

Loughnan's Bank, Kilkenny

Mr. Connell Loughnan and Mr. John Helsham entered into a partnership and established a bank at Kilkenny which was registered on the 23rd September, 1800. It does not appear to have done a large business at any time; its note circulation in 1803 was 1,000 notes under three guineas, and 1,000 under ten pounds at least this is the off-hand and of course inaccurate, return upon which the firm paid stamp duty. The bank failed in 1820.

The partners were members of well-known local families. The Loughnan's had been respectable merchants in Kilkenny for a couple of generations and the family is still extant. A grandson of the Kilkenny banker was, some years ago, a manager of a branch of the National Bank in Millstreet, Co. Cork.

John Helsham lived at Leggets Rath, Co. Kilkenny. He was descended from Arthur Helsham who had been a captain of foot in Cromwell's army and who for satisfaction of arrears of pay, received grants of land at Legget's Rath and in the Queen's County, and also purchased from the soldiers titles to similar grants, thereby acquiring a considerable landed estate. He (Captain Arthur Helsham) was Mayor of Kilkenny in 1679 and died in office. The Banker was born in 1754 and married Mary, only daughter of John Blunt of Archer's Grove, Kilkenny, and had issue (1) Major Arthur, who married Margaret Rachel, daughter of John Eney, of Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan; (2) Edward, who assumed the name of Brown; and (3) William who took the name of Chandler.

(C. M. Tennison, M.R.I.A.).