

in and around his native Vicenza, mostly of brick faced with siucco. He studied classical architecture in Rome 1545-47. His treatise "I Quattro Libri dell Architettura" Venice, 1570, influenced the design of buildings in Europe, especially in England.

Sources : Irish Georgian Society (April—Sept., 1967).

Burtchaell : Members of Parliament for Kilkenny. (Dublin 1888). Articles in the Journals of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society (J.R.S.A.I.). 1892, 1893, 1896 and 1902.

Carrigan : "History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory." (Dublin 1905).

Anderson : "Nooks and Corners of the County Kilkenny," by Paris Anderson. (Kilkenny 1848).

Guide to Inistioge (1966).

Historical notes written by Admiral Tighe, Michael Murray and Thomas Whyte.

Inistioge

DORCAS BIRTHISTLE

Authorities differ on the origin of the name of Inistioge. In the old documents it is usually referred to as "Inisteoc" probably meaning the Island of someone called Teoc. Dr. P. W. Joyce in "Irish Names of Places" stated that it is written so in the "Book of Leinster". It is mentioned once in the Annals of the Four Masters in 962, when "A victory was gained by the Ossorians at Inisteoc over Amlaibh, the son of Sitric, in which many of the Danes were slain with Batbarr, the son of Nira". It is the only monastic community in the County of Kilkenny of which tradition expressly states that it was founded in the time of the early Celtic Church, dedicated to St. Columb or Columbkil, as he was commonly called, and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There are, however, no records to prove this.

PRIORY OF INISTIIGE

About 1210 in the reign of King John, Thomas FitzAnthony Anglo-Norman Seneschal of Leinster, after which Thomastown is named, followed a Norman custom and established this

Priory here, for the Canons of St. Augustine and dedicated it to St. Columb and the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the advice of the Bishop of Ossory he appointed a Welshman, Alured, a monk from Kells, and originally of Bodwin in Cornwall, the first Prior. He and three Welsh monks formed the first Community. Like other Norman establishments it was not open to the native Irish, but time rendered this restriction ineffectual and there are later records of Irishmen filling the highest positions in the Order.

FitzAnthony made ample provision for the support of this new Priory and its efficiency in carrying out the works of charity for which he intended it. He endowed it with the Vale of Inistioge and several townlands adjoining, together with the fishery of the River Nore for a length of about 3 miles.

Also he granted it, in virtue of his right as Lay-Patron, the Parishes of Inistioge, Grenan (now Thomastown) and Kilcrenath (now Dunkitt).

Alured, the first Prior, in 1220, granted and confirmed by charter to his burgesses of Inistioge "all the liberties which it becometh burgesses to have and is lawful for him to confer." (See under "Civic History.")

Stephen Archdeakne of Tulachbarry (now Ballyragget) who was Thomas FitzAnthony's son-in-law, was also an early benefactor of the Priory. Among the Charters preserved in Ormonde archives is one by which he granted to the Prior and Canons, the Church of Kilmacow (now the ruined church of Sralee, Ballyragget, with its chapel of Tulochbari). Validity of this grant seems to have been called in question by the Abbot of St Thomas, Dublin, and alured, subsequently granted, by his charter, to the Abbot of St Thomas all the rights that Stephen Archdeakne had given to him. In the course of time the Abbey of St Thomas lost their rights, as Kilcormac and Tulachbarry in the 14th Century belonged solely to the Priory of Inistioge. (Red Book of Ossory.)

There are not very many records of the following 300 years or so. These are some extracts :

In 1324 on the Sunday preceding the octave day of St. Hilary (Jan. 14) died David, Prior of Inistyoce, a venerable man and worthy of respect (according to the opinion of many) in the sight of God and man (Clyn's Annals).

The year 1355 seems to have been a troubled one as there are complaints from two different Priors. First from Stephen de Kerkyon, that 12 men of Ossory and their accomplices, made an armed attack on himself and his Canons, wounding him and slaying one of the Canons, and plucking out the eyes and cutting out the tongue of another, and that these, with Richard Bishop of Ossory forced him by violence and terror to resign his Priory into the Bishop's hand and therefore he appealed to Rome for redress. The Pope, Innocent 6th, by a Brief of July 23rd, 1355, commissioned the Bishop of Waterford and Ferns, and the Abbot of de Voto (Tintern) in the Diocese of Ferns, to examine into the merits of the case and if Stephen de Kerklyon's statements be found correct to restore him to his former position as Prior etc. (Theiner's Monumenta.)

But in the same year a Stephen, Prior of Kells, was charged with feloniously robbing John Modberry, Prior of Inistioge, and also with taking from Richard Lancy, a scythe, value 20d. He was committed to Gaol, but through the favour of the Court he was pardoned on payment of 20/- to the Kings Treasurer (Kings Collections). This Modberry was probably the Prior appointed by the Bishop of Ossory to Inistioge on his depriving Stephen deKerkyon of it.

Milo Baron, alias Fitzgerald, family of Brownesford and Cloone was the last Prior of Inistioge and was appointed Bishop of Ossory by Papal Brief of June 8, 1528. He received at the same time a special Brief authorizing him to retain his former position as Prior, as well as the revenues of the Priory. Carrigan says in the Catalogue of the Bishops of Ossory, drawn up as far as can be judged a few years after his death, his zeal for the welfare of his Priory and Diocese is highly commended, special mention being made of the new Bell-tower and Cloister, which he added to the Priory. This is disputed by some. Mr. Langrish says the tower bears no evidence of having been erected at so late a date and the sculptured stones belonging to the cloister which remain, are of a much earlier type.

Milo Baron continued as Prior until the suppression of the Religious Houses by Henry 8th. On the 20th March, 1539, he had to surrender his Priory and all his possessions into the hands of the King's commissioners (Priory, Church

Steeple and cemetery, a hall, dormitory, 4 chambers, a kitchen, store etc. gardens and other closes containing 4 acres, within the precincts, 30 messuages (meaning dwelling house, and out-buildings and gardens) 27 gardens, 180 acres of land, meadow and pasture, 120 of wood, a fishery set at the annual rent of 20/- and two mills in Inistioge, annual value £13 7 4. Many churches and chapels, in the Diocese of Ossory, Cashel, Leighlin, Ferns, and Waterford). The record of the temporal possessions surrendered by Milo Baron are imperfect, only specifying those in Co. Wexford in detail. The Co. Kilkenny possessions, containing 3,876 acres, according to present measurement, represent for the most part of the original endowment by FitzAnthony and are mostly included in the civil parish of Inistioge.

He received in lieu of all the above, a pension of £20 per annum and died in 1550 or 51, it is said of grief, which in old men is often fatal (Ware).

In May, 1569, the Priory and these possessions were granted by the Crown to Edmond Butler, son of James, late Earl of Ormond. In 1606, there was a Commission called for the remedy of Defective Titles as there was much dispute about them, and Edmund Butler's son, Theobald, Viscount Tullyophelim, in 1607, was confirmed in his possession of the Priory and its possessions.

After his death in 1613, a dispute arose and continued for some time concerning the property. This was finally solved in the 1st Duke of Ormond's favour. The following is quoted from Mr. J. Morrin, and furnished to him by Mr. McSwiney.

“On the death of Walter, Earl of Ormond, his son, Lord Thurles, and the Earl of Desmond, the strife or suit for the estate was discontinued, the parties being in ward to the King; but the young Earl, as he grew ripe in years, to rescue himself from the ruin so long contrived against him by the Duke of Buckingham, formed the project of marrying his cousin, Lady Elizabeth, whom he had never seen and who was scrupulously guarded by her mother, with the intention of marrying her to the young Earl of Desmond, but it fell out very happy that Patrick Wemyss arriving in London, young Ormond immediately made his acquaintance, and so far insinuated himself into his

friendship as to prevail on him to be the means of introducing him to his fair cousin”.

The first step Wemyss took was to afford the young Lord an opportunity of seeing the Lady Elizabeth at Church the following Sunday, and my Lord improved the occasion by sitting in the next seat to her Ladyship.

“The next step after this interview — his Lordship disguising himself as a pedlar, with a pack upon his back, went to Kensington, where encountering the young ladies, daughters of the Earl of Holland, his Lordship so charmed them with his civil deportment, that they ran into the house to the Lady Elizabeth and told her there was at the back door one of the handsomest pedlars they had ever seen, and represented him so advantageously to her that they compelled her to come and take a view of him and the wares in his pack”.

It is not improbable that notwithstanding the Earl's disguise, the young lady had a presentiment of the identity of the handsome pedlar and maybe recognized him as the party who had sat by his side at church the previous Sunday. He, opening his pack, presented the young lady with a pair of gloves, into one of which he had previously conveyed a letter, which she on drawing on and perceiving, pretended to have no money in her pocket to pay for the gloves. She retired to her chamber to fetch the money, and being there, perused the letter and soon after returned with the gloves again, into which she cunningly conveyed an answer, which she returned to the gallant pedlar .

To finish the episode it is sufficient here to say that they were shortly afterwards married. Wemyss was knighted and received a grant from Ormond of the castle of Dunfert, now Danesfort, where the name is to be found to the present day.

Thus, the dispute ended, as the King added “ he put a happy period by marrying the Ladie Elizabeth, only child of the late Earl of Desmond” and in 1632, he obtained every part of the lady's estate, and thus became entitled to all the possessions which had been granted to Lord Tullyophelim and amongst them the monastery of Inistioge.

The estate later passed by purchase and marriages to different families (See under “Woodstock”).

PRESENT BUILDINGS

In 1824 the present Protestant Church was erected on the site of the ruined chancel which was removed. It is not quite on the same position as the ruin was, and is about 10 ft. shorter. The ruined Nave, which is $24\frac{1}{2}$ ft. wide internally, is very short (only 17 ft.) but to this must be added the space of the tower. Milo Baron may have intended to extend the nave and possibly build a south transept, as the tower is raised on four Gothic arches. The tower is very well preserved and is oblong in plan. Externally the walls have a slight batter. There were two lofts above the groined vault and contain a fine clock and a bell of 5 cwt. presented by Hon. F. F. Tighe.

The site of the cloisters has been entirely obliterated. It was roughly on the site of the Catholic church and there are some fragments inserted into the wall surrounding the Catholic church, which give some idea of the work and richness of the original buildings. One small piece depicts a figure, half man, half fish, and it is said refers to the story, of an incident in the 13th century when a merman was supposed to have been taken from the river Nore close by.

Inside the Tower, there is the most ancient monument in Inistioge. A great floor slab with a figure of a Prior 6 ft. 7" incised on it. Unfortunately the top has been chiselled off and so removed the name of the ecclesiastic to whom it was inscribed. It is very probable that it was erected over the grave of Alured, the first Prior. What remains of the inscription is in incised Lombardic lettering and is as follows: "Here lies — of good memory, formerly prior of this place".

The other slab beside it, which came from the Lady's chapel is of a floriated cross of 8 points and an old English inscription in relief around the edge. It commemorates William Bosser, and like the slab still in the Lady's Chapel to David Bosser or Busher of 1650, is probably about the same period.

The font, which is of Somersetshire stone, is square and was evidently lined with lead originally, which has been restored. Until about 100 years ago the font lay in the old and disused Protestant parish church of Kells. At the insistence of the Rev. J. Graves, it was presented by the then

Rector, Mr. Darby, to the Cathedral, Kilkenny. Only one side of the bowl was ornamented. Possibly it had been intended originally to stand in close into an angle. When the stonecutters were working at the restoration of the Cathedral Mr. Graves had them decorate the other sides. It was placed in the North chapel at the Cathedral choir on the supposition that it would be more convenient to baptise children there, than at the ancient font which stood in the nave, but having been found to be superfluous, the Vestry decided to present it to the Tighes, who were benefactors of the cathedral (having presented the west window) who had it installed here. There is a well executed rope moulding encircling the base of the single circular shaft.

GRAVEYARD

Carrigan mentions three ancient monuments in the graveyard here, which I have not been able to locate, three floor slabs, one 1616, with raised cross and raised letter inscription in Roman capitals running around the edge. "Heare lieth John Bolger of Enistage, Burges his wife Joan Murphy which (sic), died the 30th Febr (u)ary AD 1616".

The second floor-slab with large IHS and cross and a raised old English inscription on the edge, commemorating John Murphy and Elica Power, date 1631, and a 3rd similar to the last with old English inscription to Gous i.e. Joyce and Elena Tobin, date about 1600.

Also a Father Moore lies buried here with his relatives, his headstone has "D.O.M. Here lieth the body of the Rev. Father James Moor he died July 2nd, 1789, aged 38 years."

The family of De Freyne was of great antiquity and claimed descent from Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy, whose descendant came to England with William the Conqueror. Several members of the family filled high stations under the English Kings prior to the time of Henry II and during his reign a Sir Herbert de Frayne accompanied Strongbow to Ireland and subsequently acquired large possessions in Leinster. De Frayne crops up through the centuries, but in the 18th century the older branch of the family, so long settled in Co. Kilkenny, no longer had a local habitation; all their castles and demesnes being obliterated and by the middle of the 18th century the direct line had terminated.

But a Frayne later became famous, i.e. James Frayne the robber. He was born near Inistioge and in his early life was servant to a gentleman's family. This he found too tame and set off and eventually became the head of a gang of robbers. But his name was not feared as he was considered a Robin Hood. Later, through the good offices of the Tighes and Ormondes, he was pardoned when he gave himself up, and became a Tide Waiter under the Board of Excise at Ross. When he died his widow brought his remains back to Inistioge where he was interred, possibly in the S.W. corner. To this day there are many stories and legends told of Frayne the robber.

There is also the monument by Flaxman erected to Mrs. Mary Tighe, the Poetess, 1772 to 1810 in the mausoleum to the west of the Black Castle (See Woodstock). The monument is supposed to represent her as she died in her sleep on coming in from a walk. The little figure at her head represents the muse; this looks as if it had been the work of a different hand. The present family grave of the Tighes is in the upper graveyard in the N.E. corner.

NORTH TRANSEPT

The North Transept which has disappeared completely joined the Tower to the Black Castle. The only entrance to the Black Castle or keep was through the Transept by the old doorway, which was closed when it was repaired about 1874. There was also an upper doorway over this leading into the loft of the North Transept and from that through a pointed doorway with cut stone dressing now concealed by the roof of the vestry to the upper part of the tower, as it had no independent stairway. The stones can be seen where the roof of the Transept joined the Keep and the tower.

LADIES CHAPEL

The Ladies Chapel, now ruined, was used as the Protestant church until 1824. Mr. William Foyne was said to have fitted it up for this purpose, but when the present church was built on the site of the chancel, it gradually fell into disrepair. It measures internally 42 ft. in length to 19 ft. in width. A crypt of unknown dimensions runs from here underneath the church. Mr. Whyte says that Milo Baron, the last Prior, was laid to rest in this crypt. The last person to be interred was Pierce Henry Garvey of Brownsford Castle about

100 years ago. He was no relation of the Baron Fitzgeralds but by reason of his purchase of the Brownsford Castle property after the Reformation, he claimed a right to be interred there.

There is a tombstone inset into the East Wall in the lower right hand corner, it is the upper part of the table of an altar tomb, with a beautiful floriated raised cross of 8 points, a salmon in relief on one corner and sacred monogram IHS. Date about 1580. The remains of the inscription which is raised Old English commemorates Jose (i.e. Joyce) a family once well known here. The salmon was cited some time ago in a law suit to prove the monastery had certain fishing rights conferred by charter.

Another tomb, on the ground in the west end, is a floor slab with raised IHS and cross and inscription in raised Roman capitals. De Busher deceased ye 6 of Aug. 1650. Ivan Joyce his wife, deceased (the rest is uncut) (Inscriptions from Carrigan Vol IV).

THE BLACK CASTLE

This is locally called the Black Castle or Keep or Priors Tower. It is about 33 ft. at the base and about 50 ft. high. The walls are slightly battered. It is square in plan, up to about 30 or 40 ft. and then is converted into an octagon by broaches springing from the quoins. This is similar to that of the tower of the former church of Knocktopher. Likewise it is square below and octagonal above. Some writers probably judging from the peculiar shape, give to the Black Castle a date long before the Anglo-Norman Invasion, but the Knocktopher tower, with its Norman doorway with capitals ornamented with early English foliage dates its erection no earlier than the beginning of the 13th Century. The Black Castle would then belong to the time of Thomas FitzAnthony, the founder of the Priory and was probably erected by him with the church.

The basement chamber is surmounted by a pointed vault about 13 ft. in height to the crown from the present floor, which is some 6 ft. above the former level. The Vaulting appears to have been an after-thought as there is a small window in one side, now blocked by the haunching of the arch. The only entrances were those mentioned from the North Transept, and there were 2 stories in the basement as the

holes from the beams were visible and 3 stories above, which were reached by a spiral staircase in the North West angle (Langrish).

The uppermost chamber contained a fireplace and was possibly used as a dwelling — maybe by the Priors.

Before 1874 this was in a dangerous state of repair, being split from top to bottom on East and West sides and the vaulting was also damaged and in danger of falling in. The Tighe family decided to turn the place into a family mausoleum and the Right Hon. William Frederick Fownes Tighe did this, repairing it and inserting the doorway in the East side and laying the floor over the vault with concrete. His remains were later laid to rest there and also that of Lady Louise Tighe.

THE VILLAGE SQUARE

In the centre of the square is the base of a cross which was erected in 1621 to David Fitzgerald (or Baron) and his wife. The cross itself is now missing. Tradition states it was deliberately smashed by the Yeomen in the troubles of 1798.

This part was re-erected in the first half of the 19th century and in Paris Anderson's account of Inistioge, he says "it may have been removed from the Abbey burial ground", and that "a fragment of the ancient shaft supports a sundial in a neighbouring garden."

On the east side of the base is an escutcheon bearing the arms of the Fitzgeralds of Brownsford (*viz.* ermine, a saltire bordured, a crescent for difference.—Carrigan). The North face has a shield with the emblems of the Passion and over it in raised Roman capitals, now partially obliterated. Translation, "The arms of our Redeemer, Christ Jesus". The South side is blank and the West face reads — Translation; "Pray for the souls of Mr. David Fitzgerald called Baron of Brownsford who died April 14, 1621, and his wife, Johanna Morris, who died 16—.

The 2 old castles in the town are distinguished only by their diminutive size. One of them, the one near the river served at one time for a Court or Petty Sessions House (Langrish).

The Moate of Inistioge is piled up on a rock which juts out from the high ground above the river valley. The Nore

was navigable nearly up to Inistioge and the moate guarded the ford. It seems to have been constructed as the earliest military erection here and probably no stone castle was ever built in connection with it. Later the town was walled and defended by Guard houses and the walls appear to have run up to the moate. Some parts of the old wall can still be seen there. There is a small wall around the top, but this is probably of a much later date.

In Paris Anderson's (1850) time he says about the Moate, "Apart from its antiquarian interest, it is an object worth being seen. For taste of ingenuity has now formed it, in connection with the ground surrounding its base, into the very prettiest of flower gardens. There is a half-cultivated, half natural character about the arrangement of the place which we admired very much, for beyond those terraced beds where grow the more tenderly cultivated plants we observed—

Still flowers growing wild

Into pink and purple chequer.

We ascend by a devious path around the moate, formed by what may be supposed to have been the ancient esplanades of the rural fortress and having reached the summit we were well repaid by a very beautiful view of the town with the mountain and forest scenery around it."

Unfortunately, it is now so surrounded by houses and is difficult to examine or detect original features. But Inistioge of the present day is keeping up the tradition of the flower beds.

Mounted on a block of Connemara marble stands what is to the casual observer an unusual type of sundial. It was removed to this site in 1965 from a position formerly occupied in the neighbouring gardens of Woodstock House. Under the title "A Baffling Sundial" this device was recently pictured in an English magazine and prompted much interested speculation from readers. Research has since indicated that it is not a sundial but a model of an "Armillary sphere" said to have been invented by Eratosthenes about the year 250 B.C. and used by astronomers Hipparchus and Ptolemy for the determining the position of the stars.

A glen called "The Combe" divides the Moate from the Holy Well of St. Columb. Here on the Sunday after the 9th

June the Pilgrims made their way, first up the main stream through the Combe on their knees and then up the hillside through the bed of the smaller streamlet till they reached its source — the blessed well.

Tradition states there was a wooden image of St. Columb of great age enshrined beside it, but during 1798 it was broken and thrown into the Nore. This Pattern has fallen into disuse though the people remember hearing of it being done. There is at present an engraved figure inserted beside it. The smaller basin built into the wall was for bathing the eyes and the larger one on the ground for the feet.

There is a trout in this well, and the story goes if it is removed, the well will go dry and this is supposed to have happened many years ago. When the trout dies, a young one is caught in the river by one of the local families which is then placed in the well, and so the tradition goes on. The well is used by the people and has a very good supply of water.

CIVIL HISTORY

This contains many interesting items. The Charter of Incorporation of the Borough was derived from the Prior of the Abbey and not from a lay lord of the soil — this is similar to Irishtown, Kilkenny, which derived from the charters of the Bishops of Ossory. The original grant of Inistioge about 1220 are fortunately on record. The full translation is in "Nooks and Corners" by Paris Anderson, the following are some extracts and show what an important place Inistioge was, and to what an advanced state of Civic and Political dignity it had attained.

"That no Burgess shall be impleaded in any cause which arises within the boundary of the borough, in the Prior's Court or elsewhere, except in the Hundred Court of the town. That it be lawful for the Burgess to hold said Hundred Court in their town and that none of them shall be fined except by the consideration of the Hundred Court; and that if any Burgess shall be fined he shall give security to us for 12d, of which 6d is to be paid to us, and the other 6d. is to be forgiven, without the infliction of corporal punishment, except in the cases of old offenders. That no foreign merchant shall be permitted to cut cloth or hold a wine tavern in the town of Inistoc, ex-

cept for forty days, and if he wishes for a longer space he can only obtain it when it appears to be for the profit of the town. That said Burgesses be permitted to have a Merchant's Guild and other guilds, and to take customs and tolls with all liberties to them belonging, as is the privilege of other good towns. That they may dispose of their burgageries as seems fit to them, provided they do not injure their neighbours, and that whose holdings are situated near the river may extend them over the water, so, nevertheless, that the ancient way be not impeded. We also grant that they may sell or mortgage all their conquests, saving the services and customs due to me and my successors. That they and their heirs hold their Burgageries from us and our successors, freely and peaceable, together with thirty acres of land assigned to each burgagery, paying to us or our successors annually for each burgagery, in lieu of all services twelve pence, to be paid in two terms— to it, sixpence at Easter and sixpence at Michaelmas. It ends—And that this grant may remain firm to all future times; we have corroborated it with our seal. Witness — Thomas FitzAnthony, Adam FitzMilo, etc.

Inistioge received a Charter from the Crown in 1608 from King James the First. The Abbey of Inistioge and its possessions had been acquired by the Crown, later granted to Edmund Butler, and had by the Inquisition held in Thomastown been confirmed on Theobald Viscount Tullyophelim. At this time the inhabitants obtained, upon payment to the Crown, a patent entitling them to style their village "The Town and Borough of Inistioge", this Charter also includes :

"Being an ancient burgh, but now, in consequence of the rebellion and sickness in those parts, had become depopulated, impoverished, and trade and commerce wholly extinguished, his Majesty therefore incorporates the town, to consist of a portrieve, 12 chief Burgesses; and as many Freemen as they might think fit to elect and appoint. The Portrieve to have the government of the town in as ample and free a manner as the Portrieve of Cashel had or ought to have had. To hold a court from three weeks to three weeks for the recovery of debts to the amount of £20 Irish. The grant of a market on every Friday and a fair on the 13th Dec. to continue for 2 days.

To build a Tholsel for a town hall. To appoint a Re-

corder and Town Clerk. The Portrieve to be Justice of the Peace, Coroner and Clerk of the market, and to be elected annually from amongst the free Burgesses, on the feast of St. John the Baptist, and sworn into office on the Monday after Michaelmas”.

From 1585, Inistioge had the important privilege of sending 2 representatives to serve in the Irish Parliament for their Borough a right they continued to enjoy until the passing of the Act of Union, 1800. The following are some extracts from Burtchaell’s “Members of Parliament for the County and City of Kilkenny”.

At the third Parliament of Elizabeth, 1585, for the first time, Inistioge has its own representatives — David Power and Robert Archdekin. The latter was a member of the family of Archdeacon alias MacOdo, who possessed the manors of Bawnmore, Kilmurry and Dangan. The name MacOdo has in modern times become Cody, and this name is still well represented in Inistioge.

The Parliament of James I, 1613. The Representatives were: William Murphy and Crihan Murphy. This William Murphy is probably the William referred to in the inquisitions of 1606 and ’07. “Viscount Tullyophelim was seized of 2 messuages and garden in Inistioge then occupied by William Morphey”.

At the First Parliament of Charles I, 1634, the representatives were: John Neilan, and Griffin Murphy. This latter was presumably the same man as the above Crihan Murphy.

The Second Parliament of Charles I, 1639: Inistioge members were — Robert Maude and John Wandesforde. This Robert Maude was of Dundrum, Co. Tipperary. He had sold his property in England and bought estates in Counties Tipperary and Kilkenny. He married Frances, 4th daughter of Sir Christopher Wandesford, 1st Baronet of Castlecomer. He became a Colonel in the Army and was buried with his wife in St. Mary’s Church in Kilkenny. His son, Anthony, later became M.P. for Knocktopher. John Wandesforde was a brother to the Right Hon. Sir Christopher Wandesforde, who was Master of the Rolls. Another M.P. during this Parliament was Sir Robert Loftus, whose death and subsequent vacancy led to John Fitzgerald’s election in 1640 (See Brownsford).

In 1654, separate Parliaments of Ireland and Scotland were abolished and it continued so during the Commonwealth. Inistioge had no representatives of its own during this time.

But in 1661, Parliament of Charles II; Inistioge is again represented by its own members — Sir William Petty and Major Joseph Deane. This Sir William Petty was really a most remarkable man. Born in Hampshire, in 1623, as a child he liked to spend his time with smiths and carpenters, and by the age of 12 was able to work at these trades. He was educated at Rumsary Grammar School. At the age of 15 he went to Normandy with a stock of merchandise and there he acquired French. After this he went to Oxford where he distinguished himself by his knowledge of mathematics and mechanics. He served for a short time in the Royal Navy, but left it when Civil War broke out. He then spent 3 years on the Continent studying, this time Anatomy and Medicine. In 1647 aged only 24, he returned to England and on the 6th March obtained a patent for his invention of “double writing” (a copying machine). He then taught anatomy and chemistry in Oxford and with such success that he was appointed deputy Professor, and later Professor of Anatomy. He gained great fame in 1650 by restoring to life a woman named Anne Green who had been hanged at Oxford. Many other honours were showered upon him and in 1652 his connection with Ireland commenced on his being appointed Physician-General to the Army here. He lived and practised his profession in Dublin. He was also appointed Clerk of the Council and Secretary to Henry Cromwell. For the purpose of ascertaining and dividing the forfeited land in Ireland, between the soldiers and adventurers it became necessary to make a survey of Ireland. Dr. Petty entered into a contract with the Government to carry this out, hence the “Down Survey” called thus, because everything had to be written down. After 15 months it appears from an order of the Government dated 19/3/1655, he had surveyed 2,008,000 acres of profitable land. Part of his contract was paid up, but some was later paid by grants of land. One of which was 1,244 statute acres in the parish of Dunkitt, Co. Kilkenny, and so brought about his association with Inistioge. His largest grant was in Co. Kerry, where it was said, he could from the top of Mangerton, behold 50,000 acres

of his own land. He was knighted by Charles II, in April, 1661, the month before he was elected M.P. for Inistioge. Later in 1667, he, with Dr. John Sterne and others were by patent, incorporated as President and Fellows of the College of Physicians of Ireland. Other honours followed — in fact he excelled at anything he did. He died in London, in 1687.

Major Joseph Deane was the founder of the family of Deanes in Inistioge. They became a very important family locally and many members of the family later represented Inistioge in Parliament.

The Members of Parliament in 1689 were Edward Fitzgerald and James Bolger. Edward Fitzgerald was Baron of Brownsford (See under Brownsford"). James Bolger was a pre-Norman Irish family, which was still represented in the district about 100 years ago.

In the First Parliament of William III, 1692, Inistioges M.P.s were Robert Stopford and Edward Deane. This latter represented Inistioge four times and his three sons were also M.P.'s for Inistioge.

In the following Parliament, Robert Stopford still represented Inistioge and died unmarried. Also Thomas Keightly, whose sister-in-law, Lady Anne Hyde was wife of the Duke of York (later James II) and mother of Queen Mary and Queen Anne.

In the First Parliament of Queen Anne, 1703; the M.P.'s were the above Edward Deane and Benjamin Portlocke.

In the following Parliament, 1713, Edward Deane continued to be re-elected, this time with Charles Monch.

The First Parliament of George I, 1715; Edward Deane was elected for his last term and with him was his son, Edward Deane Jnr. When the Father died after 2 years he was followed by another son, Stephen Deane.

The following Parliament, 1727; continued for 33 years, until George II death. The above brothers Deane and also two brothers Ponsonby contested this election and there resulted a double return, which gave rise to many proceedings in the House. During the long course of this Parliament, both Edward Deane Snr. and Jnr., Joseph Deane, the Hon. Henry Ponsonby and Edward Herbert were all M.P.s for Inistioge. In

fact at its close, many of the members of the House were unborn when it was first called.

The Prominence of the Deane family in the area gradually declined, while that of the Tighes and their ancestors increased, and by the close of the Irish Parliament in 1800, Inistioge representatives were both from the Tighe family — William and Henry Tighe (see “Woodstock”).

The Banim brothers laid the scenes of some of their novels around Woodstock. John Banim married a Miss Ruth of Cappagh and wrote some of his work there, framing quite a few of his characters after relatives of his wife.

Charles Lever also wrote some of his novels at Inistioge where his uncle was Rector for some time.

Inistioge was an important place through history — with its commerce and pagentry, but through it all it has retained its quiet charm and peacefullness, and this together with the beauty of the surrounding countryside, accounts for its continued appeal both to the native and the visitor.

In preparing these notes, I would like to express my thanks to Rear-Admiral W. G. S. Tighe, Mr. W. Cody, Estate Agent, and the people of Inistioge for their kind co-operation and help.

The following authors were used for reference : Paris Anderson (Nook and Corners), Pub. 1848; James L. Morris (Osory Archaeological Society) Vol I page 240; George D. Burtchaell (Members of Parliament); Mr. R. Langrish (Journals Royal Society, 1896); Canon Carrigan (vol. 4); Mr. J. J. Hughes (Old Kilkenny Review, 1948); Mr. T. Whyte of Cappagh (Notes) and Notes and information supplied by local people.