

Calgath House

Calgath House is located near Kilcock. The house is near Bridestream House. Calgath house was erected before 1771. The house was added to in the 1820s and again in the 1850s. A single storey, gable-ended and rendered house it dates from the late eighteenth century. On the opposite side of the road stood Calgath cornmill. A number of modern agricultural buildings have been constructed near the house. Francis Prentice lived at Calgath in 1747 and his brother, Robert, lived at nearby Pheopotstown. In the 1830s Calgath was described as a neat building but in a bit of disrepair. The occupier was Mrs. Tronson. The house went through a number of owners. A number of ghosts were seen in the dining room of the house. In 2002 when it was for sale its accommodation included drawing room, dining room, sitting room, kitchen, six bedrooms, three bathrooms and studio/games room.

Carrollstown



Carrollstown House and Estate is located on the Trim-Dunderry Road, in the civil parish of Kilcooley. In 1835 Carlestown House in Ardgreagh townland was held by Patrick Sherlock together with the entire townland of 569 acres from its owner, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown of London.

Carrollstown estate was acquired by Patrick Joseph Dunne who held 673 acres in 1876. The house at Carrollstown was erected by P.J. Dunne J.P. in 1883 and was occupied by three generations of the family. Dunne was a well known horse owner and breeder. Dunne bred Ascetic Silver who won the Grand National in 1906. When he won the Grand National, starting at 20 to 1 against, Ascetic's Silver was owned by the Prince Hatzfeldt, and was trained and ridden by the Hon. Aubrey Hastings.

Ascetic's Silver was the offspring of Ascetic. Ascetic was the dominant sire of steeplechasers in the U.K. in the last decade of the nineteenth and first decade of the twentieth centuries. Of no use on the racecourse, Ascetic was purchased as a stallion by Captain John Purdon of Cloneymore, County Meath and came to Ireland. There is a story that he was used by the local postman to deliver the mail in his early years at stud. By the late 1880s, his youngsters were starting to win the big chasing events. Ascetic's Silver was Ascetic's third Grand National Steeplechase winner, and set a course record while doing it. Patrick J. Dunne bred a number of mares to Ascetic in the 1880s and '90s that produced many winners, including Little May, winner of the Irish International Steeplechase (Leopardstown Steeplechase) in 1900 and descendants with the names Kilcooley, Dunderry, Scarlackstown, Ardreagh, Dunlough and Carrollstown.

Patrick Joseph Cullinan married Josephine, oldest daughter and heiress of P.J. Dunne and he continued the horse training and owning venture. Their son, Patrick Dunne Cullinan, continued to train horses at Carrollstown after the death of his father in 1923. Born in 1898 he was educated in Yorkshire before returning to Carrollstown on the death of his mother at a young age. A keen jockey and skier, he was a member of the Irish four-man bob-team. He starred in the movie 'Irish Destiny' made in the 1920s. Carrollstown House was burned down in 1938 and the family renovated the stables to become a house but then sold the house to the B&I Shipping company. Paddy and his wife moved first to Knockdrin castle in Westmeath and then to Bellair in Co. Offaly. He died in 1978.

The new Carrollstown became home to the Lindsay-Flynn family who established a dairy farm at Carrollstown. I remember being on the tanker lorries collecting the milk there in the 1980s.

Castlecor



Castlecor is located on the Mountnugent Road from Oldcastle. Castlecor was a mill owner's house of three-storeys dating from about 1760. It is a very plain house in a good setting. The dining room has oak panelling and on each side of the fire place is a concealed door, one leading to the butler's pantry and the other to the kitchen. There are well kept outbuildings to the rear and a walled garden to the east. The mill is to the west beside the road. William Webb was the owner of the mill and house in the 1830s. Castlecor townland was the property of Mr. Freeman of Cork but held by Mr. Webb. The corn mill was able to mill about 20,000 barrels of oats annually and all the meal was exported to England.

By the 1850s Edward Rotheram of Crossdrum had acquired Castlecor. In the 1850s Richard Ridgeway leased the house and garden from Rotheram. Richard Ridgeway, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S., of Castlecor died 22 October 1851, aged 25.

Henry William Rotheram, Esq. of Castlecor died 1890. In 1901 Sarah Rotheram, widow of Henry William, was residing in the house. Major Auston Morgan Rotheram was occupying the house in 1911. Auston was born at Sallymount, Co. Westmeath. He joined the army and went to India where in 1896 he was subaltern to Winston Churchill in the Queen's Own Fourth Hussars. He was champion revolver shot of South India. From 1901 to 1906 he was an international polo player for Ireland. The house had eleven rooms, nine windows to the front and thirty outbuildings. A water turbine was installed on the nearby river in 1908 to provide heat and power. Auston Rotheram also played polo for Ireland at the 1908 Olympic Games in London where just three polo teams took part, two British teams and an Irish team. In April 1913 Auston Rotheram married Miss Violet Ede, of Crow's Nest, Hong Kong in the cathedral in Hong Kong. During the First World War he re-joined his old regiment and served in the Curragh. Auston died in November 1946, aged 70 at his home in Cheltenham. The occupants of the house both the Rotherams and later the Kilroys were associated with the Ballymacad Hunt and a number of hunt balls were held at Castlecor. The house was sold about 1932.

Castlecor became the home to Lt. Col. Alan Kilroy and his family. His eldest son, Michael Maxwell Kilroy lived at Castlecor after Col. Kilroy's death in 1974. In 2002 Castlecor was put up for sale. The main house had eight bedrooms and four bathrooms. There was a two acre wall garden.

Castlepole House



Castlepole House, Kells was constructed about 1870 for Henry Dyas. Henry Dyas held lands at Castlepole in the 1850s. In 1901 Henry Dyas, aged 76, Farmer and Grazier, and his wife and family lived at Castlepole House. Henry Dyas died in 1905 aged 81. In 1911 his son, Herbert Dyas was the owner and the house was resided in by general labourer, Peter Hart. The house had fourteen rooms, five windows to the front and twenty two outbuildings. The Kells-Oldcastle rail line ran just to the south of the house. In 1916 Mr. Tighe of Kells purchased Castlepole Farm containing 309 acres for £3990 and the family continued to live there. James L. Tighe, held the property in the 1930s. He was a distinguished hydraulic engineer who owned a firm in Massachusetts, U.S.A. He was City Engineer of Holyoke. He bred pedigree cattle at Castlepole.

Castlerickard House

Castlerickard is located southwest of Trim, not far from Longwood. A double-pile two-storey over basement house, Castlerickard was erected about 1820. The house is now derelict. The farmyard complex dates to the same period.

Noel French's Meath Houses

The Burnell family were associated with Castlerickard in the early seventeenth century, it and Castleknock were their seats.

Godwin Swift was the first of the family to be associated with Lionsden and Castlerickard. He was the uncle of Dean Jonathan Swift. The main seat of the Swifts was Swiftsheath, Co. Kilkenny. The Dean's second cousin Deane, son of Deane Swift was editor of letters and other books relating to the Dean. The family leased Castlerickard to George Nugent.

In the 1830s Castlerickard was the residence of G. Lucas Nugent and the house and offices were described as being very good and the demesne was well planted. In the 1850s George Nugent was in residence, holding 535 acres himself and renting out other lands in the townlands to tenants.

Causestown House

Causestown House is located near Stackallen, Slane. A plaque at Causestown records the foundation date of 1748 and a reconstruction of 1845. The house includes an oratory. Causestown is a Victorian Tudor-Gothic style house. There is a lodge at the entrance.

The Grainer family were the main family associated with Causestown. Bishop Plunket of Meath stayed at Causestown, home of Mr. Grainger on his visitation of parishes in 1795. He visited them again in 1796. In 1820 the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. Curtis, dined with Bishop Plunket and Mr. Grainger at Causestown. In 1822 John Mears Grainger is recorded at Causestown. In 1835 Causestown was described as a good farm house, a neat modern two storey slated house in good repair. There was a plantation to the north and west of the house. The house was reconstructed in 1846 by Mr. Grainger. In 1834 William Edward Grainer, a magistrate, was living at Causestown. William Grainger married Anna Maria Eyre and died in 1872 at Causestown. In the 1850s John Allen was leasing the house and 284 acres from Lord Boyne. In 1976 Captain A. W. Shirley Ball of Causestown held 369 acres in County Meath. In 1901 the house was in the ownership of Edward Roundtree but unoccupied. In 1911 Edward Roundtree and his family were living at Causestown House. The house had seventeen rooms, eight windows to the front and eighteen outbuildings.

Causestown House

Causestown House is located on the Delvin road from Athboy. George Dowdall of Causestown married Catherine Drake in 1768. In 1800 Bishop Plunkett dined at Causestown with Mr. George Dowdall on his visitation of parishes. Bishop Plunkett had condemned the scandalous sinners of the parish of Athboy the previous day. In May 1808 Bishop Plunkett officiated at the month's mind Mass for George Dowdall. In 1814 James Dowdall is recorded at Causestown.

In the 1830s Causestown House was described as a good house of two stories and basement, the residence of G. Thunder. In 1836 the townland was the property of the Blue Coat Hospital, Dublin. There was also the ruins of a small castle and a small fort in the townland. In the 1850s Patrick Barnewall held the house and 612 acres of land from the Anglican Archbishop of Armagh.

In 1901 John William Gregg, horse owner and trainer, lived at Causestown House with his family. Gregg was the son of Rev. Robert Gregg, Archbishop of Armagh. The house had twenty rooms, nineteen windows to the front and twenty outbuildings. In 1911 H.M. Hartigan, horseowner and trainer, held Causestown House and the house was occupied by Winifred Holloway, an English woman.

Chamberlainstown House

Chamberlainstown House is located near Fordstown, Kells. Chamberlainstown House was erected about 1908 in the neo-Georgian style. A new porch was added in 1918 but later removed. A Norman family, the Chamberlayne family have been in Meath since the 13th century. The Chamberlains were Counts of Tankerville, whose chateau still exists on the banks of the Seine in Normandy.

The lands of Nicholas Chamberlayne at Chamberlainstown, Kells, were confiscated in the 1690s following the Battle of the Boyne but the family regained the lands. Christopher Chamberlain held the lands in the early 1700s. Major Tankerville James Chamberlayne married Donna Leopoldina, Princess Ruspoli. The Ruspoli were an old and noble Italian family who trace their ancestry back to Florence Major Chamberlayne died around 1910. Colonel C.T. Chamberlayne M.C. took over the property. He died in 1950. He joined the Munster Fusiliers in 1914 and transferred to the Scots Guards. He fought in the First World War and was severely wounded. He retired from the army in 1920 with the rank of captain. He re-joined at the start of the Second World War and served in France until Dunkirk. He then served in North Africa. He did not marry. His brother Air Commodore Paul Chamberlayne inherited the property at Chamberlainstown. Born in Cyprus in 1898, Paul Chamberlayne was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th Hussars until 1915 when he became an airman in the Royal Flying Corps. He took his solo flight after two weeks and in 1916 he became a Flying Officer. He became a Wing Commander in 1937 and served as Paris Air Attache in the RAF. He retired in 1946. He died in 1972. Donna Leopoldina died at Chamberlainstown House in 1948. Michael Chamberlaine inherited the property from his father, Peter. The family continue to live at Chamberlainstown house.

Charlesfort House



Charlesfort House, Cortown, Kells was erected and lived in by the Tisdall family. A low rectangular house Richard Castles prepared plans for the house which was later re-modelled by Daniel Beaufort and William Murray. The house which was erected in the 1740s was re-modelled in the 1780s and again about 1841. Mulligan said the house has an elegant entrance hall. The library, dining room and drawing room all have regency style plasterwork. The limestone porch is probably a late 19th century addition.

In 1668 Michael Tisdall leased the manor of Martry from Nicholas Darcy. Michael lived at a house at Bloomsbury and called it Mount Tisdall. It is not clear if he erected that house. His grandson, Michael Tisdall, was M.P. for Kildare, Castlebar and Ardee in the late 1600s and early 1700s. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles.

Born in 1719 Charles Tisdall began the erection of a new house in April 1742. He selected an elevated and dry site at Athgaine, away from the river. It is said that a doctor advised him to move away from the river for the good of his health. Charles purchased a volume of books on Palladio's architecture. The famous architect, Richard Castles, was paid £20 in 1743 for providing a plan for the house and supervising some of the work. Charles Tisdall attended the first performance of Handel's Messiah in April 1742 in Dublin. Charles maintained an account of the building of the house and also recorded his tree planting for the years 1740-1751. In 1741 Charles planted 50 pear trees, 150 apple trees and 1,000 beech trees. In 1744 he planted 1,000 oak trees and 800 ash trees. More ash and elm trees were planted in 1746. The slates for the house were purchased from Reilly in Ballyjamesduff. Charles probably moved into Charlesfort in 1753. The following year, 1754, aged 34, Charles married Hester Cramer. In December 1755 their son, Michael, was born, and in October 1756 another son, Charles, was born. Charles, the father, died in 1757, aged 37 and was buried in Martry graveyard.

Michael Tisdall inherited the estate but only took control on his coming of age in 1776. Additions were carried out to the house for Michael Tisdall, which were designed by Rev. Daniel Beaufort of Navan. Michael was High Sheriff of Meath in 1781. He died in 1794 aged 39 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Charles Arthur.

Charles Arthur took over the estate at 21 years of age in 1803. Charles married Elizabeth Vernon of Clontarf Castle in 1807. In 1811 Charles was appointed High Sheriff for Meath. In 1813 the house underwent some works. Charles had an interest in religion and wrote and distributed two books attempting to persuade his tenants to convert to Protestantism. In 1824 he attended a meeting in Navan to found a branch of the Reformation Society. He stated that as a Magistrate "he was disgusted with the vice and immorality, the insincerity and want of truth in the commonest transactions" that he encountered. In the 1830s Charlesfort was described as the residence of Mr. C.A. Tisdall and a good two storey house with an extensive and well laid out demesne. Charles died in 1835 aged 53.

John Tisdall took over the estate in 1836 at 21 years of age, the year after his father's death. The following year he married Isabella Knox. Their eldest child, Charles Arthur, was born in 1838. John provided a site for a Protestant Church at Athgaine Great. In 1883 John Tisdall held 3,962 acres in Meath, 493 in Limerick and 575 in Kilkenny a total estate of 5,030 acres. John died in 1892. John's eldest son, Charles, had died in 1869. His second son, John Knox, appears to have been estranged from his father. John Knox' son, also called Charles Arthur, born in 1875, inherited the estate on his grandfather's death in 1892. As a young man he joined the Irish Guards and was reluctant to return to Ireland to take over Charlesfort. Robert Heuston leased Charlesfort from Major Tisdall. From Belfast Heuston was a noted polo player and resided at Charlesfort until 1904. Two of Major Tisdall's uncles, Henry Chichester Tisdall and Vice-Admiral Vernon Archibold Tisdall also farmed portions of the estate. In 1904 half the estate was sold to the tenants.

Major Tisdall organised train trips for the estate children to Dublin, once to see Queen Victoria in 1900 and on another occasion to watch army drills at the Vice-Regal Lodge in the Phoenix Park. Major Tisdall was a talented musician and a pupil and friend of Sir Edward Elgar who visited Charlesfort. Elgar said when he visited the house "Charlesfort will never die, because it is built on a magic hill."

In 1914 Major Tisdall was killed just a month after World War I broke out, killed in action in the retreat from Mons in Belgium. The Major's brother, William, came to live at Charlesfort in 1904, inherited in 1914 and remained there until his death in 1954. During the First World War William stabled army horses at Charlesfort and tilled some of the land for vegetable growing. William was High Sheriff of Meath in 1921. He purchased the first tractor in the area and also the first wireless, which he invited local people to come and listen to. He also

gave drives in his car to the local children at the parties he hosted on the estate. William's son, Michael, was in the British army and was accidentally killed in 1940 during a military training exercise. He was 37 years old. William's wife also died the same year. Five years later William married a second time. His wife was Una Palmer Burke from Ballina. William died aged 78 in 1954.

William was succeeded by his cousin, Dr. Oliver Tisdall. Oliver and his family came to live on the estate in 1955 and he immersed himself in the running of it. When Oliver Tisdall came to Charlesfort he was unable to find the key for the Protestant church as the key had been mislaid some years before. After rummaging he came across a key which fitted the lock. Locals were surprised with the label on the key which read "the dungeon of Martry." Apparently the key for the police cell at Martry RIC police barracks also opened the Protestant church. Oliver died in 1964 and his widow sold the property in 1968.

In recent years the Hogan family have rescued the house and have restored it.

There is considerable further information in "Charlesfort – The story of a Meath estate and its people, 1668-1968" by Tony Coogan and Jack Gaughran and also on the Ask about Ireland, Irish Libraries website.

Cherrymount House



Cherrymount house is located in the townland of Rathinree Lower, two kilometres southwest of Moynalty village. Cherrymount is a gable ended house with a small turret with battlements. The two story house has a round-arched stone doorcase with fanlight. There are four ranges of single-storey outbuildings, set around a central courtyard with ranges of outbuildings set within the courtyard. There is a tall and imposing bellcote set over segmental-arched carriage opening. A walled garden and estate workers house lie to one side of the house. A modern porch has been added to the house.

The seat of the Chaloner family it is said to have been named Charitymount, after Charity Graham, wife of John Chaloner, the name being corrupted to Cherrymount. A gentleman's residence the house was erected shortly after the Chaloners came into possession of the estate in 1704. Following the erection of nearby Kingsfort in the 1730s the Chaloner family rented out Cherrymount until the late nineteenth century when the family returned to the house.

Rev. John Chaloner purchased 640 acres at Moynalty from Captain Stopford in 1704. Chaloner held the parishes of Errigal and Desertoghill in the diocese of Derry. Chaloner acquired funds due to his activities on the ship "Royal Sovereign" which was dispatched to the West Indies to rid the area of pirates. The lands included a castle, three stone houses with

bawns and cabins. Chaloner erected a house at Cherrymount shortly after his purchase. Rev. Chaloner died in 1732 and was succeeded by his son, John, who erected a new house at Kingsfort with Cherrymount becoming the dowerhouse for the Chaloners. John Chaloner, married in 1732 Charity, daughter of Robert Graham of Drogheda in 1732. John also renovated Cherrymount. In 1802 John Smith and his family resided at Cherrymount.

In 1835 Cherrymount was occupied by Philip Smith, the resident magistrate. Philip married Ann Plummer. Their son Philip became a clergyman and lived in Naples for a period, dying in Paris in 1862. Samuel Smith inherited the lease at Cherrymount. He died at Rathgar, Dublin, in 1871 aged 73 years. A number of the Smith family are buried in Mount Jerome cemetery in Dublin. In the late nineteenth century the house was altered by the then resident Claude C.C. Hamilton, a relative of the Chaloners.

The family returned to the house when Claud Willoughby Chaloner, a Major serving with the Royal Enniskillen Fusiliers settled at Cherrymount. His son, Desmond, attended Trinity College and served in the British Army from 1943 to 1947 during the Second World War. Desmond Chaloner died in England in 2010.

Margo and Bruce Dean operated a stud farm at Cherrymount from 1996 to 2001. Margo bred Connemara ponies at Cherrymount and the couple named their new stud at Killua, Ard Cherrymount. They sold the house in 2001.

Cherryvalley House

Cherryvalley House is located just outside Rathmolyon on the Ballivor Road. In the 1850s Robert Fowler held the townland of Cherryvalley. A two storey farm house was erected at Cherryvalley in 1877. In 1901 Daniel Douglas, widower, and his son William were living at Cherryvalley. The house had twelve rooms, five windows to the front and thirteen outbuildings. In 1911 William Douglas owned the house but it was lived in by Richard Douglas and his wife. Today the housing estate of Cherryvalley is located to the east of the house.

Churchtown House,

Churchtown House is located on the Bohermeen road from Dunderry. In 1836 the house was located near the centre of the townland and was the residence of the Widow Kellett. Attached to the house was good offices, gardens, an orchard and a large farm. The townland was the property of the Earl of Ludlow of Ardsallagh.

In 1911 Eliza Smith, widow, aged 96, was living at Churchtown House. The house had fourteen rooms, five windows to the front and sixteen outbuildings.

Clarkestown House

Clarkestown House is located at Gallow just off the Summerhill-Kilcock road. The house was erected by Samuel Winter of nearby Agher in the eighteenth century. George Bomford resided there in the early 1800s. Samuel Pratt Winter lived at Clarkestown and his children were born there. The house was destroyed by fire in 1829 and re-built in stone and slated. The farm buildings date from this time as one of the arches has the date "1829" carved on its keystone. In the 1830s the house was occupied by T. Potterton and later occupied by Rev. John Potterton. It remained in the Potterton family till 1924. Peter Bamford provides details about the house on his website. The house was demolished about 1950 and a new house erected on the site.

Clifton Lodge

Clifton Lodge is situated just off the Athboy Trim road. Clifton Lodge is a building for which only very little information is available and for the residence of the largest landowner in Meath that seems unusual. Clifton Lodge was the seat of the Earl of Darnley who held nearly 22,000 acres of an estate centred on Athboy, Kildalkey and Ballivor. Casey and Rowan described Clifton Lodge as a simple three bay, two storey house built of sneckled limestone rubble. Clifton Lodge is a two storey over basement house with three reception rooms and six bedrooms.

The house had a demesne of 170 acres, with a large ornamental pond. There was a cricket ground, tennis court, garden and orchards. Three avenues connected the house to the Trim-Athboy road and the Kildalkey road. At the end of the Athboy avenue is a single storey Regency style gate lodge which I almost purchased. Works at Clifton lodge may be attributed to John Hargrave, a Dublin architect. The gate lodge may also be his work although it has also been attributed to Francis Johnston.

John Bligh of London established the family at Rathmore and Athboy. There is a story told that Cromwell gave Bligh all the land he could see from the top of the hill of Ward. John's grandson, also John, married Lady Theodosia Hyde, Baroness Clifton, only daughter and heiress of the 3rd Earl of Clarendon in 1713. He was then made Baron Clifton in 1721 and Earl of Darnley in 1725. The family came into possession of Cobham Hall through the marriage to Theodosia Hyde. The family seem to have spent quite a considerable amount of their time in England from this time onwards. Initially living at the castle at Rathmore but his burned down in 1676 and sometime later the family moved to Clifton Lodge. The house is named after Clifton in Bristol, one of the places the family held lands after the marriage to Theodosia Hyde. Captain William Bligh of the Mutiny on the Bounty fame was a relation of the Earls of Darnley. The actual relationship is unclear.

Clifton Lodge is shown on 1812 map with one avenue and gardens. The fourth Lord Darnley was a personal friend of the Duke of Wellington and supported Catholic Emancipation.

Edward the fifth Earl made some improvements at Clifton Lodge in the 1820s and provided much local employment. Gardens with roses, shrubs and a pyramidal yew tree were laid out in the late 1820s.

Art Kavanagh in his book 'The Landed Gentry and Aristocracy: Meath' stated that the gates of the house were beset with 40 or 50 wretches seeking employment which Lord Darnley was unable to offer them so he laid out a new avenue to the house. The fifth Earl was walking in his park in Cobham Hall when he saw a woodsman cutting up a tree. He took the axe for the woodsman to show his friends how to cut off branches, the axe slipped, cut off his toe, he became infected with tetanus and died a few days later. In 1837 Clifton Lodge was described as a handsome mansion finely situated in an ample demesne.

The Bligh family played an important role in the creation of the Ashes, a test cricket series played between Australia and England. In 1883 Ivo Bligh 8th Earl of Darnley was presented with some ashes while staying at the Clarke household in Australia while playing Australia cricket. Ivo's English team were very successful and brought home the ashes with them. The trophy was kept at the Darnley's English home of Cobham Hall until 1929 when it was presented to the MCC.

In 1883 Lord Darnley held 25,463 acres in Meath and 9309 acres in Kent. The house was regularly used by the Earls of Darnley and the newspapers record visits there. In the late eighteenth hundreds the Earl of Darnley visited Athboy once every three years. The seventh Earl of Darnley took ill at Clifton Lodge in 1900 and died some weeks later at the family home in Kent aged 49.

The Earl of Darnley sold the town, the estate and the house in 1909. Mordecai Jones purchased Clifton Lodge on the recommendation of his friend George McVeigh of

Drewstown. In 1913 Scinosuke Konishi, a Japanese valet, was murdered on 27th July 1913 on the grounds of Clifton Lodge. John Gilroy wrote a book about the incident.

Peter the 10th Earl fought in World War II and was a prisoner of war for a period. The Earl of Darnley's Estate office closed in 1948. Today it is the site of the Old Darnley Hotel. In the 1920s the Quinn family held Clifton Lodge.

In the 1930s it was suggested that the mansion be considered as a possible additional mental hospital for the hospital in Mullingar. It was described as having a large hall, dining room, sitting room, study, smoke room, billiards room, six rather large bedrooms, and eight small ones. In the basement was a flagged kitchen and pantries and sculleries. At that stage the grounds and gardens were overgrown with weeds. There were two internal lavatories supplied by water from a nearby source.

In the 1960s Freddie Sheridan held Clifton. In 1980 Clifton lodge was sold for £123,000 by the representatives of the late Timothy Kinsella.

Clonabreany



Clonabreany House outside Crossakeel was demolished in the last century. There was a house here in 1786 but the house was described as being an early 19th century house. There was extensive woodlands surrounding the house. There was the Bleach Wood, the Long Wood and the Tunnel Wood.

Cromwell is said to have encamped on Crossakiel Hill and offered 1000 acres of Clonabreany to one of his officers who had distinguished him in the fight. The officer refusing said he would not want to live in a swamp like that and so a drummer boy spoke up saying he would be delighted with 1000 acres of the land and Cromwell said 'Young Wade, I will give you 2000 acres of it.'

Henry Wade purchased lands in Meath in 1663 and was confirmed with 1490 acres at Clonabreany in 1684. John Wade of Clonabreany was MP for Athboy 1703-14 and for Trim 1728-35. John was the eldest son of Henry Wade. He had a house in Trim. Henry Wade had been granted lands in Westmeath by Charles II and John had purchased lands at Clonabreany from the Forfeited Estates Court in 1703 after the Battle of the Boyne. He purchased 100 acres in Dublin and 3151 acres in Meath. John Wade had served as High Sheriff of Meath in 1702 and he died in 1735.

Walter Wade, a descendant of Henry Wade of Clonabreany, became a noted botanist in the late eighteenth century. He successfully proposed the establishment of a botanical garden at Glasnevin in 1795.

John was succeeded by his nephew, Clotworthy Shields, who took the name Wade in 1735 in order to inherit the estate. Clotworthy was killed by a fall from his horse ten years later and was succeeded by his cousin, John Daniell, who took the name Wade.

Robert Wade of Clonabreany was High Sheriff of Meath 1772. He was succeeded by his eldest son, William Blaney Wade. When William died he was succeeded by Robert. Robert Craven Wade was born 1809 and served as High Sheriff of Meath 1840 and for Co. Wicklow 1847. The Wades were said to be good landlords and slaughter an ox a week to feed the people during the famine.

In 1883 Robert Craven Wade of Clonabreaney held 5174 acres in Meath, 4055 in Wicklow and 367 in Louth making a total estate of 9,596 acres. Robert died in Surrey in 1898. His eldest son William George Clayton Wade died in 1882 and was buried at Crossakiel. The estate then went to Craven Henry Clothworthy Wade who lived at Rockfield, Co. Wicklow. He died in 1911.

The estate was broken up in the early part of the twentieth century. Clonabreaney House was levelled in the middle of the twentieth century but the stable block remained standing. In 2009 the old estate manager's house was completely restored and opened as Clonabreany House, a venue for weddings, occasions and conferences. Clonbreany now features the restored courtyard, containing 10 self-contained houses and two restored Georgian houses.

Clonbarry House

Clonbarry or Clonbarron House is in Kildalkey parish, on a cul de sac on the road to Athboy. In 1835 it was described as a neat two storey house and the residence of Mr. Nangle. The Nangle coat of arms is on one of the outhouses. The Nangles were the major landowners in Kildalkey.

In the twentieth century Clonabarron became a stud farm when the Nelson family took up ownership. Sir William Nelson lived at Clonbarron House from at least 1915. His wife, Lady Margaret Nelson, won the Grand National in 1915 with her horse, Ally Sloper. The Nelson family owned the Liverpool based Nelson Shipping Line. In 1923 Cathleen Bryan married Sir William's son, Sir James Hope Nelson who had recently divorced his first wife, an American. Lady Cathleen Nelson, born in 1899, was a pioneering female pilot, receiving her pilot's licence in 1932. An airstrip was laid down near the house. In 1933 Lady Cathleen was elected chairman of the Iona National Airways, one of Ireland first airlines in the country. Sir James Hope Nelson succeeded to his father's estates in 1922. Sir James Nelson bred Poolgowran the winner of the 1934 Irish Grand National. Sir James and Lady Nelson left Clonbarron in 1939 and took up residence in Loughbawn, Co. Westmeath. Sir James died in 1960 and is buried in a vault surrounding the O'Connell memorial round tower in Glasnevin. In 1939 T.P. McIvor of Ardcath purchased Clonbarron for a sum of £2,250. Clonbarron was purchased by A.P. Reynolds in 1943 who operated a stud farm there with Richard McCormick as trainer. Later the Hon. Gerald Wellesley lived at Clonbarron. Various other families operated stud farm at the house during the twentieth century. In 1985 Clonbarron House and 166 acres was sold for £247,000.

Cloncarneel House

Cloncarneel is located two kilometres north of Ballivor. Cloncarneel House was erected in the eighteenth century. A tall gabled house with a new entrance front was commissioned by Walter Dowdall in 1801. The design of the extensions were made by Francis Johnston who was then working on the Kells Courthouse. Just one room deep the house has an imposing doorway with a fanlight. Mulligan noted the striking feature of the windows which have

twelve large panes on the ground floor and sixteen smaller panes on the first floor. The two storey house has Adamesque plasterwork over the sideboard recess in dining room. There is a wrought-iron balcony to first floor window over entrance. Cloncarneel has a number of out buildings. There is an arcaded outbuilding to the south. There is a central cobbled courtyard. Cloncarneel house, sometimes known as Clown, was held by the Dowdalls house in the eighteenth century. In 1835 Cloncarneel or Carnisle was described as a neat two storey house, the residence of Mr. William Allen. In the 1850s George Hopkins was renting the house from Jeremiah S. Murphy. In 1940s occupied by Cecil Samuel Faloon who produced sheep's cheese on the farm and generated his own electricity. The Potterton family held the house for a period and then the McNamara family.

Clongill Castle

Clongill Castle is located between Oristown and Wilkinstown. It is a combination of two houses, a medieval tower house with two round turrets and a two storey gabled house added in the sixteenth or seventeenth century. The bottom floor of the tower house was barrel vaulted and there are traces of wickerwork which was used to create the roof. There was a murder hole over the entrance. On the first floor there was a garderobe. The later stone house is a rectangular two storey building attached to the west end of the tower house. Connected to the earlier building through the original door of the tower house, the building has a circular tower with stairs and the remains of an oven and fireplace.

The building is associated with the White family. One of the earliest records of Whites at Clongill is Richard White of Clongill who was in England in 1352. A number of members of the White family were recorded as rectors of the parish. In 1598 Patrick White of Clongill was recorded as one of the noblemen of Eastmeath. Jane Netterville married Christopher White of Clongill in early seventeenth century. In the 1650s James White lived at Clongill and there was a castle and mansion house in the townland. It is said that the castle attacked by forces of Cromwell. It took the Cromwellian forces three weeks to capture the castle. The tradition is that the White family were wiped out at the time with the exception of Patrick White and his brother Robert White that were in the French army at the time of the massacre. A pedigree of the White family of Clongill and Ballymore, Co. Westmeath dating from 1550 to 1735 is in the National Library of Ireland.

General Scurlog Williams lived at Clongill Castle in the early eighteenth century. His daughter was maid of honour to Queen Mary. The castle and lands were acquired by Thomas Gerrard in the mid seventeen to early eighteenth century. The Gerrards lived at Clongill until the middle of the eighteenth century. Swift wrote a number of letters to Samuel Gerrard of Clongill Castle in the early 18th century. Gerrard was assisting Swift in the purchase of lands for his hospital in Dublin. Samuel Gerrard resided in the house until his death in 1750.

In 1813 Mr. Pollock and Mr. Gerrard joined their packs together to form the Clongill pack which was based at Clongill Castle. In 1837 Clongill was described as an ancient castle in a tolerably good state of preservation. Nearby Arch Hall was held by the Garnett family.

Clonylogan House

Clonylogan House is located just east of Kildalkey on the road to Trim. The house may date to about 1850. A two storey over basement house it has a modern conservatory to the south. The land at Clonylogan was held by the Barnewalls of Trimlestown in medieval times. There was only a small building at Clonylogan in the first Ordnance Survey map of the mid 1830s. In 1830 Lord Darnley granted a lease of Clonylogan two hundred and fifty acres to Thomas Potterton of Balatalion. Arthur Potterton inherited the lease from his father and came of age

in 1847. His brother and spinster sisters resided with him. His daughter, Eleanora, inherited the property on his death in 1890. Eleanora married Richard Walker of Woodtown West. In 1901 Thomas Eliot Potterton was living in the house but it was owned by Eleanora Walker. In 1911 it was owned by Eleanora Walker and lived in by William Bery White Spinner and his family. It was sold but purchased by the Potterton family in the 1960s. The house has been renovated. Most of the details relating to this house are from Homan Potterton's book, Potterton, People & Places.

Clonlyon House

Clonlyon House stood near Moynalvey, Summerhill. In 1836 the house was the residence of Edward Purdon. He was secretary to the local famine committee during the great Famine. The house appears to be a small house, possibly for a herd in the maps of the 1830s but seems a more substantial house by 1900. It remained the property of the Purdon family until the late 1800s. In 1901 and 1911 the house was the property of George Wilson and lived in by Robert Doran, shepherd. The house had ten rooms, five windows at the front and seven outbuildings. The house then became the property of a Mr. Gallagher from Castlebar who held it until the 1950s when the Land Commission took over the property. The house was demolished in the 1960s and a new road erected near the site.

Clowanstown House

Clowanstown House is located just off the old N3 between Ross Cross and Dunshaughlin. The house was erected late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth century. An older building on the site was adapted as a farm building. A gatelodge stands at the end of the avenue on the main road. Part of Clowanstown was part of the estate of Lord Fingall and was sold in 1893. In 1876 Patrick Maher of Clowanstown, Tara, Navan, held 606 acres in County Meath. By 1919 Hubert M. Hartigan, horse trainer, was settled at Tara Stud, Clowanstown House. In 1944 Hartigan sold Clowanstown to Clifford Nicholson, a well-known English breeder. Mr. Nicholson owned the Limestown Stud, near Lincoln.

In the 1950s William P. Icton lived at Clowanstown House. Billy Icton, who died in 2010, was manager of Tara Stud for over 50 years, and was prominent in breeding and racing through his involvement with the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the Curragh Racecourse.

Collierstown House

Collierstown House is located at Bellewstown, Duleek. Casey and Rowan said the house was reputedly erected about 1775 but the interior joinery and plasterwork look more like the 1790s. A three storey over basement house there is a good range of outbuildings including coachhouses. The house on the south side of Bellewstown Hill has uninterrupted views over east Meath and north Dublin.

In 1876 Bartholomew Ennis of Collierstown held 373 acres in County Meath. In 1901 Bartholomew Ennis and his family were living at Collierstown. J.S. Langan lived there from the early 1930s to about 1960. The Boylan family of Hilltown held the house for a period as did the Allen family.

Coney Hall

Coney Hall is located at Mornington, Drogheda. It is sometimes called Mornington House. A Queen Anne style house it was owned by James Henry Brabazon, a relative of the Earls of Meath from the 1860s onwards. In 1879 Margaret Skean, cook and house keeper, was

sacked. She murdered her replacement Emma Boucher. Found guilty of manslaughter Slean served ten years in jail before being released and emigrating to America. In 1911 James Smyth, solicitor, and family lived at Coney Hall. In 1943 Coney Hall was put for sale. The house was surrounded by woods and adjoined Bettystown Golf Course. The lands amounted to 35 acres including a three acre walled garden. The two storeyed house included a hall, drawing room, dining room, modern tiled kitchen, pantry, dairy, scullery, maid's bedroom and five bedrooms. The Graham family purchased the property. The house was sold again in 1951. The house no longer appears to be there. The house gave its name to a local housing development.

Cooperhill

Cooperhill house is located in the townland of Callaighstown, the civil parish of Kilsharvan, just off the Duleek to Julianstown road, not far from the Dardistown bridge on the Nanny river. There is a Cooperhill in Carlow and another in Limerick.

In 1737 Christopher Darcy of Stidalt mortgaged his lands in Duleek to John Cooper of Drogheda for £250. John Cooper (1719-1808) was Chief Clerk of the Treasury. John Cooper was the son of Samuel Cooper of Beamore and Calliaghtown, Co. Meath and Butterhill, Co. Wicklow. Educated at Custom House Drogheda, John married an heiress, Mary Anne Paget. Their third son, Nathaniel, succeeded at Cooperhill following the death of John in 1808. Nathaniel, a captain in the 68th Regiment, died in 1818 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Nathaniel. In 1835 Cooperhill house in the townland of Callaighstown was recorded as the residence of J. Cooper. Nathaniel's eldest son, Hugh, born in 1829, was killed in an accident and so Nathaniel was succeeded in 1852 by his son, Henry Alexander Cooper J.P., who died unmarried in 1895. In 1854 Nicholas Cooper is recorded as holding Cooperhill House and 401 acres of lands in the townland of Calliaghstown. In 1876 Henry Cooper of Cooperhill held 410 acres in County Meath. There was a beech tree at Cooperhill bearing the carved initials SA and SC (Sarah Armstrong and Samuel Cooper).

The Cooper family were related to the Cooper family of Beamore and to the Cooper family of Barn Hall, Castletown, Co Kildare. In 1901 Clamina Cooper was living at Cooperhill with her sister, Sophia Smyth. In 1911 Sophia Smyth was living at Coopershill. The house had fourteen rooms, with fifteen windows at the front and twelve outbuildings.

The house was burned on 7th February 1923 during the Civil War. John Anthony Ashley Cooper fled the house before it was burned. Mr. Cooper received £4326 compensation for the burning of the house. Photographs of the house before and after it was burned are held locally. The house was restored and in 1929 Cooperhill was sold to the Corscadden family from Leitrim. The Land Commission acquired 200 acres of the estate in the 1930s and in 1956 the Corscaddens sold the remaining land to the Land Commission.

Around 1959 the house was purchased by the Ryan family. Mrs. Mary Ryan operated a guesthouse at Cooperhill for a number of years.

Corballis house

Corballis House is located at Ballygarth, Drogheda, on the south bank of the Nanny where it enters the sea. A late Georgian house of square proportions the house has Victorian plasterwork. In 1911 the house had twenty six rooms, six windows to the front and twenty eight outbuildings. In the 1830s Corballis was the seat of J. Smith Taylor. The townland of Corballis contained 378 acres and this constituted the demesne of Corballis house. In the 1850s Robert Taylor was the occupier. In 1901 Edward and Clare Delaney were occupying Corballis and ten years later the same couple were there. Edward won an Irish National from Corballis in the 1898 with a horse called Porridge. His brother, Patrick, was a co-founders of

Laytown Races in the 1890's. Edward died in 1948 in his 90s. Patrick died a week earlier. Eamonn Delany succeeded to Corballis. The Delany family continued to hold Corballis into the twenty first century and continued to be involved in the equine field.

Corbalton Hall



Corbalton Hall, located between Skryne and Dunshaughlin, was home to the Corbally family. A three storey house was constructed in the eighteenth century to which a new wing was attached about 1801. The two storey villa wing was designed by the distinguished Irish architect, Francis Johnston. Casey and Rowan suggested that the extension was as a result of the prosperity in the Irish corn market due to the Napoleonic wars. The older building and the new were joined at an acute angle. Three vaulted rooms as well as associated walls of the original house were incorporated into the main 1801 house and are currently underneath a paved terrace. The front of Johnston's addition became the new entrance front. The older section, called Cookstown House after the townland name, was demolished in 1970, leaving a gap between the stable block and the 1801 house. The farmyard was located away from the house on one of the entrance avenues.

The Barnewalls held the property in the seventeenth century. Elias Corbally, a rich miller, purchased Cookstown about 1800 from Mr. White. The Corbally family were a Catholic family and Bishop Plunkett was a regular visitor at their original home at nearby Sydenham. As a lieutenant in the Ratoath yeoman cavalry Elais Corbally was captured by rebels on the first day of the 1798 rebellion, but rescued by members of the Clonsilla yeoman cavalry. Corbally was active in various Catholic committees in Dublin and Navan attempting to secure better rights for Catholics. Corbally was a major contributor to the chapel at Skryne and donated the site for a new parochial house. In the 1830s Corbalton Hall was described as the elegant and spacious mansion of Elias Corbally, Esq., standing in a remarkably well-wooded demesne of about 1000 acres. Elias died in 1837 and is commemorated by a memorial in the ruined Rathregan church.

In 1817 Arthur James Plunkett, Lord Killeen, and later 9th Earl of Fingal, married Louisa, the only daughter of Elias Corbally of Corbalton Hall. The Plunkett family lived at Corbalton Hall and their children were born there. Arthur James, the eldest son of the 9th Earl, held the position of High Sheriff of Meath in 1845. A major in the 8th Dragoons he served at the Siege of Sebastopol during the Crimean War. William Plunkett was the third son of the 9th Earl of Fingal. Born at Corbalton in 1824 he joined the army, serving in the West Indies and Canada before joining the church. William was the first Irishman to join the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer in 1851. He worked in Manchester, Limerick, Clapham, Scotland and Australia as a Redemptorist priest. Sir Francis Richard Plunkett was born the sixth son of the 9th Earl Fingal at Corbalton Hall in 1835. Francis joined the diplomatic service and served

throughout Europe before being made Minister in Tokyo in 1883. In 1900 he was appointed ambassador at Vienna, a post from which he retired in 1905.

Matthew Elias, son of Elias, was born in 1791. Living until 1870 Matthew was M.P. for Meath, a justice of the Peace and Deputy Lieutenant for County Meath. Matthew married Matilda Preston, daughter of the 12th Viscount Gormanston in 1842. Matilda died in 1889 aged 72 and husband and wife are buried in the vault in Skryne church. They only had one child, Mary Margaret, who was born in 1845. Matthew is said to have planted 14 lime trees along the cowfield and asked his daughter to have as many children.

In 1865 Mary married Alfred Joseph, 23rd Lord Mowbray, 24th Lord Segrave, 20th Lord Stourton and they had ten children, six boys and four girls. In 1876 Hon. Mrs. Corbally of Corbalton held 5,033 acres in county Meath. Alfred Joseph died in 1893, aged 64, in Paris. Mary Margaret died in 1925 aged 79. Their son, Edward Plantagenet Joseph, inherited the estate in 1925 and took the additional surname of Corbally. He sold the estate in 1951.

Courthill House

Courthill House was erected near the Church of Ireland church at Dunboyne about 1835. It was the residence of John Greene and described as a neat two storey slated modern house. The attached outbuildings were in good repair and the demesne of twenty seven acres was kept in good order. A two storey house it is described as a substantial square villa with an elegant classical hall. The plasterwork dates to about 1838. About 1900 Courthill was enlarged by the addition of an extra storey. A walled garden stands to the north of the house. A gate lodge was erected about 1880.

Walsingham Coke held Courthill until 1622 when he sold it to Sir Arthur Savage. James Hamilton purchased it in 1698 from Sir Lawrence Parsons. This James Hamilton was from Raheny and was not related to the Hamiltons of Hamwood and Sheephill. The Wilson family then held the property.

Courthill House was erected by John Green, a fishmonger in the mid 1830s. Henry Green held the property in the 1850s. The house then descended through various families. In 1873 Patrick O'Donnell purchased the property but it was up for sale again in 1884 and 1893. It came into the hands of John Justin McCarthy in 1908. John McCarthy was the son of Jeremiah McCarthy of Coolnacalle. McCarthy was from Kerry and had managed to acquire a fortune through railways shares in companies in Africa. A supporter of Kerry GAA, Kerry footballers stayed at Courthill the night before the All-Irelands.

McCarthy died in 1953 and after the death of his wife the property passed to Eamonn Walsh. Courthill provided the name for Courthill Drive, a local residential development.

Creakenstown House

Creakenstown House is to the north of near Ratoath. The house was erected between two tributaries of the Broadmeadow river. The road bends around the house as if the house was erected on part of the road.

The O'Neill family came into possession of Creakenstown in the latter half of the eighteenth century. A room in the house was fitted out as a chapel to serve Dr. Augustine Cheevers, bishop of Meath who also used the house to hide during the Penal days. The Kelly family were in possession from the early years of the nineteenth century. Martin Kelly lived 1736-1803. His second son Edward was related to Fr. Patrick Langan, PP and when the priest died his vestments were preserved in Creakenstown House and used at Station Masses. The Kellys were prominent donors to church activities providing stained glass windows in Ratoath and an altar in Donaghmore chapel.

Edward Kelly was a regular follower of the Meath and Ward Union Hunts. Born in 1849 he was a country councillor in 1911. Silage was made at Creakenstown in 1894 by Edmund Kelly.

The point to point held there in 1950 is featured in the news supplied by British Pathe, the world's first digital news archive. The farm comprises 400 acres, with 300 acres in the main block. Ted and Gretta Kelly provided an interesting article on Creakenstown House for the Curraha Jubilee book on which this article is based.

Crossdrum House

Crossdrum House is located near Millbrook, Oldcastle. The townland of Crossdrum was in the ownership of the Napers of Loughcrew and they leased the land to the Rotherams and Smith Harman families. Both families were involved in the hunt.

Crossdrum House has been described as an exceptional country residence while others have described it as a dull and ill proportioned Georgian house. Some of the plasterwork has been attributed to George Stapleton, son of Michael Stapleton. The house had a Tuscan porch with a Venetian-style doorcase. The house became derelict in the late twentieth century. There was a servants' tunnel to the basement

The first recorded lease at Crossdrum dates to 1734 from the Napers of Loughcrew. Edward Rotheram born 1789, married Barbara Crofton from Leitrim. He acted as an agent for Lord Shelborne. The Rotherams of Triermore came into possession of Crossdrum. George Rotheram lived at Crossdrum in 1810.

In 1835 Crossdrum house, the residence of Edward Rotheram, was described as a neat and commodious house of modern style, having been erected in 1817. There were suitable offices and gardens attached to it. Mr. Rotheram was described as a comfortable farmer, and lived on the land. He employed constantly 40 labourers, cultivating a third of the land and grazing the remainder.

Edward Rotheram was born in 1810, married in 1835 and was a member of the Royal Dublin Yacht club. In 1883 Edward Rotheram of Crossdrum held 5,308 acres in Meath and 1,290 in Cavan making a total estate of 6,598 acres. Edward Rotheram held the lands on which the cairns on Loughcrew stand.

Percy French was a regular visitor to Crossdrum while he was inspector of drains in Cavan. He often kept the family up to the small hours with his singing and stories. Mr. Rotheram would say "Do you know Percy the early train leaves Oldcastle at 7.30 in the morning?" This worked sometimes and Percy went to bed but many times it did not. Source John Smith 'The Oldcastle Centenary Book'

In 1911 Edward and Jane Rotheram and their family lived at Crossdrum. In 1906 Edward had served as High Sheriff of Meath. In January 1914 when Edward, his wife and a visitor were sitting at the fire a shot was fired through the window.

Soldiers occupied Crossdrum at the request of Mr. Rotheram during the War of Independence. Edward Rotheram died about 1925. The Rotherham family left Ireland in the 1920s. The Cadden family then lived there until the late 1960s. They built a new house nearby and moved out of the old house. A modern farmyard was built directly behind the house but the old farm buildings are also still in use.



Upper Crossdrum House

Nearby Upper Crossdrum House was the residence of W. Smith Harman in 1837. In 1835 Upper Crossdrum House was described as a neat three storey house with offices built in 1819. It is attributed to the architect C.R. Cockerell. William Smith Harman married Catherine Battersby of Newcastle in 1836. Their eldest son William succeeded at Crossdrum. William who was born in 1837 married Mary O'Rorke of Loughcrew. In 1911 William Harman and his wife were living at Crossdrum. William died in 1932 at the age of 95. He had been master of the Ballymacads from 1887 to 1900. Their son Charles Cecil Harman served in the South African War and then in World War I and was awarded the DSO in 1916 and a bar 1917. Born in 1877 Charles married Muriel Huth in 1914 and they had two sons, William and Charles, both of whom served in the Second World War. When Charles Cecil died in 1952 his widow remarried two years later to Major Kenneth Thompson of Triermore House.

Crowpark House

Crowpark House is located in Trim Town, on the north banks of the Boyne. Now surrounded by modern houses the house is accessed by a road now called Sarsfield Avenue. The house is located beside the old town walls of Trim. In 1875 the house contained a parlour, drawing room, six bedrooms, servants apartments, stables for three horses, coachhouse, cow house, turfhouse and a large walled in garden on five acres of ground.

The property was in the hands of the Chambers family in the first half of the nineteenth century. The Chambers family are recorded in Wexford in the 1650s. A descendant of the family, Joseph, married the eldest daughter of Rev. Stafford Lightbume, of Trim. Their son, Edward Elliot Chambers, lived at Crowpark and married Elizabeth Carshore. In 1835 Crowpark was the property of Minor Leslie but held by E.E. Chambers on a lease of three lives at 18s an acre. Edward's son, Richard Edward Elliot Chambers of Fosterstown, became an artist in England. He married into a wealthy family - Chandos-Pole-Gell of Hopton Hall. His bride was 36 when they married. Richard travelled the world painting in such places as California, Mexico, Canada, New Mexico, Sahara, Algeria, Middle East and South Africa. Edward Chambers died in 1857.

Robert P. Hope of Loughbawn, Collinstown, Killucan held Crowpark in the late nineteenth century. The lands amounting to 200 acres were leased out. Crowpark house was left vacant. In 1911 Robert Hope owned the house and it was lived in by caretaker, Michael Morgan. In 1911 the house had sixteen rooms, eight windows to the front and thirteen outbuildings. The property was sold in 1913 following the death of Robert Hope.

Cruicetown House

Cruicetown House is located near Nobber in North Meath. Cruicetown moat, graveyard and lake are located to the front of the house. A long two-storey house erected in 1845, although a date of 1828 is also suggested, it has four stone chimney stacks and a square projecting castellated porch. The house is sited within a battlemented courtyard. The house replaced an earlier house from 1735, a stone in the wall is inscribed "L. Cruise 1735". Cruicetown was the residence of the Cruise family from medieval times. The battlemented improvements are the work of Sir Lionel Alexander, who owned Cruicetown after 1874. The property includes interesting gates and lodges. There was a tile house and pigeon loft in the yard. Today a large farm complex surrounds the house.

The Cruise family settled at Cruicetown in the early thirteenth century. An early motte castle was probably their first settlement. The Cruise family vault is at the western end of the southern wall of the church. The chancel contains the tomb of Christopher and Elizabeth Cruise, dating from 1688. A pierced ring limestone cross dating to the same year stands in the graveyard. The cross depicts the Virgin and Child on its eastern side and the scene of the Crucifixion on the west. A little village may have existed to the west of the church, south of the motte. Christopher Cruise held Cruicetown in 1654 and the family were to hold onto the estate until the late 18th century and even when they disposed of it they leased it back from the new landowners. Tradition has it that Turlough O Carolan attended a school sponsored by the Cruises at Cruicetown, where he fell in love with the daughter, Bridget. He later composed four airs and a number of songs in her honour. Tradition has it that the blind Carolan was on pilgrimage to Lough Derg when a lady reached out her hand to help him. He immediately recognised Bridget Cruise just by the touch of her hand.

In 1789 Joseph Cruise sold the lands of Cruicetown, Altmash and Moydorrhagh to Arthur Ahmuty of London. In the early 1800s the house was occupied by a family named Barnes. In 1831 the Ahmuty lands at Cruicetown, Moydorrhagh and Altmash were acquired by the executors of William Alexander Shaw, late of Great Denmark Street, Dublin. His heir, William John Alexander, took the surname Shaw.

Major William Alexander was born on 12 May 1817. He was the son of William John Alexander-Shaw. Baptised William Alexander he gained the rank of major in the Indian Army. His name changed to William Alexander-Shaw in 1846 and back to William Alexander by Royal License in 1876. He held property at Guildford, Surrey and at Cruicetown.

In 1835 Cruicetown House was the residence of Andrew Cruise but the townland was owned by William Shaw. Extensive woodlands surrounded the house. The lake abounded in fish and wildfowl. Cruicetown house was described as a neat slated house. The largest farm in the townland was leased by Andrew Cruise. Andrew and Peter Cruise lived at nearby Moydorrhagh House. In 1837 Lewis stated that Mr. Shaw was contemplating the erection of a new house at Cruicetown, a plan which he carried out in 1845. Alexander-Shaw obtained a £350 grant towards the improvement of his lands from the Commissioner of Public Works in 1847. In 1854 Henry Green was leasing Cruicetown House from Alexander-Shaw.

William Alexander's eldest son, William Ferdinand Alexander, became the fifth baronet Alexander of Belcamp, Dublin in 1888. William Ferdinand had been born in India while his father was serving there and he died aged 50, at Cruicetown in 1896. His son, Major Sir Lionel Cecil William Alexander, 6th Bt. was born on 23 September 1885 and it was he who disposed of Cruicetown. Lionel fought in the First World War and was decorated for his service. He held the office of High Sheriff of Huntingdonshire in 1929. Later generations of the family lived in England. Part of the Alexander estate was acquired by the Land Commission between 1913 and 1916. The Brady family acquired Cruicetown House in 1875.

Culmullen House



The FitzLeron family were the first Norman family documented at Culmullen and it is probably they who are responsible for erecting a castle there. The remains of the castle are now incorporated into the farmyard. The Barony passed to Sir Simon de Geneville through marriage to Joan Fitzleon. The first reference to the Barony of Culmullen is in the early decades of the 14th Century, when Sir John Cusack is stated to have married Joan de Geneville, co-heir of Sir Simon de Geneville, Baron of Culmullen. Sir Simon administered his estates from Culmullen Castle and was called to Parliament in 1375. The Husseys of Mulhussey held Culmullen in the 1500s.

Lord Slane held Culmullen in 1641 and managed to retain it during the Cromwellian confiscations. After the Battle of the Boyne it was confiscated and came into the hands of Samuel Dopping. The land amounted to 1565 acres.

John Dopping of Gloucestershire, born 1562, had two sons. His eldest son, Anthony Dopping was an MP and Clerk to the Privy Council 1640. He married twice and had nineteen children, many of whom died young. He acquired land in the baronies of Skreen, Ratoath and later in Deece. His 8th son was Right Rev Anthony Dopping, Bishop of Kildare 1678-82 and Bishop of Meath 1682 – 1697. His son was Rt. Hon Samuel Dopping MP for Armagh acquired a total of 1798 acres in Meath from the Forfeited Estates after the Battle of the Boyne. His brother, Rev. Anthony Dopping, purchased lands in Westmeath. They leased their lands at Culmullen to the Bomford family.

Samuel Dopping aged 27 died of consumption at Culmullen and was buried in Culmullen graveyard in 1842.

In 1837 Colmolyn house was the elegant residence of A.J. Dopping. At Culmullen there was a school of 18 boys and 5 girls, for which Mr. Dopping allowed a house and garden free. Near the house is a graveyard and rath.

In the mid 1830 Culmullen was described as a good two storeyed slated house and the home of Mr. D'Arcy. A garden and 10 acres of pleasure grounds are rented by Mr. Darcy with the house for £6 per annum. A grave to William J.B D'Arcy in Culmullen graveyard dates his death as 1846 and aged 38. In 1837 a William D'Arcy of Culmullin was married at Knockmark church to Charlotte D'Arcy.

James Kearney was the proprietor of Culmullin house in the 1850s. J. Kearney of Culmolyn held 2511 acres in Meath and Westmeath in 1883. Lord Rossmore rented Culmullen House for the hunting from Johnny Kearney. In 1899-1900 an architect prepared plans for alteration to the house and stables for the resident, Hugh Gore.

In 1911 Edmund Dease occupied Culmullin house. On the night of the census it was unoccupied as Edmund and his wife were visiting at a house in Westmeath. Edmund was a land agent. Turbotstown House in Longford was the home of the Dease family until 1926. Edmund Fitzlaurance Dease, 1856-1934, author of "History of the Westmeath Hunt", and father of Maurice James Dease, C.C., the first V.C. of World War I, lived at Cumullin House. In 1922 architect, Ralph Henry Byrne, prepared plans for an addition at the rear of the house in the style of Louis XVI/William Kent/Regency for John Leonard. The Leonard lived at Warrenstown and John was a nephew of the owner of Warrenstown. John Leonard, Culmullen House served on an Economic Committee established by the Dail in 1928.

In the later twentieth century John Fowler, the trainer, lived for a while at Culmullen House before moving to the family estate at Rahinstown.

Curraghmore Cottage

Curraghmore Cottage was the residence of Henry Williams in 1835. Described as a neat thatched cottage it was located in the townland of Arodstown townland, Kilmore parish, Kilcock. Nearby was Arodstown House, the seat of Henry's brother, Robert Williams. The house was demolished before 1900.

Curraghtown House

Curraghtown House is located to the west of Navan. Curraghtown House is a two storey house erected about 1860. There is a single storey porch. The main house in the townland before this was Curraghtown or Mount Charlton. In 1836 this mansion lay in ruins at the east end of the townland.

Curraghtown was home to the Charlton family and is where the Charlton fund originated. Captain William Charlton of Curraghtown, alias Mount Charlton, Co. Meath died in 1737 and was succeeded by his son Thomas Charlton born 1702 and died unmarried 1792.

The Charlton Bequest began in 1792. At the age of seventy five Thomas Charlton decided to marry. This raised the possibility of an heir and the night before the marriage his sisters did something to him to prevent him every becoming a father. He had planned to build a new house on his Mountfarrell estate, near Edgeworthstown. The building was never finished. Charlton willed the rental income from his estate at Curraghtown and the rent from his property at Edgeworthstown to be invested and provide funds for a charity. Two thirds of the money was to be distributed to newly-weds in Meath and one-third to newlyweds of Longford.

Thomas Charlton was buried in Ardbraccan graveyard. Thomas conveyed the house and demesne lands at Curraghtown to his kinsman John Charlton, officer in the 60th Foot for the life of John and his wife Elizabeth and son James. John was an ensign in 1760 and created lieutenant in 1777. He was with Wolfe at Quebec and is said to have been one of the officers in whose arms Wolfe died.

By Act of Parliament in 1800 the estate was vested in Trustees. By 1837 marriage portions were being paid to Roman Catholics. Captain James Wolfe Charlton, son of Ensign John instituted proceedings and after protracted litigation the fund was again devoted solely to Protestants. In 1836 Captain Charlton lived in the old mansion house in Curraghtown.

By 1874 there were not enough applicants and the capital began to accumulate. In 1895 under an 1885 Act the marriage portion was to be equally divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

James had two sons. Rev. James Wolfe Charlton became vicar of Clonmacnoise in 1843 while his other son, William, became established at Clonmacnoise House, Co. Offaly. In 1906 the trust's property at Curraghtown was sold to the four resident tenants. The Trust continues to issue grants annually.

In the 1850s Alexander Roberts was leasing a substantial house and 49 acres of lands from Chidley C. Barnes. At that time 102 acres of Curraghtown was in trust for the Charlton fund. Partrick Smith of Curraghtown was a member of the Young Mens' Society in Navan in the 1860s. Patrick Smith, Auctioneers, began at Curraghtown and then opened offices in Navan. In 1911 Michael Smith owned and lived in Curraghtown House, the biggest house in the townland. It had twelve rooms and five windows to the front. In 1901 there were five farm labourers at Curraghtown House.

In 1922 Curraghtown House featured in a battle between the Free State and Irregular Forces. Following overnight fighting a ceasefire was arranged and the Irregulars surrendered and were taken to Trim Workhouse.

J.C.H. Shaw wrote an article on the family of Charlton which was published in the Irish Genealogist in 1969.

Curtistown House

Curtistown House is located in Curtistown Lower or Baldoyle townland, not far from Kilmessan. In the 1830s there is only a small building identified on the site but by 1900 there was a larger house and named "Curtistown House" on the site. In 1850 John Wilkinson held 183 acres and a herd's house at Curtistown. Curtistown House in Kilmessan was home to the Wilkinson family. John Wilkinson of Curtistown held 368 acres in county Meath in 1876. In 1901 Sarah, Sophia and Caroline Wilkinson were residing at Curtistown together with Susanna Mason, Mary Cullen and Bridget Fagan. The house had nineteen rooms, six windows to the front and thirteen outbuildings.