

The Constables of Limerick Castle.

Prepared by Brian Hodkinson , Asst. Curator.

The following list is compiled from a wide variety of sources so the level of information is consequently somewhat varied. The three documents naming constables in the Black Book of Limerick are all undated. To get a rough date for these it was necessary to consider others named in the documents to see if they appeared in dated documents. These names are inserted where deemed appropriate. Others are listed with a range of known dates. In many cases where there is a single mention in a document, the constable may have been in position for some time before and continued in place afterwards. In the case of exchequer payments these are given as covering a fixed period, but the same caveat applies except where it is obvious from the list. In the latter part of the 15th century the Desmond monopoly was institutionalised by making the position hereditary, however this was lost in Silken Thomas?

The position of constable of the castle was often combined with that of sheriff of Limerick. Where this is certain the name is followed by an (S)

AH	Analecta Hibernica
BBL.	Black Book of Limerick
CCR	Calendar of Charter Rolls
CDI	Calendar of Documents Ireland
CJR	Calendar of Justiciary Rolls
CPR	Calendar of Patent Rolls
FR	Fine Rolls
IEP	Irish Exchequer Payments
RDKPRI	Report of the Deputy Keeper of Records Ireland

DP= During Pleasure

GB=Good Behaviour

To 1207 William de Braose¹. Orpen Normans

1215 Godeberto de Rupe²

1217 Reginald de Brewosa³ to hold it to 14H3

1223-6 Richard de Burgo 1223 DP⁴

Radolpho de Ballyganeran⁵

c1230-40 Reginald de Sancto Jacobo?⁶

1232 Peter de Rivallis; grant of city and castle for life.⁷

¹ Orpen, Normans

² BBL p. 104 CXXVI. The document is from the reign of John, with Edmund as bishop and Geoffrey de Marisco as Justiciar The names date it to 1215.

³ CPR 1216-25, pp. 112 & 132; CDI 1, p. 118 nos. 787 and 789 and p. 121 no. 814

⁴ CPR 1216-25, pp. 375, 470 & 526; CDI 1, p. 170, no. 1114, p. 185 no. 1216 and p. 218 no. 1443, latter mentions L the only castle to be held for the King.

⁵ BBL p. 86 XCVII. One of the witnesses witnessed documents in late 1220's and 1230s

⁶ BBL, p 53, LXII & p. 101, CXXI. Document dating to 1230's names him as seneschal. Titles often interchangeable, could be constable but possibly provost, see my article. On provosts

⁷ CCR I, p. 167; CPR 1225-32, p. 495; CDI 1, p. 293, no. 1969, p. 294 no. 1971 and p. 295 no. 1976

1233 Richard de Burg surrenders castle to crown to pass on to Rivallis⁸
 1234-5 John of Lexington⁹
 1245 Philip de Inteberg, to deliver castle to justiciar¹⁰
 Pre 1254 Sir Richard de Rochester¹¹
 1254 Edward son of Henry III¹²
 1275 Hugh Purcel for custody of castle Easter term¹³
 1275 Walter de la Haye¹⁴
 1276 Thomas de Clare to deliver castle to justiciar¹⁵
 pre1280 Robert Bagod, pardon to, named as “sometime constable”, possibly
 preceding Thomas the Chaplain¹⁶
 1279-80 Thomas the Chaplain; check date/ check what he is as well¹⁷
 1280-1283 Nicholas Botevylein, pay for period Michaelmas 1280 to Easter 1283¹⁸
 1297 Richard Weytham¹⁹
 1300-07 Thomas de St. John, 28-12-00 to 25-12-07²⁰
 1307-08 Cambinus Donati, former keeper; Christmas 1307-24 Aug 1308 £4-4-8.²¹
 1308 William son of Philip.²² DP
 1308 William son of John (S)²³
 1310-12 John of Athy²⁴, John de Ascy²⁵
 1314-1316 John de Langeton fee 17-04-14 to 1-8-16 £15²⁶
 1318-19 David de la Launde part payment fee 1-6-18 to 1-6-19²⁷
 1319-21 James de Bellafago, fee of £13-6-8 for the period 2-5-19 to 2-5-21²⁸
 1322-25 William de Weston 7-12-22 to 16-12-25²⁹
 1325-26 Thomas son of Hugh de Lees 8-8-25 to 8-5-26³⁰
 1326-27 William de Wyncestre 28-11-26 to 5-2-27³¹
 1327 Robert Lees 6-2-27 to 6-5-27³²

⁸ CPR 1232-47, p. 9; CDI 1, p. 299, no. 2009.

⁹ RDKPRI Vol. 35 p. 35

¹⁰ CDI 1, p. 417, no. 2792.

¹¹ CDI, p. 476 no. 472. Document dated 1255, Edward son of Henry III ordered arrears to be paid.

¹² CDI 2, p. 59 no. 371, p. 60 no. 380 and p. 64 no. 406. As he never came to Limerick it is assumed he had a deputy.

¹³ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 5; CDI 2, p. 180, no. 1038

¹⁴ CPR 1272-81, p. 128; CDI 2, p. 215 to hold it as long as he behaves responsibly and faithfully.

¹⁵ CPR 1272-81, p. 149; CDI 2, p. 229 no. 1258.

¹⁶ CPR 1272-81, p. 384

¹⁷ RDKPRI Vol 36 p 51

¹⁸ CDI 3, p. 369. Document dated 1290.

¹⁹ CJR 1295-1303, p. 117

²⁰ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, pp. 182, 186, 190, 193, 200 & 590; CJR 2 p. 189 & 405 and CJR 3, p. 17; also CDI 5, p. 148 nos. 486 & 487, p. 165 no. 572, p. 185 no. 639, p. 198 no. 671 and p. 201 no. 691.

²¹ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 596

²² FR, 2 p. 24

²³ CJR 3, p. 115

²⁴ FR, 2, pp. 55 & 135; Philomena Connolly, Irish Material in the Class of Ancient Petitions, AH Vol. 34 p. 20.

²⁵ Document dated 1312, National Archive, Kew SC 8/89/4429

²⁶ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 252

²⁷ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 260

²⁸ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 276

²⁹ IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, pp. 294, 297, 301 & 306

³⁰ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 320 & 333; The 4-month overlap with Weston cannot be explained unless there is an error in transcription.

³¹ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 320 & 324

³² IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 324

1327-34 William Skelton. At pleasure? Extended to grant for life 1329; some gaps in dates³³
 1330 John le White citizen of L. to repair wall³⁴
 1331 Adam de Fetherstanhalgh³⁵
 1332 Constable killed by escaped prisoners³⁶
 1334-36 William de Swyneford, 19-10-34 to 19-10 36³⁷
 1336-43 John Dufford; June 1336 DP, then for 6 yrs 20-03-37, arrears 12-7-37 to 12-1-1340 & 12-7-42 to 12-1-43³⁸
 1342-60 Peter de Okebourn 24-12-42 to 24-12-60³⁹
 1361-62 Roger Berde, Sept to Sept.⁴⁰
 1363-73 John de Beverley, March 1363 to March 1364⁴¹
 1373-74 John Corbet 8-3-73 to 8-12-74⁴²
 1382 Thomas Brichtich.⁴³
 1394-1399 William Braunspath; grant for life to hold himself or by deputy; 1399 replacement of letters⁴⁴
 1413 John Barry⁴⁵
 1427 Mayor & council; custody for 10yrs⁴⁶
 pre 1441 Thomas Frank surrendered⁴⁷
 1441-1446 (-62?) Nicholas Arthur, for life; 1446 inspeximus.⁴⁸
 1462 Earl of Desmond, for life. Ref to Arthur's fees; check Arthur MS⁴⁹
 1476 James Earl of Desmond; for life⁵⁰
 1488 Maurice Earl of Desmond; for life⁵¹
 1494 James Ormond, in tail mail; 1496 king to mayor etc⁵²
 1523-1551 Sir William Wyse⁵³
 1551 Andrew Wyse⁵⁴
 1556-7 Richard Chichester⁵⁵DP

³³ CPR 1327-30, pp. 28 & 361; also IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 329, 333, 341, 345, 350, 356, 363, 368, 370, 613 & 616.

³⁴ CPR 1327-30, p. 545

³⁵ CPR 1330-34, p. 83

³⁶ Annals of St. Mary's Dublin Vol. II, p. 378 and Book of Howth, p. 159

³⁷ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 377, 383 & 620

³⁸ FR, 4 p.486; CPR 1334-38, p. 271; FR, 5 p. 9; also IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 416

³⁹ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, pp. 403, 412, 416, 419, 425, 434, 447, 453, 459, 463, 467, 479, 491, 497 & 504

⁴⁰ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 511

⁴¹ IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 516, for 1 yrs. wages. A 1374 reference, FR, 8 p. 263, states he had surrendered his position the previous may..

⁴² IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 529

⁴³ Begley, Diocese of Limerick Vol 1 p. 237

⁴⁴ CPR 1391-96, p. 502; CPR 1396-99 p. 567

⁴⁵ CPR 1413-16, p. 48

⁴⁶ CPR 1422-29, p. 390 see also David Lee (ed), 1997, Remembering Limerick, p.91; See AH Vol 34, op. cit. p. 43, for original petition from mayor etc

⁴⁷ CPR 1436-41, p. 529

⁴⁸ CPR 1436-41, p. 529; CPR 1446-52, p. 4. The later 15th century will of a Nicholas Arthur is recorded in the Arthur Manuscript (N. Munster Antiquarian Journal 1958, Vol. 8 No. 1 p. 3)

⁴⁹ CPR 1461-67, p. 196

⁵⁰ CPR 14????????????- ????????, p. 595

⁵¹ CPR 1485-94, p. 232

⁵² CPR 1485-94, p. 464; Cal Ormond Deeds III, p. 281

⁵³ Lenihan p 52

⁵⁴ Fiants Edward VI, No???????, Lenihan p 52, Cal of Patent and Close Rolls (find page)

⁵⁵ Fiants Elizabeth No 1205, Lenihan p 52

1576 Hercules Rainsforde⁵⁶DP
157? Andrew Creagh⁵⁷
1580 James Spenscer⁵⁸DP
1580 Robert Longe⁵⁹DP
1585 John Bleake⁶⁰
1588 Richard Chichester DP⁶¹
1590 –1596 John Bleeke⁶²GB
1596-7 John Dunnet⁶³GB
1597 Capt. Francis Barckley⁶⁴
1608 George Blundell⁶⁵
1610 Maueice Barckley⁶⁶
1622 George Courtenay⁶⁷
16?? Roger Earl of Orrery⁶⁸
1679 Viscount Blessington⁶⁹
1692-1700 Sir William King⁷⁰
1700-1714 Brigadier General Richard Ingoldsby⁷¹
1714-1727 George Lord Carbury⁷²
1727-1739 Sir Standish Hartstonge⁷³
1739-1749 George Lord Carbury⁷⁴
1749-1780 Thomas 2nd Lord Southwell⁷⁵
1780-1795 Edward Stopford⁷⁶
1795-1809 Hon William Cockayne⁷⁷
1809-1842 Colonel Vereker, 2nd Viscount Gort⁷⁸
1842 abolished⁷⁹

⁵⁶ Fiants Elizabeth No 2803, Lenihan p 52

⁵⁷ Lenihan p 52

⁵⁸ Fiants Elizabeth No 3645, Lenihan p 52

⁵⁹ Fiants Elizabeth No 3660, Lenihan p 52

⁶⁰ Fiants Elizabeth No 4792, a lease mentions him as constable, Lenihan p 52

⁶¹ Fiants Elizabeth No 5261, Lenihan p 52

⁶² Fiants Elizabeth No 5407; Lenihan p 52; Hampshire County Record Office 44M69/E3

⁶³ Fiants Elizabeth No 6062, vacant by death of Bleake

⁶⁴ Fiants Elizabeth No 6154, vacant by death of Dunnet; Lenihan p 52

⁶⁵ Lenihan p 52

⁶⁶ Lenihan p 52

⁶⁷ Lenihan p 52

⁶⁸ Lenihan p 52

⁶⁹ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁰ Lenihan p 52

⁷¹ Lenihan p 52

⁷² Lenihan p 52

⁷³ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁴ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁵ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁶ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁷ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁸ Lenihan p 52

⁷⁹ Lenihan p 52