BEng (Hons) in Civil Engineering (2003). In 2002 he took a ‘sandwich’ year within his degree and worked in Botswana, constructing houses for a large diamond mine. In 2004 was working in Bristol for a Civil Engineering company.
Chapter XXXVI

36.1 Reflections on the Family

As a family the Bomfords were typical of their time in Ireland; they did not become leaders of the Church or the Army, and they took no part in politics, but stayed at home and improved their standard of living by farming to the best of their ability. They worked alongside their tenants and so were popular with them and were able to build up a sense of respect. The few letters, which are left all indicate this respect, and indeed humour, between the family and the local people. It is interesting that it is only from the Westmeath properties that we hear of agrarian unrest, and this only occurred after Edward of Hightown had died and left the Bomfords all living in Meath, too far away for them to get to know their people; it could be argued that here they were absentee landlords, but the disturbances in Westmeath were very mild compared to those disturbances where the landlords were real absentees living in England and taking their rents across the water.

With the possible exception of Robert George of Rahinstown, the Bomfords stayed at home, farming their land themselves and probably working alongside the labour. Even when they had ‘agents’ they selected those who had about the same standing in the county as themselves. Myles O’Reilly owned land in his own right, and Samuel Reynell owned considerably more land than the Bomfords. There is no record of a ‘middle-man’, that breed so hated by the peasants because they were only interested in grabbing as much rent as possible. Their rents appear normal for the age, and it is surprising how little change there was per acre from the mid-1700’s to the mid-1800’s and then, when the rents were judicially set, we find Reilly of Oakley Park complaining that his rent went up and not down as was the trend elsewhere; in other words Reilly had been paying too little rent and now, by law, had to pay more; something with which few landlords in Ireland had to contend. The tenants therefore felt secure with the family, and the three or four evictions of 1828 and 1899 are the only ones reported. Furthermore tenant names appear much the same from one decade to the next, indicating that there was stability of tenure. Fixed reasonable rents and stability of tenure were the two main complaints of tenants against landlords, and so the Bomfords gave their tenants little cause for complaint.

On the other hand they were set apart from the local populace as they were Protestants and so had to be among the ruling party or as they were called ‘The Ascendancy’; they had to uphold and enforce the law. Various Bomfords were members of the County Grand Jury and some Bomford was a Justice of the Peace from about 1745 without a break right through to 1961, over 200 years. Robert George of Rahinstown was High Sherif of Meath in 1832, and George of Oakley Park in 1860. Certainly they upheld their local church but there is no indication of this to excess, they were not in any way intolerant. At a time when the eldest son inherited the land, the second son went into the Church and all the others joined the Army, there is only one Bomford who became a clergyman in Ireland; they preferred to join the Army, and their attendance at Church was probably more of a social occasion than a necessity. The Church records of Agher and Kells from about 1800 only show two Bomfords as a churchwarden up to 1900, George for the year 1840 and his son John Francis in 1862, rather more years were covered in the next century.

However they were present through all Ireland’s considerable troubles. There is little information about the family during the Jacobite War, but a hundred years later large numbers from Meath joined the Rising of 1798 when there was much local upheaval. The curate of Agher “was chased out of his house and fled for his life in his night clothes”. Mr Philips who had a house on the Bomford property of Knockstown had to abandon everything and fled to Dublin, never to return. But there were no reports of any attack on a Bomford house. The only story of this period concerns Isaac Bomford of Gallow (see 16.5); the insurgents were chasing the Wellesley brothers from Dangan Castle, and Isaac gave them fresh horses but held up the insurgents by giving them drinks so that the brothers could make their escape. This story gives credence to the possibility that the Bomfords, like so many other landlords, were so horrified by the atrocities and callousness of the military and the attitude of suppression by the politicians that they virtually formed a third party which was neutral; knowing this the insurgents did not roughly treat Isaac as they might have done. To use an Irishism, Isaac may have been neutral on the side of the 1798 insurgents.

When the Bomfords moved to Kells the local people there also favoured them and they became known as ‘a fine family’. This no doubt stems from the time of the famine when George and Arbella gave the starving people what help they could and had a soup kitchen in the Oakley Park yard, and moreover, George as a Guardian of the Kells Workhouse gained the respect of the people. The Irish memory is long and aid during the famine and later acts of kindness to their tenants and labour stood them in good stead during the much more serious ‘Troubles’ of the early 1900’s.
36.1.1 The Troubles

“The troubles”, a typically Irish understatement, covers the rebellion against Britain and the later Civil War. They started in Dublin during World War I in 1916 and this phase of the troubles became known as the Easter Rising. It occurred when a group of extremist rebels seized the General Post Office on Easter Monday catching most of those in authority unawares; many of them were enjoying the traditional Bank Holiday at Fairyhouse races.

After the Easter Rising but mostly between 1920 and 1922 a spasmodic guerrilla war was carried out between Catholic revolutionaries and British soldiers, including the ‘Black and Tans’ named after their half-black and half-khaki uniforms, who had been recruited from the British Army and were greatly feared for they had a reputation for brutality.

Land-owners in general kept themselves apart from these ‘troubles’ and although in their hearts their sympathies were with the British, they knew that Irish Independence was bound to come about since Home Rule for Ireland had become law in 1912. However they were seen as symbols of oppression and there had to be the ritual burning of the big houses; but often it was a half-hearted business, the country people being reluctant to help in this destruction, and there was little loss of life. Between 1920 and 1923 some 200 out of 2,000 of the ‘big’ houses were burnt.

On December 6, 1921, a treaty was signed giving the “Free State” Dominium status and dividing the country in two, between the predominantly Catholic twenty-six counties, known as the “Irish Free State”, and the largely Protestant six counties of Ulster, known as Northern Ireland, with its own parliament at Belfast under British sovereignty but remaining an integral part of Great Britain. In the south, William Cosgrave, a fair and moderate pro-treaty politician, headed the Free State government of 1922 and tried to keep a sense of balance and calm. But that year would mark the beginning of Ireland’s Civil War between the Free Staters who supported the treaty and the Republicans led by de Valera who opposed it and wanted complete independence from Britain.

The Troubles now began in earnest, an unhappy tale of hatred and heroism, of civil strife with brother often against brother. Landowner sympathies were with the Free State, but before we discuss the Bomford experiences let us jump ahead. The Civil War ended in 1923. Three years later de Valera founded Fianna Fail, his strongly anti-Treaty and anti-Protestant and anti-British republican party. Its members had all bitterly opposed the 1921 treaty, seeing it as a betrayal of the 1916 Easter Rising, and despised those who had agreed to it, particularly the clause which stipulated that members of the Irish Parliament would take an oath of loyalty to the English Monarch. De Valera won the general election of 1932 and brought out a constitution in 1937. In 1949 Ireland broke away fully from the Commonwealth and was declared a Republic.

36.1.2 The Bomfords and The Troubles

Neither my grandmother nor my mother spoke very much about the Troubles, but it was very obviously a time of worry, particularly so when grandfather was away, either in France or later on Land Commission work, thus leaving a houseful of women and children. Although no houses were burnt around Kells, the newspapers carried daily tales of horror, which must have impressed on the family the dangers surrounding them. They took what action they could. The silver was a buried, house door and shutters were bolted at night, and beds were moved to give shelter from indiscriminate shooting through the windows; these were a few of the deterrents.

One of the scary things my mother mentioned were the unexplained noises from the woods at the dead of night; many were no doubt quite natural, for even the bark of a fox could take on a frightening meaning to anyone expecting an intrusion or with a vivid imagination. The only regular disturbance they suffered at Oakley Park was really only an annoying inconvenience. At night the cattle were driven out of the fields and along the roads, possibly by the same men who were employed to find them and drive them back the next day. This was tiresome but not particularly worrying, indeed my mother used to enjoy riding the roads, looking for beasts and meeting neighbours doing the same thing. Everyone was thankful that it never led to the maiming of animals, which occurred elsewhere to unpopular landlords, and might have been done to the Bomfords if they had not been considered ‘a fine family’.

On the other hand the North-Bomfords of Ferrans did have their house burnt down, but the local people excused this act as they disliked Hilda North-Bomford (see paragraph 28.6.1).

There were only two incidents in 1922 but they both add to our knowledge of local relations with the family. The first incident happened when George Lyndon was shot at near the front lodge, a near miss as the bullet passed through his hat. The farm workers caught the man who was not local; George decided to let him go rather than hand him over to the hated Back-and-Tans, but the men decided to teach him a lesson and roughly handled him before sending him packing. It has been said that the man was not a

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Republican but someone who thought that George, as a JP, had unjustly ruled in Court against him or his family; if this is true then it is not an incident of the Troubles at all, nevertheless, the farm workers manhandled the man and so demonstrated their feelings against him.

The other incident occurred when a party of raiders arrived one evening to burn down the house. The story goes that they were shown into the library where George treated them as welcome guests and served drinks; this unsettled them and at first they were restive in those unfamiliar surroundings but George put them at ease and would not hear of any business being discussed until they had a few drinks; quite naturally a party developed and went on all night. The raiders must have enjoyed themselves, as they never broached the reason for their visit; of course the reason was obvious to the household, and all the women in the house spent the night removing valuables. The raiders left at dawn with many thanks to “such a fine gentleman”, and virtually guaranteed the future safety of the household. The interesting side issue was that the men of the farm arrived with out prompting, and quite naturally, with other locals to defend ‘their’ house. They took no part in the proceedings but stood by in the yard in case of trouble. ‘To my mind that is the greatest indication of the feeling of the local people towards the family. It was ‘their’ house and the Bomfords were ‘their’ family.

36.2 Reminiscences of George Warren Bomford

As mentioned earlier (35.5.2) George Warren wrote on his experiences when he was living in Rome. There is not room to include them all, but some fall into the category of family history, so are included; and others are included because they illustrate life during the Raj of India, a life experienced by many other Bomfords.

36.2.1 At Clifton

“My days at school were in no sense a preparation for Army life. Time was spent there studying the Classics. George Lyndon made the great decision about my career. No one knew of the letter to the Headmaster that he wrote when serving as a Remount Officer in France in 1916. He said that he wished his son to enter the Indian Army, specifying the Indian Cavalry. The Headmaster had a nomination in his gift; this meant facing an interview board in London and not taking the Army Exam.

My days at Clifton were of no great note. John Constable and Dick Longfield, two first cousins who were there with me, were much more distinguished. The school, being on the outskirts of Bristol, was patronised by many rich city merchants, Wills of tobacco fame, and Fry who made chocolate were there; once or twice when on leave from India, I enjoyed a glass of ‘Bristol Cream’ and later a very good lunch with an old school friend who ran that wine business. In 1910, the year I went to Clifton, a new enlarged chapel was opened. Wills presented a fine new organ, housed high above the entrance. In those days small boys were bribed to join the choir with a box of chocolates. Sometimes one or two of us would sit up in that high loft with A. H. Peppin the organist, and ask for “The War March of the Priests”, played with all the stops out. Another joy was to watch Peppin’s feet on the pedals and his hands on the three manuals, mounting up the notes of that great organ while the school so far below sang “They Climbed the Steep Ascent to Heaven”. Peeping through the curtains of the organ loft, the sound waves seemed to take quite a time to reach us. On weekdays there were alternate services in Chapel and Big School where there was another organ. During the Christmas concert Big School came into its own. Old Cliftonians, senior boys and others wearing their rugger caps with long tassels, occupied the gallery. As each master arrived he was greeted enthusiastically by his nick name, some not very complimentary, the organ would break into these proceedings with the school song, quite a good tune, all about ‘great days and jolly days’ and ‘men that tanned the hide off us’. Some six hundred young voices would strive to raise the roof of that great building.

Bishop Percival when Headmaster well over a century ago, never hesitated to support moral exhortation with what he would refer to as “a tooch of the barch”; he had a pronounced Cumberland accent. The choirmaster’s young brother, T. S. Peppin, taught me Greek and Latin. Our classroom had the small right hand window under Big School. During my last two or three years, when war was raging across the Channel, much time was spent in the School Officer’s Training Corps. With our packs and rifles we would march over the Avon Suspension Bridge, to carry out schemes in the Leigh woods; after the rather more exciting night operations, on our return a free hot drink and a bun awaited us at the ‘Gruber’. Those were the days of great patriotism, ‘Empire’ days, Clara Butt, her ample figure swathed in a Union Jack sang Elgar’s “Land of Hope and Glory” at the Bristol Colston Hall; we would sing too as we marched along. Every summer there would be a large camp at Aldershot; some seven schools producing nearly a thousand boys under canvass. One year the King and Queen Mary appeared quite unexpectedly in the middle of our contingent of bell tents; they were looking for their schoolboy son Prince Henry. It took quite sometime to find him.
At the end of all these activities was my new career. How lucky I was to get that nomination, to go before the London interview board. The Head master had only one for the Indian Army. “

36.2.2 Gentlemen Cadets

“At Christmas time in 1917, some eighty boys from English schools and the same number of young soldiers from the battlefields of France were selected by a board of elderly gentlemen in London, to attend a course at a Cadet College for the Indian Army. Our destination was a lovely site in the Nilgiri Hills of Southern India.

At the end of December preparations for the long Indian journey began, this included a visit to a military hospital for enteric and other unpleasant inoculations. I remember as the needle was pushed into my arm, I collapsed on the floor in a faint, a most un-military performance. The Junior Army and Navy Stores in D’Olier Street in Dublin provided uniform and a list of the necessary tropical kit, also a long tin uniform case to contain it all. Later when I was walking in the town in my new outfit, and a fine black forage cap, a ‘trench’ coat concealed the fact that I wore no badges of rank; my youthful Mother was with me, and when I collected quite a few salutes from passing soldiers, she bowed and smiled at them in return. She and I were photographed together. Our local Rector, Dick Clifford, warned me of the pitfalls of the great world; he had recently returned from active service with the Forces, and was an excellent man, famous for his brief sermons and his skill on the tennis court. His predecessor, Archdeacon Healy, was also a man of character and very popular; he invariably wore a top hat and had many daughters; in full clerical rig the Venerable the Archdeacon was frequently seen ascending the Kells Workhouse hill, driving his 1910 De Dion Buton car backwards, as he said the forward gears would not tackle the incline. A publican at the top would watch my Mother in her smart ‘Raleigh’ trap driving a mare, that was later sold to the King of Italy; when going at a good spanking pace, he remarked the mare and the trap “fair split the road”. Luckily there were no accidents on the hill. But all this is a distraction.

On a bleak January morning at Victoria Station, London, all the cadets were assembled, and we bade farewell to our proud but sorrowing parents. George Lyndon, my father, had got leave from his remount depot in Dieppe for the occasion. I was aged 17. Our soldier companions who hailed from Canada and Australia were quite a few years our seniors. Authority had decreed we each should have £42 for pocket money, in addition to the uniform case of clothes, and with this rather meagre munificence we were launched on the world. At that time Germany was making a real effort to win the war. The Channel crossing from Southampton was rough, and most of the night we spent avoiding submarines. The engine of the French train that awaited us burned wood, and it took us a week to arrive at a camp in Faenza in Northern Italy. With wooden seats and eight to a carriage, life became a sort of gipsy existence; it was so leisurely one could frequently exercise by jogging alongside the train. Bully beef, plum and apple jam and ‘dog’ biscuits were our rations, great ingenuity was shown in supplementing them during long waits at railway sidings. A week in Faenza was a pleasant change. There, every morning we had to read and censor bags of soldiers’ mail that were emptied on long trestle tables, rather a strange job to give to young men who had so recently left school. The Italians gave us a great welcome; at that time they were fighting the Austrians, who tried to break through the Alps on their Northeast frontier. The Adriatic coast can be very chilly in February, and it was a long cold journey down to Taranto at the heel of Italy; where was a large camp set among cactus, that unpleasant growth we were to get so used to later on in India.

After ten days a transport, the ‘Leasow Castle’ arrived for us in the inner harbour; on board as we watched the ship being loaded, several uniform cases burst open like match boxes and spilled their contents from a high hoist on to the stone quay, a sobering thought for their unfortunate owners. The journey to Egypt was pleasant, we slept in hammocks and ate on the same deck, just above the water line; once at midday a large wave swept in and caused havoc. Like the English Channel, the submarine menace in the Mediterranean was at its height in the spring of 1918. After we had disembarked at Alexandria, our ship was sunk the next day at sea.

The camp at Sidi Bish, five miles along the sea front from town, was ideal. The weather was warm enough for bathing; the three weeks we spent there passed all too quickly, by now our trip rather resembled a ’Cooks Tour’, discipline was not very strict. After a 24-hour train journey across the desert to Suez, the penultimate leg of our long trek began. All down the Red Sea and across the Indian Ocean to Bombay, we were free of submarines and once again the weather was fine.

Some of the Cadet College staff came to meet us when we finally disembarked. They had their hands full, for it was in Bombay that trouble began; our soldier comrades were insubordinate, and became increasingly so during the three days train journey down to Wellington in the South. The authorities had a problem, as cadets were not subject to the Army Act, and could not be court-martialled. Our companions said they wanted to be sent home. The sheep were divided from the goats, and eventually the latter were locked up in the cells of the local British regiment, and that was the last we saw of them.
Unlike the hill stations of Northern India, where there is always a back-drop of snow clad Himalayas, we lived on the top of the Nilgiris, at one point we had a clear view of the Madras plains, six thousand feet below; next door to Wellington, at the end of our mountain railway were the famous rolling downs of Ootacamund, where arum lilies grew in potato fields.

Our first months in India were unfortunate; apart from the disturbances on our arrival, many cadets went down with amoebic dysentery, the result of a badly run mess. This was also the time of a virulent epidemic of “Spanish Flu”; as we lay in hospital the notes of the “Dead March” were frequently heard as the military band passed by. Two of us were granted sick leave to Ceylon; on our return things were more cheerful, we had a new Commandant, one ‘Lorry’ Maxwell of the 2nd Lancers.

After four months, as officers were urgently needed, all of our small band were commissioned. In the Indian Army all officers were mounted; we had plenty of riding, and could take horses out with the ‘Ooty’ hunt, where the going was good, and the jackal we chased were plentiful. On December 16th, 1918, we were commissioned and ceased to be “Gentlemen Cadets”. This was almost exactly a year after we had appeared before that selection committee in London, that consisted of a bishop, several generals, and other distinguished gentlemen of high rank. Each of us received a parchment signed by the King in fine poetic language of a former age.”

36.2.3 An Unusual Odyssey

“Here in Rome in this modern age, one sees motor coach after motor coach loaded with tourists, presumably they were doing a ‘package’ tour; and this would seem for the majority of people to be the cheapest, in fact he most practical, way of seeing the world. This story took place when there were no travel agencies, no passenger planes and very few cars; it tells of another way of making such a trip.

In 1918 when the First World War was coming to an end, the greater part of the Indian Army was overseas; liaison between such units and their depots in India was not easy. Reinforcements to replace casualties took several months to arrive; India was then about the size of Europe. At that time the Government found themselves with many surplus young officers; to reduce numbers to normal an axe was to fall, as a result none of the recent arrivals from the two Indian Cadet Colleges were allowed to leave the country. All this led to much speculation not only about life in our almost nebulous parent unit so far away in Syria, but there was also anxiety as to who were to be the lucky ones chosen to serve in it. In those days there was no temporary service, we had all been given permanent commissions.

The world was then suffering from a virulent epidemic of “Spanish” flu. This disease had caused more casualties among Allenby’s cavalry divisions than all the losses suffered in battle during the rapid advance north from Jerusalem, across the Jordan to Damascus and Aleppo in Syria. We were able to send drafts of Indian ranks from the Depot in Allahabad, but no officers could accompany them further than Bombay. In the summer of 1919 I was in charge of such a party, I had about 150 men. The Staff Captain of our Brigade gave me a note that I could accompany them for the whole of their long journey; this was quite unofficial, but I had the blessing of our Depot Commander to go overseas. When I showed my letter to a young transport officer at Bombay, he was duly impressed. I hurried on board with my Indian servant, and lay low till I was called to stop my draft lighting fires on the deck to cook their evening meal. It was the first time they had ever seen the sea or ships. Thus began quite a long and unusual journey.

We disembarked at Suez and spent a week at a rest camp on the Canal; then followed a long slow train journey on a single line track through Jerusalem to Damascus where we stayed in another rest camp set among orchards with the hills not far away. Damascus must have changed little since Biblical times. The two rivers Abana and Pharpar, the Street called Straight, all were there to explore. The Regiment was at a place called Homs, just short of Aleppo, in bleak open country that seemed the middle of nowhere. How different was life here from the routine of our depot in Allahabad; India had not been affected to any great extent by the war; there we had a fine Mess and there was no scarcity of officers or recruits, other training was carried out in almost pre-war style, even down to two troopers mounted on camels who brought our post every day. I remember I arrived at Homs with shoulder chains fitted to my drill tunic, these caused raised eyebrows and I hastily removed them, they were a relic of ancient days, and were in theory to ward off sabre cuts. In those far off days a recruit came with his own curved sword, in fact he owned his horse and all his equipment. This old fashioned system of supply completely broke down when regiments were serving out of India for any length of time and it was abolished after the war in 1922. Troop horses then carried a heavy load of arms and accoutrements, the rider’s first weapon was the lance, this was made of stout bamboo, but should it break, a sword could then be drawn, and finally there was the rifle and ammunition for dismounted action, on occasions bandoliers of extra ammunition were slung round the horse’s neck.

So it was here in Syria our long journey had ended. The regiment had born the brunt and burden of the advance that had begun at Gaza, not far north of the Suez Canal a year or so previously. Now as a result of the ‘Spanish’ flu it was very short of men and officers. With the onset of winter began another

Conclusion
long trek back to garrison Palestine. We followed a new route side stepping Damascus and turning west towards the sea into Lebanon, over the mountains, via the ruins of Baalbek through its famed cedar trees.

At our last camp in the hills overlooking Beirut there were large beech trees, and among them was a monastery that produced excellent cherry brandy; this was very pleasant of an evening, after our daily march of fifteen to twenty miles. The horses were fit and the weather was mild, to a young man all seemed well in the world. And so by the sea through Tyre and Sidon we marched; in Haifa we camped in an old Crusader Castle. Then there was three months in the rolling green downs, just north of Jaffa; here was a pack of hounds to hunt jackal. When the Regiment went on to the Jordan Valley, I left to be A.D.C. to our Brigade Commander. My faithful Indian servant was still with me. The General decided he should act as cook for our small Brigade Mess. I used to wonder if that was the reason I came to work with the Headquarters Staff. Unfortunately when General Congreve, the Commander-in-Chief from Cairo, visited us, he was served with an omelette flavoured with paraffin, and our cook was looked upon with disfavour.

Our kingdom included the whole of North Palestine. There was good bathing at Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee; once local Arabs made off with our boots and trousers when we were having a dip, as a result two officers had to make an undignified entry into Beisan at the head of the Jordan River. On Christmas Day 1921 we arrived back in India. The Regiment had been overseas in France and the Middle East for six years. Twenty years later we were back again, over almost the same ground.

1941. After a battle in the Egyptian Western Desert casualties had been very heavy. Our full muster of 600 all ranks was reduced to a mere seventy-five men. A new regiment had to be raised and hastily trained in India as reinforcements, and once again we trekked up from Cairo through Palestine to Damascus, then northeast across desert to the Euphrates, not far from the Turkish border. We still did our daily marches, but now motor vehicles had replaced our horses. It was a long and very dusty journey, our drivers were all young and inexperienced and sometimes they forgot to put on the brake. The Colonel, a wise man, improved this situation, as a punishment the guilty one next day would be turned off his vehicle so many miles from camp. At that time I was No 2 and brought up the rear, and in my position at the end of the column, I passed all the unfortunates hurrying along home.

One link still remained to remind us of the old days: When the men went on maintenance parade after we arrived in camp, trumpeters still sounded that old familiar call’ Stables’.

36.2.4

Between the wars the duties of a regimental officer were not particularly onerous, and many of George’s duties were carried out on horse-back and mostly only in the mornings; afternoons were spent largely playing polo or, in season, hunting and shooting; many of his trophies hung in the hall of Oakley Park. His reminiscences include a number of tales of hunting and the one, which follows, must have taken place in the early 1930’s.

“The Pad Elephant”

“There were five of us on the top of the elephant, and it was from this high view point that quite an exciting action took place in the Terai; that is to say along the boundary between India and Nepal. My host, who was a brother officer (Hearsey), was a member of what we used to call the old Indian County Families. His ancestor in 1829 had commanded his Regiment of Bengal Cavalry; on his marriage to an Indian Princess, the old King of Delhi had given him as a dowry, a large estate about the size of a small English county. Here were acres of swampy ground, with the odd patch of cultivation and stretches of forest; a wonderful place for a young man to spend his leave, all among the wild beast and wild fowl that made it their home.

Our elephant had seen military service with the Indian sappers, but it was now a pensioner, some eighty years old, still young. Fifty years ago, at this time, Nepal was a closed book to all but a very favoured few; tiger, panther and bear were plentiful there, they roamed at will across the unguarded frontier tracks, only about 20 miles from our bungalow. Consequently there was an unending supply of game of all sorts on my friend’s property. Roads were few and far between, the country was open but the going was rough; horses or better still the elephant were the best, in fact the only means of transport. One could walk for miles and miles along well kept paths in the forest, there among the trees swarms of wild bees were a constant menace, and when horses became hot and restive, they were a special target for their attack; I remember the small earthen pots full of honey that tasted so good, and what better fare than a plump wild duck or some venison for dinner? Indeed there was no scarcity of food. Along the Sarda River the sand grouse came to drink at the same time every day, they were so punctual you could set your watch by their arrival; our boat was the hollow trunk of a tree, and from it on a moonlight night, we used to watch for the wild geese, but they were few and far between.
To return to the tale of our elephant, for some days the villagers were in fear of a marauding tiger that had attacked a woman and her daughter. Generally we rode in the early morning over open country, where we could watch the sun come up between a break in the foothills of Nepal. On that day in May we were talking of the chance of coming to terms with the tiger, and passing a small path there was a single pug mark in the sand, just one. We quietly dismounted and sent the orderly back for the elephant and rifles. A tiger like other animals is a creature of habit; he kills at night, has his meal, and then drags the kill to some cover close by, during the day he sleeps, and in the evening returns for more food. There are two accepted ways of tackling him, either to climb into a tree and sit on a platform or ‘machan’, or to chase him from the back of an elephant, in either case a line of beaters is necessary to rouse him from his lair. That morning we were in no position to follow the usual procedure. While we waited dismounted, vultures collected over thick swampy grass a short distance away, a sure sign of some dead animal. As the saddle is to the horse, so is the howdah to the elephant, but unlike a saddle it has seating for two, and in moments of excitement when in the jungle one can take a standing shot. The elephant is never steady, and being perched on his back is something like treading the deck of a ship in a rough sea; another way to ride an elephant is on a pad or thick mattress tied on his back with ropes, rather like dispensing with your saddle and riding a horse on a blanket. Our elephant arrived with a pad on his back, and on the pad was the lady of the house and her young daughter, when we scrambled up, as I said at the beginning of this story, there were five of us, all clinging on for dear life to what ropes were handy; hardly an auspicious start for a tiger hunt.

We set off through the high grass and thorny bushes in the direction of the vultures, on our way there were a series of false alarms and excitement, chiefly on account of hog deer, a small animal that dashed about in the cover round the feet of the elephant and made him squeal. Suddenly we saw not one, but two tiger; one made off, but the other came on us from behind. The ensuing moments of action really baffled description, it was almost impossible to use a rifle, and it was astonishing that some man, woman or child did not fall to the ground. I think three shots were fired at very close range when we were charged from the rear, and then more by good luck than good management the tiger lay dead. At the closing moments my orderly, who came from farming stock in North India where there are no wild beasts, arrived on a most valuable horse of mine, just to see the fun.

Some six years later Kermit Roosevelt, a nephew of President Theodore Roosevelt, was shooting with my friend on his estate. His uncle was a fine old sportsman, and at the turn of the century when he was President, had been largely responsible for founding the Museum of Natural History in New York. In 1966 I first visited this museum, and there I found tall trees, swamp grass, ant-hills, many birds and deer, all seemingly in their natural state; a complete replica of that Terai estate so far away, it was a truly astonishing and faithful reproduction. The only thing I did not see was our faithful pad elephant.”

36.2.5  
His Highness of Bikanir

“In the great deserts of North India there are two famous states, Jodhpur and Bikanir. Jodhpur was the larger and the wealthier; it was renowned for its horsemen, and for many years had a great polo team. Lord Cardigan of Crimean fame invented the cardigan waistcoat, so are the Jodhpur riding breeches in universal use today. But it is of the lesser of these two states that concern us here. From Delhi there is a metre gauge railway, and it is a 24-hour journey along it through the desert to Bikaner. H.H. the Maharajah was our Honorary Colonel, a kind and generous Rajput Prince. For over 50 years he had always shown much interest in his regiment. Like Jodhpur he also had cavalry and infantry units, but his most famous regiment was the Bikanir Camel Corps; it has served in China in 1901, had guarded the Suez Canal in 1914, when the second war broke out, H.H wrote to Churchill offering once again the services of his State Army.

So it was in August 1940 I found myself on that long train journey to Bikanir; H.H had asked for some one from his regiment as a ‘special services officer’ to be attached to his Camel Corps. The state officers and men spoke a dialect that was different from Hindustani or Urdu language, and unlike our men did not use the Arabic script; so a liaison officer was necessary when they left the state and had to deal with British or Indian army staff officers. In the days of peace we always had an invitation to the Bikaner Christmas party, this included an ‘imperial’ sand grous shoot, the ordinary sand grous is about the size of a partridge, its ‘imperial’ brother was only found on the lakes of the two states and was as big as a large duck, and made a succulent dish. It happened this was my first visit to the State, and I knew nothing about camels. On arrival I was installed as a state guest in a new hotel, the only other occupant was a Hungarian lady on a world tour. As transport I had a carriage and pair, with two camels for my chargers, when I wanted a ride I got horses from the cavalry regiment. The Camel Corp was about the size of a regiment, but increased in size on mobilization. My military duties were not heavy. The Colonel of the Corps was a young energetic officer, and we got on very well together. He and the other officers had worked with the Indian Army, so language was not a problem; indeed most of the palace staff spoke

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English. This was the time of the ‘phoney’ war in France, the Maharajah was busy with marriage ceremonies of his daughter, and many were the trains loaded with guests that came on the metre gauge railway; the festivities went on for a month or more.

My regiment had been mechanised some time previously and now was fighting in Egypt. In the New Year I asked permission to join them; in a war of tanks and armoured cars, there seemed little possibility that camels would be employed. Twice my request was refused and I was told to have patience. Then in March came a telegram that we were to mobilise for overseas service.

A journey to Karachi was necessary to arrange for two ships to be made ready for one thousand men and camels. H.H was overjoyed and many were the hours that we sat and talked the matter over. He was asked to provide a mule transport corps of about the same strength. The Maharajah was a tall good-looking man about 65 years of age; he had a great sense of dignity and could be stern. His people knew him as a just ruler and were devoted to him. His “Gunga Risala” or Camel Corps was the apple of his eye.

No one knew our destination. I had sealed orders to be opened when we were at sea; our two ships joined a convoy when we reached Bombay. At this time the port of Berbera was the capital of British Somaliland, and was under attack by the Italians who had deposed the Emperor of Ethiopia some time before. We were ordered to reinforce a Camel Corps from Kenya that was operating around Berbera. As we approached the Gulf of Aden, Berbera was captured, and a general ‘Dunkirk’ type of retreat began across the water to Aden. We learnt later that the Kenya Camels had not only been routed but also eaten, as their enemies were short of rations. Orders came to disembark at Aden. Unlike the horse, the camel is very ungainly, and had to be sling by crane off the ships. This was done on two successive nights; we suffered casualties from Italian bombers on the second night. Luckily a good camp was found in a small oasis at Sheik Othman, ten miles from Aden; we stayed there two months. Between us and the Yemen to the north stretched a vast desert. By chance the Maharajah knew the Governor of the Aden Protectorate, we were an uncommon force, almost an object of curiosity, we had much assistance from our many visitors. I remember one of my camels learnt to smoke a cigarette, which was quite a parlour trick.

Every week at his special request the Colonel, and I sent two personal letters to H.H telling him of all our doings. We bathed and cleaned the camels in the sea at ‘Little Aden’ and some one was always detailed to bring a bail and hammer to knock oysters off the rocks there. One of our camels was attacked by a sting ray while bathing, and had to be destroyed. We spent many nights out under the stars and would watch the planes coming over to bomb Aden. The Italian advance in Somaliland gradually died down. The navy brought a reconnaissance party from Aden back to Berbera, to prepare for a possible landing there. The Governor of Somaliland was with us on board, and just before we landed he persuaded the naval gunners to put a shot through the drawing-room window of his residence, as he said he wanted a new Government House when he eventually returned. At this time Aden Headquarters had news that the Italians were infiltrating into Yemen, further north across the Red Sea. We did not go to Berbera, but moved up to the Yemen frontier. It was rocky inhospitable country. I had brought a shotgun from India, and when going round our outposts had some good woodcock shooting. We had no enemy to practice on. In Egypt there was an urgent need of reinforcements; the Regiment had suffered casualties after Rommel’s tanks made their first advance on Tobruk. I left the Camel Corps and returned to India.

There is a postscript to this story. About a year later, when with the regiment I found myself on a tank course at Abbasseiyeh outside Cairo. At that time it was the policy of the Government of India to send rulers of states, who had troops overseas, on a tour of the various battlefields. One hot afternoon when surrounded by nuts and bolts on my course, the Commandant told me to take three days off, and to go to Shepheard’s Hotel in Cairo. There I found H.H installed on the first floor. It was wonderful to see him. He told me he was about to go up the line to Tobruk and wanted my advice, the question of footwear was worrying him; there he was creaking round his sitting room in a pair of odd looking yellow boots, they pleased him, and I told him they were splendid. I remember his grandson gave me a big wink. Shepheard’s had a fine dining room with three steps leading down to it; the last recollection I have of this grand old man is standing on the top of the steps as we went in to dinner. Almost everyone in the room turned round to look at him”.

It is perhaps fitting if I include here a letter written by that “grand old man” to George’s mother. The crested notepaper is headed Lallgarh, Bikaner, Rajputana and dated 30th September 1940. He wrote the letter in his own hand.

“Dear Mrs Bomford, I promised your son, Colonel Bomford, before he left with my Regiment of Camel Corps, the Ganga Risala, that I would write and give you news about him after his safe arrival at his destination. As you may have guessed by now, the Ganga Risala has proceeded on Active Service out of India. Their destination is supposed to be kept a secret; so I am not at liberty to tell you the name,
though it is generally widely known here. Anyhow it is neither Egypt nor, of course, Somaliland, but nearer India and you will be able to guess.

They are not likely to have much fighting there and I am happy to tell you that all is well with your son and the Regiment, and I hope and pray it will continue so. I, therefore, hope you will not worry unnecessarily.

It was a great pleasure to me that Colonel Bomford was here for nearly a year before he went off with the Regiment on Active Service overseas. We all liked him very much and he did excellent work.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely
Ganga Singh” (Maharajah of Bikaner).

36.2.6 With the Desert Rats of North Africa

Two letters written by George to his parents at Oakley Park about the Battle of Bir Hakeim, just west of Tobruk, during the advance of General Rommel which was only stopped at El Alamein on the Egyptian border.

The 2nd Lancers had seen little fighting when they were pitched into the front line; 36 hours later, without proper support and under strength, they were expected to hold back massed German tanks. Naturally George’s letters record a sad tale of retreat, but from the German point of view Bir Hakeim proved so tough that Rommel had to go and take personal command of the assault forces. In his own words in his book Rommel says, “Nowhere in Africa was I given a stiffer fight”, and George’s 2nd Lancers contributed towards that stiff fight.

Dated: 29th May 1942  “I have written you two letters which I suppose some German may now be reading. I hope you got my cable saying all was well and that we are now back once more by the sea. We were pushed up at great speed just before the battle began on Wednesday last. No one of us really knew that an attack was really in the wind. We had 12 hours to dig trenches etc and a lot of our kit and men had not arrived. On Tuesday evening when I was giving out orders we suddenly had word the enemy were advancing on us. Our lines were supposed to be about 50 miles apart. You can imagine there was a certain amount of confusion; I went round in my armoured car to encourage our men round the edge of our position. There they were quite cheerful and ready for anything. The Brigadier then came along and said we might not expect to be attacked till the next morning. Unfortunately our own mines had not arrived nor had all our guns or some tanks that had been promised. However everyone was very cheerful and spent the night digging hard. At 6 a.m. next morning there were about 200 German tanks sitting massed outside our front door, also some Italian big guns and a large Italian flag was unfurled before the battle began, from 7 to 9 o’clock we held them off. There was a real hail of fire all around my HQ. I was crouching in a trench at the end of a telephone to the Brigadier. In the middle of things I began a letter to you. Then the German tanks broke through our men, they appeared to be about ten abreast and they were everywhere. I hopped out of my trench and tried to get a nearby battery on to them but it was hopeless. I got on to a truck going back to Brigade and just avoided capture, it was 9.15; until 6 o’clock that evening we were not out of the wood as we were cut off by two enemy columns. We, about 100 vehicles, had to dash through one, about half got through. One quite large shell scorched my back hairs but I never got touched. I have about half the Regiment here but we are hoping more will turn up. It is wonderful how cheerful the men are. I have lost all my kit except the shorts and shirt I stand up in. For four days and nights I did not wash or change and now have spots all over my face, however sea bathing is doing wonders. It will take a long time to reform I fear.”

Dated: 3rd June 1942  (Five days later)

“I am writing you a second letter to make up for gaps during our advance up to the front from somewhere not far from this very pleasant strip of coast, where we are now re-organizing. I do hope you got my cable all right. Now we have been here four days and I am feeling clean once more, what with heat and dust, little water and no change of clothes for four days, you can imagine our state. I had a trench about 3 feet deep and four yards long in which I stayed on the end of a telephone wire to Brigade during most of the battle. The shells whined and some shrieked, all on different notes, and in the middle of it all a yellow hammer was picking about the white chalky soil. It was wonderful how little damage was done and, I am sure, of our 150 men still absent a large number will return. No news of McNamara or Bill Vincent, I don’t know the former’s address or I would write to his wife. I expect you listened to the break through at Bir Hakeim on the wireless. Anyway now I think the Boche is getting his deserts. When we were retiring on the 27th a large khaki staff car suddenly appeared jinking about all amongst our vehicles, this was a German going at a great pace, everyone loosened off at him but he escaped. Afterwards we had a very unpleasant 10 minutes dashing up to and through their lines of tanks and machine guns, luckily we created a tremendous dust and put them off their aim, as I told you one shell passed just over the back of my neck, I was busy bending down tearing up secret papers and maps and flinging them out, likewise all
the other officers and the old cab was bumping along about 50 mph, we all had our heads down and it was like a mad paper chase. I am really very lucky to get through. Here the sea and sand is wonderful, I have a long bath every evening. My kit is all lost except my bedding roll, however I have been able to buy a few necessities such as vests, working kit, socks etc. We are all very fit.”

36.3 More childhood memories

These memories of mine of the 1930’s continue from those of 34.9, but these dwell mainly on the actual house of Oakley Park.

Friends visiting the house would pause at the front door to admire the trees and the view. The lawn sloped down from the sweep and the huge trees had been carefully planned to give three long distance views between them, one was towards Kells where the Church spire could be clearly seen, and another towards the Tower of Lloyd. It was customary for a friend to go straight into the house and shout, the front door was never locked; others would draw down the brass bell-pull which was connected with wires to one of the row of bells in the basement. Most rooms in the house had its own bell in the row, each bell being mounted on a coiled spring so that one pull caused it to jump up and down. Needless to say the room bells were never used, so whenever we heard the bell in the basement it had to be the front door, and someone would have to stop whatever they were doing to answer it; this was an unpopular chore, so friends would come in and shout.

The walls of the front hall were decorated with trophies, which Uncle George (G. W. B.) had shot in India. The fireplace on the left was of black marble, which matched the black and white square pattern of the stone flags on the floor. It was furnished with half-a-dozen heavy wooden upright chairs with the Bomford arms on the backrest, and lit by a row of windows above the front door and above the porch.

The second hall containing the front stairs was a feature of the house. The stairs with deep shallow treads split into two half way up and the two sets of banisters were ideal for little boys to have races sliding down them. Both the half floor and the stairs were highly polished and the only furnishing was two large circular tables on which sat large vases of flowers and foliage. Although all the downstairs rooms were interconnected, two rooms opened into this hall, the drawing room and the boudoir.

I never saw the drawing room furnished as such; indeed there was only a circular dosi-do and a chaise lounge so the room was used for games, dances and Uncle John’s Christmas pantomimes. It was a bright and well-proportioned room with two windows overlooking the flower knot and a third looking on to the sweep. The fireplace was of the style of Adam and of white marble, deeply carved with entwined flowers and cherubs; this was sold to George Kinahan in 1955 and installed in his sitting room at Milltown House on the Athboy road. The boudoir was originally used for formal entertainment, grandmother’s tea parties which grandfather shunned, and grandfather’s bridge parties which grandmother in turn avoided; little boys were kept away on all these occasions. Incidentally I called my grand-father (George Lyndon), “Pa” and my grandmother Maude, “Gaga”; these names caught on and they were so called by many children. The boudoir was furnished with delicate Chinese chairs, a lovely Chinese lacquer bureau and an intriguing roll top desk with secret compartments. During the war the boudoir became the family room in place of the library; the library chimneystack was damaged by fire so could not be used and an unpopular stove had been installed. With the shutters shut, the heavy brocade curtains drawn and a good log fire blazing, these large rooms could be very snug in winter; but it was impossible to heat the house as a whole and it was normal in the depth of winter to break the ice in the bedroom water jug in the morning.

Two rooms opened from the third hall, known as the Lamp Hall since here was the lamp table on which the paraffin lamps sat waiting for bedtime when we each took a lamp, though when the house was full we children only had a candle; it was a dirty chore looking after the lamps, not only had they to be filled with oil but the wicks trimmed and the soot cleared from the glass chimney. On the left was the library, the favourite room of the house with two windows looking out onto the flower knot. The armchairs here were worn with use but comfortable, what the auction catalogues call ‘distressed’; grandfather’s, worn to his own shape, was on the left of the fireplace. Grandmother’s on the right; in one window sat grandfather’s massive walnut desk littered with letters and Land Commission maps, in the other window was a circular swivel table, a “rent table” with lots of drawers and excellent for cards and other table games; a few smaller tables with vases of flowers, a sofa and piano completed the furniture. Most people played the piano, when grandmother was persuaded to play she would only play one tune, a polka, and whenever I hear “The Keel Row” it takes me back to her and those happy evenings in the library. The walls were faced with shelves filled with Victorian leather bound books and the two doors were similarly faced but the books were imitation ones. The camouflage of the doors was so cleverly done that they were difficult to spot, and unless one knew where the hidden catches were they were
impossible to open. Once an unfortunate visitor was shown into the library and promptly forgotten, it was some time later that his indignant shouts were heard and he was released.

Opposite the library was the dining room. One Christmas I remember 23 people sitting in comfort around the table; on this occasion it was necessary to use all the extra leaves from the rack in the lamp hall. Ancestors stared down on us from the walls. There were two side tables, one for carving and the other for dishes of vegetables, and two sideboards holding crested silver dishes. One of the sideboards fitted an alcove at the north end of the room and each was supported by the outstretched wings of two carved griffins, the Bomford crest. The larger sideboard was bought by Colonel Morris (30.3.2) in 1955 and is at Dowdstown, together with the wine cooler, which sat on the floor between the griffins. I don’t remember the wine cooler ever being used and the only drink kept in the house in the 30’s was grandfather’s whiskey; I put his whiskey to unusual use by soaking raisins in it and then feeding them to a hen; an inebriated and tottering hen with a helplessly besotted expression on its face has to be seen to be believed; it was decreed from above that this practice must stop since a hen with a hang-over lays no eggs. However grandmother used to make wine, which she considered non-alcoholic, this was kept for Christmas by which time it had become particularly potent and in spite of her protests to the contrary we all became distinctly squiffy.

The back hall, the fourth one, was filled with the wide semi-circular back stairs, and there was only room for a long bin which held flour and meal, and the grandfather clock. It was the only clock in the house until Uncle John organised the family to contribute towards a French mantel clock as a golden wedding present for his parents in 1947. This Japy clock was bought in Weirs of Grafton street for the princely sum of £2710.0 and is now at Crodara and keeping perfect time; one wonders what it is worth now. The room on the left was the Billiard Room holding a full-size slate billiard table. This table was famous for the high scores which grandfather made against all comers; we used to say that he was the only one who understood the age-hardened cushions, but that was unfair since really he was a fine player. Two presses held sporting equipment and the guns, though the latter only held ancient pieces as all the working guns and rifles had been handed over to the police during the troubles. A third press overflowed with old farming documents but unfortunately they have now all disappeared, the deeds from which this family history originated were kept in the library.

The focal point of the house was the kitchen to the right of the back hall. The old iron range was never let out and so the kitchen was the warmest room of the house. This range always seemed to hold the “pig’s pot” or the “hen’s pot”, but it also held huge kettles of water. These kettles were the only source of hot water. A can of hot water was delivered to each bedroom before breakfast and before dinner. Considerable planning had to be done if a bath was required. During the war when coal became scarce a smaller stove was bought which burnt wood and heated the water, so a cistern was installed in the kitchen; this simplified bathing but even then hot water had to be carried upstairs in tall white enamelled or copper cans. Most of the kitchen wall space was covered with storage cupboards, though the crockery was stored in the press in the scullery; here according to the house sale brochure were a “93 piece Ironstone dinner service, a Spode dessert service, Nankin ware and a 40 piece painted Chinese dessert service”. Food was prepared on a large scrubbed deal central table. Baking was done daily, “baker’s bread” was almost unknown, and there were scones and cake for tea. Nowadays one buys food in the supermarket and preparation needs the minimum time, but before the war if one wanted, let us say, parsnips and carrots for lunch, one had to take a spade to the Big Garden and dig them, then bring them to the yard to wash them and finally back to the kitchen with them; a job taking at least half-an-hour. If a chicken was to go with those vegetables, then one of the men was instructed to catch it, wring its neck (no easy job) and bring it to the house. I well remember the English visitor accustomed to the supermarket way of life offering to prepare the chicken; it was easy, said she, as all that had to be done was to remove the plastic bag of giblets from inside the carcass and pop it in the oven; it was a disconcerted woman who was shown the dead body in the basement waiting to be plucked and gutted. However the visitor’s offer to help was typical of all those who stayed. Even though there were three maids, a parlour maid, usually the pretty one, a housemaid who primarily looked after the bedrooms, and a kitchen maid who also did the ordinary cooking; they were many chores to be done ranging from flower arranging to fruit picking, from work in the dairy to the farm, and visitors generally took part in them all. A drone was frowned upon and probably not invited again; one had to be sick to put your feet up when there was work to be done.

When the basement kitchen was moved upstairs, probably during or just after World War I, the basement became disused. By the 1930’s it was only used for the storage of apples, potatoes, logs, coal and so on; some activities were carried out there, shoes were polished in the ‘Boot Hall’, chickens were plucked in one of the rooms which in time became full of feathers. However it was a great place to play - huge, dry, dark, mysterious and ghostly. It was a brave child who ventured there after dark, and I still remember the scary feeling as one dashed down the back stairs to collect logs or something, and the relief when one returned to the light upstairs. A regular feature of the 20’s and 30’s were the Christmas dances for the staff and locals, on these occasions the basement was well lit and filled with merry lively friends.

Conclusion
Because of Arbella’s ‘Bedroom Will’ (32.6.2) most of the bedrooms on the first floor were not furnished with the grandeur of the ground floor rooms. Neither John Francis and Elinor, nor George and Maude, had the money to refurnish the bedrooms to their previous magnificence. Only two rooms were fitted with the original furniture. The guest room had matching walnut furniture and a huge four-poster bed with brocade curtains. It was a typically Victorian room as was the front room where my parents usually stayed; this had a half-canopied bed and much heavier furniture of a darker wood, possibly mahogany. The other seven bedrooms were comfortably furnished but of a miscellaneous style. The family all had their own rooms, which they occupied when at home; these are shown on the drawing following 34.9.6.

The ‘Lumber Room’ at the top of the back stairs and next to Joan’s room was where cases, disused furniture and other lumber were stored; this room also held a row of heavy-duty batteries. During October 1941 a wind charger was erected on a mast on the roof, which charged these batteries. This early attempt to electrify the house was never a great success; technically the batteries were sufficient to light about ten bulbs but the wind often failed, the bulbs then became progressively dimmer and so had to be switched off; only a few rooms were wired. It was not until after the war that Uncle George had the place wired for mains electricity.

All the bedrooms had fireplaces but they were only lit during sickness and the winter cold used to penetrate these rooms; sometimes one was given a hot water bottle in bed, a large stone affair to warm the feet, but there were not enough of these nor enough hot water to go round so only the sick or elderly got one regularly. There was usually a fire in the schoolroom over the front hall. Since my parents were often in Nigeria there was a nurse or governess in charge of the schoolroom. These stayed a number of years and became part of the family. However the cold only lasted a few months and in one’s childhood the summers always seemed to be hot, dry and sunny. Certainly my happiest memories were when lying in bed half awake, with the early morning sun streaming through the open windows, and listening to the rooks talking to each other.

Sometimes the house was empty but even then there would be not less than six people sleeping there, the three maids and three of the family. On the other hand there was often a shortage of beds and then the youngsters had to sleep on the drawing room floor. Uncle John brought guests from Dublin, Desmond Eustace and Jimmy Keates were regulars; Aunt Joan brought school friends, often with foreign names. They were ‘paying guests, like the Amblers, Uncle George’s friends from India, whose children Neville and Quentin came for their school holidays; and ‘Madame’, a harmless dotty woman from Desmond’s hospital in Dublin; in slack times Desmond used to send a number of his patients for a break, often with a nurse in charge. These paying guests, known as “PG’s”, helped to swell the scanty bank balance. Finally there was a constant stream of relatives from England and further afield.

Oakley Park was normally a full, bustling, and happy home for a great number, all of whom developed roots and returned. The stabilizing factor of the whole place was my grandmother who struggled happily, wisely and efficiently with a house full of perhaps fifteen people with little money or help. “I just don’t know how she coped “was my mother’s comment about her.
Appendix ‘A’

The Bomford Irish Houses

Appendix ‘A’ The Bomford Irish Houses

Clarkestown House Townland Gallow Parish Gallow

This house was built by Samuel Pratt (1688 - 1771) of Agher, mentioned in his will and left to the Winters. It was probably two storied and thatched. George Bomford the elder lived there between May 1807 and Feb 1812. In July that year Samuel Pratt Winter and his wife Frances Rose Bomford, daughter of Trevor Bomford moved in after their marriage, and their first five children were born in the house; they left in 1820 for Paris and then to England. Samuel Winter probably lived there whilst Agher was leased until 1825. The house was accidentally burnt down in 1829 and rebuilt of stone and slated. It is possible that George the younger and Arbella (Winter) occupied the house after their marriage in 1832 until they moved to Oakley Park in 1837. Later it was occupied by the Potterton family. About 1950 the house was pulled down and a modern house built instead. The yard was left and includes a row of fine arches one of which has ‘1829’ on its keystone, which indicates that some of the yard was rebuilt after the fire.

Ref 18.1.3, 18.6.2, 18.9.1, 24.1.1, 27.3.1

Clornmahon House (Clonmaghan) Townland Clornmahon Parish Laracor

Colonel Laurence Bomford and his wife Eleanor were living there in July 1692 but their tombstone indicates that they might have been there about 1670. There is no record of the house they occupied and the Down Survey of 1654 does not record any house on Clornmahon townland. It is therefore likely that they built the house, which, from a process of elimination, was probably on the west side of the road between Dangan Castle and Summerhill. The Colonel died there in 1720 and Eleanor just over a year later in January 1722. The place was then sold.

Ref 1.8, 1.8.1

Clounstown House Townland Clounstown Parish Trevet

The land lies across the Navan - Dunshaughlin road but the house is to the north of the road near Ross Cross-roads; it is now called Tara Stud. When Oliver Bomford bought the land in 1710 there were two thatched farmhouses on it, one of them was rebuilt of stone and slated for Oliver’s eldest son Thomas. Thomas was living there in 1729, the year of his marriage, so the house may have been done up about that date. Thomas lived there until his death in 1757 when it went to his second son, Thomas the younger; however he was only 18 and an apprentice in Dublin at that time, so his mother Jane lived on in the house probably until Thomas married, Alice Jessop in 1764. In 1784 Thomas the younger had to sell the place in order to pay his father’s settlement on his three sisters. The house and land went for £4,500 to Owen Daly in trust for Augustine Penthoney.

Ref 2.7, 3.3, 3.3.4, 14.5

Cushenstown House Townland Cushenstown Parish Cushenstown

Oliver and his wife Elizabeth (Wilson) were living at Cushenstown House when their eldest son Thomas was born there in 1703, however Oliver had leased the land about 1689. The Down Survey of 1654 records a stone house on the land, which at one time was owned by the Cushin family of England. Oliver’s house may have been this one in the south-west corner of the townland next to Crossmacoole and close to the turnpike on the Ashbourne to Slane and Duleek roads. When Oliver died in 1721, Elizabeth lived on in the house with her family of eight minors. In 1728 Thomas, the heir, moved to Clounstown and leased “the Great House” of Cushenstown to John Grierson and later to his brother-in-law George Shinton who lived there off and on until he died in 1780. However between 1759 and 1771 Thomas’s eldest son William lived in Cushenstown House, perhaps from his marriage in 1754 to Charity Ryder. In 1772 William moved to Lake Tay and the house was again occupied by George Shinton, and later by Patrick Dowdall followed by Edward Semple. In 1803 the last Bomford to live in the house was William’s eldest son Thomas who died without children in 1827. The house and lands were then divided between his married sisters, and their children sold their plots sometime after about 1870.

Cushenstown House was demolished before 1836 but another one, was built called Crossmacoole House. The present Crossmacoole House, a two storey farmhouse, looks as though it was built in the beginning of this century so may be yet another version; however it could be on the site of Oliver’s house.

Ref 2.11, 2.12, 3.3, 3.3.4 (1), 11.4, 13.1, 13.5.1, 17.1, 17.2.7

Drumlargan House Townland Drumlargan Parish Drumlargan

The Parish of Drumlargan was first leased to George Bomford the elder in 1787 by Dixie Coddington; George bought the place ‘fee farm’ in perpetuity in 1795 though the final payment was not made until 1815 just after George had died. The house on Drumlargan was called Bloomfield and in the late 1600’s it had a centre part for the family with two wings, one wing for the male and the other for the
female servants; in the early 1700's the wings were pulled down and the centre part adapted to form the basis of the present Drumlargan House. The rebuilding probably took place in 1724, the date on the tablet above the front door; the tablet also contains a Tudor rose and the letters ‘B’, ‘T’ and ‘E’. It is a two storey double gable-ended house and one of the reception rooms is octagonal.

By 1836 Bloomfield was a “tolerably good house but it is going into a further ruinous state”. Around 1865 the house was improved by George the younger for his son John Francis who moved in with his family about 1870; he was the only Bomford to live in the house which by then had been renamed Drumlargan House. The improvements included new enlarged windows and a porch around the front door. In April 1900 John Francis and his family moved to Oakley Park and Drumlargan was sold in 1903 to George Wilson of Oberstown at Tara for a little over £3,000. Today the house is still occupied and appears very much as it must have done when John Francis lived in it.

Ref 15.13.8, 25.7, 29.1, 29.3.1, 32.2.1

Ferrans House

Although Ferrans was first leased by Thomas Bomford around 1672, no house was built on it until the 1820's. The house was built by young Isaac North, soon to become Isaac North-Bomford, though it was probably paid for by his uncle Isaac Bomford, the attorney of Dublin who owned the place. It was enlarged during the 1860’s and became a two-storied house with five bays and an eaved slated roof. The house was continuously occupied by the North-Bomfords until Isaac North’s grandson, John George, died in 1965. It was burnt down by the IRA in 1923 and rebuilt with improvements. Six years after it was sold in 1967 it was again burnt down though this time accidentally and again rebuilt. Ferrans is now a stud farm.

Ref 23.3.2, 27.3.1, 28.6.1

Gallow House

Gallow was bought by Thomas Bomford in 1709 from Francis Isdell who had been living there, one assumes, in the ‘castle’ of the 1654 Down Survey. In 1711 Stephen the elder took over the place from his brother and moved into the house, living there until he died in 1759. As Stephen’s family increased and money became available, it is thought that around 1730 he enlarged and improved the house, and it would be this house, “two storied and slated” which was mentioned in the survey of 1836. After Stephen died the Rev John lived there until his death, then followed a gap of 10 years when David Bomford moved there from Dublin. David died in 1809 and was the last Bomford to occupy the house. Gallow was sold by J. G. North-Bomford in 1943 and the house was pulled down during the 1960’s. A new house was built on the site but parts of the yard remain. It is now a stud farm.

Ref 2.5, 2.22 (.5), 11.4, 19.5, 23.3, 23.3.2, 27.3.1, 28.6

Hightown House

First leased to Thomas Bomford around 1700. Perhaps about 1725 Thomas leased it to his brother Edward who may have built Hightown House; at any rate he was living there well before 1740. The 1836 Survey shows only one house on Hightown, named Heathstown; one wonders if this is a misprint, perhaps not because in 1750 the lease of ‘Hightown includes the proviso that Edward “expends £80 to complete the building of the house and offices which he had begun”; and this sounds to be a new house rather than improvements to the older house of Hightown. The property was sold to Mark Whyte to pay the debts of Thomas the elder, and Mark Whyte leased most of it back to Edward who bequeathed it to his daughter Catherine Hamilton on his death in 1756. However, once Edward’s wife Margaret had died around 1764, no other Bomford lived at Hightown House. The place was sold by Stephen Bomford of Rahinstown in 1790.

Ref 5.3, 10.2

Killeglan House

Cill Déaglán anglicised became Killeglan and it is now known as Ashbourne, a village about half way between Dublin and Slane. In 1712 the third son of Colonel Laurence, another Laurence, was ‘of Killeglan’, which he had leased in 1710 and where he brought up his family. In the Down Survey Killeglan included a small village which ‘contained a castle, a stone house with out houses, a church, a mill and divers cabins’; that stone house probably became Laurence’s house. Laurence died in 1721 and his wife and five young children left Killeglan for Dublin soon after. The house was only occupied by the Bomfords for about 10 years and the land itself was sold in the early 1760’s.

Ref 1.8.1, 1.10, 2.8, 2.12, 2.22,(3)
Oakley Park  Townland  Oakley Park (formerly Laurencetown)  Parish  Dulane

One of the Betagh (Beatty) family lived in the castle on Laurencetown during the reign of Henry VIII and before. The castle was in ruins at the time of Cromwell but some type of a house had been built by 1649, and this may well have been where the Oakley family lived. They renamed the place Oakley Manor but had left by 1700 and the name reverted to Laurencetown. By 1709 Joseph Williams was in residence and it was probably he who built the new house about 1715. However he had left by 1730 when the Crawford family moved in and they stayed there until 1829. The Crawfords brought back the name Oakley Park and were responsible for many improvements about the place, though no major change was made to the house; the main Kells to Moynalty road was moved further away from the house in the late 1700’s and the old road became the front and back avenues; as a result the parkland was set out and, a yard, was built about 1815.

In 1837 Oakley Park was bought for about £15,000 and occupied by George Bomford. He immediately doubled the size of the house by adding an extension to the front; during the 1860’s he added a smaller north wing which included running water and water closets; a walled 2 ½ acre garden was laid out during the Famine to the west of the house. Oakley Park became the major Bomford house until 1955 when George’s great-grandson sold the place for around, £14,000. The new owner pulled down two-thirds of the house and now lives in the 1839 extension and redesigned the interior. About 1960 he also demolished the last remains of the old Betagh castle, the chimney stack.

Ref  24.6,  25.2,  29.1,  30.1,  34.1.1,  34.9.1,  36.3

Oldtown House  Townland  Oldtown  Parish  Rathcore

This property was in Bomford hands from about 1662 to about 1745, and there are no clues about the house except that Christopher Hussey was living there in 1640. When Thomas the elder left his parent’s house at Clonmahon he lived at Oldtown and was definitely there at the time of his marriage in 1691. He remained there until he had completed Rahinstown House in the 1690’s. One can assume from this that Oldtown House was not up to much, perhaps a single storey mud and thatch house. When Thomas handed over Rahinstown to his nephew in 1738 he was recorded as being ‘of Oldtown’. He may have lived there then though I suspect he lived in Dublin until he died in 1740. The lease of Oldtown was given up about 1745.

Ref  1.8.1,  6.2

Rahinstown House  Townland  Rahinstown  Parish  Rathcore

The land was first leased in 1691 to Thomas the elder who built Rahinstown House in which he was living in 1702. In 1738 the place was passed to his nephew Thomas who died suddenly in 1740, and so it came into his father’s hands, Stephen the brother of Thomas the elder. Stephen was living in Gallow House so his son Stephen the younger lived at Rahinstown House from about 1741. Judging by the mortgage the house may have been improved for Stephen’s marriage to Elizabeth Sibthorpe, and perhaps again in 1787. A drawing of the house dated 1830 shows a six bay house of three storeys above a basement. The top floor has steeply pointed windows in gables. However the front door is to the left, one bay in, and the house has a lop-sided appearance. It is thought that perhaps Thomas the elder’s house ‘of the 1690’s was of three bays only and that Stephen added a further three bays to the right in either the 1740’s or the 1780’s. The house passed to Robert Bomford eventually in 1808 on the death of his mother, and on his death in 1817 to his son Robert George. The 1836 survey states “Rahinstown House is a very good one but the pleasure gardens appear very much neglected. The demesne is well planted with fir and round trees”. Robert George died in 1846 and his mother in 1848, the property was then sold and the proceeds divided between his sisters. The house and land was bought by Robert Fowler (1797 - 1863) in 1852 or ‘53. About 1875 the old house was accidentally burnt down and a new one built on the same site; the Fowlers still live there.

Ref  1.9.1,  6.2 (1),  9.3,  11.4,  15.3.2,  18.1.3,  22.3,  22.9

Rathfeigh House  Townland  Rathfeigh  Parish  Rathfeigh

This place was first leased to Oliver Bomford of Cushenstown in 1706 for 61 years and was not released in 1767. It joins Cushenstown to the west, and the Down Survey records a small village at Rathfeigh consisting of “one castle, a church, a water mill, divers small cottages and an open quary”. The 1836 survey describes the land as ‘poor’. It is unlikely that Oliver ever lived at Rathfeigh though three of his sons did, and were recorded as ‘of Rathfeigh’, but it is difficult to know who actually owned the place after Oliver died. In 1745 Laurence, Oliver’s fourth son, was ‘of Rathfeigh’ and leased some acres to his older brother Arthur. Four years later another brother Oliver was at Rathfeigh and was still there in 1761; certainly during the later years it was the younger Oliver who farmed the place, nothing is known about the house they occupied.

Ref  2.2,  2.12,  7.13,  7.14,  11.4,  12.2.5

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These three houses were occupied by Charlie Bomford, fifth son of John Francis of Oakley Park. Charlie moved out of Oakley Park on his marriage and was living in 1915 at Robinstown, one mile on the Kells side of Kilskeer; then in 1922 the family moved to Riversdale, four miles from Kells on the road to Charlesfort and Ballybeg. Finally around 1928 Charlie bought some land on the Kells - Dublin road just outside the Headfort Estate wall and there built himself a large bungalow where he brought up his family. After the war in which his two sons were killed, Priory Cottage was sold in 1950 and Charlie and his wife Bobbie went to live near Bagenalstown in Co Carlow. All three houses are still in use.

Ref 33.8, 35.6
### Appendix ‘B’

Map References are in chronological order; maps are after 16.9.2; peak statute acres are recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Townland</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Clonmahon</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>c1670</td>
<td>c1722</td>
<td>Sold when Col Laurence died?</td>
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<td>Oldtown(Meath)</td>
<td>254</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Little Ardrums</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ferrans and Brayfield</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>c1672</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Sold on death of J.G. N-B.</td>
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<td>Clonfad</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>c1677</td>
<td>1913</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Primatstown</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>c1681</td>
<td>1761</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Irishtown</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>c1681</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Passed to grand-daughters of</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Kilmooon</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>c1689</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>William of Cushenstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Portlester</td>
<td>642</td>
<td></td>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Sold after Robert George</td>
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<td>Rahinstown</td>
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<td>1691</td>
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<td>1691</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>Sold on death of Thomas the</td>
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<td>1691</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>elder to pay his debts</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Cooleronan</td>
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<td>1692</td>
<td>1781</td>
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<td>Oldtown(W-M)</td>
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<td>c1700</td>
<td>1790</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Ennisoffey</td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Castletown</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>c1700</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>elder to pay his debts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Balloughter or</td>
<td>527</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Highstown</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>c1700</td>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Sold by Isaac Bomford North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>Gnewbane</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>c1700</td>
<td>1784</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Tyrrellstown</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>1702</td>
<td>1729</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>1280</td>
<td>1706</td>
<td>1767</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Rathlisk</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>1709</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Sold by J.G. North-Bomford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Rathleigh</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>1710</td>
<td>1913</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Gallow</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>1710</td>
<td>c1761</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Rattin</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>1710</td>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Sold by Thomas the younger to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Clounstown</td>
<td>399</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>Smithstown</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>1720</td>
<td>c1790</td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Thomasstown</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>1721</td>
<td>c1745</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Reesk</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>1711</td>
<td>1812</td>
<td>elder of Rahinstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Gainstown</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>1711</td>
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<td>1720</td>
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<td>-do-</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Crossanstown</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>1724</td>
<td>c1765</td>
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<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Crossmacoole</td>
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<td>Sold to pay debts of Thomas the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Cullenhue</td>
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<td></td>
<td>elder of Rahinstown</td>
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<td>1724</td>
<td>c1765</td>
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<td>39.</td>
<td>Crossmacoole</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>c1725</td>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Passed to grand-daughters of</td>
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<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Ballywade</td>
<td>1725</td>
<td></td>
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<td>41.</td>
<td>Lackan</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>c1724</td>
<td>c1786</td>
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<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Rathbennett</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>c1724</td>
<td>c1786</td>
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<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>Rathenisky</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1724</td>
<td>c1805</td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Cullenhue</td>
<td>307</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<tr>
<td>45.</td>
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<td>307</td>
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<td>1827</td>
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<td>46.</td>
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<td>214</td>
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<td>1827</td>
<td>William of Cushenstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>47.</td>
<td>Whitestown</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>1725</td>
<td>1740</td>
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<tr>
<td>48.</td>
<td>Dirpatrick</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>1725</td>
<td>c1852</td>
<td>Thomas of Rahinstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>49.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.</td>
<td>Culmullen</td>
<td>901</td>
<td>c1725</td>
<td>c1767</td>
<td>Robert George of Rahinstown</td>
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<tr>
<td>51.</td>
<td>Woodtown</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>c1725</td>
<td>c1800</td>
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52. Weatherstown 193 c1725 c1787 -do-
53. Little Cabra c100 pre-1730 c1761 -do-
54. Milltown 737 1734 1736 Lease terminated
55. Ballymagiddon Carlingford 97 1745 1793 Lease not renewed
- - Thorntown 130 1752 1783
56. - Burgolstown 203 1754 c1780 Sold by William of Delgany and
- Laurestown 130 Clounstown
57. Killyean 151
58. Mucklan
59. Mulgeeth 556
60. Kilshanroe 1761 1782 Kildare Property
61. Milltown 1807 1780 1855 Sold when George the younger of
62. Thornetown 130 Oakley Park was a minor.
- Surgolstown 203
63. Laurestown 130
- Kilmurry 1761
64. Killyan 151
- Mucklan 556
65. Mulgeeth 556
66. Kilshanroe 1761 1782
- Mylerstown 1761 1782 -do-
67. Ballymenallagh 1807 -do-
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 Lease not renewed
68. Killyan 151
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 -do-
69. Clonagh 1591 1761 c1792 Lease not renewed
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 -do-
70. Bellewstown 1591
- Clonagh 1761 1792 -do-
71. Kilshanroe 1761 1792
- Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
72. Bellewstown 1591 1761 c1792 -do-
- Teteitragh c270 1761 c1792 -do-
73. Red Mountain 97
- Ross 463 1781 1782
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Lake Tay 168 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
74. Mylerstown 483 pre-1782 1855 -do-
- Ballinastoe 483 pre-1782 1855 -do-
75. Bellewstown 1591 1761 c1792 -do-
- Teteitragh c270 1761 c1792 -do-
76. Castletown 332 1761 1792 Lease not renewed
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 -do-
77. Killyan 151 1761 1792
- Castletown 332 1761 1792 -do-
78. Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
- Castletown 332 1761 1792 -do-
79. Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
- Bellewstown (Duleek) 1591 1761 c1792 -do-
80. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
81. Ross 463 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
82. Ross 463 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
83. Kilshanroe 1761 1792
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
84. Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
- Bellewstown (Duleek) 1591 1761 c1792 -do-
85. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
86. Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 -do-
- Teteitragh c270 1761 c1792 -do-
87. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
88. Bellewstown 1591 1761 1792 -do-
- Ballymenallagh 1761 1792 -do-
- Teteitragh c270 1761 c1792 -do-
89. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
90. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
91. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
92. Ross 463 1781 1782
- Mylerstown 483 1781 1815 -do-
- Harristown 168 1784 1805 -do-
- Elikirwan 168 1805 -do-
- Ballinastoe (Luggalow) 168 1805 -do-
Appendix ‘C’  The Norman Barons in Ireland

By coincidence the house of Armine David and Joan (Bomford) in Weobley (35.9) near Hereford lies close to the ruins of one of the de Lacy castles, and a visit there led to a study of that family and the other Normans who were concerned with Meath and in particular with Trim, one of the most historic towns in Ireland. Although this has nothing to do with the Bomfords directly, it does give background to the town and country they knew so well.

Walter de Lacy was a Norman knight who arrived in England with William the Conqueror and was granted land in Herefordshire. He built a castle at Weobley and died in 1085; his eldest son Roger fell foul of William II (Rufus, 1087 - 1100) and was banished in 1096, so Weobley Castle came into the hands of Walter’s second son Hugh; Hugh died in 1115 and the castle was passed to his sister Rohesia (Emma). Emma’s son Gilbert took the name de Lacy and inherited; he rebelled against King Stephen in 1138 but made his peace and went on a crusade as a Knight Templar, and on Stephen’s death in 1157 recovered his possessions including Weobley Castle.

In 1170 Gilbert’s son, Hugh de Lacy, went to Ireland with Strongbow, Richard de Clare the 2nd Earl of Pembroke; Strongbow became King of Leinster for which he paid homage to King Henry II, and granted Hugh de Lacy the old Irish Kingdom of Meath (3.2.3) stretching from the Shannon to the sea and consisting of the present counties of Meath, Westmeath, Cavan and Longford. This was the start of England’s connection with Ireland, a largely unhappy union. Hugh, the 1st Lord of Meath, split Meath into Baronies and divided the Kingdom amongst his lesser knights. Thus began the famous names of Tyrrell of Fertullagh and Castlereagh, Fleming of Slane, Petit of Mullingar, Nangle of Navan, Nugent de Delvin, Hugh’s cousin Robert de Lacy of Rathwray and Farbhill, Dalton, Berford and other Norman Barons said to number fifty. One of the earlier Tyrrells, Walter, killed William II with an arrow in the New Forest in 1100. Hugh de Lacy had to capture and control this vast grant so in 1173 built a rough and ready wooden castle at Trim, which he left in the hands of Hugh Tyrrell. However when Hugh Tyrrell was faced by Roderick O’Connor, King of Connaught, and his vast army he burnt and abandoned Trim. Peace of a sort was made when Hugh de Lacy married Roderick O’Connor’s daughter, (she was his second wife), but Hugh was murdered in 1186 whilst inspecting his new castle at Durrow near Tullamore.

Just before Hugh died he met Gerald of Wales (Giraldus Cambrensis, c1146-c1223) who described this remarkable man: “If you will know what manner of man Hugh de Lacie was, you shall understand his eyes were blacke and deeppe, and his nose somewhat flat, like that of an ape; and the right side of his face, from the chin upwards by a mischance, was schrewolie skalled (?) cruelly scarred; his neck was short, and his bodie hairie, as also not fleshie, but sinewish and strong compact; his stature was but small, and his proportion deformed; but in construction he was verie sober, trustie, and modest. ……He was verie greedie and covetous of wealth and possessions, but over much ambitious of honours and reputation.”

Hugh had three sons, Walter and Hugh by his Norman wife, and William by his Irish wife Rosa O’Connor. William died in 1233 but the other two were made Earls. Hugh became the 1st Earl of Ulster, granted by King John in 1205, and later became Chief Constable of Ireland; he died in 1242 aged about 66 having had a daughter Maude (below). Walter, the eldest son born c1173, continued his father’s work and built a number of castles, the main one being at Trim which he completed by 1220, and another at Kells. Nothing remains of the Kells castle, but the Trim one was the largest Anglo-Norman fortress in Ireland of which much can still be seen. There was a personal hiccough in the life of these two brothers as King John repented of making the de Lacy family too strong. In a personal campaign in Ireland in 1100. Hugh de Lacy had to capture and control this vast grant so in 1173 built a rough and ready wooden castle at Trim, which he left in the hands of Hugh Tyrrell. However when Hugh Tyrrell was faced by Roderick O’Connor, King of Connaught, and his vast army he burnt and abandoned Trim. Peace of a sort was made when Hugh de Lacy married Roderick O’Connor’s daughter, (she was his second wife), but Hugh was murdered in 1186 whilst inspecting his new castle at Durrow near Tullamore.

Walter died in 1241 leaving two daughters, and two years later Hugh died without heirs at all. So ended the de Lacy line and the area lost its unity. As the English hold on Ireland deteriorated in the next two centuries only part of Meath remained inside the Pale under the direct rule of Dublin with Trim Castle a strong point on the Pale border. However both these daughters married; Margery, the second daughter, married John de Verdon who inherited the Westmeath portion of the lordship of Meath, Weobley and the other English estates, and died in 1309. Margery’s second son, Theobald de Verdon, married Maude the daughter of Edmund Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, and when she died Theobald married secondly. Elizabeth the widow of John de Burgh and daughter of the Earl of Gloucester. Theobald de Verdon became Justice and Lieutenant of Ireland in 1313. Margery’s eldest son John died in 1296 and the youngest son became ‘Lord of Weobley’.

Walter’s other daughter Maude or Matilda (died 1302) married Geoffrey de Geneville, or Joinville, in 1250 and inherited the Liberty of Trim. Geoffrey, technically Geoffroi, Sire de Vancouleurs,
had been brought up in France but came to the English court of Henry III where he met and wooed Lady Maude de Lacy; she was a fine prize as she was co-heiress, with her sister Margery de Verdon of the vast de Lacy estates in England and Meath. They decided to make Trim their home and set about modernising and extending the great stone castle which served them as a domestic home, as it did to later Lord Lieutenants until about 1350 when, with no family in continuous residence, it began to fall into a state of disrepair. In 1263 Geofffrey and Maude introduced the Dominican Order to Trim and established the Black Friary for the ‘Black Friars’, as the Dominicans were called from the colour of their cowl, just outside the town walls between the Athboy and Navan Gates; this became their family church. After spending, several years fighting in the Ninth Crusade, 1268 - 1272, with Edward, Prince of Wales, Geofffrey returned to Ireland; and, no doubt because he had become the confidential friend of Edward who had by now become King Edward I, he was made Lord Justice of Ireland in 1273. He continued to hold the Lordship of Meath until 1308 when he resigned and spent his remaining six years as a simple monk in the monastery he had founded. His estates passed to his daughter Joan de Geneville (died 1358) who had married Roger Mortimer (died 1330) the Earl of March.

The Mortimer family came from Mortemer-sur-Eaulne in Normandy and had followed William I to England where they were granted much of the estate of Roger of Hereford and had settled at Wigmore. The marriage of Roger and Joan de Geneville forced Roger to leave Wigmore in order to control his Irish estates against his wife’s family, the de Lacys. He was soon to find how the return of an absentee of English birth could arouse the hostility of both Irish and Norman. The junior Lacys and Verdonss were rooted in the Irish soil and had taken many Irish customs; they were often called ‘degenerate English’ by the likes of Roger Mortimer because for one reason they resented the feudal Norman law by which lands and titles passed through the female line, and like the Irish they believed in male succession. When therefore Meath was re-divided in 1308 the junior de Lacys of Rathwire resisted, and even the younger de Verdonss had no love for the chief of their name. Their opportunity occurred in 1315 when Edward Bruce, the brother of King Robert I of Scotland, invaded Ireland and, in the first serious battle the Scots with their 6,000 veterans of Bannockburn clad in mail and a similar number of Irish armed with light axes, swords and spears, defeated the Red Earl of Ulster, Richard de Burgh (see below). Edward Bruce then invaded Meath, was joined by the young de Lacys and de Verdonss, and crumpled up the large but untrained levies in a series of battles culminating at Kells where Roger Mortimer was defeated and the town sacked and burnt. England was slow to react but eventually King Edward II appointed Mortimer his Lieutenant in Ireland, and in 1318 Edward Bruce was slain in battle near Dundalk. There was little thought of vengeance and the de Lacys and de Verdonss, were restored to most of their estates.

Roger Mortimer then concentrated on amassing estates in England and gained a position where, with the assistance of his lover, King Edward’s Queen Isabella, the King was imprisoned and killed. During Edward III’s minority Isabella and Mortimer ruled England. In 1330 apprehensive barons made the young King Edward assume power; Mortimer was hung at Tyburn and Isabella withdrew to luxurious life imprisonment. His grandson, another Roger Mortimer (died 1360) became the 2nd Earl of March, a title derived from the Marches or border region between England and Wales; he became friends with the young King and had most of his estates restored.

The 3rd Earl of March, Edmund Mortimer (died 1381 at Cork) married in 1368 Lady Philippa Plantagenet (1355 - 1381), daughter of Elizabeth de Burgh and Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence and son of King Edward III. This marriage brought Edmund Mortimer both Ulster and Connaught, and the Clare estates, all inherited from Elizabeth de Burgh (below), so with Meath and his marriage into Royalty he became politically very strong. His son Roger, the 4th Earl of March, was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from 1374 until he was killed in a rash attack on the Wicklow clansmen at Kells in Co Kilkenny in 1398.

Edmund was the 5th and last Earl of March. His descent from Lionel, Duke of Clarence, gave him a better claim to the English throne than that of King Henry IV whose father, John of Gaunt, was a younger brother to Lionel. Edmund was therefore kept under close supervision by Henry IV; however he became friendly with the Prince of Wales, Henry of Lancaster, known as Prince Hal, who, when he came to the throne as King Henry V, restored to him his full freedom; Edmund had revealed to King Henry IV that there was a conspiracy to put him on the throne instead of Prince Hal, and that the conspiracy was led by his own brother-in-law, Richard Earl of Cambridge, who consequentially was beheaded in 1415. In 1423 he was made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and in 1425 he died of plague at Trim Castle. Since Edmund was childless all his titles and land passed to his nephew Richard (1411- 1460), son of his sister Anne Mortimer and the Earl of Cambridge. Richard became Duke of York in 1426 and the old English of Ireland and the Gaels transferred their affections to him on the death of his uncle Edmund Mortimer, and remained almost to a man for the White Rose during the Wars of the Roses. Like Edmund, Richard Duke of York was also a contender for the crown so, to get him out of the way, he was sent to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant. He lived for the ten years 1449 - 1459 in Trim and built the square tower of St Patrick’s Cathedral which incorporates a plaque showing his arms; he may also have built the Yellow Steeple.

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Richard returned to England to claim the crown but was killed at the Battle of Wakefield on New Year’s eve 1460, but his son was crowned King Edward IV in 1461. The Earldom of Ulster has since been held by members of the Royal Family. It was Edward IV’s two little Princes who were murdered in the Tower of London aged 12 and 10 by their uncle Richard III. This ruthless usurpation of the throne set up such a public outcry that discontented Englishmen started gathering and finally Richard III, was killed two years later at the Battle of Bosworth Field. That was the end of the Wars of the Roses and the start of the House of Tudor.

The other major family who were tied by marriage to the de Lacy’s was that of de Burgh, Burlee or Bourke, or de Burgo, later to become the Earls and Marquises of Clanricarde of Portumna Castle in Co Galway, a large semi-fortified Jacobean house built in 1618 by the fourth Earl. The family was founded by William de Burgh (died 1206), who went to Ireland with Prince John in 1185 and was consequently granted large tracts of Connaught by King Richard I. He spent much of his time trying to establish his rule there but was not successful. His son Richard (died 1243) was much more successful and was known as “The Great Lord of Connaught”; he made Galway his chief stronghold and built the castle there in 1232. Richard married firstly Una, daughter of Hugh O’Connor King of Connaught, and secondly Egidia, daughter of Walter de Lacy; he had three sons, Richard, Walter and William. William was the ancestor of the now extinct Marquises and Earls of Clanricarde.

The eldest son Richard inherited but died five years after his father in 1248. His brother Walter (c1230 - 1271) took over and continued to fight the Connaught chieftains, and was able to add greatly to his already vast domains; he married Maude, daughter and heir of Hugh de Lacy the younger, Earl of Ulster, and so became the first (de Burgh) Earl of Ulster as well as being Lord of Connaught. Walter was succeeded by his son Richard de Burgh (c1259-1326), the 2nd Earl of Ulster known as “The Red Earl”. He spent most of his 40 years of activity in Ireland, where he was the greatest noble of his day, usually fighting the native Gaels or his Anglo-Norman rivals, the Geraldine’s. He also took his forces to Scotland in aid of Edward I, which ended in Edward’s defeat at the Battle of Bannockburn and the start of Robert Bruce’s reign in Scotland; he was also defeated by Robert’s brother, Edward Bruce, during his invasion of Ulster in 1315.

The 3rd Earl, William de Burgh (1312 - 1333) was the son of John de Burgh and his wife Elizabeth, The Lady of Clare (died 1360). Elizabeth was co-heir and sister of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, who, was killed at Bannockburn in 1314. When William de Burgh was murdered in 1333 by his own tenants near Belfast, he left a daughter, the sole heiress not only of the de Burgh possessions but also of vast de Clare estates, which extended into twenty English counties. This daughter, Elizabeth (1332 - 1363), was married in 1342 at the age of 10, to Lionel Plantagenet, aged 4, the 3rd son of King Edward III. Lionel (1338 - 1368) was made Duke of Clarence (a later form of de Clare) in 1362, after the death of his wife’s grandmother when he inherited the de Clare estates. Their only child Philippa Plantagenet married Edmund Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March (see above).

Trim and its castle were concerned with all the uprisings of medieval Ireland and from the coming of the Normans to around 1350 it was an important centre of power which was then lost to Dublin. There were no castles in Ireland before the Norman invasion. The Norman French was an aggressive race that had already developed a superior art of war and fortification as displayed in England, south Italy and Palestine. Their mounted soldier of gentle blood wore a mail shirt covering his body, thighs and arms, and a conical iron helmet with a guard for the nose. Their horses were light coursers, which had no armoured protection. This equipment proved the right thing for fighting the Gael in rough and wooded terrain and lingered on for some generations, even though elaborate plate armour for man and horse was to become fashionable by 1200. Many of the ordinary Norman soldiers were archers and the arrow was virtually a new device to the Irish, which gave the Normans a distinct advantage. On the other hand the Irish Gael, though given to war and with plenty of natural courage, for the most part fought in linen tunics with light axes, swords and spears. There was a further basic difference, one of attitude; to the Irish kings a battle was intended to achieve an immediate object, and that achieved their amateur armies retired. To the Normans war was a business from which profits were expected; once they won a battle, the next step was to build a castle, impregnable to the Irish, and then to organize the conquered country into baronies and, if necessary, seek a charter for it from Earl or King. This is what they did in Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland. Strongbow invaded, won and placed his barons throughout the conquered land, - Fitzgerald of Naas, Bermingham of Carbury in Co Kildare, Carew of Carlow, de Lacy of Meath, and so on; thus were Ireland.
son John, later to become king, to Ireland largely because Hugh de Lacy had taken an Irish wife and had aroused Henry’s suspicions that he meant to make himself King of Ireland; Ulster was another area of worry, de Courcy who had never submitted to King Henry was ousted by the younger Hugh de Lacy who was in turn ousted by de Burgh. Thus the balance of power swung from one family to another. The persistent flaw in English rule in Ireland was the absence of the monarch himself, and so at anyone time there was a handful of men who controlled the greater part of Ireland and whose feudal interests formed a hedge, which the Crown was not likely to break through.

Another barrier to the control of Ireland was that those Normans who first invaded the country were a family party from South Wales. Their overlord was the Earl of Pembroke, and the King of England was their even more remote overlord, but loyalty to both sat lightly upon them. Almost every one of them had Welsh Celtic blood and so were well qualified to master and to understand the Irish Celts. It was no great step for them to delight in the music, language, and ancient epics of Ireland. Nationalism was scarcely known to these men, who had come over as Frenchmen and had not the time to become English. They were proud of their blood, speech and traditions, but they were adaptable and could treat as equals any race that they could respect. Their inclination was towards the Irish Celts rather than the Anglo-Saxons; they spoke French but already knew something of the Celtic speech from their time in Wales, and probably their knowledge of the English language was even less. Indeed even in England French was the official language of the country, and it was not until the mid-1300’s that English was made the official language. These Normans were only too ready to make happy marriages with Irish princesses, and in time they were to become more Irish than the Irish becoming, as they were later termed by the English, “degenerate Irish”.

When the Normans arrived in Trim they would have found that the town contained a couple of churches; St Patrick’s, supposedly on the site of the first church built in the area by Saint Patrick in 432, and, a few hundred yards away, St Mary’s Abbey, later called Talbot’s Castle, which was then a monastery with a bell tower. St Mary’s was burnt in 1368 and the present Trim landmark of the Yellow Steeple was built after the fire. By the mid-1600’s the Abbey had decayed but the Steeple was maintained as a watchtower until it was partly destroyed at the time of Cromwell.

Just before the Normans arrived, the Synod of Kells of 1152 amalgamated the small monastic diocese of Trim, Ardbraccan, Slane, Duleek, and Clonard to form the Diocese of Meath; Kells was later united into the diocese. The bishop of this larger diocese lived at Clonard, which already had a splendid monastic history of the early Irish Church. When the Normans gained power they placed their own people into positions of power in the church. In 1194 Simon de Rochfort became the first Anglo-Norman Bishop of Meath, but Clonard, being on the edge of the Pale about 12 miles south-west of Trim, was not the safest place for an Anglo-Norman bishop to live and, indeed, Clonard was attacked and burned soon after Simon de Rochfort was installed. In 1206 Simon moved to a-site beside the Boyne about half a mile to the east of Trim where in 1202 he had started to build the Priory of Saints Peter and Paul, and the largest Cathedral in Ireland in Gothic style. Although de Rochfort enjoyed the confidence and support of the powerful de Lacys, he sited his buildings far enough away from Trim to avoid paying taxes and tolls to the Lords of Trim. The Priory was completed in 1206 and given into the care of the Victorine friars, an Augustinian Canon Regular. Simon de Rochfort died in 1224 and was buried in front of the high altar in his cathedral. The church continued to serve as Cathedral until the suppression of the monasteries at the Reformation. There was no cathedral in Meath from that date until 1955 when St Patrick’s, Trim, was elevated to cathedral status.
The Famine

Appendix ‘D’

1 Background

There is no doubt that the Oakley Park Bomfords were respected and liked by the local people. Memories are long in Ireland and this respect originated from the Famine period, ten years or so after George and Arbella first arrived at Kells. Nothing much is known about the family during the famine except that they had a soup kitchen at Oakley Park and George was one of the Guardians of the Kells workhouse, being chairman in 1851; the lists of tenants before and after the famine shows the same names so there were no eviction or families wiped out. However since the whole tenor of life changed during this period it might make understanding easier if a few notes were made and to do so we must retrace history.

Ireland was first invaded by England in 1169 but it was never subdued. Land was confiscated and redistributed over and over again and the population brought to the verge of extinction; after Cromwell’s conquest only about a half million Irish survived, and they were mostly transplanted to Connaught with some to Munster. During the next two hundred years the population increased to about eight and a quarter million in 1841. Although there were uprisings these 200 years were fairly stable and the people were light-hearted and gay; they enjoyed dancing, telling stories, and conversation. Their mode of life gave plenty of time for this since their staple diet - the potato required little attention except in the spring and at harvest. They were also lucky because turf was plentiful and cost little or nothing, so their hovels were always warm. Poteen, or illicit whiskey, was also plentiful. The way of life was easy, enough food for little work giving time to attend a dance at the cross-roads, a fair or a funeral, a horse race, a fight or a wedding. Crowds of neighbours would gaily travel vast distances to attend these, with liberal potations of Poteen when all their worries would be forgotten.

Good manners and hospitality were universal even amongst the poorest. Sir John Carr wrote in the early 1800’s, “ The neighbour or the stranger finds every man’s door open, and to walk in without ceremony at meal time and to partake of his bowl of potatoes, is always sure to give pleasure to everyone of the house”; and twenty years later Sir Walter Scott found “perpetual kindness in the Irish cabin; buttermilk, potatoes, a stool is offered, or a stone is rolled that your honour may sit down”; the young daughter of a British Army officer, Elizabeth Ham, was astonished to find that just after the 1798 rebellion she could wander without fear of molestation, whilst in England she could not go into the fields or woods alone.

Irish dignity, Irish hospitality and the easy good manners, which still charm the modern traveller, can be explained. Three times at least the native aristocracy was conquered and dispossessed, and forced down by poverty and penal legislation to the economic level of the peasantry. That figure of fun in Victorian days, the Irish beggar who claimed to be descended from Kings, was very often speaking the truth.

There was a darker and more sinister side to the Irish character. A land agent said just before the famine, “they are a very desperate people, with all this degree of courtesy, hospitality and cleverness amongst them”. Their blend of courage and evasiveness, tenacity and inertia, loyalty and double-dealing was almost totally due to the 1695 Penal Laws which barred Roman Catholics from every civic activity, be it law, commerce or the army. They were not allowed to attend school, their church services were illegal meetings and their priests were outlawed. But what probably led to the greatest hardship was that they could not purchase land and, if they owned land, it had to be split among all the sons on the death of the father; this led to minute holdings and forced families to rely on the potato which could supply a family for a year on as little as an acre and a half of ground. Most families had no land at all and these would offer their labour to a landowner in exchange for a small plot of land. There was little or no security in this but at least they could feed themselves and generally the only money, which came in, was from the sale of a pig or hens. A ‘good’ landlord would care in a feudal way for ‘his’ families and gain their respect, whereas a ‘bad’ landlord would suffer at the hands of secret societies. These societies flourished because the law did not give the peasant justice, so he set up his own law which punished, with dreadful savagery, the informer, the supplanter of an evicted tenant, or the landlord’s man. To protect his land and so his food, or his priest, he must be secret, cunning, and a concealer of the truth. Those were dangerous lessons for any government to compel its subjects to learn, and a dangerous habit of mind for any nation to acquire.

Thus the potato became the staple diet, but it was the most dangerous of crops. It could not be stored from one season to another, so every year all those with no regular employment more or less starved in the summer, when the old potatoes were finished and the new had not come in. These summer months were called the ‘mealy months’, and meal had to be bought at the cost of the sale of the pig or more usually on credit at exorbitant interest from the dreaded ‘Combeen Man’. More serious still, if the
potato did fail, neither meal nor anything else could replace it because no such equally cheap food existed, and even if it did the peasant simply did not have the money to pay for it.

Yet the British Government felt no apprehension about the potato crop, it was only concerned with the problems arising from Ireland’s perennial rebelliousness and from the swarming poverty-stricken population. Far worse was the rejection by the London Government of its own promises made in the Act of Union of 1801 - free trade, Catholic emancipation, unprejudiced laws and so on. These broken promises not only incensed the peasantry but the landed gentry as well, and by 1840 the London Government made up its mind that the property of Ireland must support the poverty of Ireland. This meant that those with property had to pay for those without, a fine principle if shared equally throughout the whole Union of 1801. In Ireland this would mean a gigantic expenditure of at least five million pounds a year and there was no possibility of raising such a sum in Ireland. Such were the consequences of the 1838 Irish Poor Law Act, and the so-called Act of Union meant nothing to the Irish but gave the English the right to do whatever they wanted in Ireland. In the 45 years since the Union no fewer than 114 Commissions and 61 Special Committees were instructed to report on the state of Ireland, and without exception their findings prophesied disaster; Ireland was on the verge of starvation, her population rapidly increasing, three-quarters of her labourers unemployed, housing conditions appalling and the standard of living unbelievably low.

Failure of the potato crop had occurred 24 times between 1728 and 1844, but only on four occasions was the failure total throughout the country. Thus the unreliability of the potato was an accepted fact and in 1845 the possibility of yet another failure caused no particular alarm.

The 1845 failure was total and was caused by the ‘American Blight’, a new disease that had crossed the Atlantic that year and which was completely new to Europe.

The Blight

As the 1845 potato crop was dug it was found that it had either rotted in the ground or that it was dug sound but rotted, when it was stored. Disastrous reports poured in from all parts of the country. Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, acting on his own responsibility and without waiting for Treasury sanction ordered £100,000 worth of Indian maize, to be purchased in the United States and shipped to Ireland. This proved to be the decisive factor in relieving the distress of 1845 - 1846, but it was never Peel’s plan to simply feed it to the starving population. His plan was to hold it in reserve and ‘thrown in whenever food prices rose unreasonably. The theory was one of “laissez faire”, that the people do as they think best and that the government should interfere as little as possible; this economic theory was held by almost every politician of the day and was a fanatical belief in private enterprise. Peel’s only worry was that the private traders would raise the price of food beyond the means of the Irish. Maize was purchased since no trade in maize existed thus no one could complain of Government interference “in a trade which did not exist”, and he could at will release some maize to hold down the price of other foodstuffs.

The first flaw in the plan was the undeveloped state of the food and provision trade in the west and southwest, hardly anyone purchased food at all; they grew potatoes and lived on them. There was no organisation on the English model for importing and distributing supplies, so when food ran out there was no-one to order up a new supply, there was no means of moving the food, and, even if it did arrive, there were no village shops to sell it.

The second flaw was that the potato, not money, was the basic factor by which the value of labour was determined. Farmers gave their labourers a cabin and a piece of potato ground, and the rent was worked off in days of labour at wages varying from 4d to 8d a day. These wages were not given in money into the labourer’s hand, but set off against his rent, and they did not represent the real reward for his labour. The real reward was the patch of potato ground. Customarily the only dealing in money was the receipt of a few shillings from the sale of a pig, and this provided such clothing as the family possessed. Indeed Mr Campbell Foster when visiting Galway in 1846 found “So little do the people know of the commercial value of money that they are constantly in the habit of pawning it”; a pawnbroker showed him a drawer full of coins and notes of high value which had been pawned; they included a, £10 note pawned for 10/- and a gold guinea pawned for 15/-.

It is inconceivable that these two flaws in the theory of non-interference by the Government were not understood by those in high office and this led to many decisions during the famine, which can only be described as gross stupidity. However it was realized that the principal cause of Irish misery was the bad relations between landlord and tenant. The landlord was of English extraction whereas the tenant was Irish and so completely is the history of one the reverse of the other that to the Englishman the name of Elizabeth the First means glory, victory and prosperity, but to the Irishman her name only means degradation, misery and ruin; in the defeat of the Armada, Ireland’s hopes for independence went down. The more recent Napoleonic Wars were the same; England’s gain was Ireland’s loss. (It was found, when Oakley Park was partly demolished, that the underside of a floorboard had “Long Live Napoleon” carved
on it). The uprising of 1798 was a glorious though unsuccessful bid for freedom to the Irish, but was
condemned by the English as a “Rebellion” in which the Irish tried to stab her in the back at a time when
she was having difficulties with the French. This basic difference in outlook through the centuries caused
many landlords to live in England on the rents of his Irish estates. In 1842 it was estimated that about six
million pounds of rents were being remitted out of Ireland by the agents of the absentee landlord.
The agents were given almost absolute power and their ability was measured by the amount of money they
could contrive to extract from the tenant. Colonel Connolly of Castletown, Co Kildare, said in the House
of Lords in 1846 “where the landlords have never seen their estates, you can hardly suppose that their
sympathies are very strong for the suffering they have never witnessed”.

There were notable exceptions particularly amongst those landlords who resided on their own
lands; the names of those, who were sympathetic to the misery of their labour or tenants, survive and are
regarded with affection amongst the Irish today.

The tenant only felt secure if his rent had been paid; when it was in arrears he had to find the
money or he could be evicted, and since his land meant food he must above all somehow raise the rent
money, even if it meant that his family should suffer. That patch of potato ground must above all be kept,
for even if the crop failed one year it was unlikely to fail the next year. The possession of a piece of land
was literally the difference between life and death. “Ejection” the House of Commons was told in 1846
“is tantamount to a sentence of death by slow torture”. Turned off the land, evicted families wandered
about begging, “miserable and turbulent”, and “they die in a little time”. The lucky few were those who
found a roof over their heads in an unwanted room in a town, where they crowded in and perhaps four or
five families would lie huddled together in a garret or cellar without proper clothes or bedding or food,
while the men scavenged for casual labour, which was seldom to be had.

The Famine Relief

When the extent of the potato blight was known in the autumn of 1845 a Famine Relief
Commission was set up, backed by the Commissariat department of the British Army. This organisation
was similar to that which had been set up on previous famine occasions and its duty was to organise local
Committees to raise subscriptions, to buy food for resale to distressed persons and to increase local
employment schemes; the Irish Board of Works was to create extra employment by the traditional method
of making new roads. The fact that these measures had been tried in 1839 and found to be useless was
ignored by the politicians. It had been found for instance that some subscriptions could be raised in the
richer farming counties, but in the very area where the poorer people lived even the landlords were
virtually destitute; in, for instance, Kerry it was impossible for enough money to be collected locally to
relieve the people because the majority of the landlords were hopelessly insolvent and relied on money
coming from the rents from year to year. Famine naturally meant virtually no income from rents.
However desperate were the needs of their tenants the landlords were powerless to give any help. The
purchase of food for resale to the distressed was equally useless, families simply did not have any money
once the pig or hen had been sold. Similarly it had been found that an increase of local employment relied
on landlord’s schemes, but many of the landlords could not pay additional wages; indeed in the most
distressed areas just the opposite happened, since no rents were being paid labour was actually laid off,
because the landlord could not even afford to carry the usual number of working men. Many landlords did
in fact overstretch themselves and never recovered, some actually had to sell their encumbered estates. It
was a near thing at Oakley Park where George and Arbella, having spent much of their money before the
famine on the extension to the house, spent more on building walls and other improvements around the
place to give famine employment; but having denuded their bank balance they were left with an income
only from the land, and so as time passed land was sold to make ends meet. It was the famine, which
started the beginning of the end of the large landlord.

In the long and troubled history of England and Ireland no issue has provoked so much anger, or
so embittered relations between the two countries, as the indisputable fact that huge quantities of food
were exported from Ireland to England throughout the period when the people of Ireland were dying of
starvation. John Mitchell asserted that a ship sailing into an Irish port during the famine with a cargo of
grain was “sure to meet six ships sailing out with a similar cargo”. The Government was urged to take
measures to stop this export but without success, the idea of no interference was too entrenched. It seems
odd that the Irish sold their grain when they were starving, but it must be appreciated that the art of
cooking food other than the potato had become a lost art; the oven, for instance, was unknown in the west
of Ireland. The people did not regard wheat, oats and barley as food - they were grown to pay the rent,
which was the first necessity of life in Ireland. It would be a desperate man who ate up his rent with the
certainty before him of eviction and death. Nor was this only true of the poorest. A farmer with a holding
of above average size on the Marquess of Conyngham’s estate near Slane reported to the 1846
Commission “Not a bit of bread have I eaten since I was born, nor a bit of butter. We sell all the corn and
the butter to give to the landlord (for rent) yet I have the largest farm in the district and am as well off as any man in the county.”

Nevertheless the harsh truth that the poverty of the peasant and the power of the landlord, gave the Irish a burning sense of injustice and he was furiously resentful when food left the towns under the eyes of the hungry populace, protected by a military escort. The commissariat officer wrote from Waterford in April 1846, “...the barge leaves Clonmel once a week for this place. Last Tuesday the convoy consisted of 2 guns, 50 cavalry and 80 infantry”. This was a sight which the Irish people found impossible to understand and impossible to forget.

In March 1846 Sir Robert Peel introduced an Act to give some employment to the destitute. Each Barony supplied a committee, which could propose local works, pass their proposal to Dublin and, if passed, the work was to be carried out with government funds, half being a grant and half a loan to be repaid by the Barony to the Treasury. The works were put into operation and administered by the Irish Board of Works; it was a heavy and difficult task. Business like habits and technical knowledge were rare in backward Ireland. Moreover the Board of Works had only recently been established and were lamentably under-staffed with only three members and a ‘niggardly office establishment’. Although its duties were exclusively Irish, the Board was under the control of the Treasury and every item of expenditure however small had to be sent to London for approval by the Treasury together with estimates and plans.

The Board’s difficulties were immediately increased by the arrival of a deluge of applications, which overwhelmed the inadequate organisation. The Government had failed to realise the financial attraction to the landowners of the Act. Half the money was a free grant and 20 years were allowed for the repayment of the remaining half. Landlords hurried to secure a share of government money and before the end of May applications had been placed for no less than £800,000. But the applications piled up unanswered, employment did not begin and the country became rebellious.

The potato crop had failed in 1845 and the poor had sold everything they had to feed themselves during that winter. Many had not succeeded and by the spring of 184.6 there were many thousands of deaths due to starvation. The Government in London had failed to foresee the size of the problem and had acted too late. When the works did start the numbers who applied for employment were frightening. Tens of thousands appeared for work at 6d or 8d a day. This amount gave one meal a day to a family of six, and as long as a family had one member working then that family would survive - just. But no amount of work could be arranged so that every family could be kept alive and vast numbers died before the next crop of potatoes were ready to be dug. It was not long before the Indian corn which Peel had ordered was finished, and officials in Ireland implored the Government to order more.

While this was going on the Peel Government fell and a new one was elected which had even less sympathy for the Irish ‘problem’; and then, far worse for the Irish, the 1846 potato crop also failed. The new Government had accepted the fact that the failure of the crop for the second year would cause starvation in Ireland on a vast scale. Their policy makes astonishing reading, for the Government decreed that they would not import food from abroad into Ireland; whatever might be done by starting public works and paying wages, the provision of food for Ireland was to be left entirely to private enterprise and private traders; and they knew that private traders would not import food for people who simply did not have the money to pay for it. They ignored the fact that the policy of ‘laissez faire’ had failed before and was a current failure. There is no excuse for the complete lack of understanding of the problem and their decision to do nothing has been described as genocide - race murder. The people were already exhausted and plans. Autumn 1846 passed into winter. The nettles and blackberries, the edible roots and cabbage leaves, on which hundreds of people had been eking out an existence, disappeared, even the cats and dogs...
disappeared; flocks of wretched beings, resembling human scarecrows, had combed the blighted potato fields over and over again until not a fragment of a potato remained. Then in November it seemed that nature herself was enrolled among the enemies of unhappy Ireland.

The Winter of 1846 - 1847 was “the most severe in living memory”, and the longest. Snow fell, six inches and drifts were reported from Tyrone at the early date of November 12th; frost was continuous; icy gales from the northeast blew “perfect hurricanes of snow, hail and sleet”, with a force unknown since the ‘Great Wind’ of January 1839 (25.3.4); roads were impassable and transport was brought to a standstill. Country folk unsure of their age would say later on, “I could hold a potato in me hand on the night of the Big Wind”, indicating that they had been born before 1839 and before the Famine.

Under normal circumstances this weather would have caused hardship but the Irish peasant would weather the storm by simply staying indoors, with a plentiful supply of turf for warmth and potatoes for food. Although he was dressed in rags and his children were naked, except for a single garment, he would be warm in his cabin. Now he must go out in his rags to labour on the public works, be drenched with rain and driven snow, and cut by the icy gales; but more often than not, he was already starving. Even by the end of November reports contained a rapidly increasing number of cases of deaths on the works from starvation, aggravated by exposure to the cold.

The people became bewildered. They had taken in very little of what was happening. Their knowledge of the country hardly extended beyond their parish. At this period Irish was spoken in rural districts and English barely understood, while in the west English was not understood at all. No attempt was made to explain the catastrophe to the people; on the contrary, Government officials treated the destitute with impatience and contempt; the wretched, ragged crowds provoked irritation, heightened by the traditional English distrust and dislike of the native Irish.

Fear hung over the country like a cloud. Bewilderment was succeeded by panic, the unreasoning terror that makes animals stampede and which, a little later, brought about the headlong flight from Ireland in the famine emigration. At this stage those living in the country fled to the towns in the hope that they would get some food. They slept in ditches and doorways; they begged and were driven away. 5,000 beggars roamed the streets of Cork and died there at the rate of 100 a week; similar reports came in from all towns.

Meanwhile the numbers employed on the public works leapt upwards with frightening rapidity; 30,135 in September; 150,259 in October; 285,817 in November; and the Board of Works, hopelessly under staffed were utterly unable to deal with such numbers. On December 8 the returns showed that 300,000 persons were employed at a monthly cost of £500,000, and the final total for December was between 450,000 and 500,000 persons. The works had to continue in spite of the weather, snow covered the country and in Mayo it was so deep that the works could not even be seen.

As the months passed more were employed, even women and children. In January 1847 the figure was nearly 600,000 and in February more than 700,000. The daily expenditure was just over £30,000; the weekly cost more than £172,000. With such outlay it was natural that the local baronies slid into insolvency even though the Government paid half.

The Government now decided on a radical change of policy. There was to be “a new scheme for feeding the people”, and they were to be given soup. Soup kitchens were a favourite philanthropic activity of the period and Irish resident gentry had been for some months making soup privately and distributing it from their own kitchens. The Government planned to finance the scheme initially but payment would be made from the local rates. The scheme was admirable on paper but it ignored the fact that it depended on the collection of rates, which in a large number of districts was practically impossible. Even before the famine it took 700 troops besides police to collect the poor rate in Galway; and in March 1844, the year before the famine, in Mayo it took one warship, two revenue cutters, two companies of the 69th Regiment, a troop of 10th Hussars and 100 police, and then only one quarter of the rates were collected. Dean Kirwan calculated that each shilling had cost a pound or more to buy it.

As the months passed more were employed, even women and children. In January 1847 the figure was nearly 600,000 and in February more than 700,000. The daily expenditure was just over £30,000; the weekly cost more than £172,000. With such outlay it was natural that the local baronies slid into insolvency even though the Government paid half.

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Yet the British Government now assumed that, when Ireland was famine stricken and disorganised, a poor rate could be collected which would almost certainly be ten to fifty times larger than
ever before. Further, the workhouses themselves were not in a condition to become centres for relief as was planned; they were paid for by the rates and from the day they opened they were insolvent, dirty and disorganised, and at this moment several were on the point of closing their doors. It was on this tottering structure that the British Government planned to place an enormous load and resolutely refused to admit that the immense rates required could not be collected.

Nevertheless the introduction of soup was greeted at first with enthusiasm. Good soup, if accompanied by a piece of bread or meal-cake, was of value, and private persons, often of moderate means, kept hundreds of people alive by distributing it. Much of the soup, however, was not so much soup for the poor as poor soup; it was complained that soup “runs through them without affording any nourishment” and that, to the very large number of people suffering from dysentery, it was “actually injurious”.

The demand for soup became impossible to satisfy; to a starving person soup, no matter how bad, was better than nothing. In West Cork, for instance, towards the end of January 1847, 31,000 pints were being distributed daily. But, wrote Mr Bishop, not one tenth of the destitute could be supplied; it was “a mere drop in the ocean”. Crowds waited, hour after hour, sometimes all night, and savage struggles took place when the distribution began.

February was the worst month of that terrible winter. Board of Works inspectors reported heavier falls of snow and fiercer gales; roads were again impassable, carts could not travel, horses sank into drifts and had to be dug out, the streets of towns and villages became “full of starving paupers”. Families without food or fuel took to their beds, and “very many perished unknown”. “People sink”, wrote Mr Bishop, “they have no stamina left, they say ‘It is the will of God’ and die.”

The British Government, however, had come to a further decision far more important than setting up soup kitchens - the scheme of relief by employment was to be abandoned. The public works had failed, the expenditure had been enormous, the work hopelessly inefficient, the right persons had not been employed; there had been violence, corruption, scandals. The new scheme was presented to the House of Commons on January 25 and decreed that the old works would slowly close down, all distressed people would be classed as paupers and as paupers they would be given relief paid for by the local rates and organised by the workhouses. It was obvious to all in Ireland that the workhouses were already full to overflowing and were without exception in debt because the poor rates could not be collected. To place the additional vast expense of feeding the hordes of people working on the relief works onto the workhouses, which were already in debt, was an intolerable decision. By March the public works were costing £40,000 a day of which, in the old scheme, half was being paid by the British Government. In effect the new scheme meant that the Government would contribute nothing. The whole amount had to be paid by Ireland and those in England could wash their hands of the Irish Problem, could conveniently forget the Act of Union and contribute nothing, and let Ireland take care of itself. It was an outrageous decision, which caused an outcry even in England.

The soup kitchens were slow to come into operation and by March those, which were operating, were feeding many thousands daily, but there were far too few and only a very small percentage of the population were being fed. Consequently throughout February and March the public works continued and in many areas took on additional destitute workers. In fact these were the worst months of death by starvation, and hundreds of letters poured in to the Government reporting on horrors, beseeching for food, and making suggestions many of which nowadays appear very reasonable. In spite of public opinion the Government insisted that the public works be closed down on March 20. They appear to have been concerned with only one thing - the cost. From the point of view of those who were turned off the works there was, as one of the discharged wrote, “nothing to do but bar the door, lie down and die”.

5

Famine Fever

And now, as if starvation was not enough, a new terror assailed the Irish people. The Government had been warned in the Autumn of 1846 that after famine “there, will follow, as a natural consequence, as in former years, typhus fever or some other malignant pestilence”; and fever, on a gigantic scale, was now beginning to ravage the land.

Typhus is a horrifying disease and had occurred in Ireland after previous famines; in fact it was known to the Irish as ‘famine fever’. It is primarily transmitted by the louse which itself has typhus. If the infected louse is crushed its blood, infected with bacteria now called Rickettsia will enter the slightest scratch on the skin. Even more infectious than the louse’s blood is its dust-like excrement. Thus benevolent persons who gave aid to the victims of the great epidemic of 1847, clergy, nuns, doctors, resident landlords, and government officials, contracted typhus and died, though they themselves may never have harboured a louse. The very people who were helping the destitute died in huge numbers. In Cavan, upper-class mortality from typhus was estimated at 66%. Typhus attacks the small blood vessels of the body, especially those of the skin and the brain, and the patient becomes unrecognisable; his face
Osborne, later one of Florence Nightingale's helpers in the Crimea, visited workhouses and hospitals and distended; in many cases the children's jawbones were so distended that they could not speak. Sidney seemed to have disappeared; hair was thin. The worst sufferers were the children; starving children were parchment and hung in folds; eyes had sunk back into the head; shoulder bones were so high that the neck skeletons. The bones were covered with something, which was skin but appeared like rough dry

February 1848.

Of 1846 - 1847. The people were filthy. They had sold every stitch that would fetch a fraction of a penny, 1847 the House of Commons was informed that “some cases” of fever had occurred but that “the

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Continued famine and low living - in which the limbs and then the body swell most frightfully and finally oedema’. William Bennett described it in March 1847 as “that horrid disease - the results of long

Another appalling condition, not infectious, was called ‘famine dropsy’ and now called ‘hunger oedema’. William Bennett described it in March 1847 as “that horrid disease - the results of long continued famine and low living - in which the limbs and then the body swell most frightfully and finally burst”. Elihu Burritt, an American, saw men whose bodies were swollen to twice their natural size at work on the public works; and a boy of twelve whose body had swollen so much that it had actually burst the only garment he wore.

Scurvy was also general. The progress of scurvy is painful and revolting; gums become spongy, teeth fall out, joints become enlarged and cause acute suffering. Blood vessels burst under the skin, especially on the legs, which turn black up to the thigh.

The courage of those who came to the help of the people is beyond praise. Doctors and clergy suffered the most deaths, but very many others also died. It is thought that the majority of those well-to-do people who died between 1846 and 1848 probably died of typhus or dysentery; one instance could be Robert George Bomford of Rahinstown who died unexpectedly aged 45 in Dublin in December 1846. Although the destruction of the potato crop itself did not seriously afflict the middle-class people of Dublin, the fever did affect the whole community. The primitive sanitation in Dublin encouraged epidemics of typhus and dysentery, which reached their peaks in June 1847 and continued unabated until February 1848.

By the spring of 1847 starvation had so reduced the people that they seemed to be walking skeletons. The bones were covered with something, which was skin but appeared like rough dry parchment and hung in folds; eyes had sunk back into the head; shoulder bones were so high that the neck seemed to have disappeared; hair was thin. The worst sufferers were the children; starving children were skeletons, many too far gone to be able to walk. The children’s bones were affected, they became brittle and distended; in many cases the children’s jawbones were so distended that they could not speak. Sidney Osborne, later one of Florence Nightingale’s helpers in the Crimea, visited workhouses and hospitals and never heard a single child utter a moan or a cry of pain, “they lie two, three or four in a bed, unmoving” and with an “unmeaning vacant stare”.

The British Government was unwilling to admit that any epidemic was likely to occur. In January 1847 the House of Commons was informed that “some cases” of fever had occurred but that “the
accounts given to the contrary were undoubtedly inaccurate”. Nothing was initiated for a few months; it was “better to depend on the ordinary law”. However in March the Government bowed to the public outcry and 373 temporary fever hospitals opened and 473 additional doctors were engaged, but as usual it was too little and too late. In April the Government ceased to assert that no fever epidemic was taking place in Ireland, and a new Irish Fever Bill was introduced. This was slow to come into operation but once started it could only be a success.

In April the epidemic seems to have reached its height in the country when, in a single week, April 3 - 10, 2613 inmates of workhouses were reported to have died. This figure was only part of the total; it does not include the many thousands who died that week in their own homes or in the ditches. The height of the epidemic continued from April into August when it started to subside, but it continued on well into the next year.

### Emigration - North America

Before the potato failure, to leave Ireland had been regarded as the most terrible of fates, and transportation was the most dreaded of sentences. But now the people, terrified and desperate, began to flee a land, which seemed accursed. In a great mass movement they made their way, by tens of thousands, out of Ireland, across the sea to Britain, or across the ocean to America. Yet they did not leave fever behind; fever went with them, and the path to a new life became a path of horror. Historically the famine emigration was the most important event of the famine.

It was the famine emigrants who left their country with hatred in their hearts for the British and the British Government, who built up communities across the ocean, above all in the United States, where the name of Britain was accursed and whose descendants continued to be Britain’s powerful and bitter enemies. It is estimated that more than a million emigrants from Ireland crossed to North America during the years of the potato blight; and there was an even larger emigration across the Irish Sea to Liverpool, Glasgow and the Welsh ports.

The famine emigration was of a less civilized and less skilled people into a more civilized and more skilled community. Other emigrations have been of the sturdy and the independent in search of wider horizons, and such emigrants usually brought with them knowledge and technical, skills which the inhabitants of the country in which they settled did not possess. The Irish brought nothing except their abysmal poverty and in many, many cases disease. Their standard of living was far below that of the host country and so, for instance, they lived in places considered unfit for human beings. Cellar dwellings, whether in English towns or the cities of North America, were almost invariably occupied by the Irish. Poverty, ignorance and bewilderment brought them there, but it must not be forgotten that cellar dwellings resembled the dark, mud-floored cabins in which over half the population of Ireland had been accustomed to live under British rule.

Very few of the poor Irish of the famine emigration were destined to achieve prosperity and success themselves; the condition to which the people had been reduced by the famine was too severe a handicap, and it was the fate of the Irish emigrants to be regarded with aversion and contempt. It was not until the second or third generation that Irish intelligence, quickness of apprehension and wit asserted themselves, and the children and the grandchildren of the emigrants became successful and powerful in the countries of their adoption, Henry Ford is typical.

At the beginning of the famine, a passage to America for a man, his wife and four small children travelling from Belfast to Quebec cost £6, but if he went in an American ship to New York it was £21. The main reason for this difference was that the ships on the Quebec run came to Europe with timber and would have travelled back in ballast if it were not for the ‘passenger trade’. It was therefore natural that most of the Irish emigrants travelled to Quebec in Canada although nearly all were destined to go to the United States. However the ‘passenger’ could not expect much for such a fare; by law the ship had to produce seven pounds weight of provisions per person weekly and three quarts of water per person daily.

At the start of the famine the first emigrants were “all well clad and very respectable looking”, they were mostly small farmers who had been considering emigration for some time. They were often in large parties, 30 to 40 strong, who came from the same district with their belongings in two or three carts and anything from ten to thirty pounds in their pockets. Unhappily the situation was to change all too soon. Throughout the autumn of 1846 and until the ice closed the St. Lawrence an ‘unprecedented’ immigration of the Irish, of the poorest class, reached Quebec. The majority had left without any ‘sea store’, though to depend on the 7 pounds of provisions legally due to them was unheard of and most, on arrival, did not even have the sixpence, which was the steamer fare from Quebec to Montreal. These unfortunates were the first of the panic-stricken thousands. During the winter, when the Canadian ports were closed, about 30,000 persons found the means for a winter passage to the United States, and the condition of destitution in which the majority landed filled the United States authorities with anger. Congress took immediate action and entry was restricted.
Meanwhile as the winter of 1846 - 1847 passed into spring, the horror of fever was added to starvation. In February 1847 the headlong flight from Ireland began. The roads to the ports, wrote Trevelyen, were thronged with emigrants many of whom had the fever on them. Of course fever broke out on the ships and many ships arrived with as few as 25% of those who embarked. The term “Coffin Ships” originated from this period.

The St Lawrence opened in mid-May 1847 and the torrent of emigrants started immediately. By 31st May forty vessels were lying off Grosse Isle, the Quarantine station, with 10,000 emigrants on board; and a further 45,000 emigrants at least were expected. Dr Douglas in charge of the Quarantine station reported that “in all these vessels cases of fever and dysentery had occurred”, and the dysentery was bacillary dysentery.

The state of the emigrants as they landed was frightful. Arriving vessels “had not one really healthy person on board”; passengers “trottered” on shore at Grosse Island, ‘spectre-like wretches’, ‘emaciated’, ‘feeble’, ‘cadaverous’. Very many had passed the voyage in a state of starvation. The official weekly issue of 7 pounds of provisions was intended to guard against absolute destitution, but “it never could have been expected to be enough to sustain an adult through the voyage”, reported a United States Senate Committee. Yet “complete reliance on this issue had been practised to an immense extent by the Irish in voyages to Quebec they arrive so emaciated and prostrate that they have to go at once to hospital”.

The reports can be impersonal but Robert Whyte, a cabin passenger, travelled from Liverpool on April 1st to Quebec and kept a diary. His brig carried Irish emigrants, among them a party of tenants from Meath who were being sent out by their landlord. He observed that the emigrants depended entirely for food on the 7 pounds of provisions. The captain made an issue daily, as otherwise the week’s rations would have been eaten on the first day; a few emigrants brought one or two salt herrings, but most had nothing. Cooking was done on “a large wooden case lined with bricks”. This stove was always surrounded by bickering emigrants, “quarrels only ended at 7 p.m. when Jack in the shrouds poured water on the fire, still surrounded by miserable squabbling groups, who snatched up their pots and pans and, half blinded by steam, descended into the hold with their half cooked supper”, the emigrants however “never got angry with Jack, however much he teased them”. The captain and his wife were kindly enough; she, was called ‘The Mistress’ and she dosed the sick with porridge containing laudanum, and a half blinded by steam, descended into the hold with their half cooked supper”, the emigrants however “never got angry with Jack, however much he teased them”. The captain and his wife were kindly enough; she, was called ‘The Mistress’ and she dosed the sick with porridge containing laudanum, and a little girl who was born during the voyage was named after her.” A fortnight after sailing, water began to overpowering that it was impossible to go on deck. A medical officer at Grosse Island recorded, “I have seen a stream of foul air issuing from the hatches as dense and as palpable as seen on a foggy day from a dung heap”.

By 9th July more than half the emigrants and several of the crew in Whyte’s brig had ship fever, and deaths were frequent. About 25th July the ship anchored off Grosse Island after voyaging for around 17 weeks; a doctor paid “a perfunctory visit and remarked sagaciously ‘Ha, there is fever here’, and departed”, promising to remove the sick “tomorrow or the next day”. Whyte was told he could leave but he had become attached to the ship’s company and remained. The brig was now left, he wrote, “as marooned without skill or help as at sea, still without a doctor and no water”. Though the St Lawrence at Grosse Island was no longer salty, it was “a floating mass of filthy straw, refuse of foul beds, barrels containing the vilest matter, old rags, tattered clothes” which had been thrown overboard from vessels when cleaning their holds. The sick were not taken off until 1st August, three months after embarking, and by then several had died, one was the wife of a Meath emigrant and Whyte went to her funeral on Grosse Island. He wrote “after the grave was filled up, the husband placed two shovels in the form of a cross and departed”, promising to remove the sick “tomorrow or the next day”. Whyte was told he could leave but he had become attached to the ship’s company and remained. The brig was now left, he wrote, “as marooned without skill or help as at sea, still without a doctor and no water”. Though the St Lawrence at Grosse Island was no longer salty, it was “a floating mass of filthy straw, refuse of foul beds, barrels containing the vilest matter, old rags, tattered clothes” which had been thrown overboard from vessels when cleaning their holds. The sick were not taken off until 1st August, three months after embarking, and by then several had died, one was the wife of a Meath emigrant and Whyte went to her funeral on Grosse Island. He wrote “after the grave was filled up, the husband placed two shovels in the form of a cross and said, ‘By that cross, Mary, I swear to avenge your death. As soon as I earn the price of my passage home I’ll go back and shoot the man that murdered you - and that’s the landlord.’”

From the deck of the brig Whyte watched a continuous procession of boats, bringing the sick and dead from other ships to the island. There was no pier, so “hundreds were literally flung on the beach, left amid the mud and stones to crawl on the dry land as they could”. Boatloads of dead were taken, four times in one day from a single vessel. Robert Whyte was horrified by the filthy state of the hold in his brig, but was told by a priest that, compared to some, the hold was clean and the brig was an average example of what was endured by emigrants.
Such was therefore a typical passage across the Atlantic. This is not the place to go into the
troubles of the emigrant ashore, nor of the political troubles between the countries of America and the
British Government. However space has been given to the monument on Grosse Island which records -

“In this secluded spot lie the mortal remains of 5,294 persons, who, flying from pestilence and
famine in Ireland in the year 1847, found in America but a grave.”

Robert Whyte only met two young men from the brig again; “the rest wandered over the country,
carrying nothing with them but disease, and owing to their weak constitutions very few can have lived
through the Canadian Winter”. It is not possible to state how many died, but a modern authority estimates
that over 100,000 left for Canada in 1847 of which at least 17,000 died at sea and over 21,000 died in
Canada, or over one death for every three emigrants.

No disaster comparable to Grosse Island occurred in the United States as a result of the
determined efforts taken by the authorities to prevent their country becoming “a lazar house for the sick
and diseased of Europe”. From 5th May 1847 until the end of the year nearly 53,000 Irish landed at New
York, and 37,000 at Boston, with unknown numbers arriving at other ports; so it would therefore appear
that similar numbers went direct to the USA as to Canada. The death rate in the United States was less
than in Canada, but even so it would be safe to say that of the 200,000 who crossed the Atlantic, over
60,000 died; and these figures are only for the year 1847 and exclude those arriving in 1846 and 1848. If
a total was ever struck covering the three years, the figures might be doubled and even then they would be
a conservative estimate.

7

Emigration to the United Kingdom

There was another emigration going on at the same time, more numerous though less celebrated,
in which Irish in overwhelming masses crossed the Irish Sea to land at ports in England, Scotland and
Wales. This was the flight of the very poor who could not “make out the money” even for a passage to
Quebec. A deck passage to England in a vessel with regular sailings could be had for a few shillings, and
hopefully only lasted for a few hours. For instance to go from Drogheda to Liverpool cost five shillings
on the regular run, but it could be as little as 2/6 on a small coastal sailing vessel. The large export of coal
from Cardiff to Cork enabled vessels to bring passengers back free of charge because captains found it
cheaper to carry a living walk-on walk-off ballast than one of lime or shingle. Crossing to Great Britain
was a familiar experience for thousands of Irish; they regularly went to work in the harvest, and had done
so for centuries. From the beginning of the Industrial Revolution droves of labourers had crossed over to
dig docks and canals, to work on railways and in factories and mills.

There was an irresistible attraction in England - the starved were given food. Under the English
Poor Law, outdoor relief was permitted in most districts, and the destitute Irish cottier new that once he
crossed the channel he would not be allowed to die of hunger. In addition, from the end of 1846 the flight
of the very poor received an extra impetus; landlords were applying not for an eviction order but for a
judgement against the tenant who owed rent; he was put in prison and his family was left to fend for
themselves. This prospect spread terror and the people did not wait to be proceeded against. The whole
family fled as soon as they suspected what was going to happen, and, rather than be separated, they
loaded all their goods on their backs and headed for a seaport to England. The army of paupers arrived in
Britain at three main points, Liverpool, the Clyde, and the ports of South Wales; but by far the worst
shock of the invasion was borne by Liverpool. The flood began in 1846 and in December a Liverpool
ratepayer. The flood continued and by 1st June 300,000 pauper Irish had landed there in five months,
descending on a town with a native population of only about 250,000. The town police could not cope
and 20,000 citizens were sworn as special constables, and 2,000 regular troops were brought in and
camped at Everton. In May the dreaded fever was spreading rapidly in the town and shortly 60,000 persons developed typhus with many deaths.

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At the end of May a bill was rushed through both Houses, which gave the authorities the power
to return the destitute to Ireland without difficulty. A few boatloads were returned but the paupers learned
not to trust the Liverpool authorities, or, indeed, any other port authority, and crept to other parts of the

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country taking the fever with them. Fever broke out in most of the Midland towns, in London, Chepstow, Birmingham, Cheltenham, and indeed in nearly all towns of a fair size throughout the country, and in Wales and Scotland as well. Religious quarrels and riots broke out and the problems occurring almost daily around the country would fill a book and remained a problem for years.

The flood of starving Irish into Britain had important consequences. The realities of the famine in Ireland, emaciated scarecrows which were once men and women, skeleton children, dirt, nakedness, fever, and the hideous diseases which hunger brings, appeared on Britain’s doorstep and the British response was one of violent irritation. How had these people been allowed to get into such a state? Why were they invading Britain, bringing fever with them, instead of staying at home? The Government, refusing to accept any responsibility, blamed the Irish landlords; these landlords, they asserted, had not done their duty, therefore the Irish people were reduced to their present fearful condition, and now these landlords were trying to get rid of the responsibility by shipping the poor wretches away to Britain.

Admittedly it was impossible to regard Irish landlords, as a class, with sympathy, particularly those absentee ones living on their rents in England; but no effort was made to comprehend their dilemma; whatever the wrongs of the past, the majority of Irish landlords were now bankrupt. “Am I to squeeze rent out of the people one day and pay it back in wages the next?” asked Mr O’Neill of Bunowen Castle in Connemara, declaring that it was a delusion to think that landlords could possibly raise enough money to save the people, when all they had was unpaid rents. No attention was paid to the many wretched owners of encumbered estates who were burdened with properties hopelessly in debt and which under the law they were not allowed to sell. Irish landlords were made the scapegoat, and when the British Government drafted the new act, transferring the cost of relieving the destitute to local rates and local property owners, they did so in a spirit of reprisal.

Parliament was obsessed by a rage against Irish landlords and a determination to punish them. They ignored the fact that they had been warned again and again, that reliance on the potato, brought about by penal legislation could only end in disaster - the disaster which had occurred; that the tariff against Irish goods, the extraordinary Corn Laws, restricted trade, all contributed to a loss of income by the Irish land-lord and a colossal gain of income by those in Britain. There had been and continued to be a drain of huge sums of money from Ireland into England. In vain Lord Mountcashel reminded the House of Lords that out of an annual rental of thirteen million pounds it was estimated that Irish land-lords paid away nearly ten and a half million pounds in mortgages and ‘borrowed money’, so that the sum actually at their disposal was something less than three million pounds. The new Act would impose a payment of at least fourteen million pounds so how could such a sum be paid? Parliament refused to listen and “amidst the cry of famine and death in Ireland, clamour out of doors in England, and excitement, impatience and noise in the House”, the Irish Poor Law Bill was passed.

The summer of 1847 was magnificent and the crops were described as “all superb”. It was officially considered that the famine must be at an end although the acreage of potatoes planted, owing to the shortage of seed potatoes, was miserably small. It was estimated that less than one-fifth of the usual acreage had been planted and this was not enough to feed the people. However, glorious weather, superb crops and cheap food could not help the penniless unemployed masses. Nevertheless, the British Government would not modify their plan. The destitute had been transferred to the Poor Law when the Irish Poor Law Act became law, and relief under the Soup Kitchen Act must end. In a Treasury minute the date was fixed on or about August 15, 1847. Certainly during August and September employment would be at a maximum, gathering in the harvest, but the shortage of food would continue until the 1848 potato crop was gathered, because only 1/5th of the usual crop had been planted. From August onwards, good intentions on the part of the British Government became increasingly difficult to discern, taking every allowance for the depleted state of the Treasury, and bearing in mind the large sums already expended on Irish relief, sums representing many times their value today, it is still hardly possible to explain, or to condone, the British Government’s determination to throw the Irish destitute on to the local Poor Rate.

The immense size of Irish Unions put the establishment of an efficient system of relief, through the workhouses and the Poor Law, out of the question. Of 130 Irish unions, 107 contained 100,000 acres, and of these 25 were over 200,000 acres. No one could conceivably relieve the destitute efficiently and economically in such large unions. Further, the very large unions were in the most distressed districts of Connought and Munster where there were no resident landlords or gentry. The Union of Ballina covered 509,154 acres with a population of 120,797 persons. In English terms the Ballina Union would stretch from London to Buckingham and Oxford in one direction, and from London to Basingstoke in another, with the only workhouse at St Albans. Ballina was not unique. Westport Union had districts 40 miles from the Workhouse; Tralee was similar, as was Donegal Union. These were the very districts where
virtually no rates had been collected and the Guardians of the workhouse were “out all day trying to buy food on credit for the following week”. It was not unusual to have food-less days in a number of workhouses, and in the opinion of the doctor at Ballina some of the inmates had actually died of starvation. Beds, blankets and clothing were all lacking; in search for cheap clothing it was suggested that sailor’s clothing, rejected by the Admiralty, be bought, but the purchase was turned down by some Government official who considered the clothing “much too good for the Irish poor”. On 12th August Lord Clarendon wrote that only eight unions of the 130 had any money in hand, and the sum they possessed was only, £3, 600, while the debts of the 122 others was over £250,000. Incidentally in Meath there were five Unions, and so workhouses, at Trim, Navan, Kells, Oldcastle and Dunshaughlin; but even so a walk of around 8 miles to the nearest workhouse would not be unusual; these Meath unions were in the richer part of the country with a higher proportion of resident landlords, so were not too heavily in debt.

So much for Government responsibility to the workhouses, but worse was to come - On 1st October there were to be no more payments to the fever hospitals, all necessary funds must be provided by the rates. The announcement was received with consternation. Fever was still widespread and 26,378 patients were in the fever hospitals on October 1.

Boards of Guardians now tried to escape their thankless and unpaid position. They were finding it impossible to continue; the Granard Guardians in Co Longford wrote that the Union was bankrupt and there was only sufficient provisions to feed the paupers in the workhouse for three days, merchants refused to send in further supplies until they were paid, and it was “utterly impossible for the Collectors to get in rates sufficient to provide food for the inmates”; they accordingly resigned and asked for paid Guardians to be appointed, since it was “no longer in their power to conduct the affairs of the union”. This state of affairs was prevalent in most unions and many guardians resigned. The Government knew that they probably could not find suitable persons to run the unions even if they were paid; but more importantly the Government knew that if paid guardians were sent in it would be considered that “the Government are the parties administering the relief”, and the British authorities might themselves be saddled with Irish relief after all. So the Granard Guardians, and the others, were not allowed to resign and had to continue their thankless and unpaid job.

The Government even recommended that rate collectors should be assisted by troops, but not even the whole strength of the British Army could wring rates from places where nothing was left to seize. In Swineford, Co Mayo, no fewer than nine properties were already being administered by the Court of Chancery, and “out of 60 - 70 names returned as rate payers, 50 - 60 are non-resident”; there was therefore no one left to pay any rates. This shows up one of the major problems in Ireland, that the absentee landlord who was domiciled in England paid English rates but none in Ireland. Such was the law and because the majority of members of Parliament in London were landlords in England, there was no hope of changing this law, they knew on which side their bread was buttered.

Relentless severity in rate collecting increased evictions. Clare, Galway and Mayo were probably the counties with the worst record of evictions. Officials in Dublin began to be uneasy, - perhaps the Irish people were being pushed too far. On 10th October, Clarendon told Lord John Russell “A great social revolution is now going on in Ireland, the accumulated evils of misgovernment and mismanagement are now coming to a crisis”. Meanwhile workhouses were over-full; in December Ballina workhouse had 500 more than it was built to contain, Kilrush had 500 to 600 too many, Galway had 500 too many of whom 200 were fever cases. Disused buildings of every sort, old breweries, empty warehouses, derelict stores, without sanitation or heat or water were hired and dignified by the name “Auxiliary Workhouses”, and in this way another 150,000 persons were accommodated. The whole situation was out of hand and officials became even more uneasy; Major Halliday, a Poor Law Inspector, added to his sorry report, “when I go to the workhouse I see such sights of suffering and wasted humanity I cannot wash them away from my imagination”.

9

The Threat of Revolt

The suffering of the people began to approach the horrors of the Winter of 1846 - 1847; the country, generally speaking, was ruined, pauperism was spreading, there was no employment, but though the potato crop was superb the quantity planted was inadequate. Dead bodies were found lying by roadsides and in fields; men who had tramped many miles to a workhouse, only to be refused admittance, died at the gates. It was hardly surprising that during that winter, assassinations started – seven landlords and ten gentry. Clarendon became further alarmed, “Distress, discontent and hatred of English rule are increasing everywhere”, he told the Prime Minister Lord Russell. But before writing about the results it is worth detailing the story behind one of these assassinations, as it gives an insight into life at that time.

Denis Mahon, handsome, amiable and well-intentioned, who had held a commission in a crack cavalry regiment, the 9th Lancers, had inherited the extensive property of Strokestown, Co Roscommon,
just before the famine started. The former owner, Lord Hartland, had been a lunatic for some years and during this time the estate had been badly managed. When Major Mahon inherited at the start of the famine, he found £30,000 arrears of rent had accumulated and rates were three years in areas; so he proposed that any tenant who was willing should give up his patch of land, be given work then a passage to Canada. 810 tenants agreed and in the late spring of 1847 they set sail for Quebec in two vessels which Mahon had chartered, loaded with extra provision. The cost of the emigration to Major Mahon was £14,000. Both ships eventually reached Quebec, but in a bad state, as typhus had broken out and 268 people (about 1/3rd) had died during the voyage.

These formed a minority of the Major’s tenants. The majority would “neither pay nor go,” and 3,006 people were evicted. Murmurs that he was a ‘tyrant’ began to be heard. Now, most unwisely since he was a Protestant, he quarrelled over the local relief committee with the parish priest of Strokestown, Father MacDermott, who was accused of having denounced him from the altar, saying, “Major Mahon is worse than Cromwell”. Father MacDermott strenuously denied he had said anything of the kind and it was not clear if a denunciation had happened at all, but the story had spread and the damage done. A few days later the Major was shot by two men on the high road on 2nd November 1847, while seated in his open carriage travelling back from a meeting of the Board of Guardians of the Roscommon Union, which he had attended in the hope of finding some way of keeping the workhouse open. That morning he had addressed a meeting of his tenants and had been cheered. Nevertheless, reported a Board of Works engineer, “the exultation of the country people at Major Mahon’s death was general and undisguised... As soon as it was dark, straw was lit upon some of the hills in the neighbourhood of Strokestown, and on the following evening, bonfires were to be seen on the hills for many miles in extent”.

Lord Clarendon, the Lord Lieutenant was almost beside himself. “There was never so open or so widely extended a conspiracy for shooting landlords and agents, and my fear is this will spread, there are already symptoms of it, and that the flame which now rages in certain districts will become a general conflagration”. He was convinced that the murders were part of a rebellious campaign and that the intention was to shoot as many landlords and agents as possible, to drive away the resident gentry and make the management of property so dangerous that the tenants would be able to occupy the land. Lord John Russell, the Prime Minister, whose prejudice against Irish landlords had been made clear in the House of Commons, disagreed and Clarendon in a fury threatened to resign. The argument abated and a compromise act, the ‘Crime and Outrage Bill’ was passed by Parliament; but like all compromises it was ineffectual, and fear spread through the upper and middle classes, and a number of landlords left the country.

In Sligo and Leitrim at the end of December the sub-inspector of police could give the names of at least ten landlords who were marked men, “their lives are not worth a sheet of paper”, and Captain Pole of the Commissariat reported, “the personal insecurity of all property owners is so hideous that the impression is of being in an enemy country”;

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So with 15,000 extra troops in the country, a campaign of terrorization being waged, workhouses enlarged to take 150,000 additional inmates and in distressed unions, people dying of starvation, both inside the workhouses and outside them, with rates impossible to collect, employment non-existent, fever still raging and the people pauperized and wretched as never before, Ireland passed from 1847 to 1848.

In spite of the sufferings of the Irish people, the popular rising, which the English Government feared, was not being planned, and when a revolutionary movement did come it originated not among the starving masses but with the intellectual and middle classes. Lord Clarendon had misread the situation. The murders, which horrified and alienated public opinion had no revolutionary significance and were not related with any political conspiracy. They were produced, as in the past, by land hunger. Lord Chief Justice Blackburn, with his Commission of Judges in January 1848 declared that in every case “circumstances collected with the possession of land were the primary cause of the crime; the motive for all was the wild justice of revenge”.

This is not the place to dwell on the history of the insurrection, which was planned. It is sufficient to say that it was based on the Repeal Association which had started well before the famine, and had split into two, - the Young Ireland party and the Irish Confederation. There was a lot of talk but really very little action, however inflammatory speeches added to the feeling of insecurity in the country, which continued into 1849. However the Government had to watch affairs very carefully because of discontent on the Continent, which could spread very easily to Ireland. In February 1848 the French Government, which had consistently refused parliamentary reforms, had been overthrown in an all but bloodless revolution, the King forced to fly to England in disguise and a Republic proclaimed. Comparison with Ireland was irresistible and many bombastic speeches were made. Bonfires were lit to celebrate French
freedom in all parts of the country; banners inscribed ‘Honour to France’ and ‘Despots Beware’ were waved; Mullingar and Kells were illuminated.

France was not the only country in trouble; the King of Sicily in January was forced to concede a constitution; the same thing happened in Piedmont; in March Vienna rose, routed the troops and Metternich was forced to fly; Milan drove the Austrians out of the city; and the people of Venice proclaimed a provisional government. Even in England there was trouble with the Chartists, a working class association led by an Irishman and a Repealer, Feargus O’Connor, who were threatening revolution. Consequently the British Government decided that steps must be taken to prevent any embarrassment in Ireland; in spite of the famine, Ireland remained a source of income to England and so worth holding.

At the end of March the Law Officers conferred to devise methods of repression, a stream of military reinforcements headed towards Dublin, the Duke of Wellington advised on military dispositions, and the Constabulary was warned to be ready. Seldom can a revolutionary movement have been conducted with more idealism and less sense of realism, there had been no careful or cunning preparation, no secrecy, no underground organization - in these the revolutionary movement of Young Ireland was utterly deficient. The colossal preparations of the government swung into action as Clarendon thought that Ireland was on the verge of a bloody uprising. In fact there were no men with arms in the country at all. However Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Drogheda were placed under semi-martial law. In July a Bill suspended Habeas Corpus. The whole sorry “Uprising of 48” fizzled out, but it might have come to something if the famine had not starved the strength from the people. However it was also a sorry reflection that if the Government had expended half the energy necessary to quell “The 48” and expended it on famine relief then many thousands of lives would have been saved.

In the summer of 1848, when the problems of the famine and disease were being mopped up, the shadow of another fearful catastrophe fell over the country; the blight appeared all over the country and there was every indication that a total failure of the potato was about to occur again. In 1847 only a small acreage had, been planted and the crop was superb. In 1848 severe sacrifices were made to obtain seed potatoes; clothes, bedsteads, tables and chairs were sold and an inspector reported that small occupiers, “already reduced to a state of all but pauperism, are straining every nerve to plant potatoes as a last desperate venture”. Landlords looked forward to rates being paid, the people to having enough to eat. “Please God it will be a blessed season, the olden times are coming back”, the inspector was told in Kells. The parish priest of Kenmare wrote on 16th July that “we were all in the greatest spirits at the approach of plenty but blight has made its appearance. On the morning of the 13th to the astonishment of everyone, the potato fields that had, on the previous evening, presented an appearance that was calculated to gladden the hearts of the most indifferent, appeared blasted, withered, blackened and the whole country has in consequence been thrown into dismay and confusion”.

At the end of July Dr Lindley showed that almost every district in Ireland was affected. This was the week the Young Irelanders were out trying to raise the country, but people were not interested in sedition; they were too intent on watching their potatoes. By October it was clear that the failure of the potato crop was as complete as in 1846, and coming as it did upon a people already impoverished and enfeebled by distress, the results must be even more disastrous. However it was made very clear by the Government that no more was to be made available and the winding down of the service throughout Ireland was to be continued. At the end of August the Commissariat left Ireland for good. Generosity was suspended Habeas Corpus. The whole sorry “Uprising of 48” fizzled out, but it might have come to something if the famine had not starved the strength from the people. However it was also a sorry reflection that if the Government had expended half the energy necessary to quell “The 48” and expended it on famine relief then many thousands of lives would have been saved.

Ireland was left to face a winter of total failure, bankruptcy and starvation, supported only by the Poor Law. The armies of starving half-naked paupers in distressed unions was overwhelming; nine-tenths of the population of Clifden were receiving relief and there were similar figures throughout the west and southwest. It was hopeless to expect rents to be collected in these areas and more ruthless land clearances resulted.

Sir William Butler describes an eviction and a ‘tumbling’ which he witnessed in Tipperary: “The sheriff, a strong body of police, and above all the crobar brigade, a body composed of the lowest and most debauched riffians, were present. At a signal from the sheriff the work began. The miserable inmates of the cabins were dragged out upon the road; thatched roofs were torn down and the earthen walls battered in by crowbars; the screaming women, the half naked children, the paralysed grandmother and the tottering grandfather were hauled out. It was a sight I have never forgotten. I was twelve years old at the time, but I think if a loaded gun had been put in my hands I would have fired it into that crowd of villains as they plied their horrible trade. The winter of 1848-9 dwells in my memory as one long night of sorrow”.

The opportunity was also seized of clearing all unwanted people off the land; even those who were managing to pay their rent regularly. A bizarre individual instance of an eviction where no rent owed was that of James Brady, cleared with his family from a holding near Kells in the rich farming county of Meath. After spending nine days and nights with his wife and four little girls in a ditch, he dug
By October it was clear that another winter of starvation would occur. A wave of alarm and foreboding swept over the country; everyone who could scrape the money together prepared to leave Ireland and a new emigration began. The emigration of 1848 was of a very different quality from the disorganised flight of 1847. Canada had passed new laws following the disaster of 1847 and the cheap passages were no longer available, so the ruined small farmers had no choice but to remain in Ireland, nor could landlords afford to emigrate their pauper tenants. The new emigrants were farmers of good class whom Ireland could ill afford to spare. On 28th November “comfortable farmers” from Meath and Westmeath were said to be arriving in Dublin daily by the hundred, “apparently all of substantial class and well provided for the transatlantic journey”.

However not all considered that the movement off the land was a bad thing. Larger holdings were considered essential, and holdings could not be enlarged until the number of holders were diminished. If the small farmers go then the landlords would be induced to sell to persons who would invest capital. The flaw with such an opinion was that a debt for rates was attached to the land forever, so any purchaser undertook the debt. Mr James Martin of Ross, Co Galway, stated in evidence that he himself had a debt for rates of £11,000 on his property, and when land was sold the purchaser became liable for the debt. Such a state of affairs was hardly likely to tempt investors.

Meanwhile the destitute were being treated with increasing harshness. Without money to buy food those in charge of the workhouses had to have proof that the pauper was really a pauper. Any boxes or bundles were carefully examined in case property of some description was concealed. The applicant was stripped of every scrap which might be regarded as property and subjected to a degree of harshness. Without money which must prove injurious to health, in exchange as his reward he received about one pound of meal a day, on which he was just kept alive; it was estimated that £1 would cover the cost of keeping one person for 34 weeks, but the Government would not allow this estimate to be included in the Annual Report of the Poor Law Commission in case people should say “We were slowly murdering the peasantry by the scantiness of our relief.”

The events of 1848-49 followed the events of 46-47 though in fact the state of the country was far worse in 1849 than in 1847. The effect of the famine was cumulative and in 1849 the people were enduring a fourth year of semi-starvation. Typhus fever was still rampant and many hundreds died. Substantial towns were becoming deserted. In Athlone, for example, the best shops were closed because the owners had emigrated. Trade was at a standstill and the only commerce was the “workhouse trade”. Landlords who owned thousands of derelict acres were shut up in their mansions, existing on rabbits shot in their overgrown parks, and gossip said that Lord Sligo was living on the proceeds of an opera box belonging to his family in the Covent Garden Opera House.

The state of Ireland began to cause uneasiness in England and in February ‘The Times’, a consistent and stubborn opponent of help for Ireland, announced a change of heart, “with great reluctance”. The Times had been converted by the fearful reports from places like Ballina which owed more than £18,000, had nearly 21,000 destitute on relief and where persons, previously paying 13/- in rates, were now asked for £13; or from Bantry, where 2,327 persons and 600 children were huddled in the workhouse and Auxiliary workhouse, naked except for filthy rages, half starved, and without the common decencies of life. 431 people, according to official figures and so on the low side, died of starvation at Bantry between January and May 1849.

The authorities now came forward with another scheme. A ‘rate-in-aid’ was to be levied, by which the more prosperous unions were to be forced to contribute to the distressed unions, and the rates were to be raised by another 6d in the pound. There was of course an outcry; Lord Lansdowne said the rate-in-aid was “nothing less than a scheme of confiscation by which the work would not be saved, but the strong be involved in general ruin”. The biggest outcry came from Ulster where large meetings of Catholics and Protestants were held; the question was raised - was, or was not, the Act of Union a reality? If the Union was a fact and Ireland was an integral part of the Empire, then the Imperial Exchequer should contribute. This question had been raised before but the Government was in London and the vast majority of the Members of Parliament did not live in Ireland and were concerned only with their own financial matters, they flatly refused to listen to reason and equally refused to contribute any aid. Therefore the Rate-in-Aid Act was passed in June and the sum to be levied was assessed at £322,552 for the whole country. It was reported that the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Clarendon, had completely turned against his former political allies for their treatment of Ireland. He wrote to the Prime Minister “Surely
this is a state of things to justify you asking the House of Commons for an advance, for I don’t think there
is another legislature in Europe that would disregard such suffering as now exists in Ireland, or coldly
persist in a policy of extermination”. No advance was granted and the “policy of Extermination”
continued; compassion for Ireland was dead.

By June 1849 there were 768,902 people on relief and the debts of the Unions were more than
£456,000. Some right-thinking members of the Government raised £10,000 between them and the Queen
contributed £500, but such sums were only a drop in the ocean. The “operation of natural causes” must be
Ireland’s fate; however the Government now decided on a sovereign remedy - Ireland was to receive a
visit from Queen Victoria! And, believe it or not, with all the problems in Ireland, the royal visit was
made in August and it was a great success, even though it was boycotted by a number who felt the money
spent on it would be better spent saving a few starving people.

The famine was never “over”, in the sense that an epidemic occurs and is over. The poverty of the
Irish people continued, dependence on the potato continued and hunger continued. When Irish people
refer to “the famine” they mean the years of concentrated disaster in which blight first appeared; and in
rapid succession the partial failure of 1845 was followed by the total failure of 1846 and the second total
failure of 1848. The Government in London has been accused, and not only by the Irish, of wishing to
exterminate the Irish people, as Hitler wished to exterminate the Jews. The 1840’s must, however, not be
judged by the standards of today; whatever parsimony and callousness the British Government displayed
towards Ireland was paralleled seven years later by the treatment of their own soldiers which brought
about the destruction of the British Army in the Crimea. Their conduct during the famine can be divided
into two periods; up to the transfer to the Poor Law in the summer of 1847 the Government behaved with
considerable generosity and advanced more than eight million pounds, at that time a very large sum
indeed. But during the second period it is very difficult to defend the behaviour of the Government.

The transfer to the Poor Law is however not the most serious charge against the British
Government, but that, for decades after the famine, there was no attempt to improve the agricultural
system, and that neglect condemned Ireland to decline; further, hand in hand with this, nothing was done
to improve the system under which land was occupied in Ireland.

The number of people who died in the famine will never be known. If we take the 1841 census
figure and match it against the 1851 census, adapted at the normal rate of increase and decreased at the
known emigration, then the loss of life was about two and a half million, probably more.

One further effect of the famine should be mentioned; although emigration fell from the high
level of the 1840’s, it was to remain an outstanding social feature of Ireland. In the years after the famine
emigration was higher than the excess of births over deaths; it thus led to a continuing decline of
population, decade after decade. By 1911 the island’s population had been almost halved, compared to
that of pre-famine 1841. In Meath, for instance, the 1841 population was 183,828; in 1851 140,74.8; it
continued to drop until 1936 when it was 61,405 and from then on there was a slight increase to 71,729 in
1971; 90,715 in 1979 and even now it is still short of the pre-famine period.

Over much of the country the cottier all but disappeared, and the decline in population made it
possible to enlarge the holdings of the tenant farmers. The sale, in the thirty years following 1849, of
some five million acres, almost a quarter of the area of Ireland, under the Encumbered Estates Act, by
transferring land to less indebted owners, made possible investment to drain and generally improve the
land; but this sale also indicates the enormous number of landlords who became bankrupt largely due to
the famine.
Appendix ‘E’

Family Trees

Acbmuty 14.10.4 Kaye 28.4.2
Arabin 6.10.7 Keane 27.8.7
Armstrong 22.2.2 Kelly (Harvey-Kelly) 28.2.2
Arthur 22.5.1 Langford 2.11.1
Bagot 16.4.2; 30.3.2 L’Estrange 8.5.2; 15.1.1; 27.10
Bamford 35.6 Longfield 33.2
Barlcer 28.4.3 Lowther 7.18.1
Barnes 25.2.2 Madden 7.16
Bateman 15.8.5 Mansergh 21.3
Beresford 22.6.2 Martin 21.8; 35.6.2
Blennerhassett 18.5.6 Massy, Massy-Dawson 15.5.1; 19.2.2
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Bolton (of The Island) 21.7; 30.3.2 McDonnell 20.9.3
Bolton-Massy 19.2.2 Mockler 15.6
Burroughs 16.7.2 Molloy 8.9
Burtheael 8.11.1 Mulock 15.1.2
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Chaloner 33.9.1 O’Reilly 24.4.1
Chevenix 6.10.7 Pakenham (Longford) 5.4.1
Chute 8.3.1; 18.5.4 Pechell 6.10.7
ClifFord 21.8.5; 35.6.2 Pilkington 23.2.1
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Coddington 15.13.7 Preston 18.7.4
Constable 33.5.1 Purdon 20.6.2/3
Cooke 8.3.1 Rawdon (Moira, Hastings) 1.9.3
Cooper 16.2.1 Reynell 24.5
Corbould-Warren 35.3 Robbins 18.8.4
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Hamilton 8.1.4 Wesley (Wellesley, Wellington) 1.8.2
Headfort (Taylour) 2.11.3 Whitney 27.6.2
Hesketh 21.4 Wilson 7.9.1
Higgins 9.2.1 Winter 18.7; 20.1.1; 20.4; 20.6; 20.6.2
Humphrys 20.6 Yescombe 18.7.4
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Family Trees
### Appendix ‘F’

#### Index of Allied Families

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<td>O'Shea</td>
<td>Kitty, wife of Politician Parnell</td>
<td>26.6.1</td>
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<td>Osassenbrook</td>
<td>Henry of Crossanstown House, Co Meath</td>
<td>2.18</td>
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<td>Paddock</td>
<td>William and Eileen Bomford</td>
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<td>Palmer</td>
<td>William of Dublin &amp; Arodstown, Co Meath</td>
<td>4.4; 8.2; 18.8.3</td>
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<td>Parnell</td>
<td>Charles Stuart, Politician</td>
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<td>Partridge</td>
<td>Rev Samuel, his will</td>
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<td>Pattison</td>
<td>Thomas, Coachman of Drumlargent Co Meath</td>
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<td>Pearson</td>
<td>Thomas of Drehit, Co Kildare</td>
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<td>family of Dublin</td>
<td>5.4.2/3/4/5; 6.10; 6.10.7; 7.4</td>
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<td>Penthony</td>
<td>Augustine of Glasgo, Co Kildare</td>
<td>8.3; 14.5.1/2/3</td>
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<td>Pepper</td>
<td>Co1 Charles of Ballygarth Castle, Co Meath</td>
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<td>Perkins</td>
<td>Jessica and Willy Corbould-Warren</td>
<td>35.3 (2c)</td>
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<td>Edmond of Oldtown, Co Westmeath</td>
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<td>Petty</td>
<td>Sir William, of the ‘Down Survey’</td>
<td>2.11.3; 20.2</td>
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<td>Michael of Ash Green, Co Meath</td>
<td>15.13.8; 20.5.1; 24.8.2</td>
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<td>Francis of Lodge, Wexford</td>
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<td>Catherine of Barrowmount, Co Kilkenny</td>
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<td>Rev John of Gallow, Co Meath</td>
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<td>Rev Joseph of Cabra Castle, Co Cavan</td>
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<td>family of Swains town, Co Meath</td>
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<td>General Richard, Earl of Desmond</td>
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<td>Jane (Cooper), grand-daughter of David Bomford</td>
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<td>Richard of Aughasan, Queen’s Co</td>
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<td>Rev Leonard of St Michael’s, Chiswick, London</td>
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<td>Dr Thomas, his school in Dublin</td>
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<td>Shinton family</td>
<td>family of Gerardstown, Co Meath</td>
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<td>Sibthorpe family</td>
<td>family of Brownstown &amp; Dunany, Co Louth</td>
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Smith families of Violetstown & Anneville, Co Westmeath 2.13; 8.5.1/7; 9.3.5/6/7; 10.6; 11.7; 15.8.1; 19.6; 20.2.1

Jane, wife of Laurence Bomford of Killeghan 7.3; 12.2.2
Elizabeth (Bomford) of Mullingar, Co Westmeath 17.6.2
Thomas of Gurteen, & James of Dublin 2.9
Ann, wife of John Bomford 1.10; 17.10.1
Carol and Richard Bomford 32.9.2
Husband of Elizabeth Bomford 14.8.6; 14.8.8

Snee (Shea) William and Mary (Bomford) of Dublin 12.1.2; 17.7.3

Somers family of Tyrrellspass, Co Westmeath 19.3; 27.9

Somerville Edith, author 21.8.3

Spencer family of Rathangan, Co Kildare 9.3; 9.3.1; 15.12.1/2

Spering Capt Henry of Oakley Park, Co Meath 1.4; 24.6

Stair 7th Earl of, John William Dalrymple 21.9.3

Standish Rev Richard of Frankfort, Co Limerick 17.2.6

Standing Christopher, tallow chandler of Dublin 8.3.2; 9.1; 10.6

Stannus Ephraim of Carlingford, Co Louth 8.2; 11.3.2

Stoney family of Oakley Park, King’s Co 18.6.1

Stopford Rev Edward of Kells, Co Meath 25.3.1; 29.2.2

Stoytes John of Eccles Grove, Co Wicklow 2.9; 4.1; 19.5

Strong Rev Sir James of Tynan Abbey, Co Armagh 9.3.7

Strongman Thomas And Elizabeth (Wilson) 1.10; 7.9

Swift Dean Jonathon of Laracor, Co Meath 1.8.4; 2.5.1; 20.2.1; 20.3

Tallis Hillary, wife Philip David 35.9.4 (2)

Tarleton family of Killiegh, King’s Co 7.15; 9.3.7; 12.1.1/2; 17.3.3

Taylor Archdeacon Thomas of Ardagh, Co Longford 7.9

Taylor See Marquess of Headfort

Tenison Henry of Dublin 15.13; 15.13.7

Tew family of Mulhussey, Co Meath 1.10; 5.4.8; 6.3; 8.5.4; 9.3.4/5/7; 12.1.1/2, 18.8.3; 22.2.2

Thewles Wentworth of Dublin 8.7.1; 9.3.1/5

Thomas Nicholas of Dorset 26.7.4 (2)

Thompson General Tannatt of Canada 35.9.1/2

Colonel Albert of Moresk Ho. Truro, Cornwall 33.8

Major Kenneth of Triermore & Peter of ,Wilmount, Co Meath 25.3; 25.3.1

Tisdall family of Charlesfort, Co Meath 7.18.1; 25.3; 30.1; 31.3; 32.5; 33.9.1

Tollemache family, Earls of Dysart 21.9/9.3; 22.2.4/5/2.6/3; 22.9.1/3; 24.9.2

Tottenham Cliffe of R.I.C Cavan 35.6.3

Trotter Thomas, Doctor of Law of Dublin 4.5

Dr David M.D. of Summerhill, Co Meath 20.10; 24.2

Villiers-Tuthill Col Phineas, RAMC, and family 28.5

Tweedale George, 7th Marquis of 21.9.3

Tyrrell family of Clonard, Co Kildare 5.6/7; 6.2/7/8; 8.1.1/2; 10.6; 20.5.1

tenants of Baltrastra 29.5 of Ferrans 27.3 of Rattin 20.10

Tyrone Earl of, See Beresford

Upton Henry of Co Cavan 7.9

Elizabth, Viscountess Langford 21.12

Ussher Alicia wife of Edmund L’Estrange 8.5.2; 27.10

Archbishop James and family 2.5.1; 35.9

Valentine James of Cushenstown, Co Meath 17.2.6

Vicars Sir Arthur, Ulster King of Arms 2.16

Wade family of Clonebreeny, Co Meath 2.7; 2.7.1

of Bachelor’s Lodge, Co Meath 15.13.4

Wakely John of Ballyburley, King’s Co 28.3.2

Wallace (Craig-Waller, Noble-Waller) family of Allenstown, Co Meath 25.3.1

Walpole Sir Edward, son of Prime Minister Robert 21.9.3

Walsh family of Dundrum Castle, Co Dublin 18.7.8; 20.7

Warburton John of Dublin 13.6.2/3

Warren Mark of Kilcock, Co Kildare 5.1.1

Waterford Marquess of, (Beresford) 22.10

Watson Margaret & Ann of Dublin 13.6; 13.6.3/4; 17.2.3/6

Webber Laura, wife of Edmund David 35.9.1
Webster William and Heather Wylie 33.10.1
Weldon family of Rahinderry, Queen’s Co 8.9; 12.1.2
Wesley (Marquess Wellesley, Earl of Mornington, Duke of Wellington), of Dangan Castle, Co Meath 1.8.1/2/4; 2.11.2; 4.4; 8.2; 11.5; 16.5
Wetheral family of India and England 26.5.6; 26.7.3
Whalley Jack of Bloomsbury, Co Meath 25.3.1
Wheatley family of Co Tipperary 2.13; 8.5.1; 12.1.2; 20.2.1
De Courcy-Wheeler family of Co Kildare 27.10; 27.10.2
White Patrick tenant of Gallow, Co Meath 6.8; 7.4/4.1/2/4; 7.11/12; 8.1.2;
Whitney Boleyn, Judge 10.2/5/6; 10.2.1; 14.5.1; 15.11
Luke of Luttrellstown, Co Dublin 12.2.7
Whyte family of Pitchfordstown, Co Kildare 7.9
Wickham family, tenants of Gallow, Co Meath 27.4/5/6/8/9/10; 27.6.2; 28.1.2; 28.3
Wigellsworth Sarah (Bomford) of Dublin 5.1; 6.9; 20.5.1
Willie family of Pitchfordstown, Co Kildare 17.4.1
Willet Jane (Bomford) of Dublin 17.3.3
Wilkinson Jock of Baronstown, Co Meath 15.3.1
Williams Dorcas (Bomford) of Trim, Co Meath 8.4/7.1; 9.3/6.7; 10.6; 11.1; 16.6.2
family of Arradstown, Co Meath 21.3
Joseph of Oakley Park, Co Meath 24.6; 25.3
Allan and Ethel Bomford 33.9.1
Wilson family of Piercefield, Co Westmeath 1.10; 2.21; 7.7.2/5; 7.9; 12.1; 12.2.1
James of Curastown, Co Meath 1.8.1
James of Parsonstown, Co Meath 7.3.1/7; 12.1.1
Whillom and Wife Jane (Mathews) 16.6.1/2
George of Oberstown, Co Meath 32.2.1
Winter family trees of Agher, Co Meath, Samuel 18.7 early Winters 20.1.1
Samuel & children 20.4 John Pratt, children & grandchildren 20.6; 20.6.2
Family of Agher 16.4; 18.6/8.4/5 Chapter 20
24.1/2/3/5/7; 25.1/4/7; 26.1/2/4; 31.1; 32.6.1; 33.10
Woodward family of Drumharagh, Co Meath 25.3.1
Wright Joan and Maryn Bomford 33.9.2
Wybrants Robert of Dublin 22.7; 26.4
Wylie Alan and Marie (Bomford) of Australia 33.10.1
Yeates William of Hayestown, Co Dublin 17.2
Yescobme family of Cornwall, England 15.8.4; 18.7.4
Young Owen of Castlerea, Co Roscommon 8.3
## Appendix ‘G’

### Killed in Action

* see Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location/Details</th>
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<td>John L'Estrange</td>
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<td>Jan 1782</td>
<td>Stephen Bomford</td>
<td>Madras, India</td>
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<tr>
<td>1811</td>
<td>John Whitney</td>
<td>Of the German Legion at Albua, Spain</td>
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<td>25th Oct 1854</td>
<td>John Pratt Winter</td>
<td>Balaclava, Crimea, In the Charge of the Light Brigade</td>
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<td>May 1857</td>
<td>Mervyn Archdall Humphrys</td>
<td>Indian Mutiny at Delhi</td>
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<td>11 May 1857</td>
<td>Mary Jane Alicia Clifford</td>
<td>Indian Mutiny at Delhi</td>
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<td>1857</td>
<td>John Mill</td>
<td>Indian Mutiny Bengal Army</td>
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<td>31 Oct 1857</td>
<td>Wigram Clifford</td>
<td>Indian Mutiny at Gurgaon, Near Delhi</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Feb 1858</td>
<td>Arthur Rowland Chute</td>
<td>Indian Mutiny at Calcutta</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Oct 1863</td>
<td>Robert Clifford</td>
<td>Euzo-Zai Campaign, North West Frontier</td>
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<td>20 Jul 1880</td>
<td>Richard Trevor Chute</td>
<td>Kandahar, Afghan War</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Apr 1902</td>
<td>Richard Alexander Chaloner</td>
<td>Boer War at Rooival, Transvaal</td>
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<td>20th September 1914</td>
<td>Charles Martin Stanuell</td>
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<td>George Ryefield Taylour</td>
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<td>29th October 1914</td>
<td>Angus Charles Rowley McNaghten</td>
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<td>18th April 1915</td>
<td>Andrew Herbert Irwin</td>
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<td>15th August 1915</td>
<td>Arthur John Dillon Preston</td>
<td>France</td>
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<td>3rd April 1916</td>
<td>Edmund Barnes</td>
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<td>Edward Lowry Tottenham (MC)</td>
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<td>27th June 1916</td>
<td>Arthur Henry Tottenham</td>
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<td>Fendall Powney Thompson</td>
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<td>Alfred Hubert Marshall-Barnes</td>
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<td>15th September 1916</td>
<td>Richard Martin Ferguson</td>
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<td>4th January 1917</td>
<td>Patrick Arthur Dudley Jackson</td>
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<td>Clive Victor Martin,</td>
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<td>22nd August 1917</td>
<td>Cecil Pybus Cooke</td>
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<td>Lawrence Henry Martin</td>
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<td>11 Jan 1922</td>
<td>James Loftus Tottenham</td>
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Ellen (Ella) Lett Shelford</td>
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<td>9th June 1940</td>
<td>Charles Powell Bomford</td>
<td>RAF Flying Officer over France</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th January 1942</td>
<td>Neil McIntyre Kemp</td>
<td>On Aircraft Carrier 'Illustrious'</td>
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<td>Between 10th and 15th February 1942</td>
<td>Cloudesley Shovel Malcolm</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
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<td>9th April 1942</td>
<td>J. S. Owen</td>
<td>RNVR, HMS Hermes</td>
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<td>6th April 1942</td>
<td>Douglas Frederick Ommanney</td>
<td>RAF, Alamein</td>
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<td>28th October 1942</td>
<td>John Hamilton Bomford</td>
<td>RNZAF, Egypt</td>
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<td>2nd March 1943</td>
<td>Michael Stephen Bomford</td>
<td>Tripoli, North Africa</td>
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<td>17th April 1943</td>
<td>Philip (Tim) Harvey (DFC)</td>
<td>RAF Fighter Pilot</td>
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<td>21st October 1943</td>
<td>Stephen Robert William Bomford</td>
<td>NZ Exped Force, Middle East</td>
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<td>17th November 1943</td>
<td>Aylmer Knox Sparrow</td>
<td>SAS, Athens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March 1942</td>
<td>Clive Clifford</td>
<td>RAAF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29th May 1944</td>
<td>Richard Lyndon Bomford</td>
<td>Cassino, Italy, buried Anzio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd October 1944</td>
<td>John M Keese, M.D.</td>
<td>Arnhem, Holland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th October 1944</td>
<td>Roland Vere Clifford</td>
<td>Burma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Regiment/Secondary Regiment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clive Edward Wigram</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
<td>Royal Australian Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmund Lyndon Barnes</td>
<td>Captain (Adjt.)</td>
<td>King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.) 8th Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Herbert Irwin</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>8th Rajputs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur John Dillon Preston</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Royal Dublin Fusiliers 6th Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward Lowry Tottenham (Awards M.C.)</td>
<td>Second &amp; Lieutenant</td>
<td>The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, 11th Bn. attd. 6th Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A C R S Macnaghten</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
<td>Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) 1st Bn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alfred Hubert Marshall-Barnes</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Royal Army Medical Corps 62nd Field Amb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur Henry Tottenham</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, &quot;C&quot; Coy. 2nd Bn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Killed in Action**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Regiment/ Secondary Regiment</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Additional information</th>
<th>Cemetery:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fendall Powney Thompson</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>Hampshire Regiment 1st Bn.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>01/07/1916</td>
<td>Son of Lt. C. Powney Thompson (Indian Army).</td>
<td>Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil Pybus Cooke</td>
<td>Second Lieutenant</td>
<td>King's Shropshire Light Infantry 5th Bn.</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22/08/1917</td>
<td>Son of Herbert Pybus Cooke and Agnes Cooke, of Koomangoonong, Balldale, New South Wales. Educated at Geelong Grammar School, Victoria, Australia, and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, England.</td>
<td>Tyne Cot Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C V Martin</td>
<td>Lieutenant Colonel</td>
<td>29th Lancers (Deccan Horse) attd. X Corps H.Q</td>
<td>27/03/1917</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td></td>
<td>Royal Irish Fusiliers 9th (North Irish Horse) Bn.</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23/11/1917</td>
<td>Son of the Rev. Richard D'Olier Martin and Mrs. Catharine Mary Martin, of The Rectory, Killeshandra, Co. Cavan</td>
<td>Moeuvres Communal Cemetery Extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Martin Ferguson</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regt.) No. 3 Coy.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15/09/1916</td>
<td>Son of James Thompson Ferguson, M.A., D.D., of Calgary, and of Maud Mant Martin or Ferguson, of Calgary, Alberta. B.A. (McGill University).</td>
<td>Vimy Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Powell Bomford</td>
<td>Flying Officer (Pilot)</td>
<td>Royal Air Force 107 Sqn</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>09/06/1940</td>
<td>Son of Capt. Charles Francis Bomford and Dorothy Maud Bomford, of Ballycormon, Co. Tipperary, Irish Republic. His brother Richard Lyndon Bomford also fell.</td>
<td>Torcy-Le-Petit Communal Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malcolm Brereton</td>
<td>Captain</td>
<td>Royal Norfolk Regiment 5th Bn.</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10/02/1942 and 15/02/1942</td>
<td>Son of Cloudsley Shovell Henry and Adelaide Maud Brereton; husband of Molly Brereton, of Caragh Lake, Co. Kerry, Irish Republic.</td>
<td>Kranji War Cemetery Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Regiment/Secondary Regiment</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Additional information</td>
<td>Cemetery:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Samuel Owens</td>
<td>Able Seaman</td>
<td>Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>09/04/1942</td>
<td>Son of Daniel and Elizabeth Ann Owens, of Liverpool; husband of Charlotte Owens, of Liverpool.</td>
<td>Plymouth Naval Memorial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>