Vol 7 1953

NORTH MUNSTER ANTIQUARIAN JOURNAL

Vol. 6. 1953. No. 5.

NOTE—The authors of the various papers and reviews are solely responsible for the views expressed.

The Butlers of County Clare

(Continued)

by

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Dunboyne.

James, 14/4 Lord Dunboyne, raised forces for the Catholic Confederates in 1641 (*supra*) and took part in the operations that followed. He was outlawed in the counties of Kildare and Cork in 1642 (122), and was later ordered to be transplanted into Clare. But fortune favoured him at the Restoration, for he was one of the 36 Nominees mentioned in the King's Declaration of 1660 for loyal service, and his estates were expressly saved from confiscation by the Act of Settlement. He did not, therefore, in the event, settle in Clare; nor did any of his direct descendants live there. But towards the end of the eighteenth century another branch of the family (from whom the present peer descends) came to settle in the county. Their ancestor was Edward Butler of Clare, Co. Tipperary, a son of the 12/2 Lord Dunboyne by Lady Catherine O'Brien, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Thomond.(123) Edward Butler, a forfeiting proprietor in 1641, was an officer in the Confederate forces that besieged Cashel in January, 1642.(124) His son, James, married Joan Cantwell, who on 19 March, 1689, filed a Bill of Chancery claiming the recovery of such lands as Edward had settled as her jointure. (125)

Their great-grandson, James, was sent to France to be educated. His uncle, Thomas Butler, one of the Wild Geese, was a major in the Imperial service, and through his interest James obtained a commission in that service, in which he spent the active years of his life. On his retirement he returned to his native land and settled in Co. Clare, where he died in 1784. He was father of James Butler of Ballyvannion, who became heir to the Dunboyne peerage on the death of the 22/12 baron, the erstwhile Bishop of Cork.

This prelate fell a victim to the wiles of an ambitious and intriguing relative, Maria Butler,(126) who induced him to resign his see and apply

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122. *Dunboyne MSS*; D'Alton, *K. James' Army List* under 'Lord Galmoy." See also Appendix XII.

123. *Funeral Entr.* Vol. 5, p.48. (G.O).

124. Depos. Archibald Campbell. *O'Dwyers of Kilnamanagh*, p.153.

125. *Dunboyne MSS.* She was dau. of Capt. John Cantwell of Moycarkey, Co. Tipp.

126. Dau. of Theobald Butler of Milford, Co. Tipp., descended from Theobald Butler, 3rd s. of 12/2 Lord Dunboyne. *Dunboyne MSS; Burke's Peerage* and *L.G. (Irel)* (under *Butler-Kearney of Drom*). Lady Dunboyne mar. 2nd, John Hubert Moore of Shannon Grove, King's Co., and d. 1860 *aet.* 96.

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to the Pope for a dispensation to marry her. His petition was rejected, whereupon the infatuated cleric "abjured the errors of the Church of Rome" and married the lady of his choice, which did not, however, prove a very happy one. The union was unfruitful. At the close of his life the ex-bishop was reconciled to his former communion, and salved his conscience—at the expense of his successors in the title—by leaving the reversion of the family estates in Co. Meath to the Catholic seminary of Maynooth, subject to the life interest of his sister, Mrs. Catherine O'Brien-Butler. And so Dunboyne Castle passed away from the male line of the Butler barons after a tenure of five centuries. It remained, however, in the female line until our own time, by virtue of a settlement made between the O'Brien-Butlers(127) and the Maynooth trustees, whereby the latter reliquished their reversionary rights in consideration of an annuity charged in the states.

Owing to two attainers in the seventeenth century, the Dunboyne title had not been legally recognised over a long period, the holders being officially described as, e.g., "James Butler, calling himself Lord Dunboyne." But after the death of the bishop-baron in 1800, his successor set himself the formidable task of obtaining a reversal of the outlawries of the 14/4 and 15/5 barons. As to these, James, 14/4 Lord Dunboyne, was outlawed in the counties of Cork and Kildare in 1642. The ingenuity of the petitioner's lawyers, however, discovered certain technical defects in the record of outlawry.(128) Pierce, 15/5 Baron, had been indicted for high treason in 1691 (for having supported his lawful sovereign King James) and he, too, was outlawed. But as the outlawry was not pronounced until two years after his death, it was contended that this amounted to an error of fact which vitiated the sentence.(129) The petitioner's submissions were eventually accepted by the Crown, and on 26 October, 1827, the outlawries of both peers were reversed.(130) In announcing the joyful tidings to his son and heir, Lord Dunboyne referred with pardonable pride to "this glorious termination of my long and arduous exertions." But there was still a long way to go; for as he was a distant cousin of his predecessor, the petitioner had to prove that no more closely related heirs were extant, and it was not until 1860 that the Committee for Privileges finally allowed the claim, and confirmed the right of his son and heir, Theobald, to the title.

This peer (the 24/14 Baron) was an antiquary and genealogist. A collection of newspaper cuttings (mainly from Co. Clare journals) from the close of the eighteenth century, made by him, is in the National

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127. The O'Briens of Bansha, Co. Tipp. are paternally O'Briens of the family of MacBrien Gonagh *(Ui Cuanach)*. They acquired the Bansha estate through the marriage of Morgan O'Brien of Ballyphilip, Co. Limerick, with Catherine, dau. and co-heir of Capt. Edward Butler of Bansha, a descendant of Piers fitzThomas, natural s. of Thos., 10th Earl of Ormonde.

128. It was submitted that (i) the words *nec aliquis eorum* were not added as should be done, since other persons were joined in the writs of Exigeat; (ii) it did not appear by the return to the writ directed to the Sheriff of Kildare, in what year the five exactions mentioned therein were made; (iii) no name of the Sheriff was subscribed to the writ directed to the Sheriff of Cork; (iv) no judgment appeared by the return to the writ to have been rendered by the Coroner of Co. Cork. *Dunboyne MSS.*

129. It was further submitted that he had never any command in James II's army; that he had not acted against the Govt. of Wm. and Mary; and that the outlawry was in the name of Peter, not Pierce. *ibid.*

130. Appendix XII.

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Library, Dublin; but as it has not been yet catalogued its existence is not generally known. Lord Dunboyne was a Representative Peer for Ireland, as was also the 26/16 Baron. The last mentioned was grandfather of the present peer, Patrick Theobald, 28/18 Lord Dunboyne, who served with the Irish Guards in the Second World War, and is a barrister of the Middle Temple. Lord Dunboyne married in 1950, Miss Anne Mallet, daughter of Sir Victor Mallet, G.C.M.G., British Ambassador in Rome, by whom he has a son and heir, the Hon. John Butler.

CREGG.

In a pedigree by Sir William Betham,(131) Pierce Butler, of Ballygegan, is shown as a brother of James of Doon and Sir Toby. That James had a younger brother named Pierce is not disputed; but it does not follow that this Pierce was the same person as Pierce Butler, of Ballygegan. The latter had two grants under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation, totalling 975 acres,(132) so if Betham is correct, grants were made to both father and son, which would be very unusual. But what is more extraordinary is that he, a younger son, should have obtained this extensive grant, seeing that James of Doon, his supposed elder brother, had none. The late Mr. G. D. Burtchaell, Deputy Ulster, commenting on this entry in the Betham pedigree, wrote as follows: —

> There is, it would appear, no evidence that Piers Butler, of Ballygegan, Co. Galway, was brother of James of Doone and Sir Theobald. The pedigree here, deducing this family from that of Kiltorcan, Co. Kilkenny, although unreliable in the earlier generations, appears to be correct so far as I have been able to verify it.

The pedigree in Ulster Office to which reference is here made was compiled by Hawkins, Ulster, *cir.* 1703. (133) Now Pierce Butler, of Ballygegan, was then living, and it may be assumed that he was consulted in its preparation. If he was, it is almost inconceivable that if he were a brother of James and Sir Theobald, he would have omitted to mention this. Moreover, both James and Sir Toby were alive in 1703, and the latter was actually living in Dublin, so Hawkins would have no difficulty in ascertaining that that all three were brothers, if such were the case. The Kiltorcan descent of the Cregg family (which is also to be found in O'Ferrall's *Linea Antiqua*) is, we think, to be preferred to the Betham pedigree. There are, however, some points about it which still need clarification. It is hoped that the *Ormond Deeds,* now being prepared for publication, may clear these up; until then it would be safer to accept it with some reserve.

Since the date of Mr. Burtchaell's investigations several volumes of *Ormond Deeds* have been published. They contain a number of references to the Kiltorcan family, the first of whom was Piers Butler, fourth son of the second Earl of Ormonde. This Piers paid 10/- for Royal service for the lands of Kiltorcan on 29 November, 1419.(134) His son, James, paid twelve pence in April, 1455, for pasturing the lands of Lesconthy.(135) He

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131. *ADD. MSS* 23688 *"Chaos."*

132. He had a grant of 50 acres I.P.M. 21 June, 1678, and a further grant of 554 acres Statute, on 16 March, 1682.

133. William Hawkins, Ulster King at Arms, 1698-1722.

134. *Orm. D.* Vol. 2, p.23.

135. *Orm. D.* Vol. 3, p.156.

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had a son, Walter, whose son, Piers Butler, of Kiltorcan, was in 1536/7 due to pay 10/- Royal service when scutage was enforced.(136) His son, Piers 'Oge,' was assessed at one-twelfth of a plowland for Kiltorcan by Francis Lovell in his book of the plowlands called 'horsemens' beds' (5 Feb., 1566).(137) Piers 'Oge' had two sons—Theobald, who was pardoned in 1584 and died *ante* 1589; and James, who is mentioned in the findings of a commission to establish the bounds of the Earl of Ormonde's ancient estates. The commissioners in their return (10 Feb. 1592) found: —

> That the meare of the lower Derrenehenchy doth stand except a parcell thereof between Kiltorkan and Dirrenehenchy called Ayte Croghsane Edowly as the same meare leadeth thro' turf moore untill it com to Dromliegh . . . . . which meare James Butler fitz Pierce and his tenants dwelling at Kiltorkan did break this present yere, and encroched within the same meare 12 acres of turf moore and pasture.

Theobald Butler had a son, James, who had two sons, Piers, who died without issue, and Edmond, of Kiltorcan, whose name appears among the old proprietors as holding 265 acres in Kilkenny in 1641. He was included in the list of potential Nominees furnished to the Duke of Ormonde,(138) and he is shown in the List of Transplanted persons as having had 100 acres of profitable land granted to him (Decree dated 24 May, 1655: Final Settlement 23 October, 1656). This Edmond, according to Hawkins, was father of Pierce of Ballygegan, Co. Galway, who, as already mentioned, had grants under the Act of Settlement. They included the lands of Cregg and Ballygegan.

Although Pierce Butler was an adherent of James II, he was deprived of considerable property by the repeal of the Act of Settlement in 1689; but he recovered it after the Treaty of Limerick. His eldest son, Theobald, was also a Jacobite, and was one of *posse comitatus* of Co. Galway in 1689-91, which, under the High Sheriff (John Power), caused considerable discomfiture to the Williamite party. Theobald was a officer in King James' army, but elected to remain in Ireland after the capitulation of Limerick. His sword was not, however, allowed to rust, for he was commissioned in Major-Gen. George's Regiment of Foot on 5 March, 1708, and later promoted captain in the Earl of Inchiquin's Regiment.

Theobald Butler married Helena O'Shaughnessy, daughter and co-heiress of Roger O'Shaughnessy, of Gort(139) by the Hon. Helen O'Brien, daughter of the 2nd Lord Clare. Through this alliance the Butlers of Cregg became the representatives in the female line of the chiefs of Cineal Aodh, and the crozier of their ancestor, St. Colman MacDuagh, passed into the custody of the Butlers. This crozier was held in great veneration by the peasantry. Canon Fahey tells us he knew an old man whose father obtained a loan of it from the Cregg family in order to secure the return of goods that had been fradulently obtained, as the crozier was believed

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136. *Orm. D.* Vol. 4, p.303.

137. *Orm. D.* Vol. 5, pp. 154/166.

138. *Prendergast MSS*, King's Inn Libr. Vol. IV, p.522.

139. He is described in *Lodge's Peerage of Ire. (Archdall ed.* 1789*)* Vol. II, p.35 as "Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy of Gortinhegourah, Co. Galway, Bart." This description is, however, a mistake for, though his father, gr. f. and gr. gr. f. were knights, he himself was neither knight nor baronet. He was Capt. in Clare's Dragoons, and was attainted as "Esquire" in 1691. *G.E.C's Complete Baronetage*, Vol. 1V ,1665-1707, p.224. For the O'Shaughnessy pedigree see *The Genealogies, Tribes and Customs of Hy-Fiachcrach,* by O'Donovan (who made use of the pedigree compiled by Peter Connell and Cornet Butler) and Blake-Forster, *Ir. Chieftains*, p.705. See also nn. 46 and 62 (*supra*).

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to posses miraculous powers in that respect.(140) But after the Butlers conformed they lost interest in their sacred heirloom, and, it would seem, handed it over to the keeper of Kilmacduagh, from whom Wakefield (141) tried to purchase it in the 1820's. The crozier was then in tolerably good condition; but when he succeeded in buying it a few years later on behalf of George Petrie, the antiquary, it had become injured through being lent out by the keeper.

It is stated by Miss Stokes in *Early Christian Art in Ireland* that the crozier was obtained from the O'Hynys, " who succeeded the O'Shaughnessies in the custodianship," but no authority is given for this. The O'Heynes *alias* Hynes were Herenaghs (hereditary tenants-in-chief) of the See of Kilmacduagh, and were at one time overlords of the O'Shaughnessies. But their fortunes began to decline in the reign of James I, though the O'Shaughnessies, we are told, ' remaigned a rich and hable family.'(142) The Cromwellian confiscations well-nigh completed the ruin of the O'Heynes, and there is no record of any later intermarriage between them and the O'Shaughnessies that would account for the acquisition of the crozier by the O'Hynes through descent. It may be that the keeper to whom the Butlers gave the crozier, bore the name of Hynes (a common one in the locality) and that he held himself out as the hereditary custodian in order to enhance the value of the loan in the eyes of superstitious borrowers. The crozier was acquired by the Royal Irish Academy in 1868 after Petrie's death, and the little that now remains of it may be seen in the National Museum, Dublin.

Reverting to the Butlers. In 1737, Helena Butler (*née* O'Shaughnessy) made over considerable property in Co. Galway to her eldest son, Francis,(143) who deemed it prudent to conform to the established Church, since when the Cregg family have been of that persuasion. Francis Butler, who was a magistrate for Cos. Clare and Galway, was succeeded by his son, Walter, who served as High Sheriff of the latter county in 1801. The Butlers of Cregg lived in the lavish style of the old Irish gentry, without taking heed for the morrow, and came to grief in the days of the Great Famine, when their property was sold in the Encumbered Estates Court to a London lawyer named Lattey, in whose family it remained until sold to the tenants under the Land Purchase Acts.

DERRYCLOONEY.

Thomas Butler fitz John of Derryclooney, Co. Tipperary, was a fellow officer of James Butler of Boytonrath in the 7th Company of Foot raised in the Barony of Middlethird in 1641 (*supra*), and was tried with him before the Cromwellian Court at Clonmel in 1652/3 for alleged murders at the siege of Golden Castle. But Thomas was more fortunate than his kinsman, for he was acquitted on the ground that, out of affection for the English interest, he had relieved the warders with ammunition and

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140. *History of Diocese of Kilmacduagh.* See also Blake-Forster, *ibid.* p.436, note 20.

141. Edward Wakefield, author of *Ireland, Statistical and Political* (1812). Father of Edward Gibbon Wakefield (*D.N.B.*).

142. When O'Donovan visited the neighbourhood in 1839 the senior representative of the once powerful chiefs was known locally as " Heynes the process-server " from his modest calling. He was fifth in descent from Martin O'Heyne, who was driven from Ardrahan Castle by Ireton. *Survey Letters,* Vol. I, p.27.

143. Deed dated 15 Jan., 1737. The lands settled on Francis Butler were Ballygegan, Cregg, Creggboy, Drumbieane, Burra, Scariff, Knockobode, Knockgillereagh, Rathlough and Annagh, all in Co. Galway.

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victuals. He was transplanted into Clare under Certificate dated 20 May, 1656, and in 1659 was tenant of the lands of Bunnahow (the coincidence of the name has confused some genealogists, and given rise to the erroneous belief that he was ancestor to the later Butlers of Bunnahow). After the Restoration, Thomas Butler returned to Derryclooney, but he retained his lands in Clare, where his son, Theobald, also had a grant under the Act of Settlement. Some of these (including Sonnagh South and Derrycaliff) he mortgaged to William Butler of Rossroe and, as the mortgages were not redeemed, the lands eventually passed into the ownership of the Butlers of Castle Crine.(144)

The ancestry of the Butlers of Derryclooney was discussed by W. F. Butler in *The descendants of James, ninth Earl of Ormond,* where he expressed the view that the Butlers of Derryclooney and of Ballycarron (his own family) were descended from a natural son of John Butler of Kilcash, father of the 11th Earl of Ormonde. In this connexion he mentioned a family tradition that at the funeral of John Butler of Ballycarron in 1801, the oldest keener ' cried him back ' (i.e. enumerated his ancestors) to ' John of Kilcash.' Mr. Blake Butler agrees that the Butlers of Ballycarron descend from the Derryclooney family, but in *The Barons of Dunboyne* states that the ancestor of the latter was John Butler, a younger son of James, 9th Lord Dunboyne (*ob.* 1508), whose son, Theobald of Derryluscan, had a grant of the lands of Derryclooney on 30 April, 1584. Theobald married Katherine, daughter of Sir Cormac MacCarthy Reagh, and relict of John Butler of Kilcash, and Mr. Blake Butler suggests that the keener's reference to Kilcash might be accounted for by the fact that Katharine MacCarthy was ancestress of both the Kilcash and Derryclooney families.

Other Butler Grantees.

Of the numerous Butlers whose estates were confiscated under the Commonwealth, only twenty-three in all (including Ormonde himself) had grants under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation. Of these, nine had grants of land in Clare. In addition to those already mentioned, were: —

(a) Richard, Earl of Arran (Ormonde's younger son).

(b) Ellen and Margaret Butler, daughters of Richard Butler of Derryluscan, Co. Tipperary. Ellen married Hardbread Norman of Garrandrakoy, Co. Tipperary, and, by writing dated 1 October, 1692, they sold their interest in the lands of Clonturnoy, Caparoe, Corrocluoin and Carhunoolaghnagg to William Butler of Rossroe. Margaret was wife of Anthony Savage of Glyn, Co. Waterford; and, by Lease and Release dated 10/11 August, 1700, she and her husband disposed of their interest in the same lands to William Butler, who thus acquired the whole estate.

(c) Pierce Butler and Ellin, his wife, had a grant of Corbally and Ballyhickey (enrolled 2 July, 1677). Pierce was Titulado of this property in 1659.

(d) Thomas, son of John Butler, had a grant of Derrycrossane and Aghera in the Barony of Clonderlaw (enrolled 28 February, 1679). He was Titulado of the same in 1659.

144. *Cas. Crine Rental,* 1720; denominations 2-5.

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(e) Richard Butler had a grant of Cappanagarane, Barony of Clonderlaw (enrolled 28 March, 1680), of which he was Titulado in 1629.

SEATS.

It may of interest to give a brief account of some of the homes of the Butlers, both before and after their removal into Clare and Connaught.

Grallagh.

The lands of Grallagh came to the Butlers by conveyance dated 21 and 28 September, 1432, from Thomas Barret, vicar of Fethard, to Edmond, son of James le Botiller. On 5 August, 1524, these lands were settled by James, 10 Lord Dunboyne on his younger son Peter (Piers).(145) On the latter's death Grallagh passed to his son James, whose son, Edmond Butler of Boytonrath, by conveyance dated 5 October, 1592, granted all his "rights, titles and interest in the lands of Grallagh to James Butler, Baron of Dunboyne." The castle later became the seat of Lord Dunboyne's fifth son, James Butler, described as "a man of great power, means and alliance, being married to Lady Ellen Butler." She was a daughter of Walter "of the Rosaries," 11th Earl of Ormonde. The keep of Grallagh Castle still stands. A stone staircase provides ascent to the summit. It is situate in the parish of Graystown, and barony of Middlethird, Co. Tipperary.

Boytonrath.

James Butler, 10th Baron of Dunboyne, was shown to be seized of the lands of Boytonrath by Inquisition taken at Dunboyne on 28 January, 1533. These and other lands were purchased by Edmond Butler from James 12/2 Lord Dunboyne by an indenture which describes them as containing one and a half carrucates.(146) Boytonrath remained a seat of Edmond Butler's descendants for five generations. It is situate in the parish of the same name, and barony of Middlethird. No trace of the manor house remains.

Shranagalloon.

Richard and Hugh O'Grady were forfeiting proprietors of Shranagalloon in 1641.(147) James Butler II is shown as tenant in 1659, and he made it his residence. He is said to have been so unnerved by the unsettled state of the times that he retired into the fastnesses of the north Clare mountains, from which he could not be induced to venture. When his son, Theobald (Sir Toby), entered the Inner Temple, he was described as "of Sranagolen in Come Clare in Hibernia," but after his call to the Bar, he lived in Dublin, where he had a house in St. Nicholas Street.

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145. See Appendix III. [I].

146. Carrucate, i.e. an ancient measurement based on an estimate of what a single team could plough within a year. It varied according to the district. Boytonrath actually contained 20 acres "old measurement" equal to 605 acres, I.P.M., or 935 Statute acres. Garrancaninane (conveyed by the same deed) contained 7 a. O.M., 200 a. I.P.M. or 310 a. Stat.

147. Richard O'Grady was father of Morrough O'Grady, Ensign in Col. Charles O'Brien's Regt. of Infantry, 1689-90, who mar. Elizabeth Butler, dau. of James Butler, of Shranagollen. The O'Gradys were among the principal landowenrs in Inchicronan before the Cromwellian Settlement.

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Doon *alias* Doonmulvihill.

O'Hart states that these lands derived their name from the family of O'Mulvihill, while another writer somewhat fancifully translates it as "the hill of the goats."(148) The Mac Namaras has a grant of Doon by Letters Patent from Henry VII, but nothwithstanding this, they appear to have paid rent to the earls of Thomond.(149) When Conor, 3rd Earl of Thomond, was forced to surrender Clonroad Castle to his uncle, Donogh O'Brien, in 1553, he retired to Doonmulvihill Castle, where he was besieged by Donogh. In 1592, it was found by Inquisition that the lands of Doon in reality belonged to the Queen; but the O'Briens and MacNamaras do not appear to have been disturbed, for in 1641 the Earl of Thomond is shown as owner of Doon, and in a list of the chief rebels who besieged Ballyalla Castle the same year, we find the name "Daniel MacNamara of Doon."(150) On 4 September, 1655, Lord O'Brien (on behalf of his father, the 6th Earl of Thomond) demised Doonmulvihill to John MacNamara of Creevagh for 21 years, the lessee covenanting to repair and roof the castle, and plant an orchard with apple and pear trees. The MacNamaras neglected to perform the covenants, and on 21 February, 1684, the 7th Earl leased the castle and lands to James Butler of Shranagalloon for 21 years. This was followed in 1703 by a lease of 99 years to Sir Toby Butler, who in his turn leased part of the lands of Doon to his elder brother, James Butler III, in 1705, and a further portion on 23 January, 1710.

When he migrated from Tipperary, James made Doon Castle his home, and his son, James Butler IV, lived there, as also did the latter's son, Cornet Butler, until the completion of Millbrooke (*infra*). When he moved there the Cornet executed a family settlement by which his brother Theobald was to have the life use of Doon Castle, which was thereafter to be the dower house for his (the Cornet's) wife, Theresa. She does not however appear to have resided there during her widowhood, and the castle was allowed to fall into decay. Towards the end of the eighteenth century a shooting box was erected on or near the site by John Galwey.(151) to which was given the name Doon Lodge. He had married Alicia Butler, only surviving daughter of James Butler of Kilcommon,(152) and as she had a large charge on the Ballyline estate, her nephew, Augustine Butler, discharged it by making over to her about six hundred acres of the property.

Millbrooke *alias* Ballyline.

Some years before his death James Butler IV commenced to build a house on the townland of Ballyline, which was completed by his son in 1763. It was the perverted taste of the age to give English names to gentlemen's seats, and, following the dictates of fashion, Cornet Butler called his new residence Millbrooke, from a mill that stood on a stream flowing through the demesne. It remained the seat of this branch of the family until early in the nineteenth century, when the lease was determined by the lessors, the Butlers of Kilcommon. When Augustine Butler attained his majority he went to live at Millbrooke, to which he gave its Irish name, Ballyline. The front part of the house was destroyed by fire

148. Mrs. C. Bennett, *The Galweys of Lota*. O'Hara, as usual, cites no authority.
149. Inquisition taken at Knockenegan, 22 Nov. 1577.
150. Frost, *History of Clare*. p.347.
151. Third s. of John Galwey of Lota, and bro. of Richard Galwey of Fort Richard. See nn. 83 98.
152. See n. 98

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in his time, but was re-built. Ballyline House is, or rather was, about a mile on the Ennis side of Crusheen. The mansion was demolished some years ago when the demesne lands were divided into holdings for the tenants, but the handsome entrance gates remained standing until recently. Owing to the loss of Millbrooke, James Blake Butler found himself without a home when he came of age, so he took a small house near Crusheen, called Glenwilliam. He later resided at Stamer Park, where he died in 1849. These Butlers had also a place in Co. Galway orginally known as Mount Vernon, but re-named Thorn Park by Xaverius Blake Butler after he purchased it from his nephew Henry.

Reverting to Sir Toby's descendants, they had a number of abodes during the eighteenth century, among them Castlekeale and Caherbane in Clare, and Kilcommon, Knockgraffon and Fishmoyne *alias* Cardenton in Tipperary; which is rather confusing for genealogists. The list of High Sheriffs in Frost's *History of County Clare* adds to this complexity by describing James Butler of Castlekeale as " of Newmarket." This James, after the death without issue of his elder brother, Theobald, settled at Kilcommon, a finely timbered demesne of 300 acres adjoining his mother's ancestral home, Cahir Castle. In September, 1750, the 9th Lord Cahir made him a lease of Kilcommon for life, and he continued to reside there until his death in 1780.

Bunnahow.

In 1708, the Earl of Thomond set the lands of Bunnahow to Morgan Ryan in trust for Sir Theobald Butler, whose son, James, on 22 March, 1722, made a lease of the lands to his cousin, James Butler of Doon. The latter made over Bunnahow to his younger son, Peter, who built in the 1730's a house that remained the home of his descendants for many generations. A feature of the mansion was the portico, each pillar of which was hewn from a single block of stone. Bunnahow House stood on the borders of Clare and Galway in an extensive demesne which included the lake of the same name. Nothing now remains of it except one of the entrance gates, some stretches of the old demesne walls, and an obelisk erected by William Butler II to give employment during the Great Famine. The dower house, Drumcore, was about a mile from Bunnahow House.

Walterstown.

As previously mentioned, the Bunnahow estates were divided on the death of William Butler I in 1823, between his sons, Walter and William. As Bunnahow House went to the latter, Walter rented Ashfield from his son-in-law, Robert Blake-Forster (who resided at Abbey Knockmoy), and later commenced to build a house on the lands of Ballynagranagh, which was completed by his son, Nicholas. This house, to which the name Walterstown was given, is finely situate overlooking the picturesque lake and island of Inchicronan. It was sold by Col. Walter Butler-Creagh. Mrs. Hardy (*née* Vere O'Brien) is the present owner.

Cregg.

The first home of this branch was Ballygegan, where Pierce Butler, the transplanter, and his heir, Theobald, lived. The latter's son, Francis, moved to Cregg, where he built a house on the hill-side opposite Bunnahow, the Ennis-Galway road running between the two demesnes. On the summit of the well-wooded hill behind the house, stands a stone turret with a

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curious history. It is the burial place of the amputated limb of one of the Butler ladies, who had the macabre notion of erecting this monument to her ' nearest and dearest.'

Capt. Francis Butler (1789-1855), in a misplaced display of uxoriousness, re-named the family seat ' Sallymount ' in compliment to his wife (153); but the original name was later restored; and when Mr. Lattey set up as a country squire, he called the place ' Cregg Park.' It was occupied in the early years of the present century by Sir Lucius O'Callaghan; and was later acquired by a local schoolmaster, who dismantled the three-storied mansion in 1950, using some of the material for the building of a small house more suited to his needs.

Rossroe.

When William Butler settled in Clare he made his home at Rossroe Castle, which originally belonged to the MacNamaras, who sold it to Viscount Clare *cir.* 1629. Col. William Purefoy(154), a Cromwellian officer, was Titulado in 1659. There is a sketch of Rossroe Castle in Dineley's Journal, 1680, who describes it as " a fair seat situate among good lands and orchards." It was then in the possession of John Fennell. The first connection of the Butlers with Rossroe dates from 1688, when Anne Clungeon, who had a lease from Lord Clare, made over a moiety of Rossroe to William Butler in trust for Henry Ievers; and later the lands were conveyed to Butler for seven years. On 27 April, 1704, Nicholas Westby (one of the purchasers of the forfeited estates of Lord Clare) demised Rossroe to William Butler for 31 years at £86 2s. 0d. It was inherited on William's death by his eldest son, Henry, who demised the lands on 29 September, 1721, to John Molony at a rent of £187 10s. 0d.(155) He was the last of the Butlers to live at Rossroe Castle. His son, Capt. Henry Butler, being an officer in the regular army, spent the greater part of his life in England. He is, however, described in some documents as " of Bryan's Castle, Co. Clare." Part of these lands (the Irish name was *Bealach na Fir Bhearnan, alias* Bealnafiervarna) were mortgaged by Donough McNamara of Cotteen on 20 August, 1694, to Terence O'Brien of Durra. He assigned the mortgage to William Butler of Rossroe, who purchased the equity of redemption on 14 April, 1698. Another part was mortgaged by Terence's son, Francis, to Butler; and eventually the whole passed into the ownership of the Butlers.

Castle Crine.

This formed part of the ancient estate of the earls of Thomond. It was forfeited in 1641, and was granted in 1653 to Col. William Purefoy, above mentioned. It is not certain how Castle Crine came to be acquired by the Butlers. The first of the family to live there was Thomas (*ob.* 1743), second son of William of Rossroe, and it remained a family seat without intermission for over two centuries. Castle Crine was an imposing castellated mansion, standing in an undulating park in the vicinity of Six Mile Bridge. Col. Henry Butler, the present heir male of the family, lives at Mount Cashel, about a mile distant. The present house was built about

153. Sarah (Sally Moore, dau. of Edward Moore of Mooresfort, Co. Tipp. by Elizabeth dau. of Hon. and Rev. Maurice Crosbie, third s. of the 1st Lord Brandon.

154. Wm. Purefoy was M.P. for Limerick City and Kilmallock in Cromwell's Parliament. J. Grene-Barry, *The Liberties o Limerick,* Journal N.M.A.S., Vol. 11, No. 4 (Jan., 1913), p.235

155. *Cas. Crine Rental,* 1720.

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1860 by Capt. Henry Butler[156] on the shores of Castle Lake where the Stacpooles formerly had a house of the same name, which seems to be derived from the townland of Ballymulcashel. Other residences of this branch of the Butlers were Bryan's Castle and Boscobel.

Knoppogue.

In a return of castles in Co. Clare for the year 1584, preserved in Trinity College Library, Knoppogue Castle is recorded as having been lately in the possession of Turlough O'Brien, but then owned by Mac-Namara of West Clanculein. The forfeiting proprietor in 1641 was Daniel MacNamara 'Fionn.' The castle was used as headquarters by Cromwell's army in 1651, and was later restored to John MacNamara, who had become a Protestant. It remained the property of his descendants until the end of the eighteenth century, when, on the foreclosure of a mortgage, it was purchased by Bindon Scott, who spent £8,000 on renovating the castle. The Scott ownership lasted until 1855, when the place was bought by the 24/14 Lord Dunboyne. The Knoppogue demesne then covered 486 acres, but further purchases of adjoining lands brought Lord Dunboyne's total acquisition to 1448 acres. He then proceeded to enlarge the castle, and on 9 June, 1856, the foundation stone of a new west wing and clock tower was laid "in the presence of a numerous and distinguished com-pany,' who, we read, afterward "partook of a sumptuous repast of the choicest viands."

Further improvements to the castle were made at considerable expense by the 26/16 Lord Dunboyne in the early years of the present century. He died in 1913, when it was stated in his obituary that "Knoppogue Castle is one of the few Irish feudal fortresses still habitable, and the dungeons and secret passages are still in good preservation." But it did not remain so for long. In 1920 Clare became the scene of raids and counter-raids, reprisals and counter-reprisals, and the rule of the gunmen superseded law and order. In that year the household staff at Knoppogue, with the exception of one faithful retainer, quitted, so the family had perforce to find a home elsewhere.

The years that followed saw the disappearance from the county of most of the old landlord class, and in 1927 Knoppogue was acquired by the Land Commission. No attempt was made by that body to preserve the castle as an ancient monument; it was disposed of to a Limerick timber merchant, who lost no time in stripping the interior of its hand-some panelling, and removed the roof to save paying rates. The fine trees of the well-timbered demesne were ruthlessly felled, and all that now remains of this historic castle is an empty shell.

Other Dunboyne homes in Co. Clare were Craganoura, and Bally-vannion, where James Butler was residing when he succeeded to the peerage. It remained the property of the family throughout the nine-teenth century.

Burial Places.

The mausoleum of the Butlers of Grallagh and Boytonrath was in the chancel of St. Patrick's Cathedral on the historic Rock of Cashel. It was pillaged by the soldiery of Murrough 'of the Burnings'[157] in 1647,

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156. Second s. of Henry Butler of Cas. Crine. See n. 217.

157. Murrough, 1st Earl of Inchiquin (1614-74).

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when he massacred 700 of his countrymen in the shrine endowed by the piety of his ancestors. When the Butlers were transplanted across the Shannon, they fixed on the Abbey of Kilmacduagh as their future burial place, and a vault was erected there on the traditional site of St. Colman's grave On it stood a tree known locally as the Holy Tree, a piece of which was believed to bring good luck to anyone wearing it on an important occasion. Ellen Butler *née* Lambert used to relate with relish how she discovered a relic from the Holy Tree attached to her wedding dress by some well-wisher, "an' me a black Protesant."

Kilmacduagh remained the sepulchre of the Butlers of Doon and Bunnahow for nearly two centuries. The first member of the family to be buried there was James Butler of Shranagalloon in October, 1686, and the last was Ellen Vyse *nee* Butler in 1875,[158] when the vault was closed. It bore no inscription until after the death of William II of Bunnahow in 1871, when an epitaph was carved which unwittingly conveys the impression that only his branch are buried there. Mention may here be made that it was traditional in the Doon family for the burial to take place at night, following a torchlight procession. Kilmacduagh was likewise the burial place of the Butlers of Cregg.

The Butlers of Ballyline had a vault in the ancient Abbey of Inchicronan, decorated with an armorial shield bearing the three covered cups of the Butlers, and an epitaph to Theobald Butler *ob.* 1735. The Abbey also contains tombs of other members of the family. Sir Toby Butler is buried in St. James' churchyard, Dublin, beneath a monument with a Latin epitaph stating that it was erected by his eldest son "to the best of fathers." It is surmounted by a bust of the deceased in high relief, wearing the long curled wig and costume of the period. The monument was restored by his descendant, Col. Augustine Butler of Ballyline, in 1845. Some other members of this branch also have their last resting place in St. James' churchyard, while others are interred at Cahir.

The family vault of the Butlers of Castle Crine was in the old ruined church at Bunratty. There was still one vacant place at the death of Mrs. Sophia Butler (*née* Irvine) in 1887, but, as she had expressed a dislike to being interred in a vault, her daughters made a new burial ground on the hill-side facing the entrance gates to Castle Crine demesne, where she was laid to rest. Her second husband (Col. Graham) and her three daughters—Anna and Henrietta Butler and Lady Clarina—are also buried there. The remaining place in the old family vault was filled by Mrs. Jane Butler (*née* Welsh) of Mount Cashel, after which it was sealed. The latter's son, William, is interred in the Protestant parish church at Six Mile Bridge.

There is a Dunboyne vault in Quin Abbey. Robert, 16/26 Lord Dunboyne and his wife were, however, interred at his own request in a field about three-quarters of a mile from Knoppogue Castle. The burial place is surrounded by a low wall surmounted by ironwork and, although the family have long since left the neighbourhood, the flowers in the small graveyard are still tended by the country people.

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158. Ellen, dau. of William Butler III, of Bunnahow. She mar. 1st, Capt. Geo. O'Brien of Birchfield, son of the well-known 'Corney' O'Brien, M.P., for Co. Clare, and 2nd, Charles Vyse.

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To end this funeral catalogue, here is a ghost story. The Butlers were one of those old families to whom, according to popular superstition, the 'Death Coach' came as a harbinger. During the last illness of William II, Simon Creagh, a relative, was staying at Bunnahow. One evening, as he was sitting alone, he heard the rumbling of wheels on the avenue, and then the sound as of a heavy coach turning and stopping. The noise was so distinct that he went to the hall door and looked outside. He could see nothing, but he heard the sound of a coach driving away. At that moment one of the watchers by William 'Oge's' bedside came down to announce that the master had just passed away. Simon Creagh often related this incident to—among others—his cousin, Belinda Butler, my informant.

Family Estates.

The greater part of the Butler domains in Clare and south Galway were acquired in the latter part of the seventeenth century and the earlier years of the eighteenth.

Doon.

In 1781, Cornet James Butler held about 13,800 acres of which 1,364 acres, including Millbrooke, were under lease from the Butlers of Kilcommon. But by the year 1819, the property had shrunk to about 3,400 acres, and in the *Return of Landowners in Ireland in 1876*, this branch is shown as owning only 329 acres in Co. Galway, and none in Clare.

Bunnahow.

The Bunnahow estate reached its greatest extent in the lifetime of William Butler I, when it amounted to about 7,000 acres. In addition to this, "Billy the Farmer" held many other lands on lease, bringing the total to well over 9,000 acres in all. Under the terms of his will, the estate was divided in 1823 between his sons, Walter and William II. In 1876, the Bunnahow branch owned 4,227 acres (2,353 in Clare, 1,397 in Galway and 527 in Cork)(159) and that of Walterstown 3,042 acres (2,194 in Clare and 848 in Galway).

Ballyline.

This branch of the family inherited extensive estates in Tipperary as well as in Clare from Sir Toby Butler; but those in the former county were alienated during the course of the eighteenth century.(160) In 1876, Col. A. Butler of Ballyline owned 7,767 acres (7,461 in Clare and 306 in Galway) but none in Tipperary. Miss Galwey of Doon owned 617 acres in Clare inherited through Alicia Butler.

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159. The Return of 1876 describes the owner of the Clare estate as "reps. Wm. Butler. 27 South Ter., Cork"; of the Galway as "Wm. Butler. Bunmahon Ho"; and of the Cork as "Margaret Butler, Dublin." The compiler's confusion was probably due to the fact that Wm .Butler IV died in Cork in 1867 and that in 1876 Bunnahow Ho. was unoccupied (see App. XV) and his widow was living in Dublin. The Cork property formed part of her dowry and ultimately descended to the writer.

160. Sir Toby had a grant of 2,863 acres in Co. Tipp. from the 2nd Duke of Ormonde on 18 Aug., 1697. *Lodge's Register, Q. Anne,* No. 383. He augmented his Clare property in 1711 by the purchase of 4,311 acres from his bro., James Butler. T. Blake Butler, *The O'Shaughnessy Woods, N.M.A. Journal,* Vol. VI, No. 3. The estates were heavily mortgaged owing to litigation with the Prendergasts; and in 1775 James Butler, with a rent roll of £4,000 *p.a.,* was described as "greatly distressed." *Anal. Hib.* Vol. 12.

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Castle Crine.

In 1876, the Misses Butler of Castle Crine owned 11,390 acres, and Capt. Henry Butler 1,195 acres, all in Clare.

Dunboyne.

In 1876, Lord Dunboyne owned 1,238 acres, and the Hon. James Butler 743 acres, in Clare.

Cregg.

The estate of the Butlers of Cregg at the date of the sale in the Encumbered Estates Court comprised 3,470 acres, of which all but one were in Co. Galway. The property is shown under the name of R. J. Lattey in the Return of 1876.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Butler estates in Clare and south Galway comprised about 30,000 acres in 1876. To arrive at the acreage in the previous century, the properties of the Doon and Cregg branches should be added to the above, for as they were alienated prior to the publication of the Return, they do not of course appear in it. These estates at one time covered over 15,000 acres, so the total acreage of the Butler properties may be put at between 40,000 and 45,000 acres in the halcyon days of the eighteenth century.(161)

Origins.

The ancestry of Theobald FitzWalter, the first Butler of Ireland, has been a fruitful theme for genealogists. No fewer than eight versions have been advanced at various times, including one that his mother was a sister of St. Thomas à Becket. This claim was put forward by the 4th Earl of Ormonde in 1444, when he procured an Act of Parliament declaring his descent from the martyred Archbishop. Despite this legislative authority, doubt has been cast on the claim by irreverent modern genealogists, who have pointed out that if the legend were true, the Butler ancestress would have been a grandmother at the age of eight! But while the descent from Agnes à Becket must be rejected, there is reason to believe that she was closely connected by marriage to Theobald FitzWalter, which may have given rise to the family tradition.

In 1937, the Hon. Patrick Butler (now Lord Dunboyne) wrote a monograph in which he summarised the various versions of the early ancestry of the Butler family. This was followed in 1939 by Mr. T. Blake Butler's *Origin of the Butlers of Ireland.* In this erudite and well-documented paper, Mr. Butler, showed that Theobald FitzWalter's father, Hervey Walter (with whom the Ormonde pedigree commences in *Burke's Peerage*) was grandson of Walter, who is mentioned in Domesday Book as holding 27 manors in Norfolk and Suffolk, and who, Mr. Butler surmised, was connected with the Malet family. Further researches made by him have confirmed this conjecture, and established that the above-mentioned Walter was in fact Walter de Caen, whom genealogists identify as a brother of William Malet, the great East Anglian landowner who fought at Hastings, and is said to have been the only companion of the Conqueror

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161. The 1364 acres held by the Millbrooke branch from the Butlers of Kilcommon are excluded, as their interest in the lands was purchased by the latter in 1808.

who was half English. It was perhaps for this reason that he was entrusted by William with the task of burying the body of King Harold on the sea-shore after the battle. As a result of Mr. Blake Butler's researches, the house of Butler takes its place among the very few families in the Peerage who can trace their ancestry in the male line to the Norman Conquest.

L'ENVOI.

"The history of the illustrious house of Butler of Ormonde," wrote Sir Bernard Burke, "is in point of fact, the history of Ireland from the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion. At the head of the great nobility of that country have ever stood the Butlers and the Geraldines, rivals in power and equals in renown."

The families who are the subject of this memoir were cadet branches of that famous house, and they are not of course comparable in historical importance to the main line of the Ormonde earls. But the story unfolded in these pages shows that they, too, played a part in historic events in Ireland which should not be lost in oblivion.

'BUTLER A BOO.'

(Appendices in next issue).

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