

Francis Slingsby

ELIZABETHAN ADVENTURER

1569 – 1651

By Noel Murphy

The first mention of Francis Slingsby that any Irish Researcher will find will be of his leading the English garrison of Kilmallock on a raid on Bruff Castle on the 22nd of April in the year 1600. The question to be asked however is? What was the Lieutenant of Sir George Carew's company of 200 Infantry doing in Kilmallock long before the arrival of Carew in Munster as the new President of that Province?

To answer that question one must go back to the year 1597, when an English Fleet commanded by the Earl of Essex was bound for The Ferrol in Northern Spain to attack the Spanish Fleet re-assembling there, after losing 25% of their ships in a storm, with the intent to launch another attack on England. The English Fleet was also caught in a severe storm in the Bay of Biscay and one of its Galleons, the St. Matthew lost all its masts. The Captain of this 1000 ton, 50 gun ship, with a complement of 400 men aboard was Francis Slingsby accompanied by his brother William also on board was Sir George Carew. Unable to continue the voyage, a committee of high ranking officers signed a statement saying that they all agreed that should they survive the storm, the only course of action open to them was to make for the French coast when the storm abated and then, with the necessary repairs done, return to England. Captain Francis Slingsby as well as being in command of the St. Matthew was also Trenchmaster for this army and Master of the Ordinance for the Fleet.

The biggest Galleons of English construction at that time were about 500 ton. The St. Matthew was twice that size, at 1000 ton. She was built in 1595 as one of 12 Galleons, called the 12 Apostles, for King Philip of Spain but was captured at Cadiz in 1596 along with another "Apostle" the St. Andrew and taken back to England as a prize by Sir Walter Raleigh and the Earl of Essex. Giving the command of such a large Galleon to Francis Slingsby must have been seen by the Government as an appropriate reward to mark his good record to date at sea against Spanish shipping. Sir Walter Raleigh had command of the St. Andrew so we can assume that Captain Slingsby at that point in time was viewed as his equal in ability. However, now that Slingsby's reputation was tarnished with the blame for the failure of the Ferrol expedition, his career was going nowhere and Sir George Carew came to his rescue by appointing him to the position of Lieutenant in Carew's foot company. Later, in 1601 we will come across a very reluctant Carew venturing north from Kinsale to encounter O'Donnell marching south to link up with D'Aquila and being painfully aware that if he was defeated by O'Donnell his career too would be at an end, as his vengeful and unforgiving masters in England would very quickly replace him with some new Officer who would, fortunately, still possess an unblemished reputation. England's Generals always learned not to repeat the mistakes of their predecessors.

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Munster. On the 21st. Feb. 1586 he was allocated 8000 acres on the banks of the river Suir just west of Cahir, Co. Tipperary. Unfortunately for him these lands were within the Palatinate of the Earl of Ormond, who successfully claimed them and Henry had to go looking, too late, for land elsewhere. All that was left was a measly 80 acres at Miltown near Askeaton on the banks of the Deal. Henry must have given this townland to his youngest brother as the Civil Survey gives Sir Francis Slingsby as the holder of South Milltown in 1641.

Francis Slingsby must have married Elizabeth Cuffe shortly after he arrived in Kilmallock. Firstly, because Hugh Cuffe, her Father, lost his only son in the siege of Kilmallock in late 1598, making Cuffe's two daughters heiresses to his Seignory of Cuffe's Wood in the Barony of Orrery and Kilmore in North County Cork. Secondly, because Mary Slingsby, presumably Francis's eldest daughter, was assigned lands as part of a marriage settlement in the year 1612 by Maurice Berkeley, eldest son and heir to Sir Francis Berkeley of Askeaton, (Born 1598). Mary, named after her paternal grandmother, who died in 1598, was born in 1604. Betrothal of young children at an early age was quite common with the Landed Gentry in those days but does not mean that they actually married in 1612. A marriage settlement was most likely drawn up between the fathers of the two children at this time. Mary and Maurice did eventually marry but Maurice died soon after in 1622 without an heir and Mary was left a childless widow at the very young age of 18.

Bruff castle and lands, in 1598, although owned by Pierce Lacy, had been the family home of George Thornton, the Provost Marshall of Munster. Lacy had leased the property to Thornton who would have been away tending to his office, when the Irish of Munster broke out in rebellion in the beginning of October 1598. The few soldiers Thornton had at Bruff abandoned their charge and fled, whereupon Lacy, only recently having held the Office of High Sheriff of Limerick County, repossessed his castle. No doubt containing all of Thornton's livestock, furniture and other possessions, perhaps even turning out Thornton's wife, Elinor Lacy of Athlacca and their children, to fend for themselves in a hostile environment. Despite Essex and his army having been in the area in the summer of 1599, Bruff castle was still under the control of Lacy in April 1600. It was only a short distance from Kilmallock but it blocked the road between that town and Limerick, so it should come as no surprise, when in early 1600 the forces in Kilmallock decided to do something about this intolerable situation. Francis Slingsby, the commander of the garrison of 350 foot and 37 horse set out with part of this force to capture the cattle of Bruff. They left Kilmallock under cover of darkness and arrived at Bruff castle, still in darkness and waited for Lacy's cowherds to bring the cattle out from the castle bawn to graze in the open fields. The ambush was sprung, the cowherds fled for their lives and the soldiers started driving the herd towards Kilmallock. Lacy called out his force of 300 foot and 50 horse but try as they might, they could not regain control of their herd and after skirmishing for six hours gave up the struggle. A handful of casualties were suffered by each side but nothing near the 300 per side claimed by some local historians. Exactly one week later Slingsby repeated this raid but this time against Lough Gur castle with similar success, only this time we are given the strength of his raiding party, as 150 foot and 20 horse.

This number of 350 soldiers given as the strength of the garrison of Kilmallock is only a paper list. To arrive at the correct number of soldiers available to Slingsby one must first

deduct 6% for dead pays, i.e. non-existent men whose pay the captains were allowed to keep for themselves to cover extraordinary expenses such as payment to the gentlemen volunteers who attached themselves to their friends' companies and also to pay Messengers and spies. Then one has to deduct at least another 6% for sick soldiers. So the number fit for active service would have been close to 300. Now one has to decide what number were left to guard Kilmallock while the raiding party was absent from town. It's now easy to see that the numbers given for the raid on Lough Gur must have been similar to the numbers who raided Bruff. It's to the cavalry that the credit must go for frustrating Lacy's attempt to recover his herd. Indeed the only recorded death was one of Thornton's horsemen. Irish foot and English foot could fight it out face to face until one or the other broke and ran. Then and only then would the mass slaughter begin as the waiting cavalry descended on the backs of the fleeing foe. However English cavalry were so superior to Irish cavalry that the presence of English cavalry nullified any advantage in numbers that the Irish infantry might have had.

The next major action Slingsby was involved in was the siege of Glyn castle. Carew's Munster army amounted to 3000 foot and 250 horse. After deducting the dead pays, sick and garrison numbers, Sir George Carew was left with a field army of 1870 foot and 200 horse. This army appeared before the walls of Glyn castle on the 5th July 1600. They encamped to the north of the castle with their backs to the Shannon where Carew's nephew had anchored his ship which had ferried 2 cannons down the river from Limerick. The attack began on the morning of the 8th after the cannons were landed and positioned. The dining hall of the castle stood at the northwest corner of the bawn and a breach was soon made in the north wall through which the first English company attacked followed closely by the Earl of Thomond's company led by his Lieutenant Turlough Roe McMahon. (Father of the famous Maire Rua). These two companies cleared the rebels out of the Great Hall, and then they cleared the castle bawn, finally capturing the two corner towers. With night falling and the remaining rebels all confined in the main tower, Captain Slingsby was assigned the task of holding the captured area and preventing any breakout from the main Tower.

At midnight the rebels sallied from the Keep. Slingsby engaged them, killing the constable and others. Two rebels made good their escape but the rest retreated back to the Keep. In the morning the door to the Keep was set on fire and when the smoke cleared, a party of soldiers led by a caliver man, seconded by a pike man and including Captain Slingsby ascended the spiral staircase, driving the rebels upwards and out onto the roof. Some of the rebels leapt from the parapets into the river below where they were killed by waiting soldiers anyway. On the 16th. July, Slingsby was back in garrison in Kilmallock but this time with a force of 450 foot and 50 horse.

Towards the end of November 1600, Slingsby in command of 500 foot, scoured the Glen of Aherlow. This led to all the Burkes and O'Briens living there to submit and to offer pledges i.e. hostages, for their continued good behaviour.

At the end of May 1601, Slingsby and his 200 foot rushed out from Kilmallock to take the newly captured Sungan Earl from Kilbehenny Castle to Shandon Castle, outside Cork city. There they guarded the prisoner until he was shipped off to the Tower of London in the month of August. In September the Spaniards landed at Kinsale. Slingsby and his company,

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along with 50 horse were sent out from Cork to view the Spaniards activities. He found them established in Kinsale and also occupying Rincurran Castle. After skirmishing with them he withdrew to Cork.

On the 7th of November a very reluctant Carew and his Munster army, including Captain Slingsby, were sent north from the Main English army then besieging Kinsale, in an attempt to block and engage O'Donnell's forces which were marching south to join their Spanish allies. Carew positioned himself near Cashel, Co. Tipperary, but on a frosty night O'Donnell veered off westward into Co. Limerick marching over the bogs and marches which were frozen over and disappeared into Munster leaving a highly relieved Carew with no choice but to return to Kinsale, which he reached most gratefully on November the 26th.

On the 3rd of December, at night, the Spaniards mounted one of their biggest sallies from the confines of Kinsale against an English cannon emplacement. Captain Slingsby with whatever small contingent of soldiers he was able to muster was in the counter attack in which the Earl of Clanrickard distinguished himself. Two English captains were killed in action that night before the Spaniards were finally beaten back into Kinsale. About this time Slingsby received command of his own independent company of 100 foot. He succeeded to the company of Captain William Nuce, the real founder of the town of Bandon, who had been discharged.

When the Spaniards surrendered in January 1602, Slingsby was given the task of organising shipping to transfer the survivors back to Spain along with their equipment and treasure. The Spanish also surrendered the castles which had been handed over to them by the local clan chiefs and garrisoned by them with Spanish soldiers and cannon. One of these was Dunboy castle belonging to Donel O'Sullivan Beare. Donel, determined not to lose his castle, surprised the Spanish garrison and ejected them, all except the gunners whom he needed to man and fire the cannons, which he now retained for his own defence. Whilst Donel seemed certain that the English would come, the English themselves were of the opinion that there was no way for an army to reach Dunboy, let alone capture it.

Carew, was determined that this open door, into his Province, must be closed lest any further Spanish invasion should use it to get a toe hold on Irish soil. With this in mind he sent the Earl of Thomond westward from Cork city to get as close to Dunboy as possible and report back with what ever intelligence he could gather. Thomond got no closer to Dunboy than Bantry as the rebel army was too strongly entrenched in the rocky mountain passes around Glengarrif. He did however find out about the preparations being made to strengthen Dunboy should it be attacked. The sixteen foot high outer walls had been knocked down and rebuilt closer to the main tower, incorporating sharp angles to deflect cannon balls. The rebels had also padded the outer wall with sods and timber to a thickness of twenty-four feet. They had also a number of Spanish cannon sited at the corners of the outer walls to defend themselves.

Carew's Munster army had grown, at least on paper, during the siege of Kinsale from 3000 foot and 250 horse, to 4400 foot and 325 horse. However, the numbers available to march on Dunboy amounted to about 50% of this total. 700 foot (on paper) were already on Whiddy island and another 1700 had been sent back to North Kerry to be the garrison there.

250 were holding the surrendered castles in the Baltimore region, 200 were in Kinsale and a further 100 were still at Kilmallock. So Carew began his march westward with around 750 able bodied soldiers. (50% of 1500 foot). Captain Francis Slingsby and his company were with this small army when they set out on the 23rd. of April 1602.

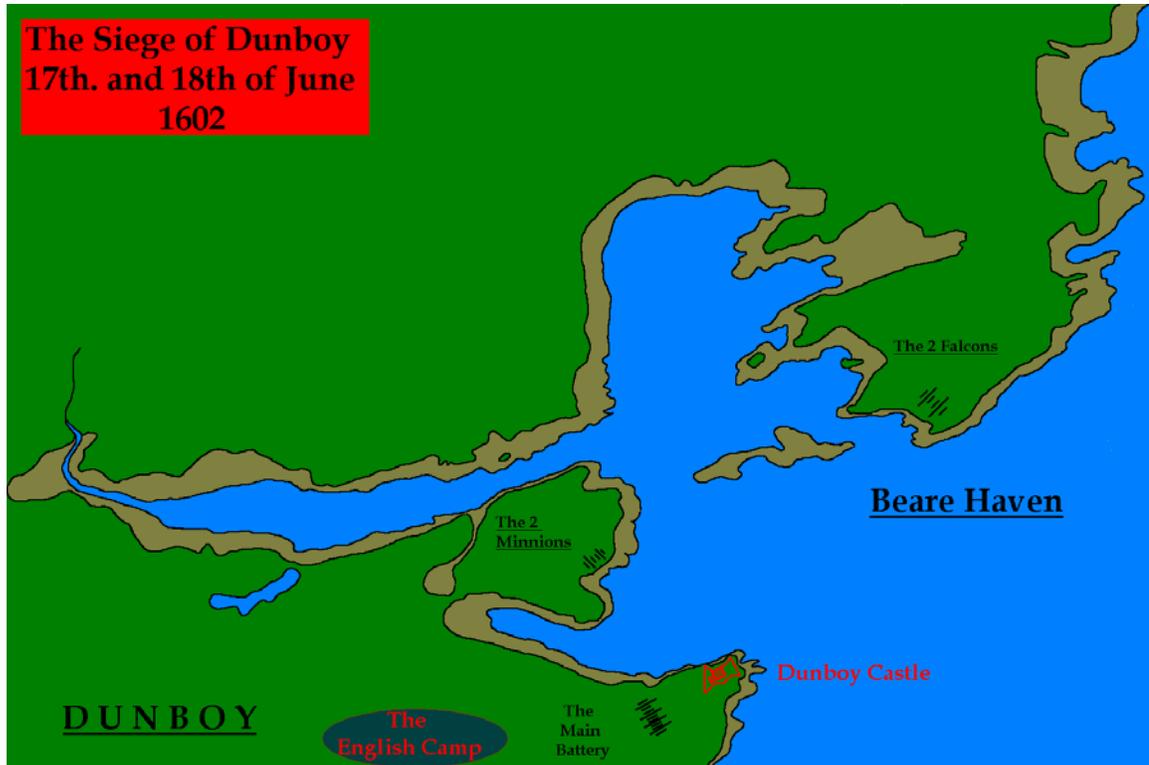


Figure 1:- A plan of the area over which Carew approached Dunboy.

It wasn't until more than a month later that Carew, having decided that the approach to Dunboy would have to be by sea, began to manoeuvre his army towards his target. On the 1st and 2nd of June they sailed from Killoveenoge and landed on Bear Island. Slingsby was given the task of ferrying the cannons to the island, which he performed by towing the ship with the cannons on board, behind "The Trinity" a Waterford ship. The transport ship with the cannon could not sail against the prevailing westerly winds as well as the fighting ships. On Sunday the 6th Carew outmanoeuvred the rebels and landed his four regiments on the mainland. He had been joined by the Kerry garrison and the Garrison from Whiddy island and by Owen O'Sullivan and his followers. Carew's army was now about 2000 soldiers strong. All his Horse companies had been sent back to Kinsale, as they were just so many hungry mouths to feed, being totally useless in the rocky and mountainous terrain which covered the entire peninsula where the fighting was now to take place.

Carew, himself, is credited with having found a suitable position for his cannon at a distance of 140 yards from Dunboy's walls on the top of a slight rise in the terrain. (see Fig. 1 above). The same rise offering shelter for his armies' encampment. Now all that was left to

do was to get the heavy cannons on to the chosen site. Slingsby first ferried the cannon up the bigger inlet to the North of Dunboy but after the cannons were landed it was found impossible to drag them to the final position. Slingsby then volunteered to attempt to ferry them into the smaller inlet, right under the guns of Dunboy, if Carew was willing to risk his cannon ending up at the bottom of the sea should the Dunboy cannoniers sink the ship. Captain Slingsby lined the rail of the hoy with 50 musketmen and placed the helmsman in the shelter of the hold whilst he himself took up position at the mizzen mast and shouted down instructions to the helmsman as they passed under Dunboy, so fast, with a good wind behind them, that the Spanish cannoniers could only fire twice at the target before it got in behind the shelter of the rising ground. This manoeuvre was carried out in full daylight by necessity.

Slingsby was now appointed Trenchmaster and set about building Gabions to shelter the English cannoniers as they worked their four large guns. He was also in command of entrenching the main English encampment. A trench at that time meant a breast high wall to shelter behind and not an excavated dug-out below ground level. Gabions were large baskets filled with stones and sods and were positioned to protect the cannon crew from counter fire from the enemy. Slingsby also commanded the force of musketeers who protected the pioneers as they cut down all this necessary timber in the nearby woods.

On the 17th of June, Carew began his bombardment. First concentrating fire on the Southwest turret, on top of which a cannon was mounted, the top stories of the tower collapsed after four hours, then the fire was switched to the west wall of the main Keep which was also brought crashing down after another four hours firing. Carew then ordered an assault on this breach to be led by his own regiment. His captains then, as was the custom, threw the dice for the honour of being the “forlorne hope”, i.e. first into the breach and - the slightly less dangerous honour of attacking in the second wave who would advance to exploit the success of the Forlorne Hope. Slingsby was not in this leading group but his company did take part in the assault during which his Lieutenant, Thomas Smith, was killed and his Sergeant, climbing across the rubble of the southwest turret, got into the remains of the turret and discovered an access point leading into the main Tower. The fighting lasted from just after one o’clock until nightfall by which time the rebels were only holding onto the cellar and the room above it. Leaving a guard to keep the rebels confined, the English withdrew to await the coming day.

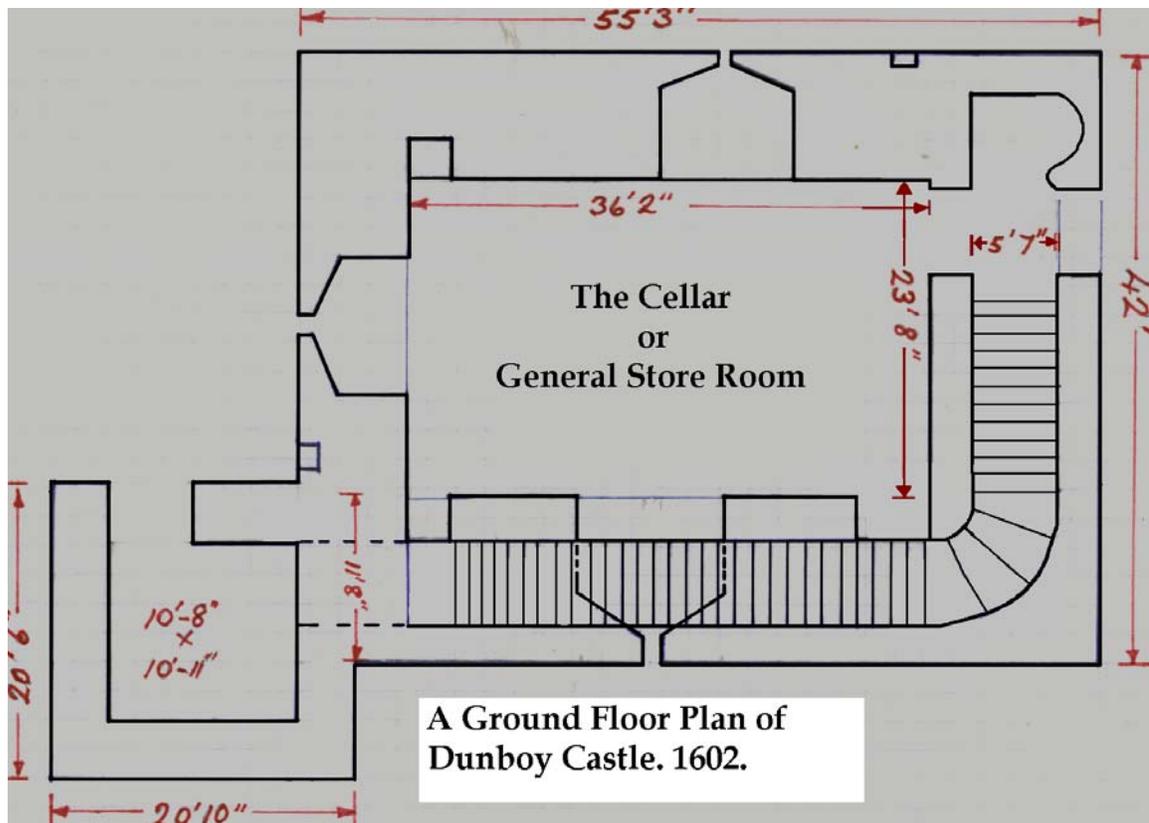


Figure 2

The rebels surrendered the following morning and the Provost-marshal, Sir George Thornton, hanged most of them immediately. Slingsby was given the task of blowing up the Castle, which he did on the 22nd of June using the barrels of Spanish gunpowder found in the cellar. Then the whole English army departed back to Cork. From Cork the different companies were dispersed to garrison different localities, Slingsby's being placed at the church of Shadone. All had orders to waste the neighbouring countryside in Carbery.

In August, after the arrest of Cormock M'Carthy of Blarney, his Castle and Abbey of Kilcrea were taken into the Queen's hands and Slingsby was placed in custody of both places which lay only a few miles to the West of Cork. In November, 3 companies, including Slingsby's, laid siege to the castle of Cloghan. The Constable's brother was a prisoner of this force and the Constable was told that if he did not surrender immediately his brother would be hung before his eyes. He refused and the brother was strung up on the spot. There was apparently a priest in the castle and a few days later, after the priest had escaped, the castle surrendered, there is no record of the Constable's fate.

On the 31st of December Thomas Selby, Lt. to Slingsby along with 600 militia conducted a raid on the rebels livestock and carried off 2000 cows, 4000 sheep and 1000 pack horses. A running fight ensued for 6 hours, until nearing the English camp at Glengarriffe, 2 regiments of English soldiers were called out to beat off the enraged rebels. 120 choice men were sent directly to where Selby and Lord Barry were fighting hand to hand with the rebels.

Immediately after this loss of their sustenance O'Sullivan Beare set off on his famous march from his territories in Beare Haven to join O'Neill's Northern Rebel Army.

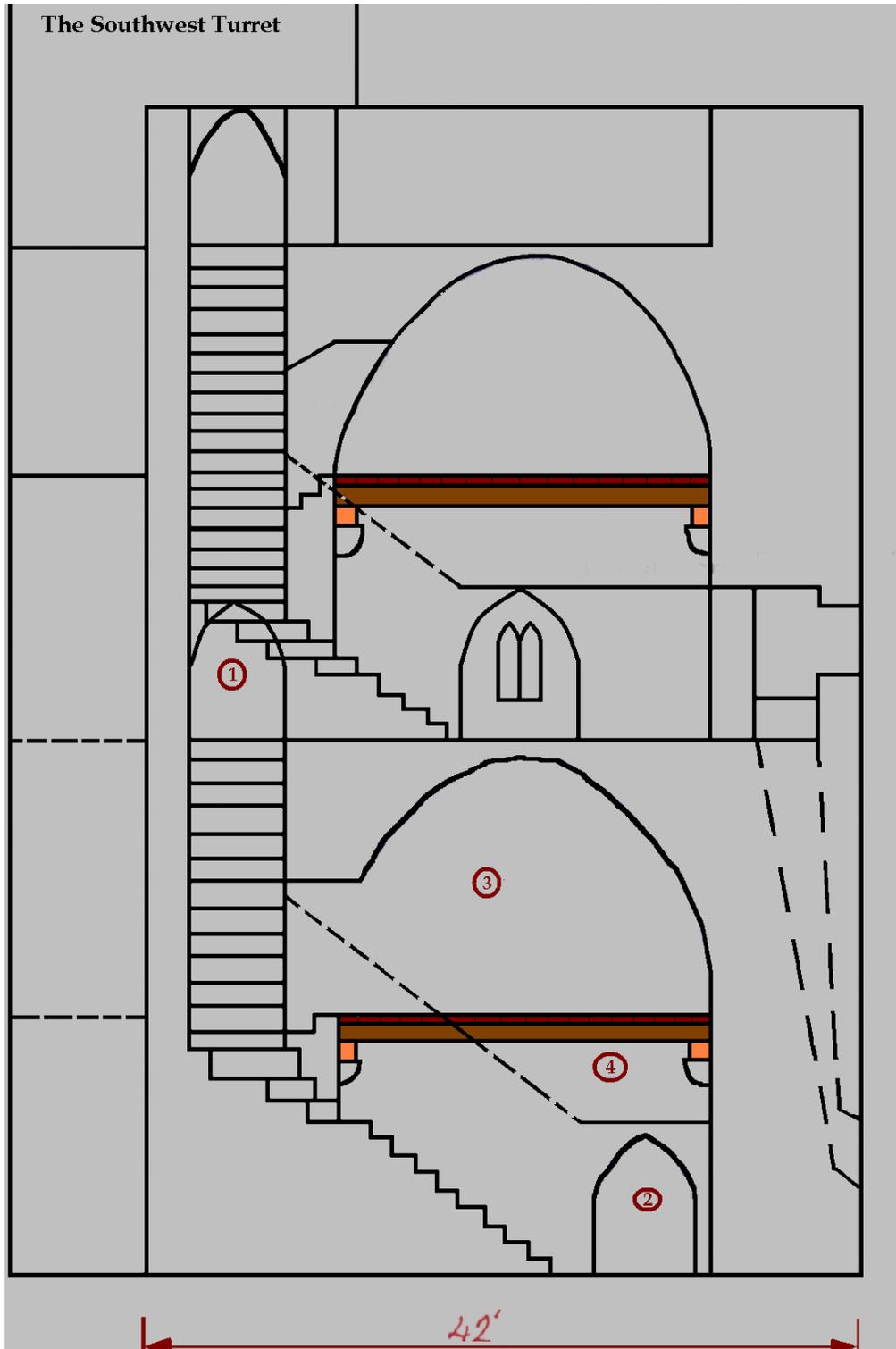


Figure 3 :- Conjectural cross section looking west.

1. The point of entry found by Slingsby's sergeant from the ruin's of the southwest turret into the main Tower.
2. The Main entrance door.
- 3 and 4. The cellar and room above, where the rebels held out overnight and where their barrels of gunpowder were stored.

Note.1.

The actual height of the southwest turret is unknown as the preparations for the siege included the demolition of the top floor of the castle. The pieces of masonry were, no doubt, cast down upon the attacking English when they were fighting at the base of the keep at the South side trying unsuccessfully to get around the southeast corner to the main door.

Note. 2.

When the southwest turret collapsed its rubble filled the space between it and the curtain wall forming a bridge from the wall to the remaining lower stories of the turret thus providing the assaulting soldiers with an entry into the keep. This allowed the soldiers to cease their futile attempts to get to the main entrance.

Note. 3.

The Garderobe chute is shown in the northern wall with dotted lines. The outlet is still to be seen but the floor it came from is not certain. I have opted for the main hall rather than the bedroom above where chamber pots would have sufficed.

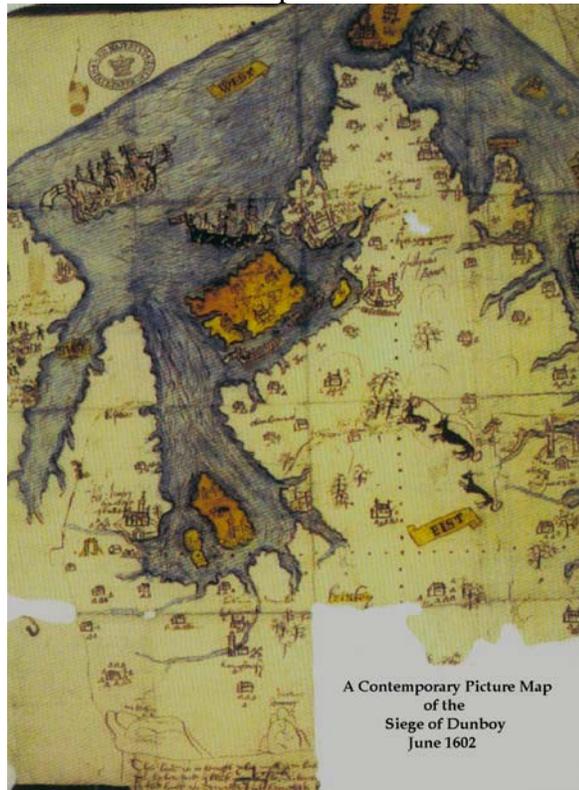


Figure 4

Having spent the following 6 months in the western regions of Munster, Captain Slingsby and his company were summoned to Cork to speed up the construction of Elizabeth Fort in the

suburbs of the city. When they arrived at the city the Mayor tried to close the gates against them but they forced their way in and being denied billeting had to take up residence in a church. They then helped forward the building of the new fort until word came of the death of Queen Elizabeth and instructions to the Mayor to proclaim King James. Hoping for a new period of religious toleration, even religious freedom, the Mayor and City Council now tried to assert their authority and refused to obey any instructions from the Protestant Military Governors, even going so far as to send 600 citizens out to demolish the new fort. Slingsby's soldiers chased them back into the city where, after barring their gates the Cork men opened fire on the soldiers from the city walls. Slingsby's Lt. was wounded and 2 of his soldiers killed. The city men then opened fire with cannon on Shandon Castle where the President's wife Lady Carew had taken refuge and also fired on the Bishop's house where Carew's 2 replacement Commissioners were lodged. On the 5th May, Slingsby, personally, arrived with a cannon from Haulbowline and after 3 to 4 shots were fired into the city the Mayor asked for a truce, until the Lord Deputy arrived to adjudicate on their claims. By October Slingsby was appointed Constable of Haulbowline, which was in Carew's gift "to those he loves dearly" Slingsby's company was discharged at the same time and he now commanded 20 warders for Haulbowline instead.

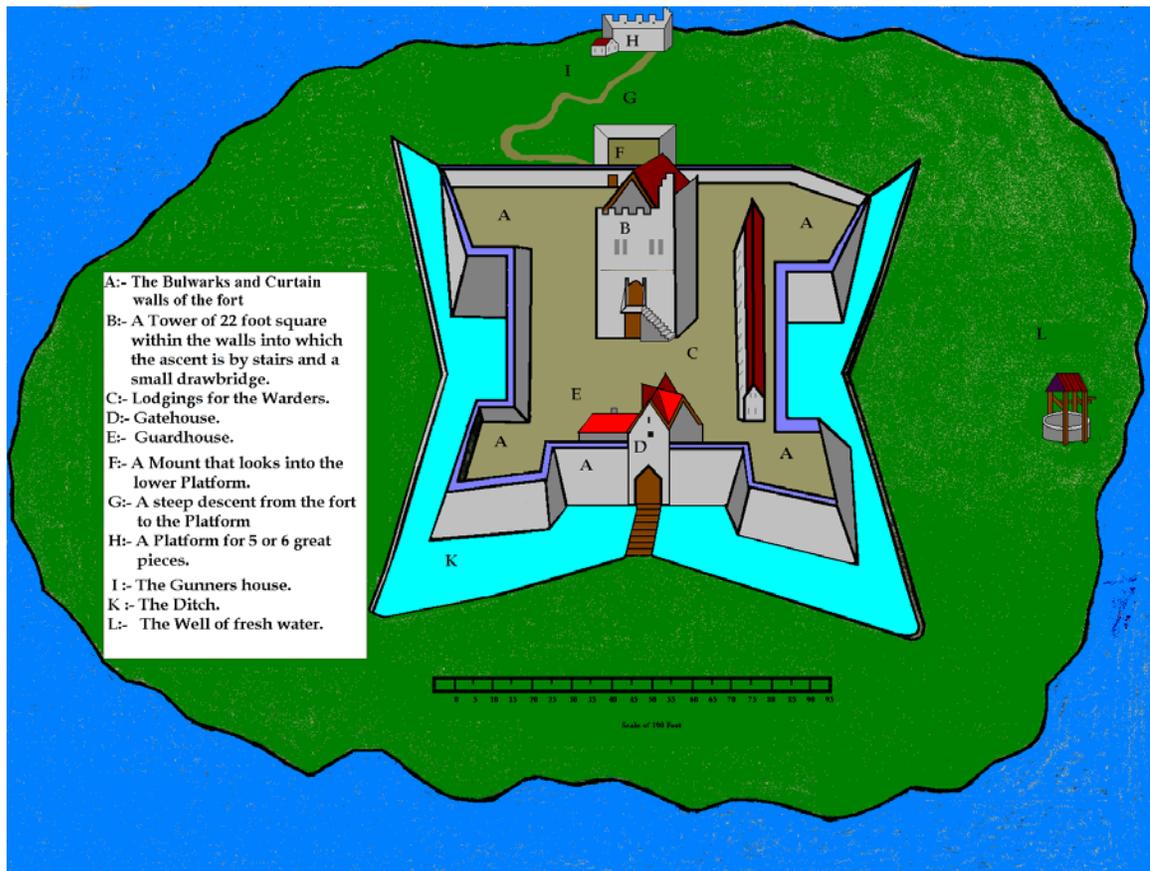


Figure 5:- The New Fort of Haulbowline. Built in 1602. Captain Francis Slingsby, constable with 20 Warders. From Pacata Hibernia.

Note: - The site of Haulbowline fort was on a steep incline rising to the North. Therefore there was no way that the ditch surrounding the fort was a water filled moat.

When all the fighting was over and now being a married man with perhaps at least two children to care for and a prospect of succeeding to his father-in-law's estate Slingsby must have realized that his future lay in Ireland. As the youngest of his parents' nine sons he must have been very pleased with his successes to date and now as a family man his future stretched out happily in front of him. Indeed his future career, given below, must have brought him happily to his old age.

On the 5th June 1605 Francis Slingsby was knighted by the Lord Deputy, Sir Arthur Chichester. The following year Slingsby took himself off to London bearing the following letter written by Sir George Carew,

“On behalf of the bearer Sir Francis Slingsby.

He must have been for many years past well known to his Lordship and has for the last 7 years served in Ireland, where he was Lieutenant of Carew's foot company and after that a captain in chief. At present he is captain of the fort of Hallbolyne in the river of Corke. In all these places he has served with great commendation, and for which or for all his service by sea he never yet had either pension or reward. He is now a suitor for the least preferment that can be sued for and no charge to the King or inconvenience to the state as by his petition may appear”

In 1608, Slingsby's father-in-law, Hugh Cuffe, passed away and Francis, through his wife Elizabeth, inherited her share of the Seignory of Cuffe's Wood. Theoretically 3000 acres but more likely closer to 6000 acres.

On the 15th Nov. 1617, Sir Francis wrote to the authorities, his opinion on how to deal with recusants. The letter is long enough to gauge the man's intelligence but shows he had no sympathy for Catholics.

By 1618 Sir Francis Slingsby was getting a pension as late Constable of Haulbowline.

An Inquisition taken in 1622 supplies the following:-

“The Seignory of Cuffeswood, containing 12000 English acres, to Hugh Cuff, Esq., rent £66-13-4d., or £88-17-9d, reduced to £40-2-7 Irish, which is answered by the Earl of Castlehaven and Sir Francis Slingsby, possessors of this Seignory. This Seignory descended to the daughter and co-heir of Mr. Cuff, besides such portions as were evicted from him and sold by him, viz., evicted by Sir William Poore in right (of his wife cousin and heir) of Thomas Niscartie, 12 and a half plow-lands, besides certain chief rents; by Garret McShane, a freeholder, 3 plow-lands; also by the Lord Barry and the Lord Roche certain chief rents amounting to £9-6-8d. per annum; sold to Lord Audley, afterwards Earl of Castlehaven, 10 plow-lands with a castle.

The eldest daughter's portion, married to Sir Charles Coote, was likewise sold to the Lord Audley. The younger daughter was married to Sir Francis Slingsby, who holdeth in her right of the said Seignory 14 plowlands. He hath erected for himself no habitation, which he excuseth by his attendance near Cork, having charge of your Majesty's Fort of Halebolling upon the River of Cork, and therefore could not be resident in a place so far remote.

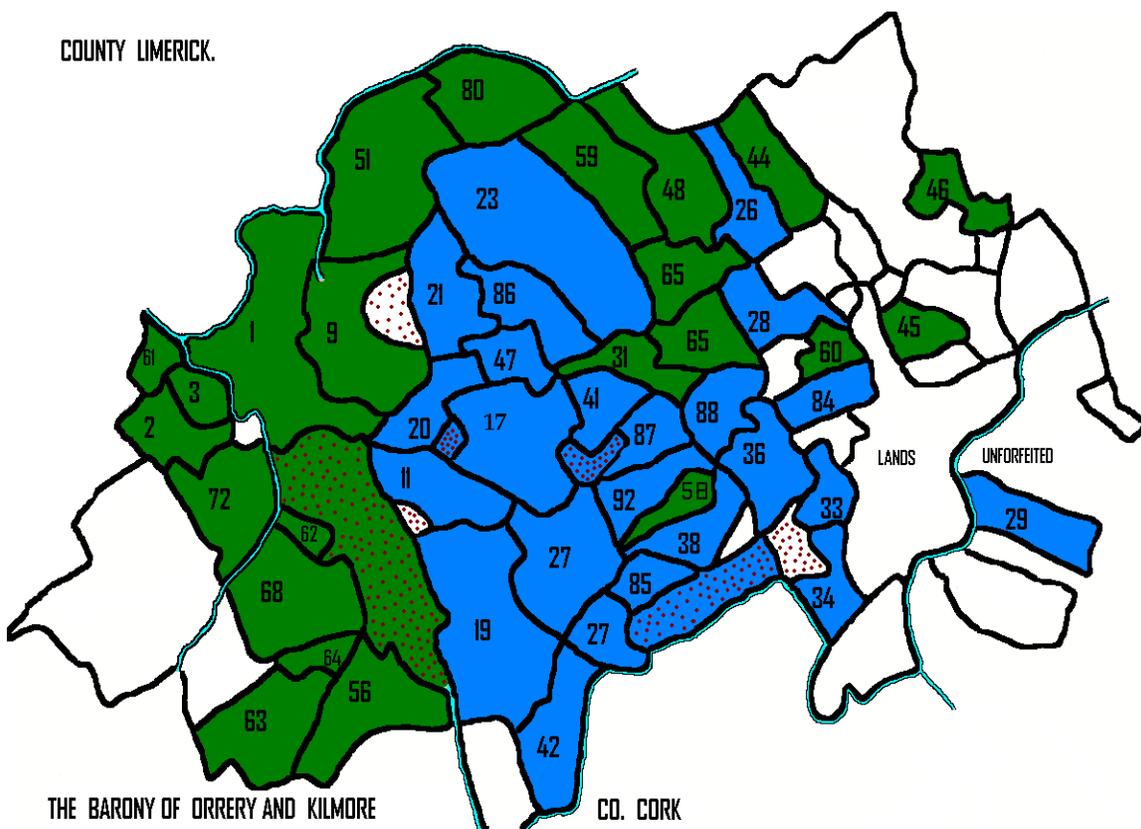
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There are planted upon portion of this Seignory of English birth and descent 3 freeholders, 6 farmers, 14 copyholders.”

On the 10th of June 1624 Slingsby was honoured, by being made a Freeman of the town of Youghal and by being given a seat on the town council.

In September 1626 Slingsby was appointed one of two Commissioners to rule Munster after the death of the Earl of Thomond, late President of that Province, until a successor could be found.

At the Parliament called at Dublin on the 10th March 1639, Sir Francis Slingsby Knt. sat as one of the two M.P.’s for the borough of Bandon, Co. Cork.



The above map copied from the Down Survey map of Orrery and Kilmore Barony in North Co. Cork shows Slingsbys share of Cuffe’s Seignory highlighted in Blue. Sir Williams Power’s lands of Kilbolane are shown in Green. The Lands in White on the right of the map contain the lands Lord Audley bought from Cuff and later sold to the Earl of Cork. That’s why the lands are marked unforfeited and are poorly separated into Townlands.

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The Slingsby Townlands are:-

	<u>Old Spelling</u>	<u>Modern Spelling</u>	<u>1668 Acreage</u>
11	Castle Nekylly.	Farthingville	344
17	Clonnybro.	Curragh Cloonabro	537
19	Dromyna.	Dromina	799
20	Craghlas.	Curryglass	224
21	Cloynlaghe.	Cloonleagh	430
23	Ballinekyilly.	Ballynakilla.	955
26	Lyssyhollane.	Liscullane	
27	Kylbra.	Kilabraher	183
28	Ballynygronon.	Garrynagronoge.	
29	Ballehosgorogh.	Ballycoskery	
33	Ballenowran.	Ballynoran	161
34	Kulcam.	Coolcaum	
36	Kullynagh.	Cooliney	259
38	Nefeddane.	Fiddane	184
42	Nomoyge.	Moyge	359
47	Kilmagoragh.	Kilmagoura	169
84	Rathnecally.	Rathnacally	158
85	Cloonkeene.	Cloonkeen	159
86	Newtown.	Newtown	283
87	Claderagh.	Clyderragh	147
88	Ballinvollin.	Milltown	Chief rent only.
92	Killieshane.	Ardglass (part of)	180

Cuffe's original grant was for 12000 acres, from this he returned 6000 acres to William Power. From the map above, given that the green area represents the 6000 acres belonging to Power one can easily see that the blue area is also 6000 acres and the white area is also around 6000 acres. Yet Cuffe was getting away with paying rent on under 6000 acres and Slingsby, who inherited half of this, was paying rent on 2700 acres. In fact when Slingsby lost his land to the Cromwellians, they took 6600 acres from him, as shown in Blue above. The lands Henry Slingsby, Sir Francis's eventual heir was allocated in Connaught were mostly in Tiaquin Barony, Co. Galway, they amounted to a very generous 3780 acres.

Sir Francis and his wife Elizabeth had the following children,

Mary, whose marriage settlement with Maurice Berkley was drawn up in 1612. Maurice died on the 18th September 1622, aged 24 leaving young Mary a widow. Mary next married Sir Francis Willoughby, then living in Newmarket Co. Cork. They had one son called Charles, born 1630. Mary died in June 1635. Mary was born circa 1604.

- Catherine,** married Edward Standish of Bruff, son and heir to Sir Thomas Standish, she died in 1635 and Edward died a few years later without issue, leaving his four sisters heirs to the lands of Bruff which had belonged to Piers Lacy. Catherine was born in 1607.
- Anne,** married circa 1630, Alexander Cosby of Stradbally, Co. Laois. He died aged 25 in 1636 and their two children died in infancy. Anne then married Barnaby Dunne and had to get a royal pardon for marrying an Irishman. Anne was born in 1609.
- Francis,** Son and heir. Born in 1611, he attended College at Oxford after which he traveled on the continent and converted whilst in Italy and resolved to become a Jesuit. His parents tried to reconvert him but he ended up in jail. He was released on bail but succeeded in converting his brother, his sister and his mother. By becoming a Jesuit he effectively disinherited himself. He died in Italy in 1641. His grandmother, Hugh Cuffe's wife has been identified as Irish and therefore most likely a Catholic as well.
- Henry,** to whom Sir Francis transferred all his lands by 1649 as his son and heir. Henry was in fact an ardent catholic who disinherited his own son Arthur who insisted on being a Protestant. Henry was born in 1612.
- Elizabeth,** married Henry Dodwell in 1634 and both of them died in 1650 in Dublin, he of the Plague and she of consumption, they were the parents of Henry Dodwell, the famous Theologian, who was born in October 1641. Henry was an orphan at the age of nine. Elizabeth was born in 1614.
- Jane,** for whom there are no details. She may be the sister who converted and thus disappeared from the records. Jane was born sometime between 1615 and 1617.

A Funeral Entry for an unnamed Slingsby is recorded for Nov. 1651 for a burial in the Mary chapel, Christchurch, Dublin. The Arms are given and show Slingsby and Cuffe impaled. This can only be a record of the death of Sir Francis, aged 82, as no other person could use these Armorial symbols.



The following clues indicate what happened to Francis the eldest son who wanted to join the Jesuit Order.

- 1 In a letter written by a Father FitzSimons, in Ireland, dated 29th August 1634, he says--
- “I yet live in good health and have helped Francis Slingsby to convert his mother, brothers and sisters”.
- 2 In a letter written by a Father Slingsby, dated 12th May 1634, he says-----
“Having been four months in Dublin Castle, at length I was to be banished out of Ireland, but a certain Lord procured the altering of the sentence and instead thereof, I have been confined to his house and within three miles round about”.
- 3 A Francisco Slingsby S.J., was active in Ireland in the mid 17th century.

Could these clues refer to Francis the heir, now a priest and no longer eligible, for that reason, to succeed to Crown land. Is this also the reason Henry had the lands transferred to him in 1649, by his father before the father's death in November 1651. Yet, Henry also was a Catholic and was transplanted to Connaught by the Cromwellians.

The Tanner Letters.

W., Bp. of S. Asaph to Abp. of Canterbury.
15th June 1686.

“Recommends Mr. Arthur Slingsby, son of Sir Henry Slingsby of Ireland, who is a most zealous man of the Roman side but the young gentleman was brought into the communion of our Church by his father's sister's (Elizabeth's) son, the most pious Mr. Dodwell, (cousin Henry), who cares for him, he having been cast off by his father, and has got him into the foundation of Trinity College where he is Bach. of Arts”. (Degree awarded 1686).

Alumni Dublinenses.

Arthur Slingsby entered T.C.D. on the 15 Aug. 1682 at the age of 16, son of Henry, Eques Auratus, i.e. Knight. He was born in Co. Galway circa 1666.

On the 29th Sept., 1684 a deed of agreement was drawn up between Francis Slingsby (of Ballyglass) and Thomas Badham, (Cromwellian soldier) regarding the lands of Killbraher, Knocknashelling, etc., in the Barony of Orrery and Kilmore, containing 469 acres, granted for arrears in 1659. These lands had belonged to Slingsby's grandfather Sir Francis Slingsby. Slingsby now claims possession under a deed of settlement. The Court of Claims adjudged Slingsby an innocent, but did not admit his title to the said lands. The Deed of Settlement embodies the settlement of the case by consent. Badham retained the lands upon payment to Slingsby of £48-13-0d. (Townland 27, on map)

Sir Henry Slingsby of Ballyglass, Co. Galway, married Elizabeth Touchet, daughter of the Earl of Castlehaven. Their son, Col. Francis, married Elenora, daughter of Col. Finglas of Westpalstown, Co. Dublin. Their,- Francis and Elenora's,- daughter Elizabeth married John Dillon of Kinclare and another daughter, Alice, married Theobald Dillon of Lisduff on the 22nd Feb. 1705.

A memorial slab to John Finglas Slingsby can be seen today in the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, Galway City. John was only 6 years old when he died in 1690. Bearing in mind that it was the fashion of the time to use the mothers surname as a second Christian name, it is safe to assume that he was the baby son, of Francis and Elenora above.

In the year 1705 a permit was given to Capt. Francis Slingsby, Roman Catholic, of Ballyglass, Co. Galway, to bear arms, being – 1 sword, 1 case of pistols and 1 gun.

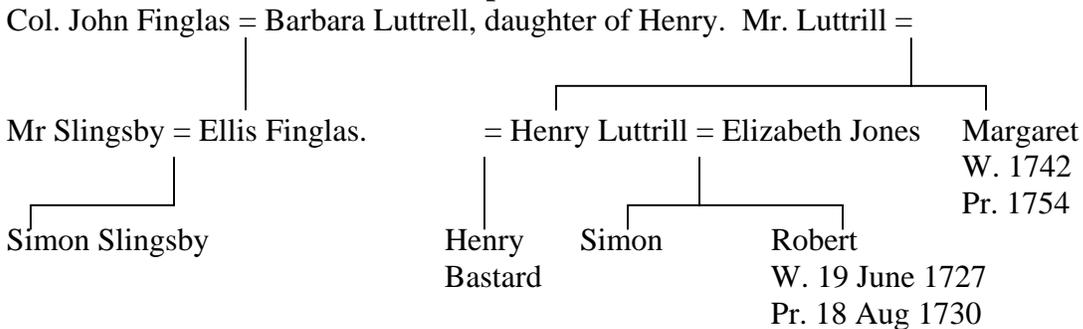
A stone once stood at the East end of Clonsilla Church inscribed with the following, "I.H.S. This stone and burial place belong to Mr. Simon Slingsby of the City of Dublin, Merchant, and his posterity. (Does I.H.S. "In Hoc Signum". signify a catholic grave.)

Here lieth the body of the above Simon Slingsby who departed this life on the 29th Dec. 1747, aged 57. (Born, 1690).

Here also lieth the body of his mother Alice Slingsby alias Finglas who departed this life 19th Dec. 1719, aged 70. (Alice was originally a Luttrell of Luttrellstown.) (Born, 1649).

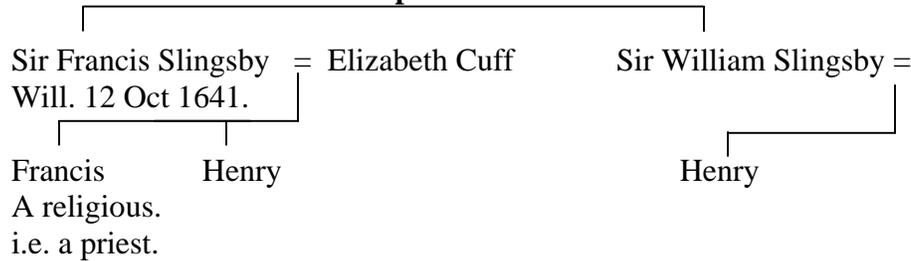
Here also lieth the body of his father, Francis Slingsby Esq., who departed this life 9th Feb. 1719, aged 71. (Born, 1648).

Betham's Will Abstracts. G O 238. p 336.

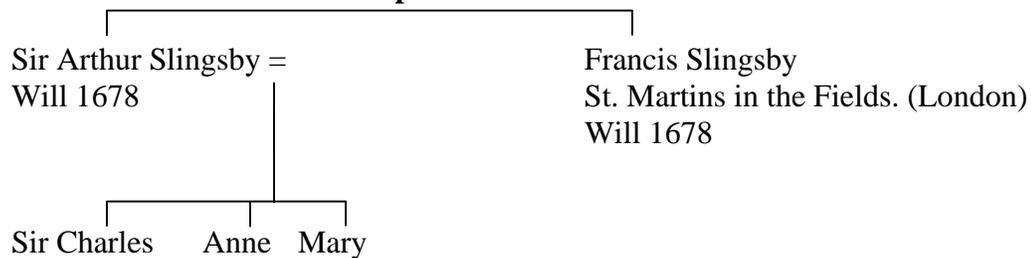


An Estate map exists for the Estate of Francis Slingsby of Tiaquin Barony, Co. Galway, dated 1766. It's to be found in the National Library. Map Index, 21 – F – 76 (25).

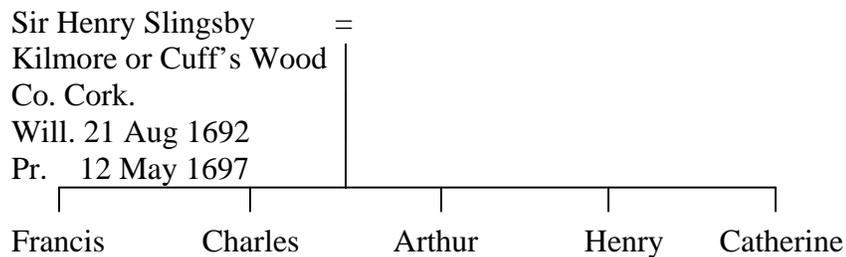
Betham's Will Abstracts. G O 226. p 157.



Betham's Will Abstracts. G O 226. p 176.



Betham's Will Abstracts. G O 226. p 200.



These will abstracts raise quite a number of questions as they contradict each other in some details. Why was Sir Henry using Kilmore/ Cuff's Wood as his address. His family never recovered this Estate in North Cork. Sir Henry was at Ballyglass for almost 40 years at the time of his death and this was the Estate that his son and heir Francis, inherited. It is very important to remember whose will is being read and to bear in mind that the information given in the abstract is the recollection of the will writer and can be slightly off in some circumstances.

