

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF LIMERICKMEN IN FRANCE

Captain John Baggot

JOHN BAGGOT, a captain in French army, was a son of Colonel John Baggot of Baggotstown, Co. Limerick. After the confiscation of the family estate in 1691, the father – who, with his sons, accompanied the Irish forces to France – became gentleman usher at the court of James II at Saint Germain-en-Laye. Captain John Baggot fought at the battle of Fontenoy, after which he took part in the Rising in support of Prince Charles Edward in Scotland, where he was Colonel-Commandant of a cavalry company known as the Prince's Hussars. At Culloden the French ambassador reported him as 'badly but not fatally wounded.' Taken prisoner, he was pardoned but received a sentence of perpetual banishment. A Scottish contemporary described him as 'a very rough sort of man and, so, exceedingly well fitted to command the banditti of which his corps was composed, and to distress the country.'

Another Baggot family, settled in Co. Carlow, was attainted after the Jacobite war in Ireland in 1691; and the De La Ponce MSS. give many of the name as officers in the French service.

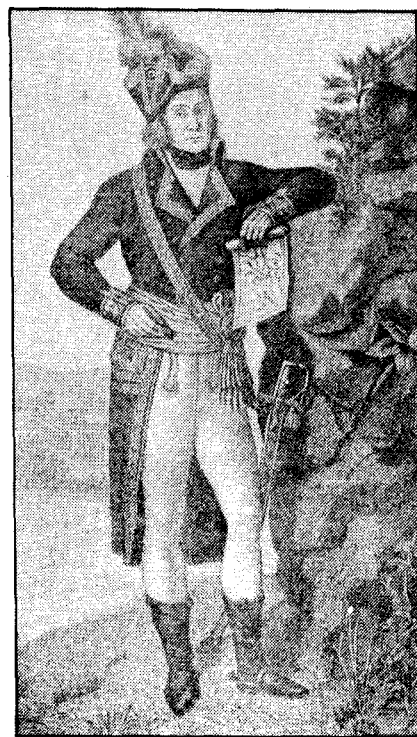
Major Thomas Browne

THOMAS BROWNE, an officer of the Irish Brigade and chevalier of St. Louis, was born at Camas, Co. Limerick, on 18 October, 1732, of a notable family of soldiers. He was a nephew of Field-Marshal



The Battle of Fontenoy.

BY RICHARD HAYES



General Charles Kilmaine.

George Count Browne of the Austrian service, and a grand-nephew of Field-Marshal Peter de Lacy of Russia. Major Browne entered Dillon's Irish regiment in France as a cadet in 1767 and as major, ten years later, accompanied that corps across the Atlantic to help in the American War of Independence. In that conflict, he acted as aide-de-camp to Count d'Estaing, the French Commander-in-Chief. At the siege of Savannah in Georgia on 9 October, 1779, the Count, contrary to the opinion of Browne, determined to attack the town and order the latter to move forward with his regiment. The Irish officer did so, planted the French flag three times on the walls of Savannah, and in the third attempt was killed.

Archbishop Peter Creagh

PETER CREAGH, a Jesuit priest, was born in the early years of the seventeenth century at Carrigeen castle, three miles from the city of Limerick. He was a nephew of the martyr-Primate Creagh, and became

professor and superior of the Irish Jesuit college at Poitiers. While teaching there, he directed the education of his nephew and namesake (Peter or Piers Creagh) who, famous as an accomplished scholar and linguist, was later archbishop of Dublin. Before his appointment by James II to this office, the future archbishop had undergone much privation and persecution in Ireland and, after the Jacobite collapse there in 1691, was sent as ambassador to the French court to solicit help from Louis XIV. After his selection as archbishop at Saint Germain-en-Laye by James II, he had wished to return to Ireland, but the king would not permit him to quit his position. Later, the bishop of Strasbourg in Alsace, who had conceived a high regard for him, begged of the Stuart king to permit the exiled prelate to assist him in his diocese. The request was granted, and the archbishop spent the rest of his life in Strasbourg, where he died in September, 1705.

Colonel James de Lacy

JAMES DE LACY was born at Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, of the family of Ballingarry-Lacy. He was colonel and commandant of the Prince of Wales regiment of infantry in Ireland during the Jacobite war. He entered the French service and was mortally wounded at the battle of Marsaglia in Italy under the Marshal de Catinat in 1693.

Colonel Louis de Lacy

Louis de Lacy was another kinsman of the renowned Limerick family of his name, was born at St. Roque near Gibraltar on 11 January, 1775. He was the son of Patrick de Lacy, colonel of the Irish regiment of Ultonia in the Spanish service. At the age of fourteen, he became an officer of his father's corps, which in 1795 was sent on service to the Canary Islands. There he had a quarrel with the governor that led to a duel in which the latter was severely wounded. As a result, young de Lacy was court-martialled, deprived of his commission and imprisoned. After release, he was not permitted to enter the army. Smarting under his treatment, he crossed over into France and, reaching Boulogne in 1803, entered the French army. Meeting General Henry Clarke (later Duke of Feltre), who was then Minister of War and who was like himself of Irish ancestry, the latter intro-



duced him to Napoleon. He immediately got a commission as captain in the Irish Legion which had been just formed at Morlaix. In 1807, a large French force under Murat, of which 800 men with de Lacy as commander formed part, was sent into Spain in pursuance of Napoleon's plan for the conquest of that country.

On arrival at Madrid in 1808, de Lacy was reluctant about fighting against the country of his birth. Dressed in female attire, he escaped from the camp of the Franco-Irish corps and surrendered himself as prisoner of war to the Spanish commander. He was warmly welcomed and immediately received a commission with the rank of colonel in the Burgos regiment. For several years, he fought gallantly in various encounters with the French invaders, and in 1812 found himself in chief command of the army of Galicia numbering 10,000 men. With the return of the exiled monarch Ferdinand VII to the Spanish throne, much civil discord followed, and an anti-royalist conspiracy, of which de Lacy was a moving spirit, was formed. Eventually, the gallant Spanish-Irish soldier was arrested and condemned to death, and in July, 1816, he was shot. Four years later, his body was exhumed and conveyed with much pomp and military honour to Barcelona, where it was placed beside that of his uncle, Count Francis de Lacy. The king of Spain accompanied the funeral on foot, and made amends for the past by conferring on the dead officer and posthumous title of Duke of Ultonia.

Field-Marshal Peter de Lacy

PETER DE LACY, son of Pierce Edmund de Lacy of Ballingarry, Co. Limerick, by Maria Courtney, was born at Coolrus, Bruree, Co. Limerick, in 1678. During the Jacobite war, he was ensign of the Irish regiment of which his uncle James was colonel. Leaving Ireland in 1692, young Peter went to France, landed at Brest and proceeded to Nantes to enter the regiment of Athlone as lieutenant. With that corps, he went through the Italian campaign under Marshal de Catinat in the French service. After the Peace of Ryswick in 1697, he left France and entered the Russian army, in which he had such a distinguished career, rising to the rank of Field-Marshal. One of the most celebrated soldiers of Europe, he died in 1751.

His father and two brothers came to France, too, after the Jacobite war in Ireland. All three died in the French service, the younger brother being killed at Malplaquet in 1710 as major in Dorrington's Irish regiment.

Professor Gerard Fitzgerald

GERARD FITZGERALD was a professor of medicine. Born at Limerick in the last decade of the seventeenth century, he went to France for his education. At the university of Montpellier he obtained his doctorate in medicine in 1719, after a distinguished academic course. In March, 1732, on the death of Pierre Chivrac, the famous French physician, he was appointed to the professorship of medicine at Montpellier. Among his published works there were (1) *Dissertatio de Catamenis* (1731), (2) *Dissertatio de Visu* (1741), (3) *Dissertatio de Carie Ossium* (1742), while his special lectures on female maladies were published in Latin under the title of *Tractatus pathologicus de Affectibus Feminarum praeternaturalibus* (Paris, 1754), of which a French translation appeared at Avignon in 1758. He died at Montpellier in the year 1748.

Sir John Fitzgerald

SIR JOHN (CHEVALIER) FITZGERALD was born in 1640, the son of Sir Edmund Fitzgerald, lord of Claonghlais (Clonliss), Co. Limerick, of the great Munster Geraldine house. At the time of his father's death (1666), John Fitzgerald was residing at Nantes in France, which was then one of the continental cities to which young Irishmen went for their education. The Irish poet, David O'Bruadair, who enjoyed the patronage and friendship of the Claonghlais house, in an elegy on Sir Edmund's death, hopes that his heir will soon come safely home from the French city. Fourteen years afterwards, Sir John was one of the Catholic gentlemen who were arrested and sent to London in connection with the 'Popish Plot' of 1680. In the Jacobite war, he was lieutenant-colonel of Mountcashel's regiment of infantry and, subsequently, colonel of a foot regiment bearing his own name and largely composed of his own retainers. After the capitulation of Limerick and his attainder in 1691, few of these seem to have accompanied their chief to France—O'Bruadair lampoons them, in a poem of bitter invective, for their failure to do so.

The depleted corps, however, maintained its old name abroad and took part in the Flanders campaign, in which Sir John so distinguished himself at the battle of Landen in 1693 that he received a special mark of honour. This honour seems to have been his appointment to the colonelcy of the regiment of Fitzgerald in 1694. Under Marshal de Catinat, he fought till 1696 in the Italian campaign, distinguishing himself again at the siege of Valenza, while, in 1697, his activities lay along the Rhine. In the same year, the Peace of Ryswick led to many changes in the French army, and among



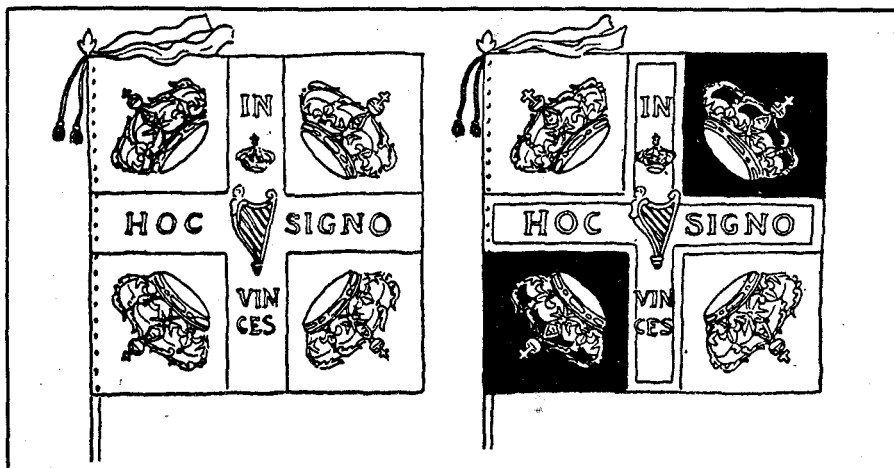
Bonaparte, as a young officer,
August, 1792.

them was the dissolution of the regiment of Limerick and its incorporation in other corps. Few details are available regarding this Irish officer's subsequent career. Those authorities, who state that he was killed at Oudenarde, probably confuse him with Brigadier Nicholas Fitzgerald who was fatally wounded at the battle. In this connection, it is of some significance that, according to the De La Ponce MSS., a retired officer of the name was admitted into the Hotel des Invalides in 1703, while in the same year the colonelcy of the regiment of Fitzgerald was conferred on Nicholas Fitzgerald.

Sir John Fitzgerald's name came into some prominence in connection with the somewhat mysterious disappearance of the *Book of Lecan* from Trinity College, Dublin, during the Jacobite war in Ireland. For some years after the termination of this war, the valuable work was in the possession of various prominent expatriated Irishmen in France, and claims to its ownership led to much acrimony among them till its deposit in the Irish College at Paris. Sir John Fitzgerald seems to have been its first possessor and he was said to have sold it to James Terry, the Jacobite genealogist. It has always been difficult to understand how the valuable codex came into the hands of the former. The following entry in the Register of Trinity College would seem, however, to throw a suggestive sidelight on the question: 'September 6th, 1689. The College was seized on for a garrison

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The colonel's and regimental colours of the Dillon regiment.

by the King's (James) order, and Sir John Fitzgerald took possession of it.' How the Royal Irish Academy, through the initiative of Chevalier O'Gorman, acquired possession of the *Book of Lecan* is told in 'A Forgotten Irish Antiquary' (*Studies*, December, 1941).

Lieutenant-General Oliver Harty

OLIVER HARTY (Baron De Pierrebourg) was born at Knockainey, Knocklong, Co. Limerick, on 2 December, 1746, and was the son of John Harty and Margaret Shee. Emigrating to France, he entered Berwick's Irish regiment as a cadet in his sixteenth year — three of his maternal uncles were at the time officers in the Irish Brigade. As a young man, he served in the Isles de France and Bourbon, and two years before the outbreak of the Revolution was, when captain of grenadiers, decorated by Louis XVI with the Order of Saint Louis. When the Irish Brigade was dissolved in 1791 owing to a re-constitution of the army, he remained in France, unlike many of his fellow-countrymen, and became colonel of the 88th regiment (formerly Berwick's).

He had been captain of Berwick's, and when that corps, under the influence of its colonel, Bartholomew O'Mahony, was about to desert France to join the royalists beyond the Rhine, Harty addressed it and called on its officers and men to stand by their adopted country. As a result, only a small number seceded. Like many other gallant officers in France at the time he was suspended from the army in 1793 as a foreigner and imprisoned for seventy days. As he was about to leave France, he was captured by the English and conveyed to the Bermudas, from which he escaped and returned to France.

In 1795, the Committee of Public Safety restored Harty to his former military rank, and in 1796 he was entrusted with the preparation and organisation of the *Brigade Etrangère* (composed of the regiments of O'Meara, Lee, etc.) that

formed part of the expeditionary army which set out with Hoche and Tone for Ireland at the end of that year. There are numerous letters to him from Hoche in the French archives before the sailing of the ill-fated armada—his vessel was one of those that reached Bantry Bay. After the failure of the Irish enterprise, he was employed in the 15th military Division against the Chouans in 1799 and 1800, and he helped in a large way to carry that campaign to its success. He was in command of the province of Morbihan in Brittany, and with 800 republican troops won a striking victory over 8,000 insurgents under Cadoudal, on 25 January, 1800.

In 1805, Harty acted for a short time as inspector-general of the Irish Legion, which was mobilised near the coast of Brest, awaiting orders to join in the expected expedition to Ireland. Later, he



Dillon regiment fusilier, 1767, from a drawing by Eugène Lelièvre.

went through the Napoleonic campaigns with much distinction and, during his command of the district of Munster in Westphalia, often entertained his countrymen of the Irish Legion at his headquarters. On 30 June, 1811, he was, for his high repute and gallantry, created Baron de Pierrebourg (Alsace) by Napoleon — an honour which was confirmed by Louis XVIII after the Bourbon restoration. After a strenuous military career extending over fifty years, he retired from active service on 1 May, 1814, with the rank of lieutenant-general and with many honours. He died at Strasbourg on 2 January, 1823.

By his marriage with Anne Marie de Grenveld, Harty had two sons and a daughter. His great-grandson, Baron Patrice Harty de Pierrebourg, had been for some time engaged in writing a biography of this illustrious Irish soldier, whose portrait decorates the family salon in Paris.

Sir John Higgins

SIR JOHN HIGGINS, son of Dr. Patrick Higgins and Mary Loftus, was born at Limerick in 1676. After the final defeat of the Jacobite army and the capitulation of his native city in 1691, he went as a boy to Paris where his mother's relative, Edmund Loftus, was a banker at the time. Educated at the French university of Montpellier, he graduated in medicine at its famous medical school in 1700. After his qualification as a doctor, the long War of the Spanish Succession began, and a great soldier of the day, the Duke of Berwick, who was commander-in-chief of the allied armies of France and Spain, induced him to accept the post of principal medical officer of the united forces. In that capacity, he took part in the great battles and sieges of the eleven years conflict, in which the various regiments of the Irish Brigade in the French service played a leading role. His future career, after leaving the army, lay in Spain where he became physician to Philip V and was knighted by James III. Full of honours and renown, he died at Seville on 11 October, 1729. He married Jeanne de Courtade, daughter of a French physician practising in Bayonne in south-western France, whom he met while on a visit to that town in 1712.

General Thomas Keating

THOMAS KEATING, son of Valentine Keating and Sarah Creagh, was born at Limerick in January, 1748. In his sixteenth year, he entered Berwick's regiment of the Irish Brigade as a cadet. Within a short period, he was appointed lieutenant in Walsh's corps and went through the Corsican and five other campaigns with the rank of captain. (His



three brothers, John, Edward and William also became officers in the French army). In June, 1788, he was promoted to the rank of major, his brevet being signed by the archbishop of Sens. The colonel-proprietor of Walsh's regiment, Count Walsh de Serrant, who had his own favourite for the appointment, showed much hostility towards Keating, and the latter was temporarily dismissed. This led to a warm discussion in the National Assembly in November, 1790, and that body requested the King to have justice done to the Irish officer. The royal interference resulted in his being restored soon afterwards to his regiment.

Keating was a supporter of the French Revolution, and in June, 1791, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. As such he accompanied the army in the following year in the invasion of Belgium. Here he particularly distinguished himself at the Battle of Neerwinden in March, 1793, at the head of a cavalry corps, and a few weeks later was promoted to the rank of general of brigade. Almost immediately afterwards, like his compatriots General O'Moran, Colonel Dillon and others, he fell under the ban of the extreme Jacobin party. As a foreigner and an officer under the monarchy, he was unjustly suspected of disloyalty to the Republic and was suspended from the army in July, 1793. In a letter of protest against this treatment Keating pleaded that, in view of the fact that he was an Irishman who had served in an Irish regiment in the French army for more than thirty years, during which he fought in a dozen campaigns, he should not be regarded as a foreigner. He also produced a certificate from the Society of Liberty and Equality at Arras (where he had acted as commandant) which guaranteed his patriotism and zeal for the Republic. From other towns, too, where his regiment had been quartered, came tributes to his services and loyalty. His appeals, however, were in vain, and on 18 August, 1793, he was arrested and imprisoned.

This injustice drew from Keating another letter of protest, in which he wrote to the Minister of War as follows: My whole family has resided in France for many years. One of my brothers is fighting in the National Guard in La Vendee. Another is captain in the 92nd regiment (formerly Dillon's) in Saint Domingo. A third has been killed fighting. If I am no longer a French citizen, I shall be proscribed by English law; I shall not belong to any nation and, by reason of this hateful order, I would resemble that ill-fated sect which France has lately placed under the protection of the Rights of Man. If I have had the misfortune, Citizen Minister, to serve under infidel chiefs, I have had that fate in common with all my brave brothers-in-arms. I have no knowledge of any plots or



Dillon regiment grenadier, 1779, from a drawing by Eugène Lelièvre.

intrigues, and my religion is to me as such a real thing that I dare to say I would be one of the very last to whom traitors would confide any information regarding such. I ask for your justice and request to be sent back to my post at Arras. Thereby you will distinguish crime from virtue and you will return to the Republic one of its most zealous defenders.

Despite his appeal, he was, however, detained in prison for fifteen months, at the end of which he was released on 10 December, 1794, on a medical report which certified that he was suffering from severe rheumatism. After release, he was restored to the army with his old rank of general of brigade. Ill-health, however, had so weakened his constitution that he was compelled to retire from active service on 10 December, 1795, and he died soon afterwards at Poitiers.

Judge Matthew Kennedy

MATTHEW KENNEDY, judge and author, was born in County Limerick in 1652, and was the son of Denis Kennedy and Catherine Herbert. He was appointed a judge of the Admiralty under James II, the Stuart MSS. (Vol 1) gives the warrant (25 April, 1689) from his majesty for 'a grant to Matthew Kennedy, LL.D., of the office of Master in Chancery in Ireland'.

After the notable figure at the court in Saint Germain-en-Laye. Devoting much of his time there to literary work, he wrote *A Chronological, Genealogical and Historical Dissertation of the Royal Family of the Stuarts*, which was published at Paris in 1705. In this treatise, he tries to prove that the Stuarts were of Irish descent. The work was strongly criticised by Father De La Haye, an Anglo-Scotchman, in a letter to the Duke of Perth. The author replied to De La Haye in the form of a letter, which was printed in French at Paris in 1715. Kennedy was proficient in the Irish language and used to have competitions in Irish verse with the Abbé Manus O'Rourke of Breffni, who resided permanently at Paris. The latter wrote: 'Dr Kennedy was my great friend and was surprised how I kept my Irish, being so long a time out of Ireland. . . he was jealous with me, for he thought no man a greater master of Irish than himself and published in all the courts of Saint Germain that he knew but me alone who could compare with him.' In 1710, Kennedy married Elizabeth Birmingham at Saint Germaine-en-Laye, where he died on 22 May, 1735, in his eighty-third year.

Professor John MacEnery

JOHN MACENERY was born in 1616 at Castletown-MacEnery, Co. Limerick, where his family were chiefs of the district for several centuries. (Its name has been changed to that of Castletown-Conyers after the foreign family which supplanted them). John MacEnery was educated at Paris at the time that Vincent de Paul was laying the foundations of his Congregation of the Missions. Among his earliest adherents were a number of young Irishmen that included MacEnery, who joined the Congregation in 1642 and made his vows in 1645. Some years later he was appointed professor of theology in the mother house of St. Lazare at Paris. From there he was transferred in 1654 to the seminary at Troyes. In that town two regiments of Irish soldiers in the French army, which had left Ireland in the Cromwellian exodus, were quartered at the time. With the soldiers, according to St. Vincent de Paul, were 'one hundred women of good morals' and a large number of children, who were driven from their native country by reason of their religion. They were suffering much hardship, and the abbé MacEnery after his arrival at Troyes gave them much help. A few years later, he was sent to Italy to fill the chair of theology in a newly-founded college of his Congregation at Genoa. The plague was raging in the town and, contracting the fever, he died there.

Several members of his family were officers of the Irish Brigade in France.

Colonel Anthony MacEnery of Dillon's regiment was killed at the battle of Chiary in 1701. The Stuart MSS. (Vol. 1) contain a letter from Queen Mary of Modena, widow of James II, to the Duke of Mantua (19 March 1705) thanking him for his kindness to the children and widow of Colonel MacEnery, 'who was much valued by the late king for his courage and loyalty.' Colonel MacEnery was married to Marie, daughter of the Count de Rantzau, and in 1728 the children were admitted into the ranks of the French nobility. One of them, a colonel in Dillon's regiment, was killed at Fontenoy in 1745, and another at Lauffelt two years later.

James Nihill

JAMES NIHILL belonged to a branch of the O'Neil family which settled in Clare and Limerick after the defeat of Kinsale in 1601. After the attainder of his family in 1691 he followed James II to France, and became the *avocat* of the Stuart king at Saint Germain-en-Laye. Several of his sons became officers of the Irish Brigade - one was killed and another wounded at Fontenoy. He died at Saint Germain in 1747. A kinsman, Sir Balthazar (Walter) Nihill, was in the last decade of the eighteenth century a brigadier-general in the service of the king of Naples. He was one of the gallant Irish officers who saved the king's life at Velletri, when his majesty was surprised by the Imperial forces under the Irish general Count Browne.

The Nihill family was connected by marriage with that of the illustrious bishop John O'Molony. The latter, immediately before his death at Paris in 1702, left large sums for founding burses in various colleges in that city. Sixty years afterwards some disagreement regarding the burses arose between the college of Louis le Grand and members of the Nihill family residing in France. The names of the latter, as mentioned in the document in the 'archives nationales' dealing with the claims, are as follows: 'Jean Nihill de Molony, écuyer, doctor of medicine of the faculty of Caen, consulting physician to the (Stuart) king of England and the king of Poland, residing in Paris . . . in the parish of Saint Sulpice . . . ; John Paul Marie Nihill, age twenty-one years, student in theology, and Victor Nihill, canon of Neuville in Alsace, age seventeen years, student of logic, both presented to the burses by the said Jean Nihill de Molony, their father, and the present on the foundation of the Collège de Navarre in the parish of Saint Etienne du Mont'.

Colonel Daniel O'Brien

DANIEL O'BRIEN (Earl of Lismore), soldier and Jacobite agent, was born in 1683 at Perpignan in France, and was son of Murrough O'Brien of Carrigounell, Co.



Dillon regiment fusilier, 1786, from a drawing by Eugène Lelièvre.

Limerick, officer in the French army, and Julian Callaghan. Entering the French service, he rose to the rank of colonel and was created Chevalier de Saint Lazare in 1716. A zealous Jacobite, he served as a link between the Stuart princes and the French ministry, and in 1745 he was appointed envoy and representative of James III at the court of France. A treaty, which promised assistance to Prince Charles Edward, was signed at Fontainebleau on 24 October, 1745, by O'Brien on behalf of James and by the Marquis d'Argenson representing Louis XV. In 1747, he was created Earl of Lismore as a reward for his Jacobite activities, and soon afterwards was summoned to Rome by James III to act as secretary to state to his majesty. There is a considerable number of his letters in the Stuart MSS. which show him as one of the chief actors in all the secret Jacobite movements and intrigues of his time. It was said by his enemies that, with his wife and Cardinal Tencin, he received large sums of money to persuade Prince Henry Stuart (Charles Edward's brother) to accept a cardinalate - an event which Hanoverian England anxiously desired. This proposal created a schism in the Jacobite party, the older adherents of which ranged round the king against his son, Prince Charles Edward.

O'Brien died at Rome in 1759. On being informed of his death, James III declared that he had 'lost a true friend, and old and faithful servant.' He has been described as joining all the abilities of a statesman and the politeness of the

courtier to the martial spirit of his soldier father.

Murrough O'Brien

MURROUGH O'BRIEN was the son of Eugene O'Brien of the house of Carrigounell, in which place he was born circa 1650. In 1671, he went to France as a volunteer in the Irish regiment of Count George Hamilton and took part in the German campaigns of that corps during the succeeding ten years. In 1691, he obtained a commission as captain in the regiment of O'Brien of Clare, and fought with it at Marsaglia in 1693 and at other battles of the war in Italy. By 1705, he had reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and in the following year was engaged with his regiment at Ramillies. At this battle, where Lord Clare was killed, Murrough O'Brien captured two English flags which he deposited in the house of the Irish Benedictine nuns at Ypres. After the death of his kinsman, he succeeded him as colonel of the family regiment. At its head he fought at Oudenarde and Malplaquet and at various sieges in Flanders till the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. Holding the rank of major-general he remained colonel of the O'Brien regiment till his death in July, 1720. A brave soldier, the name of Murrough O'Brien stands high in the military annals of France.

A kinsman and namesake - Murrough (Morgan) O'Brien - of the Ballynalackan branch of the Thomond family was also a distinguished officer of Clare's regiment and was in 1736 created a Knight of the Military Order of Saint Louis. He married Marie Louis de Thomak, by whom he had two sons, who became officers in their father's regiment.

Bishop Cornelius O'Keeffe

CORNELIUS O'KEEFFE, son of Denis O'Keeffe and Honora O'Daly, was born in 1664 at Dunkin, Co. Limerick. Educated at the Irish College in Bordeaux, he completed his ecclesiastical studies at the Irish College in Toulouse, where he graduated doctor of divinity. After ordination as a priest, he spent some years on missionary work at La Rochelle, and in 1710 he became parish priest of St. Similien in the city of Nantes. In 1720, he was appointed bishop of Limerick - in the R.I.A. MSS. (23N32) there is an Irish poem (*Fáilte d'hisbh, a bhráthair gaoil, tar sáil go críoch Eireann*) addressed to him on his return to Ireland by his cousin Father Owen O'Keeffe. In 1734, he returned to France on a visit, spent some months at Nantes, and later in the year journeyed to Paris. Here he founded three burses in the Irish College for the education of students descended from the O'Keeffe family of Gleann-an-



*Joachim Murat (1767-1815) ... a brilliant cavalry commander.
He was executed after Napoleon's fall from power in 1815.*

Phriacane (Glenville), Co. Cork. He died at Limerick on 4 May, 1737. In his will he bequeathed 'one hundred livres to Mr. John Butler for the use of the poor of Rochelle, and one hundred livres for Mrs. Mary Gould of Rochelle, and two hundred livres to the Miss Clarkes, daughters to Mr. Theobald Clarke of Nantes.' The last-names were relatives of Marshal Clarke, Duke of Feltre, the illustrious French-Irish soldier.

Dr. Edmund Saint Leger

EDMUND SAINT LEGER was a native of Limerick, where he was born circa 1752. He went to the Irish College at Paris for his education in 1772 and, pursuing a course of medical studies, took his degree in the university of the French capital. Entering the French colonial service, he filled the post of judge and official interpreter in the island of Tobago (West Indies) during the years immediately preceding the French revolution. In that French colony, as in others, the news of the fall of the Bastille created much rejoicing among the mass of the population, and much disorder subsequently

arose there. In 1791, Dr. Saint Leger, who had become commandant-general of the National Guard in Tabago, came to Paris while the complicated colonial question was being warmly discussed in the National Assembly. In August of that year, he was appointed a Royal Commissioner with extensive powers, and was sent to Saint Domingo, the largest of the French colonies, to make peace there between the contending parties. Ten months later he returned to Paris and, at a sitting of the national Assembly, read a report on the conditions of the island which showed the failure of his mission. He settled in Paris, and, at the end of 1793, was arrested as a suspect royalist. Brought from the prison of the Conciergerie before the Revolutionary Tribunal, on 8 January, 1794, he replied to the usual questions that he was forty-one years old, a native of Ireland, a doctor by profession and was living in France for twenty years. He was found not guilty of any activities against the Republic, and was set at liberty.

Dr. Saint Leger, who was physician to Colonel Arthur Dillon, General Kilmaine and others of his compatriots in Paris at the period, had two sons, Edmund and Patrick, who became officers in the Irish Legion.

Captain Edmund Saint Leger

EDMUND SAINT LEGER (JR) was the son of Edmund. He was born at Limerick and educated at the Irish College in Paris. Adopting a military career in the French service, he entered the Irish Legion in 1803. In that body he served with much distinction in the Napoleonic campaigns in Holland, Spain, Portugal and Germany. For valour, he was decorated with the Cross of the Legion of honour in 1813 and was made a Chevalier of Saint Louis in 1824. In 1814, he had been appointed captain of the staff of General Maison, who in that year commanded the first corps of the French army as it advanced against the Allied forces then marching on Paris.

After Napoleon's return to France from Elba, Saint Leger, a strong Bonapartist, was an officer of the Army of the Loire—the last force which remained loyal to the emperor. On the second restoration of the Bourbons in 1815, he retired from active service with the rank of chef de bataillon, and on 18 June, he died at Paris.

Surgeon-Major Patrick Saint Leger

SAINT LEGER was a brother of Edmund (JR). Like his brother, he was born at Limerick and educated at the Irish College in Paris, and, like his father, he followed a course of medical studies. After taking out his degree, he became surgeon-major in the Irish Legion and went through the Napoleonic campaigns in Spain and Germany. In 1807, the Legion was ordered to the isle of Walcheren in Holland, where it encamped near Flushing. The climate was extremely unhealthy, and nearly half the Legion were stricken with fever. Dr. Saint Leger was among its victims, and he died there in 1809.

Colonel Walter Valentine Stapleton

WALTER VALENTINE STAPLETON was born at Limerick where his relative, Colonel Stapleton, who was deputy-governor, was killed in 1691 leading a sortie against the Williamites. He went in his youth to France and was naturalised there in 1717. He entered Berwick's Irish cavalry regiment and, in that corps, went through the War of the Austrian Succession. By 1743, he had reached the rank of colonel, and for gallant conduct at Fontenoy two years later he was promoted to that of 'brigadier des armées du roi.' In 1745, he accompanied Prince Charles Edward to Scotland and commanded four hundred soldiers of the Irish Brigade at Falkirk,

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whose valour materially contributed to the victory there. He died on 17 April, 1746, from a wound received two weeks before at the battle of Culloden.

John Stapleton

Walter V. Stapleton's relative, John, also born at Limerick, belonged to the elder branch of the Stapleton family of Thurles-beg, Co. Tipperary. He lost his property after the Jacobite War and, with his wife, Helene Skerret, emigrated to the French colony of Saint Domingo. He came to France in 1704 and settled at Nantes, where his son John was born. The latter was ennobled with the title, Comte de Trèves, and for a hundred years his descendants played a leading part in the life of the French city. One of them, Anne Stapleton, fell a victim to the drownings ('noyades') there during Carrier's reign of terror in 1793.

James Terry

JAMES TERRY, genealogist, son of John Terry and Mary Ronan, was born at Limerick on 26 May, 1660. As a boy, he entered the Irish army in Fleming's company of the Earl of Antrim's regiment. Abandoning a military career after a short period, he was by letters-patent appointed Athlone Herald by James II. After the Jacobite defeat in Ireland, he emigrated to France and settled at Saint Germain-en-Laye. In that town he was occupied for more than a quarter of a century in compiling a large number of pedigrees for expatriated Irish families, and particularly for those Irishmen upon whom James II and Louis XIV conferred peerages and titles. He died at Paris in 1725. In 1687, he married Mary Stritch of Limerick, by whom he had several children. The greater number of Terry's papers and letters dealing with Irish families became after his death the property of Charles d'Hozier, the French Herald, and are in the Bibliothèque Nationale at Paris. A certain number, too, are in various repositories in French provincial towns (Bordeaux, Nantes, etc.); and others lie in the homes of the descendants of old Irish families throughout France.

George Waters

GEORGE WATERS was the son of John Waters of Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, by Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Woulfe of Tiernaclane, Co. Clare. (The original home of the Waters family was at Macroom, Co. Cork). George Waters left Ireland for France in the Jacobite emigration of 1691 and became a functionary of the palace of James II at Saint Germain-en-Laye. In the early eighteenth century he founded at Paris a bank, which was largely patronised by the



Doorway at the Irish College, Paris, from a drawing by the Limerick artist, Maurice Quillinan.

expatriated Irish Jacobites. (Throughout the eighteenth century, many exiled Irishmen were bankers in France – the Cantillons, Quains, Woulfes, Darcys, Arthurs, etc.). Waters became the confidential agent and banker of the exiled Stuart royal family. His house in Paris and that of his son who succeeded him were centres for Jacobite activities; and they, with the help of officers of the Irish Brigade, largely contributed to finance the Rising of the '45. The Waters alone advanced 180,000 livres to aid that enterprise. On the eve of his departure, Prince Charles Edward wrote to Edgar, the secretary of James III. 'I owe old Waters 60,000 livres, part of which went to payment of my debts last Winter, which the French court did not think fit to complete. Young Waters has advanced me 120,000 livres and promised to pay several other things which I have referred to him.' After the failure of the enterprise, Prince Charles, on his return to France, underwent many vicissitudes of fortune, and in February, 1752, George Waters

refused to advance any more money to him. But his house at Paris always remained a refuge for the Prince even when his fortunes were at their lowest.

George Waters died in 1752 in the French capital. By his cousin Mary Waters of Macroom (whom he married under dispensation), he was the father of George John Waters.

Sir Ignatius White

SIR IGNATIUS WHITE, Marquis of Albeville, was a notable diplomatist of the seventeenth century and a Count of the Holy Roman Empire. He was born at Ballyneety, his ancestral home, from which he took his title of Albeville (*Baile-an-Fhaoite*, the town of White) – a village near Limerick, of which city his father, Sir Dominick White, was mayor in 1636. Sir Ignatius received his baronetcy from Charles II, whose ambassador he became at the Court of Vienna. Macaulay and other partisan historians represent him as serving the House of Austria in the capacity of something between an envoy and a spy, for which the emperor conferred on him (1677) the title of Marquis of Albeville. Further assailing his character, they described him as an unscrupulous, intriguing Irishman, whose one object was money which he took from all who offered it, and they assert that at a critical time he misled James II for ignoble motives. Despite such comments, however, the fact remains that when the Jacobite cause was broken in Ireland, whither he had accompanied the king in 1689, he followed his royal master to poverty and exile, forfeiting his estates and dying amid hardships at St. Germain-en-Laye in 1694.

He was succeeded by his son. A captain in Lord Kilmallock's Regiment of Dragoons in the Irish Brigade, the second Marquis of Albeville was a brave soldier. Fighting for France, he died covered with wounds at the battle of Villaviciosa in Spain in 1710.

In the Stuart MSS. (Vol. 1) there is a document signed by James III (the 'Old Pretender') at St. Germain-en-Laye in 1712 and certifying that 'all the brothers of the late Sir Ignatius White, formerly Envoy Extraordinary of James II to Holland and his Secretary of State for Ireland, have died and that the sole heirs of all these brothers are the daughters of the said Marquis of Albeville, who are at present with their mother in the service of the Queen of Spain'.

A branch of the White family settled at St. Malo after the Jacobite defeat in Ireland in 1691; they had their nobility recognised by James II in 1698. One of them, the Seigneur de Boisglé, functioned as mayor of that town in 1769.

(Reprinted from *Biographical Dictionary of Irishmen in France*, 1949).