

A further link with Co. Kilkenny was forged by the marriage in 1873 of George Shee to Jane, daughter of Henry Innes of the Island Mills, Thomastown.

#### *ALL THAT REMAINS*

Only an overgrown and dilapidated monument in a neglected graveyard in Thomastown now commemorates the family of the Queen's Sergeant, Sir William Shee.

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## Goresbridge and Barrowmount House

BETTINA GRATTAN-BELLEW

The village of Goresbridge owes its name partly to the family of Gore who established themselves here towards the close of the 17th century and partly to the Bridge which here spans the Barrow, uniting the Counties of Kilkenny and Carlow. It was also named Newbridge. Arthur Gore obtained from King Charles II grants of lands in this neighbourhood, forfeited by Irish Catholics, and established himself at Barrowmount, formerly the property of Piers Butler and built himself a house opposite the site of the Butler residence. He was interred at Powerstown but when that church fell into disuse the mural slab was removed to the Protestant Church of Goresbridge, called Grange Sylvae. The inscription reads "Here lyes ye body of Ralph Gore, Esq., late of Barrowmount, in ye County of Kilkenny, son of Sir John Gore, of Lecum in Hertfordshire, Knight, who departed this life ye 12th day of December, 1721, aged 68 years".

Another Ralph Gore probably son to this, one, is reported to have been a great racing character. An embellishment of an old map of the Co. Kildare published in 1752 exhibits a grotesque sketch of a race under which is the following; "A prospect of the Great Match run on the Curragh, Sept. 5th, 1751, for 1,000 guineas, between Black and All-Black, belonging to the Hon. Sir Ralph Gore, and Bajazet, the property of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of March, won with ease by the former".

(I am glad to say the racing traditions of Barrowmount

are still being carried on with equal success at the present time 1963 by our kind host, Mr. J. J. Donohoe).

A return made in 1766 of the Parishes of Grange Sylvia and Kilmacahill is signed by Manly Gore, Rector of Powers-town and curate of Grange Sylvia and Kilmacahill he was no doubt a member of this family.

An old road known now as Kelly's Lane, was built by the Gores as a short cut for their carriages to Powerstown Church from Barrowmount. There is a memorial tablet to another Ralph Gore in St. Mary's Parish Church in Kilkenny. The last of the Gores to reside here was Colonel William Gore in 1803. He was a member of the Irish Parliament at the time of the Union and according to the Red and Black lists which appear in the life of Henry Grattan vol. 5 by his son. Gore voted first against the Union but was subsequently bribed by Castlereagh to vote in favour of it.

After the passing of the Act of Union Gore on ceasing to be a member of Parliament would have lost his Parliamentary immunity and as he was deeply in debt and liable to be imprisoned he fled to America and died there. It is reported that before he left he buried all his silver plate and some years later it was dug up and sent out to him. It is not known if he built the present house which would seem to belong to a period slightly later than 1803. The property was purchased by the Clifden family of Gowran and let to various tenants .

Notes on the tenants kindly provided by Mrs. Kitty Drennan of Gowran. Mr. John Darby, brother of Mr. Christopher Darby, Rector of Gowran, who built Rockfield House, lived in Barrowmount House. A Mr. Barrington an agent for Lady Clifden occupied it at another period. Miss Harman lived there at the beginning of this century, then a Count Wratislaw and it was purchased in 1920 by our host, Mr. J. J. Donohoe.

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#### *AN INN OR TAVERN FOR OVER 200 YEARS*

John R. Anthony, Piltown, was granted a licence in respect of an extension to his premises. Mr. Carroll, B.L. (instructed by Messrs. M. J. O'N-Quirke and Co.), for the applicant, said Anthony's had been used as an inn or tavern since 1759.