

Legends, Anecdotes, Etc.,

Colclough, originally spelled Coldcloughley, literally “The place of the Cold Rocky Valley”, descriptive there can be little doubt of the residence of the family at the time when surnames first came into use, as the following extract, treating of the composition of family names and taken from Elvin’s anecdotes of Heraldry page 172, will exemplify.

“It is only in fact with respect to compound names that we are justified in saying that a family name is derived from that of a locality, for then the very composition in a manner defines the place, and if the natural characteristics of that place be mentioned in it, proof is at once afforded that the family name is posterior to the local term. Thus for instance the Arms of Ernle County Sussex, an Argent, on a bent sable, three eagles displayed or, and they have a reference to the family which is taken from a village so called from the Saxon “Erne” an Eagle, and “leye” a place or habitation. Now from the peculiar situation of this village, the propriety of the term “Eagles Place”, as applied to it is obvious and there can be no reasonable doubt that the Ernle family (being at first called William, John, or whatever the name might be) de Ernleigh, gradually dropped the “de” and took the local appellation for their surname.

At what time the original spelling, ‘Coldcloughley’ was altered and the letters of the final syllable dropped, it is now impossible to say; it must have been at an early period, but although the name has been variously spelled since, and sometimes phonetically as Cokely, Coakley or Cokelee, the original pronunciation has been invariably retained. Ward in his “History of the Borough of Stoke upon Trent” see page 359, fixes the locality from which the family name is derived, at Oldcot in the Parish of Wolstanton, Staffordshire. Whether this is so or not I am not now in a position to say, an examination of the locality might decide the point. But certain it is that there were Colclough families there at the time of Edward III as the family were possessed of considerable property in that neighbourhood and which was largely increased subsequently by the marriage of John Colclough of Bluerton Ist Edward V, with Agnes one of the co-heiress(es) of Lockwood.

Sir Anthony, John’s grandson, inherited the great bulk of the estates, and might, one would suppose, have contented himself with enjoyment “like a fine old English gentleman” but he seems to have preferred a life of danger and turmoil in Ireland. He spent a long life in the service of the English Crown during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth, and it is evident that he played an important part in those troublous times. Amongst his other possessions in England were the Lordships of Hanley in Staffordshire and Hackney in Middlesex. He appears to have been an Engineer, as well as a Combatant officer, for he built a Fort, or fortified house at old Loughlin, for the protection of the English settlers. Sir Anthony had a lease from the Crown of Rosegarland (now the Leigh Estate) and must have made it his headquarters for a number of years, as most if not all of his children were born there. His first hold on Tintern Abbey was an assignment from Thomas Wood of his lease from the Crown for a term of years, and he subsequently got a lease in

reversion for another term made to himself. He appears also to have a promise of the Barony of St. Molyns in the County Carlow, but tho' their owner Cahir Art Kavanagh, having submitted and conformed to the Protestant Religion, was allowed to retain his Estates, and on Sir Anthony's resignation of his claim to St. Mollins, and also his surrender of Rosegarland, he was rewarded by a Grant for ever of the Abbey and Lands of Tintern, he undertaking to fortify it and keep a sufficient force of retainers, for its defence against the "Wild Irish".

Sir Anthony also acquired by purchase from the Sept of the Kavanaghs, a large tract of the country in the North of the County Wexford, known as the Duffrie. The deeds of sale are (or at least were a few years ago) still in the possession of the family, and are curious proofs of the instability of tenure which the "Irish" held under their Brehon laws by which they had only a life interest. A large territory could thus be purchased at that period for very little, of course Sir Anthony got a confirmation of his rights from the commissioner.

It is a curious coincidence surely that Sir Anthony, hailing from the "Black Country" in Staffordshire, should become the owner of the Black Country (The Duffrie) in the County Wexford. He died at Tintern Abbey, and was buried there as appears by his monument in the old Church, which latter must have been built by himself or his son. He appears to have survived all his sons except two, viz. Sir Thomas, to whom he left by Will, the whole of his estates in England and Ireland, and Leonard, who was High Sheriff of Wexford in 1596 and is thus given amongst the "Chief Inhabitants" in the Queen's County in 1599: "Colclough of Ballyknockane". Leonard's only son, Anthony, was of Old Ross, Co. Wexford.

Sir Thomas, who thus succeeded to the immense Estates of his father, made further purchases from the Kavanaghs in the Duffrie, till that Estate comprising at one time between 80 and 90 Townslands, included nearly the whole of the Barony of Scarawalsh, and was commonly known as the Colclough principality. Like his father, he was honoured with a Knights Spurs (unfortunately for present writer, his male representative, he seems to have despised the hereditary rank, as with his immense possessions and great influence, there can be little doubt that the Institutor of the order, James 1st would have seen his way to the grant if it had been desired). He also purchased, or more properly got a confirmation of lands in the Duffrie, from Sir George Carew, who was the nominal owner of all the Kavanagh lands. Presumably Sir Thomas must have kept up a large retinue at Tintern, and whether for more room, or that the Abbot and Monks houses were not grand enough for him, or that he wished to show his contempt for their Religion, he converted the Chancel of the Abbey Church into a residence for his family. What would have been the feeling of the proud uncompromising old Protestant, if he could have foreseen, that three of his younger sons would become Papists, and that as a consequence of it, the whole of his great possessions in the Duffrie, would so soon be parcelled out among the followers of the "Usurper". Happily for himself he died not living to see it. He built a small Church in the Demesne, which continued to be used as up to 1830, when it fell into disrepair and is now a ruin. Most of the family are buried within its walls. Whatever opinions there maybe as to turning the chancel to a dwelling house, there

can however be but one, as to his continuing to utilise the splendid Mill constructed by the monks. The remains of massive dam was still visible in 1880¹.

Robert Leigh in his account of the southern part of Co. Wexford written in 1684 and published in the Kilkenny Arch. Journal for 1859, under the head of "Tintern Peece" thus alludes to Sir Thomas' Oysters Beds in the Bay of Bannow, "On the west Banks of the which River Bannow (on Tintern side) there is an oyster bed belonging to the said Sir Caesar Colclough, and is extraordinary large and accounted the best Oister in that County (if not in all Ireland). They were brought thither about 70 years ago, in a bark from Milford Haven by order of Sir Thomas Colclough of Tinterne, and sunk there, where the soyle proved soe natural to them that they grewe much bigger and better tasted, than those now had at Milford Haven".

Sir Thomas lived in a style of almost regal grandeur, never appearing in public except in a Coach with six Black Horses, and outriders, *vide* Wards Stoke upon Trent, and there can be little doubt, that he it was, who gave origin to the saying, still common in the Co. Wexford, and indeed in all over Ireland, "As Grand as Colclough" but which alas, has ceased to be applicable to his descendants of the present day. He at one time fell into disgrace with Queen Elizabeth, as appears by her letter to the Lord Deputy, extracted from the Calendar of the Rolls, owing (in conjunction with his father in law Sir Adam Loftus) to some high handed treatment bestowed by them, on Williams, the Muster Master of the Army in Ireland, and who was, it may be remarked Sir Thomas Colclough's step father, so I suppose it was a family squabble.

Sir Thomas headquarters were no doubt Tintern Abbey, but he appears to have resided a part of each year on his English Estates, *vide* Wards Stoke upon Trent. He however sold his interest, (or part of it) in the Lockwood Estates to Thomas Henshaw, who was the representative of Joanna, the second co-heiress of Richard Lockwood. He *vide* his will, divided his Estates, leaving the Tintern and English Estates to Adam, his eldest surviving son by his first wife, with remainders over, and the Duffrie Estate to Dudley his eldest son by the second wife, also with remainders over, and in both cases including his most remote male relatives. He died in Tintern and was buried then, according to local tradition beside his father, though his son and successor had not the grace to leave a record of it. His remains lay in State at Tintern for a whole Month, and were buried with great pomp and circumstance, *vide* extract from "Funeral Entries" Ulster Office Dublin.

Sir Adam Colclough, who succeeded his father at Tintern, was created a Baronet by King Charles I, and it is likely his early death, before the troubles began was the means of preserving the Tintern Estates to his successors, because althow he was a Protestant, it is morally certain, from the intimate relations existing between the

¹ The wheel from the Mill is at present in Sean Cloney's farm house at Dungulph Castle not far from Tintern Abbey this being the year 2002.

Court and family of Charles I and himself, that he would have chosen the side of the King. He was succeeded at Tintern by his only son (child)

Sir Caesar the 2nd Baronet, whose youth at the time of the struggle between the King and Parliament prevented his taking a part in it. The Cromwellians however made many attempts to prove his complicity with his uncles and so, to get hold of his Estates also. He was educated in England, and remained there all his early life, and being reported dead at one time, a claim to the Estates was made by the widow of his uncle, John of (Pouldarrig), in favour of her eldest son Adam. There is a family tradition that the marriage relations of Sir Caesar and his wife were not happy, but let that rest with them in their graves. It is probably that the Wexford men are indebted to him for the name that they are still known by viz, "Yellow Bellies"- the legend about which I propose giving hereafter.

Robert Leigh of Rosegarland, married to Sir Caesar's daughter, and eventual successor, gives a very interesting account of Sir Caesar's possessions in that part of the County, his manuscript is published as I said before in the Kilkenny Archaeological Journal for 1858 /9, and need not be repeated here. He gives incidentally the inscription verbatim upon Sir Anthony's Tomb, in the old Church at Tintern. It appears from Sir Caesar's will – which w – that he had some years previous to its date, broken the entail on his property, with a view no doubt, to entailing on his daughter, in case his son should leave no issue and this, he accordingly did, providing, that she and her husband, and issue, should take the name of Colclough with remainders Duffry Hall, and his male issue with remainders over to testator's most remote male relations, and in default of such, the female succeeding to the Estates, to take name of Colclough, Sir Caesar was succeeded by his only son.

Sir Caesar the 3rd and last Baronet, of whom I have been able to learn absolutely nothing, except that he died unmarried three years after his father, and succeeded in his Estates by his only sister.

Margaret, then the wife of Robert Leigh of Rosegarland which place was had been granted to his ancestor at the Restoration. Margaret who was a woman of mind and who possessed great personal attractions, appears to have been in every way worthy of representing her family. She, in accordance with her father's Will, and immediately after her brother's death, assumed the name of Colclough and managed the affairs of her estate with dignity and foresight. It is said that she invariably presided in person over the Baronial Court held under Charter in the Demesne. I am in possession of a plan of the Court House, the ground floor of which was used as a Market, and am indebted for it to my worthy old friend Richard Gill, now alas no more, and whose retentive memory was a storehouse of events connected with the family and place, and I now quote from one of his many letters to me, relative to past events promising however that I have thought it well to take some liberties with his grammar and spelling, with reference to the Court and Market House he says: "when young, this (the sketch) with many other things was drafted on a slate to commit to memory.

The loft floor was of oak, for the Manor Court, and for meetings of all sorts, especially theatricals. The ground floor was the Market, and on this two 8 pounders were kept mounted on carriages, and in front there was a space of 80 by 100 feet, kept clean and open, where bonfires were lit on rejoicing days. The full of that house was great. It occurred on the occasion of a rejoicing for Sir Vesey's victory over Ram and Flood at an election for that County, which was about 1781.

Madam Pigott during her time presided at Court every 21 days to hear cases connected with her tenants. She had a Chair for herself trimmed with crimson and blue. She also established a Funeral Committee of 30 persons, with scarfs and hat bands, black gloves, with a view of the Market House, with a woman to attend and care them. At this time she decorated the little Church in grand style, and gave the present Plate and Chalice. It was she who took down the north boundary wall, (of the Abbey) and did away with the mounted Dragoons that should patrol around the Abbey, which was a principal injunction in Queen Elizabeth last letter to Sir Thomas. She (Madam P.) was called the Elizabeth of her day. After the destruction of the House, the Clerk of the Church had the care of the mourning cloths till the fatal year of '98, when they were included in the general destruction."

A year after the death of her first husband, Margaret Leigh Colclough (better known locally as Madam Pigott) married as second wife to her cousin Councillor John Pigott of Kilfenny Co. Limerick, who also took the name of Colclough. A settlement was executed on the occasion of this marriage, which afterwards caused a great deal of unhappiness to the parties, in as much as, that failing issue, it gave the survivor the power of disposing of the estates, so that if Pigott survived he might, and probably would have, left them to his own issue by his first wife, a contingency that Madam Pigott in no wise approved of, and in case of accidents, as the story was told to me by Richard Gill, she one day in her husband's presence, took the deeds out of the strong box, and put them into the fire, remaining guard over them till they were consumed. This would not have availed her, for the Councillor had taken the precaution to have them registered, but eventually she had her own way, for as she herself was the survivor, she was enabled to carry out the darling wish of her heart by settling her estates on her cousin and male heir, Caesar of Duffry Hall, the grandson of Patrick, who was the first in remainder, under the will of Margaret's father. The difficulties between husband and wife, however, apparently smoothed over for she erected a handsome Tablet to his memory in Saint Paul's Church, Dublin, and desired in her Will that in case she died in Dublin she should be placed beside her dear second husband.

A well-known and rather disreputable character in his day, Lord Altham, was a Tenant of Mrs Pigott Colclough's at Dunmaine, and there the child was born, about whom in after days, there was so much litigation in connection with his claim to the Anglesey Tithe and Estates². The evidence given on the trials was so conflicting that

² *THE VICISSITUDES OF JAMES ANNESLEY.*, *Duffy's Hibernian Magazine: a monthly journal of legends, tales, and stories, Irish antiquities, biography, science, and art*, 1:4 (1860:Oct.) p.176 (ed)

to this day I am unable to make up my mind whether the boy was Lady Altham's son or not, but this at least is certain that Mrs. Colclough was his godmother.

Having now disposed of the senior branch of the family (the issue of Sir Adam) I must refer back to the Duffrie Branch which on the death of Madam Pigott Colclough became the head branch of the family, and commence with its originator, viz.

Dudley Colclough the eldest son of Sir Thomas Colclough by his second wife, who, for distinction sake I will call "The Cavalier." He inherited under his father's will (which see) the whole of the Duffrie Estate, and lived before the troubles began at a place now known as Oak Hall on the towns land of Moynart or Monart, the southern boundary of his great possessions, which at that time included the whole country from Sir Henry Wallops Estate of Enniscorthy, to the Carlow line at Newtownbarry, (*now Bunclody*) bounded on the East by the River Slaney, and on the North by Mount Leinster and the Black Stairs Mountain. The Western boundary I have a difficulty in defining, but it at all events included the present Richards property of Grange, Ballyhyland, etc., and of course the woods of Killoughrum.

Dudley like his brother, Sir Adam, was a prime favourite at Court, obtained a confirmation from the crown 21 March, 3rd Charles I of the Castle and lands of Moynart etc., (The Duffrie Estate) and a further grant from the Crown, 29th July, 16 Charles I 1640) of the manor and lands of Ballyhoge, Keeraght, Galbally, and four other townlands near. The Tithes of 16 Rectories, 24 Houses in the Faythe, Wexford; 24 Burgages and $\frac{1}{4}$ in St. John Street Wexford, 2 Houses in Taghmon, the late Hospitals of St. John and St. Bridget, in or near Wexford, and several Parks and Gardens near Wexford, with power to hold Courts, Baron and Leet³, on said manor and to empark 300 Acres with free warren etc., A large Estate in itself, whether he ever resided at Ballyhoge (the present residence of the Cliff family) or not, I have not ascertained. Dudley, like his brothers John and Anthony, "took unto himself a wife of the daughters of the land" and unfortunately for himself and his descendants adopted the Catholic Religion and sided with the Confederates in the Rebellion of 1641, (to whom he was so much indebted?) is nothing surprising, but his being an Irish Papist told fearfully against his chance of recovering his Estates at the Restoration. His story is a sad one, and I do not care to dwell much upon it. The extracts from the Public Records of that day, and given in another part of this Book, will be found to throw much light upon it. Having been taken in Arms for the King, the whole of his property was handed over to Cromwellians, and he was given the usual option of being transferred to H. or Connaught, but not being in love, I presume, with either locality, he made his escape to France, and thus at least was more fortunate than his cousin, Colonel Walter Bagenal of Dunleckney, who not only lost his Estates but his life also for the little cause. Dudley, the Cavalier, returned to this Country at the Restoration, and was one of 15 Noblemen and Gentlemen included in a special Act of Grace, November 30th 1660, directing a restoration of their Estates, without any further proof. In this Act he is styled Sir Dudley Colclough,

³ For explanation of this term:

<http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/town/square/fk26/localpast/91wn/court.htm>

and it is quite possible that he may have been Knighted in France by the Young King, but I can find no record of it.

The Cromwellians who were in possession of the Estates had sufficient influence to enable them to retain a great part, and that the most valuable, including Monart, Killoughrum, Grange, etc., and the remainder, with the Rectories, Tithes etc., was eventually recovered by Dudley and his son Patrick.

King Charles 2nd along with his vices, had many redeeming qualities, and I think in spite of the following satirical Epitaph that he should get credit for at least one act of worldly wisdom ;

“Here lies one Mutton eating King
Who’s word no man relied on,
Who never said a foolish thing,
And never did a wise one.”

Circumstances were too much for him, and althow he may fairly be credited with a sincere wish to restore the Loyalists the whole of their possessions there can be little doubt that an attempt to entirely dispossess the Cromwellians would have resulted in another Rebellion, which he might have found it very difficult to put down, and so those Loyalists who recovered a reasonable share of their properties were as fortunate as could well be expected.

Dudley gave origin to another saying, which is still common amongst the Wexford people. The story is, that for some cause or other it became his interest to have the timber felled on a certain tract- I suppose of Killoughrum, it being necessary it should be completed by a certain day, and to enable him to do so, the whole countryside assembled, and working the entire of a moonlight night left not a stick standing by morning hence the saying ,”Smack smooth, as Colclough cut the wood.”

Anthony of Rathlin, the younger brother of Dudley, also took the Oath of “The Holy Catholic Confederation” and was a member of the Supreme Council of Kilkenny in 1642. He, particularly and his two brothers were very active against the Parliamentarians, a moiety of whom they besieged in Tintern Castle, and took it from them. Anthony was Captain of 200 men in the Confederate force of Wexford that blocked up Lord Ormond in Duncannon Fort in 1642.

P.H. Hore in his book the Chronicles of Tintern says there is little to record of Tintern from 1631 till the outbreak of the Great Rebellion, details of which are given under the General History of that County. Tintern was garrisoned in December 1641, by a small force, some 30 soldiers, from Duncannon, under the command of Major Edward Aston, or Ashton, of Kilbarry, in the County of Waterford, and at one time appears to have contained 200 refugees. Major Aston and his party were obliged to surrender to the Rebels, who were at that time in the neighbourhood of Shelbaggan preparatory to the besieging of

Duncannon (q.v.) after a fortnight's siege in the summer of the following year.

Lady Colclough retired for protection into the English quarters, and afterwards went over to England. It appears that in her absence a plot was concocted by Dudley Colclough of Monart, and his brothers Anthony and John, who were in league with the rebels, to seize the estate of Tintern, then the property of Sir Caesar Colclough, and for a short period the above John was in actual possession of the Castle and lands. The above-mentioned conspirators, together with Colonel John Devereux, of Mountpill, Tomhaggard, had agreed with the County Council to assault and capture the Castle of Tintern for the sum of £400. (The Castle of Tintern is the square tower attached to the Abbey, at that time the residential portion of the building). The following extracts from the Depositions of the period describe the events of the time and the principal actors in them.

Examinations of Major Edward Aston, of Kilbarry, County Waterford, aged 34, Ect., concerning James Lewes, of the Graigue, Templetown.

Upon the whole interrogatories the Deponent said that on the 17th of February 1642, at which time and before and after the same he did garrison the Castle of Tintern (near Duncannon fort) for the defence of thereof against the Irish Rebels, and for preserving thereof, and the goods therein, for the use of the Lady Colclough, a protestant, a party of the Irish Rebels in arms, to the number of 80 or thereabouts, came and laid an ambush near the Castle of Tintern, and about five or six of them went to the plough belonging to the said Castle, and did cut the harness and were driving away the garrans (plough horses) thereof (which was the means to entice the Deponent and his party out of the said Castle) whereupon about 8 men under this Deponent command issued out suddenly to rescue the said garrans, and the Deponent following them on horseback and mistrusting nothing, was not sensible of any enemy, till riding through a lane and seeking the entrance of a gate fast shut, perceived the said Rebels to the number of about 16 whose rise (i.e., who arose) out of their ambush and fired at this Deponent several pieces which missed the Deponent and he been forced to ride back through the same lane amongst their shot perceived his men engaged and fighting with the Rebels; notwithstanding this Deponent's men escaped with their lives, and but of them on horseback lightly wounded, besides one killed; and the Deponent further said that the said James Lewes was among and one of the said Rebels then and there in arms, and that the said James did present and endeavour to discharge at this Deponent five several times by cocking of his fire Locke, which nevertheless failed to give fire. The Deponent's cause of knowledge is for that he being afterwards at the said James Lewes his house, the said James told the Deponent that he was one of the said ambush, and that he did five several times cock and pull down

the trigger of his fire Locke aiming at and intending to have shot the Deponent, and the said James did, upon the said relation to this Deponent, in passionate manner curse his fire Locke for that it did not fire and kill this Deponent as the said James desired and wished it had done. He also said that James Lewes, did kill one Gilbert Yorke, an Englishman belonging to the fort of Duncannon. Feb.3 1653.

Signed Edward Aston.

Examination of the same Deponent concerning James Rochford of Taylorstown, (Tintern Parish, Shelburne) and Huge Rochford of Taghmon, son of said James.

Upon ye whole matter of ye Interrogatories the Examinant deposeth that the said James and Huge Rochford were in actual arms with and of the Irish Rebels that in or about the month of July, 1642 besieged, summoned and took the Castle of Tintern which was then garrisoned by the Deponent and a party of English for and on behalf of the English and the Lady Colclough a protestant, the proprietor of the said Castle. The Deponent's cause of knowledge is for that he did see the said James and Huge, then and there in arms as aforesaid, and said that the said Huge, being at that time High Sheriff of the said County of Wexford, was one of them that contracted with one John Colclough for the sum of £400 for the taking and subduing of the said Castle and investing the said John into the possession thereof, which he with the said Huge and the rest of the Contractors accordingly performed.

Edward Aston.Feb.3.1653

Extracts from the deposition of Nicholas Stafford of Codstown, gent, concerning the above Huge Rochford.

The said Huge Rochford did in the first year of the Rebellion with Colonel John Devereux of Mountpill, and others, summon and reduce ye Castle of Tintern to ye obedience of ye Irish, the same being then garrisoned and kept by a party of ye English Interest, for which exploit or service the said Huge with others had a considerable sum of money from John Colclough, as this Deponent credible heard from the said John, and partly to his own knowledge he understood the same.

Nicholas Stafford, 5 January 1653

The Examination of Robert Brown, of Knockingall, yeoman, aged 30 years or thereabouts, taken upon oath on the behalf of the Commonwealth concerning Dudley Colclough of County Wexford, Esquire.

To 1st he deposeth that he well knew the said Dudley and his two brothers Anthony and John Colclough, for that he hath several times seen them in the County of Wexford in the Irish quarters the first year of the Rebellion and sit hence, and that the said Dudley, Anthony, and John did not thence remove into the English quarters as the Lady

Colclough of Tintern, to whom they respectively allied, and other protestants of the said County did.

To the 3rd and 4th He said that the said Dudley, Anthony and John did in the first year of the Rebellion actually contribute their persons in Arms, and were so in Arms with a party of the Irish consisting of 300 or thereabouts which lay besieging the Castle of Tintern on or about the months of May June and July, 1642; the same being then defended by some English therein, and that the said Dudley, Anthony and John were present when the Castle was surrendered to the Irish. His cause of knowledge is that the Deponent did see them, the said Dudley, Anthony and John, with the Irish party then lying at a place called Kinnegh, distant half a mile from Tintern, and for that the deponent did see them, the said three Colcloughs, at the little Castle within half musket shot to the said Castle of Tintern, which was taken from the English therein by force and Arms, and for that also the deponent did see the said Dudley, Anthony, and John about two or three days after in the possession of the said same Castle of Tintern, when the English therein were thence departed; and the deponent further said that the said Anthony and John had at that time severally the names and commands of Captain's, but what office or command the foresaid Dudley had this deponent doth not know. And he further deposeth that the foresaid Dudley Colclough did about days after May day in the said year, 1642 come to the officers that commanded the Irish forces that lay at Shelbaggan blocking in Duncannon, and from the said officers obtained a party of commanded men, consisting of about 24, whereof the deponent was one, which party the said Dudley led, and commanded by night to the Irish Camp at Tintern, from which camp the said Dudley in person with the parties aforesaid forced into a house close to the to the gate of Tintern, of purpose to have brought from thence some sheep which he supposed to be in the house belonging to the English, and being disappointed of the said sheep- being not there at that time - further attempted to break an out gate belonging to the bawne of the said Castle, intending to have brought thence the cows and garrans (horses) therein, but being discovered, the English out of Tintern Castle made shots against the said Dudley and his party, and the said party shot against the English, and departed without attaining any prey; and the deponent further said that he credibly heard that the said three brothers Dudley, Anthony, and John Colclough did for some time maintain the Irish forces that took Tintern, and afterwards the Deponent did see the said John Colclough in the possession of said Castle and lands of Tintern, it being the estate of Sir Caesar Colclough a protestant.

Sworn before us the 8th of February 1653, signed Robert Browne.

The Examination of Major Edward Aston of Kilbarry, in the County of Waterford, concerning a William Sutton, of Ballykeeroge More, Ballybrazil Parish, Shelburne, in the County of Wexford.

Upon the whole matter said he the Deponent, having, in or about December in the year 1641, with 30 men at arms under his command, taken the Castle of Tintern in the County of Wexford for the defending thereof against the Irish then rising and risen in arms, for the use of the English and the proprietor thereof the Lady Colclough a protestant, continued in the said Castle till about July after the rebellion broke forth at which time William Sutton and others of the best ranks in the County of Wexford, came in arms and laid siege to the said Castle and summoned the Deponent to yield the same, which he denied to do, till after some days siege finding no hope to be relieved by the fort of Duncannon, the only garrison then in the County, did surrender the same on condition that he and his men might go securely into Munster, which was granted, and the Deponent further say that the said William Sutton was one of the men that was given and that of himself offered to be one of the hostages for this Deponent's safe and peaceable conduct to Fethard the place where he was to take shipping, which the said William performed.

Sworn February 3rd 1653.

On the pacification of the County, after the suppression of the Great Rebellion by Cromwell, who reduced this and other disaffected garrisons on his march to Ross from Wexford in the autumn of 1649, the Colcloughs- being protestants- were left in undisturbed possession of their estates, while those who were Roman Catholics and had taken a hand in the rebellion lost their property. Among the latter we find: - Dudley who forfeited in Garryhasten and others lands in Moyacomb Parish, Scarawalsh, 1,612 acres, Monart and other lands in Templeshanbo Parish Scarawalsh 12,168 acres, in St. Johns Parish Shelmalier, 834 acres. But his son Patrick Colclough, who was not involved in the Rebellion, and in the year 1689 was M.P. for the County and afterwards Deputy Lieutenant, obtained 7,736 acres out of the above forfeitures.

Sir Caesar Colclough, the proprietor of the Abbey, a protestant, besides being confirmed in his estate (the acreage of the lands in each Parish are shown below), was granted Kilsanlan, 376 acres, in Old Ross Parish in Bantry, the forfeited property of Owen McMorrish, Irish Papist. The lands confirmed to Sir Caesar Colclough:- In Kinnagh Parish, Shelburne 404 acres, in Clonmines 92 Acres, in Fethard 30 acres, in Tintern Parish, Shelburne Barony 1,339 acres, in Owenduff 2,160 acres, in Kilmore, Bargo Barony, 460 acres, in Mulrankin 60 acres, in Carrick, Bannow Parish, Bargo Barony 460 acres, and in the same Parish 220 acres. Total including Kilsanlan 4,945 acres.

Described in Pedigree Ms. books of H.F. Hore, Esq., as Sir Dudley Colclough, of Mocurry and Monart. He was ordered to transplant to

Connaught on December 19th 1653, but was granted three months' time to gather together the remains of his harvest, stock, etc., and allowed to cut down £100 worth of timber, which he did, and sold it to Francis Harvey, a merchant in Wexford. The Inquisition taken February 16th 1653-4, describes him as Dudley Colclough, of Moynart-13 persons in family, with 6 cows, 3 garrans, and 6 swine.⁴

(In the original BHD ms. this section follows directly from page 7, above highlighted paragraphs)

His eldest son Adam (of Greys Inns) following in his father's footsteps, and was in arms with King James II in Ireland in 1689, but the younger son, Caesar of Rosegarland used a wiser discretion, and accumulated a large fortune only, however, to be dissipated in the second generation after.

Patrick, the eldest son and successor of Dudley, having lost Monart, was under the necessity of building a residence for himself which he did in 1671 on the towns land of Mohurry, calling the place "Duffry Hall", still a household name in the family, though its ruins have long since passed into other hands. He, like his father, was destined to suffer heavily for his adherence to the cause of the Stuarts, for being an "Irish Papist" he was of course a Jacobite, and equally of course, risked life and property in the vain attempt to recover the "Throne for Shamus" and to saddle us with "Popery, Slavery, Brass money, and Wooden Shoes". His early life was passed in an almost fruitless struggle to recover portions of his property from those holding under the Cromwellian Settlement, and here, I think I cannot do better than quote from Prendergast's Cromwellian Plantation of the Barony of Idrone, published in the Kilkenny Arch. Journal of 1860. When dealing with the case of Patrick's cousin and brother in law, Dudley, son of Colonel Walter Bagenal, he says, "Others of equal loyalty, obtained decrees of the Court of Claims to have back their ancient estates, but as it was provided by the Act of Settlement that the Adventurers and soldiers in possession under the Commonwealth Settlement were not to be removed without being first "reprised" that is provided with another Estate by the Commissioners, and the Government officials were in no hurry to do this, even if they could have found sufficient land to supply them, the dispossessed owners never were restored, this was in part the case of both Bagenal and Colclough," and he says further on, "Dudley Bagenal therefore like his father, took up arms of King James, even though the King was rejected by his subjects in England. The risks might be desperate, the rightful cause might become at length the wrong, but had he not seen the dynasty restored and found loyalty uncompenced in his own person." And again speaking of the widow of Col. Walter Bagenal, "her daughter through the corrupt Acts of her father and mothers murderer, Chief Baron Corbet, married to his nephew, who occupies their Ancestral Halls". From this it appears that Catherine Bagenal, Patrick Colclough's wife had been first married to John Corbet, and again, "The fate of this family (Bagenal) was a common one to befall the family of the Englishman settling in Ireland during the (16th and) 17th century.

⁴Highlighted text from p.7 to here, inserted by Bernard Colclough

The possession of Irish lands brought almost invariably, in its train, some or all of the following misfortunes within a period of three descents, one of the family through his dealing with Irish Estates, will be found murdered by the Irish, or of the sons and daughters some having intermarried with the Irish, their children will have become Irish, often 'as Irish as the Irish themselves', and the possession of the property, dispossessed, either through treason or debt." The foregoing remarks apply so aptly to my own ancestors, that I make no apology for inserting them here.

Patrick Colclough, as mentioned in the Pedigree, was condemned for high treason, and outlawed by William III, but, dying before a confiscation of the property had been carried out, his eldest son

Dudley, who it is said was brought up a protestant but as it is most likely himself conformed, was allowed to retain the Estates. Dudley, of Duffry Hall who is said to have the rank of Colonel in Kings James Army, died comparatively young. His marriage with Mary Barnewall conferred upon his offspring the barren honour of a descent from King Edward I, and a kinship with William of Wyckham, Bishop of Winchester, *vide* "Burke's Royal Descents".

Piers Wauchope "Patrick Sarsfield and the Williamite Wars", 1992 quotes, Lieutenant Colonel Dudley Colclough and his Regiment, galloped to Brigadier Clifford's tent only too late to fight of the attack of King William's men who had built a pontoon of 25 boats and crossed the river under darkness. One of Clifford men had early that morning informed him that the English had crossed the river during the night. He said that "It is just another false alarm "and went back to sleep in his tent).

During the battle of Clifford's Bridge and Thomond Bridge in the siege of Limerick, Lieut. Col. Dudley Colclough and his Regiment fought very bravely, where they distinguished themselves with Honor.

Thomas Davis wrote these lines on the Battle of Limerick.

Oh, hurrah! for the men, when danger is nigh,
Are found in the front, looking death in the eye,
Hurrah! for the men who keep Limerick's wall,
And hurrah! for bold Sarsfield, the bravest of all.

From that period in history the name of Sarsfield Colclough, appears in the Colclough Family Pedigree right to up the twentieth century.⁵

It will be seen by a letter addressed to him by his cousin Caesar of Rosegarland, and transcribed in this book, that he was not entirely free from the land squabbles that his father and grandfather had so much of. He executed a post nuptial deed in 1700,

⁵ Highlighted text inserted by Bernard Colclough

settling his estates in tail mail, and which he further confirmed by his Will in 1712, in which letter he gives the name of all his children. He died at Mohurry from an attack of Smallpox, and like his father was I presume buried at Templeshambo. He was succeeded in the Duffry Estates by his elder son,

Caesar, known as Colonel Caesar, who also subsequently succeeded to the Tintern Estates under the settlement made by Margaret Pigott Colclough, on his marriage with his first wife, thus again uniting both estates, or as much as remained of them, in his own person, and becoming the head of the whole family. He was always regarded with great affection by Madam Pigott, and treated by her as her heir and successor, and certainly he did not fail in maintaining the honour and dignity of his family, and reviving the old saying "As grand as Colclough", though it must be confessed that it was done at a fearful expenditure of money and a sad diminution of the Estates.

I quote again from Richard Gill, in reference amongst other matters, to a fatal duel fought by him in his early days, and which it is said cast a gloom over his future life.

"Colonel Caesar was educated in Dublin by his godmother Madam Pigott, at the age of 14 or 15, he and a comrade had a falling out one morning. They fought on the lobby with small swords, and Caesar run him through. He was tried for his life in the Courts, and his godmother gave directions to his Counsel to send a special message of his liberation to the Abbey, and she would well reward him; so three men set off with the news of his acquittal, the first man that reached, got 5 guineas, the second 3, and the last 1 ½; and they were kept for three days to refresh themselves, as they travelled bare foot, such was the mode of travelling at that time."

The Colonel was only 23 years of age when he entered Parliament, which place he kept for 40 years without opposition, though he was often opposed in the House. It was on his account that the chairs were chained, swords were prohibited to be worn, slippers to replace boots, he was terrible in a passion, he carried all before him on the liberal, or in those days the Whig side. He was a man of 6 feet 4 inches in height, and all his sons were not much less except one, Richard the youngest, who was not more than 5 feet 8 inches, but as supple as a kid, he would leap over three of his father's Coach Horses side by side. His income in all of the property was £4,500

He also kept up four houses, Duffry Hall, Tintern, one in Wexford and another in Dublin, and spent three months of the year in each of them. He used to come to Tintern in June, and three weeks before his coming he had the village all whitewashed and cleaned out, and the week after his arrival, he and his lady with 5 sons and 3 daughters, visited every house and family, himself and sons all dressed alike in sky blue or scarlet, with swords by their sides, and the Ladies in black silk, so stiff that the dresses would stand of an end and rattle as they walked. The Colonel would ask each family

how they were getting on, and did they require anything that he could do for them. At that time it was a great place for all kinds of trades. In a small way and to humiliate his sons, he would turn about to them, and tell them it was those poor people who were keeping the fine clothes on them, and not to forget them when they came in their way.

My father was born in the village in the year 1744 and remembers all these things going on for many years. When the Colonel used to leave the Abbey in September he would get all the ripe fruit taken down, and divide it all amongst the people in the village according to family, himself being present with a list in his hand, and in November there was two casks of Cider made with the rest”.

Colonel Caesar’s lavish expenditure and as a consequence., numerous debts, drove him to the expedient of breaking the entail, and we find him in 1725 petitioning the Irish Parliament for an Act to do so. This first attempt was unsuccessful, but in the following year he obtained an Act of the Imperial Parliament under which large portions of the Estates were sold, and again, some years afterwards, 1746, he obtained a similar Act from the Irish Parliament, by which he was enabled to dispose of great deal more. Notwithstanding all which, he was never out of monetary troubles, even with the members of his own immediate family, as may be seen by a letter addressed to him by his brother Henry, which I found with other papers in the Abbey after the first trial,) and by the Will of the youngest brother Dudley, of Balcormuck. One of his favourite devices, was the assignment of his life interest in a Townsland, instance Rossard to his brother Henry. It is said that an open rupture about money took place between him and his next brother Francis, and which was perhaps the cause of the latters joining the ranks of the Irish Brigade in the service of France, and his consequent outlawry. And here I cannot resist the temptation of introducing a Jacobite distich of that period 1745 attributed to John Byrone and which shows the lamentable state of uncertainty in those days, as to whom their allegiance was due.

“God bless the King, I mean the faiths defender;
God bless, no harm in blessing the Pretender;
Who that Pretender is, and who that King;
God bless us all, is quite another thing;

There is strong grounds for the belief that Colonel Caesar himself was a Jacobite in his heart, but fortunately he never took an active part in the cause, else there would probably have been a third confiscation of the Estates, and he might have fared as badly, if not worse, than those who went before him. I have not been able to ascertain when the last of the English Estates were disposed of, but some of them at least remained with Sir Caesar, the second baronet, for he alludes to them in his Will.

One of the Colonel daughters was a deaf mute, and there are many strange stories told in connection with her, such as that she invariably became restless, and walked at night previous to the death of any member of the family.

In another, Richard Gill tells us that, "In the Christmas of 1758 or 9, Col. Caesar, as was customary, invited many of his relatives and friends to Tintern Abbey for the holidays for a month. 23 of his own name principally of the male sex, were present, the woods and groves were very extensive at that time, in the party there were 2 Caesar's, 2 Adams, 2 Johns, 2 Toms, 2 Patricks and 2 Henrys. There was an old servant named James Moloney in the family at that time, who spent his lifetime with them, and he often spent a day afterwards with my father talking over many things, and the foregoing in particularly, as it was his first time in the Abbey. The Leighs, Loftus', and Tottenhams often dined there after the day's sport, and it was at this time, that Lord Loftus remarked "Colclough your glasses are small", to which the Colonel replied, "fill them often and they will turn a mill". The last time he was at Tintern for the Christmas, he had the Duffry Hall Stag Hounds and there were 24 Colcloughs mounted, and along with them the Hattons, Hores, Harvey, Bunburys, Leighs and many others that I can not think of. He was 3 years in Dublin under Doctors, for a scorbutic Dropsy. He was buried on Easter Monday night at 12 o'clock and the funeral cortege was most impressive and grand with torchlight, and flambeaux on the horses heads".

Colonel Caesar commanded I believe the Wexford Regiment of Militia, and it is certain that he raised a Regiment of Dragoons in the County by authority of the Government. He left by his Will (which was too long for me to copy in extenso) all that he had the disposal of, to his eldest surviving son Adam, who held Duffry Hall under lease and resided there. Adam was a wonderful favourite with all, and especially with the country people. I have extracted from "Irish Folk Lore" published many years ago in Dublin.

"The district of the Duffry in the north west of Wexford, has its pool and its legendary peist as the traveller proceeds from Bunclody (Newtownbarry) towards the ancient seat of the Colcloughs at Mochurry, with the imposing mass of Mount Leinster on his right hand, he will see an insignificant looking pool in a rushy field as he approaches the little bridge of Thuar"; this is Lough na Peisthe, or the lake of the Serpent or Dragon, and the legend there goes on to relate how a brave Munster man overcame the serpent and relieved the country side of the destroying monster. The legend then continues, "The whole country side soon had the welcome news from all the fires on the hills, and the brave Munster man was made much of by the King and Queen at Ferns. Ever so much money was given to him, and he thought the best thing he could do with it was to build a church. He had a curious dream one night, and the first thing he saw next morning, when he went out was a wild duck and mallard flying up the Duffrey. He followed them over the bridge of Thuae, and the ford on the Glasha, and across the little hill, and when they came over Templeshambo, down they lighted, the drake on one side of the stream, the duck on the other. So he built a Monastery where the drake rested, and a nunnery where

the duck rested, and till our own days no man has ever been buried in the nunnery grave yard, nor woman in the monastery grave yard.

In the time of Adam Colclough, an old Palentine woman that they called Blue Cap was put in the wrong place, and the boys ruz her three times and put her coffin up against the church door till her relations buried her at last on the women's side",

The following, relating also in fact to the foregoing circumstances is extracted from Kennedy's 'Legends of Mount Leinster" and 'Evenings in the Duffry".

'The master of the Hall (Duffry) is taking his ease in a rustic chair in the morning dress of the gentleman of the period xxx His three-cornered hat hangs on a side projection of this seat, and the curls of his wig fall on his shoulders. The noble features are expressive of good nature, with an alloy of testiness. Two or three neighbouring Squires, and some farmers stand or sit around, and the conversation embraces hurling matches, hunting and farming", for all which I must refer my readers to the books in question. The evening was enlivened however by the entrance upon the scene of Peter, the Duffry Poet Laureate, who amongst other things recited for the company his latest effusion, which however I cannot find room for in full⁶, and shall omit in part his uncomplimentary remarks upon a neighbouring squire, who had only lately acquired property in those parts, and who had not succeeded in gaining his good will.

Good neighbours, and you nine muses, I pray you pay attention,
While I sing of the song of the scar- crow that keeps us in subjection;
Though he dresses fine and grand, the real blood of the County,
Always look down upon him, for they're gentlemen of bounty.

"Can he compare his bogs and heaths to the woods of Mohurry,
When the bugles were a sounding and the hunts men a running,
He thinks himself, a Lord when he kills a black nose sheep,
While three ox beefs are slaughtered in Mohurry every week.

"Now this Jones of Achasallach is a monkey - faced rascal;
He's swarthy in the face, and admirable yalla
Not so by Adam Colclough, he's both white and red,
He's handsome when he's dressed, and much handsomer in bed,

And Miss Kitty and Miss Mary, they're both fair and tall,
They're as Courteous in behaviour as a fleet of man of war;
They walk in crimson mantles under the old trees,
And 'tis Vanus and Diana you fancy that you sees

If you go to Achasallach and stay but half a day,
You'll surely have a belly ache before you come away;

⁶ Bernard Colclough added 2 further stanzas – 1 and 4 – highlighted below

If you go to Mohurry in the beginning of the week,
You'll get beer,ale and brandy, till Saturday night.

Now may our Duffry heroes, and yellow bellies all,
For ever beat the Wicklow boys at hurling and football;
May Jones of Achasallach be banished over say,
And Colclough reign at Duffry Hall,for ever and a day.

(Their reign at Duffrey Hall terminated in the next generation⁷.)

Kennedy in his "Legends of Mount Leinster", gives in verse a somewhat different version of the "Legend of Lough na Peisthe," and the exhuming of a woman's body, who had been buried on the wrong side of the river, and relates how the party at Duffry Hall, headed by Mr Colclough, the Rector of the Parish and the Parish Priest, accompanied by a large concourse of people, proceeded to Templeshambo, and finally buried the body in the women's grave yard, when it was afterwards allowed to remain in peace, and the ceremony being over how Mr. Colclough addressed the people, and in conclusion "Jokingly mentioned his surprise, how long the custom should have held out in separating those in death who had been so fondly attached to each other through life". Colonel Caesar was succeeded in his Estates of Tintern and the Duffrie by his Grandson

Sir Vesey, who was a worthy, or rather unworthy, imitator of his grandfather in a life long career of reckless extravagance, and in addition it is sad to say, of vice and profligacy. Sir Vesey commenced the running the moment he was of age, he succeeded to the property, made a runaway marriage, and was returned member for the County within twelve months. The dwellings of the Abbots and Monks at Tintern with the surrounding buildings, having been pulled down and removed from time to time, and the part of the church inhabited by Sir Thomas and his successors, having fallen into disrepair, Sir Vesey fitted up a residence for himself in the central Tower of the Abbey, which however had become uninhabitable at the time of his death.

Richard Gill's reminiscences of him, as related by Gill's father, who was Sir Vesey's personal attendant, were inexhaustible. In one of his letters to me, he says, "I am glad you went to Duffry Hall, it was a great place in my father's days, and I often heard him talk about that stone with the inscription on it" (showing the date of the erection of the House, but which unfortunately was carried off and lost after the place passed into the hands of strangers)

"My father was twice sent from Tintern in charge of 100 men and horses to Duffrie Hall with sifted gravel in bags across the horse's backs for his (Sir Vesey's) uncle Adam's garden. Such was the conveyance in those days, that they stayed there all night, and returned the next day and the cavalcade was such that the country people used to come running from all directions through the fields and over ditches, shouting out 'here is the Colclough's men!'

⁷ When Duffry Hall was sold off and eventually fell into ruin.

When home Sir Vesey would ask them, how did his uncle treat them! And then, was open house kept that night, “ and again March 11th 1775⁸, “Sir Vesey raised a Corps of Volunteers at his own expense, and kept them up till 1788 and he got a pension of a guinea a day from George III for his great services in suppressing the White Boys who were the pest of the Country in those days. He and the Hon. George Ogle were night and day after them, in woods and bogs, and hanged two of the leaders at or near Poulpeasty where they had committed a foul deed. The roll of his Corps was 133 men. He put all the Volunteers of the County through their different evolutions before the Inspector General in Johnstown Park, there were 1512 in our line, and no voice but his could be heard from end to end, He got an experienced soldier named Cooper to walk beside him and tell him the right word of command at the proper time, and got the credit of the day. There was an ox roasted whole in the Park on the occasion, and in return he gave four days entertainment at the Abbey of the great Astleys Circus, 12 Horses and 20 men. The guests commenced to arrive on Tuesday morning, and to leave on Friday evening. There were 33 Coaches in the yard, which was a rare thing in them days, and the Yacht in the river, blazing away with her two 8 pounders”, and he adds “Honord Sir, don't oust think that I'd lave our corispondanse to the wings of the wind. Death before Dishonour.” Poor Dick, there never was an honestor or a more faithful servitor of the family.

The local traditions with regard to the disappearance of Sir Thomas Colclough's Oyster Bed in the harbour of Tintern, is, that one winter in Sir Vesey's time, there was a famine in that part of the country, and that the poor starving people came from all parts, and with Sir Vesey's permission lived on the Oysters as long as they lasted. An attempt was made some years after the famine by Mr. Rossborough Colclough to establish another Oyster Bed in the Harbour, but the site chosen was not a good one, and the thing failed. I have eaten some of the Oysters and found them excellent, and of a delicate flavour.

Sir Vesey continued a member of the Irish House of Commons, with a short interval, till the time of his death, and after the separation from his wife, spent his days and nights in riotous living, his only object in life apparently, being to get rid of his property, his grandfather alienated a great deal in a legal way, but Sir Vesey did not stoop to that course, and although he had only a life interest, he managed some how or other to sell and mortgage the property and to give leases virtually for ever at nominal rents and heavy fines paid down, till at his death he was not in possession of even the Tintern Demesne. Amongst other birds of prey, a Mr. Ebenezer Radford Rowe, got hold of several Towns lands, Mohurry, on which stood the old family residence of Duffry Hall, being one of them, and although John and Caesar, afterwards succeeded in making him and others similarly situated disgorge a part of their ill gotten gains, Duffry Hall was lost forever to the family. Sir Vesey died comparatively a young man, prematurely worn out, I suppose by the life he had led, and by his will (which see) shewed that he had retained his family pride, if nothing else, as he desired that the estates should remain with the name, and blood of Colclough.

⁸ *This could be a misprint in the original*

Sir Jonah Barrington in his description of the seven Baronets of the House of Commons, amongst whom he includes Sir Vesey, thus alludes to him: "Sir Vesey Colclough, member for County Wexford, who understood books and wine better than any of the party had all of his days treated money so extremely ill that it would continue no longer in his service, and the dross, as he termed it, having entirely forsaken him, he bequeathed an immense landed property during his life, to the uses of custodiams, elegits, and judgments, which never fail to place a gentlemen's acres under the special guardianship of the attorneys. Sir Vesey added much to the pleasantry of the party, by occasionally forcing on them deep subjects of literature, of which few of his companions could make either head or tail, but to avoid the imputation of ignorance they often gave the most ludicrous proofs of it on literary subjects geography and Astronomy, with which he eternally bored them,"

Sir Vesey was neither Knight nor Baronet, and I am not certain which title he assumed, but he maintained to the last that he was Sir Vesey Colclough, challenged every one who question it, and fought several duels on that score, but as will be seen by the pedigree he was descended, as I am, from a younger brother of the first Baronet of the family. Sir Vesey's eldest son

Caesar, (now known as the Testator) and who succeeded him, had gone to France at an early age to avoid joining his father in opening the entail. He was a Detainee there at the time of his father's death, and for many years afterwards, and the younger son John undertook the management of the Estates, and the recovery of such parts as could be recovered. His father's apartments in the castle having become uninhabitable, he fitted up rooms for himself at the western, or entrance end of the abbey, which were afterwards added to by the agents, Mr. Goff and Mr Kennedy, and latterly by Mr. Rossborough Colclough and which formed the dwelling place of the family.⁹ John repaired the old monks dam, and built a flouring mill, and a high wall around the garden, planted trees, to replace the timber cut down and sold by Sir Vesey's orders, roofed and repaired the Crypt which had been formerly the passage from the Abbots House to the Church, and endeavoured as much as was in his power to make the place a fit residence for a gentleman. He also entered into partnership with a bank in New Ross and sought to retrieve the fortunes of the house in every way, but his law expenses in the different suits brought to recover parts of the property that had been made away with by his father, and in which he was only partially successful, and the expenses of contested elections, kept his financial affairs always at a low ebb. He was member for the County for many years, and finally lost his life in an election duel with Mr. William Alcock of Wilton in 1807.

⁹ until 1959 when Miss Biddulph Colclough left it to live in the village of Saltmills