Thady O’Halloran of Ballycunneen, Co. Clare.

(1727-1798).

HIS COMMON-PLACE BOOK
Edited, with a Pedigree and some Notes
By PATRICK HOGAN.

The above original manuscript came into my possession in the year 1910, having been sent to my wife, who is fifth in direct descent from Thady O’Halloran, by her uncle, John, the last of the race who lived at Ballycunneen, immediately before his death in Liverpool, with the intimation that after him, she was the person best entitled to its possession.

The document should more correctly be called a “Common-Place Book,” but as it was always called a “Diary,” I shall adhere throughout these notes, to that term, and allude to its compiler, as, “the diarist.” I had heard so much about this family record, that when I opened the tattered and faded school-boy’s exercise book in which it was compiled, I felt like the poet Keats, on his first looking into Chapman’s Homer. I was, however, not a little disappointed as I perused the pages, dessicated and yellowed by age, at the numerous omissions, and the fragmentary and exiguous nature of the family entries, which were the feature of the document that interested me most.

For all its defects of omission and understatement, however, the “diary” is an interesting record of an Eighteenth Century, Clare, Gaelic, Catholic family.

Having made a copy of the personal entries, I locked the manuscript away and did not reopen it until last year, on discovering that another copy, made in 1878, was in existence. I found that many of the earlier entries had, in the intervening years, become almost undecipherable, and acting on advice, and to preserve the record, I had a photostatic copy of it made by the authorities of the National Library, Kildare Street, where it can be perused by anyone who may be interested in the activities and mental gymnastics of an industrious school-boy who flourished more than two hundred years ago. The copy is not a great success, due to the faded and tattered condition of the original.

About forty pages of the “diary” are filled with a miscellaneous collection of recondite odds and ends of knowledge, written in a small, fine hand, festooned with flourishes, and notable for much mis-spelling, indited by Thady between the years 1742 and 1745, when he was at school in Limerick—the name of the school is not stated.

There are the names and symptoms of no fewer than forty diseases to which domestic animals and human flesh are heir, with their appropriate cures, many of these being somewhat Spartan in their severity. There are arithmetical formulae for calculating the phases of the moon; boxing of the compass illustrated with diagrams; the signs of the Zodiac, some rather scurrilous epitaphs on Irish traitors; prophecies in Irish and English, prayers for all occasions; many scraps of poetry, some of them obviously composed by himself; and brief entries relating to the wars of the period, and much more.

The miscellaneous entries end with the year 1745, after which there is a blank of twelve years. The entries are resumed in the year 1758, with a note of the diarist’s marriage to Marry Canny of Ballycasey, and continued, more or
less perfunctorily, by him and five of his descendants, living at Ballycuneen, until 1897. After the diarist's death, which occurred, suddenly, in October, 1795, the entries became more and more scanty and fragmentary; the last two O'Hallorans, both named John, having only ten entries to their credit.

The record is also annoying and irritating by reason of the omission of ages at death, and dates of birth, of most of the persons mentioned. All records of some of the most important members of the family are omitted, including that of his second wife, who survived him.

As an example of Thady's faculty for brevity, I quote the following cryptic entries:

"1770. Sept. 22. Pater meus migravit ab hoc seculo."

The dates of birth, in both of these instances, can however, be deduced from other entries. They are the years 1690 and 1695 respectively. The "pater" had a daughter who was born in 1718, and assuming that she was the eldest child, the inference is that he married in 1716, and in the further assumption that he was twenty-six when he married, the date of his birth would be 1690, but may have been some years earlier.

The "diarist" records in great and quaint detail, an account of the birth of each of his twenty children; giving their names, the date, day, hour, and minute of birth, the number of hours of the mother's sickness, the phase of the moon at the moment, the names of the midwives, nurses and sponsors, and of the baptising priest, one of whom became, subsequently, Bishop of Killaloe. Amongst the names of Eighteenth Century Limerick and Clare worthies, mentioned, mainly as sponsors, at baptisms, are, the following: — Hickey of Six-Mile-Bridge, Canny of Ballycasey, Steele of Cullane, O'Brien of Limerick, afterwards of Elmvale and Ballynalacken, County Clare; Kelly of Limerick, afterwards Roche-Kelly; O'Donnell of Limerick, Spaight, Hickman of Fenloe, Roche, viz.: Stephen, John, Philip and Christina; Appleyard, Ankettle, Angulum, Dalton of Deerpark, Powell, Pearce, Long, numerous "O'Hallorans," etc., all except a few being related to the diarist. There is also a Thady Quin, who gave lay baptism in 1765, to one of Thady's children. He lived at Rossbrien, and is said to have been an uncle of the first Earl of Dunraven. He must have been staying at Ballycuneen at the time. During the whole of the Eighteenth Century baptisms and marriages in Thady's family were solemnised in the house; and funerals were strictly private—this custom having been continued till the year 1883, the remains being conveyed in the early morning to the family vault in Tomfinlough Church, accompanied by only a few members of the household. These customs were evidently survivals of the penal regime.

I have compiled the following pedigree of this family, mainly for the information, and at the request of a couple of its members living abroad. The pedigree is based on the "diary" entries, and on documents which I found attached to the manuscript, viz.: Abstracts of wills, leases of land, mortgages, and cuttings from old newspapers; supplemented by family tradition, and information supplied to me by some of its members, most of whom were born in the first quarter of last century, but much remains obscure. It is regrettable that a great accumulation of family documents, portraits, etc., was burnt by the last of the race in Ballycuneen, before he left the place in July, 1897. Beyond a few hours which I spent, many years ago, in the Regis-
try of Deeds, Dublin, in the vain search for a record of the original deed of transfer of Ballycuneen and Firgrove from the Hickey to the O'Halloran family, I have made no inquiries or researches in the matter. I found, however, while wading through the musty massive tomes in that office, "redolent of an ancient and fishlike smell," several records of leases of land, made to the father, uncles and brothers of the diarist, but I did not pursue the search after 1800.

No fewer than six, Eighteenth Century, prerogative wills of uncles and brothers of Thady, were destroyed in the fire which consumed the Dublin Record Office in 1922, before I had an opportunity of consulting them—an irreparable loss. The Diarist's will, made in 1797, was amongst those destroyed, but I found a copy of it, made in 1840, with the "diary." It is a long, well drawn-up document in which Thady disposes of a large sum of money and considerable denominations of lands. It was witnessed by Pierce Creagh of Ralahine, and Thomas Steele, uncle of the celebrated "honest Tom Steele," O'Connell's henchman; the executors being testator's brother, John; the latter's son, John of "Johnsville"; and Thomas Appleyard, merchant, of Limerick, Thady's brother-in-law. It is probable that there are families of the name still living in Clare, who can claim descent from one or other of the diarist's uncles or brothers. That is, unless they have lost their distinct identity, by marriage, in the course of several generations, with the indigenous Dalcassian stock of the same name, amongst whom their forbears settled, on their first arrival from Galway, at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The descendants of the Diarist's cousin, Dr. Sylvester O'Halloran, are well authenticated. Many of them rose to great distinction in the British Army and Colonial Services. Amongst them, were the Historian's son, General Sir Joseph O'Halloran, the latter's brother John, who was Secretary to the Governor of the Bahamas in 1787, and Sir Joseph's son, General Sir Thomas Shuldham O'Halloran. A brother, or son, of Sir Thomas, was, I believe, Agent-General for Australia in London about forty years ago. In 1938, Dr. Richard Hayes published in this Journal a sketch of Sylvester O'Halloran's career. The O'Hallorans of Ballycuneen, claimed to have been an offshoot of the Galway Clan of the name, who, during the early middle ages, and later, were rulers of extensive territories in the vicinity of Galway City, and in Iar-Connaught, where, according to the historian Hardiman, they had several castles, including that of Barna, situated west of Galway City. According to well-authenticated tradition a member(4) or members of this Clan, migrated from Barna about the year 1600, to the neighbourhood of Quin, in Clare, where they got leases of land from a Chief of the MacNamaras. One of them named Thomas, went from Clare, about 1620, to Lixnaw in Kerry, where he received some land, on lease, from the Earl of Kerry. This Thomas was, according to the Kerry Historian, King, the ancestor of the numerous and respectable families of the name, now scattered all over North Kerry.

The County Clare branch are said to have suffered badly during the Cromwellian tornado, which blew with such virulence over Clare, and there is a tradition that one of the family was hanged for the offence of "stealing" his own cattle from a farm in which he had been supplanted by a Cromwellian soldier. Be that as it may, the first of the name of whom there is written record, was John of Scarduff; born about 1690 or earlier, who was High Constable of the Barony of Tulla, or Bunratty, it is not stated which, and who must have been a man of some consequence.
This ancient office of High Constable, combined police and fiscal functions, mainly the latter. It was in the gift of the old grand juries, and was, in its later title, of “Barony Constable,” abolished by the Act of 1898, which created the County Councils. In the year 1738 John got a lease of the “town and lands” of Kilncrandy, Kilteanmore and Kilteanbeg—places which I have not tried to locate, but which appear to be in the neighbourhood of Quin. At an earlier date, probably 1715, he obtained by marriage with a lady of the Hickey family, the two small townlands of Ballycuneen East and West, the latter long since known as “Firgrove.” Michael Hickey got a lease in perpetuity of these townlands, comprising an area of 530 statute acres, in the year 1684, from the Earl of Thomond, at a head rent of £18 per annum and certain feudal obligations, which were, later, commuted to an annual money charge. Ballycuneen and Firgrove were the residences successively of the Hickeys, the O’Hallorans, and the latter’s relatives, a branch of the Roche-Kelly family, for two and a half centuries. A brother of Michael Hickey, named John, obtained from the Earl of Thomond, at the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, leases in perpetuity, of nearly 1,000 acres, in the Barony of Bunratty. The Hickey family, although Catholic in religion, appear to have been high in the favour of the Thomond Earls, due, probably, to the fact that their progenitors were hereditary physicians to those powerful nobles. A daughter of John Hickey, named Diana, married a Samuel Spaight of Cappa, son of the first of that family in Clare. John Hickey conformed to Protestantism. His will was admitted to Probate in 1748.

John O’Halloran had at least two sisters, who are supposed to have married a Dalton of Deerpark, and a Powell of Six-Mile-Bridge. He had, also, a number of brothers, named, respectively, Thady of Tulla; Michael of Caherdavin, who is said to have been the father of Dr. Sylvester O’Halloran, the Historian; and James, of Lahardane and Cahirlohan. James, who died in 1772—his wife died in 1740—had issue, viz., John, died in 1773; Denis, James, and Michael of Cahirlohan, who was killed by a fall from his horse in November, 1774, “at two o’clock of a Sunday morning,” as recorded in the “Diary.” There was probably another brother, whose Christian name is not known and who was father of a George O’Halloran, a prosperous silversmith, who carried on business in the East side of Main Street, English Town, Limerick, from 1764 till his death in 1804. In the year 1793, this George was declared, by a decree of the Dublin Court of Chancery, owner in fee-simple of the townlands of Cahertigue, Ballyholohan, and Stonehall, in the Bunratty Barony, as well as thirty acres of the Townland of Monksland, Limerick, and a large number of houses in Limerick City, in one of which, situated in Quay Lane, he had as tenant, Dr. Sylvester O’Halloran. The above denominations were, previously, the estate of one Izakiah Holland.

John O’Halloran, the High Constable, had, by his wife, Margaret Hickey, at least one daughter, born in 1718; died in 1797; who was married to Edward Hickey, “Tobacconist,” of Limerick, and the following sons, viz.: James, who was P.P. of Newmarket-on-Fergus; died in 1782; of “ye gout and dropsy”; Thady of Ballycuneen, “the diarist”; born in 1727, of whom later; John of Scartnduff, and Kilncrandy, who was living in 1800; and Denis of Kilncrandy; died in 1779. John and Denis were married, respectively, to the sisters Mary and Isabella Steele of Cullane, aunts of “honest Tom Steele.” John, by Mary Steele, who died in 1779, had: John of “Johnsville,” who married by special licence in 1794, his cousin, Grace Steele; Mary who married in 1785, Thomas MacMahon of Stonehall and Knoc-
kane, Bunnarty, ancestor of General John MacMahon of the war 1914-1918; and "Babs," who married in 1795, Mr. Carmody, Tobacconist, (8) and Tanner, of Limerick. Denis had, by Isabella Steele; Margaret, John, Jenny and Thomas, of whom nothing further is recorded, except that Margaret was married to a William Kelly, and had a son, John O'Halloran-Kelly, living at Killula Cottage, Newmarket, in 1841.

Thady the diarist, who inherited Ballycuneen and Firgrove, (9) married in June, 1758, his first cousin, Mary, daughter of Matthew Canny of Ballycasey, Bunnarty, and by her had a son Matthew of Cloverhill, born in 1759, who married in Dublin in 1791, Mary MacMahon "then of that City," supposed to have been of the Stonehall family. Matthew died in January, 1797, of a "malignant fever," leaving as far as is known no issue. His mother, Mary, nee Canny, died in February, 1760, aged 21, and was buried in her grandfather's (Michael Hickey) vault in Tomfinlough Church. She had a brother, Denis Canny, who is recorded as having died in 1784, of "an inflammation of the bowels." He was married to Mary, (10) daughter of James Lyons of Groom House, Limerick. The Canny family were large landowners in Bunnarty, from the time of Charles II, until recent times. They appear to be now extinct in that neighbourhood, but one of them (two brothers) was living in Clonmoney House, as late as 1878. The vault in Tomfinlough Church which was the principal burial place of the Hickeys, and their descendants, the O'Hallorans, from about the year 1700 to 1897, is a large, plain, stone-built structure, situated within the sanctuary of Tomfinlough ruined Church. It bears no name or other indication of its ownership. The site was probably the first to have been appropriated, (11) as a burial place within the Church after the latter had been abandoned for Protestant service, and allowed to fall into ruin.

Thady O'Halloran married, secondly, in 1764, Ellinor, daughter of John Appleyard of Athlunkard, and by her had nineteen children, eleven of whom—five sons and six daughters—survived him. To take the surviving daughters first:—Ellinor, born in 1770, married in 1796, Martin Creagh, an Attorney, and importer of coal, corn and timber, of Limerick, and President of the Limerick Chamber of Commerce in 1814; Sarah, born in 1782, married in 1801 Thomas Sampson of Tulla. He was sometime Coroner for County Clare, and died in 1825 of dysentery—leaving two sons and five daughters, under the guardianship of his brother, Denis, of St. Catherine's, Scariff, a Solicitor practising at St. Stephen's Green Dublin. Sophie; born in 1781, married in 1807, Thomas O'Regan, Grocer, of Mungret Street, Limerick, and later of Mount Earl, Adare. Nothing much is known of the issue of this marriage beyond a record of the death of two daughters at Mount Earl, in 1841, "of a decline," both dying in the same week. The descendants of Thomas Sampson and Sarah O'Halloran, are, I believe, still to be found in the neighbourhood of Scariff; and I have been credibly informed by a member of the O'Halloran family, that, the United States Admiral, Sampson, who defeated the Spanish fleet at Cuba, in 1898, during the Spanish-American war, was a descendant of one of Thomas' two sons.

Lucretia (Lucy), the youngest child of the diarist; born in 1785, was for many years before her death in 1847, Postmistress of Six-Mile-Bridge; she died unmarried. Two other surviving daughters, having received their portions of £400 each, went to live in Dublin after their father's death, and are supposed to have married there, but their history is a blank. Of the five sons of Thady by Ellinor Appleyard; Edward and James migrated to Dublin, where they were
married—the names of their wives are not recorded. It is known, however, that Edward had a family, and was in prosperous circumstances. James subsequently returned to Six-Mile-Bridge, dying there, sometime after 1840, “at his house,” which still stands in a grove between the village and the mills. There is a record of the death of a daughter of his, named Kate. She died in March, 1839, aged 20, and was buried in Tomfinlough. It is believed that James inherited the considerable property left by his sister, the Postmistress, in Six-Mile-Bridge.

Thady, the diarist, who died “suddenly, on the 17th October, 1798, at nine o’clock at night,” left by his will his fee-farm lands of Ballycuneen, Firgrove, and Drumguile, as well as “all my other farms”—not specified—to his second surviving son, Thady, and his fourth son, Thomas, to hold as “tenants in common and not as joint tenants.” This arrangement having proved unsatisfactory, as well it may, a deed of partition was drawn up, in 1804—the arbitrators being Matthew Canny and Thomas MacMahon—under which Thady received the house division of Ballycuneen, and the tenanted half of Drumguile; Thomas getting Firgrove and the house division of Drumguile; the other farms being equitably divided in the same manner. This deed is of some topographical interest, inasmuch as it gives, in detail, the names of the fields comprised in those townlands. Dromguile, of an area of about 200 statute acres of rich corky land, is now incorporated in the Rineanna Airport. It was held on lease, by the O’Halloran family from the Hickmans of Fenloe, from 1768 to about the year 1850.

Thomas O’Halloran seems to have got into a financial mess during the Napoleonic wars, as is indicated by the following entry in his handwriting: — “1816, July 19. my part of Ballycuneen was sold by Mrs. O’Brien, sister of the wife of my brother Thady(12) O’Halloran, deceased. A mortgage passed to the late Thady for £1,000, which he handed over to Mrs. O’Brien, which she foreclosed, and sold for £3,100. John Kelly of Limerick is the purchaser.” The Mrs. O’Brien of this transaction was the widow of James O’Brien of Bank Place, Limerick, mother of John O’Brien of Carnelly and Elmvale, Co. Clare, sometime M.P. for Limerick. She married secondly in 1809, Corney O’Brien of Birchfield, Lisconnor, and died in 1840. Thomas O’Halloran died at his “sister Lucy’s house in Six-Mile-Bridge” in 1838, of apoplexy, aged 60. He was married to a Miss Carmody of Deramore, but left no issue, so far as is known.

John P. Kelly(13) was eldest son of Michael Kelly, merchant and shipowner, of Limerick, and brother of Helena, Mrs. Thomas Appleyard, and of Catherine, wife of John O’Halloran, eldest son of Thady the diarist by Ellinor Appleyard, and of whom later John Kelly let on lease, Thomas O’Halloran’s late division, to the McMahon family of Stonehall and Knockane, for many years. They named the place “Firgrove,” and completed the building of the house (which still stands) after it had been commenced by Thomas O’Halloran. Mr. Kelly subsequently chose Firgrove as his favourite residence, and died there, in the early seventies of last century, almost a centenarian. He was popularly known as “the venerable John Kelly,” and was the immediate ancestor of the various families of Roche-Kelly. His eldest son, James Michael Kelly of Cahircon, D.L. and M.P. for Limerick County, added the “Roche” to the family patronymic, after his marriage in 1839 to a sister of Lord Fermoy.

Thady O’Halloran II, second son of Thady the diarist and brother of the Thomas above referred to, was a magistrate for Co. Clare. He was born in 1768 and married in March, 1808, Mary, daughter of Peter Long of Kilkenny and
Waterford, and grand-daughter of Stephen Roche, Banker, of Cork and Limerick, eldest son of John Roche of Ballintlea, by his wife, Ann Stacpoole. Mary Long's two sisters, Margaret and Ellinor, were married respectively, to James O'Brien of Bank Place, Limerick, and David Fitzgerald of Cork, grandfathers respectively of the late Lord Chief Justice O'Brien and Lord Fitzgerald. Thady, who died in March, 1814, of an "inflammation of the lungs," aged 46, had by his wife Mary Long; a daughter, Ann, born 1809; died 1820 "of a decline"; Thady III "the Minor"; born 1810; died in 1830; aged 20, unmarried; Peter, a Solicitor, born in 1811; died unmarried, at Ballycunneen, in 1854, aged 43; John, a rising barrister, born 1812; died unmarried, at his house in North Great George's St., Dublin, in 1851, aged 39; and Stephen; born December 1814, posthumously, and of whom presently. John, the barrister, is said to have been engaged to be married, at the time of his death, to a sister of John O'Brien, M.P., his first cousin. She joined a Religious Order after his death. Stephen, by the death, unmarried, of all his brothers, succeeded to the property of his father, Thady II. He married about the year 1850, a Miss Cullinan of Ennis, sister of John Cullinan, Sessional Crown Solicitor for Clare, and by her, had two sons: Stephen, late Manager of the National Bank, Mullingar; and Michael Cullinan-O'Halloran, Solicitor, of Dublin and Ennis; both of whom were married and have left issue.

John, the eldest son of Thady the diarist by Ellinor Appleyard, born in 1765, became an Attorney, practising in Cork and Limerick, during the life-time of his stepbrother Matthew of Cloverhill. He was deprived of his father's landed property in favour of his younger brothers, Thady II and Thomas. He had become a Solicitor during the life-time of his elder step-brother, Matthew of Cloverhill.

Articles of intermarriage were drawn up in January, 1786, between him and Catherine, fourth daughter of Michael Kelly of Limerick, he being then 21, and she 20 years of age. For some unexplained reason, the marriage was not solemnised till 1790. The following is the quaint record of the ceremony, taken from the "diary"—"1790, January 25, John O'Halloran of Cork, married Catherine Kelly, ye Cross day of ye year, that is Holy Innocents' Day." John died in 1826, "suddenly in his Office in Limerick," aged 61, leaving by his wife issue as follows: John, born in 1791, of whom later; Michael born in 1793, a Captain in the Gloucestershire Regiment, and of whom presently; James or George, a Major in a Scottish Regiment, supposed to be the Highland Light Infantry, and who died unmarried, in London, about 1860; Thomas, a family wholesale wine Merchant, at 28 George's Street, Limerick; Mary, born 1808, died unmarried at her mother's house, 4 Glinworth Street, Limerick, in 1836; and two other daughters whose names or dates of birth are not recorded, but who were married to Dr. Tuohy, and Edward O'Dwyer, both of Limerick. These ladies died in 1868 and 1874, respectively, and were buried in the grounds of St. Mary's, Limerick, but beyond these brief entries, nothing further is recorded or known of them, or of their families, if they had any. Which is passing strange, having regard to the fact that they must have been known to many persons recently living. The last two O'Hallorans of Ballycunneen were, however, rather remiss in posting the "diary."

Thomas O'Halloran was one of the largest family Wine Merchants in Limerick in his day, as is evidenced by his large stocks of fine wines and high-class spirits, in bond, which were disposed of by auction, after his death in 1839, which occurred under tragic circumstances. Descending into a rum vat behind his premises in 28 George's Street, after its contents had been
drawn off, he was smothered by the fumes, before rescue was possible. He left a widow—one son, and four daughters—of whom nothing further is known. He was buried in Tomfinlough.

Captain O’Halloran, second son of John by Catherine Kelly, married about 1820 Jane, sister of Christopher O’Brien of Bealaghoirick, Ennis, a branch, now long since extinct, of the Royal House of Thomond, and by her had: John, born in 1822, of whom nothing is known except that he was living with his grandmother, Catherine, nee Kelly, at No. 4 Glentworth Street, Limerick, in 1841; Michael, born in 1824, died 1909, at Ramsey, I.O. Man; and Kate, who married Samuel Harris of Temple Munngret, Limerick. There were several children of this marriage, of whom only one, Marie Harris, was known to the writer. She married about the year 1880, a Mr. Wilson of Cork, a near relation of the Revd. Hayman Wilson, rector of Youghal, who wrote a History of that town, and by him had two sons: Walter, and Sampel Hayman Wilson. Walter, who died in 1919, of influenza, married a Miss Gifford, daughter of a Dublin Solicitor, and sister of the lady, who, in such romantic circumstances, married Joseph Plunkett, on the eve of his execution, in May, 1916, for his part as a principal in the rebellion of that year. Walter’s brother, Samuel, is still living. Marie Wilson, nee Harris, died in Dublin in 1921.

Captain O’Halloran died in South Africa about 1830, of wounds received in some action. His mother, Catherine, nee Kelly, died in 1841, at her residence in Glentworth Street and was buried in the O’Halloran vault in Tomfinlough. Michael O’Halloran, born 1824, son of Captain O’Halloran, was appointed, at the age of 21, on the nomination of his cousin, John O’Brien, M.P., Superintendent of Customs at Clare Castle, a responsible and lucrative post for so young a man. On the abolition of the corn and timber duties, by Peel, this office became redundant, and he was transferred as Principal Clerk to the Office of the Collector of Glasgow, from which he retired in 1887. He then took up his residence in Ramsey, Isle of Man, where he was Manager of the Catholic Schools, dying, as already stated in 1909, at an advanced age. Whilst stationed at Clare Castle, he married a daughter of Commander MacNiven, R.N., Divisional Officer of Coastguards for County Clare, and, by her, had several children, all talented in the musical line. One of his grand-children, named Henry, was appointed a few years ago, Controller of Fuel and Power, in the late Coalition Government. A sister of Michael’s wife was it is said the mother of the late Henry Blackall, Solicitor, Limerick.

Much of the information which enabled the writer to fill in the gaps in the O’Halloran “diary,” was supplied by Michael O’Halloran, who was an amiable, cultured, kindly man, very popular with everyone who knew him, and a witty raconteur. He was very religious, and was a pillar of the Catholic Church in the Isle of Man for many years. He told the writer many stories of the worthies he knew in Clare, in the forties of last century, much of his ample leisure having been spent in fishing and shooting, and visiting his relatives at Ballycureen, Carnelly, and Birchfield, Liscannor.

“Corney” O’Brien of Birchfield was a Dublin Solicitor, who owned much property near Liscannor. For many years he was a Tory M.P. for Clare, and so influential was he with the Government of his day, that they refused him nothing he asked for, in reason. He obtained nominations for minor posts in the British Civil Service for many educated young Claremen, including two of the present writer’s cousins, one of whom was married to a cousin of Corney’s, daughter of a Major Floyd of Seafield, Liscannor. When this young man was
directed to take up his post in London, Corney had him, his wife, and belongings conveyed there in his yacht, which was his principal means of transport, whenever he attended at Westminster.

He was an "improving" landlord, and very popular with his tenantry, as is attested by the tall Doric pillar, surmounted by an urn, which they erected to his memory, and which stands near St. Bridget's Well, Liscannor. The small castellated building which stands over the abyss at the Cliffs of Moher, was erected by him for the accommodation of visitors to the Cliffs. Indeed, it is said of him, that he built nearly everything in the neighbourhood, except the Cliffs.

John O'Halloran; born in 1791, eldest son of John the Attorney and Catherine Kelly, married, in October, 1841, Kate Mulcorney of Ardkyle, and by her, who died in 1880, had two sons; John and Michael. Michael was a Veterinary Surgeon in Edinburgh, and whilst a student there, he met and married in 1869, a Miss O'Sullivan of Kanturk, a talented singer in the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and, judging from her portrait, a very beautiful girl. Michael died in May, 1878, suddenly, aged 35 years, at Ballycureen, and was buried in the family vault at Tomfinlough. His wife soon afterwards followed him to the grave, leaving issue, viz.: Michael, still living in Sydney; Mary, a nun; Marcus, missing—presumed to have been killed in the first world war, 1914-1918—and Catherine, wife of the writer of these notes. Michael was the destined heir to the family landed property, but dying before his father, the latter left Ballycureen and Moyhill, by deed of gift to his eldest son, John, leaving by his will, made in 1883, money in Bank, some Railway shares, and the potentially valuable freehold family estate in Limerick City, to his four grandchildren, above mentioned. His son, John, married about 1870, Ann Eyre, a member of an old Limerick family. She was nearly twenty-five years his senior in age, and died in July, 1897, aged 90, leaving no issue. She is buried in the Eyre family vault in the grounds of St. Mary's, Limerick, beside her brother, John.

When cleaning this neglected tomb, last year, the writer copied the following almost indecipherable epitaph, engraved to Mrs. O'Halloran's brother:—

"Sacred to the memory of John, beloved and affectionate son of John Eyre. He obtained a sizanship and many Honours in T.C.D. and completed his University pursuits by winning the Gold Medal for Science. Endowed with literary talents of a high order united with filial piety, he died as he had lived, February 19, 1836, aged 28 years, R.I.P."

The gold medal referred to was taken away by Mrs. O'Halloran's husband, when he left Ballycureen in 1897, and was, after his death in 1912, sold by his second wife to a jeweller who promptly melted it down, thus destroying a valuable and much sought after family heirloom. The gold signet ring, engraved with the Crest of the O'Hallorans of Barna—a lizard or—which had been in the family in Ballycureen, for many generations, went, it is supposed, the same way.

The writer possesses several of John Eyre's College text-books, with his name and address:—No. 73 Trinity College, written in faded ink, on the fly leaves; also some of his sister's belongings, including an elegant Indian sunshade, with an ivory, gold-mounted handle, sent to her from India, by a Colonel Vereker, subsequently Lord Gort.
Mrs. O'Halloran was even in old age, a tall, stately, handsome lady. She and her bosom friend, Ann Fitzmayer, were noted beauties in Limerick in the thirties of last century. Miss Fitzmayer was a sister of General Sir James Fitzmayer, K.C.M.G., then in command of the Limerick garrison.

The Limerick family of Eyre, were descended from one of two brothers, named John and Edward, natives of Wiltshire, who were Officers in General Ludlow's Army in Clare in 1646-9. They received grants of confiscated lands in 1653, in the neighbourhoods of Killokenney and Tulla, but towards the middle of the Eighteenth Century, their descendants lost their estates through sale or marriage, when they settled in Limerick as cabinet-makers and timber importers. They later migrated to Dublin, London and South America, where as Bankers they accumulated great wealth. The recent head of the family was Mrs. O'Halloran's first cousin once removed, the late Edward Eyre, of Belgrave Place, London, whose daughter is the present Countess of Gainsborough. He was a pillar of the Catholic Church in London, and a munificent benefactor to Westminster Cathedral, and he always evinced the greatest affection for Ireland. The family became Catholic after the marriage of Mrs. O'Halloran's grand-father, Edward Eyre, about 1750, to a Cathleen MacNamara, of a Clare family.

Immediately after his wife's death, John O'Halloran sold Ballycuneen to his cousin and neighbour, Michael Roche-Kelly of Frigrove, having previously induced his nephew and heir, Michael, to emigrate to Australia. Michael, who is still living in Sydney, is now the head of all branches of this old Clare family. The sale of the ancient home, by the last John O'Halloran of Ballycuneen, proved unlucky for all concerned. It was not due to financial pressure, but rather to the desire of the owner to cut himself adrift from his moorings; and it resulted in the disinheritance of his nephew Michael, and the dispersal of the family.

By this sale, the two properties of Frigrove and Ballycuneen, were again united in a single ownership; but not for long. About the year 1921 Michael Roche-Kelly's son and heir, Major James Roche-Kelly, again subdivided the holdings, and sold them, separately, to two local farmers.

Michael Roche-Kelly was co-Executor with John O'Halloran of the will of the latter's father, the elder John, and joint guardian of Michael O'Halloran's four children, already named.

John O'Halloran, the last of the race in Ballycuneen, was a mighty hunter, as was his brother Michael after his return home from Edinburgh. In fact, neither did much else but hunt and shoot. The writer found with the "diary" a hunting song of fifteen verses and a chorus, composed about 1895, by the late Fitzjames Kelly of Ballindlea, in which John O'Halloran gets two verses, all to himself. It is a very jolly, humorous poem, enshrining the names of a galaxy of Clare hunting men of the day, with ironic comments on their foibles and eccentricities.

To return to John O'Halloran, father of the above mentioned John and Michael, and son of John the Attorney by Cath. R.-Kelly. In early life he held a position of trust in the Bank founded by his grand-uncle, Stephen Roche. Later he engaged in farming on an extensive scale; but as he grew very old he disposed of all his outside farms, confining himself to Ballycuneen and the home farm of Moyhill, near Bunratty Castle, and the management of his considerable freehold tenanted property in Limerick City, which passed to the orphaned children of his son Michael, as already stated, and, a remnant of which is still in the precarious possession of one of them.
By one of those revolutions of family fortune which one reads of in Victorian novels, this John, the elder, succeeded in recovering the Ballycuneen division of the property from which his father had been disinherited by Thady, the diarist, in 1797. His cousin, Stephen, having got into financial difficulties, during the slump which followed the great famine, mortgaged Ballycuneen to him, on foot of a loan of £4,000. John foreclosed, and forced a sale in the encumbered Estates Court, in 1854, when the property was knocked down to him for the sum of £3,870. Having succeeded his cousin, he transferred his residence from Moyhill House to Ballycuneen, where he died in 1883, in his ninety-third year. He and his son John, aforementioned, were offered, and declined, the Commission of the Peace for Co. Clare. They never evinced any ambition for Government honours, or jobs. His shares in the Munster Bank, amounting to 4,000 pounds, which he left to his son John, were lost by the failure of the Bank some years later. No compensation was ever paid for the loss.

The O’Hallorans of Ballycuneen invariably wrote and spelt the name as “Hallaran,” during the Eighteenth Century, only reverting to the ancient and modern form in 1797. The frequent recurrence in every generation in all branches of the family, of the Christian names “James,” “John,” “Thady,” “Michael,” “Thomas,” “Mary,” etc., gives rise to much confusion. Having got these names fixed in their minds, they seem to have been unable to think of alternatives, or second distinguishing prenoms. There is, however, evidence in the “diary” that Thady was well aware of this confusion, for he interpolates the prefix “Fitz” after many of the surnames, giving us such sonorous combinations as “John Hallaran Fitz-John,” “James Hallaran Fitz-James,” “Thady Hallaran Fitz-Thady,” “Mary Hallaran Fitz-John,” and so on.

Like everyone in County Clare in his century, he could speak Irish fluently, and unlike all, but a few educated, cultured men, notably the galaxy of Clare poets, he could read and write the language also.

This is evidenced by the synopsis of the Irish Grammar to be found in his Common-Place Book, and which is hard to read, by reason of its abbreviations and contractions. In the whole “diary” there is not a single reference to the political, religious and social conditions obtaining in Clare during the terrible penal regime. He (Thady) was either deterred by fear, from mentioning those oppressive laws, or he accepted them as a natural and inevitable phenomenon, like our wet summers. There is an interesting entry relating to the prevalence of ague in the County, in the years before 1745; it being stated that two or three in every family were victims of the disease. He gives details of remedies for the affliction, some of which are so drastic as to suggest that the cures might be more fatal than the disease.

The Martin Creagh who married a daughter of the diarist, Thady, was of the Carrowbane family of the name, whose recent head was the late General Sir O’Moore Creagh, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in India, author of a dull autobiography, the early chapters of which contain, however, an interesting account of the manners and customs of the Clare peasantry and gentry in the Eighteenth Century. Martin had the reputation of being a wit, and somewhat of a practical joker. I give one specimen of his puckish humour. On one occasion, his relative, Mrs. James O’Brien, of Bank Place, gave a dinner-party, to which she inadvertently or designedly, failed to invite Martin. A few days afterwards, she, to make amends, wrote him an invitation to tea. He returned her note, endorsed with the poetical riposte:
"Where I dine I take my tay,"
"Your humble servant, Martin Creagh."

This couplet has, I am aware, been fathered on another Creagh, named Andrew, but I have it, on the evidence of one who knew Martin personally (Cinn O'Halloran, née Eyre) that he was the perpetrator. He is supposed to have been buried with his wife, Ellinor O'Halloran, who died in 1827, aged 57 years, in the Creagh Vault beside the south wall of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, but the date of his death is not recorded. This Creagh family, who were so distinguished for many generations as Merchants in Limerick, and who gave several Mayors to the City, appear to be now extinct in the City. I am informed that Martin's father was probably the James Creagh of Limerick who married Jane Kelly, sister of Michael Kelly, and aunt of Catherine Kelly, Mrs. John O'Halloran.

The family of Dalton of Deerpark, whose name occurs several times in the "diary," and who were related to the Ballycuneen family, appear to be also extinct in Clare, in the male line. They held, during the Eighteenth Century, extensive property in Clare, and were, for several generations in succession, Magistrates for the County. Their last place of residence in Clare, was at Woodpark, adjoining Ballycuneen, where their large mansion, in ruins, still stands.(25)

One of the family, Michael Eyre Dalton, was an Officer of the Yeomanry, early in the Nineteenth Century. On the family vault in Bunratty ruined Church, there is engraved to him the following epitaph, with other pious fulsome eulogiums:—"Here lies the valiant Captain Dalton, brave and just : Once a hero now dust, etc." His cavalry sword was preserved in Ballycuneen until 1897, when it was sold with the effects of the house. All efforts to trace it have failed.

The Kelly family, merchant princes of Limerick for over one hundred and fifty years, and who, about 1850, adopted the additional patronymic of "Roche," were always munificent benefactors to the Church in Limerick and Clare. Mrs. Frances MacNamara, daughter of Michael Kelly and sister of John K. of Firgrove, and of Mrs John O'Halloran and Mrs. Thomas Appleyard, had erected, at her expense, the present High Altar in St. John's Cathedral Limerick, as is indicated by a plaque, affixed to a column within the sanctuary. Her nephew, John O'Halloran, gave the stones and lime for the Cathedral spire out of his quarries and lime-kilns in Cargowen, long since dismantled. Mrs. MacNamara's daughter, Christina, was married to Hugh Hogan of Carrahan, Quin, brother of Dean Patrick Hogan, sometime Parish Priest of St. Michael's, Limerick, also a great benefactor to the Church.(26) Hugh Hogan and the Dean were, I believe, sons of Edmund Hogan of Carrahan, Quin.

The beautiful and chaste altar in Quin Parish Church was given by Mrs. Hogan in memory of her husband, who predeceased her by many years, and who is buried, I believe, within the Church. She died at her house, in the Crescent, Limerick, in 1896, leaving the bulk of her wealth to local Catholic Charities.

The Roche family, merchants and bankers, of Limerick, in the Eighteenth Century, were closely related to the Kelly and O'Halloran families. Their immediate progenitor was John Roche of Ballintlea, Six-Mile-Bridge. By his marriage with a lady of the Staepeole family, whose head is the Duc de Stac-
poole, he had, amongst others, Christina, who married Michael Kelly of Lime-
rick, and was the mother of Catherine Kelly, who married John O'Halloran,
eldest son of Thady the diarist; Stephen, the eldest son, who was married three
times, and was the father, amongst others, of William Roche, M.P., for Lime-
rick, who built Roche's folly; and Philip, who married Margaret, sister of
Michael Kelly aforementioned. Philip's family died out in the male line, with
his grandson, General Philip Roche, whose two daughters married, about the
year 1840, the Lords Louth and Trimblestown, respectively.

Stephen Roche, the banker, was the eldest son of John of Ballintlea, who
was eldest son of Stephen, born 1688, by Miss Lysaght, daughter of Thomas
Lysaght of Pallas, Co. Limerick. Through the marriage of this Stephen's son
John of Ballintlea to Ann Stackpoole, the Roches, Roche-Kellys, and O'Halloran's
of Ballycuneen, are kin to the Ducs de Stackpoole, and the Sexton-Pery family,
Earls of Limerick.

One of Stephen Roche's grand-daughters, Mary Long, married Thady
O'Halloran II, second surviving son of Thady, the diarist; her two sisters
marrying, respectively, Jas. O'Brien of Bank Place, Limerick, who died in
1806, and David Fitzgerald of Cork, grand-fathers of the late Lord O'Brien of
Killfenora, and Lord Fitzgerald, as already stated.

As regards the old Limerick family of Appleyard, there are four or five
members of the name mentioned in Thady O'Halloran's diary, viz.: John of
Asthunkard; his son Thomas; another son named Edward, whose death is re-
corded as having occurred in June, 1798—"four years bedridden"; and a
daughter; Ellinor, second wife of Thady O'Halloran the diarist; also a Thomas
Steele-Appleyard, who must have been in some way, related to the Steele family.
Thomas Appleyard and his nephew John O'Halloran, eldest son of the diarist,
were married respectively to Helena and Catherine Kelly, daughters of Michael
Kelly of Limerick, already referred to. In the year 1758, John Appleyard, who
was by profession, a Surveyor and Estate Agent, was granted by a Mr. Jackson,
a lease of the "Town and lands" of Shanakerl and Athlunkard, in the liber-
ties of Limerick, comprising an area of about 330 statute acres, "with the
houses, buildings, woods, and eel-weirs therein," at a head rent of £100 per
annum—a very fine and valuable estate. His house in ruins, situated near
Corbally Cross, Limerick, was pointed out to the writer, forty-five years ago by
his great-great-great grand-daughter. The Appleyard family was of English
origin. A note from the Editor of John o' London's Weekly states that, the
earliest record of the name in England, occurs in 1273, in Norfolk County, and
that the name is now found in various parts of that Country. Twenty years
later Appleyards appear in the Justiciary Rolls at Tralee and Cork. The Pipe
Rolls for 1300 show settlers of the name at Crecora near Limerick. William
Appleyard, a Franciscan Friar of the Limerick House, appears in an Arthur
Will after the middle of the fifteenth century, while John Appleyard figures in
the Papal Letters a generation later as Prior of the Trinitarian House at
Adare. An Adam Appleyard was killed at the battle of Dysert O'Dea with De
Clare in 1318. He appears to have been a Knight.

The family was, therefore, of high antiquity in Limerick, and was of
some consideration there, in the Eighteenth Century. They appear to be now
extinct. At all events I know of no person of notable standing, in
extinct in the City. At all events I know of no person of notable standing, in
Clare or Limerick, who bears the name. It is regrettable, that, amongst the
omissions in the O'Halloran "diary," are those of the dates of death and birth
of John, Thomas, and Ellinor Appleyard (O'Halloran). John's death must have occurred long before the end of the Eighteenth Century. He was probably born about the year 1710, or earlier.

NOTES.

1. Most Revd. Dr. O'Shaughnessy.

2. There was a Dr. Ankettle in Limerick about that date. For the family see indexed references in Begley, *Diocese of Limerick*, Vol. 2. Stephen Rochel the Banker married as his third wife a daughter and heiress of Dr. Ankettle. His second wife, died in 1788, was a Miss O'Brien of Moyvanine and Cloneties, Co. Limerick.

3. I had this from Michael O'Halloran of Ramsey, Isle of Man.

4. Supposed to have been named Teige or Thady.

5. There is an element of vagueness in this. It is possible that the estate passed direct to Thady by his marriage with Mary Canny, grand-daughter of Michael Hickey. If it is, she must have been an only daughter. She had at least two brothers, one of whom, the heir of his father, Matthew, was named Denis, and who was married to Mary Lyons, of Croom House. It is hardly likely, however, that such a valuable estate would be given to a daughter as her dowry. The High Constable never lived in Ballycuneen.

Michael Hickey of Ballycuneen

| A daughter = Matthew Canny of Ballycasey. | Margaret = John O'Halloran, the High Constable. |

Mary = Thady O'Halloran, b. 1727, d. 1798

Thady O'Halloran = Mary Canny, b. 1737, d. 1799

Denis Canny = Mary Lyons

6. The Earl's Senescrat at Burren Talty Manorial Court was Thomas Spaight of Cappa, Six Mile Bridge, second of the name in Clare. Had two sons, Thomas, Collector of Customs, Limerick, and Samuel, who married Diana, daughter of John Hickey of Cappa Castle, who was brother of Michael Hickey, of Ballycuneen hence the Spaight connection with Thady O'Halloran, the diarist.

7. A daughter appears to have married a Pearce of Six Mile Bridge. The Daltons granted a lease of Deerpark to a Mr. Powell about 1740. Alf. Pearce had a lease of the Townland of Kilcreedane, near Tulla, at this time. There was a Caleb Powell, Collector of Customs, Limerick, in 1755, and under whose reign the existing Custom House was built, costing £8,500. He was one of the writer's predecessors in that office; also Receiver of Wreck, Receiver of Quit Rents, Registrar of Shipping, Supt. of Mercantile Marine and Registrar of Naval Reserve, which office usually carried a Commission as Commander in the R.N.R. The Collector and Controller, was a sort of pooh-bah in those days, and up to the present. No relation probably of Powell of Deerpark.

8. Tobacconist was really Tobacco Manufacturer. They made snuff and twist which they sold wholesale, or retail sometimes.

9. It was called "Firgrove" sometime subsequent to 1813. Before that date the place was known as Ballycuneen West.

10. This lady's niece was the wife of John (Roche) Kelly, of Firgrove, brother of Catherine, wife of John O'Halloran, eldest surviving son of the diarist, Thady.

11. Thady's brother, the P.P. of Newmarket, is traditionally said to have been interred with his family in this vault. The vault was seriously damaged in the great storm of February, 1903, when the north wall of the Church fell on it. It was repaired at the instance of Mrs. Hogan.

12. Thady II died in 1814, aged 46, of pneumonia.

13. All the Kelly families mentioned added the patronymic "Roche" about 1850.
14. Dr. Tuohy is said to have been a close relative of Bishop Tuohy, of Limerick; probably nephew. He is said to have always visited his patients dressed in his cap and gown of doctor. A fine engraving of him, showing him in his cap and gown, was some years ago in the possession of Mr. Joe Lynch, but he refused to part with it.

15. 28 George St., is now, I believe, incorporated in the Augustinian Church, or adjoins it.

16. There was a daughter, Mary, who died in 1836 unmarried at 4, Glentworth Street, aged 28.

17. Townland of Killakee, Garryowen, Pennywell, etc. The whole townland passed to the tenants under the Hogan Land Act of 1828. Pennywell and Garryowen have been acquired gradually by the Limerick Corporation for housing purposes for building in the past 30 years. Almost the last remnant, viz., Pennywell Road, was acquired by the Corporation quite recently.

18. A son of his married a daughter of Lord Petre, an ancient English peerage family.

19. It must be said, however, that he did not wish to buy the place, and suggested that it should pass to the legal heir, the younger Michael. John was, however, determined to sell, and to prevent the holding passing to a stranger, Mr. R. K. bought it. The two divisions were always regarded as one denomination.

20. The ballad was published with notes by the present writer in the "Clare Champion" on 12th January, 1946. It runs to 15 verses and a chorus.

21. He did not actually "oust" him. The Court allowed Stephen to remain as tenant to his cousin, at a rent of £150 a year. Stephen did not avail himself of the privilege. He transferred his residence to Summerhill, Craflloe, on which he was a tenant, and where he died.

22. No. He left the shares to his surviving son, John, who lost his holdings, when the bank failed, some time after 1883.

23. The elder John, by the valuation of his freehold lands in Limerick City, £300 was qualified for the City Magistracy also, and probably the Deputy Lieutenant.

24. His fee farm properties were, on at least two occasions, when the Penal Laws became unusually virulent, transferred to the nominal ownership of the Bridgemans, who were some how connected with his family through the Steeles of Cullane. The trust was never abused.

25. I have been told that they moved to Templemore, in Tipperary, where they owned an Estate. Two old ladies of the family were living in Limerick City in 1897. A Dalton-Kennedy, who was Probate Registrar, in Dublin over 40 years ago, and who lived at Marino Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, also belonged to the family.

26. Hugh Hogan, and the Dean, were members of a family who, at an earlier time, owned great estates in Burren in Clare. They owned the whole of Lisdoonvarna, and their summer residence there, still stands in a ruinous condition in its park behind the Queen's Hotel. Their estates passed early last century by marriage to the Creaghs of Dangan, and the Stackpooles of Edenvale, Ennis. The late Wm. Hogan of Ennistymon, a distant cousin of the writer's family claimed to be one of the last male representatives in Clare. A brother of Hugh Hogan and of Dean Patrick, who was a Medical Doctor in Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare, succeeded to Hugh's Clare estates. Cf. this journal (1912), p. 165 n.