Through the years the spell of Plassey gently enveloped much of the adjoining countryside, especially along the Shannon above and below this old favourite watering hole of the city, the towns of Dromroe, Rivers, Annabeg, Gurrane and Shrawensee lost their identities, and when they visited any of these places, they were sure to tell their friends that they were "up Plassey". The magic lingered along the towpath, right into the old jetty at the canal harbour, giving the famous riverside walk a name that is likely to remain for another two centuries to the Shannon.

For all 'brothers of the angle' it meant everything that was to be enjoyed. The scenery was magnificent and the number and variety of fish in the noble river matched the congenial surroundings. There was no other place like it. On the first visit one only sipped the sparkling champagne - the taste and delightful intoxication came tumbling headlong afterwards. For the schoolboy, freed from the boredom of the classroom, it was an escape into paradise, and even more so for his teenage brothers and sisters, while for those in the twilight years it was a true "friend to life's decline".

But where did the name Plassey come from? For an explanation we must go back more than two centuries to the place purchased by the victor of Plassey. In this document follows: "Ballykilty, from Thomas McMahon (now W. Monsell) engaged in the final battle in the conquest of India. It was a decisive conflict, for its outcome resulted in the establishment of the Indian Empire. It also left Clive a very wealthy man.

The addition of the great Indian colony was a source of pride and satisfaction to the English rulers, yet there was a marked reluctance to shower the usual rewards on a statesman whose loyalty and satisfaction to the English rulers, yet there was a marked reluctance to shower the usual rewards on a statesman whose loyalty and services were denied the honour he had expected for his loyal services. The eminent antiquarian, T.J. Westropp, in a note recorded Clive's activities during his short stay in Ireland. This he did, but only after travelling inland and crossing old Thomsen Bridge and into Co. Clare, where he ran riot in a land purchasing spree. Clive of Plassey, Co. Clare, Ireland", an impressive title for a retired military adventurer.

The Thomas McMahon mentioned here would seem to have been the owner of the Ballykilty estate and mansion house at the time it was acquired by Robert Clive. It is likely that Monsell was installed there afterwards but no one has recorded Clive's activities during his stay.

by Kevin Hannan

by the Shannon. (It is not stated whether the properties were purchased through an agent). But it is known that the house of that name was in "up Plassey" - and the firm establishment of a demense which has been retained by a succession of residents.

The title is somewhat confusing, as Plassey House is in Co. Limerick, in the townland of Srelane, but the greater part of his estate was in Co. Clare and may have come into his possession before he ever saw Ballykilty. On the other hand, his new demense was only a hundred and fifty yards across the river from Co. Clare. But it is certain that Clive was not in the best of health at the time. The object was to secure a suitable waterway. For many out of the city, the townlands of the Shannon had been described as the 'Fergus, and including such well known townlands as Rineanna, Tullygloss and Drumgeely. Nearer to Limerick he acquired Dromroe. Rivers, Annabeg, Gurrane and were purchased through an agent). But it is known that Clive was not in the best of health at the time. The object was to secure a suitable waterway. For many out of the city, the townlands of the Shannon had been described as the 'Fergus, and including such well known townlands as Rineanna, Tullygloss and Drumgeely. Nearer to Limerick he acquired Dromroe. Rivers, Annabeg, Gurrane and Shravokee lost their identities, and when they visited any of these places, they were sure to tell their friends that they were "up Plassey". The magic lingered along the towpath, right into the old jetty at the canal harbour, giving the famous riverside walk a name that is likely to remain for another two centuries to the Shannon.

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