

Inistioge District

TOM COYLE

(The following three articles by Tom Coyle and Dorcas Birthistle were given in talks on Inistioge District.—Ed.).

BROWNSFORD

In 1621 a wayside cross was erected at Inistioge to commemorate David Fitzgerald, otherwise Barron, or Baron who died in that year. The cross itself is now missing. The base lay long neglected near the river side, till it was re-erected as an ornamental appendage to Inistioge market square, in the early part of the 19th century. On the east side of the base are the arms of the Fitzgeralds of Brownsford. The north face has shield with the emblems of the Passion. The inscription on the base reads (translated from the latin): "Pray for the souls of Mr. David Fitzgerald, called Barron of Brownsford, who died April 14th, 1621, and his wife Johanna Morres who died 16—".

Among the proprietors who lost their estates in the county Kilkenny by forfeiture consequent upon the political movements of the 17th century were seven gentlemen bearing the name of Fitzgerald. (including Edmund Fitzgerald of Brownsford, 1876 acres).

The three principal houses of the Geraldines in the County Kilkenny were at Burnchurch, Brownsford and Gurteen that of Burnchurch was the most important, that of Brownsford coming next in rank.

A pedigree was drawn up for Edward Fitzgerald, second son of the Baron of Brownsford, by Thomas Preston, the then Ulster King-of-Arms and is dated 1633. It traces the family back to about 1430, but that leaves a gap of at least three generations between that date and the death of Maurice, first Knight of Kerry, otherwise the Black Knight, from whom the family is stated to be descended.

Maurice, 1st Earl of Desmond, who was granted the title on 22nd August, 1329 and died 25th January 1355, had three wives successively as follows: 1st Margaret fifth daughter of Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster by whom he had two sons. 2nd Margaret, daughter of Conor O'Brien, Prince of Thomond, by whom

he had no male issue. Thirdly, Aveline, or Eleanor, daughter of Nicholas Fitzmaurice, 3rd Lord of Kerry, and by her had two sons.

According to Lodge, the sons by the first wife were Maurice and John who both succeeded to the title; and the sons by the third wife were Nicholas an idiot, and Gerald the poet, who became 4th Earl of Desmond. This account does not seem to be accurate, as John does not appear to have succeeded to the Earldom, and to have been in point of fact, younger than Nicholas and Gerald. Nicholas, who in the natural course became third Earl, being an idiot, was passed over in favour of his younger brother, Gerald and is therefore omitted from the list of Earls in some accounts. Lodge implies that John, whom he makes the third Earl, and who, he states, died at Youghal 1369, was unmarried; but it seems evident that if John died in that year, ten years after his brother Nicholas, and practically in possession of the Earldom, that John must have been a younger son than Gerald. It is quite possible that he may have, and indeed must have, been the progenitor of the Barons of Brownsford, assuming that they are correctly stated to have sprung from Maurice, First Earl of Desmond.

BARRON

Some accounts are of the opinion that Barron was the original name of the family and that it was at a later period that they adopted the name Fitzgerald. It has been noted there were persons using the name Barron, without any alias, in Ireland long before the creation of the palatine Earldom of Ormonde in 1328. The Irish state papers of 1229, calandered by Mr Sweetman, contain the following: November 12th, 1229 — The archbishop of Cashel having obtained in exchange from Robert Baron one Carucate of land in Kilmore — A Phillip Barron was juror on two inquisitions taken at Kilkenny in 1290.

How the Fitzgeralds of Kilkenny came to assume the name of Barron is not clear. It was probably from what was in their case originally a title as one of the royal privileges exercised by the lords of counties palatine was that of creating barons. In Ireland three palatinates were created in the time of Henry II, the first in Leinster which was granted to Earl Strongbow; the second in Meath, granted to Hugh de Lacey the elder; and the third in Ulster granted to Hugh de Lacey the younger.

BEES BEAT AXTELL

The Brownsford family built two castles in this area, one here at Brownsford and (I think later) at Cluan. There is a story told locally how Brownsford Castle escaped ruin in the Cromwellian war. A detachment of Cromwell's army, stationed at New Ross, were travelling to Kilkenny under the command of Colonel Axtell. Passing through Brownsford, which was then on the main road to Inistioge and Thomastown, Axtell halted his company and sent an emissary to the castle — 400 yards from the road — demanding its surrender. At the time there was nobody in the place save the lady of the house, and her women servants. The Baron and his retainers were in Kilkenny with the Confederate army. The lady of the house refused admission and Colonel Axtell promptly trained his guns on the castle. Having fired a few rounds which beyond dislodging a solitary stone, made no impression on the staunch walls he ordered his men to storm the building. The lady and her servants were not idle the while. In the garden under the castle walls were a number of straw bee hives, around which they wrapped sheets and cloths and having carried the hives to the parapets awaited developments. As soon as the yard was filled with horses and the men ready to force the doors the brave lady gave orders to pitch the hives over the parapets. In a few moments all was confusion; horses went mad and many fallen soldiers were trampled to death. Later Axtell had his revenge at Kilkenny, in which place, it is related that his worst act was that he cut the head off the Baron of Brownsford's son.

BANSHEE BLASTS

Cluan Castle is said to have fallen into ruin in a very peculiar manner. The four corners of its large square tower are rent assunder and through the fissures thus formed, the wind howls with a strange unearthly sound. A local legend accounts for this as follows: The last Baron Fitzgerald to whom it belonged gave one night a splendid feast within its walls. He was boasting of its wealth and of the uninterrupted prosperity which his family had enjoyed for many generations when a person describing herself as a poor widow came to the door and begged for charity. Fitzgerald repelled her with disdain, and angrily reproved her for interrupting his enjoyment. The widow immedia-

tely assumed the form of a banshee — that well known apparition which always foreboded death to one of the ancient family of Fitzgerald. The Baron and his guests trembled at the sight, and their mirth was turned into sadness. But after a few minutes Fitzgerald gazed steadfastly on the supernatural being, who still remained under the great gateway of the banqueting hall, and said to his companions — “Let not your hearts be sad; if my hour has come I will die bravely, as my fathers have done.” “You will not die as your fathers did,” said the banshee “for they fell on the battlefield and their spirits now dwell with God; because during their lives they were ever mindful of the poor. No beggar was ever turned from their doors, and therefore a blessing attended them and their possessions. Proud Baron your hour draws near, and I come to try your heart. If I found it open to charity, your race would have continued long to enjoy its ancient greatness, but now that you have proved unworthy, you shall miserably perish! This castle, under whose splendid roof you have forgotten the poor dwelt without, exposed to the howling tempest this proud castle shall be rent assunder; and as long as the world lasts, its ruined walls shall remain open to the four winds of Heaven! ”

So saying the banshee disappeared in a loud clap of thunder — the castle was struck by lightning, and the great tower, which contained the banqueting room, was torn asunder at the four corners. The roof fell in on the Baron and his guests, and thus perished the last of that powerful branch of Fitzgeralds or Geraldines, as they were called.”

COMMONS VERSUS LORDS

John Fitzgerald was M. P. for Inistioge in 1640 and he came from Ennismore, County Kerry, Knight of Kerry, eldest son of William Fitzgerald Knight of Kerry, by Mary O'Connor, his wife was descended from Maurice The Black Knight, who was also ancestor of the Fitzgeralds, Barons of Burnchurch, Brownsford, and Gurteen. Although descended from a common ancestor with the Fitzgeralds (and also the Graces) of the county Kilkenny, the Knights of Kerry were not otherwise connected with the county Kilkenny. John was elected for Inistioge in order to test an important constitutional question. He had been sued by Lord Kerry, who was his brother in law, in the Court of Castle Chamber, the Irish counterpart of the High Court of Star Cham-

ber, the arbitrary and vexatious proceedings of which caused so much irritation in England, and contributed in no small degree to the overthrow of the monarchy. The cause came on for hearing on July 19th. 1640, and was continued for several days. At the conclusion of the case the Court reserved delivering judgement until the 13th November. Meanwhile the death of Sir Robert Loftus, on 11th October, necessitated a new election for Inistioge, and it was determined to bring forward Mr Fitzgerald for the vacancy. On the 7th November the writ was directed to the High Sheriff of county Kilkenny, who proceeded to make out a warrant for the election in which was included an extraordinary clause that they should elect burgess "to be at Parliament on the 13th November," the day fixed by the Castle Chamber for giving judgement in Fitzgerald's case. The election was held on the 11th of November and Fitzgerald was returned unopposed. On the 13th judgment was given against him, and he was sentenced to be fined and imprisoned. The House of Commons at once resolved that he was bound to attend the House, and ordered his release. The Lords, however, resented the indignity offered to their House by the Commons in releasing Mr Fitzgerald without their assent and without so much as communicating the resolution to them. A committee was appointed, with the Earl (afterwards Duke) of Ormond as chairman, to investigate the matter, which resolved that a fraud had been perpetrated under cover of an election to elude the sentence of the Court and avoid making satisfaction to a peer. But the Commons carried their point. On the 18th February, 1640, they voted Mr Fitzgerald duly elected, and he was one of the Irish deputation sent over to assist the Managers for the Commons of England in prosecuting the Earl of Stafford. Later on his name appears frequently on the Committees of the House, but not after the breaking out of the rebellion. His estate was forfeited in 1653, but restored in 1667.

In the Parliament held in Dublin on the 7th May, 1689, by the exiled King, Edward Fitzgerald, in conjunction with James Bolger of Ballynabarna, represented the Borough of Inistioge, and he subsequently raised and equipped a regiment of his tenants and retainers, at whose head he fought in the eventful fields of the Boyne and Aughrim. After the success of William of Orange, Fitzgerald's property, then consisting of 1685

acres of land held in fee simple, was seized into the hands of the trustees of forfeit estates, and having been set up to public auction on the 17th June, 1703, at the sum of £208 10s, was knocked down to the Hollow sword-blade company at £1,473, but subsequently conveyed to Captain Stephen Sweet, on payment of the same money.

So far historical documents have furnished us with information as to the fortunes and fall of the last lord of Cluan and Brownsford, but tradition goes further and supplies us with some romantic interest respecting him. He was, it is said, a beautiful harper, and in the dismantled ruin of his castle the window is still shown (or at least it was in 1848 when Paris Anderson wrote about it) looking out upon the winding Nore, where he swept the chords of his clairseach or native harp. That master-hand has long been cold and the silvery chords of the instrument unstrung but yet the memory of the minstrel soldier lingers round his old domains. He was slain at the battle of Aughrim. The morning after the battle his war-horse was found standing at the stable door of Cluan, and by this the retainers, who recognised the intelligent animal knew that "the master" had fallen in the fight. Their surmise proved but too correct, and thus the vassals who returned from that fatal field told of his death. When the Lord of Cluan perceived the Irish Army beginning the retreat he called to his "boy" or page, for his horse—but however the horse-boy was seized with panic and jumping himself into Fitzgerald's war saddle, he left the unfortunate proprietor, jack-booted and spurred to his fate. Fitzgerald the legend goes on to state, ran a mile and a half in his boots before he was overtaken by a Dutch trooper and cut down.

After the battle his body was found by two of his followers named Cavanagh and Synnot, and their descendants are still living in the district.

The sword of Baron Fitzgerald was brought home by Synnot to be carefully preserved by his family until his grand-daughter a very old woman at the time, gave it to Mr Edward Butler, of the Hotel, Inistioge, in 1851, for safe keeping. Mr Butler, in turn, deposited the sword in the Museum of the old Kilkenny Archaeological Society, from which place it was later transferred to the National Museum.

FISHING WEIRS

Amongst the inquisitions taken in the sixteenth century and seventeenth centuries to ascertain the extent and value of the property belonging to the Fitzgeralds of Cluan and Brownsford, their fishing weirs upon the Nore are always mentioned as a most important item. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Corporation at Inistioge had assumed to itself the exclusive right of fishing the river, but the Baron of the day having instituted legal proceedings, obtained a writ from the Court of Chancery securing and recognising, his privilege to fish within the bounds of his own property. In the "Book of Postings and Sales" wherein is set forth the advertisement of the forfeiture of Edward, the last of the family, and the invitation to purchasers to come forward, an inducement is held out by the hint—"These lands have good benefit of fishing".

SELECT EDUCATION

Very Rev. Andrew Fitzgerald son of James Fitzgerald and Mary Knaresborough his wife, was born in High Street, Kilkenny, 27th November, 1763, and was baptised, on the 30th of the same month, the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. He became a member of the Dominican Order at Louvaine, finished his Theology at Lisbon, where he afterwards taught Philosophy for some years; and returned to Kilkenny in 1791. He became a member of the Charitable School Society of Kilkenny in October, 1791, and is entered as of the "Black Abbey" in the list of members of the Society for the month of January, 1793. In that year 1793, he became Professor of Philosophy at the Old Academy and also became Co. President (with Father McGrath) of that house.

In 1800 he was appointed to the Chair of Humanity at Carlow. The next 43 years he spent at Carlow, as Professor and President, and, dying there Sept. 14th, 1843, is buried in the College Cemetery.

He was lineally and closely descended from the Fitzgeralds, Barons of Cluan and Brownsford. Dr. Fitzgerald was the last male.

He received his classical education at the College of Kilkenny, where Swift and others had preceded him; and went to the University of Louvaine when he was only 16 years old.

WOODSTOCK

After the confiscation of the estate of the last Baron of Brownsford and Cluan, who was slain at Aughrim, his property was sold to a London Company — The Hollow Sword Blade Co. — which bought up many estates in Ireland at that time. This, and other English companies traded in those estates as a sort of gilt-edged security.

The articles of Sale of the Cluan property gives the following particulars :

315 acres in the parish of Cluan under meadow and pasture; on it a castle 3 storeys high in good repair; the walls of an old church and 5 or 6 cabins; Ballygub 1099 acres, arable and meadow, with mountain pasture and 8 or 9 cabins; these lands adjoin the river Nore and hath good benefit of fishing.

Eventually the property was purchased by Captain Stephen Sweete for £1,473, on June 17th, 1703. Captain Sweete was an officer in King William's army. The first house at Woodstock was built by him on the Nore at Teddington, where some remains are still to be seen. It was in 1848 described by Paris Anderson as "a ruined house situated upon the river's very brink. It is a long building with two rows of windows to the front looking out upon the water, but was never possessed of much pretensions."

PRIORY OF INISTIOGE

In 1541, the site of the Priory of Inistioge, with the lands formerly held or attached to it were leased to Richard Butler of Ferns (afterwards 1st Viscount Mountgarrett). After making further leases from time to time, the Crown finally granted the Priory with all its possessions, to Theobald Butler, Viscount Tullephelim, from whom it descended to the second Duke of Ormonde. Subsequently he sold the site of the monastery and all its possessions, that he held to Stephen Sweete, whose only daughter, and heiress, married the son of Sir William Fownes, Baronet, from whom they have descended to the present owners.

FOWNES AND TIGHE

Sir William Fownes, was in the reign of William and Mary (1698), with Henry, Lord Shelbourne, appointed ranger of the Phoenix Park and of all the parks, chases and woods

in Ireland. Having been previously Sheriff of Dublin in 1708 he became Lord Mayor in 1712. In 1724 he obtained a patent of Baronetcy. Fownes Street, Dublin, is named after him.

His son Kendrick, who died in the lifetime of his father, had as previously stated, married Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Stephen Sweete of Kilkenny city.

William Fownes the only son of this marriage, succeeded to the title of his grandfather as second Baronet. He was privy counsellor and in 1749 represented the borough of Inistioge in Parliament. In 1739 he married Lady Elizabeth Ponsonby, daughter of Brabazon, first Earl of Bessborough. It was by him that the mansion of Woodstock was built. At Sir William's death the title became extinct, while the estates passed to Sarah his daughter and only child. In 1765 she married William Tighe, M.P. for Athboy, and subsequently for Wicklow at Rosanne, Co. Wicklow. Mr. Tighe of Rossans was the son of William Tighe, Keeper of the Records in Birmingham Tower, and member of Parliament for Clonmines, his mother was Lady Mary Bligh, daughter of the Earl of Darnley; and his grandfather, Richard Tighe, was also one of His Majesty's Privy Council. He was succeeded by his son, William Tighe of Woodstock, who was member of the borough of Wicklow in the Irish and for the county in the Imperial Parliament. This man as a patron of the boroughs of Wicklow and Inistioge returned 4 members of parliament and was one of the most influential commoners in Ireland at the time of the Union. In 1793, he married Maryanne, daughter and co-heiress of Daniel Gahan, of Coolquill, Co. Tipperary, and M.P. for Fethard. Hannah, daughter of the above William Tighe, married in 1818, Lord Henry P. Stuart, brother of the then Marquis of Bute, the largest Catholic landowner in Scotland and owner of Cardiff Castle and estate in Wales.

SWORD WATCH AND LACE

The next heir was William Frederick Fownes Tighe, son of William, above, who married in 1825 Lady Louisa Madeline Lennox, 5th daughter of the fourth Duke of Richmond. Their only child Charlotte Frances died an infant in 1827. Lady Louisa Tighe, who survived her husband continued to reside at Woodstock till her death in 1900 at the age of 97. There is an interesting anecdote of history connected with Lady Tighe. As

a child of twelve she was allowed to stay up for the famous eve-of-Waterloo Ball given by the Duke of Richmond at the British Embassy in Brussels, on the night of 17/18 June, 1815.

When in the early hours of the morning, a call to arms put an end to the festivities, she helped her Godfather, the Duke of Wellington to buckle on his sword. In return he gave her his gold watch for keeping, and later presented it to her. Lady Louisa was keenly interested in local welfare, and in order to give employment in Inistioge she instituted here one of the finest examples of lace industry in Ireland bringing from Brussels the necessary tools of the trade.

Frederick E. Bunbury Tighe was the next heir. He was succeeded by his brother Edward Kendrick Tighe who died in London. His son Brian comes next. He fought in the second world war and was killed—or at any rate posted missing—at the evacuation of Dunkirk. Some time later the property was disentailed and it passed to Brian's mother Viola Lillian Henriette Tighe and at her death to the ladies of the Tighe family. The present representative of the Tighe family is Admiral Tighe.

PSYCHE

A representative of the Tighe family, Richard Tighe, came to Ireland in the reign of Charles I. He became Sheriff of Dublin in 1649 and Lord Mayor from 1651 to 1655; and represented Dublin in Cromwell's Parliament in 1656. He acquired large estates in Counties Carlow, Dublin and Westmeath, during the reigns of Charles I and Charles II. His great grandson, William Tighe of Rosanna, Co. Wicklow, married in 1736, Lady Mary Bligh. Their daughter, Theodesia married Rev. Mr. Blackford, and was mother of Mary Blackford, later to be well known as Mrs. Mary Tighe, the poetess. Mary's father died while she was an infant but her mother introduced her daughter to the works of distinguished authors and helped to develop her interests. In 1793 she married her cousin Henry Tighe, a member of the Irish Parliament, who voted against the act of Union. After that act in 1801, Mary Tighe commenced work on her best known poem. She had been writing poetry for some years and had also written a full length novel which was never published. The poem which she began in 1801, was finished two years later. In 1805 it was

published under the title "Psyche; or Legend of Love". The poem was well received and ran to several editions and was highly praised by many critics.

Thomas Moore wrote a laudatory poem "To Mrs. Henry Tighe on reading her "Psyche". It has been stated that while Thomas Moore was spending a holiday in Co. Wicklow with Mary Tighe and her husband he wrote one of his best known songs "The Meeting of the Waters". She died at Woodstock in 1810 and is buried in the graveyard in Inistioge.

STATISTICAL SURVEY

Another member of the Tighe family is also remembered for his book: "Statistical Observations relative to the County Kilkenny" which was written by William Tighe and published in 1802. It includes plans for a canal from Kilkenny to New Ross. It contains much information about the County Kilkenny at that period.

GRATTAN'S LAST SPEECH

In the last assembly of the Irish Parliament, prior to the passing of the Act of Union in 1800, the third William Tighe represented Inistioge; he also had the close borough of Wicklow at his disposal represented at the time by his relative George Ponsonby. Henry Grattan, a friend of Tighe, had resigned sometime previously owing to extreme ill-health and had gone to England to recuperate. Wishing to have him back for the last debate, Tighe offered him the close borough of Wicklow, vacated by Ponsonby, for his election. A friendly sheriff hastened the return and forwarded the writ to Dublin. When his friends called for Grattan at his house in Dublin he querulously remarked "why don't ye let me die in peace"? His wife urged him to go with his callers and dressing him up in the uniform of the Volunteers, handed him his loaded pistols. For it was not unlikely that some agent of the Government might attack him on the way. He entered the House leaning on the arms of W. B. Ponsonby and Arthur Moore, and having taken the oath he proceeded to make one of the greatest speeches of his life. So weak was he that he had to seek the permission of the House to remain seated while he spoke.

NO UNIONIST

Before the Act of Union Woodstock was a centre for great political gatherings. This was particularly so during the period

of its occupation by William Tighe, who represented Inistioge in the Irish Parliament from 1797 until the Act of Union. He was violently opposed to a policy of union with England although he was twice offered a Peerage if he would support the Act. It is recorded that he "stoutly refused the tempting bribe, preferring to take his stand with the select band of illustrious patriots, whom nothing that a corrupt government had to offer could seduce from their loyalty to, and love of their common country".

After the Act of Union, Woodstock continued to entertain the foremost political characters of the day, but now in the form of eminent British statesmen such as Lord John Russell, Home Secretary under Lord Melbourne; and Charles Cavendish Greville, famous for his memoirs of public and private affairs. Another frequent visitor was John Thadeus Delane, the grand old man of "The Times" of which he was editor from 1841 to 1877. Lady Louisa delighted in telling of an anecdote at dinner when Delane asked an old gentleman sitting beside him if there was much burglary in Ireland. The answer was "I lost the key of the hall door of my house several years ago and I have never replaced it".

WETTER THAN WET

Members of the British royal family were also on occasions guests at Woodstock. Story has it that on one occasion a Royal personage was to lunch at Woodstock with his entourage and would pause for a while in Inistioge. Great preparations were made for a welcome, but on the appointed day the weather was so terrible that the visit was cancelled. It is said that in order to compensate the residents of Inistioge for this disappointment Mr. Tighe gave instructions that all drink consumed until closing time that day were to be charged to him. History does not record the consequences.

CULTIVATED BEAUTY

Visitors to Inistioge who are interested in botany may find it rewarding to make a tour of discovery through the extensive but now overgrown gardens of Woodstock House. Fifty years ago they were celebrated for having one of the finest collections of flora in these islands and although what were once spacious lawns and terraces and flower borders are now overgrown, the inquiring visitor is still likely to discover many interesting

botanical specimens. There is to be seen what must be the longest and most magnificent avenue of Monkey-Puzzles in Europe, and rare shrubs and trees, including a fine specimen of the very unusual fern-leafed beech tree, where branches of entirely different foliage stem from one and the same trunk.

Also to be seen by the river is the Red House which was a station for pleasure boats and fishing boats. It has a large room inside which was for the accommodation of pleasure parties, many of which came from Kilkenny as many outings went to Woodstock in the days of the horse carriage. Nearby is one of the most beautiful parts of the demense, it is the glen where the building known as the Swiss Cottage once stood. A rustic bridge spanned the waterfall in the glen which has been described as a miniature Poulaphooka. This glen forms the scenery of the closing chapter of Banim's "The Fetches".

Gaelic Name

Woodstock was once known as Kilclondowne. In Irish, Woodstock is called Cluain Duin, or the Lawn of the Doon, or Fort. The Doon from which its name is derived is the Moat of Inistioge.

WOODSTOCK HOUSE

The name of Francis Bindon is to-day only occasionally heard of as either a dim portrait painter to be found in the footnotes of Swiftiana, (he painted Swift four times 1735-40), or as the occasional collaborator of Ireland's most prolific Palladian architect, the German (1) Richard Castle. What role he played in the partnership is somewhat obscure, but Bindon's name after those of Sir Edward Lovett, Pearce and Castle ranks third in importance in the chronological history of the Irish Palladian movement.

It must in all fairness be added that his stature as an architect also falls conveniently in this category of the third rate.

Strickland ascribes a "Mansion for Lord Desart" to Bindon, though he does not state any evidence for this assertion. However stylistically Desart Court is almost certainly by Pearce's hand. It has been suggested that Bindon may have worked there for Pearce up to 1733, the year of Pearce's death. One of the earliest buildings now attributed to Bindon is Furness, Co. Kildare, which we visited last year.

Bindon designed three great houses in Co. Kilkenny — Bessborough, which was built in 1744, burned in 1923, has since been rebuilt and retains many of the original features. It is now known as Kildalton and is occupied by the Oblate Fathers.

Castle Morres which is now only a ruin in the middle of a state forest was built for the Morres family.

Lord Bessborough's daughter Elizabeth, married Sir Edward Fownes of Woodstock and no doubt through this relationship Bindon was employed to build a new house for Fownes, probably in the mid forties. Woodstock is essentially a rusticated variation of Richard Castle's similar theme at Tyrone House, Dublin (1740) and Rochford (now Tudenham) County Westmeath (1742). Being of seven bays, the first and second floors flanking a niche and an oculus. The other two windows on the ground floor that flank the front door have blocked architraves. In the attic floor all the windows are attached in familiar Castle manner to the frieze though with their centre keystones slightly breaking the frieze's plain surface. The front door already noted with its flanking windows is a curiously opulent composition, for the consoled lunette over the door is engulfed by the entablature, and moulded block architraves are not seemingly sufficient support for it, as a pair of Doric pilasters are slid in on either sides of the door giving the whole affair an unwarrented ambiguity.

The wings and shallow pedimented pavilions on either side of the main block are of a later date.

DESTROYED

It was in July, 1922, a year of bitter Civil War, that Woodstock House with much of its contents, was destroyed by fire.

For six months before its destruction, it had been occupied by the Auxiliary Police, better remembered as the ill-famed "Black and Tans"; it was then taken over and guarded by the regular soldiers of the new Free State Army. When the latter withdrew, it was occupied by the soldiers of the Irish Republican Army. After the latter had left, the house, with much of its contents, was fired so that it could never again be used as a strong point.

(1) Andrea Palladio (1508—1580) designed many buildings



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 INISTIUGE

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