

THE GREENES OF KILMACOW

By MRS. NANCY STOPFORD

IT is little wonder that Cromwell, after taking possession of the castles at Dunkitt and Granny should cast a covetous eye on the rich lands adjoining. They were held at the time by Richard Walsh, who is described in the State Papers as 'an Irish Papist.' He was immediately dispossessed and Cromwell bestowed them on one of his favourites, a Captain Horsey.

These lands contained the village of Kilmacow. There is still standing near the village of Dunkitt the residence built by this Captain for himself. He had an only daughter who soon married a son of Captain Greene, another of Cromwell's favourites. She got for her dowry the lands between what is now known as Milltown Road and Kilmacow village. This townland was then known as Kilcronagh, but was shortly afterwards changed to Greenville.

Young Green was now an officer in Cromwell's army and erected what is now known as Kilcronagh House. A short distance from this, on the banks of the river, was the old parish church of Kilmacow. The stones in this church were used in building the out-offices attached to the residence. The Green family were further rewarded with estates in Tipperary, Kilkenny and Limerick.

After some years they lost these estates and lived almost exclusively on their Greenville property. They were enterprising people as they built nine mills on the River Tay. They provided employment for the people of the surrounding countryside. In 1850 some members of the family went to Ottawa in Canada, then little more than a village, and seeing that it was the centre of a grain-producing country, started the milling business.

They amassed considerable wealth while those in Greenville got into financial difficulties. These decided to abandon their home properties and emigrated to Canada to join the other members of the family. It may be of interest

to note that one of the Green family, Major Green, lived for some time in Newtown, Waterford, in the house now occupied by the nuns attached to the De La Salle College. His first wife having died, he married as his second wife, Catherine Foley, a Catholic, who brought up all her children in the Catholic religion.

One became a priest and was ordained in 1833. He died in 1839 and is buried in St. Canice's, Kilkenny. Catherine Green, otherwise Foley, died on January 9, 1822, aged 36. She was interred with her people in Kilrush graveyard, Co. Waterford. The following inscription on her tombstone commemorates her memory: 'Catherine Green, otherwise Foley, who departed this life, in which she suffered much persecution, sorrow and woe, on January 9, 1822, aged 36, much lamented by her many friends.'

Major Green, her husband, desired to be buried in the same grave, but so strong was the opposition that the idea had to be abandoned. Instead he was laid to rest in the Green vault, Kilmacow, having before his death provided generously for his Catholic children.

Following on the emigration of the Green family to Canada, the property was then taken over by the Encumbered Estate Commissioners, who nominated a Mr. Longfield, Q.C., a Mallow man, to administer the property. After some time it was leased to some Protestant millers from Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. These, owing to trade depression, surrendered the lease and one of the Powers of Faithlegg took over the property.

On the death of his son, without issue, it was willed to Father Brennan, P.P., Kilmacow, and his curate, Father Cummins, and two laymen named Sugrue. It was then purchased by a Mr. Hunt. After some years it was sold to a Mr. Brown, who had previously owned a mill near Thomastown. Mr. Brown, senior, must have been a keen businessman as, after paying for the frontage of Greenville House, he left £40,000 to his wife and children. They continued to carry on the business but, after spending the legacy, they mortgaged the property to the Bank of Ireland for £13,500. The Bank closed on the mortgage and put up the property for sale.



A SCHOLASTICATE

It was bought by the De La Salle Brothers as a Scholasticate but in 1936 the scholastics were transferred to Faithlegg, Greenville being used for invalids and old Brothers, until, in 1956, the Sisters of the Holy Family purchased the property as a Novitiate.

I have here a short paper on the Greenes of Greenville kindly sent by Rev. Brother Dominic of the De La Salle Order, who lived at Greenville a few years ago.

The history of the Greenes is of interest to me, as my great-grandfather, Rev. Edward Hunt, married Margaret, daughter of John Greene, and they lived at Greenville, their son, Edward Hunt of Jerpoint, being my grandfather. Margaret died in 1810 "in the thirtieth year of her age," and was buried in Kilmacow church. The Rev. Edward Hunt married Martha Greene, daughter of Joseph Greene, as his second wife. They afterwards went to live at Jerpoint Church (now Belmore). Edward Hunt was Rector of Gaulskill in 1803 and Vicar of Jerpoint in 1814.

Canon Carrigan states that the original parish church of Dunkitt Parish stood in Kilcronia (Greenville). It must have been used at the time of Thomas FitzAnthony, as that nobleman, in his charter of about 1210, by which he granted the parish of Dunkitt to Inistioge Priory, makes mention of the parish church as "the church of Kilrenatti—Kilcronatti or Kilcronia. The church of Dunkitt is not mentioned in the charter and, hence, cannot be presumed to have been founded, and to have superseded Kilcronia as the principal church until after the first years of the 13th century had passed away.

CHURCH OF KILCRONIA

The church of Kilcronia stood in Greenville close to the bank of the river. Canon Carrigan stated that only slight traces of it remain, but we found no sign of it. It was dedicated to and took its name from St. Croine.

The townlands of Kilcronia, Mullinabro, Clone or Clondana (land of the oak), Milltown (Den's Milltown), Kilpipe and Ballykeoghan constituting the old manor of

Kilcronia, belonged to the Dens of Grennan until the Cromwellian confiscations.

There seems to be a difference of opinion about the original owner of these lands, Brother Dominic giving the name as Walsh and Canon Carrigan as Den. I have been lent a very interesting book about the Greene family by Mr. Newport, also one of their descendants. They seemed to have been a very large family and to have occupied property in the counties of Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, and Kildare, as well as Kilkenny.

“ HONEST JOHN ”

Here are a few notes about some of them. John Greene, known as “ Honest John,” was elected M.P. for the Co. Kilkenny in 1847, the third Parliament of Victoria. There were four candidates for this election, all declaring in favour of Repeal. John Greene was proposed by the Rev. Father Doyle, P.P., seconded by Joseph M. Rivers of Tybroughney. The polling lasted four days and the result was as follows:—Greene, 277; Butler, 262; Hely, 241; Walsh, 139.

John Greene of Greenville and Ballynooney, was the only son of John Greene of Greenville, by Anne Coote. He was born in 1807, had been a Captain in the Dragoon Guards and was a member for the county for 18 years in four Parliaments. 1847 to 1852; 1857 to 1859; 1859 to 1865, having to stand a contest at each election. He was defeated in 1865. He then retired from public life and died unmarried in 1883.

Kilmacow Church is now demolished, but there are separate notes on memorials of people buried there. It is sad that all these records in stone and marble should be gone, and with their going much of our country's history is lost. A few of these memorials are stored in the organ loft of the Abbey Church, Waterford.

Amongst the Greenes who are buried in Kilmacow Church is Major Joseph Greene, born in 1746, and died in 1830, at the age of 83. He married first Hannah Townsend in America, and secondly Catherine Foley. He was a

Captain in the 40th Regiment of Foot and was a Major in the First Batt. of Delaney's Regiment.

With 200 loyal Americans he successfully defended the Star Fort, South Carolina, from May 21 to June 19, 1781, against 5,000 men, commanded by General Nathaniel Greenc. For his services he was granted a tract of land in Canada. On June 27, 1783, his services were specially mentioned by Sir George Howard in the House of Commons. He was granted a special pension.

The Trustees of Linen Manufacture made him a grant of money as they found he had been at a very large expense in establishing the linen manufacture at Greenville and had removed 16 families from the North and had been of great service to the county.
