

Henry Stanes had much correspondence with Lady Elizabeth Preston who married the 1st Duke of Ormonde when he was Viscount Thurles. Henry Stanes may have been her secretary. She later built "the great house at Dunmore," Co. Kilkenny, which land adjoins Jenkinstown. It is likely that she and the Duke granted the lands of Jenkinstown to Henry Stanes, who was a Protestant and probably an Englishman. The Duke and Duchess of Ormonde were both Protestants, though coming from old Catholic families, but the fact that they were both reared in England may account for it. Jenkinstown House was built in the 19th century, a little to the West of an older residence which was nearer to the river Dinan. An inscription in Roman capitals could be read on the old Dinan Bridge near the east entrance, known as the Tower Gate, at Jenkinstown Demesne with the date 1647. The new bridge was built about a mile further south.

On the death of George Lord Bellew the family agreed that one residence in Ireland was enough, so they retained Barmeth Castle, Co. Louth, and disposed of Jenkinstown to the Irish Land Commission, who divided the lands in 1946. Jenkinstown House has been demolished with the exception of the family Chapel which was part of the house, and which is still used regularly for Catholic worship by the people of the locality.

ARMS—Gu. three lions passant or

CREST—Two lions, gambs gu supporting between them a sword erect  
arg. pommel and hilt or

MOTTO—Fortis et fidelis.

## The Jenkinstown Bridges

By TOM HOYNE

THREE bridges span the river Dinan in the neighbourhood of Jenkinstown, a notable concentration of engineering works in a small area.

The "old" Dinan bridge is that commonly known as the "Tower Bridge," taking its name from the nearby but now demolished Tower Lodge entrance to Jenkinstown demesne. But the bridge is much older than the tower. It is shown on the Down Survey map, circa 1653, when it

was the only bridge over the Dinin. The bridge is of two arches of unequal size. It has been re-constructed perhaps twice. Originally the carriageway was only about half its present width. The handsome parapets with cast-iron balusters seem to be of 19th century date. A tablet inserted in the North (upstream) parapet has the following inscription in raised Roman capitals :

PATRICIVS . DOWLYE . SVIS . EXPENSIS . HVNC . PONTEM .  
EXTRVXIT . ANNO . DNI . 1647 . AETERNAM . ILLI . VXORI . AC  
. LIBERIS . REQVIEM . PRECARE . VIATOR .

(Translation) : Patrick Dowlye erected this bridge at his own expense, A.D. 1647. Pray for Eternal Rest for him, for his wife and for his children.

The slab has been inset in a larger stone and it is obvious that it does not occupy its original position. The writer is not aware of any family named Dowlye (or any derivative of that name) having connection with Jenkinstown and would appreciate information which might throw light on the matter. In any event, the building of a bridge in such a disturbed period of Irish history is somewhat surprising.

The "new" Dinin bridge is almost a mile downstream from the "old" or Tower bridge. It is the well known hump-backed bridge on the Kilkenny—Ballyragget road. According to Canon Carrigan it was built in 1792 over a ford called Ath chinn a bhótair — the ford at the head or end of the road.

Nearly a mile upstream from the Tower bridge is the Gragara bridge, a well-proportioned structure of two arches. Prior to 1835 the road to Gragara, Esker, Kilcollan, Kilmocar, Lisnafunchion, etc., lay over the "old" bridge, turning sharp right at the Eastern entrance to Jenkinstown demense and thence by the demense wall and past Mayne church to Gragara. In that year a great flood in the Dinin carried away a long section of the roadway, the ruins of the church and most of the graveyard. For the next five years the only road to the Eastern part of Conahy parish from Kilkenny was through Jenkinstown demesne. Then, in 1840, the Gragara bridge and its access road was built. According to tradition, it was financed by a Grand Jury Presentment and a substantial contribution from Mr. George Bryan of Jenkinstown. It has two inscriptions :

- (1) On the South-West (downstream) parapet wall: Designed by SAMSON CARTER, Engineer, M.R.I.A., Surveyor to the County and City of Kilkenny.
- (2) On the opposite wall: Erected by JOSEPH WRIGHT & THOS. MEEHAN, Contractors, 1840.