

**ARTICLES  
OF INTEREST**

**MONTGOMERYS  
OF  
IRELAND**

**WRITTEN  
BY**

**HELEN MONTGOMERY MEEHAN  
OF DONEGAL, IRELAND**

Helen Montgomery Meehan, who resides in Donegal, Ireland, has been an active member of Clan Montgomery Society for a number of years, being the representative for Ireland on behalf of the organization. During that time she has submitted a number of articles that detail her large knowledge both of Donegal (for which she was Chairperson of the Donegal Historical Society) and her own family history of Montgomerys.

Mrs Meehan is also the author of the book “Inver Parish in History”.

This small book is a re-print of her informative articles between years 1996 and 2007 published in the ‘Gardien’ and also the “Donegal Annual”. As editor of the newsletter “Gardien”, it has been my pleasure to go back and read these articles from older issues of the publication and to work with Clan Montgomery to continue providing this information to the hands of our members. We are currently working to digitize these articles to become a ready reference piece for our genealogical website.

I had the great pleasure to meet Mrs Meehan in the summer of 2010, and continue to learn from her about the Montgomery family.

Keith R Montgomery, Editor “Gardien” for Clan Montgomery Society International



Summer 2010 Keith R Montgomery visits  
with Helen Montgomery Meehan in Ireland

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MONTGOMERYS OF IRELAND  
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## The First Montgomerys in Ireland

(by Helen Montgomery Meehan, CMSI #1651, of County Donegal, Ireland)

The first of the Montgomery family to come to the North of Ireland belonged to the Braidstone branch. This branch was descended from Robert, who was 2nd son of Alexander, Master of Montgomery. He inherited Braidstone in Kyle Ayrshire from his grandfather, the first Laird Montgomery in 1452.

Adam John the 4th Laird who married Elizabeth, daughter of Jervise Colquhoun, had 3 sons from whom were descended various branches of the family in Ireland. James, the 2nd son, was ancestor of the Montgomerys of Blessingbourne. Robert, the 3rd son, was ancestor of the Montgomerys of Greyabbey; but it was the descendants of the oldest, Adam, the 5th Laird, and his wife Margaret, daughter of John Montgomery of Hessilheid, who first came and laid the foundation of the family fortune in Ireland.

Margaret and John had 4 sons. All seem to have been educated at Glasgow College. George the 2nd entered into Holy Orders, Patrick became a Colonel in the Scots Guards in France and John became a doctor of medicine. Hugh the eldest, who had married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Shaw Laird of Sauchie in 1587, became the 6th Laird on the death of his father. Both he and his brother George, by then Dean of Norwich in England, were great favourites of the Scottish King James VI.

The Conquest of Ireland had ebbed and flowed from the coming of the Normans in 1169. These Normans, who came in the 12th Century, eventually adopted Irish customs and dress, spoke the Gaelic language and became more Irish than the Irish themselves. When the War of the Roses was being waged in England, only the Pale, an area around Dublin, was under English Rule. Ireland was not a nation state in

the modern sense - it was made up of many states and these were frequently at war with each other. When the Tudors had consolidated their hold over England they turned their attention to Ireland. 100 years after the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485) most of Ireland except Ulster was under English control. Ulster had always been the most Gaelic of the Provinces, and in 1594 the traditional enemies, the O'Neills and the O'Donnells, joined together with lesser Ulster chiefs to defend their ancient lands and heritage.

The eastern part of what is now Co. Down was known as Clandeboy and belonged to a cadet branch of the O'Neills. In 1600 their chief, Con, son of Niall, son of Brian Fagantach, was taken into the Queen's Pay. However, some months before her death a scuffle broke out between his followers and the English garrison in nearby Carrickfergus Castle, and a soldier was killed in the fray. Con was imprisoned in Carrickfergus Castle for levying war against the Queen under an Act known as the 10th of Henry VII, and was in danger of losing his lands.

Patrick Montgomery - who later got land in Creboy near Donaghadee - a kinsman of Hugh, who had ships trading between Ireland and Scotland, conveyed the news of Con's plight to Hugh. Hugh sent him word that in return for half his land he would obtain a royal pardon for him. This was good news for Con.

Thomas Montgomery of Blackstown in Ayrshire helped Patrick. They successfully planned and carried out Con's escape and brought him to Braidstone.

By now James VI of Scotland had become James I of England. Hugh's brother George, who was now a Royal Chaplain, acted as a go-between. When Hugh and Con arrived in London they were warmly received in Court. However, Sir James Fullerton told the King that the territory was too big for two, and successfully convinced His Majesty that James Hamilton should get a share as well. So in April 1605 Con, Hugh and James

Hamilton entered into a tripartite agreement - each getting one third of Con's estates. Hugh was knighted. Then he and Con traveled to Braidstone and from hence to Co. Down.

Co. Down, like most of Ulster had been laid waste during the Nine Years War, which had ended with the submission of O'Neill and O'Donnell in 1603. On Hugh's estate, known usually as the Great Ardes, scarcely a building had been left standing. Hugh brought over kinsmen to whom he gave estates. He also brought over tenants to work the land and tradesmen to rebuild houses, mills and towns.

When in 1611 the Plantation Commissioners visited Newtownards they reported, "Sir Hugh Montgomery kt hath repaired Newtown for his own dwelling and made a good town of a hundred houses all peopled with Scots." He founded the harbour of Donaghadee and restored Portpatrick in Scotland. Indeed the name of the latter was changed to Port Montgomery during the reign of Charles I.

By an Act of Parliament on 20th July 1610, Hugh and his sons Hugh and James were naturalized in England. On 3rd May 1822 he was raised to the peerage as Viscount Montgomery of Great Ardes. When he died in 1838 his funeral was celebrated with almost royal splendour.

### Sources:

*The Montgomery Manuscripts* — edited by Hill.

*The Montgomerys, the Sinclairs and Drumbeig House* —

Helen Montgomery Meehan

*Memorials of the Montgomerys* — by W. Frazer

Burke's and Lodge's Peerage Books

(Editor's note: If you need info. on Irish Montgomerys send a query to the newsletter or contact me for Helen's address. If she can help she will be glad to. However, remember that mail from Ireland is slow and expensive. You can purchase an International postage coupon at your post office for \$1.05. This will pay for a return letter of up to one oz. - or about 4 pages. Thanks.)

# GENEALOGY

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## **The First Montgomerys in Ireland Earls of Mount Alexander**

Hugh the 1st Viscount had three sons, who in turn founded new branches of the family in Ulster. Hugh gave his 2nd son, James, lands around Greyabbey. His son William of Rosemont was author of the Montgomery Manuscripts. George the 3rd son was ancestor of the Montgomerys of Dunbrackley. Hugh the eldest son married Jane, Daughter of Sir William Alexander, Secretary of State for Scotland and later Earl of Stirling. On the death of his father he became the 2nd Viscount and was made a member of the Privy Council.

In October 1641 the Great Irish Rebellion broke out and the Irish again occupied much of Ulster. Hugh and his brother James raised an army to defend their lands. Conditions in England were very unsettled, as king and parliament were heading toward civil war. Help - military or financial - was slow in coming. Hugh died suddenly in 1642 and his son Hugh succeeded him. He became Colonel of a regiment when only 20 years of age, and was 2nd in command to General Munroe at the battle of Benburb. The Irish commander Owen Roe O'Neill, who had returned from Spain to lead the Irish, won a brilliant victory and Hugh was one of the many taken prisoner. He spent two years in Clogh Uachtar Castle, which is on a lake in Cavan. Eventually he was exchanged for the Earl of Westmeath. In May 1648 Charles I appointed him Commander-in-Chief of the Royalist forces in Ulster. By 1649 the army of Parliament was victorious in England and the country was proclaimed a Commonwealth. Then Cromwell, Commander-in-Chief of the army, turned his attention to Ireland. When he defeated the Royalists Montgomery was brought to justice and banished to Holland.

At the restoration in 1660 Charles II made him a Privy Councillor, and he was made an Earl the following year. He took the title of Mount Alexander in honour of his mother's family.

Hugh had married Mary, daughter of Viscount Moore; and on his death in 1663 their eldest son,

who was only 13, became the 2nd Earl. He was received by James II in Westminster shortly after his accession to the throne. However, at the beginning of the Williamite Wars he placed himself at the head of a Protestant army. The army of James II, under command of Hamilton, defeated them at a battle in County Down, known as the "Break of Dromore". Both he and his son had to flee to the Isle of Man, later making their way to London.

Hugh married twice. His 1st wife was Catherine Dillon, daughter of Lord Fitzharding. Strangely, both wives were said to be very extravagant, causing him to sell estates at Newton and Comber. Hugh, however, played a prominent part in public life. He held various posts such as Lord Justice of Ireland, Master of Ordinance, Commander-in-Chief of Ulster and often speaker in the House of Lords. Since his only son had preceded him on his death in 1716, his brother Henry became the 3rd Earl.

Henry had estates in Rogerstown near Dublin. In 1675 he had married Mary St Lawrence, elder daughter of William, late Baron of Howth. There is some doubt about the year of his death, but since his will was proved in 1731 that is the likely date.

Henry was succeeded by his elder son Hugh, who was married to Eleanor, daughter of Sir Patrick Branwell of Caickstown. All of their children died in infancy. On Hugh's death in 1744 his brother Thomas became the 5th Earl. He had been High Sheriff of Down in 1726, and was married to a daughter of Dan De la Cherois, a family of French extraction living in Lisburn, Co. Antrim. On his death his estates in Down were left to his widow. On her death they passed to her family.

On 7 April 1757 the titles of Viscount of Great Ardes and Earl of Mount Alexander became extinct.

(Written and submitted by Helen Montgomery Meehan, CMSI #1651, County Donegal, Ireland)

**Correction:** In December issue (page 26) last paragraph of "The First Montgomerys in Ireland" dates should have read 1622 and 1638 instead of 1822 and 1838.

# GENEALOGY

## Bishop George Montgomery

by Helen Montgomery Meehan, #1651, Co. Donegal, Ireland

Hugh Montgomery, the eldest son of Adam the 5th Laird of Braidstone, laid the foundation of the family fortune in Ireland, but it can be argued that his brother George played an equally significant part in the early days of the Plantation of Ulster.

George was born in Braidstone in 1562 and educated at Glasgow College where he entered into Holy Orders. John, his youngest brother, on leaving Glasgow, attended University at Padua in Italy and in Paris. He eventually set up a medical practice in London. George went to London as well, became dean of Norwich and also had the living of Chedzy Parish in Somerset. George was already friendly with James VI of Scotland, keeping him informed of all matters at court which might have effect on James' succession to the English throne. When Elizabeth died George and brother Hugh were in the party that traveled from Scotland to London with James, his family and his court. James appointed him one of his chaplains and provided him with a living of £ 200 per annum.

George was instrumental in paving the way at Court for O'Neill's pardon and his brother Hugh's grant of Great Ards in Ireland. At the end of 1605 he was appointed Bishop of 3 Irish Diocese in Ulster, Raphoe, Derry and Clogher. Before taking up his appointment he married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Brabazon, who was raised to the peerage as Baron of Ardes. They had settled in a house in Derry by the spring of 1607. The following year, during the rebellion of Sir Cahir O'Doherty in nearby Inishowen, the Bishop's house was attacked and his library burned. He was in Dublin at the time but his lady was brought captive to Burt Castle until rescued by General Wingfield at the end of the Rebellion.

Montgomery is best remembered for his survey of his diocese. Known usually as the "Montgomery Survey," it is often consulted by historians as it is difficult to get much information about those years between the end of the Nine Years and the Flight of the Earls. This latter event took place on 14 September 1607. The survey must have been compiled between then as the name of Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell is in it.

Bishop Montgomery was the 1st Bishop of the Reformed Church in this part of Ireland. He demanded that all former church property and land be retained by the church. He joined the Committee of the Plantation when it was making its survey in Derry. The uncertainty of distinction between temporal and church property led to a dispute between the Bishop of Derry and the Londonderry Society which wasn't finally settled until the next

century. The importunity of Bishop Montgomery was largely responsible for the King's decision to assign tithes and ertainagh lands to the Bishops as Episcopal demesne, and glebe land was given to the Incumbent of each parish for his upkeep. Bishop Montgomery also planned to found a Diocesan School on the site of the Monastery at Donegal Town and to use part of it as a Bishop's house. This plan wasn't followed up, chiefly because George was transferred to the Bishop of Meath in 1610. He retained the Bishopric of Clogher, but resigned from the other two in a letter to the king August 1.

Bishop Montgomery is also remembered for settling some of his kindred in Ireland. He appointed Alexander as prebend of Doe in the Barony of Kilmacrennan, Co. Donegal. Alexander belonged to the Hesselheid branch of the family. It's arms are on his tombstone at Doe. He is the founder of the Beaulieu, Ballyleck and Bessmount branches.

The Bishop appointed Hugh of Derrybrosk receiver of his rent in part of Clogher diocese in Co Fermanagh. Hugh was a son of James, 2nd son of Adam John, 4th Laird of Braidstone. Hugh was ancestor of the Montgomerys of Blessingbourne.

George Hill, the historian, wrote, "Thus by the Bishop's industry in a few years the plantation was forwarded and church revenues increased greatly."

When the Bishop moved to Meath he built a house at Ardbrecken near Trim. When he died in London in 1620 his remains were brought back to Ardbrecken for burial. Only one of his children survived him. This was his daughter Jean, who married Nioclas Lord Baron Houth. Their granddaughter, Mary St Lawrance, married Henry Montgomery, 3rd Earl of Mount Alexander.



Derry City: Bishop George Montgomery's church was in hills

## GENEALOGY

### The Montgomerys of Bonnyglen, Co. Donegal

by Helen Montgomery Meehan, #1651, Co. Donegal, Ireland

The first of the Montgomery family to come to the parish of Inver in South Donegal belonged to the Eglinton branch. Hugh of Auchinhood, a grandson of the first Earl of Eglinton, is mentioned in a marriage contract between Thomas Kennedy and Lady Agnes Montgomery.

Peerage books differ on the exact line of descent of the Bowhouse family from the first Earl. Both Paterson and Lodge state that they descended from William the 2nd son; others say that they were descended from the 4th son Hugh, who was killed in the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. Anyway, Hugh, grandson of the 4th Earl, usually known as Hugh of Auchinhood-Bowhouse, married Margaret Calderwood of Peacock and had three sons.

From the eldest, Hugh, was descended the family of Bowhouse, which became extinct in 1718. Hugh the 3rd of Bowhouse, who married Margaret Montgomery of Broamlans, had no family. From the 2nd son, George, were descended the Montgomerys of Broamlans. This line became extinct in 1645. The 3rd son, Robert, married Miss McWatterson of Mayboll in Ayr; and as the peerage books say, "he removed to Ireland." While attending a family wedding in Rosemount—the home of Colonel James Montgomery, son of the 1st Viscount of adjoining Greyabbey, Co. Down—their son Robert was born. Toward the end of the century this Robert was living on the Bonnyglen Estate in the first Cloverhill House, which was said to be nearer the sea than the present building. (This second building is now a nursing home for the elderly and is called Drumbeg House.)

At the Plantation of Ulster in 1609 the lands in the Barony of Banagh were reserved for Scottish undertakers. Most of the land in Inver Parish went to Sir Patrick McKee of Laerg Kintyre and William Stewarts of Maines. However, like many other pattentees in Banagh and Boylagh, they were unable to fulfil the conditions of the Plantation. By 1618 the land of the two baronies had been granted to John Murray of Cockpool, Gentleman to the Bedchamber of the king who made him Earl of Annandale in 1625. His son James, who succeeded him, died childless in 1658. In one will he left the estate to a cousin, Sir R. Creighton, but a Murray cousin disputed his claim. The

case dragged on for years in courts of Dublin, Scotland and in London. To finance these lawsuits parts of the vast estates had to be sold. Alexander Conyngham, first rector of the Reformed Church in Inver Parish, who later became Dean of Raphoe, bought the Mount Charles estate in the eastern part of the parish. Later in the century Robert Montgomery had purchased the estate in the western part of the parish, known as Bonnyglen Estate, and had married Margaret Conyngham. Some peerage books say she was the daughter of the Dean. Since he died in 1660, the year Robert was born, it is more likely that she was the daughter of the Dean's son, Alexander of Aighan, in the neighboring parish of Killaghtee.

Robert was succeeded by his son Alexander, who was married to Ann, daughter of James Philips, Rector of neighboring Killymard Parish. Alexander had four sons: James the Archdeacon, who succeeded him; Alexander, ancestor of the Montgomerys of the Hall (who deserve an article of their own), Hugh, and Robert.

According to the Poll of Electors for Co. Donegal dated 1767, Robert had the townland of Cranny, and lived in Cranny House, adjacent to the Cloverhill demesne. His son John succeeded him but died young. There are four tombstones in the Montgomery plot in Old Inver Graveyard. On John's is written:

*"Underneath are deposited the remains of John Montgomery and of his daughter Margaret Montgomery. The former departed this life on the 1st of June 1798 aged 33 years. The latter on the 14th of February 1815 aged 18 years. Elizabeth wife to John Montgomery departed this life 19th July 1817 aged 51 years."*



Helen Meehan near the ruins of Old Inver Church and Graveyard

On another tablet is written:

*"Sacred to the memory of Hugh Montgomery Esq., of Cloverhill who departed this life on the 5th of April 1817 aged 69 years."*



Helen Meehan standing at the Montgomery plot in Old Iver Cemetery

The Glebe House was beside Cloverhill, and James' son, who succeeded him, seems to have lived there while Hugh lived in Cloverhill until his death in 1817.

The Rev. James had married Dorothy Coddington from Drogheda, Co. Louth. Her family had come to Ireland early in the 17th century, at first settling near Skerries. On maps of G. Taylor and A. Skinner, published in 1777, Rev. James Montgomery is written as owner of Cloverhill and occupier of the Glebe House in Inniskeel Parish. In *Post Chaise Companion*, 1768 we read, "On the river of Inver is Cloverhill, the seat of Rev. James Montgomery." When Tyner toured Donegal in 1794 he noted that "two miles from Mount Charles on east bank of Inver River is Cloverhill, seat of James Montgomery." On his tombstone in Old Inver is inscribed:

*"Underneath are deposited the remains of the Rev. Archdeacon James Montgomery and of his wife Dorothea Montgomery. The former departed this life on the 11th of November 1797 aged 73 years. The latter on the 13th of the same month and year aged 67 having survived her husband but two days."*

Rev. James was succeeded by his son Rev. Alexander.

(Editor's note: Having much information on Montgomerys in Ireland, Helen Meehan, a member of the Donegal Historical Society, has had articles published in their Journal, *The Donegal Annual*. Two were on Montgomery families; one on Field Marshall Montgomery and his Donegal ancestors)

## William Montgomery, 2nd

James, 1st was a son of William and Mary Aiken Montgomery who stayed with the family in Hopkinton, MA. Born in Ireland in 1699-1702, he came to America 1718/1719 and owned land in Hopkinton in 1720. He moved to Blandford, MA before 1735. Soon after the death of 1st wife, Mary Henry, he married Kathren.. Their 1st child, Catey, was born 1750 in Blandford, and married James Proven there in 1769. Their next was William, 2nd, born 1752, married Margaret 1745/6, died 1825. The only known child was James Lyman Montgomery, also known as Gersham, born 1780, married

Hannah Clark 1803.

To complete information about James 1st: he and his mother Mary Aiken Montgomery were having problems with the church. In 1733 "The church being af-fended with several of the members for their long absent-ing them selves from ye ordenance of the Lord's Super, sent to inquire by ye Elders into the reason for yer thus absenting." James replied, "Because we had altered from what we were by coming into this way of government, and brought into so rashly of hastily and they thought they should not partake with us any more." After many meetings, those who had been warned were excommuni-cated on 3 Jan. 1733.

Soon after James moved to Blandford, MA, owning land there in 1735. It is not known who came with James to Delaware Co., NY, although half-brother Robert set-tled in Harpersfield, NY about the same time.

To share information contact:

George L. Montgomery  
19 Thorn Hollow Rd.  
Owego, NY 13827-1035

## Rev. Alexander Montgomery of Inver by Helen Meehan, Commissioner for Ireland

The owner of the Bonnyglen Estate, the Archdeacon Rev. James Montgomery was succeeded by his son, Rev. Alexander, who was born in 1776. He was educated by Mr. Meares and went to Trinity College when he was 15. There he obtained his B.A. and M.A. He was rector of Inniskeel 1796-1802 and Rector of Inver from 1802 until his death. Later he was also Rector of Templecrone in the northwest of the country. He employed a curate there to discharge his duties.

Rev. Alexander had Cloverhill built around 1798—today it is known as Drumbeg. It was a two-story, three-bay house with tripartite windows on the ground floor and a classical central porch in sandstone. Alastair Rowan, in *The Buildings of Ireland—North West Ulster*, describes the house as large in scale and regency in feeling. He says that the gates are earlier, or at least the lions are. These lions are free standing and are similar to the ones at old Mountjoy in Co. Tyrone. This house replaced an older building, which was said to be somewhat closer to the sea at Iver Bay.

Rev. Alexander didn't live at Cloverhill immediately. According to *Directory of Towns and Villages* published in 1814, it was the residence of Hugh Montgomery, Esq., a younger brother of James, the Archdeacon. Rev. Alexander lived in the nearby Glebe House, known as Whitehill.

*A Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland* was published by W. Mason, Secretary of Board of Public Records in 1816. He requested the Rectors of the various parishes to compile the survey for him. Rev. Alexander compiled the one on Inver Parish. It gave a very comprehensive account of the Parish early in the 19th century. Apart from the physical features we can glean a lot about the state of farming, fuel, food, education, employment, trade, and buildings, both old and new.

The church, a pre-plantation building at the mouth of the Eany River, was by the 19th century hard to maintain in a proper state. In 1808 Rev. Alexander gave the site for a new church in Inver, and supervised the building himself. It is a tower and hall type church enhanced by a cut-stone front, with gothic porches on either side of the tower to screen the nave behind. The tower is three stage with an elegant octagonal spire. Set on a hill, there is a commanding view. Rev. Alexander donated flagon and plate

to the church.

In his topographic *Dictionary of Ireland 1810* Carlisle tells us, when writing of Inver, that Rev. Alexander Montgomery, the incumbent, has care of souls, is resident and discharges his duties in person. He did much to help people on the estate: supported schools at Drumfin and Drumduff and built a mill at Cranny. Tithes in the parish were modestly set; no tithe proctor intervened between Rector and parishioners. Although subject to it in other parts of the country, no tithes were levied on potatoes.

A tablet in Inver Church reads thus:

**"In Memory The Rev. Alexander Montgomery of  
Bonnyglen, for 49 Years Beloved and Respected  
Rector of Inver Parish"**

This branded inscription was found in 1919, on cutting a tree, presumably planted by him on completion of the church, where he donated the site and supervised the building.

This monument was erected by his grand niece, Jemima S. Stewart of Drumbeg:

**"He rests From His Labours and His Words  
Do Follow Him"**

The Rev. and his wife worked hard for the people of the area. His name appears on all committees from the North West Agricultural Show, which sought to improve farming methods to Relief Committees. He was married to Mary Stewart of Horn Head. She was a daughter of Charles Stewart, High Sheriff of Donegal in 1768. Her brother, William, later became High Sheriff. The Stewarts of Horn Head were descended from Captain Charles, an officer in the army of William III, and who fought for him at the Boyne. Mary was well known for her generosity as the following verse shows:

"I make it no wonder the poor of Inver  
Should pray for this lady by night and by day,  
For when she meets them she makes them cheerful,  
And gives them plenty when they're going away."  
She died in May, 1825.

In 1832 the dreaded cholera, which had swept westward from Europe reached Ireland and Donegal. In Inver a relief committee was set up with meetings in Cloverhill and Rev. Alexander as elected chairman. Money was raised by public subscription and a grant from Lord Lieutenant's Fund.

When the potato crop failed 1845-46, the Inver Famine Relief Committee was set up with Rev. Alexander as chairman and the Catholic curate, Rev. Patrick Gallagher as secretary. Local tradition says that they were great friends—both fond of fishing—and their friendship grew as they pursued their hobby on the banks of the Eany River. It is said, also, that Rev. Alexander gave Rev. Patrick the lease of a very good farm in Drimatumpher near where the Cranny Road is today.

Many Relief Committee meetings were held in Cloverhill. The following headed a subscription list:

Most Noble the Marquis of Conyngham =£100.00

The Dowager Marchioness Conyngham =£100.00

Rev. Alexander Montgomery, Rector =£105.00

These and many smaller donations enabled meal and other supplies to be bought and distributed. As a result, widespread destitution which happened in many other parishes didn't happen in Inver Parish. Before the 1848 famine and cholera were over Rev. Alexander died, and together with his wife, Mary, is buried in the same plot as Rev. James, the Archdeacon, in old Inver graveyard. On the tombstone is written:

"Also Mary Montgomery wife of the Rev. Alexander Montgomery who departed this life the 10th of December 1825 aged 51 years, and the Rev. Alexander Montgomery who departed this life 15th of October 1848 aged 71 years., Rector of the Parish of Inver."

Rev. Alexander and his wife had no children. His sister, Dorothea, was married to Rev. Samuel Law, Rector of Gort. Rev. Samuel, whose father was a doctor, was born in Dublin 1772. Samuel and Dorothea had one daughter, Dorothea, born about 1789. She married James Sinclair of Holly Hill, Co. Tyrone, and on the death of Rev. Alexander Montgomery, their son, William, became owner of the Bonnyglenn Estate and Cloverhill.



Inver Church, built on land donated by Rev. Alexander Montgomery, when Rector in 1808



Helen Meehan inside Inver Church, lecturing on Montgomerys to Donegal Historical Society

### Naturalization

If your ancestor was naturalized prior to 1906, you may have to look several places before you find their papers. Before that date a person could apply to a local, state or federal district to become naturalized. Contact the local, state and federal courts where they lived. If the courts do not have the records, they may have been transferred to the National Archives. If your ancestor was naturalized after 27 Sept. 1906, copies of these papers were sent to Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536.

# History & Lore

## The Montgomerys of the Hall

By Helen Montgomery Meehan

There are four tombstones in the Montgomery plot in Old Inver Graveyard. Three of these have been dealt with in previous articles in the CMSI News Magazine. On the fourth tombstone is inscribed "Erected to the memory of Alexander Montgomery Esq. late of the Hall, who departed this life 17th January 1796."

This Alexander was brother of Rev. James, the Archdeacon. He pursued a military career in his youth and at the end of the wars in 1776 he sold his Commission as Captain in 62nd Regiment. He became Agent for Marquis Conyngham and took up residence in the Hall.

The Marquis owned the North and East parts of Inver Parish as well as land in other parts of Co. Donegal. The Conyngham family had purchased land in Slane, Co. Meath at the end of the Williamite Wars and took up residence there, visiting their seat in Mountcharles only occasionally.

In 1776 Arthur Young, a journalist who was also a member of the Royal Society in London, visited Ireland. He wrote 10 pages about Inver Parish in his "Tour of Ireland" and he tells us:

August 10th, got to Alexander Montgomery's Esq. at Mountcharles, Lord Conyngham's agent, by breakfast; found he was deeply engaged in the fisheries on this coast, that I could not have got into better hands; with great civility he gave me every intelligence I wished; as an introduction to it, he took me a ride to the bays on the coast, where the fisheries are most carried out, particularly Inver Bay, Macswine's Bay and Killybeg's Bay. Mr. Montgomery himself owned a vessel and had established considerable salt works making 450 tons annually down to £2.14.0. He had also devised ways of working the nets more profitably.

Alexander was married to Mary Dalway, daughter of James Allen of Castle Dobbs, Co Antrim. The Allens were of Scottish descent - they came from Stirling to Antrim in the 17th century.

Alexander died in 1790 and was succeeded by his eldest son Henry Conyngham to whom he willed his real estate of Meenawollaghan, Ballysaggart and Townytallon otherwise Salthill both in Co Donegal and freehold estate of Balaville, Knockbrone, Cartron and the Lands of Altans in Co Sligo.

He left each of his then unmarried children Henry, James and Ann £1000, his eldest daughter Martha had received that sum on her marriage to Anthony Coane Gent of Higgistown near Ballyshannon. They had a large family - their eldest son called Montgomery joined the 19th Regiment, became a Lieutenant and died in 1806.

Ann married the Rev. John Hawkins, son of Right Rev. James Hawkins Bishop of Raphoe from 1780.

When Alexander's heir Henry Conyngham returned from India in the early 19th century he took up residence in the Hall and his mother Mary Dalway then lived in Salthill House a mile further south along the shore. She died there in 1818.

James the second son lived at Seaview near Salthill House. Seaview had been built by the Earl of Belmore, Co. Fermanagh as a summer residence. He was married to Jemima Glasgow of Aughadenvaa, Co Leitrim.

Their son Conyngham was baptised in Inver Church by his father's cousin Rev. Alexander Montgomery on 20th February 1809. He died a few years later.

Their daughter, Jemima, was baptised in Inver Church on 4th December 1807. She married Cafetan Josef Friedrich, Baron von Tautphoeus of Marquartstein, Chamberlain to the King of Bavaria. Baroness von Tautphoeus began writing when she went to live in Germany. Her works were written in English and were then translated into German. Her novels were set in Bavaria where she lived. "At Odds" was a historical novel which dealt with Napoleon's invasion until the insurrection of Hofer in the Tyrol. "The Initials" was regarded by critics as her most successful work. The Baroness died in Munich in November 1893. Her son Rudolf, became Bavarian Minister to Rome.

Alexander's eldest son Henry Conyngham was raised to the Peerage in 1808. His career and numerous descendants deserve an article of their own.

# History & Lore

## Sir Henry Conyngham Montgomery Baronet of the Hall and his family

by Helen Montgomery Meehan

Henry Conyngham born in 1765 was the eldest son of Captain Alexander Montgomery of the Hall and his wife Mary Dalway. Like his father he pursued a military career. Henry joined the 1st Light Cavalry on its formation in 1787, serving in the Mysore Wars of 1792 & 1799. He was Commandant first of the Madras Bodyguard and subsequently the Governor General's. He served with particular distinction in the war against Typo Sultan.

He married on June 21st 1800 at Calcutta, a Donegal girl Sarah Mercer Grove. She was the daughter of Leslie Grove Esq. of Grove Hall. When he came home on furlough in 1802 he raised a corp of Yeomanry in his native Donegal and in 1803 he was appointed inspecting field officer of Yeomanry and Volunteers for the county with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the army.

On October 3rd 1808 he was created a Baronet, taking the title Montgomery of the Hall.

### BLASONS



Shield: Quartered arms Montgomery - Eglinton within a bordurer argent charged with eight trefoils slipped vert on an escutcheon by way of surtout argent a tilting spear and a sword saltier-ways proper.

Crest: On a chapeau gules turned up ermine a cubit arm in armour the hand grasping a tilted spear broken proper.

Motto: Gardez bien

The broken spear on the crest which is shared by Montgomery of Beaulieu and Belhavel branches commemorates Gariel Montgomery who injured the French Henry II in a tournament in Paris and was beheaded on a charge of regicide in 1574.

The motto "Gardez bien" loosely translated as "Take Good Care" is shared by the Montgomerys of Moville, Benvarden and Sweden and spelt "Garde Bien" is used by the Montgomerys of Eglinton, Braidstone and the Ards.

Sir Henry had already entered politics and in 1807 he was elected M.P. for Mitchell. For the following 4 years he represented his native Donegal. In his 3rd term in Parliament he was M.P. for Yarmouth.

In Parliament he was a member of Lord Wellesley's followers known as the Indian Squad. Indeed India and Indian affairs were his favorite subjects of debate. In June 1813 at a Select Committee meeting he ridiculed the notion of converting India to Christianity, thinking "the people of this country" living in India in far greater need of moral reform. This was a rather unconventional view for a M.P. in the days of the Raj.

Next to India, Ireland was Sir Henry's favorite subject in debate. On April 17th 1809 he brought in a bill to guarantee the freehold rights of Irish Catholics who had not taken the oath of allegiance and after this was passed he pledged himself to continue his support of Catholic claims so long as those claims were brought forward in a peaceable and constitutional manner. He voted for their claims on several occasions.

A memorial to him in Inver Church reads:

"Sacred to the memory of Sir Henry Conyngham Montgomery, Baronet, who after many years service in India returned to settle at the Hall in this parish. He was on three Parliaments during one of which he represented this country. He was also Lieutenant-Colonel and Inspection Field Officer of the Yeomanry Corps. He died at Dieppe Normandy, 21st January, 1830. Age 65 years".

Sir Henry was succeeded as baronet by his eldest son also named Henry Conyngham. He was born March 10th 1803 at Taunton, Somersetshire, England and was publicly baptised in the parish of Inver on January 22nd 1804. His Godfathers Marquis Conyngham of Slane Castle, Ireland, and Ezekiel Nesbitt Esq. of Wood Hill, county Donegal. The rector was Rev. Alexander Montgomery - first cousin of Captain Alexander of the Hall.

# History & Lore

Sir Henry returned for a time to Madras and died in Dieppe. He was educated at Eton and Hailebury and was Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Wellesley when he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1822/24. He went out to Madras 1825 in the Indian Civil Service. Succeeded to Baronetcy 1830; sent on special commission to the Rajamundry (Godavery) district which led to the irrigation of that district from the Godavery River; Secretary to the Madras Government in the Revenue and Public Works Department 1845-1850; Chief Secretary 1850-1855; Member of Council 1855- 1857 when he retired. One of the original members of the new Council of India chosen by the Crown, September 1858. He retired 1876.

He had married Miss Leonora Pigot only daughter of Major-General R. Pigot in 1827 but they had no family. He was succeeded by his brother Alexander Leslie. Other members of his family were:

Hugh, Major Madras Artillery, b. 1809, d. 1852.

Alfred, Commissioner of Inland Revenue, b. 1815, m. 1843 the Hon. Fanny Charlotte, eldest dau. of George, 1st Lord Leonfield, and has had issue, Henry Wellesley, b. 1849, d. 1855;

Edith, m. 1871 George Henry Finch, Esq., M.P.; and Sibyl, Marchioness of Queensberry.

Marian Emily, m. 1830 the Hon. and Very Rev. G.M. Orke, D.D., Dean of Worcester brother of Earl of Hardwicke, who d. 1879.

Matilda, m. 1846 the Hon. W.T. Law of the Ellenborough family.

Isabella Eliza, m. 1856 Sir Thomas Whichcote, Bart., of Aswarthy, Co. Lincoln.

Alexander Leslie had pursued a career in the Royal Navy and was an Admiral when he became the 3rd Baronet in 1878. In 1840 he had married Caroline Rose, daughter of James Campbell Esq. of Hampton Court Middlesex.

They had a family of 3 sons and 6 daughters. Four of the girls were unmarried - Florence Sophia, Mabel Honoria Frances, Ethel and Beatrice. Evelyn Rose married in 1871 Louis son of Baron de Celto Bavarian Minister at the Court of St. James. Rachel Mary married in 1885 the Rev Reginald Knutchball-Hugessan of the Barbourne family. Their second son Grantham Alexander born in 1852 died three years later.

Sir Alexander Leslie died in 1888 and was succeeded by his eldest son Hugh Conyngham born in October 1847. He was A.D.C. to the Duke of Marlborough when he was Lord Lt. of Ireland. The fourth Baronet had been a Major in the 6th Dragoon Guards. He died in 1915.

Sir Hugh C. Gaston wasn't married and on his death his brother, Sir Alexander Cecil, became 5th Baronet at the age of fifty-six. Sir Alexander Cecil wasn't married either and on his death in 1939 the title lapsed.

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## What is the Domesday Book?

The Domesday Book, pronounced DOOMZday or DOHMZ day, was the first official record of the property holders living in England and the amount of land they held. The information was collected and recorded at the command of William the Conqueror in 1086, 20 years after he and his followers from Normandy crossed the English Channel and conquered England. Afterward the properties of the great English landholders were taken over by William and his followers. William ordered the Domesday survey to discover how much land he owned, how the rest was divided, and how the land was peopled.

The kingdom was divided into districts. Each district supplied census takers who knew the territory. The census and land survey covered most of the territory William controlled. No survey was held in either London or Winchester, and information about regions in northern England is incomplete. Nevertheless, Domesday Book is viewed as the greatest public record of medieval Europe. It is displayed at the Public Record Office in London.

# GENEALOGY

## The Ancestors of Field Marshal Montgomery of Alamein

By: Helen Montgomery Meehan

[Parts of this article have already been published by the author in an article entitled "Monty of Alamein and the Montys of Moville" in the *Donegal Annual* of 1995]

### The Montgomerys in Donegal

Hugh Montgomery, first Viscount of the Ards, was noted for his success in bringing over his kinsmen to settle his land in Co. Down. His brother George, who was a personal friend of James I, was appointed by him Bishop of Derry, Raphoe and Clogher in 1605 and he came to reside permanently in Derry in 1607 before the official Plantation. "For the encouragement of planters on Church lands the Bishop obtained the King's orders that all leases be made (which were for 31 years) should not be taken from the planters or their posterity at the expiration of their term but renewed to them as they held the same, they paying their Bishop one year's rent for a renewal of their lease, which was a very encouraging certainty for planters."

Thus by the Bishop George's industry in a few years the plantation was forwarded and the Church revenues increased greatly.

According to the Civil Survey of 1654, Alexander Montgomery held the lease for the half quarter of Bishop's land at Killaghtee. It appears that some time later the Established Church released the townland of Killaghtee to the leaseholders who then became proprietors. Spamount being the chief house in the town, it is not unlikely that it was built by the Montgomerys.

The name of Alexander next appears on a copy of record of a Coroner's Inquest held at Duncally on the 15th of September 1660 "to inquire how Alexander and John Murray came to their deaths." His name is given as one of the jury. Also on the jury was a David Montgomery of Killochtie (both place names are spelt as the places are still pronounced locally). The names of Alexander and David also appear on the Hearth Money Roll of 1665. The names of three Montgomerys of Killaghtee appear on the index of Raphoe Diocesan Wills edited by Thrift. Catherine, who held lands in 1701, had her will drawn up in 1723. John, who is presumed to be her son, was alive in 1722.

Killaghtee House, which was built by the Montgomerys was at first a single storey house. Later a large house was built around it. There is a stone slab which is used as a well cover which may have come from the old house. The stone bears the inscription "God bless all who dwell in this house 1760."

The will of David Montgomery is dated 1752 (Thrift). He was married to Mary Law. According to the family tree in Isabel A. Young's "300 Years in

Inishowen", Mary was a daughter of Michael Law.

James, the eldest son of David and Mary, inherited the Killaghtee property. His name appears as a vestry man in Killaghtee Church in the 1740's. During the same years he was appointed as overseer of the "High Roads of th Parish" by the select vestry. He died unmarried (Wills Thrift 1768) and Sam inherited the Killaghtee property.

Sam, the second son of David and Mary was born around 1728 and went into business in Derry in 1750. The liquor firm was known as "Montgomery and Gamble." They lived in No. 13 London Street - in those days a fashionable address.

In 1768 he bought from Lord Donegall on lease of three lives renewable forever the seven Balliboes of Ballynelly, about 800 acres in all. For his new home he chose a site with a fine view of Lough Foyle and called the house "New Park." Soon after purchasing the Moville Property he married a local lady Mary Porter. Her father was a surveyor of the port of Greencastle near Shrove. Sam was Chamberlain of Derry when he died in 1803 - he is buried in a vault in St. Augustine's Church in Derry. On his death his eldest son, Samuel Law inherited the property in Moville and Killaghtee but the wine business in Derry was sold.

Samuel Law was educated at Foyle College and Trinity College, Dublin. Shortly after his ordination he was appointed curate and later rector of Moville. Glebe House was not there at the time so he lived in New Park.

Samuel Law began the very close connection with the church which so influenced family life at New Park for the next hundred years or more. He married Susan Maria, the widow of the previous rector of Moville, Rev. M. Alexander. He was Vicar General of Derry Diocese when he died in 1832.

The Montgomery properties then passed to his son Samuel. Like his father he was a clergyman, becoming Rector of Ballinascreen in 1842. He spent thousands of pounds on developing Moville - he built houses, roads, a school, a new church - St. Columbs in the grounds of New Park - and a wharf for a steamer service to Derry. To raise the necessary capital he resorted to mortgage - a practice by no means unusual at the time. Although he spent a lot of money in Moville, he actually lived in his parish of Ballinascreen, Co. Derry. In the list of landowners of Ireland 1875 the property of Rep. Of Samuel L. Montgomery was valued at £1,892 and contained about 3,373 acres. As well as his lands around Moville in Nort East Donegal it included his lands in Killybegs and Killaghtee in South County Donegal.

Rev. Samuel never married - he died at Ballinascreen in 1874 and was buried there. The property then passed to his brother Robert, later Sir Robert Montgomery GCSI KCB, LLD.

To be continued next issue.

## The Ancestors of Field Marshal Montgomery of Alamein

Part II

Continued from March 1999

By: Helen Montgomery Meehan

[Parts of this article have already been published by the author in an article entitled "Monty of Alamein and the Montys of Moville" in the *Donegal Annual* of 1995.

### Sir Robert Montgomery

Robert, the second son of Rev. Samuel Law Montgomery, was born at New Park in 1809 and was educated at Foyle College, Derry, and Wroxall, a public school in Wiltshire. He left New Park in May 1828 en route to his post as a writer with the East India Company, and landed at Calcutta in November. His early years in India were spent as a collector and then magistrate in various towns in the North West Province. In 1848 he was appointed Commissioner at Lahore in the recently annexed Punjab. Robert, like others of his time, believed that they were sent by God to India and that it was His will to place India under British protection.

Robert was now a very senior civil servant and could afford to build a large residence which he named New Park for his old home in Moville. In May 1857, Sir J. Laurence, Chief Commissioner in the Punjab, left Lahore early to go to the mountains. Largely unknown to him and other officials of the Raj, great discontent existed in the sepoy or native regiments and a general uprising was planned to begin as soon as Delhi was captured. Robert, now in charge in Lahore, learned of this but so as not to arouse suspicion he allowed a ball to go ahead in New Park that night. Next morning he had the British cavalry and artillery in place before the general parade. He ordered the sepoys to "dump arms." His order was obeyed. In this way many lives were saved and in Lahore he succeeded in keeping the loyalty of the greater part of the Sikh population. Thus he was able to raise new regiments of Sikhs and Punjab Muslims with whose help the mutiny was eventually quelled. The day Lucknow was captured Robert was appointed Chief Commissioner of Oudh. Later that year he was made Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab. As well he was made a KCB and was recipient of a vote of thanks in Parliament. He continued to rule the Punjab until his retirement in 1865 adopting a "middle way" where possible in settling disputes. He had critics in some papers in India, especially the "Lahore Chronicle" and "Allahabad Pioneer". He continued his work of founding a native police force to rule the 16 million inhabitants. His visits as far afield as Kashmir on his camel caravan and elephant train were frequently reported in "The London Illustrated News."

When he retired to London, Robert was made a GCSI (Order of the Star of India) and appointed to the Secretary

of state's Council of India. By 1870, Montgomery Hall had been erected in Lahore and a city and large area of the Punjab had been named Montgomery in his honor.

Robert had married twice. His first wife Francis was a sister of his superior in the Northwest Province, James Thomason. She died in 1842, and their three children were short lived as well. The following year Robert went on the only holiday he took in his 40 years in India. He spent three years visiting England, Moville and the Continent. In 1845 he met and married Ellen Lambert of Surrey. Her father had been a merchant in Calcutta and she was born there. They had four sons and one daughter, all born before the mutiny.

Sir Robert died in London in December 1887 and his body was brought back to the family vault in St. Augustine's Church, Derry, where he was buried with full military honors. There are memorials to him in the Cathedral of Lahore, in the Crypt of St. Paul's and a bust in the India Office in London. Nearer home there are memorials in St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry, St. Columb's Church, Moville and Foyle College.

Sir Robert wasn't the only member of his family in India in the days of the Raj. His sister Ann married Alexander Heyland when he was home on leave from Bengal where he was a judge. She died after a few short years in India.

Her brother James came to India in 1839 and became an officer in the 60th Bengal Regiment. He took part in the first Afghan War and was wounded at the capture of Kabul. He died from his wounds the following spring at the age of 25. There is a tablet to this memory in St. Columb's Church, Moville.

There is also a tablet to Col. James Alexander Montgomery, a son of Sir Robert. After leaving Harrow he joined the Indian Staff Corps and served in the Punjab. He became Commissioner of Rawalpindi, and later he was seconded as a Commissioner to Kenya. On his retirement he lived in Moville in a house near New Park.

All of Sir Robert's children were born in India. Like other children of officials and officers born there they were sent home to be educated.

Henry, the second son, who would be the father of Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery was sent home before the mutiny, and after prep school went to Harrow. Henry didn't see his father again until Sir Robert retired to London in 1865.

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See the announcement on Page 8 regarding the Montgomery Room at the Imperial War Museum.

## The Ancestors of Field Marshall Montgomery of Alamein,

### Part III

By Helen Montgomery Meehan

#### Rev. Henry Montgomery, D.D. Bishop of Tasmania

When Sir Robert retired from his position as Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab in 1865 he returned to England. The three children of his first wife Frances M. Thompson had died in India - his son Robert died aged 17, both daughters died within a few years of their marriages - both were married to officers of the British Army in India.

Robert's eldest surviving son -- Arthur Samuel -- matriculated from Exeter College Oxford in 1864 and died two years later. He was buried at Torquay in Devon. Robert's second son Henry was a student in Cambridge when his father returned. The third son James Alexander pursued a military career eventually becoming Settlement Commissioner of the Punjab. His first wife was Jessie, a daughter of Sir T. Forsyth - they had two daughters. Later he married Mary, daughter of Colonel F. Millar -- they had two daughters and a son Alan Douglas. The fourth son Ferguson John -- was educated at Cambridge, entered Holy Orders, and served as a Chaplain with the forces in Bengal. He married Edith Raikes and they had a daughter Hilda and two sons, Hugh Ferguson and Neville -- all born in India. Neville emigrated to Canada -- served in World War I in the Canadian Forces and was killed in 1917. His widow the former Ursula Johnson of Vancouver later married Neville's cousin Harold Montgomery. Neville's brother Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Ferguson was serving in the British Army in Ireland after World War I and was killed in Dublin during the War of Independence.

#### Bishop Henry Montgomery

Henry, Sir Robert's second son was ordained in 1872. While serving as a curate in the St. Margaret's Westminster he married the daughter of Dean Farrar. Maud was only 17 years when they were married, Rev. Henry was 34. They came to join the family at New Park, Merville, Co. Donegal on their honeymoon. In 1889

Henry was appointed Bishop of Tasmania and after his consecration in Westminster Abbey the family sailed for Hobart. There they settled in a large house called Bishops Court which was efficiently managed by Maud. Their education was in the hands of tutors who were brought out of England. The children as well as the Bishop loved outdoor life in Tasmania. The family returned to London for the Lambeth Conference in 1897 -- that was the first time the children of that generation remembered visiting New Park. The Bishop was zealous in promoting missionary work not alone in Tasmania for he visited the Aborigines of Australia and Melanesia as well.

Indeed he could be said to be a victim of his own success because when the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts wanted a clergyman of high rank and status as its secretary he was appointed. The family returned to London and by 1902 were settled in a rented house in Chiswick. The Bishop traveled daily to his London office and Maud as well as running the household organized the Mothers' Union and other charitable works.

The Bishop attended the Lambeth Conference in 1908 and 1920 and traveled extensively in connection with his church work -- visiting the U.S.A., Canada, the Far East and Russia. He was invited to the laying of the foundation stone of Washington Cathedral in 1906.

The Bishop, after a long and distinguished career as Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, retired in 1921. He and Lady Maud then came to live in New Park. New Park was always regarded by the family as home no matter where they were born or were living. The family had always gathered in New Park for two months each summer and from her return from Tasmania Lady Maud had always organized these annual migrations. The Bishop spent his retirement writing and walking. His happiest time was when he filled in for the local rector at St. Columba's. He had the grounds there consecrated for burial in 1931. When he died the following year he was buried there -- he was mourned by all sections of the community. A memorial service for him was held in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

#### Bishop Henry's Family

The Bishop and Maud had a large family -- six sons and three daughters. On the death of His Lordship the family property passed to their eldest son Harold Robert. He married Ursula Johnson from Vancouver - widow of his first cousin Neville Montgomery -- son of his uncle Ferguson. Their son Gardner inherited the Merville property on the death of his father in 1959. Harold had been Chief Native Commissioner of Kenya Colony 1934-37 -- he lived most of his life there returning after serving with Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa. His son Gardner lived in the U.S.A.

Harold's second son Donald Stanley was a barrister who settled in Canada. He served in World War I and in 1920 married a Canadian Dorothy Weghorn of Vancouver. They had two sons James and John.

Desmond, the fourth son was born in Tasmania -- he died as a schoolboy after the family's return to London. Sibyl the oldest of the family died in Hobart age 7 years. Colin Roger the next son followed in his father's footsteps and became a clergyman. After serving in England for some years he went to Canada where he was rector of Aklavik Cathedral. Later he worked in the Cape Province of South Africa. He was married to Margaret Drennan of Carse Hall, Limavady, Co. Derry. The Rev. Colin died in 1959.

The youngest boy of the family Brian pursued a military career. Like his more famous brother Bernard Law he joined the Royal Warwick Regiment on graduating from Sandhurst. During World War II he served in the Far East, mostly Burma and India. In 1947 he joined the Diplomatic Service. He married Peg McNeece from Folkestone in Kent. Later he entered politics and became a Councillor for Kensington and Chelsea and became a writer. He published the life of his famous grandfather Sir Robert Montgomery and a life of his even more famous brother Bernard Montgomery of World War II fame -- under the title of *A Field Marshal in the Family*. Lady Maud continued to live in New Park until her death in 1949. She is buried beside her husband. New Park was sold after her death. The land on which the town of Merville is built though is still owned by the family.

# HISTORY & LORE

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## Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery of Alamein

### Part IV

by Helen Montgomery Meehan

Bernard Law the third son of Maud and Rev. Henry Montgomery, later Bishop Henry, was born in St. Mark's Vicarage, Kensington Oval on 17 November 1889. This was a memorable year for the family as on 28 December Sir Robert died in London. In the New Year his remains were brought back to Derry and he was buried with full military honours in St. Augustine's. Later that year, his sister Charlotte died in Moville and was buried in St. Augustine's as well. This was the last generation to use that burial ground -- the Bishop and Maud were later buried in Moville, County Donegal.

Bernard was only two when the family went to Tasmania. As Bernard grew up he loved the outdoor life there. Much has been written about Bernard and his relations with his mother. References are sometimes made to his being sent away to school and the results of separation from his parents. However, this ignores the reality of the social customs of Victorian England. The children of the gentry usually spent their early life in a nursery looked after by nannies -- there they were visited by their parents at certain times.

Their early education was in the hands of tutors and governesses and boys were sent off as boarders to public school before they were 9 years of age. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was the maxim of parents and teachers alike. The cult of pleasing children all the time and spending "quality time" with them was still far in the future. Bernard himself wrote that he was the "black sheep of the family forever in trouble" and that this was due to a clash of wills between himself and his mother "from which she invariably emerged the victor." Summing it up he concluded that "if my strong will and indiscipline had gone unchecked the result might

have been ever more intolerable than the sane people have found me." And he added that it had become clear to him later that his early troubles were mostly his own fault. However, in the circumstances it is not surprising that he loved his father and he later wrote "If ever there was a saint on earth it was my father."

On the family's return from Tasmania in 1902 the Bishop chose St. Paul's -- a day school -- for Bernard, it wasn't as costly as boarding school. The family now had to live on the Bishop's salary -- most of the land at Moville had been sold after Sir Robert's death so they had no income from there. Bernard couldn't be described as brilliant at his studies but he excelled at sport becoming captain of rugby XV and the cricket XI.

As his brother Brian later wrote about his sporting exploits, above all he enjoyed the leadership and authority that thus came his way. In his final year he applied himself somewhat better to his studies and passed the entrance examination to Sandhurst to begin a career in the army.

*I do not intend to write of Bernard's military career in this article - it has been covered in a vast number of publications -- both popular and scholarly. He himself afterwards wrote several -- these include "El Alamein to the River Sangro," "Normandy to the Baltic," "Memoirs," "A History of Warfare," "Forward to Victor" and "Ten Chapters."*

### Marriage

In 1926 Bernard was appointed tutor at Camberley and it was admitted even by those who disliked his awkward, eccentric harrowing personality that he was an excellent teacher. All who knew Bernard thought of him as one completely devoted to his profession and one officer was known to have said that "the army was his wife -- he had no need of another." He had always avoided the social scene as much as possible and seemed to all a confirmed bachelor who neither

smoked nor drank. Then when he was 38 he met a widow Betty Carver while on a skiing holiday in Switzerland. Her husband had been killed at Gallipoli. Betty was interested in the Arts, good with people and a good mixer. Bernard at first occupied himself teaching her young sons to ski, the friendship developed from there and they were married in Chiswick Parish Church on 27 June 1927. The ceremony was performed by his father the Bishop and his brother Colin, now the Rev. Colin. Their son David was born on 18 August 1928. Betty and David travelled with him to his postings abroad in the ten years that followed -- India, Egypt and Palestine. Despite the scepticism of many who knew him Bernard and Betty were a devoted couple and he was a good father not alone to David but to his step-sons as well. The years they spent in Jerusalem were the happiest in his life. Given his religious upbringing and thorough grounding in the Scriptures the city and country made a deep impression on him and he had Betty to share it with. "It never seemed possible that such love and affection could exist. We went everywhere and did everything together" he later wrote.

In the summer of 1937 Bernard was recalled to take command of the 9th Infantry Brigade at Portsmouth. He bought a house and they were looking forward to having a permanent home at last. Then disaster struck. An insect stung Betty on the seashore, her leg swelled, she was sent to hospital, all treatment failed and she passed away on 19 October 1937. Bernard was distraught and after the funeral he cut himself off now alone in his new house at Portsmouth. Later the house was destroyed by a German bomb. After a time he realized her death was God's will and thus must be accepted, he wrote in his memoirs.

### From El Alamein to the Luneberg Heath

When Bernard was raised to the peerage in 1946 he took the title "Alamein." It recalls the place of the first Allied victory of World War II

# HISTORY & LORE

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where he stopped the German advance across North Africa toward Egypt and forced their retreat.

Overnight, Bernard, little known to the public as yet, became a household name and he vindicated the high expectations of the experts in his skill as a field commander. In the Commons Churchill said it was a "British victory of the first order" and ordered church bells -- silent since June 1940 -- to be rung on the 15th of November 1942.

Of all the subsequent triumphs of Bernard none is of more interest to the genealogist than the "Falaise Pocket" because here in the Falaise -- Argentan -- Caen region of France where his family had lands before the Norman Conquest he trapped and destroyed the 7th army of Field Marshal Rommel in June 1944. He was promoted to Field Marshal and presented with his baton in October 1944.

Today Montgomery is written as a destination on many buses in Brussels because the square since named in honour of the Field Marshal is a bus terminus. Ostend has its Quai, Antwerp its Plien and Tournai its Rue de Montgomery, all named in honour of their liberator. In Denmark he is regarded as a Saviour because he was able to reach the Baltic before the Red Army and prevent the Russians getting into Denmark. On May 2nd he reached the Baltic at Lubeck and set up his H.Q. on the Luneberg Heath. It must have been to him a moment of triumph when the Instrument of Surrender of All German Armed Forces in Holland, N.W. Germany and Denmark was signed there by five German officials and himself on 5 May 1945. All offensive action had been ordered to cease the day before.

## After the War

In the New Years Honour List of 1946 Bernard was raised to the peerage as a Viscount. In June that year he took up the appointment as Chief of Imperial General Staff and thus

became head of the army, holding its highest rank. In September he was appointed Chairman of the Western Union Commanders in Chief Committee. Its H.Q. was in Fontainebleau and Bernard went to live in Paris. Later when the supreme H.Q. Allied Powers Europe was opened in April 1951 General Eisenhower became its Supreme Commander and Bernard became his Deputy. He continued in this role until September 1958 when he retired from active employment in the army.

During the war years Bernard's friends, Colonel Tom and Mrs. Reynolds, looked after his son David. In 1947 the Reynolds were living in Isington, Hampshire, and Bernard bought the mill there. He converted it into a house and made a permanent home there for himself and David, by then a student in Cambridge. Two photos only were displayed in his bedroom -- one of his father, the other of Pope Pius XII with whom he had become friendly during his term with NATO.

After his retirement from the Army he lived an active life of traveling and writing. Because of his fame he was invited to many functions at home and abroad where he always gave an address. His forthright expression of his opinions on a wide variety of topics didn't endear him to Government at Whitehall. As his brother Brian wrote in his biography of the Field Marshal, "modesty was never his strong point but without that supreme self-confidence and courage that goes with it he could not have become one of the greatest commanders in our history."

He frequently attended the House of Lords, indeed he said it was "the best club in London." In 1966 he was commanded by the Queen to carry the Sword of State at her State Opening of Parliament -- that was the first year that the event was televised. He did it also in 1967 and asked to do it again in 1968. But the sword is heavy and during the long speech it must be held motionless. In 1968 he felt himself sway and the sword was taken by the

Keeper of the Privy Purse. The following year he handed over his most treasured possession to the Imperial War Museum. This was the "Instrument of Unconditional Surrender of all Germans in Holland, Denmark and NW Germany" -- dated 4 May 1945. It was signed by himself and Admiral Friedeburg of the German High Command.

## His Final Years

Bernard always had a good relationship with his son and was delighted when he married Mary, daughter of his friends Sir Charles and Lady Connell. They had two children, Henry David and Arabella. But later when they were divorced relations between them became strained. Bernard had strict religious principles and had written thankfully in his memoirs "none of us were in the divorce courts." Later he became friendly again with David and his second wife Teresa, daughter of Sir Fred Browning and Lady Browning (Daphne du Maurier).

From the late 60's his health gave cause for concern. He could no longer travel abroad and he ended his days peacefully at Isington Mill. He died on 24 March 1976 and was succeeded by his son David. His funeral service was held in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and he is buried at Binstead, Hampshire about a mile from his home.

At the D-day Commemoration in 1980 a statue of the Field Marshal by Oscar Nemon was unveiled by the Queen Mother outside the Ministry of Defence Whitehall, London.

His motto "Gardez Bien" loosely translated as "Take Good Care" is shared by the Montgomerys of the Hall, Benvarden and Sweden and spelt "Garde Bien" is used by the Montgomerys of Eglinton, Braidstone and the Ards. Truly in all his matters with which he was concerned he lived up to that motto and did "Take Good Care."

# HISTORY & LORE

## ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY

By: Helen Montgomery Meehan

Alexander, Master of Montgomery, had 3 sons -- Alexander who became 2<sup>nd</sup> Laird, Robert who founded the Braidstone branch of the family, and Hugh who founded the Hessilhead branch. Hugh was married to Jane Maxwell. Their son Sir John was killed on Flodden Field in 1513. Sir John was the father of Hugh -- known as "Old Hugh" -- who married a Houston lady. We don't know her name -- in Crawford's Baronage she is described as Houston's daughter. On Hugh's death in 1556 he was succeeded by his eldest son John who was married to a daughter of John Fraser of Knock.

### Alexander the Poet

Genealogists disagree about the parents of Alexander the Poet. Some say he was a brother of John, but others including William Montgomery of Rosemount state that he was son of the fourth Laird John and the daughter of Fraser. Alexander himself tells us "I am one Germane born" and that is by no means impossible as many Scots served in foreign countries. Others say he was born in Hessilhead Castle. All agree that he was brought up at Hessilhead and sent to Argyllshire to be educated. Although fluent in Latin and having an excellent knowledge of the classics in his writing "he kept the Scottish language pure" and thus today his writings are studied by students of philology.

His best known work "The Cherry & the Sloe" is concerned with love and nature as well as being a moral tale. The sloe bush (blackthorn) in the valley represents evil while the cherry on a high rock represents the power of good. The poem begins:

About a Bank of balmy Bews  
Where Nightingales their Notes renews  
With gallant Goldspinks gay;  
The Mavise, Merl, and Progne proud,  
The Lintwhite, Lark and Laverock loud  
Saluted mirthful May.  
The Cushat crouds, the Corbie cries,  
The Cuckow couks, the prating Pyes  
To geck her they begin.  
The Jargoun, or the janglin Jays,  
The craiking Crows, the kekling Kays  
They deav'd me with their din.  
The painted Pown with Argos eyes  
Can on his Maycock call,  
The Turtle wails on withered trees,  
And Echo answer'd all  
Repeating, with grieting,  
How fair Narcissus fell.  
By lying and spying  
His shadow in the well.<sup>1</sup>

Among the many devotional poems he wrote, the following is considered his best:

O gracious God, my Guiltiness forgive,  
In Sinners Death since thou dost not delight;  
But rather would they should convert and live,  
As witnesseth Prophets in holy Writ;  
I pray thee, Lord, thy Promise to perfit  
In me that I might with the Psalmist say,  
I will thy praise and wondrous works unite  
Therefore, Father, be merciful to me.

Much of Alexander's poetry has melancholy themes -- this is thought to be caused by unhappiness in his personal life. His first great love Lady Margaret Douglas married his cousin Robert Montgomery of Skelmorly. He then admired Lady Margaret Montgomery, daughter of Hugh of Eglinton but she married Lord Seton. We don't know the name of the lady he eventually married.

Alexander spent some time in Holland and travelled on the Continent. While in the service of Regent Morton he held a position which gave him the title of Captain. When James VI became King, Alexander became Poet Laureate at his Court. The King included some of his poems in his "Revelis of Scottish Poesie" published in 1582. A sister of Alexander was the mother of Sir William Mure the poet who praised Alexander's poetry thus:

Matchless Montgomery, in his native tongue  
In former times to the great sire hath sung;  
And often ravished his harmonious ear,  
With strains fit only for a prince to hear.  
My muse which nought doth challenge worthy fame,  
Save from Montgomery she her birth doth claim --  
Although his Phoenix ashes hath set forth  
Pan for Apolly, if compared in worth --  
Pretendeth title to supply his place,  
By right hereditary to serve thy grace.

Robert Burns was much influenced by the work of Alexander. Alexander died around the year 1611. We only know the names of two of his children -- Margaret and Alexander usually referred to as Prebend of Do.

### Reverend Alexander Montgomery of Doe

In 1607, the Northern Earls O'Neill and O'Donnell -- who had to surrender their lands and Gaelic titles at the end of the Nine Years War -- fearing for their lives fled to the Continent. James I declared their lands forfeit to the Crown and a scheme for the plantation of these escheated counties was drawn up. The Montgomery family had already got lands in County Down.<sup>2</sup> Then George Montgomery of the Braidstone Branch, personal friend of James, was appointed by him Bishop of Raphoe, Derry, and Clogher (see article by same author in CMSI June 1997 and March 1999). The historian George Hill in his *Plantation of Ulster* wrote of the Bishop's

<sup>1</sup> See also June 1999, for another wording of the beginning of this poem.

<sup>2</sup> See CMSI Dec 1996 & March 1997 by same author.

# HISTORY & LORE

zeal in planting church lands and settling preachers in parishes. Many of his kinsmen were brought by him from Scotland and one of these was Alexander son of the Poet. He appointed him Prebend of Do in the Barony of Kilmacrenan not too far from his own residence in Derry. There is some confusion about the place name Do -- some writers in error called it "Ditto". However, the place -- now spelt Doe -- is in the Parish of Clondahorky on Sheephaven Bay. In Irish it was referred to "Caislean Na dTuath" or Castle Tuagh -- pronounced duagh. A tuath or tuagh was an old Irish land division.

Reverend Alexander was married to Margaret Conyngham -- sister of Reverend Alexander Conyngham who first came to Ireland as Prebend of Inver and Killymard in the South of Donegal.<sup>3</sup> Reverend Alexander -- usually referred to by his title Dean which he was granted in 1630 -- was the ancestor of the Conyngham family in Slane. Margaret died in 1675 and on her tomb in Doe which has the Hesselhead and Conyngham arms united in a shield is inscribed: "Here lyeth the body of Margaret Montgomery, alias Conningham, who was wife of Mr. Alexander Montgomery, who deceased the 18 of June, Anno Domini 1675."

Alexander's name is not inscribed on the tomb but Alexander McCausland composed his epitaph which contains the lines:

One man, ye have seldom seen on stage to doe  
The parts of Samuel and of Sampson too;  
Fitt to convince, or hew an Agag down,  
Fierce in his Arms, and priestlike in his gown.  
Now judge with what a courage will he rise  
When the last sounds the great Assize<sup>4</sup>

Alexander and Margaret had two sons, John and William. We only know of William because he is mentioned in John's will as William of Lisduff, Co. Longford. John, known as John of Croghan, was the ancestor of several of the Irish branches of the family such as the Montgomerys of Beaulieu, Ballyleck, Bessmount, Braidrim and Convoy, and deserves an article of his own.

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## An Early Hawaiian Deed

September 7, 1849

Know all men by these presents, that I, Kekauonohi, of Honolulu, Island of Oahu, for and in consideration of the sum of eleven thousand dollars, to me this day paid in hand by Isaac Montgomery, also of Honolulu, Island of Oahu, . . . convey unto him, the said Isaac Montgomery, and to his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, for ever, all that

certain lot of land, situated in the Island of Oahu, aforesaid, and described as follows: Commencing at mauka north corner or point of this land at place called Lae Kekaa, at bend of Pearl River, and running along edge of Pearl River, makai side, taking in three fish ponds called Pamoku, Okiokilipi and Paakule to open sea, thence following along the edge of the sea (reserving all the reef in front) to end of stone wall by sea, in land called Kupaka, at the makai west corner of this land, thence running north 25° E. 283, direct to place of commencement, including an area of acres 2,444 as per plot hereto annexed. \* \* \*

In witness whereof, the said party, Kekauonohi, has hereunto set her hand and seal at Honolulu, this 7th day of September, A. D. 1849.

Kekauonohi was the widow of the late high chief M. Kekauonohi. In 1858, the Supreme Court of Hawaii heard a case between Daniel Montgomery, a brother of Isaac, and Levi Haalelea, an heir of Kekauonohi over the fishing rights on this land. *Haalelea v. Montgomery*. It is interesting to note that Daniel's attorney in that case was a John Montgomery, though no family relationship is mentioned. Within a few days, Isaac deeded the property to Charles W. Vincent. Two later cases in 1862 find Isaac Montgomery suing his brother Daniel, again over this piece of land. *Montgomery v. Montgomery*. At some point a business called the Puuloa Salt Works was operated there by Mr. Vincent, who transferred the property to Daniel in 1855.

In the 1862 case, Isaac Montgomery claimed that he had induced his brother Daniel to come to Hawaii and paid his passage, and that Daniel arrived on 17 February 1855, in very destitute circumstances. Daniel denied that he was destitute, claiming that he was skilled in shipbuilding, as well as having general business qualifications, and with sufficient means at his command to establish himself independently.

Other items of possible interest in these cases include that Isaac was apparently married, though his wife's name is not mentioned, but no wife is mentioned for Daniel. There may have been some connections to California since Isaac is said to have gone there in 1848 and returned to Hawaii in 1849. However, California would have been a logical point to sail to or from regardless of family connections there. Another case was filed in 1863, when John Montgomery sued Daniel to collect his legal fees.

It would be interesting to know if there are any descendants of Isaac or Daniel, or the attorney John Montgomery. Also, some of our members might be interested in finding out what is presently located on this old Montgomery battlefield.

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<sup>3</sup> See in CMSI September & December 1997, March & June 1998 by the same author for information about the connection between the Montgomerys in these areas and the Conynghams.

<sup>4</sup> *Montgomery Manuscripts*.

# HISTORY & LORE

## John Montgomery of Croghan and his Descendants

by Helen Montgomery Meehan

*This article is a continuation of the article printed in the September 1999 issue of this publication*

The eldest son of Alexander Montgomery Prebend of Doe and Margaret Conyngham was John known as John of Croghan. Croghan is the name of a large hill near Lifford on the banks of the River Finn.

When the Rebellion of 1641 broke out John joined the army of his kinsman Hugh the 3rd Viscount of the Ardes where he was promoted to Major. This army was opposed by the Parliamentary army of Coote and Venables who after taking the main Ulster towns from their Royalist garrisons routed the Royalists at Lisnastrain near Lisburn, County Down.

We don't know the surname of John's wife Dorcas but we learn the names of the other family members from his will proved in August 1679. He wished to be buried at Lifford Church. To his eldest son John he gave his lands at Carran and Carrickshandrum in Raphoe Barony and the Quarter of land of Cashelogy in Banagh. Cashelogy belonged to the Murray Broughton Estate originally but when a dispute arose between claimants to the estate on the death of James Murray in 1658 much of the land had to be sold to pay for the costly lawsuits. In this way John Montgomery, the Conynghams of Mountcharles and others got land in Inver Parish in the Barony of Banagh.

To his second son Alexander he gave £140. Alexander had married Elizabeth Cole the heiress to the Cole Estate in Ballyleck, County Monaghan and lived near Monaghan Town. This Alexander was the ancestor of the Montgomerys of Ballyleck, Convoy, Beaulieu and the Montgomery-Moores.

To his third son Robert known in history as Robert of Anarea he gave £100. Robert had married Isabel daughter of James Leslie and is the ancestor of the Bessamount and Drumbortagh branches of the family.

He also left legacies to his daughters Kathleen, Nichola, Rebecca, Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth and Anne.

### The Williamite Wars

John the eldest son married firstly Catherine daughter of Rev. Auchinleck of Clones. He is described in the Montgomery Manuscripts as a "tall proper person; as comely with all as one shall see in a summer's day." When the War of the Two Kings (James II and William III) began in Ireland Sir Albert Conyngham raised a regiment of dragoons who fought at the Boyne. John's father was Sir Albert's cousin. John became a Major in the dragoons. When Sir Albert was killed in a skirmish near Sligo Col. Robert Echlin became leader of the Dragoons. Both John's brothers were in the regiment as well -- Alexander of Ballyleck became a Captain and Robert of Anarea a Cornet. Shortly before his death he married Lady Moore relict of Sir William Moore of Roscarbery, County Cork who had a great fortune.

We know the names of three of John's children. Of John the eldest nothing is known. I have seen genealogies of several families who claim descent from him but there is as yet no documentary proof.

The second son Colonel Alexander inherited Croghan, Convoy (which the Montgomerys bought from the Nesbitts of Tullydonnell) and Ballyconnell County Cavan. He was married to a daughter of Henry Percy of Seeskin County Wicklow but they had no family. According to his will dated 1729 she had predeceased him and was buried in Dublin. He willed his estates in Donegal to his cousin Tom eldest son of Alexander of Ballyleck but in a codicil he passed over Tom

and left his property to Tom's eldest son Alexander John. Later Alexander John -- known as Old Sandy -- became M.P. for County Donegal and was brother of General Richard Montgomery killed at Quebec New Years Eve 1775.

Colonel Alexander also stipulated in his will that the same person couldn't inherit the Donegal and Cavan estates.

Colonel Alexander had a sister Margaret who was married to Rev. George Leslie of Clonreish. To their son George, Colonel Alexander willed his property in Cavan and Fermanagh provided he take the name Montgomery and again stressed that the Donegal and Cavan properties must be held by different persons. Margaret's son George took the Montgomery name. He built Ballyconnell House and was M.P. for Cavan County for many years. He married Hannah Clements sister of Robert Lord Leitrim. They had three daughters and one son George who was insane and thus unable to inherit.

Colonel Alexander of Convoy's will also shows that he had property in Arbor Hill and Dolphin's Barn in Dublin. He granted legacies to several relatives including £100 per year to his cousin Tom's wife -- formerly Mary Franklin.

The parents of Tom, Alexander and Elizabeth of Ballyleck and their descendants deserve an article of their own.



## **The Montgomerys of Ballyleck and Convoy**

*by  
Helen Montgomery Meehan*

Alexander, the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of John of Croghan, married Elizabeth Cole of Ballyleck. According to the Survey and Distribution Books of the 1660's Thomas Cole had an extensive estate in Co. Monaghan. When Alexander married the heiress he settled in Co. Monaghan and became M.P. for the County. He discarded the arms of the Hessilhead Branch of the family and adopted the arms of Eglington. Alexander had 2 sons Tom and Alexander. He disinherited Tom the elder for marrying Mary Franklyn without his consent. In his will he wrote, "To my son Tom undutiful and disobedient only one shilling and no more."

Alexander's second son John inherited Ballyleck instead of Tom. He became an M.P. for the County and commanded a Regiment of Horse in the wars of the Austrian Succession. He married Mary, daughter of Dr Cox - a maid of honour to Queen Ann. He left 2 sons, John the elder died a few months after his father and was succeeded by his brother Alexander.

Alexander, son of John, was M.P. for Monaghan for over 40 years. He was a General in the Volunteers. His first wife was a daughter of Col. Hugh Willoughby Montgomery of Carrow, M.P. Co. Monaghan - a descendent of the Viscounts of the Great Ards. They had four sons. On the death of his first wife he married Eleanora, daughter and co-heiress of Acheson Moore of Garvey, Co. Tyrone. Their son Nat assumed the name Moore and their descendants were known as the

Montgomery-Moores of Garvey. There is a memorial tablet to Elenora, wife of Alexander Montgomery, in Worcester Cathedral in England.

John, son of Alexander, succeeded his father as M.P. for the county and Colonel of the County Militia. Both he and his younger brother Rev. Robert married the daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Tipping of Beaulieu. In this way the Beaulieu property came into possession of the Montgomery family. When John died without issue Rev. Robert succeeded to Ballyleck. He had already built Ballyleck House and was the last of the Montgomerys to be buried in Kilmore. Rev. Robert was buried in Monaghan where he was Rector at the time of his death. He had a large family - his second son Thomas, a captain in the Royal Navy, married his kinswoman Judith Susan, daughter of Robert Montgomery of Convoy House, Co. Donegal.

Thomas Montgomery M.P.

Captain Thomas who was disinherited by his father represented the Borough of Lifford, Co. Donegal, in Parliament. It is not known by those who state the Montgomery family never prospered in Ireland - or at least never prospered after the demise of the Montgomerys of Mt. Alexander, that in the second half of the 18th century the counties of Donegal, Monaghan, Tyrone, Cavan and Down were all represented by Montgomerys in Parliament and the Archdalls who were originally Montgomerys represented Fermanagh. At one time there were 9 Montgomerys in Parliament. Tom managed Ballyleck for its owner. He lived in various places in Donegal and

Dublin. He was living in Kildare Street, Dublin, when his wife died April 1758.

In his will Col. Alexander of Convoy first willed his property to Tom but in a codicil Tom was passed over in favour of his eldest son Alexander John - later known as Old Sandy. When Tom was making his own will he only gave Alexander John a token share as he was already well provided for. The remainder of his estate was divided by the other three members of his family, John, Richard and Sarah. John known as John of Lisbon of whom little is known died in 1786.

Richard was the famous hero of the American Revolutionary War who died trying to storm Quebec on New Years Eve 1775 and Sarah was married to Charles Jones, 4th Viscount Ranelagh.

Various branches of the Montgomery family claim descent from other family of Tom's but there is no documentary proof that he had any other family.

"Old Sandy" M.P.

Alexander John eldest son of Tom was a Captain in the 43rd Regiment and served some time in America - he was stationed at or near the St. Laurant River before returning home in 1748. Later he became Colonel of the Raphoe Volunteers and was present at the Convention of Dungannon in 1782.

He represented Co. Donegal in Parliament for 32 years. He was a disciple of Flood's doctrine of Renunciation and believed that the island of Ireland should be ruled by a Parliament in Dublin without interference from London. He was always suspect in Government circles.

# Genealogy

In 1773 he was said to be "extremely popular and very flighty". In 1782 he was reported to be an "impracticable and dangerous man". It was frequently noted too that he was a brother of General Richard. Old Sandy was extremely popular with all classes of people. He was made a Freeman of Derry in 1794.

The late 1700's was the "Age of the Duel" and Old Sandy fought some famous ones. A ballad about his sporting interests and exploits called "Montgomery's Mare" ended with the lines,

Come says Montgomery before we sit down

We'll divide our bets on the poor of the town

Here's a health to Montgomery and likewise his fame

He's a credit to the country, likewise to his name".

After the 1798 Rebellion the Government decided to unite Britain and Ireland under one Parliament. Titles and cash were offered as inducements to those Irish M.P.s who would vote their Parliament out of existence. Despite these inducements Old Sandy voted against the Union. He was dead by the time the Union became law on New Year's Day 1801. He is buried in Raphoe and government sources noted that this "veteran radical" was succeeded in Parliament by a more moderate man.

In his will Old Sandy left Convoys and the rest of his estate to his cousin Robert, son of his Uncle Robert of Bradrim and his wife Sarah Maxwell of Falkland, Co Monaghan. This Robert built the present Convoys House which

showed complete disregard for the Window Tax by having many windows.

In the report of the North West Society in 1821 it is noted "at the west end of Convoys stands the dwelling of Robert Montgomery Esq., a gent of great respectability and highly esteemed. He is successor of the famed Captain Alexander Montgomery late of Convoys, who made great improvements in his time by planting and enclosing where the dwelling now stands. In Drumgamerland he had a large demesne where he kept his livestock which is now greatly enlarged by his successor and who even purchased another estate near to his dwelling in order to beautify it by planting."

Robert married Frances daughter of George Fraser of Cuba House, Co. Laois and when he died in 1833 he was succeeded by his son Robert who was married to Maria Stewart of Ards, daughter of Alexander, a brother of Lord Londonderry. He was succeeded by his son Robert George. The names of all these Montgomerys feature largely in local and national politics - as members of Grand Juries, Sheriffs of the county, etc. Robert George wasn't married, his sister Mary Elizabeth married Rev Charles Boyton who died of fever when visiting a parishioner in 1844. Rev Boyton was a famous Orangeman - indeed the Irish politician Daniel O'Connell referred to him as "Bully Boyton". On the death of Robert George his nephew Rev. Charles Boyton succeeded to the Convoys property.

Today Convoys House is uninhabited but it still looks a splendid building with its many windows surrounded by trees and parkland. It recalls a bygone age.

## An Obituary of Hugh Montgomery 12th Earl of Eglinton

*From Gentlemen's Magazine, 1819*

Dec. 14. At Eglinton Castle, Ayrshire, the Right Hon. Hugh Montgomery, Earl of Eglinton, Lord Montgomery and Kilwinning (Baron Ardrossan, in Great Britain), Knight of the Most Ancient Order of the Thistle, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, one of the State Councillors of the Prince of Wales, &c. His Lordship was the son of Alexander Montgomery, esq., of Coilsfield, by Lillias, daughter of Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmorlie, and was born in 1739. He married Eleanora, daughter of J. Hamilton, esq., of Bourtreehill, who died in 1817. By this lady he had several children, only two of whom are living, Lady Lillias Oswald, and Lady Jane. His Lordship is succeeded in his titles and estates by his grandson, Archibald, born on the 29th of September 1812, only son of Archibald Lord Montgomery by Lady Mary, only surviving daughter of Archibald, the eleventh Earl of Eglinton. The late Earl was long in the Army, and during the American War, was Major of the West Fencibles. When the War broke out with France in 1793, he raised and commanded that fine regiment, the West Lowland Fencibles, which command he resigned after several years service. He succeeded his cousin Archibald, as Earl of Eglinton in 1796. The death of this patriotic Nobleman will be much regretted, as he gave employment to a great number of people on his estates, which he has much improved since he came to the title.

The paternal name of this family was *Seton*, of which paternal name was also the ancestor of the Duke of Gordon, at the close of the fourteenth century.

## **“EGLINTOUN” and RORY DALL O’CAHAN**

by

**Helen Montgomery Meehan**

*National Vice President for Ireland*

### **EGLINTOUN**

*Upon the gate of Eglintoun,  
There came an aged man  
Blind eyes in him and lame each limb.  
His face for sickness wan;  
Across his bent and feeble back  
An Irish harp was slung,  
Then to the Lord of Eglintoun  
This sad lament was sung.*

*‘Tis many a year since I rode here  
In festive garb arrayed,  
A minstrel from Dungannon’s Court  
To Scotland’s chiefs I played—  
Through glen and isle I strayed a while,  
And in this castle grand,  
The lady fair of Eglintoun,  
In welcome gave her hand.*

*By fortune strange, how great the change,  
When homeless, landless, blind.  
With harp in hand I roamed the land,  
An exiles bread to find.  
Though nought could heal thy loss, O’Neill  
Yet gentle friends had I  
In kindly Castle Eglintoun,  
So here I’ve come to die.*

The above poem is the work of Alice Milligan, an Irish poetess of Methodist stock who was prominent during the Irish Revival of the late 1890’s. The air is attributed to Rory Dall O’Cahan and tells part of the life story of this blind minstrel. The Irish word ‘Dall’ means blind.

The nine years war, which was the last stand of the Gaelic chiefs of Ulster against the encroaching Elizabethan army, was waged from 1594-1603. Hugh O’Neill of Dungannon was the leader and on his first visit to Eglintoun, Rory O’Cahan may have been an envoy from O’Neill. The lady of the castle mistook him for a professional musician and insulted him by asking for a tune in a somewhat peremptory manner. O’Cahan declined to play and left at once. Her ladyship, on being told of his true identity, was filled with remorse and hastily despatched messengers to beseech him to return as she was anxious for reconciliation. O’Cahan graciously agreed and the incident inspired the famous composition: “Tabhair demh do Laimh” or “Give me you hand”.

After the defeat of O’Neill and the Irish chieftains, the subsequent Treaty of Mellifont made it safer for Rory to remain in Scotland as a professional minstrel. Some mystery surrounds Rory’s life in that country because Scottish Tradition tells only of a blind musician known as Rory Dall Morrison. Two explanations are given as to why he changed his name. The O’Cahan’s were a prominent Irish clan in County Derry so perhaps his proud spirit

forbade his living in this dependant way as an O’Cahan and he may have taken the name of Morrison.

The other explanation deals with the Parliamentary War in Scotland. In the Rising of Montrose his most famous victories were achieved by Alistair McDonnell’s swordsmen and his band was largely made up of O’Cahan clansmen. After the fall of Montrose the name of O’Cahan would hardly have been a safe one for an old wandering minstrel and he may have taken the name of Morrison.

From the Montgomery point of view the most intriguing questions is “Who was the countess who featured in the early episode and had a song composed in her honour and who was the countess there during his later visits and at the time of his death?”

Hugh the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglintoun had only held the title for less than a year when he was assassinated beside “the Brook of Annick” by the Cunninghams of Kilmaur. He was succeeded by his son Hugh who became the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl. He married his cousin Margaret Montgomerie – daughter of his Uncle Robert of Griffin in the early 1600s so it is likely that she was the lady of the Manor when Rory Dall “rode here in festive garb arrayed”.

Margaret and Hugh were divorced later in the 1600s – they had no family and Hugh willed his title and property to the family of his Aunt Margaret who had married Robert Seton, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Winton.

On Hugh’s death in 1612, Alexander – son of Margaret and Robert – became the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl taking the arms and name Montgomerie. Alexander was known also by the sobriquet “Greystee” but that is another story.

Alexander’s first wife was Anna Levingstoun, daughter of the Earl of Linlithgow who was maid of honour to Anne of Denmark, Queen of James 6<sup>th</sup> – later James 1<sup>st</sup> of England. Alexander’s second wife was Margaret, daughter of Lord Buccleuch and widow of the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Ross. By the time Hugh the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl married Lady Mary Leslie, daughter of the Earl of Rothes in 1661, Rory Dall O’Cahan was dead. So the lady of Eglintoun on his later visits, must have been Anna, the first wife or Margaret, the second wife of Alec Seton Montgomerie, the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl.

Mrs. C. Milligan Fox – sister of Alice Milligan – in her volume entitled “Songs of the Irish Harpers” published a poem, which dealt with the career and compositions of Rory Dall. This anonymous author wrote words for the air of a song which ended:

*Farewell, my gentle harp, farewell,  
Thy master’s toils are nearly o’er  
These chords that wont with joy to swell  
Shall thrill no more.*

## Reverend James Montgomery—Rector of Inniskeel

His Daughter's Elopement with O'Boyle of Maghera

By

Helen Montgomery Meehan—Irish National Representative

The story of the coming of Robert Montgomery, a descendant of Hugh of Bowhouse and Auchinhood, to South Donegal at the end of the 17th century was published in the CMSI News Magazine in 1996-1998. This is a continuation of that story.

### Robert of Brentar

Robert, who died in 1711, was succeeded by his son Alexander, who was married to Anne, daughter of James Phillips, Rector of Killymard Parish. Alexander had four sons: James the Archdeacon, who succeeded him, Alexander, ancestor of the Montgomery's of the Hall, Hugh and Robert, known as Robert Cranny. Before 1798 when the present Drumbeg House was built, the family lived in a house usually known as Cloverhill, which was nearer the sea than the present building.

### Rev. James—the Archdeacon

The Rev. James married Dorothy Coddington from Drogheda, Co. Louth. Her family had come to Ireland early in the 17th century, at first meeting near Skerries. On maps of G. Taylor and A. Skinner, published 1777, Rev. James Montgomery is written as owner of Cloverhill and occupier of the Glebe House in Inniskeel Parish. In *Post Chaise Companion*, 1768 we read "On the river of Inver is Cloverhill, the seat of Rev. James Montgomery." When Tyner toured Donegal in 1794 he noted that two miles from Mountcharles on the east bank of Inver River is Cloverhill, seat of James Montgomery.

Different publications list five conflicting dates for the years he served in the various parishes. According to Pat Conahags History he was said to be Curate in Killybegs in 1754-55. According to the Parliamentary Returns for Raphoe Diocese 1766 he was then Rector of Inver. He is listed as a Curate in Inver in "Leslie's Clergy" for the same year. His next appointment seems to have been Killymard, but he resigned Killymard in 1770 for Inniskeel. He was collated as an Archdeacon on 25th February, 1783.

His name appears frequently in the Grand Jury Presentments, both in the areas where he served as Rector and in his home area of Inver. James the Archdeacon died in 1797. On his tombstone in the family plot in Old Inver is inscribed:

*"Underneath are deposited the remains of the Rev. Archdeacon James Montgomery and of his wife Dorothea Montgomery. The former departed this life on the 11th of November 1797 age 73 years. The latter on the 13th of the same month and year aged 67 having survived her husband by two days."*

Reverend James was succeeded by his son Rev. Alexander.

### The Elopement

In Pre-Plantation times the O'Boyle family owned much land in south west Donegal. After the Plantation one branch became tenants on the Murray Estate at Maghera in the Parish of Inniskeel. In the 17th and 18th centuries one of the most famous fairs in the North of Ireland was held at Maghermore in the same parish. One of the most interesting and intriguing stories about the fair tells the story of the elopement of young O'Boyle of Maghera with the Rector's daughter. There are several versions of the elopement story—the late Paddy McGill published one of them in the Donegal Democrat in 1965. Most versions do not name the rector—McGill states that rector was James Montgomery. According to all these stories the rector's daughter met O'Boyle, who was riding a very fine horse, at the fair. When she was asked that night about the young man she was talking to at the fair, she said he was the son to the Donegal minister.

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Her father knew that that gentleman had only daughters so his suspicions were aroused. She was watched and the day she slipped out and joined O'Boyle in a nearby wood the men of the household followed them. O'Boyle directed his horse toward Brackey and fled into the house of An Clarcach Mor, a Protestant farmer. The pursuers were refused admittance by An Clarcach and the girl told her relatives to go home without her—she had made her choice. Another version says O'Boyle's horse jumped the river at Brackey while the minister's horse refused, and it was thus that they got away safely to Maghera. McGill's story concludes, "the fair stranger was received with open arms by the head of the family and a ceili was held to celebrate the occasion. Out of respect for her, the eldest son relinquished his claim to the family homestead at Maghera and betook himself to Owenteskna where he became the ancestor of a long line of the O'Boyles."

### Sequels

There are several different sequels to this story in the School Folklore Collection in Dublin [1937-1938]. Indeed some of them raise more questions than they answer. Some say that Miss Montgomery was pursued by her three brothers, but the Archdeacon had only one son, Rev. Alexander. However the Archdeacon had three brothers—so it is possible that the girl was his sister, not his daughter. Only two daughters of his are mentioned in records—Hannah, who lived with the Rev. Alexander and his wife Dorothy, married Rev. Samuel Law, Rector of Garten. If she were a sister of the Archdeacon the time frame for the story would be earlier, which would account for little details known about the son who became a priest. According to Dr. Maguire "for two centuries the Parish Priest of West Inniskeel was an O'Boyle." Before Maynooth College was opened in 1795 students had to travel to the Continent for their education, and only those who were comparatively wealthy could afford to do so. The O'Boyles were said to be involved in the lucrative smuggling to the Continent. Under English law wool could not be shipped there directly, so the people felt justified in ignoring the law and making their own arrangements to help them survive. Clerical students often travelled to and from the Continent of these boats. In his *History of Ardara* Paddy McGill writes, "tradition has preserved many references to the O'Boyle priests of Maghera but seldom enough to make us distinguish one from another."

Some versions of the story in the Folklore Collection say that the girl became a Catholic, and indeed some contend that the Bishop came to baptize her and then marry them. All versions agree that when their son grew up he became a priest. His grandfather, the minister, on hearing that his grandson was become a priest, invited him to Mountcharles for a meal. It was a Friday and meat was served for dinner. When the young priest saw this he prayed and the meat was turned into fish. The household was so impressed by this miracle that they all "turned" or converted.

Neither James the Archdeacon or his only son Rev. Alexander became converts. Neither did the other known Montgomeries of the time. John, who died in 1798, or Hugh who died in 1817. All these are buried in Old Inver. But Robert of Cranny had a son Robert whose name has vanished from the records. One can but wonder if the story of the conversion is connected to him. Those who converted in those times disappeared from Peerage books, gentry lists, and Church of Ireland records. There were few Roman Catholic records kept in the 18th century.

Parts of this article by Helen Meehan Montgomery have been published in:

*The Donegal Annual* 1992—"The Montgomery's and the Sinclair's and Drumbeg House

*Ardara View* 2002, "Reverend James Montgomery—Rector of Inniskeel"

*North Irish Roots*—"From Normandy to Northern Ireland", Belfast, 1999

### Old Scots Saying....

*Whiskey may not cure the common cold....but it fails more agreeably than most other things.*

## Montgomeries in South Africa

By

Helen Montgomery Meehan

During a recent visit to South Africa I visited the historic town of Stellenbosch. Founded in 1679 by the Dutch Governor Simon van der Stel, the town lies at the heart of the winelands and is its cultural jewel. It's known for its university, the first Afrikaans-language institution of higher education to have been established in the country, and for having the largest number of Cape Dutch houses of any town of the region.

The Cape Dutch Burgermuis Museum has many exhibits from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries—furniture, paintings and artifacts of porcelain and glassware. A bookcase in one of the rooms had a volume entitled, "The Family Register of the South African Nation" by Mulherre. I quickly turned to the Montgomery page and found the following entries:

*Hubert Thomas Montgomery (1880-1959) arrived from London in 1902. Married on 12/19/1906 Jacoba Helena du Toit (born 1888)—issue:*

1. *Ina Nora Cathleen - 5/12/1907- married Johnny Pretorius — family — Nora, Kathleen, Herman and Bertha*
2. *Mercia Ruperta – 1/12/1911 – married Andre du Toit July 1932 – family – Andre Ena who married Lucas Niemand*
3. *Bertha Helena – 2/28/1913 – married Gideon Pieharr in November 1942 – family - Lidia, Schalk and Gideon*
4. *Doris Ellis – 1916-1960 – married the late George Woodford in June 1945*
5. *Stanley James – 1919-1922*
6. *Jonny Hubert – April 1923 – married Rita Davis in 1948 – family – Hubert, Henry, Hanna, Lisa and Desire*
7. *Rachael Rhoda – August 1927 – Married J de K. Saayman in September 1955 – family – Louise, Helen and Bernardus*
8. *Stanley James – August 1927 – married Mary Thomas in 1953 – family – Peter and Marlene Doris*
9. *Hubert Ralph – June 1932 – married Hester Sus Leeuwner in 1955 – family Leone, Hubert, Thomas and Estelle*

*Edward Montgomery arrived from Greenock in 1819. He married in English Church in Capetown on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 1819 to Catherine Margaret Slaak.*

*Will Stone Montgomery, born 1908, married Gertrude Florence Wallen in February 1935. They had 2 children.*

*John Montgomery, born at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Dublin, Ireland, married a Miss Van Syh.*

### Captain Alexander Nixon Montgomery

The other entry was the only one with a familiar name – it was Captain Alexander Nixon Montgomery – born in Ireland in 1839. He married Istere Alicia, daughter of S. Atruth, in Gibraltar in 1861 and arrived in Natal in 1872.

This Alexander Nixon Montgomery belonged to the Montgomery family of Bessmount who were descended from Alexander Prebend of Do (see articles in CMSI Magazine September 1999 and March and September 2000.) Alexander of Bessmount Park (Monaghan), son of Robert of Anarea, left two daughters as heiresses. The elder, Mary, married in 1758 to Alexander Nixon of Nixon Hall, County Fermanagh. Their second son Alexander assumed the name of Montgomery and married in 1807 to Eliza,

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daughter of Arthur Stanley. Alexander and Eliza had a large family – six sons and four daughters. Their 5<sup>th</sup> son Handcock married on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1838 Alicia, daughter of David Verner and niece of Sir William Verner. According to Burke's "Landed Gentry of Ireland" (1912), she died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May, 1839 leaving an only son, Alexander Nixon – later a Captain in the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers. This is the Alexander Nixon listed in the "Family Register of the South African Nation".

### Cape Town

The following day I explored Cape Town where the Dutch Van Riebeeck established the first European settlement in 1652. In the center of the city the beautiful Company Gardens provide a restful oasis for the weary traveler.

The Gardens were first laid out under the instruction of the Dutch East India Company, who wanted to provide a midway victualling station for its ships on their way to the East. Van Riebeeck planted patches of cabbages, potatoes, turnips and grains. As a doctor he knew how valuable wine and brandy could be in staving off the sailor's curse of scurvy, so he planted grapes as well.

Grouped around the gardens are the prominent museums – The South African Museum, The Jewish Museum, and the South African National Gallery. The current acquisitions policy is now biased against "Eurocentrism" and towards indigenous art. But it had, during the apartheid era, built up an impressive collection of mainly Western art, including works by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Rodin.

The most prominent work of Joshua Reynolds – I thought, anyway – was a portrait of Alexander Montgomery the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton. A short printed explanation beside the portrait told us that it cost the Earl 200 guineas to have this portrait painted and to put it in perspective it added that the yearly wage of a farm labourer at the time was 20 guineas. It also quoted Boswell's "He loved wit more than wine and men of genius more than sycophants."

Alexander was killed soon after the portrait was painted.

### Alexander – 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton

Alexander the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton was son of Alexander the 9<sup>th</sup> Earl, a Privy Councillor to King William and Queen Anne, a Commander of the Treasury, and a Representative Peer (1710-1715). Alexander married three times – his son Alexander later the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl, was the son of his third wife Susan, daughter of Sir Archibald Kennedy of Culzean, Ayrshire, and was born in February 1723.

Alexander 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton was only six years old when his father died. The 9<sup>th</sup> Earl left a long letter for his son to read when he was about fourteen years of age, and to be read weekly thereafter. His father reminded him to honor his mother, to beware of flatterers and gamblers. He advised him not to marry an Englishwoman who would be likely to spend his money as well as her own. He must have foreseen that another Jacobite Rebellion was a possibility, and suggests that in order not to be involved in any such conflict, his son should live abstractly at home managing his own affairs and avoid the life of the Court.

The young Earl and his brother Archibald were educated at the Grammar School in Irvine, and later at Haddington. The Earl continued his studies at Winchester. At nineteen years of age the Earl went to Paris with a tutor and learned dancing, riding and fencing. He does not seem to have become involved in the troubles of the '45, but at a later date certainly did not avoid public life. In 1759 he was appointed Governor of Dumbarton Castle and on the accession of George III in 1760, was appointed one of the

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Lords of the Bedchamber, which office he held for seven years.

He paid as great attention to local matters as to his own private interests. Under the act for abolishing heritable jurisdictions passed in 1748, the Earl received for relinquishing the Sherriffship of Renfrewshire £5000, for the regality of Cunninghame £2000, and for the bailliary of Killwinning £800. He spent much time and money on the improvement of his own estates, and by his example contributed much to the improvement of agriculture in Ayrshire. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 1769 he was killed by Mungo Campbell, formerly an officer in the Army and then an officer of the excise, whom his Lordship found trespassing upon his lands. The Earl insisted Campbell deliver up a gun with which he was armed; in the dispute the Earl was mortally wounded, and died within a few hours. At the time of his death the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl was engaged to be married to Jane, daughter of Sir John Maxwell of Pollock Maxwell, widow of James Montgomerie of Lainshaw. He was then 46 years of age. He was succeeded by his brother Archibald who became 11<sup>th</sup> Earl.

### The Bailey Connection

This portrait in Cape Town forms part of the Bailey Collection. Sir Abe Bailey was born in South Africa of British parents who made a fortune in mining in South Africa. He was educated in England and had homes in both countries. He collected paintings of sporting scenes and portraits by British artists such as Ramsey, Reynolds and Gainsborough. Before his death in 1906, he donated his collection to the National Gallery of South Africa. So the portrait of Alexander the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton hangs in Cape Town far from Eglinton, Ayrshire and

*"Ye banks and braes and streams around  
The Castle of Montgomerie".*

## Bus Trip to Famous Fort Planned for AGM

Fort Ticonderoga was built in 1755 by Michael Chartier de Lotbinière. Governor-General Vaudreuil, whose idea it was to build a fort, thought that it would protect the water highways that served their fur trade network. Construction on the new fort began in the fall of that year. Through the years to come Fort Ticonderoga would serve as a major asset to the outcome of the Revolutionary War.

In the spring of 1775 as the British pushed north into what was formerly known as French Territory, Governor-General Vaudreuil anticipated an attack on the French settlements in the Champlain Valley. To prevent this from happening, the Governor-General hired Michael Chartier to begin constructing a fort that would protect the valley. The fort was to be built between Lake Champlain and Lake George. Construction began in the fall of that year and wasn't completed until nearly two summers later. The new fort, which the French called Carillon, was a star-shaped building with wooden walls that were filled with dried mud. It was then covered with stone quarried from a nearby valley. Inside the fort were several buildings including barracks, which could hold up to 400 men, and a large powder magazine.

In 1757 French General Montcalm used Fort Carillon as a base for his siege of Fort William Henry. Although the French won the battle they had little time to celebrate, for only a few months later British General Abercromby led an army of 16,000 British troops north towards Carillon. After seeing the invading British, the French army of 3,500 blew up the magazine and fled the Fort. General Abercromby then took over the fort, rebuilt the magazine, and re-named it Fort Ticonderoga, meaning land between two waters.

The British only kept the fort for a few months. Soon after, a band of green mountain boys lead by Ethan Allen seized the fort on the night of May tenth. The British gave up without a single shot being fired.

<http://members.tripod.com/~FortTic/Fort.html>

See page 22 for trip details.

## A Visit to Beaulieu House

By  
Helen Montgomery Meehan

The Irish Genealogical Society visited Beaulieu House on their annual outing in 2003, and I joined them on this visit to one of the principal Montgomery houses in Ireland.

Beaulieu House, in County Louth, is situated on the banks of the river Boyne—three miles from Drogheda. The house, which was probably designed by a Dutch architect, is described in “Burke’s Guide to Country Houses” as “The finest and best preserved house of the second half of the 17th century in Ireland; and one of the first country houses to be built in Ireland without any fortification.”

### Owners of Beaulieu

The family name had changed from Tichbourne to Aston and then to Tipping by the mid 18th century. The two daughters and co-heiresses of Thomas Tipping married two sons of Alexander Montgomery M.P. of Ballyleck, and thus the property came into the Montgomery family.

This Montgomery family was descended from Alexander the Poet (see articles in CMSI issues in 2000 on that family — “John Montgomery of Croghan and his Descendants” and “The Montgomery’s of Ballyleck and Convoy”.) Colonel John Montgomery of Ballyleck married Salisbury, the elder Tipping daughter, but they had no family.

The younger Tipping daughter, Sophia Mabella, married Reverend Robert Montgomery the Rector of Monaghan, and the Montgomery’s of Beaulieu are his descendants. There is a memorial to Rev. Robert on the church built on the Beaulieu property. We visited the church during the tour and saw the Montgomery graves in the adjoining churchyard.



There are portraits in Beaulieu of the Tichbourne, Robinson, Tipping and Aston families as well as the royal portraits of James 2nd and King William of Orange and his wife Queen Mary. But to me the most interesting portraits were the Montgomery portraits.

There are portraits there of the “founding fathers” of the Beaulieu family. Colonel Alexander Montgomery MP of Ballyleck, who firstly married Catherine, the daughter and heiress of Col. Hugh Montgomery Willoughby of Carron, Co. Fermanagh. There are also portraits of the following generations including Rev. Robert and his son the Reverend Alexander Montgomery.

I found the oldest portraits to be the most interesting. These include two sons of Col. Alexander Montgomery M.P and his wife Mary Cole of Ballyleck. The older Thomas was disinherited by his father for marrying without consent—in his will he referred to Thomas as “my son undutiful and

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*(Continued from page 9)**Montgomery's of Fermanagh*

who married Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Gordon of Feltrim Dublin.

**Hugh** (4) was born in 1739, married Mary the daughter of Archibald Acheson, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount, Gosford, Co Armagh in 1788. They lived at Castle Hume near Enniskillen, which he rented from the Earl of Ely, and had a son also called Hugh (5), born in 1789, married Maria Delores Plink, and started the Montgomery's of Blessingbourne, Fivemiletown, Co Tyrone. The last Montgomery of this line was Captain Peter Montgomery, who died unmarried in the 1980's. His nephew Captain Peter Lowry and family now occupy the house at Blessingbourne. This was the last of that grand line of Montgomery's, as the main line of the family was now called Archdale. Castle Archdale was occupied by the military during the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war, and the last Archdale to live there was a descendant called Dennis who came back from New Zealand in the 1960's. Whether it was beyond repair or too expensive to maintain I don't know, but he had the old Castle demolished and later sold the estate, before going to live in England. Castle Archdale is presently a caravan park and marina on the shore of Lough Erne.

*(Continued from page 10)**A Visit to Beaulieu House*

Disobedient" and willed him "one shilling and no more".

The most famous Montgomery whose portrait hangs there is undoubtedly Thomas' son, General Richard Montgomery, who fought for the American army and was killed at the Battle of Quebec on New Year's Eve 1775. The portrait was painted after his death, and his sister Lady Ranelagh sat for the portrait.

(General Richard's life story has been published in the CMSI magazine by Helen Montgomery Meehan. The article was "General Richard Montgomery of Quebec" in Vol. 20, No 1 2002.)



*At left is the churchyard at Beaulieu House. The opening times are as follows: 11 am-5 pm Monday through Friday, May until the end of September. Weekends are reserved for coach tours and groups. A tour of Beaulieu House would make an excellent stop for any Montgomery touring Ireland.*

*(Continued from page 15)**DNA Testing as a Genealogy Tool*

Another result of this testing is the determination of your ethnic origin, or haplotype. If you want to know more about DNA testing, there are a number of websites that you can visit, including <http://www.familytreeDNA.com/>. There is also an article on the subject at Section A, page 8 of the February-March issue of The Family Tree newsletter.

*Ed. Note: In the next issue of the News Magazine, John will discuss the results of his own DNA testing.*

## The Bishop of Raphoe — Part 1

By Helen Montgomery Meehan, Irish National Representative

*Editors Note: This article is part 1 of Helen Meehan's article, "When Raphoe First Had Two Bishops," which was originally printed in the Donegal Annual, The Journal of the Donegal Historical Society, in 2002. Helen relates the story of Bishop George Montgomery, and the plantation of County Down in Ireland.*

### The Diocese of Raphoe

The diocese of Raphoe covers most of County Donegal in northwest Ulster. The names and dates for the Bishops of Raphoe given in Dr. Maguire's "History of the Diocese" differ from those in the "MSS Register of Bishops of Raphoe" in the British Museum, but at all times the diocese had only Bishop. This changed, however, during the episcopate of Niall O'Boyle, 1591-1611.

The Treaty of Mellifont (1603) brought the Nine Years War to an end and for the first time, the entire country of Ireland was firmly under English control. The Crown could then exercise Royal supremacy in spiritual as well as temporal matters, and appointed the first Bishop of the Established Church to northwest Ulster in 1604. This was George Montgomery, and on the 4th of May, 1606 Sir John Davies, the English Solicitor General in Ireland, expressed the hope that the new Bishop would "be a new St. Patrick among the Irish."

George Montgomery belonged to the Eglinton branch of the family. Robert, a grandson of the first Lord Montgomery (1444-49), was the first Laird of Braidstane. It was the descendants of Adam, the 5th Laird, and his wife Margaret, daughter of John Montgomery of Hellisheid, who first came and laid the foundation of the family fortune in Ireland. Margaret and Adam had four sons, Hugh, George, Patrick and John. George Montgomery was born c. 1569 in Braidstane. George attended a university, (possibly Glasgow College), where his eldest brother had spent some time. He had graduated by March 1596, when King James VI of Scotland identified him as a "magister" or university graduate, and asked Queen Elizabeth to denizen him as one of her subjects. In 1598 George was appointed Rector of Chedzoy or Cheddar in Somerset, and there he married Susan Steynings from a local gentry family. Susan's brother Richard was an Anglican clergyman.

The Braidstane family was very friendly with James VI of Scotland. George spent a lot of his time in London, and was frequently in touch with King James, keeping James informed of all matters at court which might have effect on his succession to the English throne. When Elizabeth died George and brother Hugh were in the party that traveled from Scotland to London with James, his family and court. James appointed George as one of his chaplains and provided him with a living of 200 pounds per annum.

In June 1603 James appointed George as Dean of Norwich. In an effort to gain inside knowledge of the activities of the Irish Clergy, the King then appointed George as Bishop of three Dioceses in north west Ulster, Raphoe and Clogher. This appointment came on February 15, 1604. The patent mandating his consecration was dated 13th June 1605. The following April, the King commissioned Bishop Montgomery to survey the church in Ulster.

**Part 2 of Helen Meehan's article will discuss, in greater detail, the life and works of George Montgomery, the Bishop of Raphoe.**

## The Bishop of Raphoe Part 2

By Helen Montgomery Meehan, Irish National Representative

*Ed. Note: This is the second part of the story of George Montgomery, Bishop of Raphoe. The article, "When Raphoe First Had Two Bishops," by Mrs. Meehan was first published in the "Donegal Annual, The Journal of the Donegal Historical Society" in 2002. Mrs. Meehan's comprehensive history of the Bishop begins here with Montgomery's appointment as Bishop and his survey of the church in Ulster.*

Although King James VI had appointed George Montgomery as Bishop of Raphoe in 1604, the patent mandating his consecration was dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1605. Yet by the following April, 1606, the Bishop had yet to travel to Ireland. By then, Sir John Davies and others were complaining about his delay in coming to take pastoral care of his diocese. Having been commissioned by the King to survey the church in Ulster, Montgomery left London en route to Ireland on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1606, and by October he and his family were settled in Derry. He immediately set about recovering church lands with such energy that those who complained of his delay in coming soon had cause to wish he hadn't. The Bishop spent much time in Dublin and was there when O'Doherty's Rebellion broke out in April 1608. Susan Montgomery (the Bishop's wife) was captured and held prisoner in Burt Castle until July, when she was rescued by General Wingfield at the end of the Rebellion. The Bishop's house and all of its contents, including his library and his wife's possessions, were either burned or carried off by the rebels. Three of Montgomery's best horses came into the possession of Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell, then the most powerful lord in Tyrconnell.

From his arrival in Ireland the Bishop immediately set about recovering church lands from anyone Irish or English who had possession of them. He sued Sir. Cahir O'Doherty of Innishaven for see lands that O'Doherty held beside Lough Swilley in the parish of Fahan. The Bishop issued warrants to Rory O'Donnell, who had been promised custodianship of the lands of dissolved monasteries. O'Donnell's expectations were not realized. In his efforts to regain the church land he claimed from Hugh O'Neill, the Earl of Tyrone, the Bishop got assistance from Donal Ballagh O'Cahan. O'Cahan entered into an agreement with Bishop Montgomery, offering to reveal to him the church lands in Tyrone's estates, on condition that Montgomery would secure him against O'Neill's vengeance, and assist O'Cahan in obtaining a grant of his own lands from the Crown. The Earl of Tyrone complained that his lands were being taken by the church, but Montgomery noted to the King that Tyrone labored to swallow up the whole Bishopric of Derry. In a letter to King James in 1607, Tyrone sought to remind James that much of the land the Bishop of Derry wanted to take as church lands had been restored to Tyrone by the King himself, and were in possession of Tyrone in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Derry was intended to be the main British stronghold in the Plantation and both the Lord Deputy Chichester and Earl of Salisbury—chief English minister of James I—didn't want a confrontation on the issue. They recommended to the King that Montgomery be given the diocese of Meath in the more affluent and more anglicized province of Leinster, and a more amenable Bishop be appointed to Derry. Eventually this was done, but by then Montgomery had secured 72,780 acres for the bishops and almost 20,000 acres in glebe for the clergy of the Established Church.

*Ed. Note: Part three of the Bishop of Raphoe will discuss Montgomery's further actions in securing lands for the church, and his appointment of other Montgomery family members to positions in Ireland. These members became the basis of several of the Irish Montgomery ancestors being researched by so many today.*

## The Bishop of Raphoe, Part 3

By Helen Montgomery Meehan

*In Parts 1 and 2 of the article, "The Bishop of Raphoe," Helen Meehan described the history and atmosphere of Ulster and England during the reign of James VI, and the politics surrounding the Bishop, George Montgomery.*

### Montgomery's Survey

On the 21st June 1609 Bishop Montgomery was appointed to a commission set up to distinguish between the ecclesiastical lands and lands belonging to the crown in the six escheated counties of Ulster. The Bishop was most anxious to retain the erenagh lands as part of lands belonging to the church. The erenaghs were the heads of septs who were tenants on ancient church lands. Often these septs were related to the saint who founded a church in a particular area. The erenagh was responsible for paying the rent of these lands to the Bishop and had other managerial duties to perform as well.

Bishop Montgomery was present at the Inquisition in Derry in August 1609 and much of the work was completed by February 1610.

The Bishop submitted 6 motions to the King. His first request was that all of the former church lands be awarded to Church of Ireland bishops. Secondly, he wanted church which had mistakenly been declared as forfeit to the crown since the attainder of the Irish lords be awarded to the bishops. Thirdly, he asked the King to endow all of the parish churches in the escheated counties with a convenient glebe derived from non-church lands confiscated by the crown. Fourthly, he recommended that the offices of rector and vicar be united in each parish so that the incumbent would enjoy two thirds of the parish tithes, the remaining third to be retained by the bishop, in order that the minister would have a sufficient income from the tithes and his glebe. Fifthly, Montgomery asked that the British undertakers and the "natives" be obliged to pay their tithes in kind, 'due to the church by the law of God and man.'

His final proposal was that Grammar Schools should be established in suitable places in Ulster for students who couldn't afford to attend Trinity College in Dublin. These were to be supported by grants of land at the Plantation. According to the project of Plantation 604 acres were to be equally allotted towards the maintenance of the two Free Schools, the one at Derry, the other at Donegal; and that the site of the Monastery there should be allotted to the Bishop of Raphoe for his Habitation, reserving convenient rooms for the School and Schoolmaster. Nothing came of this plan, however, chiefly because Bishop Montgomery was transferred to Meath in 1611.

### Plantation

In 1607 the Bishop obtained a license from the King to bring in ministers from Scotland to convert the people of his dioceses to "True Religion." He was also interested in bringing over planters to settle on the church lands. He had posters put up in many ports in Ayrshire as well as Glasgow and Greenock telling "at how easy rents he would set his church lands," and this drew many families to the ports that traded with Scotland—Derry, Donegal and Killybegs. Many of his own kindred followed him to Ireland.

*Mrs. Meehan concludes that had Bishop Montgomery "spent more time seeing to the spiritual matters, he would have secured less land for the Established Church. However, we have no way of knowing if he's thus would have gained for it any more souls."*

*In "Our Irish Presbyterian Heritage", F. Holmes wrote, 'Montgomery was more energetic in providing for the temporalities of the church than in evangelizing its Irish inhabitants—he took more pains to make the land Protestant than the people.'*

# The Montgomerys of Ballyshannon (Donegal)

By Helen Montgomery Meehan, Irish National Representative

The Braidstone Branch of the Montgomery family were to the fore in founding the family fortunes in Ireland (see articles in CMSI Magazines 1996.)

Hugh Montgomery, who came to Ulster in 1605, was a personal friend of James VI of Scotland, later James I of England. He became Viscount Montgomery of the Great Ardes when he was raised to the peerage in 1622. Hugh's brother George became the first Bishop of the Reformed Church in the three Dioceses of the North West of Ulster; Raphoe, Derry and Clogher in 1605 (see CMSI Magazine 1997 and 2004.) George Hill, in his Plantation of Ulster, tells us that as bishop, George Montgomery was very careful at settling preachers in parishes. One of these was a kinsman, Alexander Montgomery, whom he appointed Prebend of Doe in Donegal.

Bishop George also made contact with the captains of ships trading between the north of Ireland and the Scottish ports of Glasgow, Irwin, Laergs and Greenock. He had proclamations made in them all about the easy rents he would set for his church lands "which drew thither many families; amongst whom, one was Hugh Montgomery, his kinsman. Hugh was master of a vessel and also owner, who brought his wife, children and effects and were settled in Derrybrosk, near Enniskillen." For the encouragement of planters on church lands he obtained the king's orders to the governors, and an act of council thereon, that all the leases he made which were for 31 years, would not be taken from the planters (the planted) or their posterity, and the expiration of their term, but renewed to them as they held the same, they paying their bishop one year's rent for a renewal of their lease to the other 31 years, which was a very encouraging certainty for planters.

On the Bishop's lands in Killaghtee in South Donegal a family of Montgomerys were settled by the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. These were the ancestors of Montgomery of World War II fame.

## The Dunmuckrum Family

An Alex Montgomery from Ayr settled in Dunmuckrum in the extreme south of Donegal in 1610. He married Eleanor Dunlop whose family also came from Irvine. The families were already intermarried—Alan Dunlop's wife was Ann Montgomery of Ayr.

When the family first settled in South Donegal, they seemed to be tenants on the lands of Lord Ffolliot—a servitor from Leicestershire who had fought in the Nine Years War (1594-1603.) Later these lands were bought by the Hon. Will Connolly, Speaker in the House of Commons. In 1724 John Montgomery, son of John Montgomery bought the freehold of Dunmuckrum from Connolly.

John's son Hugh married Jane Gable of Rossory, Co. Fermanagh. Her family came from Ayr originally. Her father, Baptist Gamble, lived at the Graan near Enniskillen. Jane and Hugh's is the first family whose names have all come down to us. The eldest girl Magdalen married Rev. John Galt of Coleraine, Co. Derry. The first of the family to come to Ireland from Scotland was a John, who became Mayor of Coleraine in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The family were known as the Galts of Ballysally. Rev. John and Magdalen had a large family. Jane married Mn. Hansbro and Medea married Lieutenant Niochals of the Royal Navy. The other two girls married clergymen—Ann married Rev. Will Dinnen and Harriet married Rev. Mozes Paul.

Jane and Hugh's son John, who like his father Hugh signed the Pro-Union Petition of 1800, married Mary Ann, daughter of Rev. Jason Fiddes of Holywood, Co., Monaghan, Rector of Drmnsnat. The Fiddes family originally came to Fermanagh but moved to the Augnacloy area of Monaghan early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. John, usually

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Helen Montgomery Meehan

## The Gardien

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*Montgomerys of Ballyshannon*

known as John of Ashbrook, and Mary had two daughters who married into similar and lesser gentry families from the locality. Jane married Henry Coane of Higginstown in the same South Donegal parish. The Coanes were originally a Gaelic family, but some of them joined the Established Church and became part of the establishment joining the church, army, navy and becoming barristers.

Henry Coane, a barrister-at-law, was the son of Anthony Coane of Hgginstown and Martha Montgomery of the Hall, Mountcharles, daughter of Alex (+1796) and sister of Sir Henry C. Montgomery, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of the Hall (see CMSI Magazianes 1998.)

Mary, a sister of Anthony Coane, married a Tom Montgomery, proving that the same families frequently intermarried.

Sea bathing became fashionable in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and this increased the value of property in seaside towns like Bundoran. An advertisement in the *Enniskillen Chrinicale* and *Erne Packet* of 1820 tells us:

### SEA BATHING

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TO BE LET,

*From the first of May next, ready furnished,  
For the Summer, or such Terms as may be agreed on;  
MRS.COANE'S HOUSE, at Bundoran—  
It is in excellent repair, and consists of one large  
Parlour, and four Bed-Chambers, with Servants'  
Apartments, a Garden, and Stabling for four Horses.  
The tenants can be accommodated with Grass.  
Bundoran, April 4, 1820*

The other daughter, Martha Ann, married David Crawford, son of Sam of Stonewold, Ballyshannon. The Crawford Family had come from Ayrshire early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century—some of them settled in Killymard, west of Donegal Town. Some later moved to the Ballyshannon area. One of them (in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) married a descendant of Allan Dunlop of Ayr, whose wife was Ann Montgomery, previously mentioned.

David and Martha Ann had four children—two sons and two daughters. The heir, Robert Montgomery Crawford, served in South Africa and became Commissioner of the Cape Mounted Police. He married a daughter of Capt. E Feddes of Holywood, Co. Monaghan—these families were already intermarried. The residence of the family in Burke's Landed Gentry in 1904 is given as Cape Town, South Africa and their seat as Dunmuckrum, Ballyshannon. Dunmuckrum House was sold in 1918.

### Montgomerys of Newtown

John Montgomery of Ashbrook died in 1848. In the 1825 Tithe list, John is listed as owning 35 acres in Dunmuckrum. A Matthew Montgomery is listed as owning 41 acres in the same town land. We don't exactly know how Matthew and John were related. A will of Matthew described as Gentleman and dated 1793, tells us that he had three brothers—Robert, George and James, who according to A. Lett's Directory of Ireland, lived in Seaview, Bundoran in 1814. Two illegitimate children are mentioned in the will—Eleanor and a William who lived in Carricknahorna. According to the Registrar of Deeds William lived in Carricknahorna in 1768, a Catherine died there in 1857 and a William died in 1890.

Matthew (died 1793) had a son Matthew who married Elizabeth Gilmore. The Gilmore family were from north Co. Sligo. In the "Ballyshannon Almanac", "Pigots Directory", etc. Matthew is listed in the GENTRY section until 1830. From then he is listed in the "Merchant and Traders" section and was stated to be an Auctioneer. The local "Ballyshannon Herald" and "Derry Journal" give his name as auctioneer in many gentry sales in South Donegal and further afield. In the 1840s these included the Meenavalley Estate of Alan Murray, Murvagh Glebe House and the Glebe House of the Rev. Alex Montgomery of Inver (see CMSI Magazine 1997.)

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Matthew had three daughters. One of these, Mary, married Chris Nelson, a merchant of Ballyshannon in 1868. The names of the three are listed in the "For Sale" notices stating that the lands in Newtown, Dunmuckrum were offered for sale in the sales in the Landed Estate Courts in 1907. After the deaths of Elizabeth and Jane in the early 1900s none of that Montgomery family remained in Ballyshannon.

Names of other Montgomerys crop up in the area in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but so far I have been unable to connect them with this Branch. One of these was Captain Knox Montgomery, a Lieutenant in the 81<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot, who died in 1837, and is buried in St. Ann's, Ballyshannon. Knox married Mary Montgomery, daughter of John Montgomery of Cranny House, Inver, in 1820 (see CMSI Magazines 1998.) This is a further example of the intermarrying common among these families.

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"dumbfooner" if he had ever thought that his descendants would own both Eglinton and Skelmorlie.

The Wilson family relocated to Dunlop in the 19th century, where Jim Wilson's great grandfather started the first bacon curing factory in Scotland in 1849. Jim's father decided to go to Northern Ireland in 1930 and started a very successful food processing company, a sideline was producing pet foods. In 1950, after returning to Scotland, he bought Eglinton Castle and around 50 acres of what had been the surrounding gardens and stable block. He converted the stable block into a food factory. "He met the Earl of Eglinton and told him he was looking for a house in Ayrshire to which Lord Eglinton replied 'How about my castle at Skelmorlie?' and that is why we are here."

Skelmorlie Castle sits on a steep escarpment, about 100 ft. above sea level with wonderful views over the Firth of Clyde towards Arran and Bute. There are 28 acres of land. The castle was badly damaged by fire in 1959, but the Wilsons completely remodeled and restored the building in 1962. Jim Wilson said that they demolished one wing and concentrated on restoring the old Keep and putting in central heating, new wiring and flooring.

The Keep has accommodation spread over three floors, with two bedrooms and loft rooms. The first floor drawing room features the stunning sea vista. Other areas of the castle have been sub-divided to form self-contained apartments, including a three-bedroom caretaker's flat on the ground floor, and two further flats on the first and second floors. There is a three bedroom mews building which also serves as an office. Also there is an L-shaped, three bedroom turret house and a garden cottage, along with other detached out-buildings and a laboratory. Fourteen acres of gardens, an orchard, terraced lawns and native woodland make Skelmorlie Castle a "to die for" property.

Carolyn Campbell, of Glasgow property agents Strutt & Parker, said that the property has fantastic views, and "is in an idyllic spot, so it could also be run as an up-market B & B." Further she says, "Given that there are quite a few buildings it would probably suit someone who wants to run their own business from home."

For Sale!



One of the turrets at Skelmorlie Castle.

