Viscount Mountgarret and Ballyconra

The following document has a number of points of interest. It was drawn up in 1784 when Edmund 11th Viscount Mountgarret lived at Ballyconra. Patrick McLoughlin was a wealthy merchant in Kilkenny and most of his property seems later to have come to his daughter, Isabella McLoughlin, who is mentioned in the deed and was founder of the Presentation Convent in James' Street. The later half of the document gives us an unusual insight into the relations between landlord and tenant at that period.

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This Indenture made the fifteenth day of January in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty-four Between the Right Honourable Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret of the one Part and Patrick McLoughlin of Kilkenny Clothier of the other Part, Witnesseth that the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret for and in consideration of the yearly Rent, Reservations, Covenants, Conditions and Agreements hereinafter reserved and mentioned hath demised, granted, set and to Farm let, and by these Presents Doth demise, grant, set, and to Farm let unto the said Patrick McLoughlin all that and those the lands of Ballyvarry late in the occupation of James Walsh containing seventy-five acres three roods and thirty-one perches, Plantation Measure, be the area more or less with the Commonage thereunto belonging, situate, lying and being in the Barony of ———— and County of Kilkenny together with all and every their Appurtenances, excepting and always referring, out of this Demise, unto the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret his Heirs, and Assigns, all Mines, Minerals and Royalties, with full and free Liberty of
Ingress, Egress and Regress, to and for the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret his Heirs and Assigns, and his and their Servants and Workmen, with Cattle, Carts and other Carriages, at all Times hereafter during the continuance of this Demise in, through, and from the said hereby demised Premises to dig, search for, and carry away the said Mines and Minerals, and all other Royalties, of what Kind or Nature soever, he or they making reasonable Amends and Satisfaction to the said Patrick McLoughlin, his heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, for all such Damages as shall be committed to the Grass, Corn or Soil of the said Premises, by Reason thereof. And also excepting and reserving out of this Demise unto the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret his Heirs and Assigns, and his and their servants and Followers full and free Leave, Liberty to hunt, hawk, fish and fowl in and upon the said Premises, and every or any Part thereof, at all fit and proper Seasons in the Year, To have and to Hold all and singular the said demised Premises (except before excepted) unto the said Patrick McLoughlin his heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, from the twenty-fifth Day of March last past for and during the life and lives of Michael Edmund and Isabella McLoughlin three Children of the said Patrick McLoughlin or thirty-one years which shall last longest fully to be compleat and ended, Yielding and paying therefore and thereout, during the said Term unto the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret, his Heirs and Assigns, the yearly Rent or Sum of Sixty Pounds Sterling, lawful money of Great Britain, by two even and equal Half Yearly Portions (that is to say) on every 29th Day of Septem. and 25th Day of March during the said Term, clear and free, off and from, all and all Manner of Taxes, Assessments, County Charges and Impositions, as well Parliamentary as others, which shall or may be taxed, laid or imposed on the said Demised premises or any part thereof during the said Term (Quit-rent and Crown-rent only excepted). And if the said reserved yearly Rent or any Part thereof shall be in Arrear. . . . And further
that the said Patrick McLoughlin his heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, shall and will within the Term of two years... plant and set in a good Husband-like manner on the bounds and other ditches within twenty-one feet of each other, Timber trees of Oak, Ash or Elm, in and upon the said demised Premises and the same in a Husband-like Manner preserve, And also during the said Term, supply the Decay of any of them, the next and immediate Season after such Decay; And also that the said Patrick McLoughlin, his heirs, etc., shall and will within the Term of two years... erect and build... on some convenient Part of the Premises, one house or Tenement of Stone and Lime with two Chimneys, in length forty feet and at least in the Clear, and in Breadth fourteen feet at least in the Clear, and in Height Eight feet at least above the Ground; and likewise shall and will within the space of two years... lay out and enclose one Acre of the said Premises for an Orchard or Garden, and plant therein one hundred and twenty Apple or other Fruit Trees, And further that the said Patrick McLoughlin, his heirs, etc., shall and will during the continuance of this Demise, well and sufficiently maintain, repair and keep the said demised Premises, with all Houses, Buildings... And also that the said Patrick McLoughlin, his heirs, etc., shall and will upon Customary Summons to him and them given, do suit and Service at every Court-Leet, Court-Baron or other Courts that shall be held in and for the Manner of Lisdowney, And shall and will grind, or cause to be ground, all such Corn, Malt, or other Grist as shall be used or expended on the said Premises, at some one or more of the Mill or Mills of Ballyconra, and at no other Mill or Mills whatsoever; and the said Patrick McLoughlin, his heirs, etc., shall and will, in a Week after Demand, send unto the said Edmund Lord Viscount Mountgarret, his Heirs and Assigns, two Men, two Horses, and two Cars once every year in the Summer Season, during the said Term, to draw Coals to the Mansion House, of Ballyconra or any other House wherein the said Edmund Lord Viscount...
Mountgarret, his Heirs and Assigns, shall dwell within the County of Kilkenny . . . (the rest of the document is more or less as usual).

Mountgarret (Seal).
Patk. McLoughlin (Seal).

Kilkenny Castle Picture Gallery

ONE interesting collection of Kneller portraits has apparently escaped Lord Killanin. It is a dozen or more Knellers in the Picture Gallery of Kilkenny Castle—the largest collections of Knellers, I think, in Ireland. It includes portraits of the five English Sovereigns to whom Kneller was court painter. Hanging side by side, they form a most interesting example of Kneller's artistic development. Studies, June 1949.

“In 1859 we find Woodward engaged with his partners on the picture gallery in Kilkenny, a chromatic scheme of red walls with a hammer-beam roof and great golden dragon heads terminating the hammer-beams.

This is from an article by C. P. Curran on “Benjamin Woodward, Ruskin and the O’Sheas”—Studies, June 1940.

Stephen Gwynn writing of Walter Osborne, the painter, mentions that he was the son of an excellent animal painter (William Osborne). “William Osborne was essentially a painter of horses and dogs. Horses by choice, I think; and in the sixties and seventies, when Irish landlords had money to spend, he did well by painting studies of favourite hunters. In the great gallery of Kilkenny Castle, among scores of portraits of the Ormonds I saw one representing the Marquis of Ormond of that day sitting on his horse, and there was more life and character in it than I saw elsewhere in the collection. That was by William Osborne—a perfect picture of an Irish landlord of the best type sitting easily on his hunter.” Studies, December, 1943.