

Aclare House

Aclare House, Drumconrath, was constructed for Henry Corbet Singleton in 1840. A previous house on the site was described in 1836 as being a two storey slated house in good repair. A well planted demesne of 97 ½ acres surrounded the house.

Located beside the river Dee the townland takes its name from a ford over the river possibly at the site of the crossing called the Han bridge. The house is a good example of classical revival. Casey and Rowan describe the house as faced with Scottish sandstone. The house has a central top-lit stair hall. Held by the Lord of Slane in 1640 the property became part of the estate of the Corbet family. The large reception rooms contain neoclassical chimney pieces. The ballroom leads to the orangerie which overlooks the parkland of the estate. There are substantial stables and outbuildings to the rear of the house and a walled garden. The river Dee winds its way through the parklands and powered a turbine which provided electricity for the house.

The Corbets of Aclare were descended from Very Rev. Francis Corbet DD, Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and the family had burial rights at the cathedral. The owner of Aclare, Francis Corbet, added the name Singleton to his surname by royal licence in 1820 when he inherited the Meath estates of his uncle, Henry Singleton. The eldest son, Henry Corbet Singleton, born in 1806 inherited the property. Henry was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the County Meath.



Robert Corbet Singleton

Robert Corbet Singleton, the second son of Francis Corbet, established St Columba's College, Rathfarnham, in 1843 and St Peter's College, Radley at Oxford in 1847. As its first warden he inaugurated a very strict and rigorous system of religious discipline. In 1868 he co-edited, *The Anglican Hymn-Book*, which contained nearly thirty original hymns by him, most notably 'With gladsome feet we press.'

There was a Francis Corbet Singleton said to be the third son of Francis Corbet Singleton. Joining the Royal Navy he emigrated to Adelaide, South Australia, where he became Clerk of the Legislative Council. He established a silver mine in South Australia which he named Aclare. This may not be accurate as there was a second Francis Corbet Singleton, who was a relative of the family living at the same time.

Loftus Corbet Singleton, the fourth son, joined the army and became a major. He died in 1881 aged 38 from wounds received at Majuba Hill, Natal, South Africa while fighting the Boers.

Henry Corbet's son, also Henry Corbet, was born in 1837 and served as a major in the 30th Foot before assuming his role as landlord of 5,857 acres in County Meath in 1872 on the death of his father. When he died in 1890 the estate passed to his brother, Rear Admiral Uvedale Corbet Singleton, who died in 1910. His only child Monica Virginia, married an English cousin in 1923. Each summer the Singletons gave a party at Aclare for the school children from Drumconrath, which was followed by a football match between the local men. The estate then passed to the Land Commission in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The contents of the house were sold in 1930.

The house and 160 acres were sold by the Land Commission in 1939. In the 1940s the house was owned by Mr. Phillips. The house was opened as a hotel about 1950 by its then owner Mr. D.E.T. Lindsay and it remained operating as a hotel in the following decades.

Another branch of the Singletons were established at Mell, Drogheda and a number of these were members of parliament in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This family held nearly nine thousand acres in Cavan, Louth, Meath and England. Another Singleton family held over nine thousand acres mainly in Monaghan and Fermanagh.



Aclare Cottage

Also known as Athclare lodge the house was possibly constructed about 1800. The two storey over basement house is located near Drumconrath. In 1835 it was the property of H.C. Singleton. Aclare Cottage, the residence of Mr. G. Moore Adams, was in the north-east of the townland. The Adams family had connections to Aclare from the early 1700s. The demesne contained 36.5 acres. The house was described as a two storey, slated modern house in good repair. It seems to have been a u shaped house. George Adams held the house and demesne in the 1850s. John William McKeever and his family occupied Aclare Cottage in 1911. The original windows have been replaced.

Adamstown

In Trim parish Adamstown was described as an excellent house and offices of a handsome appearance and the residence of Mrs. Morgan in 1835. It was the property of Thomas R. Disney. Richard Nassau Bolton was in residence at Adamstown in the 1840s. In 1846 he supported the construction of a railway from Dublin to Trim and Athboy.

Agher house

Agher church stands just outside the garden of Agher House and so formed part of the estate. Jonathan Swift was rector at Agher from 1699 until his death in 1745. In 1804, a new church was erected to seat one hundred. The cost was mainly borne by the local land-owner, Samuel Winter, who made a gift of £450 and later, to make up the shortfall, a loan of £168. The church is renowned for its east window. Made in Dublin by Thomas Jervais, it is the second earliest known piece of Irish-made stained glass. The unusual subject is St Paul preaching to the Athenians on top of Mars Hill outside the Court of Areopagus. The design was inspired by a cartoon of Raphael and was created by painting on glass rather than using stained glass. The window was originally erected in the private chapel of Dangan Castle, the seat of the Wellesley family, which burnt down in the 1809. The window was presented to Agher by the O'Connor family, who were then occupying Dangan. Soon after the new Agher church was constructed Samuel Winter erected a family burial vault in the churchyard. Agher church was re-built in 1902.



Agher House stood south of Summerhill village until 1945 when its ruins were removed. The yard with its rows of old style out offices has survived. There was an underground passage leading from the basement of the house to the yard so the

servants could not be seen by the occupants of the house. Close to the house was an ornamental pond. There were two avenues into the house; the one which went by the church was the back avenue which led to the farmyard.



Agher Mausoleum

In 1652 Samuel Winter, who had received an MA at Cambridge, was made Provost of Trinity College and managed to acquire land in Offaly and at Tullyard, Trim. Following the restoration of Charles II Winter was removed from his position at Trinity College. From his first marriage he had five sons. Samuel, his eldest succeeded him. Two sons, Ebenezer and Gonaught, inherited only 100 acres between them, and that only on condition that “they should reform their wicked lives.” The Winters inter-married with local and newly arrived families particularly the Bomfords.

Francis Winter was born about 1690 and as a younger son had to find his own living as a woollen draper in Dublin. When his older brother, Samuel, died he inherited all the Winter estates. Francis married Margaret, eldest daughter of Benjamin Pratt of Agher. Another branch of the family established themselves at Cabra Castle, Kingscourt. Benjamin Pratt became the first of the Pratts to settle at Agher. The original property of 1150 acres included the townlands of Agherpallice, Ballintogher, and the detached townland of Genetts (Ginnetts) near Galtrim to the north. Benjamin Pratt died in 1706 aged 67 and was succeeded by his second son, Benjamin. This Benjamin married twice, firstly to Jane Nugent and secondly to Elizabeth Moore. His daughter and heiress Margaret married Samuel Winter. Their son, Samuel Winter, was born in 1741 and brought up with his two sisters by their uncle, John Pratt. In 1771 when Benjamin Pratt died Samuel Winter inherited the Pratt estates including Agher, Killeter, Co. Cavan and Killynon, Westmeath. This united the Winter and Pratt estates.

Samuel then rebuilt Agher House and moved to Agher in 1776. The cost of building was such that parts of the estate were sold to generate the necessary revenue. In 1778 and again in 1784 he was High Sheriff of Meath. In 1784 his undersheriff disappeared

with public funds and Samuel had to make good the loss. He died aged 70 on 19th May 1811 and was the first occupier of the Winter vault, which he had constructed. His eldest son, John Pratt Winter, was born in 1768 and educated at Rev Oliver Miller's school at St Mary Abbey, Trim. He became a barrister and magistrate. Marrying Anne Gore, the couple made their home at Eccles Street, Dublin. The couple then moved to Agher until their home at Tullyard was completed.

In 1798 John Pratt Winter resigned his position as captain in the Lawyer's Corps of the Yeomanry as he could not accept the government's actions of ill treating the ordinary people and burning the houses of the peasantry. In 1803 John was appointed a Resident Magistrate for Meath and Kildare; in 1804 he was made Deputy Governor of Meath and in 1805 High Sheriff. His father died in 1811 and John inherited Agher and the other Winter estates, all of which were heavily charged to provide portions for the younger children under the terms of his parent's marriage settlement. He stayed on at Tullyard until his mother died in 1814 when the whole family moved to Agher.

In 1817 his financial position was so serious that he was forced to lease Agher and take his wife and the younger members of the family, including young George and Samuel Bomford to live in a boarding house in Paris. They remained there for seven years, returning in 1824. John Pratt Winter was known to the Bomford family as "The Ruffian." John Pratt Winter died in 1846.

John's sister, Anna Maria Winter, never married but did published three books; "Some Thoughts on the Moral Order of Nature," "The Fairies and other Poems" and a poem "The Ideal Confidant."

Samuel Winter, the eldest son of John Pratt Winter, was a justice of the peace and Deputy Lieutenant of Meath. In 1837 he was elected High Sheriff of Meath and in 1851 of Cavan. He was a guardian of the Trim Union (Workhouse) and in 1861 was Chairman of the Guardians. Samuel died in 1867 and was buried with his wife, Lucy, in the Winter vault at Agher Church.

Samuel's brother, Arthur Gore Winter, went to Greece as a member of Lord Bryon's Expedition. Another brother, John Pratt Winter (the younger) became a portrait painter.

In 1836 the house was described as an excellent house with good out offices, garden and orchard. The townland was well wooded with fences were planted with ash trees and a large portion of Agherpallis was planted with ornamental shrubs and trees. The demesne consisted of 360 acres.

A member of the family, Samuel Pratt Winter, left Ireland in 1833 for Van Diemen's Land. His wife was Frances Bomford from a neighbouring family. His brothers Trevor and George joined him in Australia. Samuel established himself at Murndal. Samuel managed to acquire 19,000 acres freehold and 12480 acres on licence. He collected paintings and built up a library of more than 1000 books. He had an Aborigine boy in livery mounted on his horse's croup on his visits to the Melbourne club. He introduced Pyrenean sheepdogs to guard his flocks and wrote a poem in 1874 commemorating his invention of a swing gate for drafting sheep. Before his death he had instructed his brother to bury him where the Aborigines were buried and to mark his grave with a stone cairn but this created a shocked reaction in the community and the request had to be modified to a more conventional burial.

Another member of the family, John Pratt Winter, was a captain in her Majesty's 17th regiment of light dragoons (lancers). He fell gloriously leading the second squadron of his regiment in the heroic but disastrous charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade on the Russian army at Balaklava before Sebastopol in the Crimea on 25th October 1854 in

the 26th year of his age. A memorial in the interior of Agher Church commemorates this member of the family.

James Sanderson Winter was born in 1832 and succeeded to an estate which included 1640 acres in Meath, 861 in Westmeath, 940 in Cavan and 206 in Kildare, a total estate of 3,647 acres. He graduated MA from Trinity, joined the Royal Meath Militia as a Captain, became a justice of the peace; was elected High Sheriff of Co Cavan in 1871 and of Co Meath the next year. James erected a number of new estate buildings including a school and stewards house. James Sanderson Winter died unmarried on 10th July 1911 and was the last Winter to be buried in the family vault at Agher. His estates were passed to his nephew, Lieut-Colonel Edward Winter Purdon, the eldest son of his sister Elizabeth Anne, with the proviso that he took the surname of Winter, which he did in 1912.

When Edward Winter Purdon died in 1927 Agher passed to his eldest son, Captain Charles Edward Purdon-Winter. In 1936 Agher was sold to the Land Commission, which split the estate into separate lots. The house fell into ruins and was removed.

Allenstown

Located to the west of Navan near Bohermeen, Allenstown House was a large two storey house erected by William Waller about 1730. The house and estate was purchased by the Land Commission in the 1930s and the house was demolished in 1938.

Allenstown House was built in the 1730's and was the home of the Waller family. Mary Waller married Daniel Beaufort in 1767 and Daniel interested himself in later Charlesfort House modifications. Allenstown House was demolished in 1938.

Robert Thomas Waller was the first of the family to come to Ireland in the early 1600s. His son, John, became established at Kilmainham Castle, Kells. John Waller received some of the Barnewall lands at Kilmainham, Kells, following the Cromwellian confiscations. John Waller died 1713 aged 74. John's son, Robert, purchased lands at Allenstown from Prestons of Navan and also purchased lands from Trinity College at Athgaine. Robert Waller sheltered priests in his house while priest hunters were about in the Penal Days. The Wallers intervened to protect Fr. Barnewall P.P. Ardraccan on a number of occasions. Robert died 1731 aged 59 and was buried in Martry cemetery. The noted Irish artist, Charles Jervas, painted portraits of three of the Waller family; Mary, William and Robert, in the early part of the eighteenth century. Jervas died in 1739.

William Waller, born in 1710, was High Sheriff of Meath and it was he who erected the house at Allenstown. In 1733 William Waller married Anna Maria Smyth, daughter of James Smyth, Archdeacon of Meath. The Wallers were close associates of the Tisdalls, acting as executors to their wills and advisers on estate management.

William lived until 1796 when he died aged 86. William Waller left 20 guineas to the poor of Ardraccan and Martry and 4 guineas per annum to 'his poor, drunken, but honest servant, Pat G... (if in my service at the time of my demise) to keep him from starving, as I am sure no one will hire him after I am gone'.

At the start of the 1800s many families around Kells had their own packs of foxhounds but about 1816 they amalgamated the packs and called them the Clongill Hounds, which in 1832 became the Meath Hounds. The Waller family kept the Meath hounds initially at Allenstown, but around 1880 they were moved to new kennels built by John Tisdall at Nugentstown.

Mary Waller married Daniel Augustus Beaufort, rector of Navan, in 1767. Their son was Admiral Francis Beaufort, deviser of the Beaufort Windscale. Their relative, the novelist, Maria Edgeworth, visited Allenstown.

William's successor, Robert, died in 1809 without an heir and the property devolved to William's grand-nephew, Rev. Mungo Henry Noble, rector of Clongill who took the name and arms of the Waller family. In 1812 Edward Wakefield said Mr. Waller of Allenstown had 1300 acres wasted with thistles and ragwort.

In 1837 Allenstown, the seat of W. H. Waller was described as a handsome residence situated in a well planted demesne of about 700 acres, including a deerpark. In the demesne was Faughan Hill, the summit of which was planted.

James Noble Waller was High Sheriff of Meath in 1845. In 1838 he married Julia Tisdall from nearby Charlesfort. Their son, William Newcombe Waller, was born in 1839 and was High Sheriff of Meath in 1880. The second son, James Henry Waller, became an engineer and died in Banda Oriental, South America, in what is now called Uruguay. In 1883 William N. Waller held 2687 acres in county Meath. In 1895 he began a herd of pedigree Hereford cattle. In 1901 William N. Noble was living at Allenstown with four servants. In 1877 Edmund Noble Waller, son of James Waller, married Maria Louisa Noble, daughter of Robert Noble, rector of Athboy. In 1911 Edmund Waller and his wife, Maria, lived at Allenstown with three servants.

In 1920 the final family owner was Vice-Admiral Arthur William Craig who took the name Waller in 1920 in order to inherit the estate from his distant relative. Craig had served in the Navy and been in command of a ship at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. Vice Admiral A. Craig Waller presented a perpetual challenge cup to Bohermeen Cycling Club in 1937. In the late 1930s the property was sold to the Irish Land commission and the estate broken up. The house was demolished in 1938. Craig-Waller died in 1943. His son, Commander Michael Waller Beaufort Craig Waller, served in World War II and also the Korean War.



Waller Memorial in Martry churchyard



Allenstown Gates

Anchorage

In the townland of Rafeehan, Burry parish, Kells Anchorage was described as a neat two storey residence in 1835. At the time it was the seat of Mr. Brady, who held the townland of 53 acres from C.A. Tisdall. Today there are farm buildings around the house.

Annagor

In Kilsharvan civil parish Annagor is a rectangular Regency house. Casey and Rowan described the house as two storeys over basement. A central Doric door case with a pretty elliptical fanlight is set above a low flight of steps. In the early part of the twentieth century Annagor was home to the Channey family but in the ownership of Elizabeth Matthews.

Annesbrook



Annesbrook house is approximately two miles from Duleek on the Ashbourne Road but may be best viewed from the Balrath road. The house has a beautiful view over the River Nanny and the surrounding countryside. On the Ashbourne Road there is a stone gateway, known locally as 'The Pockets' with a kitchen on one side and a bedroom on the other side of the arch. In 1838 it was described as a 'modern spacious gateway.' The two storey house dates to the late eighteenth century with a portico and dining hall being added for a visit by the king in 1821. The portico may have been designed by the noted architect, Francis Johnson.

Annesbrook is sometimes known as Loughanmore and was the seat of Mr. Hamilton in 1766. Thomas Hamilton of Strabane married Anne Rouse of Oberstown, Co. Meath in 1752. When Thomas died in 1792 their son, Rev. William Slicer, Hamilton inherited Annesbrook.

Henry Jeremiah Smith of Beybeg House married Margaret Osborne of Dardistown Castle in 1802 and they acquired Annesbrook and were in residence when George IV paid a visit in 1821. When George IV paid a royal visit to Ireland in 1821, cynics said that he was coming to Ireland to visit his mistress, Elizabeth Conyngham, Marchioness Conyngham of Slane. The king received invitations from the major landowners and nobility in Ireland and yet he chose to visit Annesbrook. The ionic portico was erected for the royal visit as was the gothic banqueting room with a splendid plasterwork ceiling. George suffered from diarrhoea during the visit and did not enter the banqueting room. As the additions were erected in a hurry the foundations were not adequate and the room sank. In 1842 William M. Thackeray visited the area and is said to have been most impressed by Annesbrook, being pretty and neatly ordered.

Henry had nine sons. His fourth son, St. George W. Smith, lived at Duleek House. A number of the brothers served in the British army. Lieutenant Colonel Frederick Augustus Smith saw action in the Crimean War. For his bravery at Tauranga, on the 21st of June 1864 during the Maori Wars in New Zealand he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He died at Duleek in 1887. A memorial plaque to him, which was in the church in Duleek, was moved to the church in the Ulster

In the 1870s Mrs. Smith wrote a number of novels, one of which featured members of the family and their neighbours. In 1876 Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen H. Smith, of Annesbrook, Duleek, held 981 acres in County Meath. His brother, Michael Edward,

succeeded in 1892. Michael, born 1814, had served with the British Army in Jamaica, India and Australia. He died aged 88, in 1903. After Michael's death the properties went to his nephew, Fitz Henry Augustus Smith. Fitzhenry Smith of Annesbrook died in 1930, aged 70 and was buried in Duleek.

In 1920s the McKeever family took up residence at Annesbrook and the property was sold to the Allens in the 1960s. It then passed through various owners. In recent years the Irish Georgian Society grant aided part of the work of the restoration of the plasterwork in the banqueting hall which had been damaged by water.

Annesbrook, Moynalty

Annesbrook, located near Moynalty, was the seat of Mr. Rathbone in 1835. It was described as well wooded. A nearby bridge was erected in 1835 over the Moynalty river at the expense of the two counties of Cavan and Meath. County Meath paid £51 15s and Cavan paid £18 5s. Mr. Rathbone had erected a first class corn mill on a small river at the south of the townland of Skeark in Moynalty parish. It could grind 300 loads per week.

Joseph Rathborne erected the house which he named after his wife, Anne. This family were a branch of the family Rathborne, candlemakers of Dublin. Their son John married Mary Chambers of Bailieboro and the inheritance went towards the refurbishment of the cornmill. In 1876 John Rathburne of Annesbrook held 217 acres in County Meath. In 1911 Frederick Rathborne, farmer and cornmerchant was living at Annesbrook with his mother, Marion and sisters, Marion and Mary Elizabeth. Annebrook became the home of the Cooper family in 1995.

Arch Hall

Arch Hall, Wilkinstown, was a three storey red brick house with cylindrical turret-like bows at each end and a semicircular bow at the centre of the façade. The house was just one room deep and was built over a brick basement. The house was re-modelled in the nineteenth century and the front brick façade was rendered. The curved ends were given conical roofs so that the house would resemble a French chateau.



Photo: Mike Searle

The rustic arch flanked by obelisks to the south of the house on the original avenue provided the name of the house. The arch contains a decorated stone from Neolithic times. Other follies included two bridges over a narrow canal that is diverted from the Yellow River. There was a large lake to the south-west of the house. With a lodge at the entrance gates there was a walled garden and extensive outbuildings.

A local story says that there were two Chilean pine trees planted, one each side of the arch to celebrate the birth of two boys to the Gilliat family. Captain Glennie Gilliat died of wounds in October 1914 while his brother, Captain Reginald Gilliat was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle in April 1915.

Arch Hall is associated with the Payne and Garnett families. The lands at Newtown-Clongill were in the hands of the Payne family from the time of the Cromwellian confiscations. William Paine acquired a lease of 510 acres at Arch Hall in 1714. William had two sons, Lawrence and John. Anne, daughter of John Paine, married Benjamin Woodward of Drumbarrow in 1737.

The house was probably constructed in the 1730s and designed by Edward Lovett Pearce. Arch Hall is one of a small group of Irish buildings in Vanbrugh's castle style making use of bows and circular rooms at an early date.

In 1835 John Payne Garnett retained the townland of Arch Hall in his hands and had most of the townland under pasture, raising sheep and black cattle. Mr. Garnett's house was described as a beautiful old-style residence with a fine garden and offices, an artificial pond with a number of islands on which ducks and widgeon feed. On the western boundary was a beautiful decoy. The well-wooded demesne comprised about 350 statute acres. Garnett also kept the townland of Fletcherstown in his hands raising sheep and cattle. The sheep were mostly of the Galway breed and the cattle chiefly the long-horned Irish breed. John Payne Garnett was High Sheriff of Meath in 1821.

John Paine Garnett died 1846 and was succeeded by his son, Samuel. Samuel Garnett of Arch Hall married Mary Anne Tandy in 1841. In 1845 Samuel Garnett, Esq., J. P., was a member of a company promoting the construction of a railway from the south of Ireland to the north, from Limerick to Clones. In the 1850s Samuel Garnett held lands at Arch Hall, Fletcherstown, Oristown and Clongill. Samuel was High Sheriff of Meath in 1858. In 1876 Samuel Garnett of Arch Hall owned 1,336 acres in county Meath. Samuel's son, John, married Edith Singleton of Aclare but died in 1872 leaving an only son, John, born in 1866, who succeeded to the estates of his grandfather in the 1880s. A Justice of the Peace John died unmarried in 1894.

The property then came into the hands of the Gilliat family who were involved in banking in London and trade in Liverpool. In the 1901 and 1911 censuses Edith Gilliat and her daughter, Constance, resided at the house with their servants.

Arch Hall, the property of the late Mrs. Gilliat, was burned in April 1923. The house was unoccupied at the time. Before it was destroyed, one of the rooms was reputed to be made entirely in gold, from the paint on the walls to the furniture and picture frames. All that survives today is the facade and some remains of the front rooms. Mulligan described it as a "romantic decaying shell."

Archdeaconry House

Located just outside Kells Archdeaconry House, also known as Blackwater House is in the townland of Archdeaconry Glebe. A five-bay, three-storey house, the building dates to the late 18th century. The Church of Ireland Commissioners were the owners of the house. From the Anglo Norman period up until the disestablishment of the

Church of Ireland in 1871 the archdeaconry of the diocese of Meath was united with the rectorship of Kells. The position was quite well lucrative. In the 1740s the Rector of Kells, who also held the position of Archdeacon of Meath, had an annual income of £700. In 1799 the Bishop of Meath, Thomas Lewis O'Beirne, gave his nephew, Thomas de Lacy, the position of archdeacon of the diocese, the best position the bishop had to give. Thomas De Lacy was known for his hunting in Kells and his curates were expected to keep up to him. In the 1830s during the cholera epidemic De Lacy stayed at his post and tended to the dying. He also gave money to the poor and milk to the sick. When de Lacy died in 1844 he was followed by Edward Adderly Stopford, the son of the then Bishop of Meath, Edward Adderly Stopford. The position was then worth £1670 per annum, a considerable sum.



Alice Stopford was born in 1847 in Archdeaconry House, Kells, the seventh of nine children of Edward Adderley Stopford. Alice stayed with the family, moving to Chester in 1874 on the death of her father. In 1877 she married the historian, John Richard Green, the acclaimed author of the 'Short History of the English People' published in 1874. Through the work of her husband she became interested in historical research, first in England and then following her husband's untimely death in 1883 in Irish history. In England her friends included Sydney and Beatrice Webb, Arthur Conan Doyle and others whom she entertained in her house at 14 Kensington Square. Alice was critical of the conduct of the Boer War. She supported Casement in his campaign against injustice in the Congo. She met many Irish nationalists and became a nationalist herself. In 1908 she published 'Making of Ireland and her Undoing'. Her London home was used to plot the Howth gun running. After the 1916 Rising she attempted to save Casement from execution. Alice moved to Ireland in 1918 and remained there until her death in 1929. She supported the pro-Treaty side in the Irish Civil War and was among the first nominees to the newly formed Seanad

Éireann in 1922, where she served as an independent member. In 1925 her book 'A history of the Irish state to 1014' was published.

In 1872 Joseph Samuel Bell was appointed Archdeacon. In 1887 Rev. John Healy became archdeacon and the house was too large and he erected a new rectory on the Dublin Road. John Healy wrote a history of the diocese of Meath, which was published in 1908. His son was killed in the First World War.

In 1911 the house was the property of John Brady. The river Blackwater borders the gardens of the house with a bathing house just across the river. The house was renamed Blackwater Stud. Two housing estates were developed on the original lands of the house and were named Archdeaconry and Archdeaconry View.

Ardraccan House



Ardraccan was the seat of the diocese of Ardraccan founded by St. Breaccan and St. Ultan. In the middle ages Ardraccan became the seat for the Protestant bishops of Meath and a large house was erected with a chapel dedicated to St. Mary. The bishops of Meath were interred in the churchyard at Ardraccan.

The house was replaced by a Georgian building in the eighteenth century. The kitchen and stable wings were completed first in the mid 1730s and then the central block was erected about 1776. The two wings were designed by Richard Castle, the pre-eminent architect working in Ireland at the time while the central block was an amalgam of the designs of Thomas Cooley and James Wyatt, together with amateur Navan architect, the Rev. Daniel A. Beaufort. The house was constructed with limestone from the nearby White Quarry. The house is set in mature pasture land with formal gardens and walled gardens. There is a courtyard of domestic and agricultural buildings to the north of the house. The farm and stables are joined to the house by a tunnel under the garden terrace. A dome-shaped icehouse, dating from about 1800, is located to the south of the outbuilding complex. A gable fronted gate lodge was constructed about 1776 when the main house was completed.

Known as Ardraccan House or Bishop's Palace the house was the residence of the bishops of Meath until 1885, after which it became a private residence.

In 1734 Bishop Arthur Price decided to replace the old Tudor house with a new residence and commissioned Richard Castle to prepare plans. Arthur Price had been vicar of Celbridge and resided at Oakley Park. Here his steward at Oakley Park was Richard Guinness, who was acclaimed for his brewing talents. Richard's son, Arthur, went on to establish the Guinness Brewery in Dublin in 1759. While the new house

was in the process of construction Price was elevated to Archbishop of Cashel and construction came to a halt. The kitchen wing was used as the bishop's residence for more than thirty years until Bishop Henry Maxwell decided to complete the building. Bishop Maxwell was a younger son of the 1st Lord Farnham of Cavan. James Wyatt, Thomas Cooley and Rev. Daniel Beaufort of Navan drew up plans and it would appear that while Wyatt's plans were used but Beaufort and Cooley also influenced the final house. Beaufort attended the laying of the foundation stone but had to leave early due to a toothache. Beaufort described the house as being 'in a style of superior elegance, and yet with such simplicity as does equal honour to his lordship's taste and liberality.' Maxwell is said to have boasted that he would build a palace so grand that no scholar or tutor would dare live in it. Bishop Maxwell also constructed the nearby Ardracran church about 1777.

The Bishops of Meath resided at Ardracran during the late eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries.

Rev. James Singer became bishop in 1852 but resided mostly in Dublin and the house at Ardracran was shut up in the 1860s. In 1876 Rev. William Plunket became bishop of Meath and he resolved to sell Ardracran as the costs of upkeep were too large for a now disestablished Church of Ireland. The bishops moved to a smaller house in the locality, Bishop's court, now An Tobar.

Bishop Plunkett sold the house in 1885 to Hugh Law, son of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. At the time Fr. Kearney P.P. Bohermeen suggested purchasing the Bishop's Palace as a seminary but his bishop did not agree with the suggestion.

The house remained in the Law family until it passed by marriage to the Foster family. In 1985 Colonel Owen Foster sold Ardracran House to Tara Mines who used it as an occasional guest residence for visiting businessmen. The Fosters moved to the old schoolhouse at the entrance to the churchyard and were noted for their great care of the grounds of the church.

In the late 1990s the house was once again sold.

Ardglassan House

A farmhouse erected about 1860 Ardglassan House is a two storey slated house near Crossakiel in north-west Meath. It is to a traditional design and has a flat-roofed porch. The entrance consists of octagonal stone entrance piers and a pair of cast-iron gates. In 1911 it was in the ownership of James William Gilson and it has continued in the family to the present day.

Ardmulchan Castle



Ardmulchan Castle is a Scottish Baronial cum Elizabethan hunting lodge dating to 1904. The house was built for a Scottish landowner, Fitzroy C. Fletcher, who died before the house was completed. Set dramatically high up on the south banks of the river Boyne below Navan the house has been described as a Scotsman's house in Ireland by Casey and Rowan. The house was built for entertaining with five guest bedrooms and plenty of space for staff. It has a very ornate porch, front door and portico. The house had its own electricity provided by a powerhouse near the river with the front door of the old house was re-used as the door of the powerhouse. The tower of the house with its battlements stores the water tanks. The long internal hall is at right angles to the door with the principal rooms overlooking the Boyne. The hall has high oak panelling. The rooms have plasterwork ceilings created by G. Rome & Co, a firm which practised in Dublin and Glasgow. All the rooms have elaborate chimney pieces and a number have angle nooks.

The Taaffes acquired Ardmulchan in the eighteenth century and erected a plain Georgian style house overlooking the river. The family burial ground is at Ardmulchan cemetery. Taaffe's lock on the Boyne Canal commemorates their financial contribution to the canal company.

Fitzroy Charles Fletcher of Angus in Scotland married Frances May Grant, from Australia in 1890. Fletcher enjoyed hunting and regularly visited his friend, Robert Gradwell of Dowth Hall, co. Meath. Fletcher rented Slane Castle from the Conynghams for a number of hunting seasons, hunting in Ireland from November to March Fletcher decided to purchase a permanent residence in Ireland. With the assistance of Gradwell he found and purchased Ardmulchan House in 1900. The existing Georgian style house was not suitable for Fletcher's requirements and he decided to demolish the house and replace it with a hunting lodge.

The architect Fletcher selected was a Scotsman Sidney Mitchell of Edinburgh. Materials and workmen were despatched from Scotland. Lord Aberdeen, the Viceroy,

appealed to Fletcher to use Irish craftsmen and materials but to no avail. Apart from some welding on some dog grates the rest of the works was all provided by Scottish workers. The sandstone for the windows was carved from a quarry on Fletcher's Scottish estate and transported by ship to Drogheda and then by barges along the canal to Ardmulchan. All the materials with the exception of the bricks were also Scottish. Casey and Rowan wrote that Fletcher can hardly have been popular in Meath for importing such a quantity of tradesmen.

Fletcher's poor health forced him to delegate much of the work and decisions to the manager of his Scottish estates, James Stirling. Construction made good progress but Fletcher died in August 1902. His will provided for £7,000 for the completion of Ardmulchan. His wife Mary Frances was given a life rent of all her husband's estates. Thomas Fletcher inherited Ardmulchan on the death of his mother. A noted horse breeder and huntsman, Thomas was director of Proudstown Park racecourse, Navan, from its inception in 1921. During the 1930s the house was rented to Sir Alexander Maguire of Maguire and Patterson matches. In 1939 his horse "Workman" won the Grand National, an event celebrated in Navan with an Address by the Urban District Council to Sir Alexander.

After the Second World War Thomas Fletcher moved across the Boyne to Dunmoe cottage and he died in 1950. The Fletcher family remained in ownership of Ardmulchan until 1956 when the house and estate were sold to Anthony Riddell Martin and his family. When his young daughter died in 1952 she was interred in Ardmulchan cemetery and Riddell Martin had the intervening woods cleared so that the grave and cemetery could be viewed from the house.

During the late 1960s the castle was owned by a German called Von Trapp and the estate was managed by an Englishman Hogarth. In 1973 it was purchased by Sean Galvin as a family home and is still in use as a family home today.

Kathleen G. Mac Leman recorded much detail of Ardmulchan in her book 'Fitzroy C. Fletcher of Letham Grange and Ardmulchan.' A few years ago the Meath Archaeological and Historical Society was graciously allowed to visit the house courtesy of its owners.

Ard drums House

Ard drums House is in the townland of Ard drums Great and the civil parish of Rathcore, near Enfield. Henry Purdon acquired Ard drums about 1800. Henry was residing there in the 1830s. In the 1850s Ard drums was in the possession of his son, Bartholomew Purdon. Bartholomew married Maria Trotter, daughter of Doctor Trotter of Summerhill, at Laracor in 1847 and he died at Ard drums in 1904. They had four boys and three girls. David William Purdon succeeded his father in 1904. David had been a colonel in the Indian Army. He served during the Rumpa Rebellion 1881, in the Burma War 1887-88, and in Great War, 1914-19. David died in 1948 and was buried at Agher churchyard. The estate was sold shortly afterwards.

Ardsallagh House



Ardsallagh House

The Nangles were granted the barony of Navan in the 1170s by Hugh de Lacy and they erected a castle at Ardsallagh. The Nangles lost their lands in the Cromwellian plantations. John Preston purchased much of the former Nangle properties and in this manner managed to acquire 7,859 acres in Co. Meath and Laois (Queens) Co.

Preston placed 1,737 acres in trust for the keeping of two schools, one in Navan and another in Ballyroan, Queens Co. (Laois). Preston's heir was his grandson, John of Ardsallagh. His daughter, Mary, inherited the property as her brother Phineas had died young. Mary married Peter Ludlow, M.P. who in his old age became afflicted by gout and had to be carried in and out on men's shoulders. Their son, Peter, MP for Co Meath, was created Baron Ludlow of Ardsallagh in 1755 and in 1760 created Viscount Preston and 1st Earl of Ludlow. Peter, the first Earl died in 1750 and he was succeeded by his eldest son, Peter, 2nd Earl of Ludlow, MP for County Huntingdon. Ardsallagh House had well designed formal gardens and a carefully designed landscape. Dean Swift and the Delaneys were regular visitors and many descriptions of the eighteenth century house and gardens survive. The house was described as a good house with some good pictures. Mrs Delaney wrote had difficulty describing the gardens saying that nothing could be wilder or more romantic. There was a grotto in an old stone quarry with statues of Hercules, Atlas and other Greek and Roman characters. Clipped yew hedges were set out like the walls of Troy.

Lord Ludlow and the Ardsallagh estate provided 5s worth of bread each week for the poor of the parish. The loaves were placed in St. Mary's church. The Duke of Bedford continued this charity until 1907.

In 1836 Ardsalla was the residence of Earl Ludlow. The south east portion of the townland was laid out to form a demesne and deer park. Ardsalla House with its outbuildings stood on the banks of the river. There are very good oak, ash and elm timber and some fir plantations in the demesne.

The third Earl Ludlow willed the property to the Earls of Bedford who took control in 1842. In the mid 1840s the Duke erected the present house, accounts and drawings of which survive in the Bedford Estate Office. Ardsallagh is a Tudor Revival house with steeply pointed gables and dormer gables, oriels, mullions and tall chimneys. This

new mansion house for 7th Duke of Bedford, cost £40,000. Wilde writing in 1849 said that house looked as if it was half in mourning due to the very black limestone used in its construction. The Duke of Bedford took an active interest in improving the estate and proposed the demolition of the slum houses at Brewshill.

In 1861 the Duke of Bedford died, and Lord John Russell, the British prime minister 1846-52 and 1865-66 inherited the Ardsalla estate. Lord John then asked for a peerage and became Earl Russell of Kingston Russell, and his eldest son became Viscount Amberley of Amberley and Ardsalla. In 1883 Earl Russell of Ardsalla held 3176 acres in Meath and 1017 acres in county Louth. He held no lands in England or elsewhere! His grandson, the third earl and last of the family to own Ardsallagh was the philosopher Bertrand Russell. The Russell Arms Hotel (where the Newgrange Hotel is now located) was erected by the agents of the Duke of Bedford to provide a suitable meeting place for the gentlemen of the county.

The French family lived at Ardsallagh in the latter half of the nineteenth century. William John French married Harriet Caufield of Dromcairne. William John of Ardsallagh died aged 63 in 1876. His son, Captain Caufield French was High Sheriff of Roscommon in 1887. Another son, Houston, an army officer, served in the Egyptian campaign of the 1880s. In 1895 he was appointed to the Yeomen of the Guard, achieving command of that body in 1925. He also served in the Boer War. William De Salis Filgate of Lissrenny, Co. Louth married Georgiana Harriett French, eldest daughter of William John French of Ardsallagh. A fire damaged the house in 1903.

Dr. Robert Collins, a distinguished physician lived in the house for a period. John McCann, M.P. lived at Ardsallagh House. A nationalist MP for Stephen's Green division in Dublin, McCann, published the newspaper, The Irish Peasant, in Navan.

Bernadette Murray has written a detailed account of Ardsallagh townland.

Ludlow Street and Bedford Row in Navan commemorate the Ardsallagh landowners.

Arodstown House

Arodstown is just off the Dunboyne-Summerhill Road. In 1901 Arodstown House had seven rooms, seven windows to the front and ten outbuildings. A castle ruin stands to the north of the house and a church and graveyard to the west. In 1725 William Palmer of Dublin leased Arodstown to Stephen Bomford of Gallow. Arodstown House was described in the 1830s as a good farmhouse, two storeys high and thatched. It was the residence of Robert Williams, whose brother Robert lived nearby at Curraghmore Cottage. In the 1850s Robert Parson had 46 acres rented from Henry Williams at Arodstown. John Williams of Arodstown held 296 acres in County Meath in 1876. In 1901 William G. Williams and his family lived at Arodstown. The Parsons continued to hold lands at Arodstown until they married into the Douglas family who now hold Arodstown house.

Ashfield House

Ashfield House at Bawnbreaky, Moybologue was the residence of Mr. Fleming in 1835. Near Breakey Lough the house was described as a neat two storey slated house with about five and a half acres of ash and fir planted in the surrounding land. The house was replaced by a new building.

Ashfield House

Ashfield House, Beuparc, is a simple three storey Victorian house. It was the home of Arthur George Murray, brother of the architect William G. Murray who designed the house. Four stone creatures guard the garden steps. The grounds were landscaped with laburnum, red flowering chestnuts and various decorative trees. Arthur Murray held a house and lands at Painestown in the 1850s. In 1876 Arthur G. Murray held 674 acres in County Meath. In 1901 John Henry Murray was the proprietor. In 1911 his sister, Isabel Henrietta Murray was the owner/occupier. Her brother, Charles Frederick, also lived at Ashfield. The Murray family left Ashfield in 1927 and emigrated to Canada. The estate was divided by the Land Commission.

In the twentieth century Captain Charles Wren Newsam ran a stud farm at Ashfield. He gave one of his fields for playing gaelic football. His daughter, Eileen, married the 7th Marquess of Slane in 1950. The marriage was dissolved in 1970. Henry Mountcharles, now 8th Marquess, is their son.

Eldon and Dede Power family lived at Ashfield from 1965 when they purchased the property. Their daughter, Carole Crossman Power, married Lord Simon Charles Conyngham, second son of the 7th Marquess of Slane and Eileen Newsam in 1990.

In 2006 Ashfield was purchased by Michael Bailey of Bovale Developments for the sum of €6.5 million at auction.

Athboy Lodge

Now demolished, Athboy Lodge, stood on the edge of Athboy town on the road to Kells. The old Vocational school now stands on the site of the house. Still surviving from the house are the stables, the walls of the walled garden and a tunnel which was possibly used as an ice house. The stable has interesting circular windows. The farmyard may have been designed by William Barber for Sir Francis Hopkins.

The house was probably constructed about 1800. The house was probably constructed by the Hopkins family. James Hopkins came to Ireland with the Cromwellian forces. The family settled in Westmeath. His son, Francis, was born in 1714 and died in 1789. His son, also Francis Hopkins was born in 1756. Francis entered Trinity and was called to Irish Bar in 1781. In 1794 Francis put to flight 2,000 insurgents, being severely wounded in the fray and in the following year was created a baronet. He was returned by Gustavus Lambert as M.P. for Kilbeggan for 1797 to 1800. He voted against the Union in 1799. He married Eleanor, daughter of Skeffington Thompson of Rathnally. They lived at Athboy Lodge. He died at his Dublin home in Mountjoy Square in September 1814. His son also Francis was born in 1813 and was living at Athboy Lodge in 1838 but also lived for a period at Mitchelstown House, Athboy. In the 1830s he went on travels in the Middle East, even visiting the court of the Shah of Persia. He died in 1860.

In 1836 Athboy Lodge was described as a neat two storey house with basement and was then the residence of Mr. Noble while Mr. Hopkins lived at Mitchelstown. There is a house nearer the Kells road called Maryville on the first Ordnance Survey maps of the 1830s.

Colonel Edward Dyas served as a colonel in the army of William of Orange and was granted lands in Meath as a result. The Dyas family came to Athboy from the Kilbeg area where they also held lands. In the 1850s the lands at Fosterfields were held by John Dyas. John Dyas of Athboy Lodge was buried at Histy Graveyard, Staholmog in 1867. His eldest son, Nathaniel Hane Dyas was baptised in Kells in 1836 and died aged 64 years in 1901 and is buried at Histy graveyard.

Nathaniel H. Dyas of Athboy lodge held 1,231 acres in Meath in 1876. Joseph H. Dyas of Athboy held 816 acres in County Meath in 1876. About 1870 plans were drawn up for alterations to Athboy Lodge.



Harry Dyas from Athboy 100 website

Nathaniel's brother, Harry Dyas, came into possession of Athboy Lodge. Harry lived at Boltown, Kilskyre. There are many tales told locally about his strictness with workers. He once shot an egg out of an eggcup sitting on his steward's head. A solicitor and farmer Harry Dyas bred the horse, Manifesto, which won the Grand National in 1897. Dyas sold the horse in 1898 and the horse came back strong to win the 1899 Grand National for his new owner. The favourite that year was "Gentle Ida", another horse that had been owned by Harry Dyas and was still kept in his stable. After Manifesto's death his skeleton was donated to a veterinary college in Liverpool and is still there to this day.

In the 1901 census Nathaniel Hone Dyas and his wife Rosa Hone, nee Mangin, was living at Athboy Lodge. Nathaniel died later in 1901 and ten years later his widow and her brother were living at the Lodge. .

A technical school was established in Athboy in 1935, initially in the rented Civic Hall, until Athboy Lodge could be adapted as a school. Athboy Technical School was officially opened on 21 June 1938 but had been occupied by students for at least six months before that. Meath VEC decided to proceed with the erection of new technical school at Athboy on 28 June 1952. The gardens of Athboy Lodge became the site for Athboy Co-op Creamery while the stables became a pig mart for a short period. Tennis grounds were also constructed. Athboy Co-op is the reason I came to Meath in 1980 and I well remember exploring the tunnel under the garden.

Athcarne Castle



Athcarne Castle

Athcarne Castle is located just west of Duleek, on the Hurley river and near to the Nanny.

Athcarne consists of a medieval tower with a large nineteenth century extension. Athcarne Castle was originally built for William Bathe in 1590. Home to the Bathe and Gernon families it was lived in until the mid-twentieth century. The four storey tower house was renovated about 1830 and a large three storey extension and a thin turret tower were constructed. The tower house has a vaulted lower chamber with wicker markings on the ceiling. The three-storey nineteenth century house is stone-faced and brick-lined. There is a turret at the south west corner and an armorial plaque on the south wall. There was a great walled garden and yard. The rear entrance to the house is off the Duleek – Balrath road while the front entrance had a gate lodge.

Mathew de Bathe, who died in 1350, obtained a grant from Edward III, of the manor of Rathfeigh. The family held considerable lands at Drumcondra, Co. Dublin. Matthew's descendant, James Bath, was Chief Baron of the Irish Exchequer in 1547. His son, John, was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and died in 1586. His eldest son, William, was second Justice of the Common Pleas; but dying in 1599 without issue, the estates reverted to his next brother John, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1634. It was William who erected the house at Athcarne. William's widow, Jenet Dowdall, erected three crosses in the memory of her late husband, William Bathe. She erected one at the western end of Duleek, one at entrance to Annesbrook House and one at Whitecross near the entrance to Athcarne.

John was succeeded by his eldest son James, who lost the property in the Cromwellian confiscations. His eldest son, Luke, was created a Baron when Charles II was restored to the throne but he had difficulty in having the estate restored to the family. In the end he was forced to accept a 99 year lease on his lands of Athcarne

which amounted to 1200 acres but had to give up the family's considerable estates in Dublin.

Sir Luke died in 1672, leaving an only son Sir Peter who died without issue. It was said that King James slept in the house and a bed was preserved in memory of the king. Sir Luke had three brothers who survived him but none were able to gain control of the family estates. The widows of Sir Luke and Sir Peter in 1693, gave possession to the Crown and in 1704 the property was sold to Mr. Somerville, woollen draper of Dublin. The Bathe family seem to have managed to stay on at Athcarne.

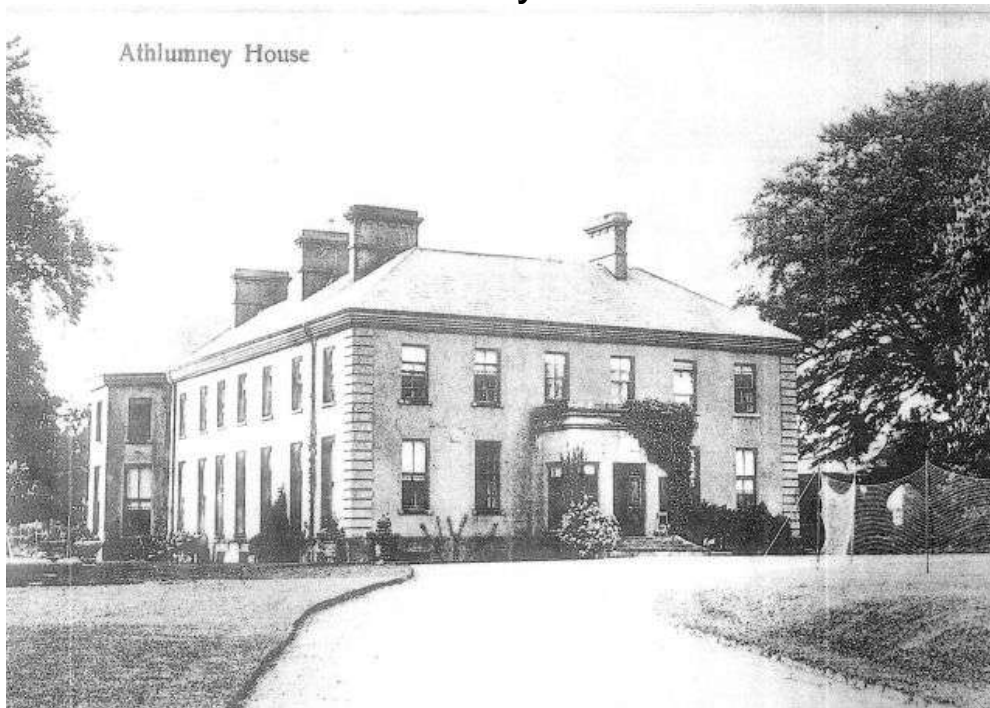
In 1832 Sir William Plunkett de Bathe lived there but the property was shortly after acquired by the Gernon family.

In 1837 Athcarne, the residence of James Gernon, was described as pleasantly situated on the Nannywater, a perfect specimen of the Elizabethan castellated style. It was described as a massive pile of building, with a still more massive keep defended by quadrangular towers; and the whole was formerly surrounded by a fosse.

Henry Chester Gernon, JP for Meath, was born in 1848, the son of James Gernon. In 1876 Henry C. Gernon is recorded as holding 734 acres in Meath and Louth while other members of the family held 257 acres in both counties. Colonel (later Major) Gernon commanded 5th Batt. Royal Dublin Fusiliers in the Boer War and died in 1908.

Major Gernon, had five in family, one boy went to Canada, a daughter married Mr. McCann of Staleen House. The castle was retained by the Major's son, James Gernon and his two sisters, Helen and Constance. James regaled locals with tales of the Klondike gold rush. He was the last occupant of the castle which was partially demolished in the 1950s. King James' bed, along with the skins of the last wolves to be killed in Ireland and many other items, were disposed of in the 1950s. After the division of the estate the roof was removed from the castle.

Athlumney House



From Navan District Historical Society

Athlumney House, dates from the eighteenth century and sits on the east bank of the Boyne, just south of Navan. The Metge family were Huguenot refugees fleeing the persecution of Catholics in France. Peter de la Metgee was the first of the family to arrive in Ireland. Settling at Athlumney he married Joyce Hatch and had four daughters and a son. He died aged 70 in 1735 and was succeeded by his son Peter.

Peter held lands at Athlumney and Warrenstown, Dunboyne. Peter was married to Ann Lyon, a family from which a Queen Mother in England was to descend. On the staircase of Athlumney there were some carved oak ornaments brought over from Glamis Castle by Janet Lyon. They had four sons and eight daughters. Peter Metge died in 1774. Two of his sons served as MPs in the Irish House of Parliament.

Peter Merge, eldest son of Peter Metge of Athlumney, was MP for Ratoath 1783-4 and also served as magistrate and portreeve (Mayor) of Navan. Peter was a lawyer. He served as M.P. for Boyle and became Baron of the Exchequer. Baron Metge was a local commissioner appointed to supervise the Boyne Canal in 1787.

John Metge, second son of Peter Metge of Athlumney, was MP for Ratoath 1784-90. A captain in the 4th Dragoons he acted as Henry Grattan's second in his famous duel with Corry in 1800. Peter became deputy auditor general of the Irish Treasury. John later went on to represent Dundalk in the parliament in Westminster on three separate occasions. He served as a seatwarmer for the Earl of Roden who was patron of Dundalk. John also acted as a representative for Lord Roden and signed deeds on his behalf.

John inherited Athlumney on the death of his brother, Peter and he was succeeded by his son, Peter Ponsonby. In 1830s Athlumney was home to Peter Ponsonby Metge and was described as "beautifully situated on the banks of the Boyne, commanding some pleasing views and the demesne is well planted and tastefully embellished." In the 1800s an underground passage, a souterrain, was discovered at Athlumney and featured in many learned books of the era.

In 1876 Peter Ponsonby Metge of Athlumney held 788 acres in county Meath. Peter's brother, John Charles, settled at Sion and in 1876 J. C. Metge of Sion, Navan held 968 acres in Westmeath.

Peter Ponsonby died in 1873 and was succeeded by his nephew, Robert Henry Metge. Robert Henry Metge was M.P for Meath from 1880 to 1884. He married Frances Lambart, daughter of Rev. Charles Lambert, rector of Navan and grand-daughter of Gustavus Lambert of Beauparc. Robert Henry died in 1900 and was succeeded by his son, Robert Henry. Another son Captain Rudolph Cole Metge died as a result of wounds suffered during the first World War.

Robert Henry was born in 1875 and married Mary Galway Creagh of Mallow in 1914. Major Robert Henry Metge, fought in the Boer War and was a survivor of the siege of Ladysmith. He served as a captain in the Welsh regiment and was major in the Leinster regiment. When he returned to Athlumney he fished regularly in the Boyne. In 1930 he wrote a letter to the Irish Times complaining of the decline in the fishing stock in the Boyne and its tributaries. Major Metge came into possession of the seal of the corporation of Navan. He lent it to the National Museum but it was later acquired by Randolph Hearst. Metge supported the efforts of Sir Nugent Everard in promoting the growing of tobacco in the county. He also bred pedigree British Berkshire pigs. Major Metge was a member of the Navan branch of the British Legion. His wife died in May 1939.

In the early 1900s Athlumney was leased to a Mr. Collier, owner of Collier's Weekly and New York magazine. The Duc d'Orleans visited Mr. Collier there. The Duke was the pretender to the throne of France. Some of the Metge Estate was purchased under

the 1923 Land Act. Later the house was occupied by the McEntegart and Farrell families.
Metge's Lane in the centre of Navan commemorates the family today.