The Diary of an Eighteenth Century Clare Gentleman

Edited by LEO F. McNAMARA

The diary here printed is that of William Stacpoole (1743-1796) of Edenvale in County Clare (Fig. 1). It has entries spanning the period 1768 to 1791, with large gaps intervening. Its interest lies in the detailed account given of the public and private life of a Clare gentleman in the later eighteenth century. Particulars of domestic and familial life, electoral canvassing, political rivalry and intrigue, social life at home and in Dublin, and the European Grand Tour are among the topics vividly illustrated in the pages of this diary.

Fig. 1. Edenvale, Co. Clare, 1981.
(This photograph, and all the others in this article except page 26, are by Mr. Cian O’Carroll)

The diary as we have it is from a transcript made in 1884-85 by the noted Clare antiquary T. J. Westropp (Fig. 2), and placed on deposit in the library of Trinity College, Dublin (TCD MS 979). I present Westropp’s transcript of the diary, together with his notes upon it, as it appears in his copy, except that I have in some instances regularised punctuation and have set forth on a new line each dated entry.

Westropp printed in 1888 several interesting letters written to the diarist during 1788-91 by his son George, then a student at TCD. “A Glimpse of Trinity College Dublin Under Provost Hely Hutchinson” (Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, vol. 18, pp. 400-403) mentions an additional 460 Stacpoole letters, of which Westropp calculates about one-third to be of general historical interest, then in the possession of the family at Edenvale.

For permission to print the diary I am grateful to Mr. G. H. Stacpoole of Askeaton, Co. Limerick, and to his brother Mr. John Stacpoole of Auckland, New Zealand, whose extensive and profound knowledge of the family history he has generously made available to me. I have also to thank Mr. William O’Sullivan, Keeper of the Manuscripts at TCD. A grant from the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, assisted in the preparation of this publication.

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Fig. 2. Thomas Johnson Westropp, 1860-1922.
The
Diary of a Clare
Gentleman
William Stacpoole Esqre
of
Anah and Edenvale
Co Clare
For the years 1768, 1769, 1773 to 1779,
1785, 1788 and 1791
copied by T. J. Westropp B.A. in 1884-5 by
kind leave of his brother in law Richard
Stacpoole now of Edenvale Co Clare
1887
With letters, deeds, & notes, illustrating the same
The diaries here copied, dating from 1768 to 1791, are now at Edenvale, Co. Clare; they are entered in small leather bound pocket-diaries & having been for many years thrown with other curious old books in a lumber room, many have doubtless been lost. I say doubtless, though several diaries for years within this period are extant without entries or with only accounts kept in them, while the 1780 diary has been used to record the year 1791. I have searched carefully more than once but could find no others. The letters & papers given are in most cases from a large collection at Edenvale. The Pedigrees are mostly original & compiled from family papers & deeds & wills at Dublin. I give an index to the diaries giving nearly all the persons & places named. The Appendix has its separate & cruder index. The collections of the Clare gentry are well worthy of search, yet in most cases very little use has been made of them even by local historians & antiquaries. In hope of preserving to later years a curious record of our ancestors in the west I collect all entries of interest from these quaint old journals.

Thomas J. Westropp

The notes are mainly found on MSS at Attyflin, Edenvale, Stamerpark & Maryfort, Books in Dublin Castle, Wills at Dublin in Prerogative, Killaloe, Cork, & Limerick Registries, & some MSS Books of Pedigrees in T.C.D. Library. I must here express gratitude to many that gave me leave of search & otherwise helped me, the late Mrs. Stamer, the late Mrs. Stacpoole, Richard Stacpoole, Canon Dwyer, Col. Massy Westropp, Col. J. O Callaghan, Mr. Bagot Blood, Sir Bernard Burke, the late Sir S. Ferguson & the Board of TCD.

(Diary of Wm Stacpoole
of Anah Co. Clare
Anno Domini 1768)

January 3rd. From Donass 11 o'clock a fine day, set out for Dublin called at O Briens Bridge bated at the Nines, mett G.S. (George Stacpoole) going in—lay at Dun'k(errin) overtook James Molony2 and sons going to Dublin to school.

TH 4th. set out in company bated at Mountrath & lay at Maryboro, fine weather, frosty but turned out fine break fasted at Munstereven lay in Naas got merry parted company they having sent their horses back & taken a carriage I rid arrived in town at 2 ock bespoke a birthnight suit for monday dind & lay at Stafford St very merry.

(TO CLARE)

Sunday 24th. I left Anah

25th. dind at Barntick4

26. dind at Newhall5

27th. dined at Cragbrien

28th. dind & lay at Mountcashell6

29. wett to the skin arrived at Doonass

30. Hugh D Massy, J Massy & I went shooting killd cocks rabbits & hares

31st. went to Limerick dind at Geo Quin's

28
February 7th walked the Green (Stephen’s Green). paid some visits—ladies—went to coffee house & supped in Strafford St (John Burke’s)

11th Bill got second reading

12 dind at Tavern & went to play “The Orphan” & “Rape of Columbine” Bill got third reading

13th The Bill was carried to the Lords dind at Crofton Vandeleur’s® Henry Street.

16 The Castle very splendid at night, the Royal assent given to O Brien bill.

18 Dind at chop house & went to “The Orphan of China” & the Dargle.

Sunday 21 Engaged to W® Massy’s® company Batchelor’s Walk & to sup Lysaght women &c

22 Rid out to Blackrock—

March 13th Set out with F.P.B. (Francis Pierrepont Burton)® in coach from Dublin bated at Naas & lay at Kildare now very joyous & merry

14th breakfasted at M(ary)borough lay at Dunkerrin, very bad entertainment but kept it up

15th Awoke with the horn & breakfasted with charming MRS Bunbury travelled at 3 miles an hour, parted company near Annacotty & came over the Shannon to Doonass. all friends well a good deal tired but in spirrits.

wednes 16th a salmon caught at Donass 3 ft 10 inches long 2½ ft in girth weight 42½ lbs.* to dine at George Quins®——

(DIARY HERE BREAKS OFF)®

(1769)

(FIRST PART NOT KEPT)

March 26th A list of cloaths &c 1 full trimmed suit black, 1 do crimson velvet, 1 do full mourning, 1 do mourning, 1 white coat & breeches, 1 blue coat & waistcoat, 1 silver tissera waistcoat, 1 purple silk waistcoat & brieveys bound with gold 1 crimson ditto, 1 pr black silk breeches, 1 pr linen with 2 watst [?] 36 shirts with 15 stocks, 6 pr fringed muslin ruffles, 4 do broad hemmed do, 5 pr white silk & 1 pr black, 2 pr weepers, 8 pr grey silk stockings, 6 handkerchiefs 2 nightcaps & bandooes, 3 pr woolen stockings, 1 gun & a shaving box 2 case pistols——

April 2nd Dind at Cragbrien lay in Ennis

3rd Arrived at Limerick assizes very gay dind at the Brownings

*While this does not match the current record for Ireland (57 lbs.), it far surpasses the accepted standard (25 lbs.) for classification as a Specimen Fish—E.R. (Hon. Editor).
5th Assizes. at night danced with Miss Nash an excellent dancer

6th Perfected lease of Farihy for 3 lives to John Burke.¹⁴

9th Sunday. In the name of God Amen, set out from Limerick in a chaise for Charleville but lay at Bruff wet.

T 11 Dined at Jas Mahon's no ship going to England

Ap 22 Scanlan dined with me at home sold him my shaving box on his honour not to appear agst me or mine for his brother's note for £18.0.0 direct to Matthew Lane Scanlan at Ballylone near Rathkeale.

25 Still at Cork but tomorrow take leave

26 Disappointed

27 Damn the Custom House delays

28 Embarked on board a boat for Cove very bad entertain & worse lodgings.

29th Sat. wind due east with calms. no sailing, visited Arbouliny (Harbourliny[?]) Cove, a vile vagabond place all the women whores & the men rogues—

May 1st wind still east, patience is a virtue. Strolling all day viewed the Fort a divine prospect but that's all saw a mountebank & a cockfight evening &c.

Tuesday 2 wind N.W. fair, tired, patience must again be disappointed dined at Belgrave Mr Bagwells. a pretty place, myrtles &c returned—Miss Foster.

Wed 3 calms & a contrary wind all day. Mr Bagwell dined with us at the New Inn Cove, very merry, lodged information against Gillespie about dog &c.

TH 4th Ascension set sail at 4 o'clock morning from Cove. wind N.W. charming day. lost sight of land 4 even. met many shippes, grampuses, porpuses &c not sick wind in even west; on board Capt Evan's Britannia becalmed all night, a strong gale. morning. The Britannia a good sailor but provisions &c crowded & disagreeable a fine gale at N.W. descried the Island Lundy at 4 even. past it at 7. all this day as sick as any man on earth.

S 6 Sprung up N.W. strong gale, morning in sight of English & Welsh lands, made the Homes (Holmes) 11m came up to em. I took a pilot on board, the wind came about to N.E. arrived at 6½ in Bristol an enchanting town & lovely prospect.

May 7th walked about Bristol the lodgings, houses &c. fitt for princes. Bristol mostly inhabited by merchants saw hot wells & Sir W. Baker's two monuments that he erected one to Lord Chatham & one to the memory of the officers killed in America

8th In company with Ivers & Sheridan went to publick break fast at new Long Rooms excellent breakfast, dancing &c. a noble room. set out for Bath arrived at 4—
9th went to pump room in evening.

Friday 12th—sett out with Capl A. Ivers post (?) for London lay that night at Reading 69 miles from Bath

13th Break fasted at Maidenhead came to “Red Lyon” in Charing Cross. a miserable, dirty, disagreeable place

14th Saw King & Queen, in London procession, go & receive sacrament. I walked the Park.

15th dind with Jo Stacpoole went to Kingsenton (Kensington) & walked in gardens. took lodgings in Fountain Court (Temple) at £1.8.0 per week. dind at Wilson’s. went to “Robin Hood”

16th In even with Capl A Ivers & Mr Wilson went to Drury Lane. Richard III by Holland, indifferent done

17 With I & W to Footes House Foote’s “Devil on Two Sticks” & the “Virgin Unmasked” —

18 To Drury Lane with Wilson never knew what crussing was before—to see Garrick do Archer. He is the prince of players. the play well supported. the Devil to pay the fare.

19 & 20 having a swelld jaw confined at home

Sund 21 to Westminster Abbey very curious the monuments very fine. the whole awefull venerable and antique & prooved Gay’s epitaph “the world’s a jest & all things show it/ I thought so once but now I know it”

22 Went to a bad play. Went to Bagnigge wells evening.

23 Dind at Chelsea in which a fine piece for Chas II, dinner dam’d dear came by water to Vauxhall &c &c.

24 Dind with Bury, Ivers, Foster &c went with J Foster to Ranelagh. At the entrance a noble astonishment, price 2/6, for company &c 10/6.

25th Went with Foster to the Tower all very curious but the foot armoury astonishing.

26th Attend Westminster Hall

27 saw St Pauls, a surprizing large awefull doom.

29 bespoke birthday suit, red silk embroidered with silver

30th to June 3rd Vauxhall & Ranelagh & supper with ladies—

June 5th I went to Ball at S James’ where the French & Russian ambassadors had a dispute all in diamonds. My Lady Almeria Carpenter the finest woman in the world
6th Festival at Cornelly's Soho given in honour of his Majesty's birthday. a band of music vocal & instrumental 50 performers led by Giardini, no wine, the room the Elision fields, the finest in England

7th dind at Longacre with Capt J Foster on a haunch of venison cost £3. champain, burgundy &c in evening to Ranelagh where there were superb fireworks in honour of the King's birthday

11th Dind at Turk's Head Coffee House.

12th To Royal Exchange to get letters to Paris

14th Delivered letter from F. Burton to the Provost to request letters of recommendation to ambassadors at Paris, Naples, Turin, &c which he received most polite & promised letters.

June 15th Dind with Rice & to Cookham with Burton, a neat pretty place, MFR B very affable & agreeable. I never liked a girl so much as Miss Burton elegant sweetness & humity [sic], two courses of plate &c, playd cards, supd & stayed till Pelris [?] let us home much satisfied.

Sun 18 Went to Bavarian Ambassadors chapel

19 left my lodging at Palmer's, the damndest virago on earth. set out with Jo Staepoole to Maidenhead bridge

20 Breakfasted at Taplow the beauties better imagined than expressed, the root house, temples &c dind at Taplow got as drunk as pipers sprained my knee in one of three falls coming home. The Ladies Hamilton & Nicholson & the sons of pleasure roused by E.P. Burton reeled out of bed & got into coach sett off for Eaton stopd at Windsor, viewed the Castle, a kingly place, fine paintings &c a finer situation & prospects. It boasts of a fine terrace. From thence to Duke of Cumberland's palace. I was very sick.

23 Intended setting out to Brighthelmstone but delayed waiting Provosts letters

S25. Bought a case of pistols £14.15.9. lay at Spread Eagle to be at hand with the stage.

26th @ 5½ set out for Brighthelmstone with a sailor, a jeweller, a steward & a town clerk breakfasted at Epsom, thro a beautiful County, the County Surrey, the hills covered with box and yew. Temple of Venus &c dind at Heyning a nasty village with bad entertainment arrived at B. at 5. sixty four miles from London supd at Ship Inn

27th yacht not to sail till evening. This is a clean irregularly built—worthy of flint paving stones. mostly inhabited by fishermen fishery resorted to from 1st June to last October—a great no. of nobility &c for benefit of salt water which washes town at SE side. there are two good Inns "the Ship" and "the Castle" two ball nights each week two libraries a fine field for walking, a fine shooting country covered with corn. visited rooms saw 'em at cricket.

29th sailed in "Industry" yacht Chapman commanded—11½ lost sight of England 2½
made the highlands of Dieppe, arrived in key at 6½. wind & weather pretty favourable
was as sick as twenty one men.

30th The Hotel, tho a good one at Dieppe miserable after England all the floors tilld—
entertainment very bad coffee worse & tea—Town ancient, inhabited by fishermen
regularly built but shockingly dirty. the land here & at Brighthousemore were like as if
separated by a rivulet.

July 1st at 9 Left Dieppe in a berlin worse than a glasmoconogue pony, drawn by three
beasts 1 a kind of horse 2 a mule 3 something between a horse & cat dind at Tostes &
arried at Rouen at 6½. Seine is a very fine river the bridge of boats that rises & falls with
tide very curious 260 yards over nineteen boats three passages for shipping.

S2 Visited Queen's walk a row of stately elms. the Seine running all along

3rd Visited the Cathedral of Rouen. most antique extensive & curious buildings—paint-
ed glass &—went to the top of the steeple. saw the remarkable bell which requires 20 men
to ring. From top all city's to be seen. It is about the size of Cork. Also St Maelou a
beautiful church. In the centre is a chapel finely ornamented. All the windows painted
glass. The Parliament House, Courts of Justice & 4½ set out from Rouen to Paris, in
one of the damndest chaises in the world. arrived in the Hotel de Anjou in Rue Dauphin at
10 o'clock at night, fatigued and sleepy—

5th Afternoon went to see King going to lay first stone of a royal military school. Then 8
& and King’s—go to Thuilleries

6th So bitt with buggs obliged to change downstairs at 5 livres a month

7th A disorder, I believe the itch, has appeared this even on my body

8th At the Thuilleries. confined in even with this damn disorder

9th left my name at the Hon Mr Walpole's the English envoy. missed the acquaintance
of the finest woman in Paris through not speaking French. in a shocking condition from
the itch and, I fear, something worse, those cursed madams! took physic

11th Took my first lesson from my dancing master 6 livres a lesson. visited & prescribed
for by Dr McMahon who says it is an aricipulus—

13th went with Dr McMahon to the Italian opera. one of the girls making her fortune of
her pitchor of milk & the huntsman of a bear skin—second piece the King of England who
lost his way hunting & was entertained by his park keeper, third a figure dance by 24
eminent dancers—a pretty &c for the night.

14th Still at physick though much better. went to Luxemburgh bought a hat & feathers,
36 livres, & a bonnet 16 livres—

15th Thank God! got rid of my complaint, went to see the Louvre. the Duke of Orleans’
magnificent rooms & a beautifully painted gallery. Afterwards went to the church of
S Roque a elegant building in the Italian taste &c—
S16 Set out for Compeigne to the camp, distant from Paris 50 miles. went to mass at a Count’s château so went on to Sentlice. No lodgings to be got nearer than the camp

17th At 5 set out for the camp arrived at 8. the three thousand reviewed by the Duke Choiseul, very fine men particularly the four Swiss regiments. The lines extended the whole length of the place, a noble sight, very sick with the gripes. returned to Sentlice

18th returned to Paris

19th visited the royal hospital of the Invalides, the chappel is magnificent, the doom in the center of four others & four arches is truly grand

20th went to Cathedral of Notre Dame, one of the most curiously Paris. The Italian Comedy & afterwards the Bulvares

22. To glass house which employs 800 hands. Convent of the Celestines, the Surbone which contains the monument of Richlieu one of the best executed in Paris. Saw the convent of the Carmelites which contains many women of quality who being fonder of others than their husbands occasioned their confinement. saw the place de Victoire—

(The Diaries of 1770 & 1771 were possibly never kept—that of 1772 has only bills & accounts of no interest entered in it—I find from a miniature of W. Stacpoole at Edenvale that he reached Florence—but none of the letters of papers searched by me tell anything more of his movements till 1773—)

(Diary of Wm Stacpoole
1773)

January S.10. Went to Kilkee to church where Billy Massy read his [word?] being appointed vicar of Mungret

24th to George Colpoys for “Slasher” £38.8.9

26 Received an account of Massy’s son George (Stacpoole) being given over of inflammation.

31st My Uncle John Stacpoole died at Ennis 8 o’clock evening Lord God have mercy on him.

April 6th supd with Tom Browne the Sheriff.

May 1st Windy with hailshowers & cold Major Burton set out at 11 o’clock 1 at 12 oclock, for Youghal in phaetons at 5 oclock came to Bruff, where we found the Major dead, he having the bridles out of his horses mouth to give them a bite of hay, not alighting himself, the horses took fright leaped into the river overset the carriage and his head having come against a rock the skull was fractured in two places of which he died in five minutes.

S 2 dry. lay last night with J. Patterson at Glanworth. Hugh Dillon Massy returned
home from Bruff at 11. I brought the dread news to Mrs & Miss Burton. Lord God have mercy on him.

May 3rd  Heavy. Passed the day and dined at Mrs Burtons.

4th  ditto with dittos. visited Mrs Burton in the evening, a shocking interview.

Wed 5th  was married to my very dear Doro Alice Burton by Mr A Hyde sent Kett to Limerick for mourning

28th  Fished, killed a salmon. Major Burton, Col Aug Parker, R Westrop,24 Galway &c.

June 24th  went to Spancil Hill fair met F. P. Burton at Ennis just arrived from France for the election of C. O Brien vice Chas Macdonnell25 and William Stamer26 burgess vice Major Thomas Burton

SAT 26  Stood godfather with James Burke proxy for Dr. McMahon. Mrs Creagh & Brady27 godmothers for little Mary Mahon.

October 8th  my postilion Pat Hogan drowned crossing Inisdymon river. The Lord be merciful to his soul.

(1774)

January 10th  My Dora executed a deed conveying her estate to me

March 12th  At three o'clock this morn my beloved Dolly was taken in labour & ½ at noon was safely delivered of a son28 thanks to Almighty God.

July 23rd  With my Dora went to Bath & dined at Mrs Burtons & dined at Wells in evening.

August 27th  wrote a long letter to John29 on his recovery for which I give Almighty God thanks.

November 11th  At Hydes Ball my son George William was this day received in St James's Church in Bath. George Stascoole of Grosvenor Place & C Vandeuler represented by Hon Captain Leeson his godfathers & his great grandmother Foster30 in person and his grandmother Stascoole represented by Miss Foster.

17th  Spence turned out the damnest villain by his tattling lies of the family at Sir Capel Molyneux's for no other cause than our rendering him all the civility possible—but he got no thanks for his pains but his madness apologizes only for his conduct

19  At Sir James Somervilles cleared up my conduct belied by Spence or some other scoundrel.

December 16th  Wm Stamer & Henn set off for Ireland I sent by Stamer a case of pistols for Charles MacMahon31—
March 21st Had favour of Mrs Burton's good & polite letter with the fragments of cold meat and butter that were left in our house she not chusing to be under any compliments to poor us. I answered her letter as polite as possible much different from its deserts.

April 27th My dear Dolly safely delivered of a daughter, her Aunt Miss Foster only attended.

May 20th Sat—My daughter was christened Dorothea Mary by Dr. Davis. Miss Foster & Miss Anne Burton32 godmothers & Col J. Newton of Kinsale godfather.

25th with Major Molesworth left Bath for Dublin.

29th Bangor. To a sailor that I knocked down 4—.

30th Sailed at 10 in Hillsborough Pacquet for Dublin. Had clear sight of both lands not a tall sick sea like a looking glass.

31st Arrived at 11 oclock Georges Quay.

June 3rd set out for Limerick, but axle broke in Dirty lane was obliged to return

4th Returned to Limerick with the stupid, silly wife of a Roscrea merchant

8th Castleconnell

9th O Brien's Bridge

11th left Pota at 6. called at Carranelly33

18th arrived at Kilrush quite well.

24th Election of William Stamer as Provost of Ennis34

25th with Dillon Massy & Charles McMahon to visit Snugborough35

July 17th monday at 1 oclock my sister Ross Lewin36 was brought to bed of her eldest son

August 6th viewed Snugborough & valued it

7th with H. D. Massey waited on Chief Justice Patterson in Ennis gave him my proposal for Snugborough which he accepted vdict to commence 1st of May next £800 fine & 100 per annum a lease of lives renewable for ever at a peppercorn (vide proposal kept in pocket of this book)37

18th This day executed my will. J McMahon, H Powell38 & Geo Dillon witnesses—left 1 pt sealed with 3 seals with H. D. Massy kept the other.
21st  At 3 in morning passed Holyhead & 10 becalmed in Buemorice (Beaumaris) Bay for an hour at 6 in even, obliged to come to anchor within 4 miles of Liverpool obliged to remain all nt

24th went to Birmingham, not arrived till 12 at night. attended for 12 miles by a highwayman but was prepared. At 8 set out for Bath where I, thank God, arrived safe & met my Dolly—

September 11th  at 4 set out from "White Lion" in diligence with the two ladies had between Newbury & Reading the most dreadful thunder lightning & rain remembered at 10 arrived safe at London

14th  went to Richmond got a cursed fall, horse over me

19th  Returned to Bath October 17th my Dolly so ill obliged to keep her bed—

23rd  My Dolly grown worse. Dr De la cous paid two visits Mrs and Miss Burton came from the hot wells

November 2nd Thursday at 7 o'clock this morning she departed this life—Oh holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, have mercy on her soul! Leaves me wretched and all her friends. the most loving & affectionate wife, religious, virtuous, just, goodnatured and friendly. I removed to Mrs Burton’s with my dear little daughter.

Sat. 5th  past 6 in the morning the remains of my ever beloved wife Dorothea Alice Stacpoole quondam Burton were interred privately in the center of the aisle of the Abbey church Bath, opposite the old Bishop’s monument. her soul—I thrust [sic] in Almighty God, gone to heaven in eternal happiness—

8th  Put on my very sad mourning. I see George, not having seen him these five weeks. would not come near me, I suppose on account of my sad black clothes. Took a long solitary walk alone.

December 6th Thursday at 11 o'clock left Bath with George, Molly, and Harry the dog after taking leave of my dear Anne and little Doro; as for the rest, it was a happiness to leave 'em. I say no more.

(to ireland)

S 31st  Dind at Maryport, Ralph Westropp’s, a large party, suppd a racking (raking?) pot of tea did not leave till 4 in the morning for Doonass—

(1776)

January 1st  At Doonass with H. D. Massy, & J & H Stacpoole cock shooting, killed one brace, Rh Westrop, B Friend, Ross Lewins, & Lewins, Moronys & Armstrongs, drank like fish.

19th  C. O Callaghan & his sons, Lawrence Comyn & Billy Purdon shot with us dind & got drunk
March 5th  Hunted & killed a fox & an hare, Ralph Westrop & Edwd Galway§ hunted &
dined with us at Elm.

12  Attend Edward Galway & Harry Westrop§ on their trials for an assault and a putting
out of a Mr O Grady’s eye 12th July last at Rathkeale races Dillon Massy was foreman of
the jury, which was well for the prisoners as he was the principal for acquitting them,
which he effected but not before 6 oclock next morning. dined at James Browne’s at the
Ball last night but poor James was locked up on the jury.

19th  At 6 ock left Doonass & at 11½ arrived at Ennis. Ennis assizes began Lord Chief
Justice Paterson & Justice Henn§ Judges.

Wed 20.  Pierce Creagh§ sheriff Poole Westropp§ late ditto foreman of the grand jury
of which I was one dined with the Sheriff and Jury at Sidleys at the Ball Assembly

Th 21  Dined at Mrs Jn Arthur’s & at assembly at night. had much fun with Mrs E§ of
Cornelly.

F 22  Dined with a great crowd at Mr Edwd Armstrong’s Ball

S 23  ditto All the candidates dined with us the assizes this day ended, no riot rara avis.

24  H D Massy & Ed Fitzgerald joynd the electioneering interest & reciprocal support &
both joynd the adversary. Dined at Ld Chief Justice Patterson’s very spritely & sup’d at
Mrs Macnamaras. Dillon (Massy) very ill obliged to take a puke.

April 16th  Hugh Dillon Massy’s generous letter to Mr Oliver the day before the award.
Sir L O B(rien)§ & H D M shook hands this morning at Oliver’s lodgings. He & I dined at
Elm (Elm Park, Limerick).§ My uncle is at Attyflin. My darling child recovered a severe
illness of three days

Wed 13  Hugh & I went in my Mother’s chaise to Attyflin to breakfast met Mr Tunnadine
& Mrs Vincent§ there.
We had great hopes of success from our reception. called at Limk & dined at Pota.

F 19  with H.D.M. sett out on our canvass in his hack chaise & four from John
Stacpooles—Doonass—dined at Lismehan & lay there—a long company—cum alis John
Attyflin§ (still hopes) Westby, Bourchier, Henn &c &c called at Dangan (see n. 47) went
to and arrived at Carnelly to dinner. Mr & Mrs French,§ Grant, & W. Stamer there. We
lay there

M 21  Wm Stamer promised us all his assistance & that he would do everything possible
for us but must vote for Sir Lucius himself. We went to Ennis but came back to dinner &
lay there

T 22  came to Ennis met our friends & dined at Sidley’s waited all day for Edwd Fitzgerald
coming to town to compare books

W 23  Hugh D took a resolution & with Geo Stacpoole set out for Doolin &c. I went

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upon (canvass) to Lissmeehan (having first of all canvassed Fortanne not at home) & lay there where I was not a little surprised by a falsehood of Bourchiers.

W 24  Breakfasted at Fortanne Poole Westropp would not speak one word of business, canvassed. no good & agreed about a horse £10. came to Ennis. Dind at Tymond’s with Pi Creagh. Dillon arrived late in town & went to bed.

Th 25  comparing books E. Fitzgerald, H.D.M, P Creagh, & Robt Crowe, Geo Stacpoole & I present afterwards dind at Sidleys

26  Mem Crowes proposal &c H D M went to Tom Browne's on his way home. Tom Van(soleur) dind at Sidleys & drank tea & dind at Strasburgh. 55

S 27  with J. Stacpoole came to Anah to breakfast & met sister (see n.36) & Mrs G Ross (Lewin) there walked about &c Sir Lucius O Brien & John Quin called on their canvass.

S 28  Anah—walked &c. Dick O Donnell & Beau dind with us

29.  visited my neighbours & got a vote from each, not refused by one.

T 30.  sister & Mrs G.R. & children. Hanna & Jane left Anah for Clare mount on their way to Fortfergus.

May 1st  Messrs Ed and Chris O Brien called on me & viewed Anah & after some huxtering agreed to give 100 guineas per year for 116 acres & went back to Ennistymon before dinner. John S arrived from the West in the evening—

Th 4  Walking & idlying Anah. Hired Tim Mulconry at £6 per annum as a huntsman.

S 5  Packed up, for removal to Edenvale, furniture

m 6  with Js left Anah & dind at Strasburgh & called to unpack at Edenvale in evening & lay at Ennis.

T 7.  Having received letters from H.D.M. about 1 oclock, I left Ennis & went to Pota where I found D. had left home for Ennis. took a snak and went to Limerick. heard that Col V — (Vandeleur) had gone to Dromoland mounted at 10 1/2 & at 3 was in Ennis. Col & Dillon took the prefect before Laurence Comyn as legal provost of Ennis

Th 9  Dillon received a letter from Tho Westrop for him to meet Jon (Westropp) Attyflin at 1 ock in Limerick or to lay at Clonmoney where he and I went & lay but he did not come.

F 10  At 7 this morn sett out for Limerick & was at Dr Tunnadines at 9 where the Westrops declared in favour of Dillon having the day before in favour of Sir L. O Brien. Westby, as Jon Attyflin told us, having resigned. Dind at Geo Ryan’s & lay at Pota met John S(stacpoole)

11th  left J.S. at Pota we called at Fortane & dind at Lismihan. we called at Tom Browne’s (Newgrove) & 11 ocklock at night Ennis—My son Geo WM and his maid came to Edenvale from Elm in my Mother’s chaise
S 12  H.D.M, Dalton &c dind at Edenvale

W 15  Massy Stacpoole came from Dublin


14th  Hired Ann Ford housemaid at 4 guineas a year—

23rd  This day the poll closed when Fitzgerald had 502, Massy 365, Sir Lucius 352 & Westbye 138. a scrutiny was demanded by Sir L. I was so ill I was obliged to come home to Edenvale. Dillon Massy met Burton by appointment at Spencil Hill (Massy Stacpoole & Bryan Finucane seconds) at 7 o'clock in evening Massy fired one shot & missed after which Col Burton not being able to extort his resignation of the burgesship he & his friend left the field and so ended the battle.

F 24  The scrutiny did not appear legal to the Sheriff however he gave Sir Lucius time till tomorrow to prove the legality. The Sheriff declared Fitzgerald & Massy duly elected Dillon came out here for supper & bed

S 26  Massy Stacpoole & H.D.M. then went to Ennis on their way to Limk

June 4th  Dillon Massy, John & Geo Stacpoole, C Vandeleur, Robt Grove & Jon O Callaghan dind. delivered Sir Lucius O Brien a message from Dillon in consequence of his unwarrantable advertisement & of his mob in Ennis where Massy & George Stacpoole were wounded, a terrible riot in Ennis last night

5th  McNamara of Moyreisk brought back Sir L's answer appointing 26th not accepted

Th 6  McN came but no powers & no alteration when he was told by Massy S for Dillon that he looked on Sir Lucius as a poltroon & a coward & would horsewhip him everywhere he met him

August 17th  Miss E & Chris O Brien & Armstrong & Frank Fitzgerald dind with us—Red Anah to Chris O Brien for 19 years, commencing last May, for 100 guineas per annum—


F 30  Col Arthur Browne gave me Sir L's answer "he would not fight" therefore delivered H.D.M's second message "that he considered him destitute of every principle of a man of honour"—

31.s  Bob Crowe got a good pounding from Frank McNamara, Doolin. good sport with the race got an account of Miss Foster's death with a legacy of £3000 to my little Dorothea—
September 23rd  Ennis Assizes began Pierce Creagh Sheriff. Poole Westropp foreman. Serjeant Dennis & Baron Hamilton Judges. The latter sick and did not act—

October 14th  Mrs Geo RossLewin brought to bed of a son & heir last night. Bought a horse from father Broggy for £10 and waped (sic) him for a five year old mare with Kilner Brasier at Clontroad fair with John RossLewin went to Forterguson—

November 1st  My sister Jane ill in a fever at Forterguson.

20th  Hired Mary Milan kitchen maid at 9/- per quarter

17th  Discharged James Walsh the butler for disputing & rioting with the servants also Ann Ford the housemaid. To Jas Walsh in full £7.10.6. to Ann Ford £2.0.0.

14th  Dismissed my western men that got drunk taking leave.

17th  Hunted my sporting doe, with Stamer's, Blood's & my own hounds (33 couples) and lost her after a long chase the company O'Brien, old Wm Daxon, Wm Stamer, W Blood, Geo Colpoys, H.D.M, & J.S. dind at Edenvale (end of 1776)

February Sat 15th  A great riot in Sackville St (Dublin)

22nd  waited on Chief Justice Patterson & executed my leases for Edenvale a lease of 3 lives forever paid him £850 the fine a half years rent

24th  At Sackville St. at New House Fishamble Street "The Duenna" & "The way to keep him"

26  Hugh Massy was to sail and did so this night for England—

March 1st  saw th "Beggar's opera" & "Crononhothonthologus"

19th  John Burke arrived last night. We travelled together & lay at Loughrea slept in the hayloft & got up lousy

24th  an exceeding fine hare hunt shot a greyhound alone

27th  James Burke & Pierce Creagh breakfasted with me, commissioned by former waited on James B— (Brien) the Sheriff with the message the cause for which he thought proper to make a very ample apology—

June 2nd  Jon Ross Lewin & wife, Jon Westrop & ditto ChaS Mahon & ditto came to Edenvale dind & lay.

September 1st  Ennis assizes begin Mr Justice Lill & serjeant Coppinger Judges. Jas O Brien sheriff.

October 1st  went from Ennisdymon to the ground appointed but found no person to show the hind & consequently won my bett of 40 guineas
16th Hugh & Charles* Massy came from Donbeg where they were bathing in the sea water

31st The post did not come into Ennis till 1½ ock then sett out for Dublin met John S. at Crusheen, took leave of him there and of Laurence Comyn who came from Quin

November 1st car broke down at Ballydonnellan travelled all night, rained & hailed all night.

2nd at 4 ock arrived at Mr Vandeleur's Cavendish St Dublin

3rd George Stacpoole, Laur Comyn I & Dillon & Jon Fitzgibbon, Mr Vandeleur & I hadd a council about a motion to postpone ballotting for committee to try merits of Clare election. Sir L O Brien against H Dillon Massy

4th Went to House Mr Jon Dillon made it (the motion) & was violently opposed by Col Burton, C Browne &c Numbers were even & Speaker voted in favour of postponement

7th Jon O Callaghan came to town

8th H.D.Massy arrived from England 4 ock noon.

14th Mr Kelly opened Sir Leiü's case three heads, the third the partiality of Pierce Creagh the Sheriff.

19th Mr. Henns conscientious testimony of the of the Sheriffs conduct & partiality

22nd M Dillon of Clonbrock sick obliged to report to the House

(remainder blank)

(1778)

February 7th came to Edenvale laying out foundation of garden wall

22nd Sunday. met Fortfergus family, going to dinner at Ballycorig & lay at Fortfergus. Met a Mr Ness there, an English gentleman, once an officer now courtting Miss Rosslewin.67

April 17th Friday. Ennis Assizes again. Andrew Creagh* Sheriff Pierce Creagh foreman of the Jury Serjt. Crofton & Mr Maunsell Judges

Aug 31st Ran the famous stag at Inisdyman 8 couple of mine & ditto of Mr O Brien's hounds 3½ hours & saved him. After the chase went in 3¼ hours to Kilrush.

September 1st To attend Miss Ann Burton's wedding she was married Sunday night to Edward Fitzgerald Esq* of Carrigoran knight of the shire for the Co of Clare, being his second wife.

14th m At 10 ock this morning, my beloved daughter Dorothea Maria died of a
chincough & fever at her grandmother's house in Gloucester Str Dublin aged 3 years 3 months & 15 days. Lord Jesus have mercy on her soul.

17th night received Massy Stacpoole's letter with the sad news mentioned in Monday's memorandum

23 wed. Gave a bay filly at £3..8..3d for a four year old saurel mare to Heff Considine (name "Vixen").

(Six books are missing. The 1780 is used for 1791.)

(1785)

March 1st sold the kelp of Mutton Island to Patrick King of Galway for £20 & I am to give him the grass of one horse.


30th Grand Jury sworn in W.S. (the diarist himself) Foreman.

May 3rd Judges went off without receiving presentments or accounts or without an apology

December 17th Left Limerick at 3 o'clock overtook Ralph Westrop & got a seat on his phaeton to Carnelly, rode then home at 8 ock Edenvale & met the boys in great joy.

25th Ev8. Christmas day. stayed at home waiting for boys cloths (George Massy left this for Stagdale Lodge) missed going to church for which I am ashamed & sorry.

(Two Books missing.)

(1788)

January 27th Sunday. After going to church got intelligence of a black deer found at Edenvale. waited for prayers & then returned as soon as possible drew far & near, could not recover it till 3½ when too late to lay on

February 1st Mr Burton shot an eagle in the vale Edenvale

9th Hunted an excellent chase interrupted by the account of Mrs Burke's death at 10 ock at her home in Ennis. Went with Mr B found her will, 118 guineas in gold £10..10..5d silver, which gold & will was given into the care of Mrs Finucane for Mrs O Connell's use being the sole executrix &

11th At sunrise overtook the funeral at Strasburgh and at 9 ock saw the interment by the side of her husband in the family vault at Kilmaley church.

March 1st went to the public examination at Ennis school. My son George got the premium in the first class with great credit, my nephew Andrew got a medal for a speech & George got a medal for a theme.

26th I went to Doonass having gone the new line of road from Sixmilebridge to Trough, ill designed & worse executed

(Blank from August 28th. Two Books missing.)

(1791)

January 9th At Ennis church, dined at Edenvale, John Ross (Lewin) Wm Grant & Wm Westrop

19th My dear Honora grumbling all day at 4 ock evening taken in strong labour & at 5 1/4 safely delivered of a daughter by (!!!) Dr Mac Donnell.

February 7th Evale. my daughter was privately baptised by Dr Maur. Studdert & christened Georgina Maria.—

April 3rd Ennis assizes Baron Medge, Prime Serjeant Fitzgerald Judges William Speight sheriff.

6th Dind at George Stacpoole’s Lifford. his wife brought to bed of a daughter

26th at 5 ock evening after 9 days illness John Ross Lewin at his house of Fortfergos of a violent fever. Lord God have mercy on his soul—leaving 8 daughters & 3 sons

27th This morning John Ross was buried in his family vault of Clodegad. Quiescat in pace—

July 17th Laid out Athascane Bridge & gullet. came to Edenvale met my own George returned from college.

August 20th Michael Furnell of Balliclogh Esqr was married to my niece Mary (my brother George’s eldest daughter) by Rev Mr Fitzgerald of Ennis.

September 5th Grand Jury Messrs Burton, Augl Fitzgerald of Carrigoran, Robt Westrop, T. Vandeleur &c dined at Edenvale Edward O Callaghan wounded in the head by Jo McNamara’s attack at a duel, which prevented him & others—

7th Dind large party at Buncraggy. O Callaghan died about 12 ock at night of his wound at Spansil Hill.

October 3rd Bridget Lynch obit aetatis anno 40. in Ennis. her children Joseph 2nd May 1769, Mary 22nd Sep 1771, James 15th March/73, Catherine 27th May/79, Stephen 24 Dec/80, Edmond 20th March/82, Franc 1st Sep/85, Chris 17 May/88,

October 5th buried her in Killowen Abbey 7 ock this morning.
25th George arrived from Dublin where he had been to College examination.

November 19th paid my sister's Jane & Lucy in full of all interest on 200L per annum of jointure due to my dear Mother, which she bequeathed them to this November inst 1791. Mem rioc with John & George Ross Lewin about going to school.

28th Attended at Ennis infirmary & elected Dr Frank Finucane in his father's room who resigned.

(I searched carefully for other books at Edenvale in 1883 & 1884 but found none.

Tom J Westropp

End of Diary.)

NOTES

[by Thomas Johnson Westropp 1884-85]

1. Doonass, a castle of the Waterhouses in 1584. It came into possession of Rev. Charles Massy, Dean of Limerick, brother of Col. Hugh Massy of Duntrileage whose eldest daughter married George Stacpoole of Anagh, their eldest son being William the diarist. Hugh Dillon Massy, only son of the dean, married William Stacpoole's sister Elizabeth. Hugh was born March 4th 1732; High Sheriff of Clare 1769 & M.P. from 1776 to 1783. He was made a baronet October 9th 1781 & died 1807. The place eventually reverted to his grandson Sir Hugh Dillon Massy the last Baronet who, dying in 1871, left it to his nephew Col. Massy Westropp. (Papers at Doonass).

2. James Molony of Kiltanon, Co. Clare, scion of an old Celtic race connected with the district & lands of Kiltanon from the earliest times. He married Mary Weldon 1751 & had with other issue James his successor, whose son James was sheriff the year of D. O'Connell's election.

3. Anagh or Enagh near Miltown Malbay, not to be confused with Enagh or Stacpoole Court near Kilkishen to which the noted Bartholomew Stacpoole recorder of Limerick (who signed the surrender to Ireton on behalf of the citizens) was transplanted in
1653. Anah near Miltown was leased in 1675 by the Earl of Thomond to James & Mary Gorman of Lissaneene in Ibrican, who assigned it to Edmond Morony. William Stacpoole applied for a lease of the same. This was at first refused by Morony, but on Stacpoole promising to turn protestant he obtained a grant August 16th 1712, held it till his death July 10th 1744, & left it to his son George who purchased it March 1745 & was succeeded by the diarist. (Statement of title &c. at Edenvale.) Anah was sold to Ed. Hogan of Carne by Moragh Lord Inchiquin & Lord William O Bryen his son May 20th 1666. (Papers at Edenvale.)


5. An O Brien estate then, 1768, owned by McDonnells. Chris. O Brien held it 1694-1740 & left it to his daughter Elizabeth wife of Chas. McDonnell of Kilkee.

6. Held by one of the Stacpooles, a fine old castle still remains there. It is near Sixmilebridge. Mountcashell (Fig. 3), was confirmed to Bartholomew Stacpoole the recorder. He mortgaged it in 1685 to his cousin Philip Stacpoole who settled it on his daughter Lucy, but it was inhabited by her brother Philip at the time of the diary. Philip died without issue in April 1798. (Mahon Papers.)

Fig. 3. Mountcashel Castle, Kilmurry, in 1884 Westropp sketch, left, and in 1981, right.
7. Bill. [Westropp has here left blank a space of some six or seven lines, presumably with the intention of later describing the bill in question.]

8. Crofton (grandson of Rev. John Vandeleur, rector of Kilrush, who was wounded at Aughrim 1691 & married Elizabeth, daughter & heir of Thomas Crofton of Inchicorourke, Limerick, & son of John Vandeleur of Kilrush) was High Sheriffs of Clare 1764. Married Alice, daughter of Major Thomas Burton & sister of the eventual wife of William the diarist. Crofton’s sons were Rt. Hon. John, Commissioner of Customs; Thomas, a Judge; Crofton, a Major General, died at Antigua; Frederick, a captain, killed at Vittoria; & William, rector of Julianstown. Many of the letters of Crofton Vandeleur remain at Edenvale. The family was founded in Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth by Maximilian Van der Leur, a Dutch merchant whose son John settled at Sixmilebridge Clare & suffered great loss in the war of 1642—


10. The Lysaghts of Kilcornan were close friends with the Stacpooles & the families inter-married more than once.

11. The Burtons were an old Shropshire house. Sir Ed. Burton was made a knight bannaret 1460 by Edward IV for services in the Wars of the Roses. His son Robert was knighted and got a grant of arms May 22nd 1478 & was father of Sir Edward Burton master of the robes to Henry VII & died 1524. His great great grandsons Francis & Thomas Burton of Eastwicke, Shropshire, settled at Buncraggy near Ennis in 1610. Samuel son of Thomas was High Sheriff of Clare 1669 & died 1712. His son Francis was M.P. for Ennis from 1692 to 1713; he purchased Buncraggy. His eldest son Rt. Hon. Francis was a privy councilor & married Mary, sister of Henry Lord Conyngham. His son Francis Pierrepont Burton alluded to here was M.P. for Killybegs 1755 & for Co. Clare 1761. He succeeded his uncle Henry as 2nd Baron Conyngham & died 29th May 1797. From his eldest son Henry are descended the Lords Conyngham while Sir Francis Burton, the second son, is grandfather of the present William Burton of Carrigaholt, High Sheriff of Clare 1886.

12. George Quin of Quinsborough, on the Clare bank of the Shannon up the river and not far from Limerick; now held by George Westrop.

13. No diary is kept for over a year. During this period George Stacpoole of Enagh, father of the diarist, died. He had been High Sheriff of Clare in 1763, married Mary sister of the first Barons Massy & Clarina in 1739, and was buried in the chancel of the Franciscan Abbey at Ennis just below the belfry & at the east end of the parish church.
14. William, father of John Burke, was Stacpoole's uncle-in-law, & lived at Strasburgh, Clare.

15. William Stacpoole's aunt Jane married a Mr. McMahon. Was this her son?

16. Ivers. This was probably either Augustine Ivers, BA. in Trinity College Dublin 1749, or his brother Arthur Norcot. The latter lived in Stafford Street Dublin, where we find Stacpoole dining very merrily in 1768. They were sons of John Ivers of Ballyarella or Mountivers near Sixmilebridge; High Sheriff 1710. His father Henry Ivers founded the family in Clare, being secretary and deputy receiver to the Commissioners for fixing quit rents. He obtained licence to hold fairs at Ballyarella 1679
& was High Sheriff of Clare 1673. His estates were invested in Trustees Rt. Hon. F. Burton of Buntraggy, R. Hickman of Barrick, & John Minchin of Croagh. His will dated May 10th 1691 was proved in Dublin 1692. To his wife Elizabeth, daughter of Capt. Stephens of Ballysheen he leaves (over her third part of the property) fifty pounds in copper money. (Will at Dublin. Papers at Attyfinn, Stemarpark, Edenvale &c.)

17. Stacpoole's grandmother was one of the Fosters of Hollywood, Galway. (See her will at Edenvale.)

18. Thomas Burton, major in 2nd Regt. of horse, was son of Francis Burton of Buntraggy and uncle of Francis Pierrepont Burton; see note 11. He was subsequently killed in a carriage accident at Bruff, May 1773; vide infra. Will dated January 1766. Married Dorothy, daughter of Rt. Hon. John Foster, Lord Chief Justice, Court of Common Pleas. The Miss Burton alluded to here married her admirer the diarist a few days after her father's death.

19. [No note written. Massy is identified elsewhere.]

20. George Colpoys of Ballycarr High Sheriff 1771, member of an old English family. George Colpuse held Ballycarr Castle in the war of 1642. One of his servants was murdered in trying to escape from Ballyalla Cas. when besieged and his cattle were often plundered. His son John got a renewal of his lease of Ballycarr from the Earl of Thomond 1655. His son Rawleigh Colpoys was a noted Limerick Alderman. His eldest brother George settled the Ballycarr estates on his nephew George (son of Rawleigh) on the latter's marriage with Honora Hickman of Fenloe 1733. Their eldest son was the George Colpoys of the diary he died about 1784 & his monument is extant at Kilnasoolagh Church, Clare. (Siege of Ballyalla: Dynelans Tour & notes; deeds reg. at Dublin.)

21. William's brother Massy Stacpoole of Dublin (see note 13) m'd Mary d. of Hackett Powell—George was killed fighting bravely at Guadaloupe. See letter in appendix 1796.

22. [No note.]

23. Thomas Browne of Newgrove the High Sheriff was born 1726 & died June 24th 1799 being buried at Tulla where a fine monument remains. The Browns were long settled in Galway & Limerick. Edmund son of Edmond Browne first settled at Ballyslattery or Newgrove 1635. He fought in the Parliamentary Army 1649 & lived to get a confirmation of his lease Sep 1667. His wife Bridget was a daughter of Thos Blayney of Trgornan Denbighshire & his wife Frances dau of the noted Sir Francis Berkeley of Askeaton. Their son Thomas b. 1661, d. 1717 m'd in 1694 Eliza d. of W. Smith of Donogue, his son Edmond High Sheriff 1733 & 1745 m'd in 1726 Jane d of Montiford Westropp of Attyfinn (a cousin through the Berkeleys). They were parents of Thomas Browne the Sheriff.
Adam Loftus Abp of Dublin
1st Chancellor temp Eliz
1597
Sir F Berkeley MP = Jane Loftus

(Wills; Patent Rolls; x MSS F.3.23 in TCD)

2 Gertrude Berkeley = John Taylor of Ballinort
1626

3 Eliz Berkeley = Geo Crofton of Moate

4 Frances Berkeley = Thos Blayney of Tregorman

2 Jane Taylor = Gore of Clonroad Clare
d 1694

3 Frances 1660 Taylor = Montiford of Westropp Clare
d 1698

Jane Geo Crofton = Rosse
d 1700

Bridget Esmé Blayney = Browne Newgrove Clare

Fig. 4. Entrance gates, Maryfort, O'Callaghan's Mills.

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24. Ralph Westropp of Lismehane or Maryfort (Fig. 4). High Sheriff 1772 had in 1759 married Mary daughter of Wm Johnson & his wife Amy dau of Col Hugh Massy of Duntrileague & sister of Wm Stacpoole’s mother Mary. Ralph by a curious family quarrel was left Attyfin Co Limk in 1781 & died 1806. His father (John Westropp’s) monument a large black marble ionic structure remains in Tulla church. The Westroppps were a Yorkshire family. They appear in the muniments of Whitby Abbey as freeholders near Brompton York from 1315 down. In a lawsuit in 1497 they proved their descent from John Westropp (circa 1370) & his wife Jane daughter of a member of the old baronial family of Thiveryl (?) part of whose estates at Cornborough they thus obtained. Eventually we find their pedigree in the 1584 visitation of York & the monument of James Westropp 1580 remains in Brompton church. Captain Thomas (a brother of James) served in the Irish war 1598-1602 & got a grant of land from Elizabeth. A granddaughter of James married Sir R. Osbaldestone Attorney Genl in Ireland 1640. Her nephew Montiford Westropp migrated to Limerick before 1657 & was appointed Controller of its port for life in Feb 1660. Montiford was High Sheriff of Clare 1674 & married Frances a d of John Taylor of Ballinort Askateon as shown above. From their five sons sprang the old Attyfin branch, the Cardygan (including the houses of Maryfort Fort Anne & Cork) & the Ballysteen (including those of Mellon & Ardcanny). John (Ralph’s father) was Sheriff of Clare 1744 & grandson of Montiford senior who was deprived of his arms & horses for use of James II in the War of 1690.—(Lib. Mun. Hib., Dwyer. Papers at Edenvale, Attyfin & Dublin Cas. Wills of M.W., his wife, J. Spaight 1686-98...Dublin. Harleian MSS. Wills at York 1465 to 1696, & Durham 1530.

25. James MacDonnell settled in Clare towards the end of the 17th century. He with Fras. Burton and Nich. Westby formed the land corporation that in 1703 bought up the vast forfeited estates of Daniel Viscount Clare. His son Charles married Elizabeth, daughter of Charles O Brien of Ennistymon (through which marriage the family became possessed [of] the estates of Killowen or Newhall). Their son Charles was High Sheriff of Clare 1760 & M.P. for the same. As he died 1773, it is probable that he (not his son Charles) is here alluded to, the vacancy in this (as in the case of Major Burton) arising from the death of the burgess. I need only add that the present MacDonnells of Newhall derive through Bridged McDonnell wife of W. McDonnell of Mount Heaton, Kings Co. (& granddaughter of the burgess), a descent from the earlier owners.

26. William Stamer of Carnelly, Co. Clare, was born in 1750, High Sheriff 1779, & died 1785, being buried at Killaloe [sic] where his monument is extant. He was son-in-law to Ralph Westropp recently mentioned. The Stamers were an offset of the family of that name living at Rettendale in Essex in the time of the Tudors. William Stamer of Rettendale settled at Barbestown near Straffan, Kildare & there died 1637. His second [son] William settled in Limerick & was Lieutenant General in Cromwell’s army, in which his son George was Lieutenant of Horse. The latter held Clare Castle from the Earl of Thomond and was evicted in 1688. He married Jane, daughter of the wealthy Alderman Yorke who built the Limerick exchange and gave the Cathedral its present chimes 1672, 1678. George’s son William has the credit (?) of burning the noble Franciscan Abbey of Quin & expelling the monks, 1691 circa; for which, says tradition, a curse was laid on the family by a monk that it should for 4 generations consist of only sons & then become extinct. William married a daughter of D. Bindon
of Cloney & died on foreign service in the West Indies. His only son George married an O Brien of Ennistymon & their only son William figures several times in Stacpoole’s Diary.

27. John Brady of Raheens in November 1728 married Mary Stacpoole, William’s aunt. The Bradys are said to be an offset of the O Gradys of Tomgrany. Howbeit their ancestor Hugh Brady (stated to have been 4th son of Sir Denis Grady) was first protestant bishop of Meath & a very worthy & energetic prelate. His son Luke of Tomgrany was confirmed in his lands by Perrot’s deed in 1584. His grandson Hugh fled the kingdom with his family and was attainted by King James II’s Parliament 1688 but restored to his estates by King William. John was succeeded by his third brother Hugh, the claims of the second brother’s son Capt. William Brady having been compromised 1779. Raheens was sold under the encumbered estates Courts to Mr. William Moreland.


29. John Stacpoole of Lifford, William’s brother, died May 1822.


31. Charles MacMahon of Leadmore, Co. Clare, had married William Stacpoole’s sister Mary.

32. Anna, daughter of Major T. Burton. She subsequently (vide infra in Diary) married Edward Fitzgerald of Stonehall & Carrigoran (Fig. 5), being his second wife.

Fig. 5. Carrigoran House, Newmarket-on-Fergus.

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33. Carranelly, i.e., Carnelly (Fig. 6), the residence of William Stamer, often called Carrownancily.

Fig. 6. Carnelly House.

34. Ennis was incorporated as a borough October 20th 1612 by James I. The charter appoints Hugh Norton as first provost, and William Thoroughgood, Robert Tailler, Thomas Baker, Jacques Granier, George Hickman, Francis Burton, Hugh Brickdale, Edmond Bloud & four others as burgesses. It got a remodelled charter from James II in 1687 appointing a portreeve & 24 burgesses, inter alios Daniel Lord Clare, Denis O'Brien of Dough, John McNamara of Moyreisk, Piers Creagh of Dangan, Peter Rice, Andrew & James White, Andrew Woulfe &c. Each charter is as narrowly sectarian & partial as the other but in opposite directions. The later one was vigorously opposed by the old corporation led by Silvester Hehir & John Gore. It was repealed by William III.

35. An old name for Edenvale (Fig. 7), a large old fashioned house standing on a rocky plateau overlooking a long narrow lake of great beauty, winding between richly wooded hills & teeming with fish & wildfowl. The cliffs pierced with strange caves & covered with ivy, shrubs & ferns overhang the lake in parts. On one the basement of an old castle remains. A beautiful garden rises from the lake in three terraces with great central flights of stone steps & red brick walls covered with fruit trees, jasmine & golden ivy. The uplands command glorious views towards Callan & Ennis in one
direction & down the estuary of the Fergus with its numerous islands across the Shannon to the very Galtees in the other. The house has been greatly improved by the present owner Richard Stacpoole, son of Richard, second son of William & his second wife. (1887).

36. Elinor, wife of John Ross Lewin of Fortfergus or Liskillogue. John was eldest son of Harrison Ross Lewin & his wife Hanna, daughter of John Westropp of Lismehane. Harrison was High Sheriff 1754 and died 1777. He was son of John Lewin (of the Mayo family) who was a schoolboy in Limerick in 1699 & was left Liskillogue by George Ross conditionally on his prefixing that surname to Lewin. Lewin’s mother was daughter of Robert Harrison of Bishop Aukland Durham whose sister was Ross’s mother. This account is founded on Ross’s will at Dublin, proved 1700. The family tradition is quite different, deducing their descent from the baronial Rosses & is as romantic as it is apocryphal. George Ross was High Sheriff 1664 & was born in Clare 1620. John & Elinor Ross Lewin left a large family. John’s death will be found in the 1791 diary.

37. The pocket was empty when I first examined the book.

38. Possibly Hassard Powell (father-in-law to Massy Stacpoole) or one of his sons.
39. Copy of letter now at Edenvale. "Bath, Friday November 3rd 1775. My dear John, it has pleased the Almighty God to take my very dear & beloved wife from me at 7 o'clock yesterday morn, being the 20th day of her illness of a most violent malignant putrid fever, notwithstanding the attendance and greatest skill of two very eminent physicians. She took James's powders eight times, was bled five times, blistered, plasters to her feet, &c &c, nothing left undone of the materia medica. All in vain. Glory be to God! It is only Justice to her memory to say she was the most affectionate, tenderest & in every respect the best wife and sincerest friend I ever knew or met & had every qualification to make a man compleatly happy in this world. I never knew either man or woman that had so few faults. If it was the will of God, I would rather have had her in the worst health than any other however healthy, however beautiful, ever so amiable or ever so rich. I assure you that you have a vast loss in her. You were one of her greatest favourites. My two dear little children, the boy one year and eight months old and the little girl just six months, claim yours and every pity. They are lovely children—oh Christ! preserve them to me to make some amends for their never to be forgotten by me mother, who, I hope, is in heaven. If not, God Almighty have mercy on us for we must be wretched. My dear Jack, pity me, have some compassion on me for I stand in great need of it. Give me your advise what to do with myself & poor children. I know not what to do, I am exceedingly wretched. I am now in lodgings in the house with Mrs. & Miss Burton who are much to be pitied. I shall anxiously expect your answer, and expect by the love you have to me you will write every post. I attended her to the last and took every care that nothing should be left undone. Your always affectionate but very afflicted brother,

To John Stacpoole Esqre

Will Stacpoole
As soon as possible send me money for the expenses have been very great & not yet over for the sad one is to be on Sunday night &c. Letters direct to me Bath will safely come to hand.

40. Probably Hassard Stacpoole, a son of Massy Stacpoole.

41. Cornelius O Callaghan of Kilgorey died 1794 at a great age. His sons Donatus and John are mentioned by Stacpoole. The O Callaghans trace descent from Callaghan Cathel of the tribe of the Eugenians (Eoghanists) & King of Munster who defeated the Danes of Limerick 980. From him descended Donogh whose sons branched into the houses of Clonmeen & Drummaneeen, eventually united by the marriage of Donat O Callaghan of Drummaneeen with Ellen heiress of Callaghan O Callaghan. Donough was on the Council of Confederate Catholics at Kilkenny 1641 & was transplanted to Mountallen in Clare 1652 where he died 1689. Cornelius his grandson leased Kilgorey from his cousin Donell O Callaghan. John eventually married an heiress of the Colpoyses & obtained Ballycarr. The family is now settled at Maryfort and Ballynahinch, the first branch involved in endless quarrels with tenants, their lives having been attempted many times.

42. Laurence Comyn of Moyne, High Sheriff of Clare 1792, descended from an old Limerick family many of whom were on corporation. His children married with the Brownes of Newgrove & the Stacpooles. During the confiscation Comyn's ancestor was protected by his cousin, the celebrated Sir Hardress Waller, one of King Charles' Judges.

43. Major William Casaubon Purdon, ancestor of the Tinnerauna family, an officer in
the 7th Dragoon guards, born 1752. The family originally came from Kirklington, Cumberland & settled at Lurgan race, Lough temp. Elizabeth. John Purdon settled in Clare early in the next century, during which the family enjoyed considerable influence in the county. George of Tinnerauna was High Sheriff 1663 & a curious old monument to his son Simon exists in the chancel of Killaloe Cathedral.

44. Jane, daughter of Montiford Westropp of Mellon, 1745 married Ed. Galway of Solabeg Co. Cork. The delinquent was their son. The Galways were a family of great note both in Limerick and Cork. A beautiful canopied tomb 1425 (part of 1400) commemorates them in St. Mary’s, Limerick. Their founder John de Galway was of the De Burgho family & for his valiant defence of Balls bridge Limerick against the O Briens in 1361 was knighted and granted various immunities and honours, among the rest to use the figure of Balls Bridge as an augmentation to his arms. This medieval Horatius died 1400. His slab showing the crest and arms of the De Burghos with the Bridge exists in Limerick Cathedral.

45. Son of Palmer Westropp, a Cork alderman and merchant, a scion of the Ballysteen branch. His grandson Henry was M.P. for Bridgewater & High Sheriff of Co. Limerick 1866.

46. William Henn of Paradise Hill or Ballinaford, Co. Clare. Judge on King’s bench, died 1796. The Henns were founded in Clare by Richard Henn who in 1688 got a lease from Don. McNamara of Ballinagard, Canons Island &c. He was probably an offset of the Berkshire Henns.

47. Pierce Creagh of Dangan, Co. Clare, High Sheriff of Clare 1751 & 1766, died 1779. He married three times and by the Attyflin papers seems to have been in no little trouble at times by his lax method of conducting business. They were a very old & noted family & appear in the Limerick records before 1351. They claimed to have
sprung from the O Neils & are said to have taken their name Creagh (creabh = a branch) from branches worn in battle. Branches also appear in their armorial bearings. Piers Creagh of Adare, Co. Limerick was Mayor 1634 and 1647. He was transplanted to Dangan in 1635 where he died 10 years later & lies in the magnificent family monument in the chancel of Ennis Abbey. He rebuilt Munnet Gate in Limerick with the adjoining walls & made the causeway & bridge through Monavarragh Bog near Long pavement, Co. Clare.

48. Son of Robert Westropp of Attyflin (Fig. 8) which place was settled on him (Robert) by his uncle and namesake (son of Montiford of Kilkerrin 1660) on the marriage of the former with one of the Hickmans of Kilmore in 1735. Poole was an amiable lazy man of little note in the county. He died 1803.

49. Mrs Evans, sister of William Stamer. See note 54 infra.

50. Sir Lucius O Brien, Bart., of Dromoland, born 1731, died 1795. Privy councillor, son of Sir Edward O Brien and his wife Mary, daughter of Hugh Hickman of Fenloe (Finlough). I need not enter at length into the history of the royal & most illustrious family; from the mists of tradition down to the present day the family have always held a foremost place. Brian Boru; Donald whose magnificent churches of Cashel, Limerick, Corcomroe & Holy Cross remain to our day; the Earls of Thomond, Clare & Inchiquin; the expatriated heroes of Fontenoy & other great battles, have left an ineffaceable record in the history of western Europe. The Baronets were descended from Donat, youngest son of Morogh, the last native prince, 1540. Donat was executed in Limerick 1582, but as martial law recognizes no forfeiture his estates of Lemenagh (with its fine old Tudor Mansion), Dromoland & many others were saved to his children. Col. Conor of Lemenagh took an active part in the 1642-52 rebellion & with his formidable wife Maureen Rhu O Brien were a terror to the English settlers. But Conor fell in battle against Ludlow & Maureen is said to have married one of Ireton’s officers the same day & thus saved the estate. Her son Donogh, at first apprenticed to a London Goldsmith, was made a baronet in 1686 & although High Sheriff in 1690 & compelled to leave the horses of the local gentry for the use of King James he contrived to keep peace with both wings & to have escaped the displeasure of William. (See appendix for an anagram on Sir Lucius dating this very year, 1776.)

51. Elm Park, Co. Limerick. Eyre, 6th son of Col. Hugh Massy of Duntrileague, settled here & was eventually created first baron Clarina. The Massyes were founded in Cheshire in the time of William Rufus by Hamo de Masci, Baron of Durham Massy & Castellan of Windsor, & in Ireland by General Hugh Massy of Chester who fought in the Irish war 1642 (his arms are registered in Dublin 1648 as of Chester). He married seven wives, having issue only by the first: Hugh Massy of Duntrileague, sheriff of Limerick 1673. The family branch out through his 4 sons thus: the Duntrileague Massys (including Lords Massy & Clarina); II, Massy of Knockanevean; III, Massy of Stoneville, Limerick; IV, Massy of Doonass, Co. Clare, Barts.

52. Lucy, wife of John Vincent of Limerick, ancestors of the Vincents now of Erinagh, daughter of Thomas Westropp of Ballysteem & niece of the wife of John Westropp of Attyflin alluded to below.

53. Sheriff of Co. Limerick 1745. He disinherited the Ballysteen Westroppps (“Tom” in the diary), owing to a petty quarrel about stables for racehorses & left estates to his
second cousin Ralph of Lismehane. Attlylin belonged to O'Brien of Carrigogunneill 1584 & eventually was granted to James Duke of York, James II, from whom it was confiscated 1688 & purchased by Montiford Westropp junior in 1703, John being his only son.

54. These miscellaneous connections are best shown in a table:

![Family Tree Diagram]

55. Strasburgh now Mahonsburgh on the Inch river a few miles from Ennis, a residence of the Daxons.

56. Edward & Christopher O'Brien, eldest & fourth sons of Christopher O'Brien senior of Ennistymon. Edward afterwards entered the army and was Governor of the Isle of France where he died before 1816. The family descended from Prince Conor O'Brien (1528-40) through his younger son Sir Donnell. His son Tyrrelagh or Turloch was a man of some note. He was one of the signatories of Perrot's Deed 1584 & was granted Quin Abbey. His son Donald behaved with great humanity to the protestants in 1642. He gave crowds of them food & shelter & helped them to England. The Parliament recognized his kindness to the settlers & treated him with consideration in 1653-6. Ennistymon passed to the McNamaras through the Finucanes thus:

![Continued Family Tree Diagram]

57. An estate of the Earl of Thomond near Bunratty in 1582. Purchased by the Westropps: partly in 1673 by Montiford, partly in 1712 by his sons Ralph & Robert. The head rents are still paid (1887) to the Studdert's as holding the manor of Bunratty. Ralph Westropp used to pay "2 fatt hoggs & fatt muttons & a couple of capons" beside head rent & had to support a protestant horseman with horse, pistols & provisions for one month when called upon to do so.
58. Son of Cornelius. See note 41 supra.

59. Frank McNamara of Doolin, born 1750, High Sheriff 1789, married 1774 Jane, youngest daughter of George Stamer of Carnelly. The family is very ancient. Meanma distinguished himself at Clontarf in 1014. His descendant the eponymous Cumarra (sea dog) died 1099. They became princes of Clancullen, S.E. Thomond, having migrated from Connemara which still bears their name. This family founded, endowed & more than once restored the noble Abbey of Quin on the site of a demolished fortress of the Norman De Clares (1350.1402.1433). The clan had nearly 60 castles in the time of the Tudors. John Shane Fin McNamara, knight of the shire for Clare, was party to Perrot’s composition 1584. All of these are ancestors in a direct line of the Doolin family. The powerful McNamaras of Ranna were a junior offset descended from Shioida who re-edified Quin Abbey in 1402.


61. A parish priest on good terms with the local gentry. He died 1790 & lies buried in Killowen Abbey. A tomb put up by him in memory of his uncle Rev. Joe Broggy is extant.

62. Kilner Brasier son of Brooke Brasier of Rivers, Co. Limerick, & his wife Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heir of William Johnson of Lisard near Duntrileague, whose wife Amy Massy was aunt to William Stacpoole. The Brasier family have now adopted the name Creagh.

63. William son of Richard Daxon of Tubbernauley & Kilmarne, a relative of the Burtons & Vandeleurs, was born 1727, High Sheriff of Clare 1790, died January 10th 1803 & was buried in Killowen Abbey where his son erected a large tomb.

64. Probably “old Will” Blood of Rexton. He was sheriff 1774 & died 1784. Ancestor of the Bloods of Cranagher, Mr. Bagot Blood & others. The family was founded in Ireland about 1595 by Edmund Blood, an officer in Lord Inchiquin’s army & a son of Edmond Blood of Macknay, Derbyshire (see charter of Ennis note 34). His son Neptune (so called because born at sea when his parents migrated to Ireland) was Dean of Killfenora. One of the family is notorious for his attempt to steal the crown jewels in the time of Charles II (but where is the flock without a black sheep?). They were a very numerous, well-to-do & (except the Colonel) respectable race.

65. The Music Hall where Kenmare’s shop now stands & Handel’s Messiah was first performed.

66. The two sons of Hugh Dillon Massy. Charles was afterwards Rector of Doonas & unfortunately conspicuous by the elopement of his wife (a Ross Lewin) with Lord Headfort & the spirited speech of Curran on his behalf.


68. Andrew, son of Charles Creagh of Caherbane. Married a daughter of Edward Fitzgerald of Carrigoran.

69. Thomas Studdert of Bunratty, born 1748, married Anne, daughter of James Fitzgerald of Shepperton. Head of this numerous & influential family who derive from George Stothert who migrated from Cumberland to Antrim in the time of the great
civil war. His son George born 1652 entered Trinity College Dublin July 6th 1671, scholar 1673, B.A. 1675, M.A. 1678, went into orders and was afterwards Rector of Rathkeale Prebendary of Kilpeacon & chancellor of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Limerick. He was chaplain to King William in 1691. His son Thomas married an heiress of the Cusacks of Kilkishen (Fig. 9), whence this estate came into the family. He eventually purchased Bunnatty, was High Sheriff of Clare in 1797 & father of the Thomas of the diary.

70. Rt. Hon. James Fitzgerald, of an old Cork branch of the princely Geraldines, called to the bar 1769; prime sergeant, father of William afterwards 2nd Lord Vesey & Fitzgerald, chancellor of the Exchequer, defeated by Daniel O Connell in the Clare election 1828. A good portrait of him is at Edenvale in his scarlet robes. From a daughter of James Fitzgerald spring the family now of Moyreisk.

71. [Westropp provides no note 71, for Francis Drew in text.]

72. Respectively, sons of James Grant (see note 54) & Ralph Westropp (see note 24).

73. She eventually married her cousin Andrew Stacpoole of Ballyalla & died young. The present family of Edenvale derive from her brother Richard John Delazouche Stacpoole (second son of William the diarist) who was nearly disinherited by his half-brother George in favour of the Lynches & other sinister offshoots.

74. William Spaight of Corbally, son of William Spaight of Mountpleasant, Co. Clare, brother-in-law of Boyle Vandaleur of Rahalane. The family originally came from Woolwich temp. Elizabeth whence Thomas Spaight migrated to Ireland & died 1665. His son & namesake became seneschal of the Earls of Thomond & was a wealthy & influential gentleman. His portrait exists at Burrane & is published in Canon Dwyer’s work on Killaloe. He was on the grand jury which voted the address to Charles II & died 1697.

75. Son of Poole Westropp of Fortanne Robert died in 1826, having fallen off his horse on his way home from Tulla petty sessions. His wife died shortly after from the shock.

76. Note to William’s credit this gap from March 1773 to May 1779 synchronizes with his first marriage 1773 to his wife’s death in 1775, & that the list ends in 1788, some time before William’s second marriage with Honora French.

77. The old Augustinian nunnery of Killaloe [recte: Killone], (Fig. 10) a monastery of St. John the Baptist founded by King Donald O’Brien in a pleasantly sheltered corner of the hills above Newhall Lake. The church, with a fine romanquesque two light window, is tolerably perfect but only one side of the domestic buildings remain. The Stacpooles now bury at the west end of the church.
a. Note the Williams married Mary pop. from March 1773 to May 1774 in synchronism with his sister marriage in 1773 to his wife’s death in 1775, and that the list ends in 1788. Some time before William second marriage with Monica Punch.

b. The old Augustinian priory of Killone or monastery of St John the Baptist founded by King Conell in a pleasantly sheltered corner of the hills above Neatfield Field. The church with a fine romantic but two light window is tolerably perfect, but only, one side of the domestic buildings remain. The Stagpoole also glory at the west end of the church.

c. George William Stagpoole, B.A. 1792, LL.B. 1795, LL.D. 1799. George, judging from the books left by him, was fond of very abstruse subjects, many rather fanciful, as speculative archaeology & mythology, early history of man & c. He died August 1822. He was an enormous man, nearly 7 feet high & broad in proportion. Although very handsome & agreeable when he chose to be so, he avoided company & strongly objected to anyone walking behind him, as he had some strange fancy that he was fated to be stabbed. He was succeeded by his brother Richard.

78. George William Stagpoole, B.A. 1792, LL.B. 1795, LL.D. 1799. George, judging from the books left by him, was fond of very abstruse subjects, many rather fanciful, as speculative archaeology & mythology, early history of man & c. He died August 1822. He was an enormous man, nearly 7 feet high & broad in proportion. Although very handsome & agreeable when he chose to be so, he avoided company & strongly objected to anyone walking behind him, as he had some strange fancy that he was fated to be stabbed. He was succeeded by his brother Richard.

APPENDIX A

(At Edenvale) Jan 1st 1784 speaking of his brother Wms 2nd marriage Geo Stagpoole writes “I imparted the undisguised sentiments of your heart to MFs Evans, Mrs Carr & Miss Stamer & the Tear of Gladness in Their Eyes expressed The undiscribable satisfaction at your ardent affection for Their Sister & I have some reason to imagine that Your Fair partner has wrote to them in a tenor of reciprocity to your letter to me.”
From Geo Wm Stacpoole to his father at Edenvale—Jan 10th 1795 "vile calumny will bark, in my Gmother’s letters she arraigns my undutiful conduct in accepting a commission without your advice, without bestowing a moments thought on the manner in which it was given; x x She in the next place accuses me of indulging in every excess & sees me plunged in every species of dissipation, her last letter was concise but so severe that it has received no answer x x I shall leave Mrs Burton to discover who has real affection & esteem unsullied by interested views. It would shock yf delicate mind to know the Billingsgate language which adds dignity to the style & throws lustre on the composition in the epistolary correspondence between my cousin William and Sir H Massy. the respectful terms of ‘scoundrel’, ‘rascal’, ‘swindler’, ‘liar’, being now exhausted they must take all the opprobrious epithets in the aggregate & from them form something new expressive of contempt horror & detestation the quarrel was about a mare left with Sir H M by W.S; my uncle Massey (who declares he never will forgive William) wishes they were tied as villains should ever be. The French fleet of 36 sail & 26 frigates ride in the channel & wait the arrival of Lord Bridport who has been ordered by the Admiralty to take on him the command as Lord Howe is ill” x x x x x x Geo Wm Stacpoole.

15th March 1796 Massy Stacpoole to his nephew Geo Wm Stacpoole
My dearest Nephew. I received your letter of kind enquiry, but to late for relief, the deed is done & fate & providence have left me in my old days to droop for ever more. My good & honourable son George is dead at Guardiloupe, in an enemies country; sufficient to say that the world is now to me a hell on earth. I have not as yet received more particulars of his death than that of a letter of a brother officer of his, landed at Plymouth who writes the account but says he will be in London in about 10 days & call upon me x x x You called upon me & that very night I left town for Deal to see poor Hassard who, with his boat’s crew, were swamped & all had like to be drowned; he is now x x x after the Dutch fleet & I will not be surprised to hear of his loss x x x after; but what will become of me? I am now quite reconciled I wrote to yf good father & my dear brother—Farewell my dear nephew & believe me you have one of the first places in the heart of yf most unfortunate & ever unhappy uncle—

M Stacpoole

Set May 21st 1796. My dear Father x x An offer was made to Wm Stacpoole of a seat for the borough of Maldon in Essex. We went down on Wednesday, attended by two agents & an attorney, harangued the freemen, gave them feasts & we keep open house for the entertainment of the electors. We have now every prospect of success, bells ringing, ballets singing and colours flying. They have among many other songs, composed one which they sing as God save the King
See noble Stacpoole comes
Maldon rejoice—
While bells melodious ring
And make the air to ring
sound trumpets beat the drums
We’ll all in chorus sing
Stacpoole’s our choice!
With their songs they confuse the poor people & in the midst of their amazement they solicit their support. If the present members unite against him, he will make an honorable retreat receiving the thanks of the towns men for his spirited conduct in opposing the ministerial influence.”

George Wm Staipoole

20 July 1796. Wm Staipoole to his son Geo Wm Staipoole—
I suppose yr uncle has wrote to you as to the deaths of John Ross Lewin & Frank Staipoole of the cursed yellow fever in Jamaica the former the 16th March. the latter in May Furtfergus house is really to be pitied. the loss is more aggravated by the prospect that arises in his successor—x x x Lord Doneraile & family have Anagh. Last Saturday I attended Ennis assizes Judge Finucane & Baron George the Judges. Joe Peacock foreman & a jury sadly packed for the purpose of disposing of the office of conservators of the roads. x x is at £50. each John Morony, Ralph Morony, Tom Keane, Capt Blaze Westrop, Will Henn, Dan Finucane, Ant Colpoys, John Tymons; Tom Morony sold all the offices under him—the sub shercvalty for 300£ to Mr oMeara, Jailor’s place for 35 guineas to Lynch. Ennis is now & in future to be on the Munster circuit & always to be the first, then Limerick, Tralee & Cork.”

Will of William Staipoole of Edenvale Ap 26th 1795. Estates named Farighy, Carrowgloch, Tullyher & Anah &c. Legatees his children Geo Wm Staip & Richd John Delazouche Staipoole, wife Honora to whom he leaves his “coach & four her own riding horse & mare. all apparatus belonging to them. any part of my furniture, linen, wine & other liquors” & cows &c with £100 “for mourning”, sisters Jane & Lucy, brother Massy S. & latter’s sons Geo & Hassard & John S. His (W.S’s) Stepchildren Wm & Mary French, cousin Wm S of Claghanatany. His illegitimate children James, Stephen, Edmond, Francis & Christopher “who are to retain their mother’s name Lynch”. His friend Rev Dan Broggie, brother John Staipoole. “To be buried in my family vault in Ennis church in the most private manner possible, without hearse, scar or cyprus, silently without a screech or a squall.” Exors wife Honora, son George, brother John & stepson W French. Proved at Dublin 1800. But a letter of his son’s, Oct 5th 1796, seems to imply that William was then dead—

APPENDIX B

Excerpts from Staipoole papers & a few others. Attyllin MSS.
1636. Wedding presents given by Bartholomeus Staipoole to Mary dau of Dr Wm. Arthure of Limerick—
A small goulde crosse, a goulde ring, 2 small ditto, 6 pounds in silver, a small case instruments, a payer of imbroadered gloves, 4 yerades of satten rybbyne, 2 yerades of broad sattynye rybbine, 1½ yerade of Boane lace at 8/- peryearde, 1 blak of duble currl, 1 payer of whyte gloves, 1 payer of spanish leder shoes & yeartles of blak pynked sattin, 9 yerades of skey colored tabbey, 1 whyte fan with a silver handle, 1 crowne lowe hood, 6 payers of whyte gloves, 4 yerades of 8d broad sattyn rybbine, 4 yerades of french sarge with 5 oz silver lace, 1 large taffeta hood, 1 crowne lowe hood, 2 ivoraye combes, 6 payers of whyte gloves, 1 pr cordouen gloves, a small silver scale—

3 (Patent Rolls)

Henry Earl of Thomond leases Ffarighee in the Barony of Ibricane Co Clare to Wm Stacpoole Gent May 8th 1714—
Pardon to Massy Stacpoole Esqre licensed to hold two yearly fairs at Clonroad Co Clare 12th January 1775.

Henry Earl of Thomond to John Stacpoole lands of Claghanaviletinny. Ballymacvea West & Reyns in Ibricane & ffarower & Ballymecalla in Islands Barony. Sep 26th 1712—same to William Stacpoole. John Whites tenements in Ennis and Annagh in Ibricane—same date—
John Stacpoole (from same) Murtogh Dunnahows tenements & Patk Wolfe’s tenements in Ennis—same date—
same (Earl T) to Wm Stacpoole lands of Carlinduffe in Ibricane

4 (Dublin Registry of Deeds Office)

28th & 29th 1742/sic/. John Brady of Raheens Co Clare, eldest son & heir at law of John Brady late of Raheens & John Stacpoole of Claghanetinny Clare on 1st part & Wm Stacpoole of Enagh Co Clare on the other, cites indenture Novr 1728. a portion of £1200 having been paid with John Brady’s wife Mary Brady als Stacpoole (the jointure being £90). deed confirms 1728 settlement, giving all land in trust to Stacpoole. John Brady senior died 1732. & was succeeded by his eldest son the said John. If Mary survive her husband & have issue male then living she shall have £90 per ann, but should she have no iss male she shall have £160 off said lands Reg’d 28th Novr 1743 at Dublin

5 (At Edenvale)

Dublin Castle 29 Jan 1784 Sir, I am commanded by my Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you that his excellency has appointed you to be High Sheriff of the Co of Clare & desires you will pass yr patent forthwith for the said office. I have the honour to be, Sir, yr most obedient humble servant, L Hamilton To Wm Stacpoole of Edenvale Esqre High Sheriff elect for the Co of Clare—

6 (At Attyflyn)

Expenses of attending the office of Sheriff paid by me Wm Stamer 1779
From Oct 24th to 29th. To Bailiff 2.8½ + 2.8½ + 2.8½
Decr 6th to ditto being balance due to them for their attendante £1-10s-0d
Ap 5th For the hire of two horses to meet the Judges 5/5
Ap 12th To the Trumpeter £1..2..9. ditto 12th to Turnkey for his assistance in providing a hang man £1-8s-5d

64
To board of ditto the hang man from 12th Apr to 1 May at 1/1 per day 19/6
May 1st to ditto in full £3..8..8. May 3rd to Mr John Boyce to defray the expenses of
defending us from the affidavit sworn against us by Mr Fostre £15..1..4.

7 (At Attyflin)
Dear Stamer. Your letter of the 14th did not reach me until this day. It gave me enough to
do to be able to send you the affidavit (which is unavoidably long) by this post. I don't
think I have left any part of Mr Scott's affidavit unanswered, nor do I think I have
trespassed on the delicacy of yf conscience. I feel the effects of the treasurer's death by the
anxious canvassing going forward here, it will be, as tis said, a close thing, but there is no
guessing as Justices are growing as fast as plants in a hothouse It was conveyed to me
upon my coming to town, that the Stacpooles were offended & resolved to resent it. It was
to put me on my guard I fancy I have thought better of the business. There is nothing new
that is not in the public prints I am dear Sir &c—Lau Comyn. Dublin 22 Nov 1783—

8 (Letter at Edenvale)
My dear Father x x x I was fortunate enough to buy a gown almost new for 3 guineas. Last
Wednesday a gentleman shot a boy in the Library for throwing snow balls at him x x x
yf dutiful son Geo Wm Stacpoole. The College Dublin Jan 17th 1789—

9 (Prayerbook Doonass)
Hugh Dillon Massy of Doonass was married to Miss Elizabeth Stacpoole. Aug 4th 1766

10 (Title deed Attyflin)
1671 Nov 23rd Wm Hamilton of Erenagh Down to Montifort Westroppe of Ballynamey
Clare. Ballynaa, Clonkery & Mohanna Co Clare 370 Acres for £500. Witnesses Barth
Stacpole (the Recorder), Don O Brien (of Lemenagh), Hen Lee, Wm Yorke &c &c