

Garrincreen is "remarkable for nothing more than its having been often seen to go to the neighbouring stream to drink water at night and come back again"—perhaps all three old churches indulged in this curious habit and got a little confused. Now there is no knowing which is which (16).

The Butlers of Lower Grange, Viscounts Galmoy

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Of the descendants of Theobald Walter who accompanied Henry II to Ireland in 1171 and who assumed the surname of Butler from the chief Butlerage of Ireland conferred on him in 1177, six branches were raised to the peerage under the titles of Ormond, Cahir, Mountgarrett, Dunboyne, Ikerrin and Galmoy. The last five have disappeared; some as a result of 17th century attainders, others through the failure of heir's male.

The family of Galmoy who resided at Lower Grange, was an illegitimate branch of the house of Ormond and a comparatively latecomer to the peerage. Today, hardly a trace of the Galmoy mansion remains though it was an extensive and imposing residence less than 200 years ago. The author of "The Compleat Irish Traveller" writing in 1778 says of it. "From Bagenalstown I repassed its bridge, re-entering Kilkenny County and keeping the Barrow to my left entered Low Grange within a mile of Gowran. How shall I describe this place. Imagine as you approach this seat you view the walls of a town and at last enter by the gates, pass by several noble arches, partly built with marble and partly of a hard stone dug out of a quarry within its precincts. You advance by these arches which lead you to an ample courtyard fronted with a handsome canal. The building, of a modern and elegant taste is fronted with marble; the spouts that throw off the water are of the same materials and so contrived as to appear an additional beauty to the building. Part of this noble dwelling was formerly the tower of an old castle and it now wears a modern face. Any person would take this place for a town on the inside of the

walls as well as without. Here is a workhouse of a great extent, where are employed harnessmakers, saddlers, millwrights, coopers, tallow chandlers, butchers, carpenters, smiths and several other trades. Bullock stalls are built with handsome arches beside noble stables built in the same manner and capable of holding 60 horses.

The hogs eat of marble troughs one of which was an ancient coffin but the inscription round the edge is not intelligible. The park is well stocked with fine deer. Here are walled in by twelve different enclosures nearly a thousand acres with lime and stone nearly twelve feet high, besides a garden of twelve acres more and an orchard much of the same dimensions. Even the orchards are planted with wall fruit trees of the best sorts that can be purchased in Europe. A multiplicity of ponds produce the largest carp and tench. The river that flows through the grounds furnishes excellent trout and eels and the Barrow about a mile from it, plenty of salmon and other fish". Some stretches of crumbling boundary wall and the silted-up fish-ponds are all that remain of this magnificence. The last of the arches stood opposite Lyng's house until it was removed some years ago as being unsafe.

The Abbey lands of Duiske amounting to over 10,000 acres were following the dissolution of the monasteries in 1540, granted in 1566 to James Butler, fifth son of James, 9th Earl of Ormond, who was poisoned at Holborn in 1546. James died in the following year and the lands passed by fee farm grant in 1557 to his only son James.

This James died without issue and the lands reverted to his uncle, Black Tom, 10th Earl of Ormonde. Black Tom though three times married left no legitimate male heir but had two illegitimate sons, Piers and John Piers obtained the lands of Duiske and resided at the old abbey in Barrowmount and was known as "Piers Butler of the Abbey". Piers left two sons, Sir Edward and Sir Richard of Knocktopher. Concern with land titles was an outstanding feature of the early decades of the 17th century Ireland. The extensive confiscations in Ulster, Longford and Wexford in the first decade of the century had shown the crown a lucrative field for exploitation where titles were not absolutely watertight. Parallel with the acquisitive tendency there also existed among crown lawyers a desire to

tidy up the legal mess of land titles as well as weaken the influences of the great land owners by giving the lesser gentry freehold titles. It was a time when a prudent man in good standing with the authorities would seek to make his hold on his property secure. It is not surprising therefore to find Sir Edward in 1618 taking out a fresh grant for the lands of Duiske, and others in Carlow and Wexford amounting in all to 16,000 acres. Graigue was erected into a manor with power to hold a weekly market and fairs twice yearly. Sir Edward resided in the Old Abbey (An Seana Mhainistir) and at Lower Grange.

On the outbreak of the Rebellion of 1641 Sir Edward took the Catholic side and sat in the General Assembly of the Confederation of Kilkenny. He was an Ormondist and strongly supported the Peace of 1646; and in that year no doubt in appreciation of his action and on Ormonde's recommendation was created Viscount Galmoy, Baron of Lower Grange, Barrowmount and Ballyogan.

On the triumph of Cromwell his lands were confiscated and disposed of to the Hollow Swords Blades Company. The estates were however restored to his heir by a decree of the Court of Claims in 1662, after the Restoration of Charles II. Evidently the Ormonde influence was again exerted.

He died in 1653 and is buried in Graignamanagh. A chalice presented by him and his wife to the church there is still preserved and was on display during the recent commemoration celebrations of the restoration of the church. During the restoration of the church in 1813 Galmoy's monument was found among the rubbish and inserted in the wall of the present vestry.

Sir Edward's eldest son, Piers, known as Piers of Barrowmount, as he predeceased his father and consequently never held the title, was a captain of horse in the army of Charles I. He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Lampston in 1650 and slain by a Captain William Bolton, after quarter had been given.

Pier's heir, Edward, accordingly, succeeded his grandfather as 2nd Viscount. He married Elinor White of Leixlip, who was widow of Sir Arthur Ashton. Ashton, an English Catholic had commanded a regiment in the army of Charles I. Ashton had lost a leg, not in battle as might be assumed, but

rather prosaically as a result of an accident when he was thrown from a horse he was exercising in his orchard. In spite of the handicap of a wooden leg he continued to command the regiment and when the cause of the King was lost in England took the regiment to Ireland and garrisoned Drogheda. After Cromwell's siege of Drogheda in 1649 a Roundhead soldier battered him to death with his own wooden leg.

Edward died in 1667 and was succeeded by his son Piers 3rd Viscount and last of his family to hold the properties. Piers was made L.D. of Oxford in 1677. This is probably more indicative of his cousin Ormonde's influence as chancellor of the university than of Piers scholastic attainments.

He was a Privy Counsellor of Ireland in the reign of James II and Lord Lieutenant of County Kilkenny. He raised from his estates the 2nd Regiment of Horse of King James's Irish Army, commonly known as Galmoy's Horse, of which he was colonel.

At the Battle of the Boyne, in contrast to the Jacobite infantry who, raw, untrained, poorly armed and worse led, acquitted themselves miserably, the cavalry and dragoons distinguished themselves. At Slane Bridge, the dragoons of Sir Neil O'Neill, exposed to heavy artillery fire and repeated charges of cavalry resisted for a whole hour the attack of the right wing of the Williamite army. When the infantry defending Oldbridge Ford broke under the attack of the Dutch Blues, the cavalry on the right wing, among whom were Galmoy's Horse repeatedly charged the Danes and Huguenots and pushed the Danes back into the river.

To quote Grant. "British Battles on Land and Sea" "The Irish cavalry fought nobly. They had been cut to pieces by squadrons and in one regiment alone there were not more than thirty unwounded left".

At length abandoned by the infantry they fell back, still resisting desperately. At Plottin Castle, a mile and a half from the field, they made their last stand, routing the Inniskilling Dragoons with the loss of fifty men. Galmoy's Horse in conjunction with the French continued to cover the retreat as far as Duleek and Naul. At Aughrim the conduct of the cavalry and infantry was in complete contrast to that at the Boyne. The infantry had had a year's experience and training and were now well armed and equipped. They had in St. Ruth a

general of skill and experience and fought with grim determination. According to the official account in the "London Gazette" the Irish were never known to fight with more resolution".

The cavalry on the other hand showed no inclination to fight. Their leaders had lost hope and were anxious to end the war and save their estates. Some were in actual communication with the Williamites.

St. Ruth's dispositions were excellent. His army was drawn up at the foot of a hill. In front was marsh and bog and on the left the Castle of Aughrim. He had prepared for defence in depth by lining the fences and ditches in his centre with infantry. Gaps were cut through the fences to allow for mobility.

Eight Williamite regiments attacked across the marsh and were repeatedly driven back. In the fighting between the fences the Williamite troops fell into great confusion. General Kane one of their commanders records: "In this hurry there were six battalions so intermingled that we were at a loss what to do and certainly their horse would have made fine work of us if we had not found means to get around into the plain and engage those of the enemy".

The charge of the Jacobite horse was never made. At this juncture, Mackay attempted the hazardous manoeuvre of forcing the Irish left through the narrow defile at Aughrim Castle. They suffered tremendous losses from the concentrated fire of the garrison and St. Ruth seeing what was afoot was confident of victory. Ordering a general advance he was riding over to supervise the movements of the left wing when he was killed by a cannon ball. About the same time the garrison of Aughrim Castle had expended their personal ammunition. The reserve supply was opened but found to be of French pattern and would not fit the muskets. They cut the pewter buttons off their tunics and used them as bullets and even chopped up the ramrods but the fire now had little effect. Mackay surprised at the easing of the Irish fire pushed vigorously ahead. Luttrell and Galmoy in charge of the cavalry had orders to defend the defile to the last, but Luttrell ordered the cavalry off the field and exposed the infantry to a rear attack from the Williamite cavalry. Ginkle with the tide of battle now running

in his favour ordered a general movement along the front. The Irish infantry caught in the pincers movement were massacred without quarter. Estimates of their number killed vary from 4,000 to 7,000.

Galmoy was taken prisoner but having subsequently been exchanged was one of the Irish contracting parties to the Treaty of Limerick. His signature to the document appears after Sarsfield's.

Under Article II of the Treaty the Irish officers were guaranteed possession of their estates if they returned to them. Galmoy chose to go to France with his regiment. As a result he was attainted in 1692 and his estates of 10,000 acres in Kilkenny and 6,000 acres in Carlow and Wexford were confiscated. The lands were purchased in the Court of Claims by James Agar, ancestor of the Clifden family. Agar's descendant Lord Normanton, passed the lands of Lower Grange amounting to 1,900 acres by fee farm grant to the Greene family. In 1830 an offer of £35,000 was made by Lord Clifden for the resumption. It was not accepted and the lands passed by purchase to John Smithwick in whose family they remained until they were vested in the tenants under the Land Acts.

In France the remains of the various Irish cavalry regiments were re-organised into two horse regiments — the Kings and Queens. Galmoy was given command of the 2nd or Queen's Regiment which was styled Galmoy's Horse. He served with it in 1692 for the proposed invasion of England, was created Brigadier in 1694 and served with the French forces in Germany until 1697.

In 1698 following the Peace of Ryswick the King's and Queen's regiments were amalgamated and Galmoy was given command of an infantry regiment. He served in various engagements in Italy and Germany until 1704. Disappointed at not having been made a Lieutenant-General he exchanged the French service for that of Spain where he obtained the desired rank in 1705. He distinguished himself at the battles of Cassana and Calininato. From 1710 to 1712 he served with the Spanish forces in Flanders where he took part in a number of sieges. Under the Duke of Berwick he took part in the capture of Barcelona in 1714. This was his last exploit in the War of Spanish Succession. After the Peace of Utrecht the Regiment

de Galmoy was dissolved and incorporated with that of Dillon in 1715.

On the death of Queen Anne, Louis XIV at the request of Ormond and the Scottish Jacobites made naval and military preparations to invade England via Scotland for the purpose of placing the son of James II on the throne. A squadron of twelve battalions was assembled at Dunkirk with the intention of landing at Dunbar where it was expected they would be joined by the Scottish Jacobites. Galmoy was among the Irish officers appointed to accompany the expedition. An attack of measles to the Pretender delayed the sailing and when it finally reached the Firth of Forth found a superior squadron under Admiral Byng awaiting, and had to return. The French lost one ship, the "Salisbury" which had previously been captured from the English.

Galmoy returned to the French service from Spain in 1722 and was granted the rank of Lieutenant-General there, the appointment to date from 1705 the period of his appointment to the same grade in Spain. He died at Paris in 1740 in his 89th year.

He married Anne Matthew of Thomastown Castle, Thurles by whom he had a son, James, a colonel of foot in the army of James II. James was killed at Malplaquet in 1709. "The Complete Peerage" vol. V p. 610, states that Galmoy married secondly against her father's wishes, Henrietta Fitzjames, widow of Henry 1st, Baron Waldegrave, illegitimate daughter of James II by Arabella Churchill. Henrietta died in 1730 at Navestock, Essex. Callaghan, however, in his notice of this lady in "The History of the Irish Brigade" says — Born 1671, first Lady Waldegrave, next (though too late to preserve her character) Lady Wilmot—deceased 1730."

James left no issue and the title was assumed in 1740 by Pier's nephew, James, a colonel of the Irish Brigade, who died in 1770 without issue. A nephew of this James, Pier's Antoin Louis Butler then assumed the title and held it until his death in 1826.

In 1828 Garrett Mandeville Butler, of Ballindine, County Tipperary, a descendant of Peter Butler of Barrowmount, youngest brother of Edward 2nd Viscount filed a petition in claim of his right to the title as eldest male heir of Sir Edward Butler

1st Viscount. The law officers acknowledged the claim and recommended that the attainder of 1692 be reversed. Garret died in the following year and the matter was not further pursued.

Sources — Lodge's Peerages Bourke's Extinct Peerages History and Antiquities of Kilkenny — Healy; Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin — Comerford; British Battles on Land and Sea — Grant; Irish Brigades in the Service of France— Callaghan; Dictionary of National Biography; Irish Swordsmen in France — Hayes.

The Sullivans -- A Notable 19th Century Kilkenny Family

BY PETER SMITHWICK, K.M., SOLICITOR

The tradition of Kilkenny is that Sullivan's Brewery was founded in 1702. I have been unable to trace the Sullivans with certainty beyond William Sullivan, who died in 1818, and who was then at least 70 years of age, but I feel sure he was the grandson of Daniel Sullivan, a Protestant, who in the early eighteenth century bought property in trust for Piers Bryan of Jenkinstown, who was, of course a Catholic, and thus debarred from buying land.

In the Civil Survey of 1656, James Bryan, Piers Bryan's father, is recorded as the owner of a malthouse on the west side of High Street, standing backward in James's Street. I believe that this is the property which later became Sullivan's Brewery.

The mechanics of buying property in trust for Catholics were most involved. For example, in 1727, Daniel Sullivan bought some house property from the Earl of Arran, and 20 years later one Richard Swords brought proceedings in the Court of Exchequer as a Protestant informer to be declared the owner of this property. Piers Bryan was one of the defendants.

Richard Swords got a decree declaring him the owner and he transferred the rights under this decree to Edward Herbert.