

(Map of East)

17A 3/11C
FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

Page 1.

BARONY OF Clanmorris

TOWN OR VILLAGE Crossbarney PARISH Crossbarney and Jagheen COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

The parish lies just to the south-west and west of Clanmorris. Its greatest length is roughly north to south (Dunmaddy to Seefin) approx. 7 miles: its greatest width is about 5 miles (W. to E. - Jagheen to Castle Mac Gassett bridge on the Clanmorris/Ballindine road).

Locally, the main feature of the area is the demesne surrounding Castle Mac Gassett. The estate covers some 2000 acres and is finely timbered with a full profusion of trees and plant growth. That

GEOLOGY

(contd. on page 2)

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

The area is totally of limestone formation. Except for those parts which are peat capped, the soil is very suitable for cultivation. The district is purely agricultural.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Castle Mac Gassett. Situated in a demesne of some 2000 acres. Three entrances - ~~two~~^{two} on main Clanmorris/Ballindine road, the one some 2 1/4 miles from Clanmorris, the other about a mile from Ballindine. The third entrance is at Crossbarney village.

The castle itself is a notable rectangular mansion (plate) which is plainly featured - it was originally stables which were at first converted and then added to.

Castle Mac Gassett is the seat of Rt. Hon. Lord Clanmorris and Crossbarney - (also Lord Innesworth).

Family tradition gave the name as being given to Ireland with Strangford and to have then obtained property near Athlone which passed from the family in 1855 and that it...

contd. on page 3

Jeffrey Browne to Mary Pendergast, heiress to Castle Lee
Garrett.

Due to the destruction of family papers in a fire which destroyed
the old house of Castle Lee Garrett in 1811, there is nothing but
tradition to rely on regarding the Irish age of R. Browne (parish)
pedigree.

Proven historically is the lineal Browne descent from Stephen
Browne of Athenry, burgess, said to have been a son of John
Browne, Bailiff of Athenry. Stephen died in the 15th century &
married (in 1480) Euline, daughter of Jeffrey Lynch, Mayor of
Galway in 1487 — according to Burke's Landed Gentry (1855 edition).
This statement contrary to evidence later shown ^{late} by Lord Oranmore
& Browne in family research at beginning of this century.

Stephen's son, William, was Provost of Athenry in 1527. He
married Anastasia Blake in 1510 or thereabouts. There were six
sons, four of whom were freemen of Galway. Dominick, third son,
succeeded to the Athenry lands. He was made a freeman of
Galway in 1541, July 29th. He became Mayor of Galway in
1575 being known as Dominick Browne Fitz William. As one of
the Chieftains of Lannaught he signed the composition for his
property in 1585. Dominick was a figure of some importance
in affairs of his time. In 1572 the Lord Deputy of Ireland
enclosed a letter written by Dominick to Queen Elizabeth. The
letter gives warning of the Spanish King's preparations to
despatch a great army against England, (Armada 1588).

Dominick's heir was Jeffrey, eldest of three sons (whose records
are extant) one of whom was Edward, Dean of Yvan in 1607 and
recommended by Lord Burghley in 1572 to the Archbishopric of
Yvan. Edward was a student at Oxford in 1571.

From Jeffrey's descent comes the line of the Brownes of Castle
Lee Garrett. Jeffrey's brother, Oliver, however, and his descent,
had much to do with the city of Galway. Oliver was Mayor
in 1609. For refusing to take the oath of supremacy he was
deprived of the mayoralty in 1610. He died in 1619. He left two
sons, Andrew, and Martin. Andrew became a Sheriff of Galway

Andrew purchased lands at Glenties near Athenry. He married Catherine Bodkin and died in July 1640 leaving two sons, Francis, and Dominick Browne. Francis became a Franciscan Friar after 1663 and Dominick obtained the Glenties estate. (The Browne family were Catholic up to 1754). Dominick married a daughter of Sir Robert Lynch of Galway and had issue a son, Andrew Browne.

The second son of Oliver Browne, the deposed Mayor of Galway 1609/10 owned a house in Lower Abbeygate St. in Galway whose doorway was re-erected as the entrance to Eyre Square. (The Browne doorway). Martin Browne married Mary Lynch and their names and arms are on the doorway with the date 1627. Martin died in 1637.

Geoffrey Browne, son of Dominick, and already mentioned as progenitor of the Castle Mac Gerald line, married, according to tradition, Mary Prendergast heiress of Castle Mac Gerald. Some historical evidence confutes this and shows that Geoffrey married a Miss Lynch. In 1636 the castle and lands of Castle Mac Gerald were owned by Dominick Lynch Fitzjohn who is stated to have bought them from Richard and Myles Mac Morris (Prendergast), in 1630.

Geoffrey's heir was Sir Dominick Browne. His birth date is unknown. He married in 1608 the year of his father's death. He was a Bailiff of Galway in 1609. In 1620 he was convicted at Athenry of homicide. In the same year he was pardoned. In 1634 he was a representative in the Dublin Parliament. In 1635, August 11th, he obtained the knight hood. He married Anastasia, daughter of James Darcy, and died in 1656, predeceasing Lady Browne. Of the marriage there were besides Geoffrey the heirs and eldest son, four sons and five daughters.

Geoffrey's birth was about 1608. In Galway records he is noted as a counsel skilled in law. He was a member of Parliament in 1641 and in that year was a member of the

of the Irish people. He was also one of the Supreme Council of Confederate Catholics (an assembly numbering twenty four persons elected by the general convention) which convened at Kilkenny in October 1642. The convention was part of an endeavour to obtain full Catholic rights. Charles, who was King, appointed the Lords Ormond and Clarrickande to meet the Council. Charles wished to obtain Irish Catholic help against the English Parliamentary forces with whom he was engaged, without however stirring up the anger of his English subjects. Secret negotiations took place between the King and the Catholic Confederation agents of whom Geoffrey Browne was one. A peace was finally declared but the papal nuncio, having arrived in the meantime, denounced the pact, made public entry into Kilkenny and, ordering the Council members to be imprisoned, set up a new Council.

Geoffrey Browne was released from prison after Archbishop Rinuccini's futile attempt to capture Dublin. A general assembly was then called and it was decided that since Charles was now in the hands of the Parliamentary forces, to send a delegation to go to France to treat with the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The delegates chosen were Lord Antrim, Lord Muskerry, and Geoffrey Browne. They went to St. Germain and were graciously received by the Queen and the Prince. It was agreed that a representative would be sent to Ireland to treat with the Confederates and that every effort would be made to grant them every grace consistent

with justice and the Tenor of his Majesty." The delegates returned and reported that Lord Ormond was coming to Ireland as the royal representative.

Some years later Jeffrey Browne, with Lord Gaaffe, ^{and} Sir M. Plunkett, was appointed Commissioner to negotiate with the Duke of Lorraine (Charles IV). Events prior to this were - the execution of Charles I, the return of Marcantonio Ruffini to Italy, and the withdrawal of Lord Ormond who appointed Lord Clancarde as Lord Deputy. - In 1651 the Bishop of Ferns petitioned the Duke of Lorraine to take "the nation and religion under his protection". Lord Gaaffe also approached the Duke on behalf of the Duke of York. The security of any place in the Kingdom was offered in return for any sums advanced.

The Duke responded by sending to Ireland the Abbe d'Herin to arrange matters. The Abbe came to Galway where Clancarde appointed a committee to consider his terms. These were that the Duke of Lorraine should be Protector of Ireland, have supreme command of the militia and power to convene general assemblies until all debts were paid off. The Bishops agreed, but Clancarde rejected the terms. Finally it was arranged that Lincick and Galway be given as security for a loan of £20000. Gaaffe, Plunkett, and Browne were then deputed to go to Brussels to treat with the Duke on the question of the Protectorship.

(contd. on page 7)

Jeffrey Browne took with him the map of Galway which remained in his descendant's possession until 1855 when the first Lord O'Connell gave it to Queen's College, Galway.

The envoys went to Brussels in 1651 and on July 22nd of that year the Duke and the Commissioners signed an agreement which conceded every point demanded by the Abbe d'Herin at Galway. The agreement was sent to Ireland with letters to the Mayor and Council of Galway and to Lord Clanciarde. The former were pleased, the latter enraged.

Jeffrey Browne as envoy had the diplomatically difficult task of representing both the Catholic Confederates and Clanciarde.

Jeffrey died in 1668, Jan. 14th. His issue by Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Lynch Bart., consisted of Dominick, his heir, and four other sons, as also a daughter.

^{Dominick} Jeffrey was born somewhere between the years 1630/36. He died in 1722. Grants of lands which were to be made to his father were conveyed to him in 1670 — some 8505 acres in Galway and Mayo. These included Castle MacGarrett and Carrabogue (Galway). Dominick was Mayor of Galway in 1688 and 1689. As Colonel Dominick Browne he adhered to King James' cause and commanded a regiment at the battle of Aughrim. He was one of the hostages when in 1691, Galway was taken by de Ginkles. He married Miss Agnes French of Galway and lived in Castlekeels until the death of his father in 1668.

when he transferred to Crossboyne. Castlekeele was situated some 500 yds. from the present castle Mac Gassett. A mile further on one to much greater remains of the old castle or castle Mac Gassett - which was vacated by the Browne family in 1694 by Colonel Browne's eldest son and heir, Geoffrey Browne who built a residence which was destroyed by fire in 1811. Geoffrey was born in 1664 and he was the first of the family to make castle Mac Gassett a permanent residence. Many of the fine trees in the demesne were planted by him. He married Megg eldest daughter of Peter Blake - she died in 1705. His death occurred on March 12th 1755 and he was buried in the vault under Crossboyne Church. His heir was Dominick, a son.

Dominick Browne had lived at Ashford (Browne estate) prior to his father's death. (Ashford later belonged to Lord Ardilaun). Dominick married twice, first, Elizabeth Martin of Tullyra - by whom he had three daughters. Second, in 1754, Henrietta, daughter of Sir Henry Lynch. She died in 1765 after having given birth to a son. He was 24 and is buried in Crossboyne Church.

After his death Dominick went abroad, devoted himself to his son's education and took him abroad. Dominick conformed to the Church of Ireland at the church of Crossboyne in 1754. He died, and was buried at Crossboyne in 1776. His son, whose birth in 1755 had taken place at Ashford, was Dominick Geoffrey Browne.

Dominick Geoffrey was in France at the coronation of Louis XVI and saw the crown taken as it was placed on the ill-fated monarch's head. He married in 1785 at Crossboyne Church, Margaret, daughter of the Hon. George Browne, 4th son of Lord Altamount. Most of their children were born in Westland Row, Dublin, where they had a house.
(Contd. on page 9)

In 1798 Dominick Geoffrey raised the Mayo militia and was their first Colonel. In 1811 the house at Castlemeagarett was burned to the ground. Colonel Browne remained abroad for the rest of his life and died at Bath on May 8th, 1826 [This is the only coffin in the Browne vault under Crossbeggs Church]

Succeeded by his eldest son Dominick, born in 1787 and educated at Eton and St. John's College, Oxford. First Lord Oranmore. He represented Co. Mayo in seven Parliaments and was made a Privy Councillor in 1834. Created Baron Oranmore of Oriabrowne Castle and Baron Browne of Castlemeagarett in 1836. Lost all his wealth in the seven elections (one cost him £40000) and the famine. In 1854/5 all his estates were sold in the Encumbered Estates Court. Thus after 600 years the Galway property left the Browne family. Castle meagarett seems to have been bought by the 2nd Lord Oranmore.

Dominick, 1st Lord Oranmore, married in 1811 Catherine Anne Isabella, eldest daughter of Henry Monck of Westmeath, who was heir general of General Monck, Duke of Albemarle, restorer of the monarchy. Dominick died in 1860 and was succeeded by Geoffrey Dominick Augustus Frederick, 2nd Baron, who married in 1859 Christina daughter and heir of Alexander Guthrie, the Mount, Ayrshire whose will contained a stipulation that whoever married his daughter should assume the name of Guthrie and none other. {The provision was adhered to for some years but the Browne name and arms were resumed by the 3rd Lord Oranmore.} The 2nd Baron (was) died at Castlemeagarett on Nov. 15th 1900.

Succeeded by Geoffrey Henry Browne, 3rd Lord Oranmore.

and Browne K.P., a representative peer for Ireland, Knight of
Grace of Jerusalem, born Jan 6th 1861, assumed the name and arms
of Browne in lieu of those of Gethrois, Privy Councillor for Ireland
in 1921, created Baron Inverworth in the peerage of the United Kingdom
on Jan. 19th, 1926, Senator for Southern Ireland. He married in
1901, Lady Ellen Verena Pensonby, daughter of the 8th Earl of
Bessborough K.P., C.B., C.V.O., Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem.
Lady Inverworth-Browne Pensonby and her husband died as a result
of a motor car accident in Kent on June 7th 1927 - Lady Inverworth
was killed outright, Lord Inverworth died on June 30th following.

Succeeded by his son, the present owner of Castle Mac Gannett,
4th Lord Inverworth and Browne, 2nd Lord Inverworth, born Oct. 21st
1901 - married (1st) 1925, Mildred Helen, daughter of Sir Hon. Thomas
Cagelan - divorced, and married secondly, Donagh, daughter of
Hon. A.E. Guinness.

The demesne is principally an area of timber, tillage, and pasture.
Roads intersect the estate. The making of poultry houses is carried
on in the estate. Permission to visit the demesne by application
to Lord Inverworth. (Permission does not include the residence).

a fairly extensive library is in the castle.

HISTORICAL DATA: By courtesy of Lord Inverworth who, in addition to
notes which he gave of his own findings - also gave access to various
notes compiled by his father, 3rd Lord Inverworth, for the Galway Arch.
Society, Vol. V, 1907/1908: Part 1, pages 48 to 59: Part 3, pp. 165 to 175: Part IV, pp. 227/8
and annotations + corrections (unpublished) of the Journal's material. (P.F.O.) 2

Crossbays and Yagheen Clannmore's Barony.
Mansions, Castles + Estates.

Co. Mayo.
6

The family motto is - Fortiter et Fideliter.

The Arms: Argent a double-headed eagle sa. langued gu.

Crest: A griffin's head erased arg. langued gu., with supporters.