

# Tankardstown House



Tankardstown House is located at Gernonstown, Slane, near Rathkenny. Tankardstown House was said to be erected about 1817 by Francis Blackburne. Casey and Rowan wrote that it is an odd building whose principal front has more the appearance of a market house or elegant stable block than a house. Presenting four different elevations Tankardstown House had a long narrow wing added possibly in the 1890s for the marriage of Francis William Blackburne and Olivia Anstruther-Thomson. The iron entrance gates bear the inscription "Paris 1890". Sir Thomas Drew was the architect for additions to the house in the 1880s for Francis William Blackburne.

Tankardstown was acquired by John Osborne in 1686. In 1710 the property passed to the Coddingtons of Oldbridge on the marriage of John Coddington to Francis Osborne, daughter and heiress of Captain John Osborne. The property then moved to the Morris family in 1757. It is said that four croppies were captured and hung on Tankardstown Hill by Slane yeomen and the landowner of Tankardstown, Mr. Morris, refused to have them buried on his property.

George Blackburne founded the family in Meath. He died in 1769 leaving his son, Richard, who founded the family at Tankardstown, his son, Edward and his son, Anthony, who founded the family at Parsonstown. Richard who settled at Great Footstown, married Elizabeth Hopkins and died in 1798. Their eldest son, Francis, lived at Rathfarnham Castle. Francis was born at Footstown and received his early education at Dunshaughlin. Francis was a distinguished lawyer, holding the important legal appointments of Attorney-General, Master of the Rolls, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice of Appeal, and Lord High Chancellor. Educated at Trinity College Francis was called to the Irish bar in 1805. In 1819 Tankardstown was purchased by Francis Blackburne for a sum of £1200 sterling. Blackburne is believed to be the builder of Tankardstown House. He was Attorney General for Ireland in the 1830s and 1840s. He was unpopular with liberals and nationalists. Daniel O'Connell described him as a 'vile Orange tool.' Francis married Jane Martley of Ballyfallon, Athboy. Their son, William Martley, succeeded to the property at Tankardstown following his father's death in 1867. William Martley's eldest son was Francis William who became a judge.

In 1835 Tankardstown House was the residence of Mr. Hopkins, a relative of the Blackburnes. It was described as a modern two storey slated house in good repair with a demesne containing 58 acres.

In 1876 Margaret Lefroy Blackburne of Tankardstown held 604 acres in county Meath. Judge Francis William Blackburne J.P. of Tankardstown and Galtrim House, Bray, Co. Wicklow held 691 acres in 1878. Francis William served as High Sheriff of Meath in 1898. In the 1901 census Francis W. Blackburne and his family was living at Tankardstown. The Blackburne family held it until 1913. Francis William died in 1921.

His second daughter and heiress, Elena Frances Blackburne married Charles Maurice Townshend in 1928. The Townshends came from Castletownshend in west Cork. Townshend had emigrated to Rhodesia with his brothers but returned to Ireland prior to World War II. Townshend was a noted diviner divining wells and even lost people. He died in 1966 leaving two sons. Francis graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine from Trinity College and emigrated to Australia. Maurice Oliver, born in Rhodesia, was educated at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester and settled at Creewood, Slane.

In recent years Tankardstown House has been restored by Patricia and Brian Conlon and has been developed into a premier manor house.

## Tara Hall



Tara Hall erected in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century stood at the bottom of Tara Hill, just off the Dublin-Navan Road. In 1803 the house at the foot of Tara hill was called Newhall and was the seat of Hon. William Brabazon. In 1835 it was described as a large modern mansion with a demesne of 230 acres. The demesne had woodlands and a garden. Demolished in the mid-twentieth century only some of the outbuildings remain.

John Moore of Tullynallen married Frideswide, daughter of Dixie Coddington of Athlumney Castle in 1752. Their son, John, married Barbara, daughter of Hon. William Brabazon, second son of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Meath. An ancestor, Sir William Brabazon, was created Earl of Meath in 1627 with the family residing till the present day at Bray, Co. Wicklow. John and Barbara's son, William John, born in 1789, succeeded to Tara House and the estate. William John became a clergyman and having succeeded to his mother's estates he took the additional name Brabazon. In 1834 Tara Hall was the residence of Patrick Lynch. Lynch entertained Daniel O'Connell during his visit for the Monster Meeting of 1844. A large tent was erected near the house to accommodate a meal for over one thousand people. In 1846 Tara Hall was described as a small plain modern house, the seat of Patrick Lynch. His son

A.E. Lynch emigrated to California where he contributed poetry and article to various publications. Patrick Lynch who also held property in Sligo died at Bruges in 1859. William died in 1866. His will is in the National Library, Dublin. His nephew, John Arthur Henry, succeeded on his death and he too took the additional name of Brabazon. The family continued to hold lands at Tullyallen. Having served in the army in India, John Arthur was High Sheriff of County Louth in 1872. He died in 1908 and was succeeded by his son William Lockhart Chambre. Born in 1880 William served in the Coldstream Guards.

The second son, John Theodore Cuthbert Moore-Brabazon became 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Tara. Attracted to engineering and mechanics he spent his university vacations as unpaid mechanic to Charles S. Rolls. In October 1909 he won a prize for being the first English pilot to fly more than one mile. He was the first pilot to receive a certificate in March 1910. One of his first flights nearly killed him. In youth he had flown with a pig as his passenger in order to prove pigs could fly. After serving in World War I, Moore-Brabazon entered parliament as a Conservative M.P. and he became Parliamentary Secretary to Winston Churchill. He served under Churchill during World War II as Minister for Transport, 1940-41 and of Aircraft Production 1941-42. He was forced to resign in 1942 when he expressed the hope that German and Russia would destroy each other. Russia was then an ally of Britain and so Moore-Brabazon had to resign. The title, Baron Brabazon of Tara, was created for John Cuthbert Moore Brabazon in 1942. He died in 1964. Lord Brabazon of Tara took over the house and about sixty acres of land about the house. The remainder of the estate was taken by the Land Commission in the 1930s. The house then became uninhabited and soon fell to ruins. Lord Brabazon recalled his life in "The Brabazon Story" which was published in 1956. Lord Brabazon sold the house and it was pulled down to save on rates. The third Baron Brabazon of Tara served in various department of the British government in the 1980s and early 1990s.

In 1943 Tara Hall was purchased by David Frame of the Hammond Lane foundry along with 30 acres. A stud farm was erected on the lands.

## Teltown House

Teltown House is situated on the eastern bank of the river Blackwater, between Kells and Navan. Located in the middle of the ritualistic landscape where the Tailteann Games were held a couple of thousand years ago Teltown house is an early nineteenth century house of two storeys. The earliest part of the house may date to the 1600s. The house has been much altered and added to. Gable ended it has a square porch to the front. The house forms one side of a courtyard to the rear of the house. A boat house stood on the river. Near the house is the ruins of Teltown church and graveyard. Hamlet Garnett, son of Rev. George Garnett of Williamstown, was established at Teltown in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. About 1800 one of the Garnetts decided to drain Dubh-loch or 'Leary's hole', one of the features of the Celtic ritual site at Teltown. A large channel was dug to take the water from the hole to the Blackwater. When the water began to flow the low lying lands around the house began to flood and yet the level in the hole remained the same. Garnett was forced to close the channel so that his lands would not flood.



Teltown House

Hamlet married Louisa Wade. In 1835 Teltown House was the residence of Hamlet Garnett. Hamlet died at this residence on 26 December 1849. He was succeeded by his son, George Charles. Hamlet's daughter, Sally married her cousin, W.S. Garnett of Williamstown. Hamlet's son, Thomas Gerard Garnett, emigrated to Fiji. The Colonial Secretary replied to his mother's letter enquiring about him and said that he was 'living the life of a native.' He had a native wife but later married a woman from Australia. Captain French held Teltown House in the 1877 and had plans to make additions and alterations to the house.

In 1901 Thomas Sheils, a land steward, was living in the house. James McCann held the house for a period. James McCann, a leading stockbroker in Dublin and Chairman of the Grand Canal Co. spent part of his fortune developing industry in Navan. In the 1890s McCann acquired the former Russell estate and a substantial part of Navan town. He established a furniture factory, a bacon factory and a sawmill. James McCann lived at Ardsallagh House. He sought to restore activity on the Boyne Canal and purchased a pleasure steamer to encourage tourism. James McCann launched a newspaper, *The Irish Peasant*, which ran for six years in Navan. James McCann died in 1904 and Arthur McCann inherited Teltown. John Spicer, son-in-law of James McCann, took over the Boyne Canal in 1915.

In 1930s the Land Commission took 300 acres. In recent decades Teltown House and its environs were purchased by Bartle and Renee Clarke, who were very conscious of the historical importance of the area and wished to ensure its long-term preservation. Professor George Eogan carried out a research program in the area and discovered an example of 'rock art' thus proving the site had been used for ritual two thousand years before the Celtic period. Teltown House has been developed as a Country House B&B and has achieved a reputation as a friendly place to stay.

## Thurstianstown

Located at Thurstianstown, Beuparc, Thurstianstown House was the seat of Thomas Russell in the 1830s. He was the owner of the townland of 822 acres. In 1850s Thomas Russell was leasing Thurstianstown house and lands from Edmund Aylmer, a minor. In 1876 Thomas Russell of Thurstianstown held 117 acres in county Meath.

## Tobertynan House



Francis McEvoy was the son of Edward McEvoy of Dring, Co. Longford. Francis, a distinguished surgeon, was one of the founders and later President of the Royal College of Surgeons. Francis married Anne Featherstonhaugh of Bracklyn castle. Their son, Edward, died unmarried and the estate went to James McEvoy, brother of Francis, of Frankford in 1808. He married Theresa, youngest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Joshua Coles Meredyth, 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet. James died in 1834 while his widow lived on until 1896, surviving her husband by sixty two years. Their second son, Joshua, married Mary Netterville, only daughter and heiress to the 7<sup>th</sup> Viscount Netterville and took the name Netterville. In 1852 Richard Gradwell of Dowth Hall married Maria Theresa, elder daughter of James and Theresa. In 1856 Barbara Frances, the younger daughter of James and Theresa, married Sir Bernard Burke who was Ulster King at Arms and editor of Burke's Peerage.

James was succeeded at Tobertynan by his widow and then his son, Edward Francis McEvoy. In 1835 Tobertynan House was described as a handsome mansion house in the centre of the demesne. About half the townland was laid out as a park with trees.

In 1850 Edward Francis McEvoy married Eliza Theresa Browne of Mount Hazel, heiress to that estate. Edward McEvoy attended Cambridge and served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Carabiniers Dragoon Guards. He then served as MP for Meath 1855-1874 as an independent.

While serving in the Dragoon Guards Edward was friendly with Roger Tichborne. Roger lost his life when his ship went down in the South Atlantic. His mother was distraught and advertised widely believing that he had not died. A man claiming to be Roger Tichborne arrived from Australia and the mother welcomed him but there was a huge legal case to claim the assets of Roger Tichborne and it was proved that the man was an imposter. It was a very famous case in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Edward

McEvoy knew him for an imposter and was a very important witness against the claimant at the trial.

In 1876 Edward McEvoy of Tobertynan held owned 2,411 acres in Meath, over 300 acres in Leitrim and also lands in Longford. The Empress of Austria visited Tobertynan while staying at Summerhill. At that time there was a lily pond, thatched summerhouse, a statue of Mercury and a tower which was possibly a folly on the outer lawn.

Fr. Charles Houben, a Passionist, became a regular correspondent with the McEvoy's. In thanksgiving for the birth of their daughter, Pauline, Edward and Eliza erected a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes on a Scots Pine tree in the woods at Tobertynan in 1868, ten years after the apparitions at Lourdes. Fr. Charles blessed the shrine. Fr. Charles became a saint when he was beatified in 1988.

Pauline, the only surviving child of Edward MacEvoy was brought up at Tobertynan, by governesses. She could play the piano and talk French, the two accomplishments required of a young lady at that period. Pauline Mary McEvoy married George de Stacpoole on 1 December 1883.

The de Stacpoole family were linked to Limerick from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Richard de Stacpoole was created a Viscount by Pope Louis XVIII in 1826 and a Papal Marquis by Leo XII in 1828 then a Papal Duke by Gregory XVI in 1830. Richard de Stacpoole spent £40,000 to rebuild "St Paul's without the walls" and also repaired the main bridge over the Tiber and the restoration of the fountains which had been out of action, since Napoleonic times. Richard 1st Duke de Stacpoole died July 1848. George de Stacpoole, only son of the 3rd Duke, was born in Paris in 1860. He was the grandson of Richard de Stacpoole, of Mount Hazel, Co. Galway, whom Leo XII created a Duke of the Papal States in 1830.

George de Stacpoole met Miss Pauline McEvoy of Tobertynan in Dublin where he had established a base for hunting with the Meaths and the Wards. After their marriage in 1883 they went to live at St. Wandrille, Normandy, as his father, the real owner, was by this time a priest. Stanislaus was Domestic Prelate to Pope Pius IX in Rome and on his deathbed asked his son George to use the title of count. George and Pauline's eldest child Gertrude was born at St. Wandrille. By this time however, Pauline was getting tired of living abroad. Her own mother Elizabeth McEvoy missed her very much in Ireland and she offered her son-in-law her Mount Hazel property, provided he would live there. The couple moved to Mount Hazel and there they raised their family of six children. Pauline had taken a fancy to a house opposite St. Columbus Church in London but thought that the bells might disturb her. The church was a Scottish Presbyterian church – a denomination which does not use bells. Instead they purchased a house in Cadogan Gardens. The fourth Duke de Stacpoole wrote his autobiography "Irish and other memories" which was published in 1922. He presented the Sultan of Turkey with a St. Bernard dog. The dog did not like the heat and the Sultan had a tunnel constructed to generate a cooling draft. When the Sultan was deposed after the First World War he took the St. Bernard dog into exile with him. In 1920 Tobertynan House was raided by intruders during the troubled times. The items stolen were recovered and returned by the Irish Volunteers.

They had six children. The fifth Duke, George Edward Joseph Patrick de Stacpoole, was born on 8 March 1886. He was the son of George and Pauline Stacpoole. He married Eileen Palmer on 12 November 1915. He served as Captain in the Connaught Rangers during World War I. Two of his younger brothers were killed during the war. Another two brothers also served in the war. He was a member of the Irish Turf Club and Irish National Hunt Committee. He died on 3 April 1965 aged 79.

The sixth duke, Major George Duc de Stacpoole, died in July 2005 and was buried in Roundstone, Co. Galway. George was born in 1916 in the middle of the First World War that claimed his uncles Roderick and Robert. Educated at St Gerard's in Dublin and then at Downside. He was an accomplished soldier and continued the de Stacpoole tradition of service with Irish regiments. He became a regular soldier with the Royal Ulster Rifles and one of the few Catholic officers in that regiment. During the Second World War, and afterward, he served in Afghanistan, Mesopotamia, Palestine and Malaya. It is said that he kept his coffin in his bedroom at Tobertynan. After a spell at school mastering he returned to his family home, Tobertynan, in Meath, where his father wanted him to run the farm, a strange career move as he was not familiar with agriculture. His sister got a judgement of his competence from the herd, a man called Healy, who said "Ah, he'll be fine when he learns the difference between a heifer and a bullock".

With the sale of Tobertynan, George moved to the family's summer home, Errisbeg House, and with his mother and son Richard around him, he embarked on a series of commercial ventures. His son, Richard, became the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke de Stacpoole and resides at Errisberg House, Roundstone, Co. Galway.

Tobertynan was sold by 6<sup>th</sup> Duke de Stacpoole in 1962 and then passed to Land Commission and then into private ownership. In 1998 Tobertynan House on 51 acres was sold prior to auction for around £750,000.

## Trammon

Trammon is located near Rathmolyon. Casey and Rowan describe Trammon as a small early Victorian Hansel and Gretel house. Trammon was erected by James Williams who died in 1853 and is buried in Rathmolyon. James was the only son of Thomas Williams, St. Catherine's Park, Leixslip. A single storey building with a steeply pitched roof Trammon has decorative bargeboards and red and yellow brick patterning. Marie Anne, wife to James, died in 1894.

In 1901 the house had fifteen rooms, four windows to the front and thirteen outbuildings. The house was owned by Florence Williams but resided in by Kate Labertouche. In 1911 Henrietta Williams was living at Trammon.

## Triermore House

Triermore House is located near Drewstown, Fordstown. Triermore is a two storey house with a stone porch. Triermore was home to the Rotheram family. George Rotheram of Triermore was born 1763, the son of Edward Rotheram. George Rotheram married Catherine-Margaret Smith of Beabeg. Thomas Rotheram was born in 1793 and died 1861. In 1835 Triermore was described as a good house of two storeys and a basement.



Thomas Rotheram of Triermore married Maria Cox and they had a son and daughter. Their daughter, Maria married their neighbour Ferdinand McVeigh in 1847. Their son, Thomas Edward, was born in 1830. Thomas and his wife did not get on too well and Thomas eloped with a Miss Elizabeth Leahy. Thomas Rotheram was very fond of field sports and put his horse up with a Mr. Leahy when he went fishing on the shore of Lough Sheelin. Rotheram began an affair with Leahy's eldest daughter and in 1854 eloped with her. Elizabeth Leahy was in her early twenties. His wife and her friends were annoyed at this. He left his wife in possession of his house and property at Triermore and gave her a settlement of £400 a year. The eloping couple first went to England, then France before returning to Ireland, residing in Dublin. Mrs. Rotheram died in 1857 and Thomas Rotheram decide to marry Miss Leahy. He took her shopping on Grafton Street, the day before the wedding. He told her he had to go to see a jeweller and left. Having made her purchases she waited in the shop for him to return but he did not. She did not know what to do – she wrote to him at Triermore but no reply. She turned up for the wedding the following day but Thomas did not appear. She thought he might have been murdered. She received a letter from Thomas in Liverpool expressing his love for her but saying he was forced to give her up. A second letter expressing his love arrived and she decided to go to Liverpool to find Thomas. She discovered where he was staying and went to him. Thomas agreed to a marriage settlement of £200 a year for her and they married on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Thomas's son, Thomas Edward Rotheram, went to Triermore House to reside and his father wrote to him expressing his displeasure. Thomas Rotheram returned to Triermore to live. Thomas Rotheram made a will providing £1000 a year for each of his children with Elizabeth (nee Leahy). Thomasina, his youngest daughter from his second marriage was to inherit Triermore and Martinstown. When Thomas Rotheram died Thomas Edward took a court case to claim the estate that he felt he had been led to think that he was entitled to. During the court case it emerged that Thomas Rotheram had on occasion given himself a military title either Captain or General and had

masqueraded as a doctor to help an woman who injured her leg and had even dressed up as a woman on an occasion. These revelation resulted in much laughter in the court. Obviously it was an attempt to prove Thomas was insane and to overturn the will. It was said that when Thomas Edward and Maria attempted to visit Thomas when he was dying they were unsuccessful. The jury found that the will should be reversed.

In 1901 and 1911 Saville Burdett Murray and his mother, Eleanor Rosetta Murray, from America were living at Triermore. The house had eighteen rooms, five windows to the front and twenty six outbuildings.

In the 1950s the house was home to Major Kenneth Rutledge Thompson who married Muriel Kathleen, the widow of Lt. Colonel Charles Cecil Harman of Crossdrum House, Oldcastle. The Thompson family ran a stud farm at Triermore. Major Thompson died in 1996.

## Trimblestown Castle



Trimblestown Castle

The ruins of Trimblestown Castle stand to the west of Trim on the banks of the Trimblestown River. The Castle was erected by the Barnwall's, Barons Trimleston. The place is also known by variations of the name: Tremblestown also Tremleston, Trimblestown and Trimleston.

Hugh de Lacy may have erected a motte at Trimblestown and there is a large mound to one side of the castle but this has also been identified as a tumulus from earlier times. A village may have grown up around the castle, an extensive field system exists surrounding the castle.

In 1461 Robert Barnewall was created Baron Trimleston by Edward IV. The family were very active in affairs of state and also in defending the Pale against attack from the Irish. The second Baron, Christopher, was implicated in the Lambert Simnel affair but received a pardon in 1488. His son, John, the third Baron, served as Lord Chancellor of Ireland from 1534 until his death in 1538. In 1597 Hugh O'Neill defeated the government forces, led by Barnewall, Lord Trimleston, at the battle of Tyrrell's pass in Westmeath. Barnewall's son was taken prisoner.

Mathias, Lord Trimleston, was one of the Old English lords of the Pale who met on the Hill of Tara in 1642 and was then outlawed by the English authorities. Mathias was sentenced to be transplanted to Connacht by Cromwell in October 1653 but managed to delay it until 1655 and was granted 1462 acres belonging to the Frenchs of Monivea, Co. Galway. The Barnewalls share the same family motto with the French family: *Malo mori quam foederi*, I would rather die than be dishonoured. In 1647 General Jones took the castle for the English forces. Trimleston regained Trimblestown and lands in Meath and Dublin after the Restoration and also managed to hold onto lands in Connacht. Matthias died at Monivea in 1667 and was buried in Kilconnel Abbey.

Matthias, the next baron, supported James II and his estate and title were forfeited. The next barons took the title but were not recognised as they were Roman Catholics. Robert Barnewall, the 12<sup>th</sup> Baron was educated in France and was noted for his medicinal skills which he used to treat local residents.

There is a Barnwall County in South Carolina. This may be named after a member of the Trimblestown Barnewalls. Colonel John Barnwall acquired the nickname 'Tuscarora Jack' following a successful expedition against the Tuscarora Indians to North Carolina in 1711-1712. Barnwell County was called Winton County until 1785 when it was re-named in honour of John Barnwell, a Revolutionary War hero. Robert W. Barnwall, a descendant, was to the forefront of the foundation of the Confederate states of America.

The lands amounting to 681 acres were in the possession of the Hon. Anna Barnewall in 1925 when it was taken over by the Land Commission. As the only daughter of the 16<sup>th</sup> Baron she married Robert Elliot of Scotland. Her burial site is in the Scottish highlands and there a stained glass window in the church commemorates her: "A kinder hearted and most utterly unselfish woman never lived."

The 20th Baron Trimleston died at the age of 69 in 1997 and his successor is his brother, Raymond Barnewell, a dairy farmer who lives in England, but he has no children to succeed to the title.

Trimblestown Castle was a three-storey tower-house erected in the fifteenth century possibly by the first Baron Trimleston. There is a loft above the ground floor with a barrel vault above that. High up on the tower wall is a plaque commemorating the marriage of the sixth baron to Katherine Nugent, daughter of Lord Delvin. In the mid-18th century the 12th Lord Trimleston attached a new three-storey house at the north of the tower-house. This has a fine bow projection in the east wall. Early in the 19th century the house was decorated with crenellations and ornamental turrets in the style of the late 16th century. In the early 1800s the castle was abandoned by the family. The castle was in ruins by the 1840s and the demesne was being farmed by a Mr. Allen. The noted horse trainer, Frank Barbour, erected stables and a house at Trimblestown about 1915.

To the north of the castle is an old graveyard in which is located a small stone-built chapel containing the 1680 tomb of Margaret, wife of the ninth Baron Trimleston. This chapel was recently restored by a local committee.

This poetic gravestone is from Trimblestown.

Beneath this stone Silvester lies,  
Whose ashes mingles with the Blighs,  
He passed through life unstained with pride,  
We wept and lamented when he did  
His sons whose youth he ne'er neglected  
In gratitude his stone erected.

## Tullyard House



Tullyard House outside Trim was home to the Winter and Purdon families. Described as a charming Regency villa, Tullyard may have been designed by Sir Richard Morrison.

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, Meath. The family continue to hold the land as part of their estate and it was included in the amalgamation of the Winter and Pratt estates in the eighteenth century. John Pratt Winter of Agher married Anne Gore in 1794. John Pratt Winter resigned his commission as captain in the Lawyer's Corps of the Yeomanry as he disagreed with the coercive measures employed by the government.

He practised as a barrister and became a magistrate. In 1805 he was made High Sheriff of Meath. They lived at Eccles Street, Dublin and Agher before moving to their newly completed home at Tullyard in 1808. Their two youngest children were born at Tullyard. They stayed at Tullyard until 1814 when John's mother had died and then the family moved to the house at Agher.

In 1796 Samuel Winter, the eldest son of John Pratt Winter, was born in Dublin. Samuel lived at Agher until his father returned from Paris in 1825 and he managed the estate until the family returned. In 1835 Tullyard townland was the property of Mr. Winter. The dwelling house and offices were in good repair.

After the marriage Samuel and Lucy lived at Tullyard until 1846 when he succeeded to Agher, and the next year he came into the bulk of the estate of his uncle, Rev Francis. Their seven children were brought up at Tullyard.

Samuel Winter was a JP 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

and in 1861 was Chairman of the Guardians. He died in 1867 and was buried with his wife Lucy in the Winter vault at Agher Church.

Benjamin Pratt Winter was born on 25th August 1808 at Tullyard. After school he spent some years in Paris with his parents. In 1824 he unsuccessfully applied to the Duke of Wellington, who was known by his father as a young man living at Dangan Castle just north of Summerhill, for a commission in the army. In 1827 he entered Trinity and graduated BA in 1832. He then became a surveyor on various railway projects in Ireland and England but he found the prospects were poor, so in 1837 he accepted a surveying post with the South Australian Land Company. In 1842 he purchased a flock of 2,000 sheep and settled on a sheep run in Victoria adjoining Cecil Pybus Cooke's Pine Hill station. He died unmarried at Bryant's Creek on 15th December 1844 at the age of 36.

In 1852 Samuel's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married George Nugent Purdon of Lisnabin, Killucan, Co. Westmeath. Elizabeth died in 1864 while her husband lived on until 1910. Elizabeth's brother, Samuel Winter inherited the estates at Agher but when he died in 1905 without children the property passed to Elizabeth's son.

Elizabeth's son, Colonel Edward Winter and his wife Cecilia lived at Tullyard, Trim and later of Lisnabin, Killucan, Co. Westmeath. Edward was a land agent. Edward was a follower of the Meath Hounds. Mrs. Purdon hosted a regular party for the inmates of the Trim Industrial School. Their youngest son, George Hardress Purdon, was killed in action in France in 1916.

Peter Bamford's website on the Bomford family provided much additional material on Tullyard and this article is majorly based on his work.

The Land Commission acquired Tullyard estate in 1928. The house was then taken by Henry J. Kirwan from Galway. Mr. Kirwan was a handicapper for a number of race committees. In 1939 he was elected chairman of the Trim Agricultural Committee. A German, Hermann Bauer, acquired Tullyard. In the 1976 Tullyard become home to the O'Connor family.

## Warrenstown

In the 1830s Warrenstown was described as a good three storey slated house having ground around it planted. St. John's well is situated on the estate and was the scene of large pilgrimages in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. People still visit the well on the 24th of June.

The Warren family originated from Varenna, near Calais, France. The family arrived into Ireland with the Anglo-Normans. In 1329 Sir John Warren of Meath was killed. In 1414 John Warren was abbot of St. Mary's monastery, Trim. Patrick Warren was M.P. for Navan in 1585. The Warren family held lands in Meath, Laois, Carlow and Dublin.

Many members of the Warren family took an active part in the 1640s rebellion, the defence of Drogheda in 1649, the turmoil of the Cromwellian confiscations and the wars in the 1680s and 1690s. The Warrens lands were confiscated under the Cromwellian plantation but Oliver Warren succeeded in getting his lands aback in 1662.

In 1667, Cornet Thomas Warren, of Warrenstown, received a grant to lands of 408 acres in Co. Meath. John Warren of Warrenstown was Sheriff of County Dublin in 1686. He granted some of his lands to the Crown for the laying out of the Phoenix Park. In 1692, Thomas, Michael, James, and Patrick Warren, of Warrenstown, Co. Meath were outlawed for supporting King James.



Sir William Warren of Warrenstown married Lady Catherine Aylmer and their son Peter became a famous admiral. Their eldest son, Oliver, also served in the navy and was the father of Nathaniel Warren who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1782.

Peter Warren, born 1703, was the youngest son of Michael Warren of Warrenstown. He followed his older brother, Oliver, into the Navy. In 1728 he became captain of the *Grafton*. Between 1730 and 1732 Warren commanded the *Solebay* on the New York and South Carolina stations. Warren became well known as a result of the 1745 siege of Fortress Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. The French fortress capitulated on generous terms. News of this success caused a great sensation in London. Warren was promoted rear-admiral. In 1747 he had been elected MP for the city of Westminster at the cost of £2200. The war allowed him to garner £127,405 in prize money. His wealth was invested in land and money-lending in England, Ireland, and the American colonies. He married Suzanne, daughter of a wealthy American, Stephen De Lancy, whose dowry included the largest estate on Manhattan Island, where New York now stands. Much of Greenwich Village on Manhattan Island was later erected on his farm, which was sold by his heirs. He installed his nephew, William Johnson, to superintend his Mohawk valley lands. Warren died suddenly of a fever in Dublin on 29 July 1752 and was buried in Warrenstown, co. Meath. The bell from his flagship Colebay was installed at Warrenstown and rang for the Angleus each day. His monument is in Westminster Abbey. Julian Gwyn wrote the entry for Peter Warren in the Dictionary of National Biography.

William Johnson, born 1705, was a son of Sir Peter's sister, Anne, who married Christopher Johnson of Warrenstown. William Johnson emigrated to the colonies in America in the 1730s. Settling in the Mohawk Valley of New York, he lived on the margins of colonial society, where the British Empire encountered Indian peoples. He founded settlements, built mills, traded with Indians, and became the primary colonial official for dealing with them. Johnson won influence among all the Iroquois. During the climactic war of 1754-1763, Johnson secured enough Iroquois support to facilitate the British conquest of Canada. During the 1750s, Sir William Johnson became the most famous American in the British Empire. In the meantime, he assembled in the Mohawk Valley a vast landed estate of at least 150,000 acres, which he named "Kingsland" and "Kingsborough". He founded the village of Johnstown, just south of a palatial mansion known as "Johnson Hall," where he entertained a steady stream of Indian chiefs, provincial officers, and British aristocrats. Fifty-five feet long by thirty-seven feet wide and rising two full stories (plus an attic) above a complete cellar, Johnson Hall was the largest residence on the colonial frontier. During his travels

among the Iroquois villages, Johnson accumulated a number of mistresses. Johnson resisted the move to independence in America to his death in 1774. Fintan O'Toole wrote a biography of Johnson in "White Savage."

In 1800 Bishop Plunket spent the day with Mr. John Johnson of Warrenstown on his visitation of the parishes of Meath and dined there again two years later. In the 1830s Warrenstown was the residence of Mr. John Johnson. John Johnson died 4 December 1851 of typhoid at his residence.

The property was inherited by his daughters, Annette Leonard and Elizabeth Lynch. Annette, born about 1850, married Thomas Leonard and Elizabeth who married T. Lynch. In Eliza M. Johnston of Warrenstown held 1,503 acres in county Meath. Elizabeth and her husband lived in Italy because of her husband's health problems while Tom Leonard and Annette looked after her house and farm at Warrenstown.

Annette died in 1914 and Elizabeth in 1917. In her will Elizabeth bequeathed Warrenstown to the Sisters of Charity at Foxford if they would establish a woollen mill there, an offer which they refused, to the Salesian Fathers to educate the youth of Meath in agriculture and these took up the offer. If the Salesians had refused the property, it was to go to the Christina Brothers to found a school.

Warrenstown Agricultural College was founded in 1923 and can be fairly described as one of the pioneers of agricultural education in this country. An agricultural school and chapel were added to the house about 1921 while a new wing was added in the late 1950s. A new College was erected in 1959 replacing the old college buildings. Blessed by Bishop Kyne and opened by the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Smith. President de Valera attended the event. The title to the property was purchased outright in the 1950's by the Salesians.

The Agricultural College was closed in 2001 while the college of horticulture closed in 2008. At that time there were over 230 students, a combination of part-time and full-time, attending the horticulture college. The 460 acres of farmland was sold by the Salesian Order for €13.5 million. The house was sold to Colaiste na bFhiann.

## Waterloo Lodge

Waterloo Lodge is located upstream from Trim town on the northern banks of the river Boyne. Waterloo Lodge may have been erected about 1815 following the battle in which Wellington was triumphant. In 1835 Waterloo Lodge was described as a very handsome house and the residence of Mr. Hynes.

John Hinds of Waterloo Lodge died at Julianstown in 1848 and was buried in Ardbraccan graveyard. He was a solicitor and was called 'the poor man's friend' because he defended so many poor people. He also had a home at Upper Dorset Street, Dublin.

The Bligh and Cotter families lived at Waterloo Lodge during the twentieth century.

## Westland House

Westland House is located in Donore townland, on the Kells side of Moynalty. In 1835 Westland House, in the centre of the townland was described as a fine building with suitable offices and a garden attached. It was the residence of Thomas Barnes, resident magistrate. It was called Westland House from being situated west of then old mansion house. The latter building, Donore House, was falling into decay.



Thomas Barnes was born in 1796 and died in 1871. At the start of the Famine in 1846 Thomas Barnes of Westland wrote to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to acquaint him with the bad situation in Moynalty. He wrote that people were attempting to eke out an existence on a patch of ground that was completely inadequate for their needs.

In 1876 William Arthur Barnes of Westland held 464 acres in county Meath. William Arthur Barnes was still living at Westland in 1911. Aged 70 he was described as a justice of the peace, Professor of Agriculture, Land Valuer and Farmer. W.A. Barnes was the head of the School of Agriculture at Trinity College, Dublin. The house had eighteen rooms, fifteen windows to the front and thirty five outbuildings.

In 1908 Alfred Marshall married Hester Barnes of Moynalty and took her name in order to inherit the estate. Alfred Marshall-Barnes served as a private in the Canadian Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War. He was killed in September 1916 at the Somme, aged thirty-four. Hester Marshall-Barnes died in the early 1940s.

Their daughter, Gladys Ruby, born in 1912, inherited Westland House. Ruby died in 2002 aged ninety. Her sister, Madge Vivian, died a year later, also aged ninety.

## Weston

Weston House is located in the townland of Thomastown near Duleek, just off the road to Navan. A building is shown on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps but the building is not named on the earlier maps. It looks as if the house was re-constructed or a new larger house erected on the same site in the mid nineteenth century. Casey and Rowan described it as a gabled three bay house of later nineteenth century with a neo-Georgian porch adjoining one end bay. In 1911 the house consisted of twenty rooms, had nine windows to the front and eleven outbuildings.

Lieutenant Richard Kelly of Weston was the fourth son of Denis Kelly of Mucklon. The family also had a home at Mucklon, Ballyforan, Co. Galway. He commanded the 69<sup>th</sup> regiment of foot at the battle of Talavera. He died aged 68 in 1846 and was buried at Duleek. His eldest son Richard Denis Kelly, "The O'Kelly" served in the

army during the Crimean War. His letters to his wife during the conflict were published. He was captured by the Russians at the siege of Sebastapool. He later served in India. He married Ellen Susanna, daughter of Sir William Dillon, Baronet, of Lismullen. The second son, Francis James Kelly was born in 1819.

In 1854 Francis J. Kelly was leasing a substantial house and 146 acres of lands from Eliza Kettlewell. In 1876 Francis James Kelly held 251 acres in County Meath. In 1901 Francis James Kelly lived at Weston. He had been born in Ceylon. He and his family claimed descent from William O'Kelly, founder of the abbey of Kilconnel. Francis was succeeded by his nephew, the son of Richard Denis. Arthur Dillon Denis was born at Weston in 1853. He retired in 1897 as a Major in the army. Major Arthur Dillon Denis Kelly was living in the house in 1911. Major Dillon had served with the Border Regiment and was a Justice of the Peace for County Meath.

## Whitewood House



Whitewood Lodge stands on a hill on the left-hand side of the Nobber to Kingscourt road. Designed by Richard Castle in 1735 the house was erected as a hunting lodge for Lord Gormanston, a major landowner in the Nobber area.

The house dominates the vista from its main gate and is framed by the tree-lined avenue. The rear of the house looks out over Whitewood lake, the source of the Dee river. A square limestone block of two storeys over high basement, the floors are stone flagged and the staircase is of exposed solid limestone. A stable block, farm buildings and gatelodge are also part of the estate.

In 1836 Whitewood House, was not occupied and had not been occupied for the previous forty or fifty years but was always kept ready for the reception of the proprietor and his family. About 127 acres of the townland were covered in fir and young oak trees.

Edward Anthony John Viscount Gormanston was created Baron Gormanston of Whitewood in 1869. In 1885 there were riotous scenes when Mr. H. McDougall, the agent for Lord Gormanston, attempted to evict tenants at Nobber. More than 4,000 people assembled to prevent Mc Dougall evicting a poor widow named Fitzsimons at Nobber. McDougall had a reputation for harshness towards the tenants. McDougall took shelter in the hotel at Nobber, the Gormanstown Arms, before escaping on the train. Lord Gormanstown was described as Lord Gorilla. The British army occupied the house during the Troubles of 1920-22. The Hogan lived in the house in the twentieth century.

## Williamstown House



Photo: Local History Kells blogspot

Williamstown House is located near Kells. Williamstown is a large late Georgian mansion three storeys over basement. The two last bays were added to the each side in 1858 by George Garnett. Bence-Jones described Williamstown as an ‘impressive three storey late eighteenth century house’. Its elevation is almost the same as nearby Rockfield which suggests that the two houses had the same architect. Near the house is a three stage tower erected about 1800. There is a courtyard of outbuildings and estate worker’s cottages dating from about 1780. A pigeon house stood south of the house. The remains of Dulane church and graveyard are to the west of the house. Local man, Liam McNiffe, has written the story of the house in ‘A history of Williamstown, Kells.’

William Williams received lands from Thomas Taylor in 1670 and it was from this family that the townland received its name. In 1766 the lands moved from the Williams family when Esther Williams married Rev. Hamilton Cuffe of Dublin. This couple probably erected Williamstown House in the 1770s. By 1811 the Rev. Cuffe had died and it would appear that the family had left Williamstown by this date. The estate, which was heavily mortgaged, was sold in 1827 to pay off debts.

The mansion house, garden, orchard and demesne lands were sold to Sarah Garnett for £9200. Sarah was a spinster from Kells. The Garnett family were established at Summerseat. Sarah left her lands at Wiliamstown to her first cousin, Rev. George Charles Garnett. In 1837 Williamstown was the residence of Rev. George Garnett. Rev. George Garnett married Margaret Wade of Bachelor’s Lodge. Their eldest son, Hamlet, lived at Teltown while their second son, George, inherited Williamstown. George Garnett and his wife had two sons. William Stawell who succeeded to the estate in 1856 and Charles who became a clergyman. In 1862 William erected Williamstown lodge, later re-named Zephyr Lodge probably as a dower house for his widowed mother, Catherine. William was High Sheriff of Meath in 1864. He married Sally Garnett of Teltown.

William added two extra extensions on each side of the house and a pedimented porch in 1858. In the 1876 William Stawell Garnett held 3014 acres in county Meath. The

Garnett family left Williamstown by 1881 and the house and lodge were left vacant for a long period. William Stawell died suddenly while on a visit to Kells in October 1898. Williamstown was occupied for a while by the Dyas family. Dr. Thomas Sparrow was living in the house in 1901.

In 1912 John McCormick of Monkstown, Dublin purchased Williamstown House and 127 acres. He was a member of the family which owned Tedcastles and McCormick, major Dublin firms. In August 1914 John joined up and three weeks later was reported missing. John Mc.Cormick was mortally wounded in action on 19 October 1914, and died the same night at a Convent Hospital in German hands at Menin, aged 28 years. Following interviewing a number of soldiers the family eventually accepted that he was dead. Six months later his brother Jim was also killed in the war. Their sister Rose made her home at Williamstown House and lived there until her death in 1972. The travelling actor, A'new McMaster and his family stayed at Williamstown House while on their tours around Ireland. The house was so big that Rose could only live in part of the ground floor and another family lived in the basement. Rose was a member of the Methodist Church. Williamstown House was left vacant following the death of Rose McCormick. It was unoccupied for a considerable period and became derelict.

## Wilmount House

Wilmount is in the civil parish of Dulane, two miles from Kells. Wilmount House is a gentleman farmer's house dating from about 1770. It consists of two storeys and has a limestone doorcase. In 1911 the house had seventeen rooms, nine windows to the front and twenty two outbuildings.

John Travers Radcliff, born in 1757, married Elizabeth Garnett from Williamstown, Kells and died in 1814. Their son, John Travers Radcliff, was born in 1796 and married Eleanora Garnett, daughter of George Garnett of Williamstown House, Kells. John Radcliff was a barrister at law and maintained offices at 44 Eccles Street, Dublin and at Wilmount.

Rev. Stephen Radcliff, A.B., of Wilmount, Rector of Lisnadill, Diocese of Armagh married in 1853 and had nine children. In 1876 John Radcliff of Wilmount held 911 acres in Meath. Thomas Radcliff of the same address held 539 acres. Fanny Perkins of Wilmount held 844 acres in County Mayo. John Radcliff died aged 85 in 1881.

Sarah Frances Radcliff, born 1881, married John Robert Cosgrove and died in 1947. In 1906 Henrietta Radcliffe and Henry White were drowned in a boating accident at Charleville Castle, Tullamore.



Herbert Travers Radcliff.

In 1911 Emma Radcliff together with Herbert Francis, Kathleen Emma and Florence Edith were resident in the house. In 1915 Captain Herbert Radcliffe, son of George

Edward Radcliffe of Wilmount, was killed in action near St. Eloi. He had been clerk at the Petty Sessions, Kells.

The Radcliffe family continued to reside in Wilmount until after the Second World War when they emigrated to South Africa. John Radcliff, son of George Edward Rathcliff of Wilmount, died in 1953.

In 1957 the house was sold again. It was described as having an entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, study, cloakroom, kitchen, three double and three single bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms and w.c.s. At the rear was a bachelor's self contained flat. The house then stood on 196 acres.

Peter Thompson purchased the property and lived there for about ten years. Following his sale of the property it was unoccupied for approximately thirty years.

## Woodpark House

Woodpark House stood near Dunboyne. Woodpark was in ruins in 1911 and it was demolished. Edward Ford of Woodpark died 1705 aged 63. Woodpark was home of Charles Forde, a great friend of Jonathan Swift. Ford owned the estate of Woodpark in Co. Meath, but spent much of his time in London, where he held the office of Gazetteer in 1712. Swift and Ford corresponded and their letters were published in a collection in 1935. Swift wrote a poem in 1723 entitled *Stella at Wood-Park*. In 1803 Wood Park was the seat of Mrs. Sheilds. The property came into the hands of the Prestons of Bellinter. In 1854 Philip Grierson was leasing Woodpark and 150 acres of lands from John Preston.

## Zephyr Lodge



Zephyr Lodge is a mid-Victorian house in Kells. In 1862 William Garnett erected Williamstown Lodge, later re-named Zephyr Lodge probably as a dower house for his widowed mother, Catherine. The four-bedroom house on 2.5 acres is attributed to architect John Skipton Mulvany, who designed the former Harcourt Street rail station. Built as a dower house for the nearby Williamson Estate, the property is sheltered by an array of original trees, including a wonderful Spanish chestnut which forms a

centre-piece on the front lawn and is classed as an exceptional specimen tree. The gardens include a brook with a stone bridge, a gazebo, two-storey coach-house, seven loose boxes and a tack room.