

Luggala Estate

This report was commissioned by the late Hon Garech Browne (1939-2018) in 1990 when I was resident in Castlekevin and active in the Roundwood and District History and Folklore Society of which he was a generous patron. If memory serves correctly I now have the only copy that I discovered while doing an attic renovation and major document sorting. I have, therefore, decided to publish it here as the property is currently on the market¹. Another history can be found on the Luggala Estate website:

<http://luggala.com/thestory.html>.

As well as Irish and English newspaper obituaries for Garech Browne (or de Brun), others include Irish Aesthete (<https://theirishaesthete.com/tag/luggala/>), County Wicklow Heritage (http://www.countywicklowheritage.org/page/end_of_an_era) and Eamonn Fitzgerald Rainy Day (<https://www.eamonn.com/2018/03/12/garech-browne-1939-2018/>),

Castlekevin

Dec 17 1990

Luggala

This is a brief history of the present Luggala² Estate based mostly on the Registry of Deeds and covers all registered deeds from 1708 to the present day. It is important to note that not all deeds were registered which leaves gaps in the records; because of this it is difficult to reconstruct all the land transactions. At best this is a reconstruction based on the available records,

First it is important to note that the estate was originally based on the eastern side of the Avonmore River. This is because the old 'Kingdom of Feartry' was granted to Sit John Temple, of Farnham in Surrey, sometime in the late 1600s. He is almost certainly related to the Viscounts Palmerston. Early members were Masters of the Rolls, Provost of Trinity College. On the western side of the river the land was held by the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin, presumably from the Reformation but practically from the post Cromwellian plantations.

The lands, which encompassed most of the civil parish of Derrylossary, of John Temple were leased out in large blocks to a variety of Protestant minor gentry and Dublin merchants who sought opportunities to

¹ The report was typed on a manual typewriter. Obvious errors have been silently corrected with some minor editorial changes in punctuation, etc. No deed or other references were given in the report. Note that Luggala is not a townland but a subdivision of Ballinastoe; they were separate before 1700 but were amalgamated sometime in the early 18th century. For a history of the names see Liam Price *Placenames of Co. Wicklow*

² Often spelled Luggalaw

invest their wealth and join the landed gentry. As Temple was an absentee landlord all his leases were arranged by Henry Hatch, a Dublin land agent with Meath gentry connections and great-great-great grandfather of John Millington Synge. The first leaseholder of the estate was Thomas Hunter, nothing further is known of him as the only reference to him is as a previous tenant. It was then leased to William Shiels in 1738 under the name of Ballinastoe. It is obvious at this stage that the land was completely undeveloped as the rent was £5 per annum, no buildings are referred to but the lease grants full timber rights indicating that the area was still forested. At this stage the estate was only east of the river.

In 1761 the lease was renewed to James Shiels, the son, as William was 'lately' dead. In 1788 James was dead and the estate passed to Francis and Hester Early (nee Shiels) of Ranelagh. Hester was daughter of James, who had married Dorothea Lucas, daughter of Samuel of Eastcourt in Co. Offaly in 1763. It is in their registered marriage settlement that the name Luggelaw first appears, it can be presumed that the Shiels were responsible for the first development of the houses and lands. The marriage settlement assigned £170 from the lands of Ballinastoe; £2,000 from the lands of Luggelaw, Sally Gap and Shanmue (or Liffey Head); £1,000 from Lower Ballinastoe, Kelly's holding, Donney's holding, Stoney Pass and Bolinvalley. This shows the increasing value of the land from the 1730s.

The Shiels in practice divided the Estate into roughly two halves separated by a mearing ditch that ran east-west about half a mile from the gate lodges of the Sally Gap. This they leased out and in turn were sub-leased in a confusing set of transactions. The southern part was leased to George Parker Nuttall of Dublin in 1764 which refers to the mearing ditch at the side of Dog Brook and the house, offices and improvements of Lough Tay. The rent was £39 p.a. for the lives of King George, G.B. Nuttall and his son Captain John of the 58th Regiment. They were probably related to the Nuttalls of Titour who were involved in land leases from the early 1700s in Moneystown.

In 1770 George Nuttall, then living by Lough Tay, assigned his lease interest to a William Bomford of Dublin for £450. William Bomford in 1784 then leased the land to John Ledsam, Public Notary of Dublin, for £60 and a rent of £26 p.a. Ledsam surrendered his lease the following year and it was re-leased to Mathew Millet for £100 for 21 years. In 1787 Millet of Mount Nugent, Co. Kilkenny, leased it to Peter LaTouche at £18/6/- p.a. This is the first reference to the LaTouche involvement in the valley.

The following year LaTouche negotiated with the Earlys on the primary lease who leased it to him for 1,000 years though no money is mentioned. It is a bit confusing here as in the same years the Earlys assigned the lease to a Ternan O'Rourke and Charles Hornby for £3,333/6/8 and it is not completely clear how the lands are divided though it appears that the LaTouches at this time only had grazing land.

In 1792 the Earlys leased land in Mullinaveige to LaTouche and also registered a release and quit claim on the previous leases.

The northern half was leased to William Cambell of Bunnae, Co Cavan, for the lives of King George, William 3rd son of James Shiels and Touchet son of John Cambell in 1764. In 1769 Cambell leased 100 acres to Patrick Owen for 31 years for £200. Around the same period he appears to have leased land to James Rooney of Dublin as he is referred as leasing land to William Adair in connection with his marriage settlement to Elenor Lee. There are also leases in 1770 and 1771 to Riley Towers, lease man of Dublin, and James Prendergast, grocer of Dublin. Then Patrick Owens leased his section to Riley Towers.

It is confusing in that it is not clear whether some of these tenants had given up their leases as there is a high turnover of leases. In 1776 Campell³ leased an acre by the Clohoge and Whiteland rivers for the building of a house, it had previously been held by William Pemberton. In 1791 these lands were entailed to a marriage settlement between Edward Reilly of Cullentra, Co Cavan, and William Campell's daughter Margaret, William is described as Doctor of Physik in Dublin.

This was restructured in in 1794. In the same year the Earlys leased land to Edward Reilly for £125 p.a., this is described as south of Furlong's holding and east of Gatkson's holding. In 1819 William Campell and Edward, son⁴ of Margaret Reilly, widow, leased lands to William Keegan, farmer of Bahana. This Keegan might be related to the Hugos⁵ who held the other side of the river as a John Keegan of Glassnamurphy married Anne Hugo in 1791⁶. In the same year he passed on his lease to Viscount Powerscourt for £300.

Separate from the above two is a 1770 lease of a 'mansion' to Richard Underwood for £30 p.a. This is not registered but comes to light in 1780 when Underwood was described as a dealer in exchange and deceased bankrupt. The Court of Assignees sold the lease by public cant (auction) to William Deane for £50. He leased it to Robert Keelin of Dublin in 1792 for 5/- p.a. but just appears to be only land. Neither is referred to in later registered deeds.

As far as Clohoge⁷ goes this was leased by Thomas Hugo in 1763 to James Shiels. He had leased the lands around 1757 from the Archbishop of Dublin for 20 years revolving in perpetuity. The lands are

³ The spelling in the report shifts from Cambell to Campell, I'm not sure if this faithfully records a spelling change or is an error

⁴ 'sons' in the report, but this is probably a typo

⁵ Hugo family of Glendalough House, see also Glendalough Estate and the Hugos, *Roundwood and District History and Folklore Journal*, No. 4, 1991 by this author

⁶ Dublin Diocese Marriage Licence Bond – Bethams Abstracts

⁷ See also Clohoge in *Roundwood and District History and Folklore Journal*, no. 7, 1995 by this author

described as Clohoge and Elikierivan (in another lease Ballykerivan). The Shiels had included this plot in their lease to the Nuttalls and so it passed down through their various sub-lettings. In 1840 Thomas Hugo assigned these lands to the LaTouches in perpetuity for £2/5/4½ p.a. though he reserved mining rights and the Irish Mining Company is referred to here.

The rest of the 1800s has a series of complicated deeds between the LaTouche, Beresford and Powerscourt families. The Beresfords had become involved in a 1796 lease between Ternan O'Rourke, the Earlys and Beresfords. The financial and land relationships between the LaTouches and Beresfords predated their involvement in the area by at least 40-50 years, one example are the lands in the Delgany area. In 1859 the lands are assigned⁸ to Powerscourt for £6,000 and referred to Board of Works, County and Poor rates debts of £6.500. In 1860 there is a reference to a cancellation of a £1,500 mortgage lent by the Beresfords to the LaTouches. The rest of the deeds relate to the complications arising out of the marriage settlement between William Beresford and Catherine Haneage of Haenton Hall, Lincoln, and the debts accrued by the family which amounted to £16,000 that appear to have been passed round to whoever wanted to invest in the debt. These lands finally ended up with the Powerscourt family in 1894 with the debt that they appear to have cleared.

In the Derrylossary Tithe Applotment Book of 1831 is an interesting map of the estate⁹ which shows the extent of what is called the Beresford Estate and appears to cover the whole estate as leased by John Temple to William Shiels. It describes the quality of the lands but does not show any houses except for Luggala surrounded by trees which are mature and follow the eastern side of Lough Tay. Two other houses are shown; the first is about half a mile south of Lough Tay on the eastern side of the river again surrounded by mature trees, which like the others are deciduous. The second is Captain Lever's house about a mile north of where the gate lodge is on the eastern side of the road. This had gone by 1839 as it does not appear on the 1st edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey. Just south of this house is what is called the reputed boundary between the Campell and Bomford holdings.

This book gives the lessees of Clohoge. These, with acreage and rents, were: Patrick Nolan 408 acres £23; Charles Nolan 407 acres £23; James Nolan 407 acres £23; James Brady 615 acres £36; John McDonald 154 acres £9; James Brady Senior 308 acres £19; Kevin Nolan 154 acres £9; Owen Nolan 308 acres £19; John Kerwin 308 acres £19; Hugh Doyle 308 acres £19; John Nolan 154 acres £9; Widow Loughlin 77 acres £4; and Michal Doyle 77 acres £4. Annual tithes were from 7/3 to £2/16/8. In 1860 a Powerscourt lease refers to lands previously held by John McGurk and the following Nolans: Patrick Denis, James

⁸ The report does not state who is the assignee

⁹ From memory this map is not on the National Archives microfilm copy, but only available in the original file, see appendix for sketch map

Senior, Thomas, James Junior, Elizabeth, an unnamed widow, and Peter but does not say when they were evicted.

In 1857 James Brydon is listed as holding 6,569 acres and the following were listed as householders: John McGuirk, George Burthwhistle, Michael Finn, Peter Nolan Junior, Mary Nolan, Mary Nolan Junior, Peter Nolan and William Dagleesha. All these held houses valued at 10/- each. The Valuation Office map shows these situated by the river south of Lough Tay spread over a mile. At this stage four houses were vacant. In the first revision of 1860 most of these had disappeared. In place of Burthwhistle was John Whiston who was replaced by John Cullen in 1899. Dagleesha was replaced by William Fanning¹⁰ in 1897. Both these houses were listed as vacant in 1939.

James Brydon was possibly a farm manager or agent, he was replaced by David Steel in 1860 and by Thomas Clark in 1873; subsequently it was listed under Powerscourt. From the above it would appear that the Clohoge clearance was in two stages, the first after 1831 but probably pre-Famine when they lost all their individual leases and secondly in the late 1850s when they were moved or evicted from their houses.

An 1860 lease of Powerscourt includes a schedule of tenants of Ballinastoe townland: Henry Devin, George Bently, Bryan Somers, John Reid, representatives of John Kelly, John Nolan, Samuel Harrison, Christopher McDaniel, Robert Keegan, Patrick Byrne, James Phan, William Moore, George Moore, James Taylor, James & Robert Taylor, Henry Moore, Thomas Kelly, Sarah Cooley, Mrs Susan Hunter, Thomas Cooley, representatives of Bomford and P Molloy, William and Joseph Mason, Thomas Lloyd and John Drummond. The last only leased game rights.

(I concluded the report with a suggestion that the Powerscourt Estate Papers, now in the National Library, may be worth research. With regards to the 1798 Rebellion and evictions see Ruan O'Donnell's article in the 3rd *Roundwood and District History and Folklore Journal* but it is clear that the evictions were unrelated. The tradition of LaTouche daughters marrying two Nolan brothers seems unlikely and may refer to servant girls rather than daughters; it also seems unlikely that this was cause for evictions.)

©Ian Cantwell 2019

¹⁰ Father of Bill Fanning, see *Tales and yarns of Glendalough and the Wicklow hills, eventide at Glendalough*, John Vose, 1986

Appendices

First Appendix: Poem by an unknown author and written at Luggella, 26th May 1816

Sweet vale in the mountain, in softness 'tis blooming
'Mid the wildness of nature that's scattered around
Like a fair ray of hope when life is consumed
It beams 'mid the horrors that darkly abound

In its bosom encircled the deep water swelling
Reflects the huge rocks that hang o'er its side
'Mid its verdure arisen in beauty a dwelling
Where plenty and peace are seen to preside

O ne'er may destruction in wars flame beglowing
O'er this vale in which happiness dwells
Oh ne'er may the sound of horror bestowing
Awakened the echo that sweetly it tells

I did not give a source for this but from memory I found it in a book of poems in the National Library of Ireland. I had the following comment: The author of this poem is unknown, a note at the end of the volume says "By Mrs Tighe" and, beside it, another note says "No". The poet was well travelled as other pieces were written in the west of Ireland and the Barbados. The reference to war probably refers to the Napoleonic Wars.

Second Appendix: Tithe Book of 1822 taken from Derrylossary vestry minutes

Clohoge: Henry Nowlan, Chas. Nowlan, James Nowlan Snr., James Nowlan Jnr., Peter Nowlan, Peter Nowlan, John McDonald, Thos Brady, James Brady, Owen Nowlan, Ambrose Travers, Peter Nowlan, Hugh Doyle, Chas Coughlin, Widow Cullin, John Nowlan, Peter LaTouche. The last two were responsible for collecting the tithes.

Third Appendix: Census Returns, Clohoge

There are no surviving census returns before 1901 and only one abstract from the pension application series (National Archives). Elizabeth Nolan of 181 Emmerdale View, Frizington, Cumberland, requested a certified copy from the 1851 census for a pension application. She said her parents were Patrick Nolan and Mary (nee Miley) and her grandmother was Eliza. The in-house note say they found Elizabeth Nolan, widow, aged 60 and her grandchild, Eliza, aged 7. It is not clear if her parents were still alive or if she had brothers and sisters.

Fourth Appendix: Glendalough Estate

Thomas Hugo leased the estate from 1757 but probably held it from c. 1750-54. Previous to him was Thomas Byrne who held it from 1747 to 1750-54 and before him was Thomas Sherwood from after 1720 and before that was Samuel Price (possibly same family as held Mullinaveigue). The Sherwoods may have been related to the Sherwoods of Coolattin and Arklow (this suggestion was based on a memory of genealogical research done on that family c. 1983)

Fifth Appendix: 19th century Clohoge population

Census Returns, numbers in brackets are male/female

1841: 148 (86/62), 1851: 95 (52/43), 1861: 14 (6/8), 1871: 9 (6/3), 1881: 2 (2/0), 1891: 3 (2/1)

Sixth Appendix: Sketch Maps from 1839 Ordnance Survey and Beresford Estate map

