

# The Treanors our family history

Dave Treanor

First publication in November 2011

A second edition followed six months later with a chapter on Margery Treanor.

3<sup>rd</sup> edition revised June 2012 with additional sections on James Stanley Treanor.

4<sup>th</sup> edition revised October 2015 with additional material on John Treanor's descendants and on Alice Treanor and John Magill.

5<sup>th</sup> edition revised December 2016 with new information on descendants of William Robinson Treanor, and of the other Thomas and Eleanor Treanor living in Killala.

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For the latest information on the Treanors and information on other branches of the family see [www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry](http://www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry).

The cover photograph is of the door to Clonfert Cathedral in East Galway, where many members of the Seymour family worshipped.



## Acknowledgements

My starting point for this research into the Treanors in our family was a short history of the Treanors by Dorothy Hearne, who died in 2002. My cousin Desmond Treanor had collected this and other material on our family's origins, much of which he had passed to his son Tim, and I am grateful to both of them for copying it to me. .

Marny Howe provided information on the descendants of John Treanor, and Helene Dukes told me about the family of his first wife Charlotte Evatt. Michael Williams helped me trace Violet Treanor's descendants and the Douglas branch of the family. Peter Sparks helped with Florence Treanor and the Watson family. Zoe Fleming told me about Louie Treanor.

Veronica Söll sent invaluable research by her mother, Margaret Thompson who was a descendant of William Robinson Treanor.

Without Andrew Schofield I would have none of the information on Margery Treanor. Nikkii Greenway provided most of the information in the chapter on Alice Treanor

Judie Morris and her mother have researched the Seymours, with a wealth of additional material from David Wilkins and Graham Seymour.

Jan Wood taught me a great deal about how to research my ancestry, and provided the vast majority of what I know of my grandmother's Kerans ancestry.

A number of people we met on our travels were very helpful. Jarlath Canney showed us around Tuam Cathedral and searched the Tuam parish records. Averil Staunton gave information on the family in Ballinrobe. Dymphna and Michael Dunne welcomed us to the ancestral Kerans home in Ahascragh.

I have had the pleasure of meeting some of my father's aunts and cousins who have been

very helpful with photographs and anecdotes.

My thanks to Hilary Temple and her son Nick who provided first hand accounts of the children of Archdeacon James Treanor. Also Derek Treanor and his wife Sue, for their help on Seymour Treanor, and similarly Sheila and her sons Brendan and John. Brendan accompanied me on a fascinating visit to East Galway to see where the Seymours came from. Sheila provided many useful photographs, and her autobiography with stories of her upbringing on a Darjeeling tea estate, and made me very welcome in Galway.

Georgia Coleridge and family enriched the sections on descendants of Thomas Stanley Treanor.

Within my immediate family, my sister Jane provided family photographs and her memories. My daughter Tiffy advised on the design and layout of this book, and my wife Pam has helped, encouraged and supported me throughout the project, accompanying me on trips to Ireland and to meet distant cousins, searching through archives, and around distant cemeteries looking for ancestral graves. Pam sub-edited the book.

I am very conscious that there will still be inaccuracies, despite my best efforts, and would appreciate your help in correcting them. I hope I have not been too indiscreet in the stories told – the most interesting information often provokes strong feelings.

There are still some substantial gaps – important members of the family of whom we know nothing.

I will endeavour to keep updating the information via our website at [www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry](http://www.treanor.co.uk/ancestry). Email me for information on later editions which are most likely to be electronic, although we might produce a further printed edition one day.

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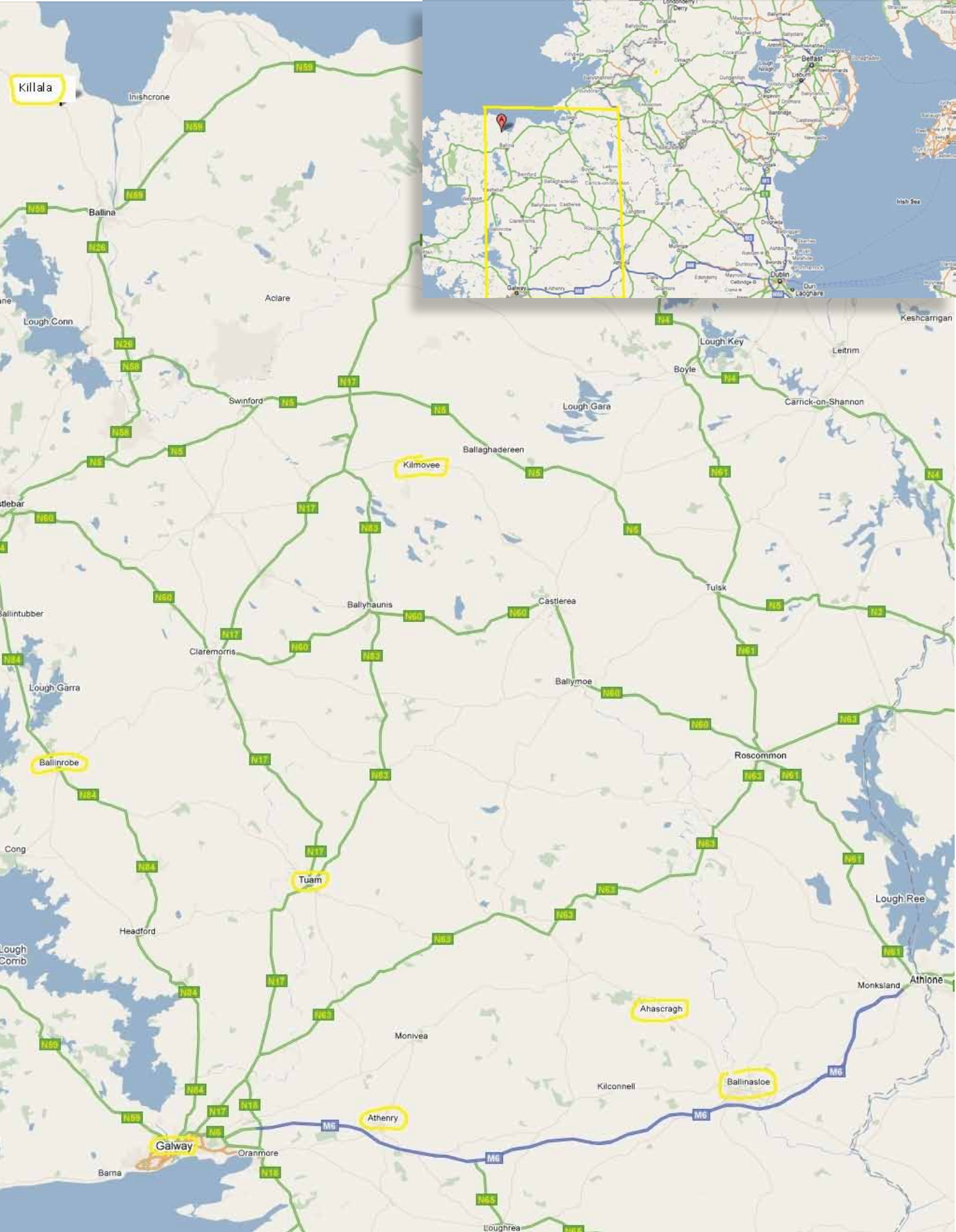
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## PART 1

# Our Origins

### **Where did we come from?**

Our Treanors were part of the Protestant ascendancy that ran Ireland in the 300 years before the formation of the republic. Family tradition says that our ancestors came down to Connaught from Monaghan in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and settled around Killala in Co Mayo, before spreading though Galway and across the country. The name Treanor can be traced back into ancient Irish history, long before the Reformation divided the Protestant and Catholic communities.

## CHAPTER 1

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# Beginnings

### Foreword

It is strange to think that when I began this tome back in 2008 I knew almost nothing about my ancestors. I could name my uncles and aunts and cousins, most of whom arrived for the annual family gathering at Hanworth Rectory on Boxing Day during my childhood. I struggled with my grandmothers' first names: I knew them as Grannie and Nanna.

This is an account of how we discovered them, and an attempt to learn about their lives. A family tree on its own is frankly rather boring. But I find the story of where we came from quite fascinating, and I hope that this will bring it to life for members of

our family. Perhaps this is something that appeals to people more as they get older. How much easier it would have been to ask my grandparents while they were still alive!

For as long as I can remember I had heard there was a family bible somewhere, with details of the family going back a few generations. The word was that the men were mostly vicars, and those that were not vicars were doctors. So I began by asking my cousin Des if he knew where it was. It turns out that he had it in his attic, and it was from Nancy's in-laws: the McCaul Watsons, and nothing to do with the Treanors.

Then in June 2008, Tim sent me the family trees that his father Des had collected. The Kerans tree was massive, and very hard to read (my father's mother was a Kerans). The Treanor trees were scrappy and did not match up very well. And there was also a one page family history which turns out to have been written by a distant cousin: Dorothy Hearne. The first thing I did was to decipher them all as best I could, and put them onto the Genes Reunited website. That took a good 10 to 15 hours. But it was dramatically effective.

I was soon in contact with Marny Howe in Western Australia who was researching the Treanors in Co Mayo. She sent me three more

The coast of Co Mayo just West of Killala





trees, and some very useful documentation she had gathered. Our common ancestor is my great great great great (i.e. great x4) grandfather, born in 1749, more than a quarter of a millennium ago! Marny also taught me a few tricks for putting the information together.

Next I was contacted by Jan Wood, who knew a lot about the Kerans: my paternal grandmother's family. She was delighted by the indecipherable Kerans tree from Des which added hugely to the information she already had, and mostly complemented it. Jan is a professional archivist, and was able to read it all. She sent her story of the Kerans family, which was quite inspiring. I was now hooked.

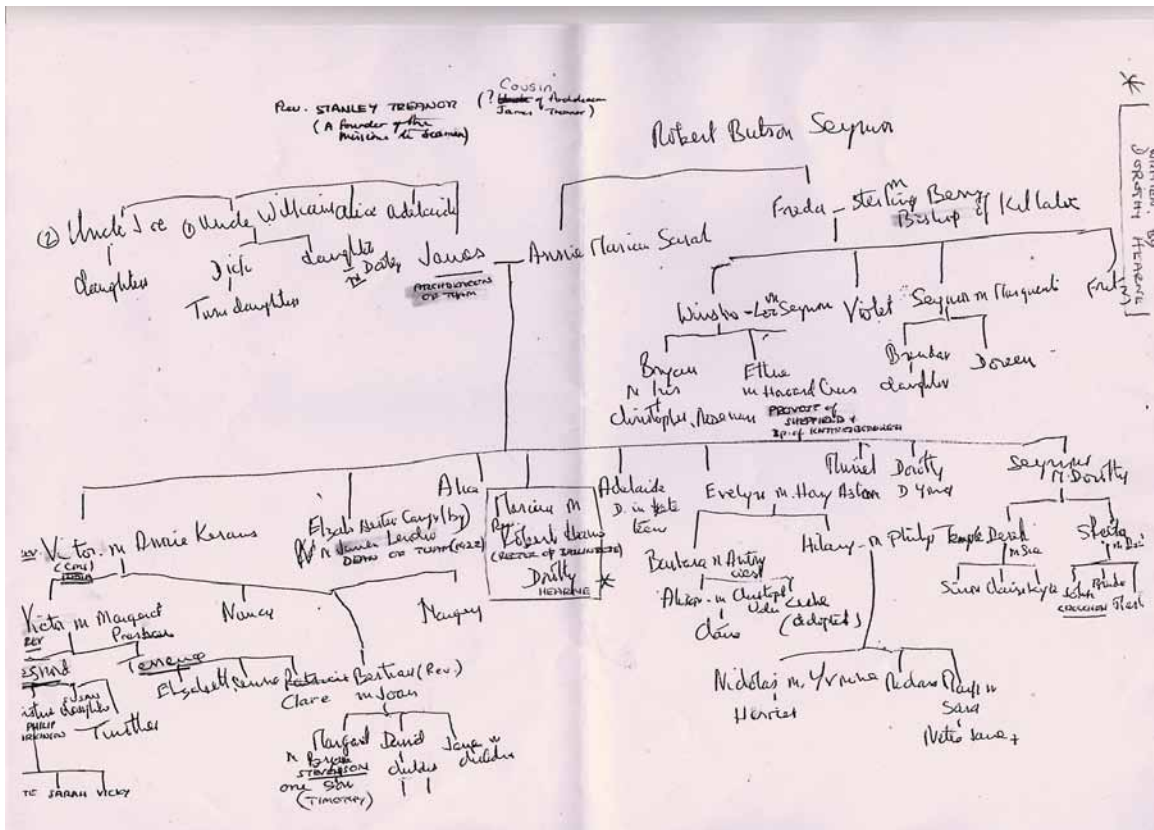
Several others contacted me via the Genes Reunited website. Soon I had some remarkably well researched information from Veronica on the Nash family (my mother's father), and had learned enough to research the Wagstaffs (my mother's mother's family) pretty much from scratch. The more I put onto the Genes Reunited site, the faster the

information seemed to pour in. This also took me up quite a number of blind alleys.

I soon discovered that some people seem to “collect” as many relatives as possible, without necessarily taking much care to cross-check their information. I hope a little basic maths will show the need to be a bit selective. We each have two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, and by the time you reach great great great great grandparents, you have 64 ancestors. And that is without exploring any of their siblings. If you try to track the descendants of their siblings as well the numbers soon get astronomical: the 64 ancestors soon breed tens of thousands of distant cousins.

So what do you do? I decided to concentrate on ancestors and their siblings. Initially I was very selective in tracing their siblings' descendants. The four main names in my tree are Treanor, Kerans, Nash, and Wagstaff. So I decided to begin by gathering descendants with those names, plus the

## Dorothy Hearne's tree



A list of graves in the churchyard at St Patrick's cathedral in Killala

links to relatives whom I had shared useful information with. This inevitably took me up the male line. The female line was a lot harder to trace, but with experience I learned a few more tricks and now follow both male and female roots as far back as I can.

I found a lot of information by searching the internet. Try starting with websites like 'Genes Reunited', or 'Ancestry', and you will see what I mean. Then I picked up local colour by searching on place names or historic events, and the names of prominent people found in our tree. There are samples of old newspapers on-line full of contemporary stories. It takes a bit of patience, and perhaps something of an obsessive character, but it can be very rewarding.

I built up quite a good picture of the family in this way. But this left some serious gaps and uncertainties that could only be resolved with original research in hard copy records in local libraries and archives. My priority was the Treanors, so I arranged the first of several long weekends in Ireland with my wife Pam.

Our first visit was to the National Archives of Ireland (NAI) in Dublin, where genealogists give free advice, as well as providing access to a huge stack of records.

Pam with a teacher and his family in Killala just around the corner from Preacher Street where William and Alicia Treanor lived



701153/0156 JUSCRIPTIOIS  
FROM THE GRAVEYARD

NAME	AGE	DATE	DATE
ABRAHAM	187	ABRAHAM	56, 65, 66, 76
ADAMS	79	ADAMS	79, 76, 75, 71
ADAMS	42, 45	ADAMS	76
ADAMS	40	ADAMS	95
ADAMS	45	ADAMS	75, 48
ADAMS	79	ADAMS	43
ADAMS	84	ADAMS	49
ADAMS	71, 75, 74	ADAMS	28, 45
ADAMS	24	ADAMS	79
ADAMS	15	ADAMS	84
ADAMS	15	ADAMS	97
ADAMS	15	ADAMS	71, 81
ADAMS	96	ADAMS	79
ADAMS	100	ADAMS	34
ADAMS	14	ADAMS	106
ADAMS	25, 45	ADAMS	22
ADAMS	44	ADAMS	32
ADAMS	28	ADAMS	22
ADAMS	41	ADAMS	63
ADAMS	71, 68	ADAMS	16
ADAMS	17	ADAMS	36
ADAMS	42	ADAMS	64, 77, 88
ADAMS	76	ADAMS	61
ADAMS	42	ADAMS	80
ADAMS	105	ADAMS	1
ADAMS	25	ADAMS	83
ADAMS	12, 46	ADAMS	58
ADAMS	105	ADAMS	82
ADAMS	79, 13	ADAMS	18
ADAMS	81	ADAMS	79
ADAMS	104	ADAMS	

From the information Des had collected we already knew which parishes our Treanor ancestors came from. So her advice was to go to the Representative Church Body Library where most of the original parish registers for the Church of Ireland are kept. The fact that so many of my ancestors were clergy in the Church of Ireland was a huge plus. I claim no experience in tracing Catholic ancestors in Ireland, which would be quite different.

The original parish registers were exactly what we needed. It took about an hour to examine 20 years worth of births, deaths and marriages in the Killala registers, and we covered about 100 years starting from 1790. This is quite different from using a search engine to search a database: you see all the names, and begin to spot patterns. Some of the entries are pretty illegible, and people who transposed them into databases often made mistakes. The only way to be sure you have examined all the baptism records covering a period of time is to do it directly in the parish records. It is quite a privilege to do this in the original registers, and for most parishes in the UK the best you can hope for is to view them

on microfilm.

We carefully wrote down every relevant entry, including ones that just might be relevant, word for word, including exact spellings, even where we thought they were wrong. In the early stages of our research I was so excited by each new find that I sometimes forgot to record our sources. Then when conflicting information was discovered subsequently, it was hard to go back and check where our original ideas had come from.

I still do not have all the information I would like, but may well have all the information that is likely to be available on the Treanors from Killala. It is then a matter of interpreting it carefully, and ensuring that



where I make a bold guess I give good reasons, so that if more information does come to light, I can weigh it up against what I already know.

We also examined the graveyards, and carefully recorded word for word what was written on any relevant gravestones, as well as photographing them. And in the process we had some wonderful experiences. We happened to be in Killala at the time of the Humbert talks. Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, made a speech giving his views on why the Irish had rejected the Lisbon Treaty. So there we were in an historic Protestant cathedral church where my ancestors worshipped, sitting in a beautiful



box pew, at a talk by a prince of the Catholic Church, introduced by a female Dean.

He is a fine speaker, and most of what he said was excellent – he talked about the damage done by sectarian violence, and the dangers that could arise from the compromises necessary to bring about a peaceful settlement in Northern Ireland.

He suggested that religion was not just a personal matter: it is social and political. He talked of the huge benefit the European Union had brought to Ireland. But he then set out to show that the Irish rejection of the Lisbon Treaty was due to its failure to incorporate the “*Christian memory*” into its constitution. He was explicit in defining these Christian traditions in papal terms, despite being in a Protestant church: so for

**Sitting in box pews inside St Patrick's cathedral in Killala waiting for the talk by Cormac Murphy O'Connor**

**A fishing boat in Killala harbour**

**St Patrick's Cathedral in Killala**





example, life was sacred from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

Killala is a beautiful town, and we easily got deep into conversation with people there, who told us there were still Treanors living in Crossmolina, although nobody could remember them in Killala.

We drove through narrow lanes winding round the farms, and saw the peat cuttings on the moorland overlooking the bay, and the little harbour still full of fishing boats. We gained the personal touch that no amount of searching the internet can ever provide.

Corner of  
Preacher Street in  
Killala



Since then I have visited the addresses where ancestors lived in England, and local libraries and churchyards, taking photographs, and photocopies of key documents. With so many missionaries in the family, the database of incoming ship passengers to the UK has proved very useful. The Lambeth Palace library is also a good source. And the British Library has birth, deaths and marriages in India.

Marny commented on the coincidence that one of William Robinson Treanor's descendants had become part of the British Indian Civil service, just like most of her ancestors. Des was excited to find that so many of the Kerans family had connections

with India, just like his own immediate family.

I do not think this is such a coincidence. When the Irish Free State was formed in the 1920s a lot of Anglo Irish felt uncomfortable in the new country. The Church of Ireland was closely associated with the army, and operated "*within the pale*" of their protection. So it was not unnatural for them to move abroad. The Empire was full of opportunities. There are parallels between the British role in the Empire, and its role in Ireland, so they did not feel uncomfortable swapping the Church Missionary Society for the Church of Ireland, or joining the military or civil administration.

Much of our family has origins in Ireland going back for hundreds of years, perhaps even predating the Reformation. In that way it is very different from the Empire, where the British presence was much more recent. The Scots and Irish played a very prominent role in developing the British Empire, in all four corners of the globe. Our ancestors were a part of that.

In the last year I have gathered a great deal of information on the siblings of some of my direct ancestors, and met quite a few of the descendants of my grandfather's brother and sisters. My grandfather's mother was a Seymour, and they have proved an interesting family to research. In the process I have gained a much clearer idea of what life was like in a Protestant family in Ireland in the nineteenth century.

Marriages recur between the same prominent Protestant families generation after generation. The pool of suitable marriage partners must have seemed quite narrow in Co Galway and neighbouring areas. So we find a great many cousin marriages. The Protestant community may have had stronger links to England, Scotland and Wales than



Protestantism only really thrived in the more industrialised north of Ireland, where it was much the same as in Glasgow. In southern Ireland Protestantism was an integral part of the class divide.

Following the Reformation, almost all the bishops accepted the Elizabethan settlement, although the vast majority of clergy and laity did not. Consequently in most parishes the Roman Catholic Church thrived as if the Reformation had never occurred. Under James I tolerance was reduced with the import of clergy from England and Scotland to convert the Irish. In the process the Church of Ireland became more doctrinaire and Calvinist than the generally broader minded Church of England with its Anglo Catholic and Evangelical wings. It served the English speaking population living within the pale, largely in garrison towns, and almost totally failed to win support from the older Irish aristocracy or any of the much larger Irish speaking population. It is clear from many stories I have read in contemporary newspapers that the Church of Ireland clergy saw the conversion of Catholics as central to their mission, and sometimes stooped to methods we would now see as repugnant. As a result any suggestion of proselytising was met with outrage. Overlaid upon this were the laws preventing Catholics from owning land or holding positions of authority. The same laws applied throughout Britain, but were often ignored in the non English speaking areas of Ireland.

So it is no surprise that our ancestors were churchmen, landowners, and in the military, or in the professions. These were the domain of the Protestant Irish establishment from which they came.

Dave Treanor November 2011

## Where did we come from?

Dorothy Hearne begins her account by speculating on the origin of the Treanors:

*"The Treanors came down to S. Connaught from Killala in N. Mayo. I am told some are buried there but the old graveyard is very overgrown and I could not find them when I looked a few years ago. There is also a Treanor grave, also old and overgrown, in the graveyard around Tuam Cathedral. I was told that in the fifties there were two elderly Treanor sisters running a farm somewhere in N. Mayo. Research in the telephone directory shows a number of Treanors of one sort or another in Co Monaghan and one or two elsewhere. I have always been told the name is so rare they may be mostly connected. Family tradition, unreliable, has them going back to Brian Boru, and I think they are almost certainly Gaelic. I have also been told that the name MacTiernan is another version of it".*

According to a book on Irish surnames by Woulfe "it comes from the ancient Irish name

Outside the house where my father was born, at 99 Moyne Road, Rathmines in Dublin



**1901 census  
showing the  
William Robinson  
Treasor family  
in Roscrea in Co  
Tipperary**

meaning 'champion', literally, 'strong-man': a well-known Ulster surname."

O’Kane says some Trainors were Scottish and some English. The suggestion that there is any link to Cornwall, where many names begin with “Tre” is probably false.

I searched for everyone named Treanor in the 1901 Irish census. There were 1,003 of them listed, only 22 of whom were not

**Records showing  
the 22 non  
Catholic Treanors  
listed in the 1901  
Irish census.  
There were  
1,003 Treanors  
altogether**

Surname	Forename	Townland/Street	DED	County	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Occupation	Religion	Literacy	Irish Language	Relation to Head of Household	Marital Status
Treanor	Katie Jane	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	25	F	Belfast	School Teacher	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Edith Jane	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	15	F	Belfast	Scholar	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Margaretta C	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	13	F	Belfast	Scholar	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Bessie	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	59	F	Co Carlow	Draper	Methodist	Read and write		Wife	Married
Treanor	Henry	Knockronaghan	Anketell Grove	Monaghan	22	M	Co Monaghan	Farmers Son	I Church	Read and write		Son	Not Married
Treanor	William	Knockronaghan	Anketell Grove	Monaghan	19	M	Co Monaghan	Farmers Son	I Church	Read and write		Son	Not Married
Treanor	John	Knockronaghan	Anketell Grove	Monaghan	50	M	Co Monaghan	Farmer	I Church	Read and write		Head of Family	Widower
Treanor	Tom	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	16	M	Co Tipperary	Scholar	Methodist	Read and write		Son	Not Married
Treanor	Ellie	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	24	F	Co Tipperary	Drapers Assistant	Methodist	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Lily	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	28	F	Co Tipperary	Daughter	Methodist	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Minnie	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	22	F	Co Tipperary	Teacher	Methodist	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	William	Main Street	Roscrea	Tipperary	63	M	Co Mayo	Draper	Methodist	Read and write		Head of Family	Married
Treanor	Margaret	John	Lurgan Urban	Armagh	22	F	Co Armagh	Smoother	Irish Church	Cannot read or write		Boarder	Not Married
Treanor	Walter	New Wapping	North Dock	Dublin	23	M	Tipperary	Engine Fitter	C of I	Read and write	English	Boarder	Single
Treanor	Fred	Kenilworth Square	Rathmines	Dublin	30	M	Co Tipperary	Draper	Wesleyan Methodist	Read and write		Cousin	Not Married
Treanor	Rebecca	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	48	F	County Dublin	Commercial Traveller Angle Amer on Company	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Wife	Married
Treanor	Ann	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	19	F	Belfast	School Teacher	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Sidney A B	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	9	M	Cork City	Scholar	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Son	Not Married
Treanor	Florence	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	21	F	Belfast	School Teacher	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	Alice May	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	17	F	Belfast	National School Monitres	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Daughter	Not Married
Treanor	John	Burmah Street	Ormeau	Down	52	M	County Cavan	Commercial Traveller Angle Amer on Company	Church of Ireland	Read and write		Head of Family	Married



Roman Catholic:

- Seven were Methodists from William Robinson Treanor's family, the draper in Roscrea. He was Archdeacon James Treanor's elder brother.

- John Treanor (50) and his sons Henry (22) and William (19) who were farmers from Knockronaghan in Monaghan, and Church of Ireland.

- The family (of 9) of a commercial traveller with the Anglo American Fire Company, in Burmah Street, Ormeau in Co Down who are Church of Ireland, and originated in Cavan, although some of their children were born in Belfast.

Then there are a number of individuals, including

- Ellen Treanor from Tower Street in Pottinger Co Down,
- Walter Treanor (23) an Engine Fitter from North Dock, Dublin, and
- Margret Treanor (22) a "smoother" boarding at Lurgan Urban in Armagh.

Interestingly, Archdeacon James Treanor's family in Ballinrobe is not listed, so we do not have the whole census here. Even so, it is striking how few were Protestants.

This lends credibility to the notion that

"Treanor" is an old Irish name, and that our ancestors probably became Protestant in the distant past, rather than coming in from elsewhere in the British Isles. Dorothy Hearne mentions Co Monaghan as one of the places they may have moved to South Connaught from, and I wonder whether the family of John Treanor from Knockronaghan in Monaghan might be related, particularly because two of the three names (John, William and Henry) are common in early generations of our family. Below is the entry for that family in the Griffiths Valuations.

It is an intriguing idea, but without any real evidence to support it. I looked for parish registers from this area at the RCBL in Dublin, but unfortunately these parishes are missing.

**The Griffith Valuation** was carried out over a ten year period in the mid 1800's to provide the information on which property taxes could be levied. It lists every landholding and every building and identifies the owner and the tenant. It also assesses its value. In the absence of early census data, this has proved a very useful source of information on who lived where in Ireland in the 1850's.

John Treanor  
from Donagh  
in Monaghan in  
Griffiths

4	VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.							
	PARISH OF DONAGH.							
	No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
		Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
		<b>KNOCKRONAGHAN.</b> (Ord. S. 6.)						
1		Matthew J. Anketell, .	In fee, . . . . .	Land, . . . . .	74 1 0	52 0 0	—	52 0 0
2		James Mullen, . .	Matthew J. Anketell, .	House, offices, and land, .	2 1 20	1 5 0	1 15 0	3 0 0
3		John Stein, . . .	Same, . . . . .	Herd's ho., off., & land, .	7 3 0	5 5 0	1 0 0	6 5 0
4		Margaret Lowrey, .	Same, . . . . .	House and land, . . . . .	6 1 20	4 5 0	0 15 0	5 0 0
5	a	John & Arthur Magee, .	Same, . . . . .	House, offices, and land, .	33 0 5	22 10 0	1 0 0	23 10 0
—	b	Unoccupied, . . .	John & Arthur Magee, .	House, . . . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
6		David Hust, . . .	Matthew J. Anketell, .	Office and land, . . . . .	3 1 25	2 10 0	0 13 0	3 10 0
7	a	William Lowrey, . .	Same, . . . . .	House, . . . . .	—	—	0 10 0	—
—	c	Patrick McGeogh, .	David Hust, . . . . .	House, office, and land, .	5 0 0	3 10 0	0 10 0	4 0 0
8		John Travnor, . . .	Matthew J. Anketell, .	House, . . . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
				House, offices, and land, .	16 3 15	8 10 0	1 5 0	9 15 0



## PART 2

# Early Treanors

### **First two generations and their descendants**

From stories handed down through the family we know a fair amount about recent generations of the Treanors from our own branch of the family. In Part 2 we look at the first two generations, born in Killala, where we know a lot less, and our information depends to a large extent on parish records. This section also traces the descendants of siblings of our direct ancestors from those two generations, and the ancestry of their spouses.

Part 3 deals with my great grandparents in a similar way, and also traces descendants of ancestral siblings. Part 4 is about my grandparents, and Part 5 is about my parents and our immediate family.

# Thomas & Eleanor

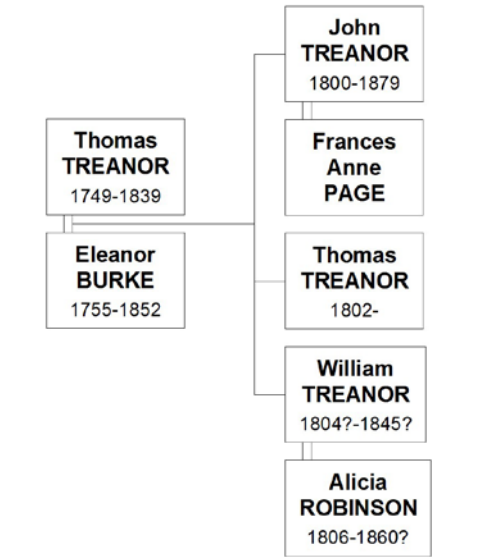
## Thomas Treanor 1749-1839

The earliest records we can find of the Treanor family are in Killala, a small town on the north coast of Co Mayo in the north west of Ireland. Thomas Treanor was a farmer. We know that from the clerical records for his eldest son John Treanor. He lived from 1749 to 1839 and was married to Eleanor Treanor. These are my great great great great grandparents (great x4 grandparents).

And here we come to the first of many puzzles in our story. There appear to be two couples in Killala called Thomas and Eleanor Treanor. One Thomas married Eleanor Cooper and had at least two children, Thomas (1798) and Lilly (1804). The Coopers were a well established Killala family: it is a name that crops up frequently in the parish register.

The other Thomas married Eleanor Burke, or Bourke and had three children: John (1800), Thomas (1802), and William (1803/5). I believe these are my great x4 grandparents:

We spent many hours searching through every hand written entry in the original Killala parish registers on our visit in August 2009, which are held in the Representative Church Body Library (RCBL) in Dublin. The oldest of these are in a book recording



minutes of vestry meetings, and date from the 1790s.

The entries in the registers up to 1845 are often hard to read. The writing was poor, and the ink has faded. Names are spelled in a quite arbitrary manner, with the same parents being identified as Traynor and Treanor in successive birth entries. So it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the same Eleanor was sometimes recorded as having the maiden name Cooper, and sometimes Bourke.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 1797 there is a Maria born

to Richard and Eleanor Burke, maiden name Cooper, raising the possibility that the two Eleanors are the same person. But we are then left to puzzle why two boys called Thomas appear to have survived.

We could not find any record of the birth of William, my great x3 grandfather. It could be one of the completely indecipherable entries; or he might have been born when they were visiting somewhere else; or his baptism might not have been recorded at all. There was no requirement to register births in those days. He could have come from either family.

We have a tree from Margaret Thompson showing William's mother as Eleanor Cooper (1755 - 1852). Margaret is no longer alive so we cannot ask where that information came from. We have one good reason for putting him in the other family, as the son of Eleanor Bourke: according to Dorothy Hearne's notes, William's youngest son James was brought up by his uncle, father of Thomas Stanley Treanor. This is John Treanor. His birth registration shows John as the eldest son of Thomas Treanor and Eleanor Bourke.

Both Thomas and Eleanor lived to a ripe old age. We found Thomas Treanor's grave in the graveyard at St Patrick's Cathedral in Killala, its edge buried by a new pathway, with the writing very worn and partly obscured. We also found his death in the parish register. His was the only death recorded in 1839. His grave says "Here lyeth the body of Thomas Treanor who left this life the 6<sup>th</sup> day of (Nove)mber 1839 aged 89 years".

We cannot tell which Thomas this refers to. It is interesting to note the spelling – many of the earlier parish records had him as Traynor, or even Trenor. By the time of his death they seem to have settled on our present spelling of the name.



## Eleanor Burke

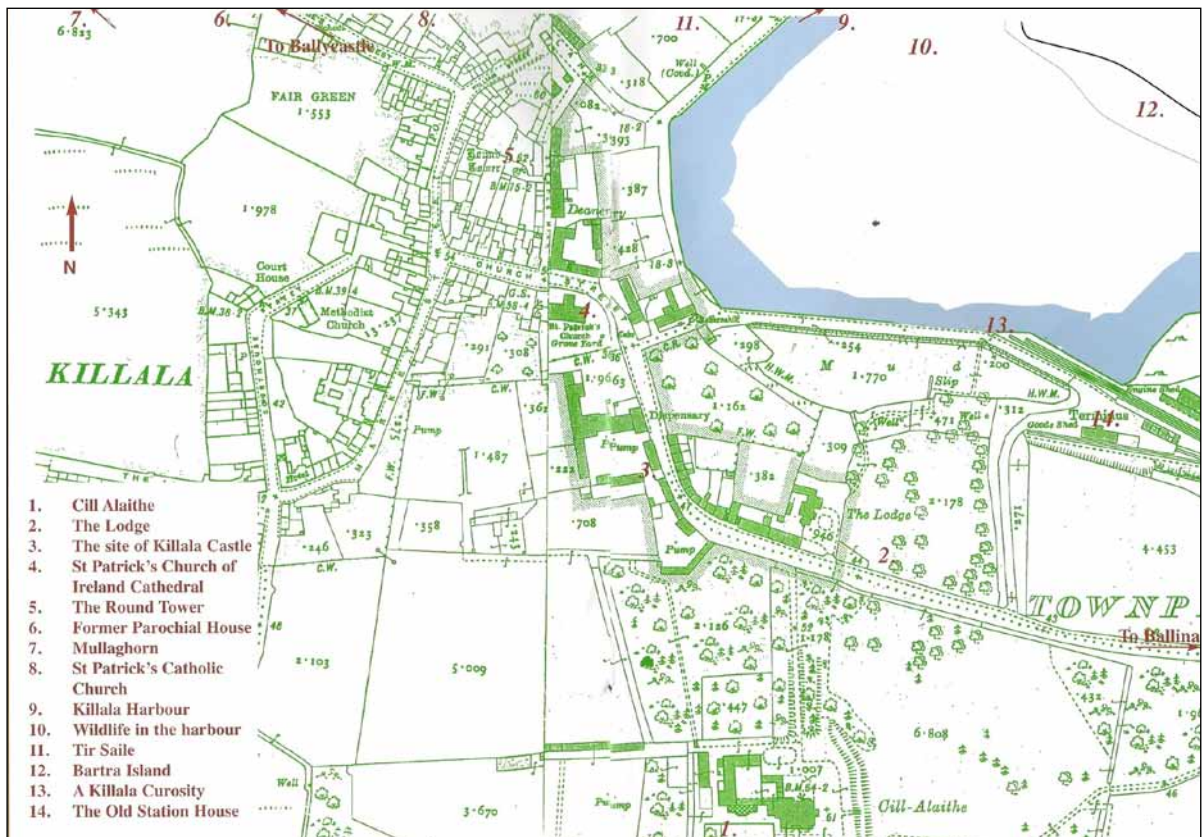
Bourke is an old name. "At around the time of the Norman conquest of England in 1066, the Normans also invaded Ireland becoming more Irish than the Irish themselves. Many of them settled around Killala Bay, with names like Birke/Bourke (de Burgo), Jordan (D'Exeter), Cotelloe (D'Angulo), Staunton, Barrett, Lawless and Lynott".

The region of Killala was granted to the Norman William de Burgh (Burke) in the twelfth century, but the tenacity of the Gaelic chieftains and the fact that the Burkes were rapidly absorbed and soon became Gaelic chieftains themselves meant that the county retained its

Thomas Treanor's grave is partly obscured by the path, near the back wall of St Patrick's

The writing on Thomas Treanor's grave is just legible





Town map of  
Killala from the  
present day

original character well into the seventeenth century. The county's loose allegiance to the northern O'Donnells remained, and it was only after the mass confiscations of the mid-seventeenth century that English families such as the Bingham, (later earls of Lucan), Altamonts and Brownes came to prominence. Also at this time, attempts were made to transplant settlers from Ulster to Mayo.

Eleanor had her three children quite late in life. If she really was 97 when she died in 1852, Eleanor would have been 45 when John was born in 1800, and Thomas would have been 61. At the time of her birth there were no parish records, so age was a matter of personal memory. We have calculated her birth from her age at death. If this is right, she

would be born in 1755. In *Irish Ancestry*, John Grenham warns that age at death was often very imprecise "... although it at least gives an idea of how old the person was thought to be by family or neighbours".

Eleanor died a dozen years after her husband and according to the parish register was buried on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1852. We could not find her grave: only a small minority of the graves have survived. Once again, if there were two Eleanor Treanors, we do not know which of them the death record in the parish registers refers to.





Round tower  
in Killala,  
overlooking the  
River Moy

in the principle streets are well built. The manufacture of coarse linens is carried on to a very small extent, but the principal trade is the exporting of grain, of which the annual average from 1810 to 1820 was 5000 tons, chiefly oats and barley; and the value of the imports, consisting of planks, iron, tar, slates, flax seeds, herring, and sugar, about £5000. The trade was on the increase from 1820 till 1825, but from the improvements of the port of Ballina, what formerly came to this port for the supply of that town is conveyed thither direct by the river Moy, and from 1830 to 1835 the average exports from Killala have not exceeded 3,500 tons, nor the value of their imports £4,000 per annum. A considerable fishery is carried on, in which more than 300 persons are occasionally engaged and for which this is a good station; and large quantities of sea manure are landed at the quay; the pier is very old but has recently been repaired.... The harbour affords good and safe anchorage for vessels drawing eight or nine feet of water, and vessels of 12 feet may get to the anchorage about high water.... The market is on Saturday, and fairs are held on May 6<sup>th</sup>, Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, and Nov 8<sup>th</sup>. Petty sessions are held in a private house every Friday, and a manorial court is held occasionally”.

## Life in Killala

What was life like in Killala during Thomas and Eleanor's time?

Killala is a very old settlement, reputed to go back to the days of St Patrick in 442.

*“In that place, which was given him by the pious liberality of the chiefs of the land, at the southern bank of the river, erected a noble church, and afterwards an Episcopal See called Kill-Aladh, over which he appointed one of his disciples, Muredach by name, as the first Bishop.”*

Tripartite Life of St Patrick

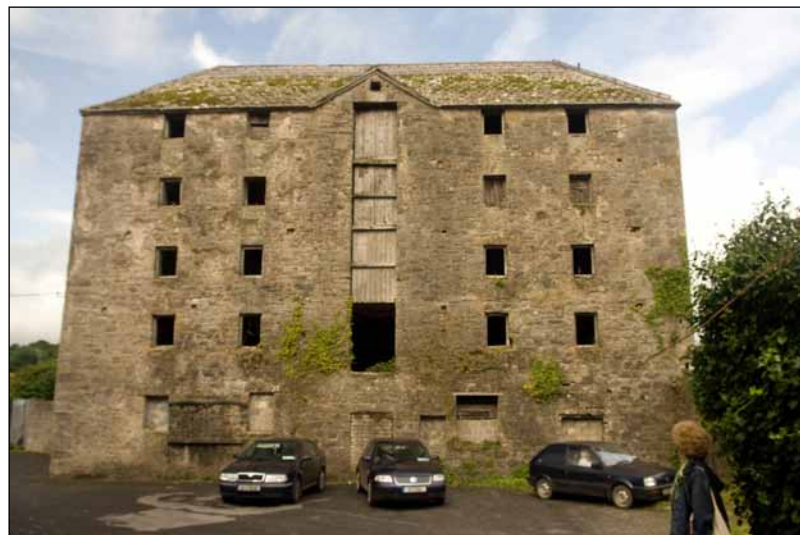
There is a round tower, reputedly built on the site of a fifth century monastery, between 1170 and 1238, some years after the main Viking threat had ended.

The town is described in 1839 in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary:

*“The town is situated on the bay of the same name, and on the west bank of the river Moy; it contains about 200 houses, of which those*

The Treanors must have been quite well off, and were active members of the local community. Mrs Thos Treanor was one of 77

Haggard for  
storing grain, at  
the bottom of  
Preaching House  
Street in Killala





LIST OF PARISHIONERS WHO SUBSCRIBED TO THE ERECTION OF THIS ORGAN 1838.	
His Grace the Archbishop of Tuam Hon. & Rev. Geo. Gore, Dean of Killala Rev. Thomas Sutton, Precentor John Knox, Castle Rea Walter James Bourke, The Castle Mrs. Bourke Lt. Col. Knox, Castle Rea Ernest Knox, Fahy Robert Knox, Castle Rea Roger Palmer Major Gardiner, Farmhill Mrs. Gardiner Rev. B.W. Eames, Curate John Kirkwood Joseph Kirkwood Lt. Col. Kirkwood William Kirkwood, Snr. Charles Nelson, M.D. Charles Kirkwood, Bartra Andrew Kirkwood Miss Kirkwood William, Orme, Belleville William Kirkwood, Greenpark Henry Knox, Netley James Knox, Crosspatrick Miss Goodwin Charles Smith & family Mrs. Thos. Kirkwood, The Lodge Thomas Palmer snr., Summerhill Thomas Palmer jnr., " John Palmer William Palmer Rev. Geo. Birmingham, Lacken John Gardiner, Courthill Robert Kirkwood, Killala Charles Gallagher, Ballina James Ramsey, Killala Frederick Stock Robert Polke James Cooper Mr. & Mrs. Gowan & family William Kirkwood, Hollow Mrs. Palmer Bourke Thos. Cooper, daughter & son Mrs. Higgins Miss Nelson	Miss M. Smith Miss Birmingham A.J. Perkins, Ballybrooney William Perkins, .....town Peter Nolan, Moyne Rev. David Rodgers Rev. J. Neilson James Perkins Mr. Jones James Joynt John Stevens G. Farthing J. Kelly George Townley W. Lindsay John James Edward Bourke Mrs. Thos Traynor jnr. Joseph Cooper snr. Andrew Bourke, Ross The Lord Bishop of Tuam Mrs. Knox, Rappa
*****	
Total amount of Subscriptions per above	£135-11- 6
*****	
Cost of Organ	£117
Carriage	10
Various expenses	8-15- 3
	£135-15- 3
*****	
Rev. & Honble. George Gore, LL.D. Rector. Rev. B.W. Eames, Curate. Charles Nelson M.D. Churchwardens Wm. Kirkwood Sullementary Choir Fund. collected by Charles Kirkwood, Bartra and Jas. A. Knox, Crosspatrick	
*****	
This list originally appeared in gold lettering on the back of the organ, but was blotted out in 1920, apparently during painting operation	

The list of contributors to the new organ at St Patrick's includes Mrs Thos Treanor

local people who contributed to the collection to purchase an organ for the cathedral in 1838, organised by Bishop James Verschoyle. This was built by William Telford at a cost of £135-15-3, and is now one of the best preserved organs of its period.

Their children were well educated, with William becoming clerk to the petty sessions, and John going to Trinity College Dublin where he was ordained.

Shortly before the birth of their children, Killala was the centre of a major historic event: the only invasion of Britain since 1066. In 1798 the French under General Humbert landed a few miles up the coast and beat the British at Castlebar. They were joined by Irish rebels, most notably Ferdy O'Donnell "Prince of Pollatomish" and took Killala with very little resistance. The Irish rebels occupied

Killala with the support of the French for 32 days, but were eventually defeated by General Trench with a vastly superior force. The French soldiers were repatriated to France as prisoners of war. The Irish rebels were all slaughtered mercilessly: more than 500 of them. In the days immediately following, another 75 rebel prisoners were tried and most of them executed.

Bishop Joseph Stock, forced to share his palace in Killala with occupying commanders, notes that this was a political act, and not sectarian (*History of the Rebellion 1798*).

The recapture of Killala must have been a shocking event for the young Thomas and Eleanor to live through.

*"In spite of the exertions of the general and his officers, the town exhibited almost all the marks of a place taken by storm. Some houses were perforated like a riddle; most of them had their doors and window; destroyed, the trembling inhabitants scarcely escaping with life by lying prostrate on the floor. Nor was it till the close of the next day that our ears were relieved from the horrid sound of muskets discharged every minute at flying and powerless rebels. The plague of war so often visits the world that we are apt to listen to any description of it with the indifference of satiety; it is actual inspection only that shows the monster in its proper deformity"*

From French Invasion of Ireland 1798 by Valerian Gibrayedoff 1890

Peat drying beside the road to Killala from Castlereagh



## The other Thomas Treanor

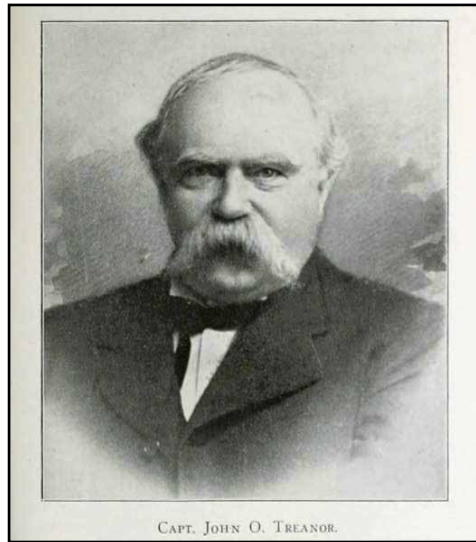
A second Thomas and Eleanor Treanor also raised a family in Killala. Two of their children's births appear in the Killala parish register: Thomas on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1798 and Lily on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1804. We know nothing more about Lily.

In 2016 I came across the Treanor/Traynor/Trainor/Trainer/Trenor/Threinfhir/McCreanor page on Facebook. This traces many branches of the Treanor clan, most of whom appear to originate in Co Monaghan where the name is quite widespread. Through that I discovered more about the descendants of this other Thomas and Eleanor and was then able to trace them through records in Tennessee.

Their son Thomas is probably the Treanor shopkeeper in Killala listed in Slaters 1846 Directory. He married Bridget Hughes and had a large family.

Given the names of their children I suspect Bridget was related to the Duke Ormsby family listed amongst the 'nobility, gentry and clergy' of Ballina in Pigot's Directory of Ireland of 1824. They also appear in Slaters Directory as living at Killena Lodge. Quite a few of the Ormsby's were shopkeepers, so it is likely it was this Thomas that ran the Killala shop.

One son of Thomas and Bridget was baptised John Duke Treanor on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1834. It appears he emigrated to the USA, and served in A Company of McNairy's Cavalry Battalion in the Confederate army. According to his obituary in a Confederate Veteran magazine he was sick in 1862, and offered a discharge, but refused it. He was wounded in the Battle of Stones River at Murfreesboro on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1862. He was made 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1864 and paroled at Charlotte, N. C. on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1865. He spent several years in a Confederate Soldiers Home in Nashville.



CAPT. JOHN O. TREANOR.

Another son John Ormsby Treanor was baptised on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1837. He too appears to have emigrated to the USA. According to an obituary he died on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1911 '.... after months of severe suffering, patiently and bravely born, entered into his eternal rest. ....

*In 1855 with his mother and a younger brother he came to Nashville Tennessee to join his older brother Thomas who had come several years before. He was first employed as a clerk in a bookstore, and next in the grocery store of Joynt & Treanor until the beginning of the Civil War.*

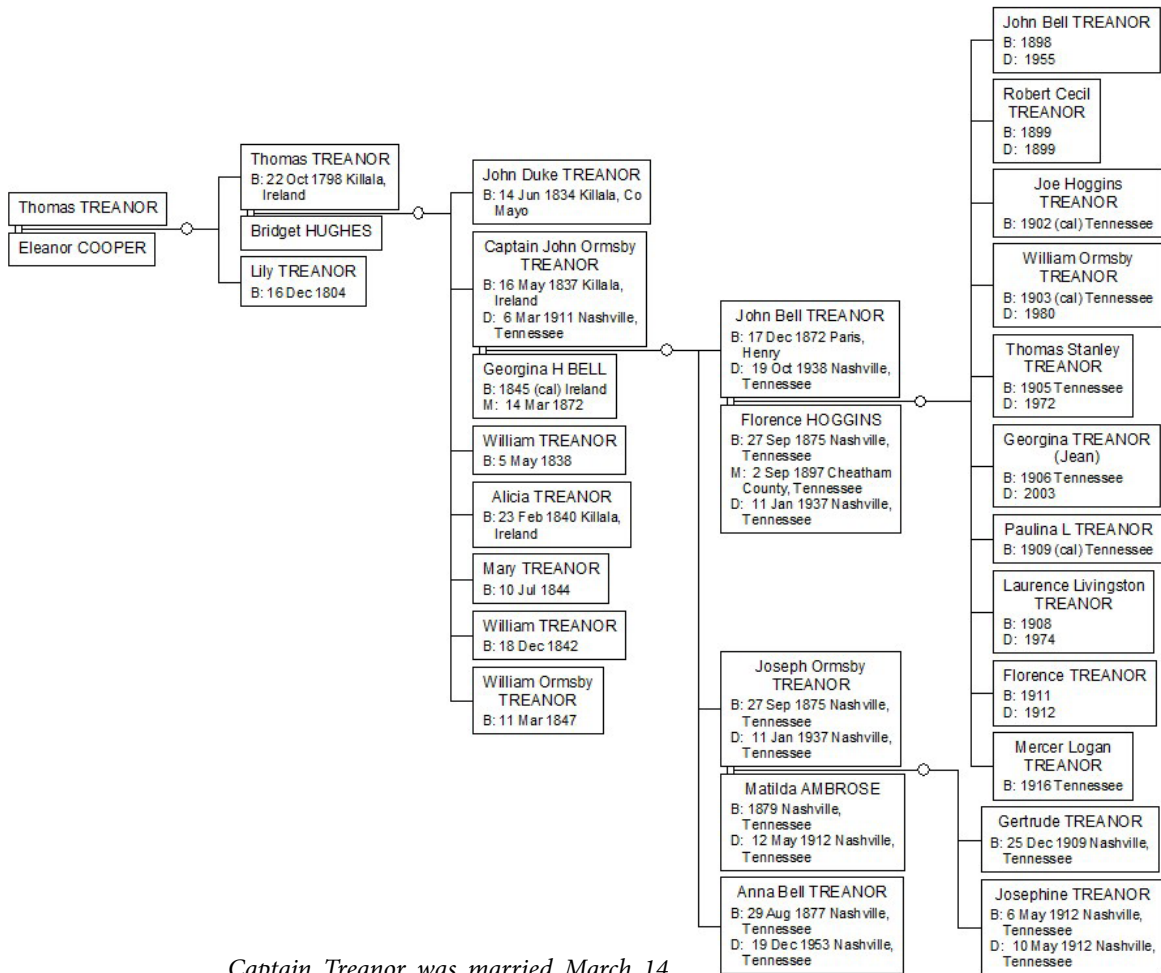
*He enlisted in Company B, Rock City Guards, 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry, with which he served until August 1862 when he was transferred to Turner's Battery of Artillery. He was with General Forrest in the commissary department until near the end of the war, when he was retired from active service on account of ill health soon after being promoted to captain.*

*At the close of the war he returned to Nashville, and was the bookkeeper for a large wholesale grocery firm until 1873. He then entered the business of fire insurance in which he continued until his death.*

*Joynt & Treanor, wholesale dealers in groceries, liquors, produce and commission merchants, 41 Broadway, Nashville' from John Mitchell's Tennessee State Gazetteer and Business Directory 1860-61*

**John Ormsby Treanor's grave in Mount Olivet Cemetery**





*Captain Treanor was married March 14 1872 to Miss Georgia H Bell who, with three children (John B, Joseph O and Anna Bell, survives him. He was a member of St Ann's Episcopal Church ...'*

In the 1880 census he was an insurance agent living with his wife, and children John, Joseph and Anna and three members of the Bell family: Robena, Mary, and Anna.

His wife Georgina had two brothers, Molyneux and Joseph Bell who arrived in New York in 1849 with their parents (Robert and Eliza Bell) on *The Elizabeth* from Belfast. Joseph became a judge, and Molyneux an army captain.

His son John Bell Treanor was born on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1872 in Nashville and married Florence

Hoggins. We know of ten children (see tree).

His second son Joseph Ormsby Treanor was born on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1875 in Nashville and married Matilda Ambrose. She died of appendicitis six days after the birth of their daughter Josephine on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1912, who died two days before her

We can identify another five children of Thomas and Bridget Treanor from the Killala parish register, but know nothing more about them: William 15<sup>th</sup> May 1838, Alicia 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1840, Mary 10<sup>th</sup> July 1844, another William 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1842, and a William Ormsby Treanor born 11<sup>th</sup> March 1847.

# John Treanor

### Canon John Treanor 1800–1879

We drove from Killala to Dublin in about six hours, with a stop in Tuam. But for their eldest son, John Treanor, travelling to Trinity College in October 1827, this would have been a bone-shaking journey by stage-coach, taking some days. The railway did not arrive in Killala until May 1873, and was closed in the 1930s. He got his BA in 1832, and was ordained on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1834.

We know John was born 11<sup>th</sup> March 1800 – I saw it on his tombstone in Tuam and also saw his baptism on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1800 in the Killala parish register. So he would have been 27 when he entered Trinity College, not 23 as it says in the clerical directory.

Marny sent a message from Timothy Stunt:

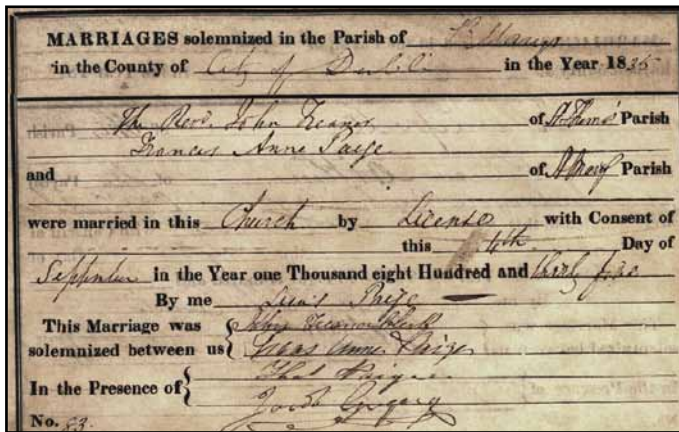
*“I have just found your query re John Treanor. You say he was born 11 Mar 1800, but when admitted to TCD (Oct 22 1827) he appears to have said that his age was 23. (Many students in the 1820s were admitted between 15 and 18. 23 was old, 27 would have been unusually old... According to the Alumni Dublinenses (which gives this information) his father was a farmer (agricola). I’m sure that you know about T S Treanor’s later career as a Chaplain with the Missions to Seamen in Kent...*

***Plymouth Brethrenism**, a religious movement with origins in Dublin in the 1820s but named after the town of its most substantial early congregation. It has its roots in a well-educated (mostly Oxford and Trinity College, Dublin) generation of religious enthusiasts born c.1800 who were influenced by evangelicalism, European warfare, and the spread of foreign missions. Impatient of rigid denominationalism, whether the establishmentarian claims of Anglicanism or the narrow membership criteria of the dissenters, and intrigued by the implications of a close study of biblical prophecy, the most important tenets of early Brethrenism were the unity in Christ of all true believers and the absence of any form of ordination. Brethren meetings were thus built around the simple sharing of bread and wine and lay ministry of the word, unencumbered by ordained clergy or ecclesiastical structures. Disagreements over points of doctrine and interpretations of prophecy soon shattered the early emphasis on unity and gave rise to one of the most fissiparous of Protestant traditions. In Ireland the early growth of Brethrenism in Dublin, inspired by A. N. Groves, J. N. Darby, and Edward Cronin, was given a much needed boost by the Ulster revival of 1859. Thereafter its greatest strength lay in the north of Ireland.*

*Throughout its history Brethrenism has attracted a social elite of Anglo-Irish landowners, eminent lawyers, and academics, as well as a more humble membership. Although it has retained some of its early commitment to international missions and the priesthood of all believers, Brethrenism in Ireland has settled into a minor and relatively exclusive Protestant sect with a pessimistic eschatology and otherworldly social attitudes*

Oxford Companion to Irish History





Marriage of John Treanor to Anne Page from the parish register at St Mary's Dublin

On the other hand T S Treanor also wrote a pamphlet against 'Plymouth Brethrenism'. He is well informed about the Plymouth Brethren's origins in the late 1820s and it's possible that his father John was associated with them for a time prior to his ordination in 1834. The leader of the early Plymouth Brethren (John Nelson Darby) was active in Limerick in 1832-3.

I have quoted from Treanor's booklet on Plymouth Brethrenism [Dublin 1875] in my own book (From Awakening to Secession: Radical Evangelicals in Switzerland and Britain 1815-35 [Edinburgh 2000] p. 273 n.127). I have also given a brief account of Darby's work in Limerick on pp. 275-6. When I wrote it I knew nothing about John Treanor".

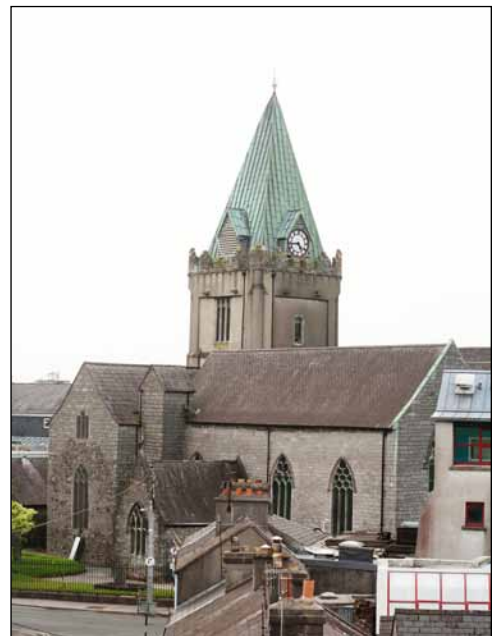
John married Francis Anne Page at St Mary's in Dublin under licence on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1835. She was from that parish. The witnesses were Thomas Page, and Jacob Gregory. It is a fair bet that Thomas Page was her father. John is described as "Revd John Treanor of St Thomas' parish, Clerk" (meaning Clerk in Holy Orders).

A stone listing vicars of St Nicholas in the churchyard wall



John had been ordained priest in Limerick on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1834, and Marny has established that "John was ... Curate of Farlow and Stottesden, in the county of Shropshire, from approximately January 1836 to end June 1840". His eldest son Thomas was born in Stottesden in 1837. Another son Arthur was born there three years later in 1839.

And yet, according to the RCBL clerical directory, he was vicar of St Nicholas in Galway from 1837 to 1864. In 1840 he was Rector of Moyrus Roundstone. During this time it appears he was also the Dean of Residence at the Queens College in Galway.



I came across a couple of articles in The Times referring to Rev J Treanor. The first was on July 16 1852: "... It was a strange sight to witness the Rev Mr Treanor, adjutant to Captain Dallas, and Dean of Residence in the Queens College, hobnobbing it with a clergyman of the Catholic church and voting in the same booth with him against Lord Dunkellin, to see them fraternising with the



proselytising Protestant ministers of Galway was enough to make angels weep”.

The second was on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1858 in which he is listed as “*The Rev J Treanor, Dean of Residence*” in a report concerning a reception for Lord Eglintoun at Queens College in Galway. Queens College was opened in 1845 and was part of The Queens University of Ireland. It is now known as the National University of Ireland.

From 1864 to 1868 John was a “*perpetual curate*” at Rahoon and was Vicar of Kilmoylan from 1868 to 1872. There is then a gap of a few years before he became Prebend of Taghsaxon from 1876 to his death in 1879.

The parish records for Tuam are held in the Tuam Deanery, and I had a chance to search through them in the cathedral on my second visit in 2009 (see page 187). We saw plenty of entries signed by John Treanor and James Treanor. These showed the death of Anne Treanor on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1889 at Balla Co Mayo. This is almost certainly Frances Anne Treanor (née Page), John Treanor’s wife. Balla is not far from Tuam, on the road to Castlebar.

John lies buried in the north-west corner of the graveyard at Tuam cathedral. His grave says “*In memory of the Reverend John Treanor BA, Rector of Kilmoylan, Canon of Tuam cathedral, and formerly for many years vicar of St Nicholas Galway. Born 11<sup>th</sup> March 1800. Died 14<sup>th</sup> April*

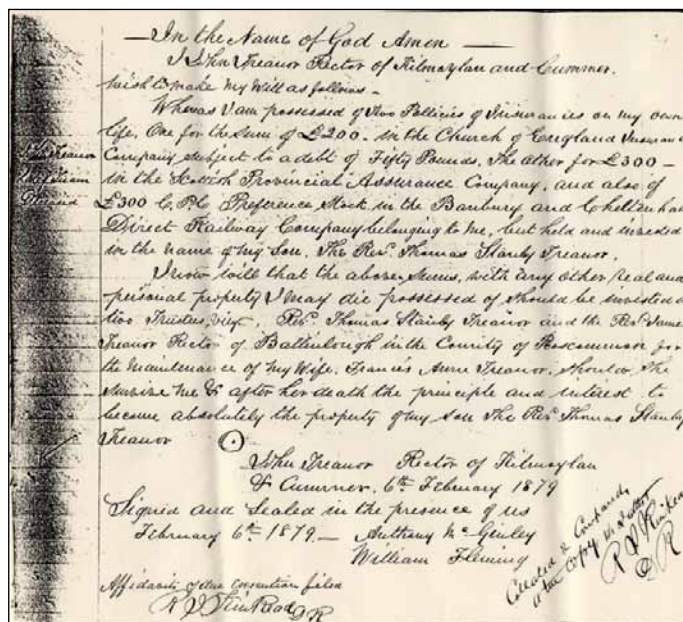


#### DEATHS OF DEAN SEYMOUR AND CANON TREANOR.

Most of our readers are already familiar with the sad news which we have to announce to day of the lamented death of the Very Rev. Charles H. Seymour, Dean of Tuam. On our last day of publication, only one week ago, he was going in and out amongst us apparently in health and strength, and to day the gates of the grave have closed upon him, and the long-familiar form will no more be seen in our town. His long and busy life of thirty-seven years' zealous and untiring service to the ministry of the Church of Ireland, thirty-one of which were spent in Tuam, has closed. The Church of Ireland has lost a faithful soldier, the people of Tuam a well-trying friend. The first three years of his ministry were spent in Bantry for the curacy of which he was ordained in Tuam Cathedral on Letters Ministerial in 1841. For three years from 1847-1850, he was Rector of Achill. The rest of his life in the ministry was spent in Tuam. For three years from 1844-47 he was curate here to the Rev. John Galbraith, on whose death in 1850 he was appointed vicar, a post in which he has ever since remained. On the death of Dean Plunkett in 1859 he was made Dean, being the last clergyman who was appointed to a deanery in the Established Church. In his public career his name must ever be associated with the building of St. Mary's Cathedral, to which so many years of his life were devoted, and in the prosecution of which he underwent so much hardship and suffered an amount of care and anxiety. On Saturday evening he was taken ill, but none of his friends apprehended any immediate danger. On Monday morning he was very much worse, and about one o'clock he died. His sister, Mrs. Murphy, whose devoted attachment to him is well known with her husband Rev. Canon Murphy, LL.D., were with him to the last, and their words of comfort and consolation cheered his last moments on earth. Weak heart, combined with a very slight attack of congestion of the lungs was the cause of death. The Dean was in his 66th year. On the evening of the same another death occurred, but one which though it must naturally be a cause of grief to his relations, was long expected and has come in the natural course at the close of a life of more than ordinary length. Rev. John Treanor, Canon of St. Mary's Cathedral breathed his last a few hours later than the Dean. Most of his life was spent in Galway where he was Vicar of St. Nicholas. For the last few years he has been resident in Tuam. While he was able he laboured earnestly and faithfully wherever his lot was cast and his goodness of heart made him universally beloved. On Thursday last the mortal remains of both were borne together to the Cathedral, where the burial service was performed by Rev. Canon Tait, LL.D., assisted by Rev. Canon Roe, the former of whom delivered the funeral address with his usual eloquence, which was listened to with deep attention by all present. The Lord Bishop accompanied by His Chaplain Rev. Canon O'Sullivan, and a large number of the Clergy of the diocese were present, with many of the gentry of the diocese and a large concourse of the people of all classes. Rev. Canon Murphy, was chief mourner for the Dean, and his son Rev. T. Stanley, Tuam, for Canon Treanor. The sad and unusual occurrence cast a deep gloom over the town.

1879. An honest man. A faithful and much loved minister, and a true disciple of his most blessed Lord and Master Jesus Christ. No son had a better father, no wife a better husband. Patient in affliction, joyful through hope continuing instant in prayer he bore manfully by his cross looking unto Jesus where the kind bade him enter through into the joy of the Lord”.

John Treanor's will



The grave of Canon John Treanor is flanked by those of his son Arthur (to the left), and of Charlotte, the wife of John's son Thomas Stanley (to the right). In the same plot is the grave of Jeannie, wife of Henry Blake, who died in Jan 1866 aged 23, and of her children Bella and Jemima. An obituary bemoaning her early death appeared in the *Tuam Herald* on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1866

Canon John Treanor

A year later Henry Blake was a witness at the marriage of Thomas Stanley Treanor to Anita Sillitoe. He was a senior inspector in the Constabulary.

Dorothy Hearne writes "There is an old rhyme, found once by my father, about the first Synod of the Church of Ireland after

disestablishment, which includes a reference to Old Canon Treanor roaring like a bull". It is probably unfair, but for me this conjures up the voice of the Rev Ian Paisley thundering "Never, Never, Never!"

Canon John Treanor died a couple of hours after the Dean of Tuam on the evening of Easter Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 1879. They shared a funeral service at the cathedral.

I found their combined obituary in the *Tuam Herald* for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1879, which appears on the previous page. At the age of 79, John's death was expected, but the Dean's was a surprise: he was 66 and had not been thought to be ill.

Marny sent me a copy of John's will, signed in February 1879, just two months before he died. My great grandfather Rev James Treanor is mentioned as one of the executors.

John spent significant periods of his life in England. He founded quite a dynasty of clerical Treanors, that continues right down to the present day.

In a book about Tuam Cathedral there is a group photograph taken outside the former deanery on the occasion of the reconsecration of the church following its restoration in 1878. The picture includes four of our ancestors,



one of whom was Canon John Treanor. He appears second from the left. The whole photograph is reproduced on page 64 at the beginning of Part 3. It is not very clear. But this is the only picture we have of John Treanor.



## Thomas Stanley Treanor 1837–1910

Thomas Stanley Treanor (Stanley) was born in Stottesden, Shropshire on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1837. I have a copy of his birth certificate, registered 13<sup>th</sup> December by his father.

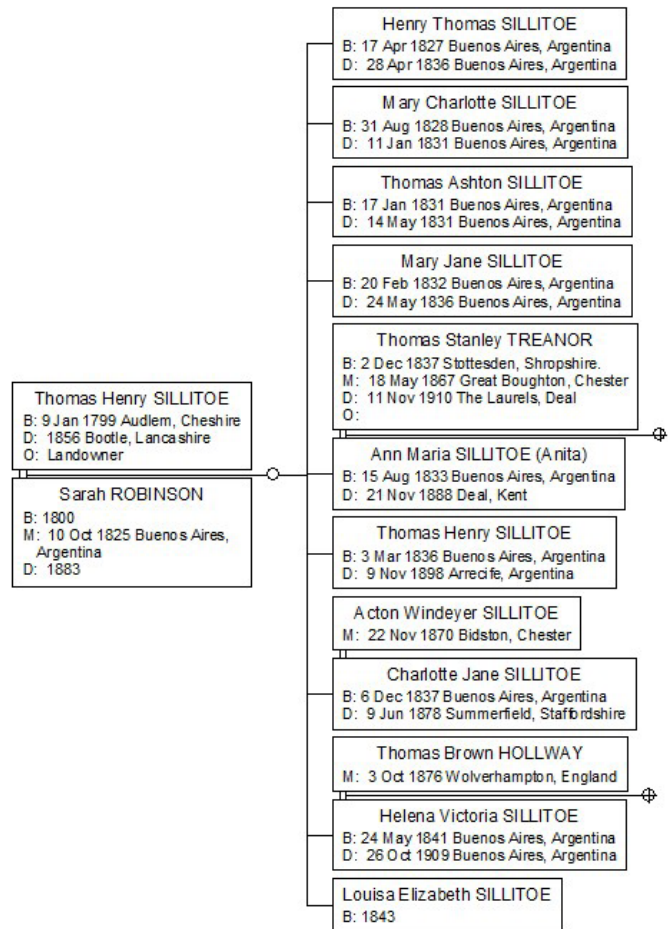
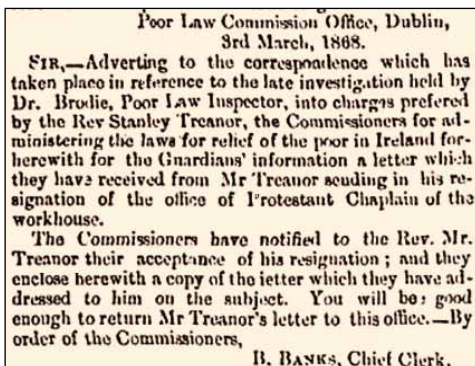
Stanley followed a similar path to his father, entering Trinity College Dublin in November 1855 aged 18 and graduating in 1862. He was awarded the Ecclesiastical History Prize (First), and took a prominent part in athletics, winning a running championship and other trophies.

I found his entry in Crockfords. He was ordained deacon in 1862 and priest in 1863 at Tuam, and was a curate at Tuam from 1862.

In May 1863 Stanley married Charlotte Elizabeth Evatt at Kilkeel in Co Down, Northern Ireland. She was born 10<sup>th</sup> September 1841 to Samuel Robert Bayley Evatt JP (born 1805) and Jane Sinclair Pratt (born 1819).

He was Chaplain at Arcachon, Gironde, in France (a Chaplaincy with no diocese). Marny tells me their daughter Charlotte Amy was born there on 4 April 1865. This matches the information I found in census entries for 1871 and 1881. It is in the Les Landes area just south of Bordeaux. They must have returned to Ireland for Charlotte to be buried at Tuam.

This seems to be contradicted by



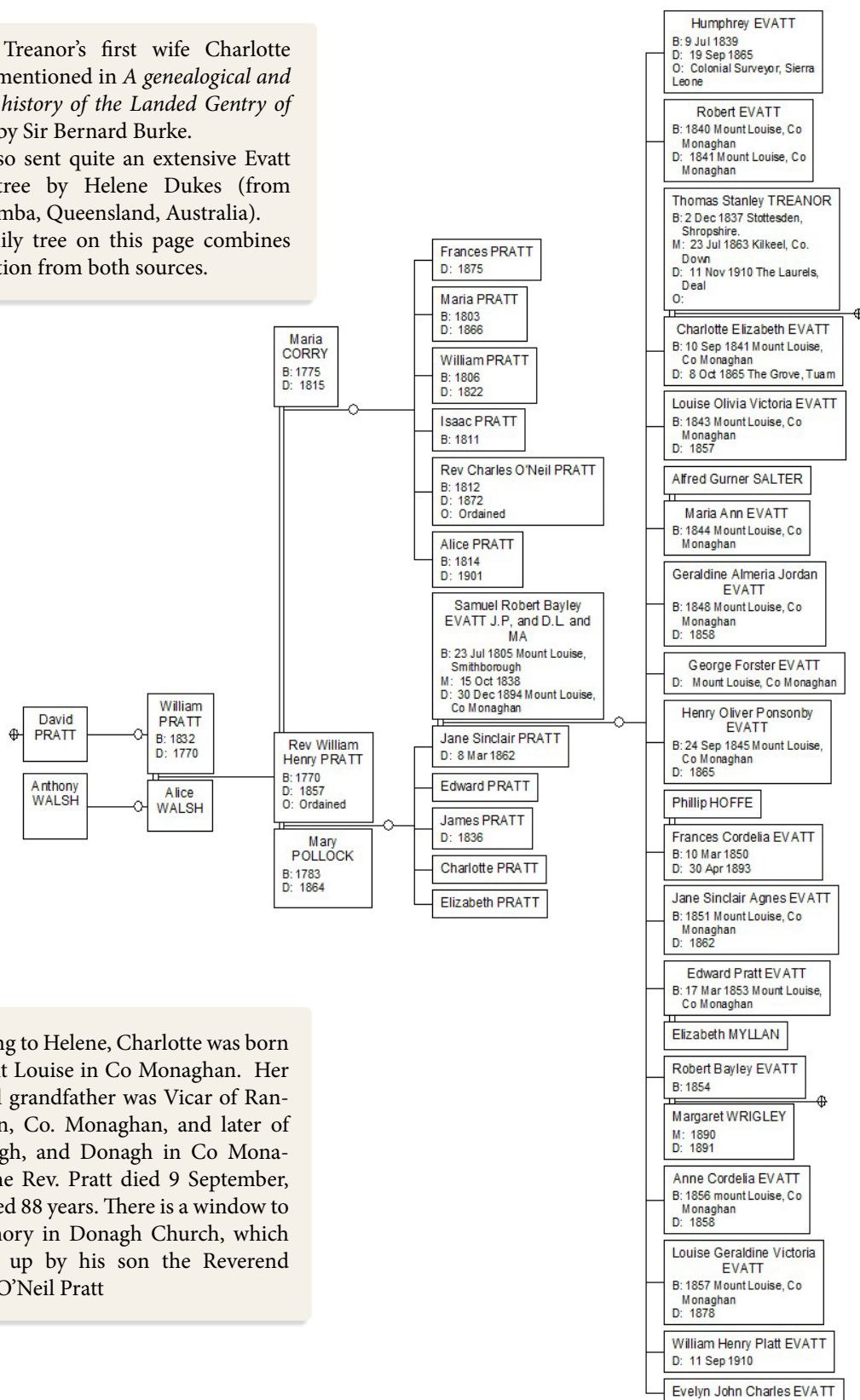
information at Tuam. The sexton and curator at St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, looked up the parish records on the evening of our visit there on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009, and sent an email in which he said "*the only Treanor born at Tuam, according to the registers, was on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1865 'Charlotte Amy Treanor' mother Charlotte Elizabeth, father T.S.*" I have not seen the record myself, but would judge Jarlath Canney to be very reliable. This might explain how they were in Tuam at the time of Charlotte's death on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1866, just five months later.

It is possible that her father recorded her

From Tuam  
Herald March  
1868

Stanley Treanor's first wife Charlotte Evatt is mentioned in *A genealogical and heraldic history of the Landed Gentry of Ireland* by Sir Bernard Burke.

I was also sent quite an extensive Evatt family tree by Helene Dukes (from Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia). The family tree on this page combines information from both sources.



According to Helene, Charlotte was born in Mount Louise in Co Monaghan. Her maternal grandfather was Vicar of Randallstown, Co. Monaghan, and later of Glasslough, and Donagh in Co Monaghan. The Rev. Pratt died 9 September, 1857, aged 88 years. There is a window to his memory in Donagh Church, which was put up by his son the Reverend Charles O'Neil Pratt



Page 2] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											
* Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c., of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of	Eccelesiastical District of				
<i>St Mary Church</i>					<i>Babbacombe</i>	<i>St Mary Church</i>	<i>All Saints</i>				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES In the Urban Sanitary District of	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN			
						Male Female			1. Deaf and Dumb	2. Blind	3. Imbecile or Idiot
7	<i>Rev. R. Treanor</i>	1	<i>Stanley Treanor</i>	Head	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Rector of St. Mary's Church</i>	<i>St. Mary's Church, Babbacombe</i>			
			<i>Anita, W. F.</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>27</i>		<i>St. Mary's Church, Babbacombe</i>			
			<i>Charlotte, W. F.</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>St. Mary's Church, Babbacombe</i>			
			<i>John, W. F.</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>11 m</i>		<i>St. Mary's Church, Babbacombe</i>			

birth in the Tuam register even though it took place in France. It would be strange for him to have recorded her birth incorrectly in the census.

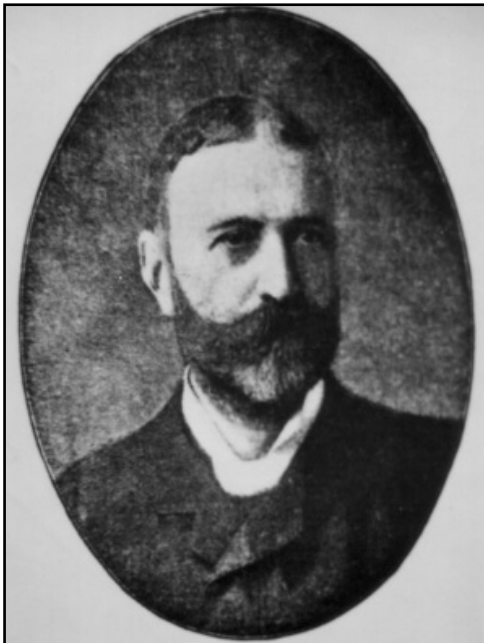
Charlotte died on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1865 at the age of 24, and is buried beside John Treanor in the cathedral graveyard. They had been married for two and a half years. The death notice in the Cork Examiner said simply “*At the Grove, Tuam, Charlotte Elizabeth, wife of Rev Stanley Treanor*”. Her entry in the Tuam Parish Register is on page 186.

Stanley was curate at Tuam from 1862 to 69, before moving to a parish in Cheshire. One of his roles was as Protestant Chaplain to the Poorhouse in Tuam, a post from which he was forced to resign in March 1868. He was

accused of proselytising Catholics, a very sensitive subject at that time, and a charge which he vehemently denied. He left biblical tracts when there was only one person there who was of the Protestant faith. He insisted on his right to speak with Catholics in the poorhouse, despite being forbidden from doing so. The case continued for several days, and was reported in detail in the Tuam Herald.

He married Ann Maria Sillitoe (known as Anita) at St Mary's Church in Chester, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1867. This was reported in The Times. “*The service was conducted by Rev William Griffith MA, a cousin of the bride. Anita is the eldest daughter of the late Thos Sillitoe, Esq., late of Bootle, Liverpool, and formerly of*

1871 census,  
parish of St Mary's  
in Babbacombe,  
Devon



Stanley Treanor



Ann Maria Sillitoe  
(Anita)

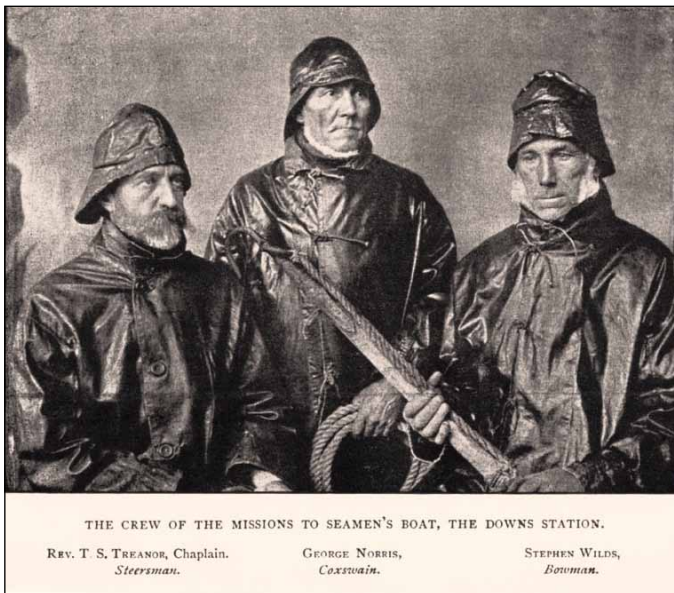


Illustration from  
*Heroes of the  
Goodwin Sands*

*Buenos Aires*".

I obtained details of her ancestry going back to 1710 from Zoe Fleming. She was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the daughter of a landowner originally from Audlem in Cheshire. They had six daughters, and a son, and many descendants.

Stanley returned to Ireland as Rector of Shrule from 1870 to 72. In the 1871 census we find him in Babbacombe in Devon. He is described as Rector of Shrule, Ireland. He is with his wife Anita M from Buenos Aires, and their baby Louie, and his eldest daughter Charlotte aged 6.

He was Rector of Achil from 1872 to 78. He wrote a letter to *The Times* in July 1874 in which he says "*Since Christmas last, the people - I speak of the Protestant small farmers especially - have lived on Indian meal purchased on credit, and at last in many cases even credit is exhausted. Debt, starvation, or the workhouse threatens us, and, until the new potatoes come in, I dread a pressure approaching in severity that of 1848*". The letter was raised in a question to

the Chief Secretary to Ireland in the House of Commons, who declared that "*there was no exceptional distress at present in the island of Achil. There was ample power in the Poor Law to meet the present distress*".

In July 1878 he moved to Walmer near Deal in Kent and was chaplain to the Mission to Seaman in the Downs from 1878 to 1910. In the 1881 census they were living at 'The Hollies' in Middle Deal, and had a governess and a housemaid to help look after their family of seven children.

Rev Thomas Stanley Treanor devoted most of his life to the Mission to Seaman, and wrote at least three books, including *Heroes of the Goodwin Sands* (1904), which is available as an ebook. The preface says:

*"For twenty-six years, as Missions to Seamen Chaplain for the Downs, the writer of the following chapters has seen much of the Deal boatmen, both ashore and in their daily perilous life afloat. For twenty-three years he has also been the honorary secretary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the Goodwin Sands and Downs Branch; he has sometimes been afloat in the lifeboats at night and in storm, and he has come into official contact with the boatmen in their lifeboat work, in the three lifeboats stationed right opposite the Goodwin Sands, at Deal, Walmer, and Kingsdown. With these opportunities of observation, he has written accurate accounts of a few of the splendid rescues effected on those out-lying and dangerous sands by the boatmen he knows so well.*

*Each case is authenticated by names and dates; the position of the wrecked vessel is given with exactness, and the handling and manoeuvring of the lifeboat described, from a sailor's point of view, with accuracy, even in details.*

*The descriptions of the sea--of Nature in some of her most tremendous aspects, of the*

*breakers on the Goodwins--and of the stubborn courage of the men who man our lifeboats are far below the reality. Each incident occurred as it is related,*

*The Deal boatmen are almost as mute as the fishes of the sea respecting their own deeds of daring and of mercy on the Goodwin Sands. It is but justice to those humble heroes of the Kentish coast that an attempt should be made to tell some parts of their wondrous story”.*

I have copies of a couple of articles describing his work with the lifeboat men, written by Gregory Holyoake, in which he says “*A passion for souls, coupled with masterly seamanship, earned Thomas Stanley Treanor ... the affectionate title ‘Sky Pilot’. When he died in November 1910 a new mission boat ‘Stanley Treanor’ was named in honour after him*”.

I was at school in Ramsgate in 1954 when the South Sands Lightship lost its moorings and sank into the Goodwin Sands. I still do not understand why nobody could save the crew, since it took some days for it to sink out of sight. It was all over the news. That was when I first came across *Heroes of the Goodwin Sands* whose author had my surname. At the time I had no idea we were related.

Anne died of gastric catarrh, intestinal obstruction and a sudden drop in blood pressure 21<sup>st</sup> November 1888 at their home ‘Beechwood’ in Middle Deal and is buried in the Deal Municipal Cemetery.

Three years after her death Stanley married for a third time to Louise Annie Atkinson on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1890 in Marylebone, London. Louise



**The lifeboat station in Walmer (above) is very similar in design to one at Galway**

was aged 30, having been born in Brighton, Victoria, Australia in 1860. Stanley would have been aged 52. The marriage was reported in *The Times*, and Louise was described as the youngest daughter of the late Thomas Jasper Atkinson of Burdwan, Calcutta.

I found her birth registration. She was born 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1860. Her father was Thomas James Atkinson, an indigo planter who was born in 1822 in Elambazar in Bengal, India. Her mother was Margaret Suter Lang born in 1824 in Selkirk in Scotland. They married 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1845 in Selkirk. I also traced her mother back two generations in Scotland.

His third wife did not live long. She died on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1896 at the age of 36 from chronic phthisis at ‘Beechwood’. Her death was announced in *The Times* on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1896.

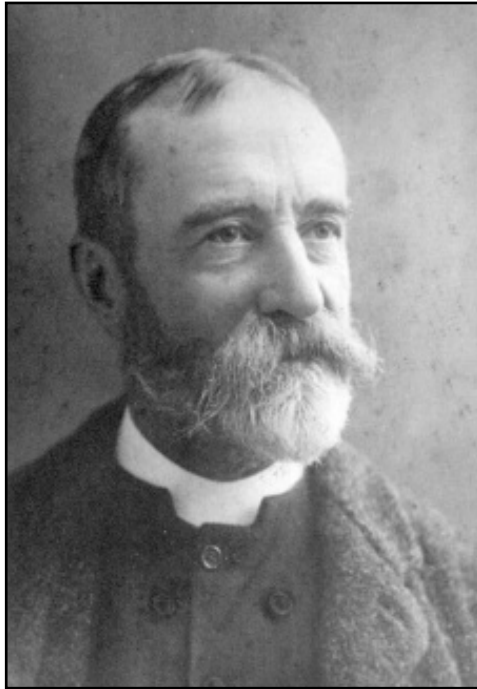
Stanley then lived at ‘The Laurels’ in Walmer. He died there on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1910 from a pulmonary embolism, certified by his doctor, J.B.Hulke. I did not find his grave, but Marny tells me “*he was buried in the Deal Municipal Cemetery next to his third wife Louise Annie Atkinson. Anita Maria (Sillitoe) Treanor, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, is buried not too far away from them both.*

*My grandparents, William and Anita McHutchin, and their daughter Mary, are all buried at St. Marys in Walmer. When we visited*

**The crew of the South Goodwin lightship were trapped in the galley, the door of which was under water. One man survived by scrambling through the skylight and was rescued by a US helicopter. Attempts to reach the stricken ship in lifeboats failed in the stormy conditions. By the time they got to it more than a day later they found no trace of the crew.**







*a number of years ago, the McHutchin grave surrounds were falling apart”.*

Stanley had eight children, whose descendants are spread across the world. His obituary in the Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Mercury emphasised his physical capabilities:

*“His keen interest in athletic exercises did not end when he left college, and no doubt the practice of physical exercises which he regularly continued till quite recently was no small factor in maintaining the robust physical health which he enjoyed during the greater part of his life. While engaged in gymnastic practice at home a year or two before his death, a rope he was climbing unfortunately gave way, causing him to break his ankle. But he recovered from the injury much more quickly and satisfactorily than would have been expected of one advancing in years.*

*Thomas Stanley was one of the senior members of the Alpine Touring Club, and had climbed some of the highest mountains*

*of Switzerland, of the scenery of which he was very fond. He climbed the Mönch, Eiger and Jungfrau when 69 years of age, and did a good deal of mountaineering in 1910.”*

## **Charlotte Amy Treanor 1865-1892**

The only child Stanley had with Charlotte Evatt and was born on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1865 in Tuam, or possibly in Arcachon, France.

Marny says *“I have not found the death of Charlotte Amy anywhere. My father’s cousin said she died young”.*

According to Helene Dukes she died in 1892, presumably at St Leonards, near Deal. She is in the 1881 census but not the 1891 census.

## **Florence Amelia Stanley Treanor 1868-1870**

Annie Maria Sillitoe married Stanley at St Mary’s, Great Broughton in Chester on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1867. Their eldest daughter was born a little over a year later in Tuam, but died aged 2 in Torquay, Devon on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1870.

## **Louie Helena Mary Treanor 1870-1953**

Their second child was born on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1870 in Torquay, about five months before her elder sister died. She was known by some as Tites, and others as Sue.

In 1895, aged 25, she married Lewis Iggluden Backhouse Hulke, sometimes known as ‘Mac’, at Eastry near Deal. Her husband was the son of a local GP, Dr Frederick Thomas Hulke, and his wife Charlotte. His grandfather Dr William Hulke had been the Duke of Wellington’s doctor, present at the Duke’s death in Walmer.



Mac was educated at Kings School, Canterbury, where we find him in the 1881 census. He served with the East Kent Regiment and Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, where he rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel CMG. According to his army records, they lived at Southlands, Balfour Road, Walmer, Kent.

Louie died on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1953 in Walmer.

They had only one child: Charlotte Anita Hulke, named after her father's mother. Her baptism is registered at St Barnabas, Kensington, but is recorded as taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 1906 in Bangalore, India. Her father was a Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Buffs regiment and living at 162 Holland Road. It was registered in 30<sup>th</sup> May 1906, so they must have returned to England by then.

Charlotte married Peter Fenwick Metcalfe on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1935, at Elham in Canterbury. He too was an army officer who served with 43rd/52<sup>nd</sup> Light Infantry, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He was appointed a Queen's Foreign Service Messenger in 1959. Charlotte died in 1993 at Sellindge, Ashford, Kent.

They had two children: George Fenwick Metcalfe (1937) and Jeremy Metcalfe (1939). George married Elizabeth Mayall and they had, Georgia (1965) and Rebecca (1967). He later married Lilian di Meo and had Lousia (1977) and Daniel (1979).

Georgia has been in touch and updated our records on this branch of the family. She married the writer and publisher Nicholas Coleridge CBE and has four children.

## **Mabel Anita Stanley Treanor 1872-1944**

Anne and Stanley's third child was Mabel Anita, known as Anita, born 4<sup>th</sup> March 1872 at

Park Road, West Claughton, Cheshire.

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 1880 she married William McHutchin in Bombay, India. He was born in Fraserprett, Madras on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1854, so he was 18 years older. They appear to have lived much of their lives in India where they had two children in Bangalore: George William Stanley McHutchin was born 18<sup>th</sup> October 1904 and Mary Anita McHutchin on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1908.

I found William McHutchin in the 1911 census. This tells us he was a Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, retired. Anita was visiting her aunt Louisa Lewis (née Sil-litoe) in Berkshire at that time. Anita died on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1944 in London.

As a young man her son George worked for the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank in Singapore and Canton. He wanted to marry so left and went to farm in Kenya. He served in 4<sup>th</sup> King's African Rifles Regiment in wars in Ethiopia and Abyssinia. He then worked in Nairobi and ended up as Secretary of High Commission. While in Kenya he married Eleanor Weeks Gliechauff in Mombasa. She was born in Rochester, New York on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1902. The couple are the parents of Marny Howe (Anita Marny McHutchin 1938) who was born in Kenya. Marny was a great help to me in my initial research into the Treanors.

Marny married Anthony Robert Howe (Tony), an aircraft engineer from Kenya. They spent 3 years in Toronto where their eldest child Keren Sabina Howe was born in 1960. They returned to Nairobi in Kenya for 3 years, where Anita was born in 1962. They spent a year in the Seychelles, and they then moved to Perth in Western Australia in 1965 where their third child Robert was born in 1967.

George and Eleanor had a son Gavin Keith McHutchin on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1940 in Nairobi. He married Carole Marie Sexton

(born 1936) on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1965 in Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. They have three children. The first was Monica Ann MacHutchin in 1966 in Bulawayo, who married Mark Joseph Beckford in 1992 in California. They had three children, and are divorced.

Second was Lachlan Gavin MacHutchin in 1970 in Spokane, Washington. He married Janny Sabrina Mathias in 1993 in Seattle, divorced, and married Jodi (Smith) Hice in 2008 in Tacoma, Washington. They had twins Samuel Iain and Nicholas Lee in 2011.

Their third was Iain Duncan Daniel MacHutchin born in 1974 in Boston, Mass. Unmarried but intending to marry partner.

Marny's parents moved to Lesmurdie in Western Australia in 1968. They both died there in 1979.

## **Sarah Ethel Madoline Treanor 1873-1931**

Anne and Stanley's fourth child was Sarah, who was also born in West Claughton, on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1873. She too married a military



Sarah Ethel  
Madoline Treanor  
in 1890

man, on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1898 at St Leonards in Walmer. I found details of this in Deal library. Arthur Edward Bewes rose to the rank of Major in the Royal Marines Light Infantry. His father was Frederick Duffy Bewes, a Captain in the 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

They had one child: Violet Ethel Bewes was born in 1900. Violet married Alexander G Grierson (1884-1951) and they had two children, Michael John Bewes Grierson (1921) and Pamela Violet Grierson (1925). Michael had a daughter Sarah (1993). Pamela married Richard Wallace Vernon (b 1927) and they had a son, William in 1956. William married Rosemary Nicola Myer and they had three children: William (1990), Hannah (1992) and Lucy (1994).

Sarah died on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1931 in Walmer. I found the announcement in The Times on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1931.

## **Violet Maud Treanor 1874-1948**

The first five children Stanley had with Anne Maria Sillitoe were all girls. Violet was born in Achill, Co Mayo on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1874. I found details of her marriage in the library at Deal. She married William Carstairs Douglas on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1896. William was a rice merchant, born in Bootle, Lancashire on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1863. His father, Charles Crockett Douglas, is described in their marriage record as a "*gentleman from Sutton*". I have traced his parents and his siblings – he had two brothers (Charles and Archibald) and a sister (Mary), and was the third child.

Their only a son Angus Stanley Keith Douglas was born in at 9 Trebovir Road, South Kensington, and was an officer in the Queens Own Cameron Highlanders and was killed at Kohima, India on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1944. He died unmarried.

## Thomas Stanley Treanor 1876-1939

Anne and Stanley's sixth child was a son, named after his father, and born in Westport, Co Mayo on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1876. He went to Marlborough School (1889-1892) where he was captain of cricket and of rugby. He was known as Tom. He was living with his father in the 1881 and 1891 census.

He was commissioned into the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 1896, and advanced to Lieutenant 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1898. He served with this Regiment at Aden, Singapore and Rangoon. He then transferred to South Africa, where he fought throughout the Boer War as an officer in Brabant's Horse.

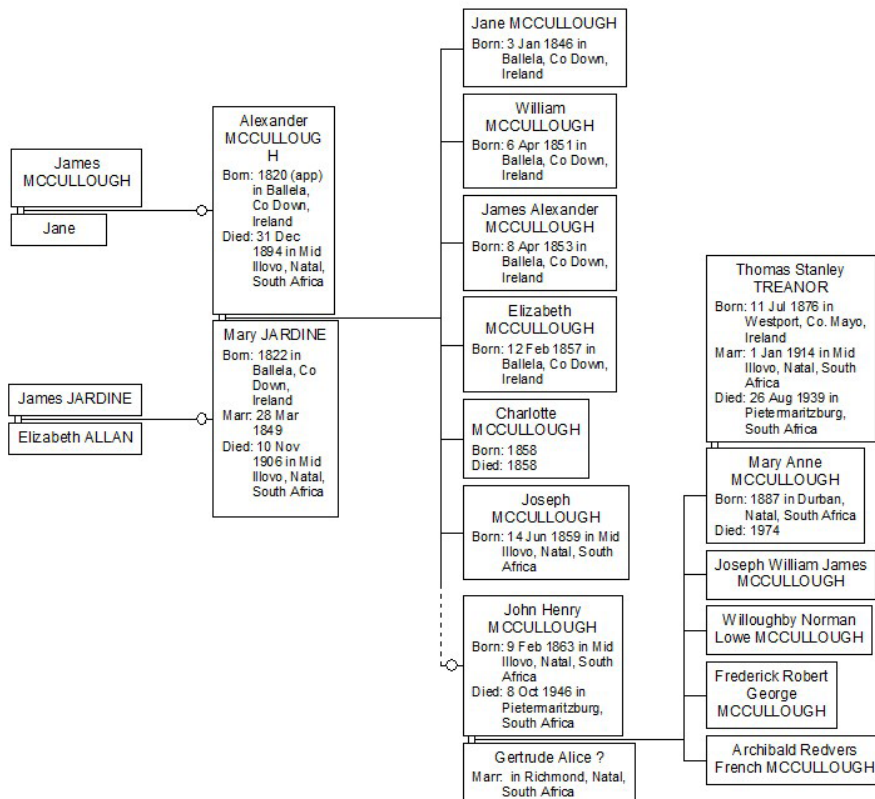
He resigned his commission 1<sup>st</sup> September 1900. According to a story handed down through the Metcalfe family he was accused of



The Queens South Africa medal to Serjeant Thomas Stanley Treanor, 1/ Brabant's Horse, awarded for service in the Boer war. Natal 1906 medal awarded for service in the Zulu uprising of 1906 in which the Zulu's rebelled against a poll tax

nickering the charitable funds of the President of the Regimental Institute, collected by the officers mainly for the soldiers. Many years later it was learned that the funds had actually been stolen by a PRI sergeant who confessed on his death bed.

He joined the Natal police and served during the Zulu Rebellion. When the Natal Police was dissolved at the time of Union,



he transferred to the South African Police, where he served during the Great War.

He married Mary Anne McCullough (1887-1974) on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1914, in Mid Illovo, Natal, South Africa.

I have been contacted by a McCullough relative who gave me details of Anne's family which are summarised in the family tree on the previous page. They originated from Ballela in Co Down, and emigrated to South Africa in 1858. Her father owned the farm "Blendehoeck" in Mid Illovo, Natal, South Africa.

He died on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1939 in Pietermaritzburg. The service, at the crematorium was conducted by Canon. W.H. Martin, vicar of St. Thomas Church where Tom attended regularly and had been a linesman. It was preceded by a ceremony at the Masonic Hall Temple. The funeral was mostly attended by Masons and members of the Natal Police Association and members of his wife's family.

His widow Ann lived until 1874. They had no children.

## **Florence Daisy Sillitoe Treanor 1878-1940**

The sixth and youngest child of Anne and Stanley Treanor was born at Achill Sound Rectory in Co Mayo on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1878. The church at Achill Sound is now a ruin. She was known as Daisy. I found her in the 1911 census living in the "*Cavalry Lines, Tempe, Orange Free State, SA*".

On 14<sup>th</sup> September 1905 Daisy married William Ernest Watson at Holy Trinity Church in Bangalore, Mysore, India. He was then a Captain in The Carabinièrs. Witnesses included Anita McHutchin (Daisy's elder sister), Major V.U. Smyth, Leonora Lewis (whose mother was Louisa Elizabeth Sillitoe, a sister of Anita Maria Sillitoe). Daisy died in

1940 in Essex.

William and Daisy had two daughters. Margaret Nancy Watson was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1913 in Canterbury, Kent. She married Joseph Thomasin Foster on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1940 in Stock, Essex.

Their first child was Monica Jane Foster born 1942 in Chelmsford, Essex. She married Peter Martin Wilkinson on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1975 at Ingatestone, Essex.

Their second was Mark Treanor Thomasin Foster born 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1943, also at Stock, Essex. He married Valerie Cunliffe-Fraser on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1972 at St. Pauls, Knightsbridge. They had three children: Nicholai Charles Thomasin Foster in 1975 at Kensington, Christopher William Thomasin Foster in 1976, and David James Thomasin Foster in 1979 at Merton, Surrey.

Monica Constance Watson was born on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1909 in Tempe (north of Bloemfontein) Orange Free State, South Africa. She died in 1970 in Chelmsford, Essex.

I have been contacted by Peter Sparks who is descended from William's brother Stephen Leonard Watson, with details of William's military career. He was born 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1876 and was in the Boer war from 1899 to 1902, serving as an adjutant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Imperial Light Horse from 21<sup>st</sup> January 1901 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902. He fought in the Relief of Kimberley.

He was in the Orange Free State between February and May 1900, in the Transvaal in May and June 1900, and in Cape Colony, south of Orange River, 1899-1900. He was mentioned in a Despatch from Earl Roberts, K.G., G.C.B., and awarded the DSO by the King on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1901:

*"Sir, In continuation of my Despatch, dated London, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1901, in which I reported on the various departments of the Army in South Africa, and brought to notice the names*



*of certain Staff and other Officers together with a number of Colonial Officers and men who have distinguished themselves, I now have the honour to further bring to your notice the names of the following gentlemen, Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and men of the Regulars, Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers, together with a few Irregulars and Civilians, who, with their various units, have rendered special and meritorious service”*

Major W.E. Watson DSO died on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914, age 37, and is listed on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

### **Arthur Treanor 1840-1874**

We know very little about John Treanor’s younger son Arthur. He was born between October and December 1839 in Stottesden.

I vaguely recall finding a book by him about Ramsgate fishermen in the Ramsgate library but have not managed to trace it.

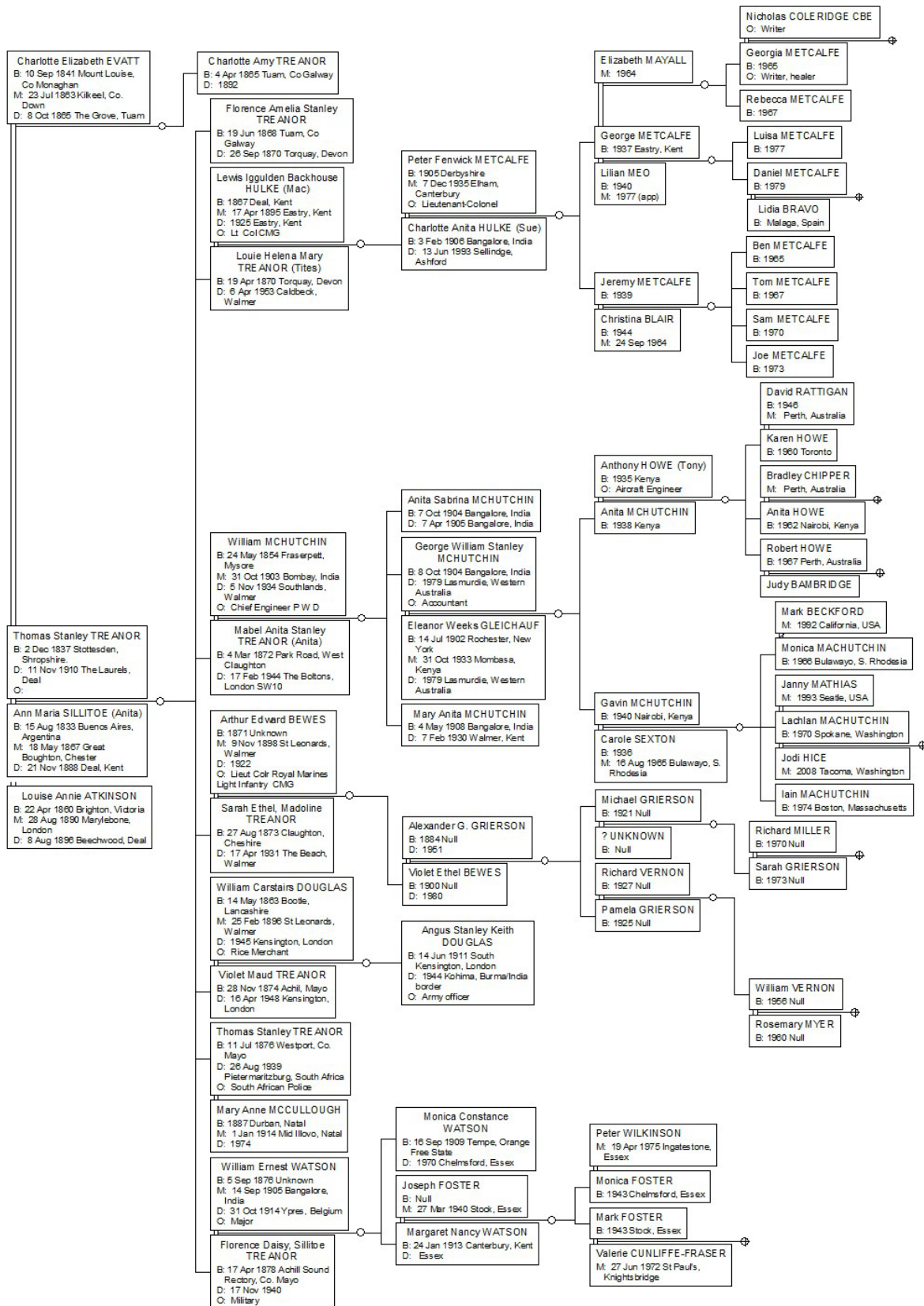
He died in The Grove, Tuam when he was only 34 years old, and is buried in the cathedral graveyard next to his father. His grave inscription simply says “*Arthur, the beloved son of Revd John Treanor, Rector of Kilmoylan, departed this life the 21<sup>st</sup> May 1874, aged 34 years*”. There is also a text from John iii, verse 36 “He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life”.

### **Thomas Treanor 1802**

Thomas Treanor was the second child of Thomas Treanor and Eleanor Burke. I found his birth in the parish register for Killala, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 1802. The register says “Thomas son of Thomas and Eleanor Trayner, maiden name Bourke”. That is all we know about him.



Arthur Treanor’s grave is beside that of his father, in the graveyard at Tuam Cathedral.



## CHAPTER 4

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# William and Alicia

### William Treanor 1804-1845

Although we never found his birth in the Killala parish registers, I believe William Treanor was the youngest of Thomas and Eleanor Treanor's children, born not long after 1803.

He married Alicia Robinson by licence on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1825 in the cathedral at Killala. We found their marriage in the parish register. They are my great x3 grandparents.

By the time their youngest son James was born, parish registers had become more methodical, using standard forms bound into books, and recording the father's occupation as well as his name, and the mother's maiden name. So that is how we know that William was a clerk of petty sessions. I have also found him described as a merchant.

### Alicia Robinson 1806-1860

Alicia's baptism appears in March 1806 in the Killala parish register, with her parents as Thomas and Margaret Robinson (née Kirkwood). The Kirkwoods were a prominent local family, one of whom was the local magistrate. In describing James' mother, Dorothy Hearne tells us Alicia was "*a blue-stocking who had him [James] reading at 3 and introduced him to Hebrew at 6!*"

Sir Richard Griffiths was commissioned

to carry out a valuation of all properties in Ireland in the middle of the nineteenth century, to provide a uniform system of local taxation. It is rather like the ratings valuation rolls in England. The valuations in Killala were made in 1856. And there we find Alicia Traynor as head of the household in 9 Preacher House Street in Killala.

At number 14 in the same street we find a building occupied by the Grand Jury, half the rent of which is received from the petty sessions. So it is a fair bet that this is where William and Alicia lived in Killala.

Pam and I viewed the original notebooks of the person carrying out the valuation on microfilm where her name is clearly Alicia. It was incorrectly transposed as Alice.

The part of the street containing number 9 was pulled down some years ago and replaced

**13 and 14  
Preaching House  
Street. The house  
to the right was  
where the petty  
sessions were held**

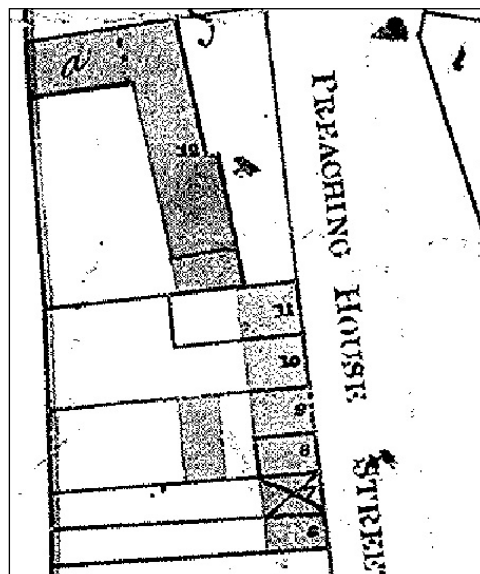




Map of Preaching  
House Street from  
Griffiths Valuation

with modern houses. But a retired teacher in Killala told us that the two houses with red doors on the bend in the street were very similar, and that one of them was where the petty sessions were held. This was confirmed when we downloaded the map from the Griffiths valuation, where these two properties are labelled 13 and 14, and the right hand one was also marked "sessions house"

We found baptism records for seven children born to William and Alicia in the parish registers at Killala. The one for Joseph was rather confusing: several entries had been made at the same time, and the first of these began by saying "June 14<sup>th</sup> William son of Thomas and Bridget his wife." But "14<sup>th</sup>" is overwritten with "19<sup>th</sup>" and "William" and "son of Thomas" are crossed out and overwritten with "Joseph son of William". This leaves the record showing his mother as Bridget, which is almost certainly wrong: there is an entry four or five lines below



recording the baptism on 18<sup>th</sup> December of "William, son of Thomas and Bridget".

The tree opposite is my best guess at William and Alicia's children, based on the baptism records from Killala and other records we have obtained.

Alice Traynor in  
Griffiths Valuation  
of Killala in 1856

## VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

### PARISH OF KILLALA.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	
	<b>TOWNPLOTS, WEST</b> —continued.			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	<b>TOWN OF KILLALA.</b>						
	<b>PREACHINGHOUSE-ST.</b>						
1	James Perkins, . . .	John Perkins, . . .	Garden, . . .	0 0 28	0 15 0	—	0 15 0
2	Wesleyan Methodist Society, . . .	Eccelesiastical Commrs. Same, . . .	Chapel and yard, Half the annual rent de- rived from Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, . .	—	—	6 0 0	6 0 0
3	Thomas Orme, . . .	Rev. Joseph Verschoyke,	House and yard, . .	—	—	1 0 0	1 1 0
4	Board of Guardians of Killala Union, . .	Charles Nelson, M.D., Same, . . .	Dispensary (lower part), School-ho. (upper part), office, and yard, . .	—	—	3 10 0	3 10 0
		Same, . . .	Half the annual rent de- rived from Dispensary,	—	—	—	2 10 0
5	John Perkins, . . .	Rev. Joseph Verschoyke,	Garden, ho., off., & yard,	0 0 20	0 10 0	5 0 0	5 10 0
6	Thomas Kelly, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden and house, . .	0 0 5	0 2 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
7	Owen Kerrigan, . .	Same, . . .	Garden and house, . .	0 0 4	0 2 0	1 3 0	1 5 0
8	James Finnigan, . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	1 0 0	1 0 0
9	Alice Traynor, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden, house, and yard,	0 0 6	0 3 0	1 5 0	1 8 0
10	Dorothea Rutledge, .	Same, . . .	Garden, house, and yard,	0 0 8	0 4 0	1 11 0	1 15 0
11	Henry Rogers, . . .	Same, . . .	House and yard, . .	—	—	1 10 0	1 10 0
12	Unoccupied, . . .	James Perkins, . .	Stores, offices, & yards,	—	—	12 0 0	12 0 0
13	John Fulton, . . .	Patrick Quinman, .	Garden, ho., off., & yard,	0 0 11	0 5 0	4 5 0	4 10 0
14	Grand Jury, Co. Mayo,	Same, . . .	Petty Sessions' ho. & yd. Half the annual rent de- rived from Petty Ses- sions' house, . . .	—	—	2 10 0	2 10 0
15	George S. Malley, . .	John Perkins, . . .	Stores, office, and yard,	—	—	20 0 0	20 0 0

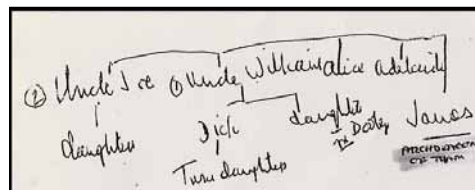
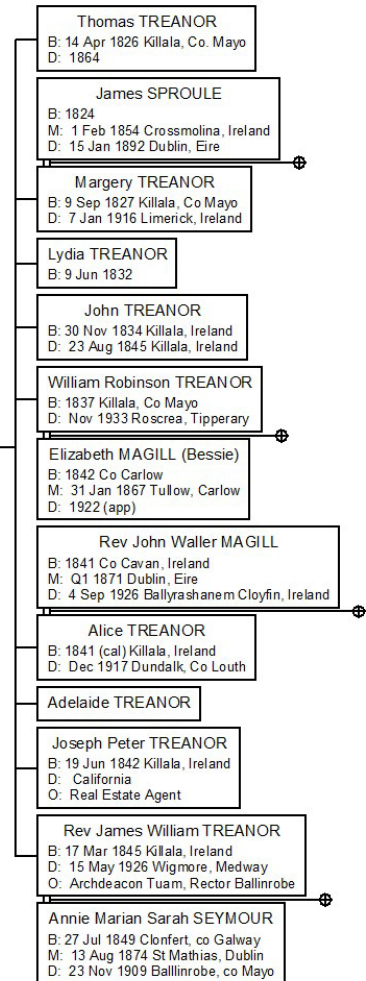
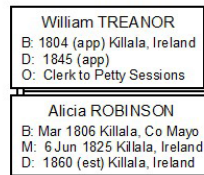


At the bottom of this page is a hand written tree from Marny Howe which was drawn by Margaret Thompson, whose grandfather was William Robinson Treanor. This does not have Lydia or John, but has a Mary shown as born in the same year as Lydia (1832). It is possible that Lydia was actually Lydia Mary and known by her second name.

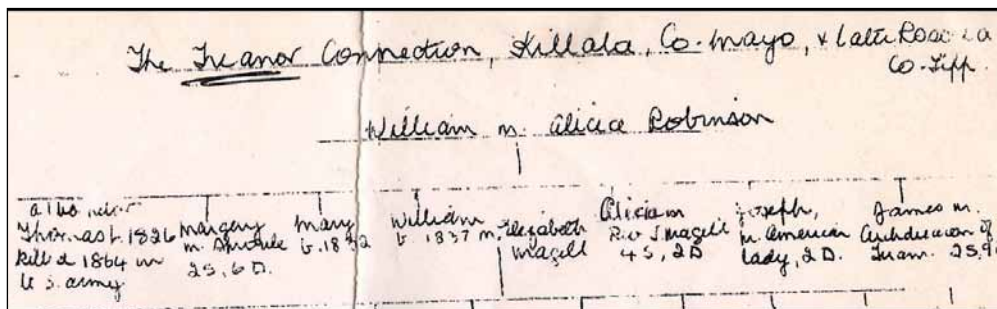
We also have a much sketchier tree drawn from memory late in her life by Dorothy Hearne, granddaughter of James Treanor. She identifies James as having another sister called Adelaide. I also found Adelaide on a tree obtained from Derek Treanor. We found no record for her baptism. Dorothy tells us she was married in London and had several sons. But that is all we know of her,

Both of these trees also show another daughter, Alice. The parish register has no record of any Alice born to William and Alicia, but does have the baptism of Alicia on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1840, daughter of Thomas and Bridget Treanor. Margaret Thompson shows her marrying the Rev J McGill, and having 4 sons and 2 daughters. I recently found them in the 1901 Irish census.

These trees also show a William. Margaret Thompson really ought to know about this, since William Robinson Treanor is her grandfather, and we have all his descendants in some detail. She dates his birth as 1837. Once again, there is nothing in the parish registers



Extract from Dorothy Hearne's tree showing Adelaide



Extract from Margaret Thompson's tree showing Mary

Coast near Killala  
in Co Mayo

*Ballina Chronicle*  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
June 1850

to confirm this. There is a William born to Thomas and Bridget Treanor and baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1842. Could Margaret Thompson be wrong on this? Given that both she and Dorothy Hearne have the same information, I am inclined to believe they are right. The baptism may simply be missing from the register. This was the period during which the entry for Joseph was clearly wrong.



#### KILLALA PETTY SESSIONS- June 14, '50

Magistrates present- D.J. Cruise, Esq., R.M., Chairman, John Perkins and Robert Kirkwood, Esqrs.

Lieut. Redmond Moriarty, R.N., Emigrant Inspector, appeared to prosecute Mr. Thos. Townley, for allowing a passenger into his vessel after being inspected and completing her number for Quebec. The first case was the suit of John Rielly, for the amount of passage money paid.

John Regan, sworn- Gave Mr. Townley £3 to bring him to Quebec; Mr. Townley would give no ticket before the vessel sailed; he said, "Give me £3 and you will get provision on board from the Captain;" witness paid £2 to Mr. Townley in his own house, and 1l. in the vessel; got a receipt for the 2l. in part payment.

Dr. Townley, who appeared for his brother who was at Westport, stated the money was for a passage in a vessel at Westport. The receipt produced is not the regular receipt.

John Jordan sworn- Went with last witness to Mr. Townley; saw 2l. paid; Mr. Townley told Regan he could not tell him until Thursday whether he could get a passage in the Brig, and desired him give witness the 2l., until he should be able to learn what he could do; the money was however pressed by Regan on Mr. Townley, who took it.

Lieutenant Moriarty sworn- Recollects the brig "Grace" in Killala; saw nothing of Regan in Killala; took a list of passengers but Regan's name was not on it; the vessel, owing to the drunkenness of the Captain, was driven into Sligo; went on board there, mustered the crew, and found Regan on board; all the passengers told witness Mr. Townley stowed this man away; the Captain and Mate were drunk, and witness had to remove them; the Captain was fined 10l.; Mr. Townley was written to by witness to come to Sligo but he did not come.

Regan cross-examined- Got no other ticket but the receipt for 2l. produced, and witness gave that ticket to the Inspector; about four or five days before the vessel left Killala he paid his money, and Jordan was present when he paid it; got the ticket now produced; cannot tell whether it was in the morning or evening he paid it, but walked home 10 miles by daylight afterwards; came back the next day to pay the full money but Mr. Townley would not take it, and put him off from day to day; Mr. Townley put him on board the vessel and told the Mate to take him on his list; handed Mr. Townley the 1l. 10s. but he handed him back 10s.

Mr. Cruise and Mr. Perkins- It seems hardly credible that Mr. Townley would hand back 10s. Why not keep it as well as the pound.

Cross-examination continued- Mr. Townley told witness he should be placed on the Captain's book and get provision; stayed but two days until the vessel sailed; saw Captain Moriarty when he came on board at Killala to inspect the vessel; was in the boat while that gentleman was inspecting; wanted to go on board but Mr. Townley would not let him; did not go into the vessel while Captain Moriarty was there; Mr. Townley put him on board unknown to the Captain of the vessel; witness positively identified the ticket he received.

The bench decided that the three pounds paid by witness be refunded and a pound costs.

The second case of Lieutenant Moriarty against Thomas Townley for taking money from John Regan for a passage to America, without giving him a legal ticket, was called on, and the evidence was the same as above.

The bench fined Mr. Townley in the mitigated penalty of 5l. and costs.

[Article transcribed as printed- although article mentions first case is suit of John Rielly the suit was presented by John Regan.]

### Thomas Treanor 1826-1864

William and Alicia's eldest son Thomas was baptised on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1826, within 10 months of their marriage.

According to Hilary Temple's hand drawn family tree, he emigrated to the US and was killed in the US Army in 1864, presumably in the American Civil War.

Perhaps he was one of the hundreds of Irish who emigrated in ships from Killala harbour during the Great Famine of 1845 to 1847. Many thousands died of starvation in Co Mayo, and others were forced from their homes.

Some of the ships were barely seaworthy and not designed to carry passengers on a journey which took 70 days or more to cross the Atlantic. It was not uncommon for one fifth of the passengers to die during the voyage, suffering from too little food and water and the insanitary conditions. There is a local case reported in the *Ballina Chronicle* on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 1850.

In 1841 the population of Killala was 1,125; by 1851 it had fallen to 970. In 1849 there were 1347 people in the workhouse at Killala, costing the parish £30-3-5½ a week.

The same newspaper on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1848 reports that cholera was also a major problem.



## CHAPTER 5

# Margery Treanor and Lydia and John

### Margery Treanor 1827-1916

Until recently, all I knew about William and Alicia's next child, Margery, was that she was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1827. According to Margaret Thompson she married although I could not decipher her husband's name.

But then in 2011 I heard from the husband of one of her descendants, Andy Schofield, who wrote:

*"Margery Treanor was born on 6 Sep 1827 and was married to James Sproule on 1 Feb 1854 in Crossmolina Wesleyan Chapel... They had nine children some of whom migrated to the USA. Margery died on 7 Jan 1916 in Limerick and is buried in St Georges Cemetery, Dublin with her husband.*

*The following children are of note:*

*The eldest William Sproule was wealthy and paid for his mother (and other siblings) to travel to the USA, though Margery left after two years to return to Ireland. He was based in San Francisco.*

*Alicia Sproule (1857-1945) went to America. Married there (to William Kidd) and had descendants but only one is now living. My wife's family remained close to that line. One of that line (Edwin Phillips) died last year and was a fount of much family knowledge regarding the Sproules and Treanors. He was brought*



Hilary Temple has a cameo labelled *Marjorie, Treanor* that looks to be from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

*up by Alicia who was his grandmother. He mentioned that one of the Treanors was in the civil war but I could never confirm that – it seems from your research it was Thomas!*

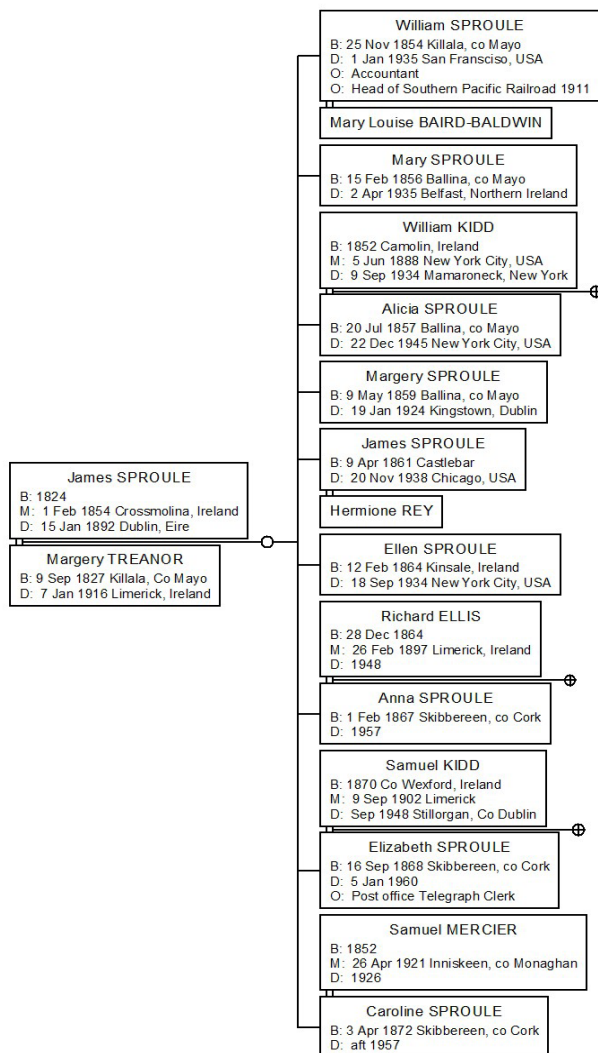
James Sproule in Griffiths Valuation

PARISH OF KILMOREMOY.							
No. and Letters of References to Map.	Name.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		
	Tenements and Occupiers.	Immovable Tenements.			Land.	Buildings.	
	BALLINA—continued.						
	LOWER FIFER HILL.						
- 1	James Sproule, .	Trustees Wesleyan Methodist Society, .	House, offices, yard, & small garden.	—	—	7 0 0	
- 2	See Exemptions, .	Col. F. A. Knox Gore, .	Methodist chapel & yard.	—	—	—	
- 3	Rev. Gibson M'William, .	Trustees of Wesleyan Methodist Society, .	Half the annual rent derived from Methodist chapel.	—	—	—	
- 4	Patrick M'Loughlin, .	Col. F. A. Knox Gore, .	Ho., off., yd. & small garden.	—	—	9 0 0	
- 5	Christopher Dunlevy, .	Thomas Gilgallin, .	House, offices, and yard.	—	—	4 10 0	
						1 0 0	

Weslyan  
Methodist chapel  
in Ballina



Elizabeth Sproule (1868-1960) stayed in Ireland, but when her sister Alicia married an Irishman (William Kidd above) in the USA, the two families in Ireland met and Elizabeth then married William's brother, Samuel Kidd.



## IN MEMORIAM

### MRS. SPROULE LIMERICK

Limerick Methodism has recently lost its oldest member in the death of Mrs. Sproule. On Sunday, 5th December, she attended the morning service, and took part—as was her custom—in the quarterly love-feast, and until Christmas Day continued to enjoy her wonted health. After suffering from an acute bronchial attack she passed peacefully away on Friday, 7th January, in her 89th year.

Mrs. Sproule could not remember a time when she did not love the Lord and had not a desire to serve Him, but when attending a class meeting as a girl, conducted by Mr. Bourke, of Killybegs, she definitely dedicated her life to Christ. Being one of the oldest members of the family, she exerted a strong and gracious influence over her brothers and sisters, which is felt in their lives to this day. Her youngest brother wrote a few days ago—"I have the clearest recollection of the prayers she taught me in my childhood, and now an old man I use them morning and evening still."

Right through life Mrs. Sproule was a staunch and devoted Methodist, being greatly attached to the institutions peculiar to our Church, and yet she was by no means unsympathetic towards other branches of the Christian Church. She was a woman of devout spirit, possessing a deep reverence for all things sacred, and was strictly conscientious. Her love for the services of the sanctuary was manifested by a regular attendance whenever possible; and her prayerful and sympathetic attitude was a source of strength and stimulus to the minister. She spoke of spiritual things as simply and as naturally as about the affairs of domestic life. Although of such advanced years her faculties were mercifully preserved in healthy exercise, and her interest in passing events remained undiminished. On the last occasion that the writer saw her she bore testimony with glowing fervour to her consciousness of the Divine presence. During her last illness she exclaimed, "Oh! it is beautiful to be gliding into eternity in the arms of my Redeemer. Ever since I was very young my constant wish has been to be ready to meet Him. He has been so good to me all through life, all my faults He has forgiven, and drawn me on in love. My very earliest wish was to see others brought to Him, and to know Him as their Saviour, and He has given me that wish too. Oh! I can never love Him enough for all He has been and is to me." Shortly before she breathed her last she said to the one who was supporting her—"I'm going away, going home. I feel it, and I would not wish to live longer. I'm going to my Saviour, Who died for me." Her daughter prayed that if it was the Lord's will she might be spared to the family circle a little longer, but the dying saint intervened, saying, "No, no, don't ask that. I don't want to stay. I would rather go to Him. I feel a little lonely at leaving my dear children, but Jesus knows, and He will take care of them. He is very precious to me. Oh! it is wonderful to have such a Saviour so kind and loving."

Well may we thank God for the grace that can thus beautify, enrich, and sustain.

After a brief service held in the home early on Tuesday morning, all that was mortal of our departed friend was conveyed to the station, and taken to Dublin, where the burial service was conducted by Mrs. Sproule's brother-in-law, Rev. James Treanor, M.A., Archdeacon of Tuam, and Rev. John Magill, Rector of Essexford, Inniskeen. *J.T. - 12 W.* C. S. G.



*Samuel Kidd and Elizabeth Sproule are my wife's great grandparents. There are descendants but not very prolific and the only ones living are my wife's immediate family".*

Andy also sent me a copy of Margery's obituary. Her funeral was taken by my great grandfather Archdeacon James Treanor, and by Rev John Magill, the husband of her younger sister Alice Treanor.

At the moment we know very little about her husband, James Sproule. I did find a James Sproule in Griffiths Valuation, living in the parish of Kilmoremy in the town of Ballina, with a chapel, house, yard and garden owned by the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Society. The minister is also separately listed so James is not necessarily working for the church. I also discovered that a Sergeant Noble Sproule of the Carabinièrs was one of the early Methodists in Roscommon.

James Sproule died on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1892, and is buried in St Georges Cemetery, Whitworth Rd, Dublin.

I had managed to trace some of their children, and Andy then sent me a much more detailed pedigree which formed the basis of most of what follows.

## William Sproule 1854-1935

William became head of the Southern Pacific Railway in the US, and consequently we have quite a bit of information on him. Thanks to a link provided by Andy I found his obituary in the New York Times.

He was described as "*retiring and reserved as an individual and one who was wont to shun publicity.... even declining to make known his age*".

He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1854 in Killala, Co Mayo, Ireland. He went to Trinity College Dublin, and became an accountant.

## WILLIAM SPROULE, RAIL MAN, IS DEAD

Former Head of the Southern  
Pacific Began Work in 1882  
as Freight Clerk.

### SAW SYSTEM IMPROVED

Facilities Extended Under His  
Guidance—Initiated Policies  
to Aid Employees.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1 (AP).—William Sproule, former president of the Southern Pacific Railway Company, died at his home here tonight.

Mr. Sproule was closely associated with extension of the great railroad system by which he was first employed as a freight clerk in 1882. He retired from the presidency on Dec. 31, 1928. He was 76 years old.

His death, attributed by physicians to a heart attack, occurred shortly after he had returned to his home from the Bohemian Club in company with Dr. W. E. Coffey, physician and close friend.

Although most of his active years were associated with railroad building and operations, he was connected with a number of oil and industrial concerns. He was made president of the Southern Pacific in 1911, after serving a year as head of the Wells, Fargo Express Company.

In 1925, when J. Kruttschnitt retired as chairman of the Southern Pacific's executive committee, Mr. Sproule assumed active administration of all affairs of the company aside from the New York organization and the Louisiana and Texas lines.

#### Reserved as Individual.

While retiring and reserved as an individual and one who was wont to shun personal publicity, Mr. Sproule nevertheless was a firm believer in the efficacy of "constructive publicity" for his company as a means of maintaining cordial relations with the public. Early in his administration he announced as a policy his intention of "keeping the man in the street" informed concerning the activities of the Southern Pacific so that the public might have a fair conception of the troubles and problems confronting a railroad.

"I have an abiding faith that if we can get before the people the basic facts of our business, its principles and practice, they will endeavor to do the wise thing, and they are apt to do the direct and wholesome thing. If we can but get the public to understand our difficulties they will help us." This was how he outlined his views regarding the need of and the value of sharing confidences with the public.

His faith in the beneficence of publicity did not extend to his personal life. He was reticent to an unusual degree, even declining to make known his age.

As president of the railroad, both before and after he succeeded to control of much of the huge system, he engineered a progressive development program. This included merger of the El Paso & South Western with the S. P.; construction of the line to Phoenix, Ariz., from Yuma; building the Cascades line through Klamath Falls, Ore., and double-tracking through the short but topographically difficult Sierra Nevada district in California, involving construction of a 10,320-foot tunnel.

Group insurance, instalment selling of stock to employees and filling of official positions by promotions from the ranks as a fixed policy were measures inaugurated under his administration.

Mr. Sproule was born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1855. He was graduated from the University of Dublin. Late in life he married Mrs. Mary Louise Baird-Baldwin, the mother of two children, but was himself childless.

In training, experience and traditions Mr. Sproule was characteristically Western. Except for five years in New York, virtually all of his life out of college was spent on the Pacific Coast. He was the first administrative head of a great trunk system to maintain headquarters in the Far West.

#### Rose Steadily From Ranks.

Starting with the Southern Pacific as a clerk in the freight department at San Francisco in 1882, he rose within five years to the position of assistant general freight agent. After ten years he was made general traffic manager, in which capacity he served until 1906, when he severed connection with the Southern Pacific to become associated with the American Smelting and Refining Company as traffic manager, director and member of the executive committee. In 1910 he took the presidency of the Wells, Fargo Company, resigning the next year to become a director and president of the Southern Pacific Company.

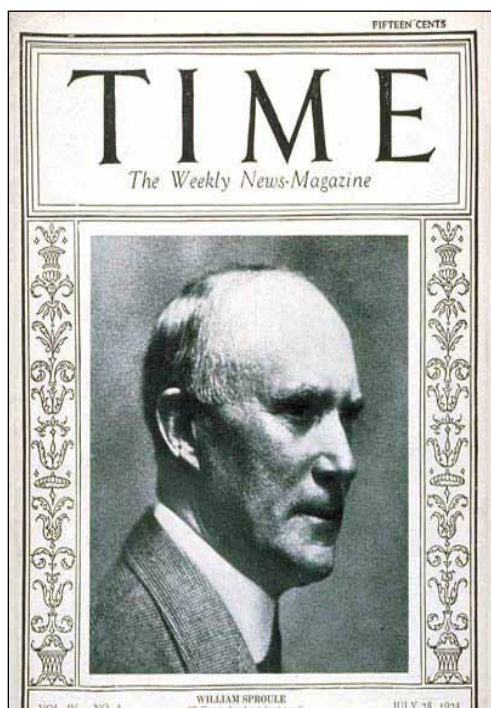
In the early days of the World War when the government was calling the best transportation brains of the nation to its assistance, he was appointed chairman of the western department of the Railroad War Board. From July 1, 1918, to Jan. 1, 1920, he was district director for the Central Western Region of the Railroad Administration.

He served in many public capacities and was a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of the Twelfth Reserve District, a member of the San Francisco Commission, supporter of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, a substantial patron of the arts and a former president of the Bohemian Club, San Francisco. He was a talented public speaker and on the occasions when he broke his reserve to talk in public, commanded attention on business and economic topics.

#### The New York Times

Published: January 2, 1935  
Copyright © The New York Times

The cover of *Time Magazine* July 1924 with William Sproule



He emigrated to New York in the mid 1870s and had moved to San Francisco by 1880. In 1882 he started work as a clerk in the freight department of the Southern Pacific. Ten years later he was general traffic manager.

In 1910 he became president of Wells Fargo, and a year later moved to become president of the Southern Pacific Company. He retired from that post on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1928, when he was reputed to be aged 76.

He married late in life to Mrs Mary Louise Baird-Baldwin, who had two daughters. He had no children of his own.

In July 1924 he was declared Man of the Year by *Time Magazine*, and had his photo on the front cover. He died on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1924 in San Francisco.

### Mary Sproule 1856

I found Margery Sproule (née Treanor) in the 1901 census, living at 10 Mallow Street in Limerick with four of her daughters. Mary

was the eldest, aged 45, born in Co Mayo and single. She was a teacher of English, French and Music.

Mary was still with her mother at 3 Mallow Street in the 1911 census. She died on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1935 in Belfast, and is buried in Ballyrashane, Coleraine, Co Derry.

### Alicia Sproule 1857-1945

Alicia was born on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1857 in Ballina, just a few miles from Killala in Co Mayo. She was thrown out of teaching for letting the children go home on a rainy day. She then worked as a hatter in the Treanor's shop in Roscrea.

Her brother William Sproule paid for Margery and her whole family to go to the USA. They came out on the Berlin.

On arrival they stayed at Percy Buttle's boarding house and Alicia complained that she was coming down with some infection because of the spots she had: it was bedbugs.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June 1888 she married an Irishman in New York City, named William Kidd, whose parents were George Kidd and Anne Butler. William was born in Camolin, Co Wexford.

William Kidd died of uremic poisoning aged 72 on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1934 in Mamaroneck, NY, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx, NY.

Alicia lived to be 88. She died on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1945 in New York City. Alicia and William Kidd had six children.

**George** (1889), **James** (1892) and **William** (1898) all died as babies, which leads me to wonder whether there might have been a common cause.

**Carrie** (Eleanor Caroline Kidd) was born in 1891. She eloped with **Ben Phillips**, with whom she had two children: **Eleanor**



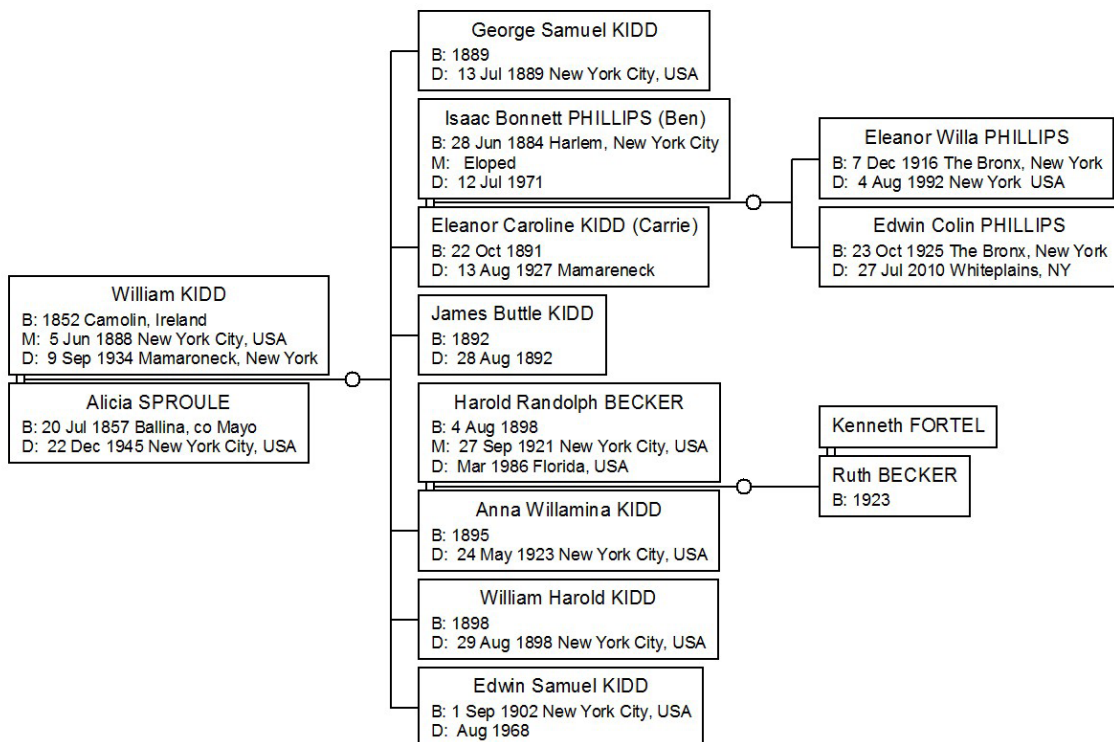
**Willa Phillips** was born in The Bronx on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1916, and **Edwin Colin Phillips** on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1925. Eleanor died of dropsy and a heart condition on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1927 in Mamareneck when Edwin was two years old. Ben Phillips lived to be 87, dying in New York on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1971.

Writing about Edwin Phillips (1925–2010), Andy told me:

*“Edwin was brought up by Alicia Sproule - his grandmother and the daughter of Margery Treanor. He had an amazing memory for detail and was fascinated by the old stories his grandmother taught him. He fought in WW2 but Alicia died before he returned from war - this hit him very badly.*

*Partly in response to this he visited England and Ireland to make contact with the Irish*

Edwin Phillips





*Sproule-Kidd families. He was particularly pleased to meet Elizabeth Kidd (Alicia's sister). She was the image of her sister in looks and voice - and was quite a comfort to Edwin.*

*This marked the reunification of the two families (ie those that went to the US, and those left behind), though particular closeness between the offspring of William and Alicia Kidd (of whom Ruth Becker-Fortell is the only one living, but originally did include Edwin and Eleanor Phillips) and Samuel and Elizabeth Kidd. Edwin and his sister Eleanor sent food parcels to the English Kidds (my wife's father and aunt) during the late 40s and early 50s post war period. Neither Edwin nor Eleanor married and Eleanor died before I ever met my wife so I did not know her. Edwin on the other hand became a very close friend.*

*My wife and I lived in the USA for a couple of years not far from Edwin's house in Whiteplains, NY. He was a fantastic person and a great help to us particularly as new arrivals in the States. After we moved back to the UK we usually spoke to Edwin on the phone once a month or so and I would visit whenever work took me to the USA. He died last summer after a long debilitating illness. He would have loved to have seen your research and speak to you about the Treanors/Sproules/Kidds".*

**Anna Willamina Kidd** was born in 1895, and married Harold Randolph Becker in New York on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1921. They had a daughter Ruth on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1923, who married **Kenneth Fortel**. Anna died aged 28 on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1923 in New York. Harold lived to be 88, and died in Florida in 1986.

**Edward Samuel Kidd** was born in 1902 and died in 1968.

## Margery Sproule 1859-1924

I found Margery Sproule aged 45 in the 1901 census, living with her mother in Limerick. She was also there aged 55 in the 1911 census, and is still single. She is listed as a "housekeeper", so it sounds as though she did not have a paid profession.

She was described by her sister Alicia as "the sickly one" but lived to be 64, and died in Kingstown, Dublin, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1924.

## James Sproule 1861–1938

James was born in Castlebar on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1861. He remained in the USA when Margery returned to Ireland with her other children. He married **Hermione Rey**, but they had no children. James became an alcoholic, and was cared for financially by his brother William. He died on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1938 in Chicago.

## Ellen Sproule 1864 – 1934

Ellen was born in Kinsale on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1864. I know very little about her, other than that she looked after Edwin after his mother (Alicia) died, and that she accompanied her niece Carrie when she eloped with Ben Phillips.

## Anna Sproule 1867–1957

Anna was born in Skibbereen, Co Cork on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1867. She returned from the USA with her mother a couple of years after they went to New York, and married **Richard Ellis** on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1897 in Limerick. Richard was born on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1864 and died in 1948.

They had one daughter **Mabel Ellis** on Christmas day 1897, who married **William Farr-Phillips**.

Anna lived to be 90, dying in 1957.



## Elizabeth Sproule 1868-1960

Elizabeth was born on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1868 in Skibbereen, Co Cork. She returned from New York with her mother, and was still living with her in Limerick aged 42 in the 1901 census, and described as a Post Office Telegraph Clerk.



When her sister Alicia married **William Kidd** in the US, the two families in Ireland met up, and Elizabeth married William's brother Samuel on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1902 in Limerick.

Their sister **Sara Catherine Kidd** married **Samuel Jordon** and had a son **Leslie Jordon** born in Limerick in around 1896. She was head of the household in the 1901 census, so her husband had probably died by then.

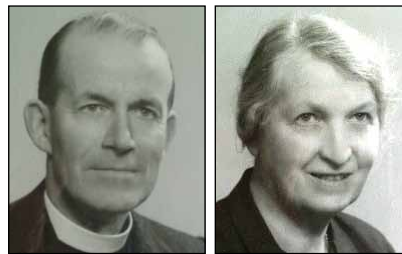
Their other brother **Thomas Butler Kidd** (1864 – 1916) was a commercial traveller.

I found Elizabeth and **Samuel Kidd** in the 1911 census living at 9 Wellington Terrace in Limerick, with three children: **George Frederick Kidd** is aged 7, **Kathleen Kidd** is 4, and **Samuel Ernest Kidd** is a one year old baby.

In the 1911 census Samuel is a Commercial Clerk for a Corn Merchant, aged 30. I also found Samuel in the 1901 census living with his elder sister Sara Catherine Jordan, who was a widow of Samuel Jordan, and was living with her. Their other brother, Thomas Butler Kidd was also with them. Two other children, Ruby and Audrey, are staying with other relatives.

The rest of what we know about Elizabeth

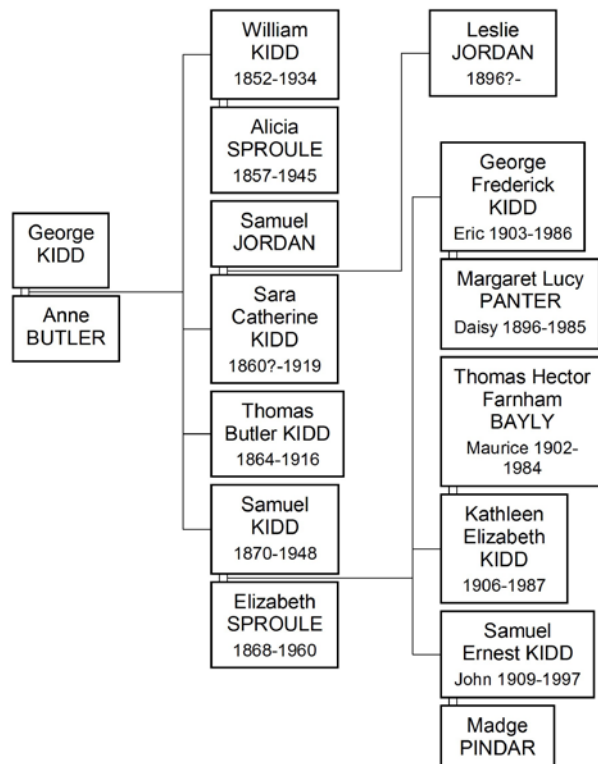
and Samuel Kidd comes from Andy whose wife Sarah is their great granddaughter. Samuel died aged 78 in September 1948 in Stillorgan in Dublin. Elizabeth lived to be 91, and died on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1960. She is buried in St Brigid's Churchyard, Stillorgan, Co Dublin. They had three children:



Elizabeth Sproule and Samuel Kidd (left)

Eric Kidd and Daisy Painter (right)

**George Frederick Kidd** was born on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1903 in Limerick. He was known as Eric, and was a clergyman.



He married **Margaret Lucy Panter** on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1933 in the cathedral at Ng'ora in Uganda. She was known as Daisy, and was born in Whitchurch-upon-Wye on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1896. They had two children.

An extensive family tree for the Panter family can be found at <http://host.quksdns5.net/~famdrea/familydata/pubtreepanter1/greatfamilyviewer.html>

The second child of Elizabeth Sproule and Samuel Kidd was **Kathleen Elizabeth Kidd**, who was born on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1906 in Limerick. On 17<sup>th</sup> April 1931 in Limerick Kathleen married **Thomas Hector Fanham Bayly**, known as Maurice. He had been born in Dublin on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1902. They had two children: **Helen Elizabeth Bayly** (1932-1994) and a son who was born in Dublin 1936. Maurice died in 1984, and Kathleen in 1987.

The third child of Elizabeth and Samuel Kidd was **Samuel Ernest Kidd**, known as John, who was born in Limerick on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1909. He married **Madge Pindar** in 1953, and died in 1997 without having any children.

### Caroline Sproule 1873

The youngest daughter of Margery Treanor and James Sproule was Caroline. I first found her in the 1901 census aged 28, born in Skibbereen in Co Cork and living with her mother in Limerick. She was a teacher of English, Music and French. She was still with her mother aged 38 in the 1911 census.

In 1921 she married **Samuel Mercer** in Inniskeen. By that time she would have been 48, and they had no children. He died in 1926, but Caroline lived to be at least 85.

That brings us to the end of Margery Treanor's family. It is likely that my Aunt Margery was named after her.

### Lydia Treanor 1832

After Margery there is then a 5 year gap before Lydia is born to William Treanor and Alicia Robinson. Her baptism appears in the Killala parish register on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1832.

On Margaret Thompson's family tree a daughter named Mary is shown with the same year of birth. She might have been known as Mary. The parish register would have mentioned if Lydia and Mary were twins.

### John Treanor 1834

The second son of William Treanor and Alicia Robinson was John who was baptised in Killala on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1834.

From an entry in the parish register we know that John was buried, aged 11, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1845. This was just a few weeks after their youngest son James was born.

Under the usual Irish naming pattern the first son is named for the father's father, second son for mother's father, third son for self if the name is not already taken. With girls, the first daughter is for the mother's mother, second daughter for the father's mother, and third daughter for mother.

William and Alicia seem to follow this convention with Thomas and William. In which case we might guess that Alicia's father was John Robinson, and her mother was Margery Kirkwood.

We would then expect their second daughter to have been named Eleanor. The third daughter we know about was named Lydia, but there is an unusually long gap between Margery (Sept 1827) and Lydia (June 1832) so they might have had another daughter who died. Their third surviving daughter was named Alicia, which fits with the convention. This does not explain where the name Lydia comes from.

## CHAPTER 6

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# William Robinson Treanor

### William Robinson Treanor 1837–1933

I believe William Robinson Treanor was born in 1837, although I have not found his baptism record. He was the third son of William Treanor and Alicia Robinson. Dorothy writes about him at some length.

*“The eldest brother William, about 10 years older than Grandfather, cut himself off from the family, apparently quite amiably, by marrying the draper’s daughter in Roscrea, and I think inheriting the shop. At least I have been told there was a shop with Treanor over the door.*

*Uncle Victor [DT: WVK Treanor] told me once he went to Roscrea for some reason and explored, and though I don’t think he met any of them said they had a very good reputation as very religious.*

*Uncle William came to Ballinrobe once when I was about 14 or 15 – a charming old man, very quiet [DT: that would be about 1926]. I gathered he was something of a botanist. He was with Uncle Joe and a younger man, his son-in-law I think, called if I remember correctly Tim Dooley. About 20 years ago [DT: about 1973] a son of Uncle*

I visited Roscrea in 2009 and spoke to local people who identified the drapers shop run by the Treanors. It was quite big, stretching right around the corner.



*William called Dick, with twin daughters, called on us, also very pleasant. He lived in Wallington and was the person who had rung Aunt Annie [pencilled annotation by Des says Aunt Annie, ie my grandmother, your great grandmother] when he saw Uncle Victor's death in the paper".*

I came across a couple of other records of William Treanor. There is an entry in a trade directory for Roscrea, showing him amongst the milliners and dressmakers, with a shop in Main Street.

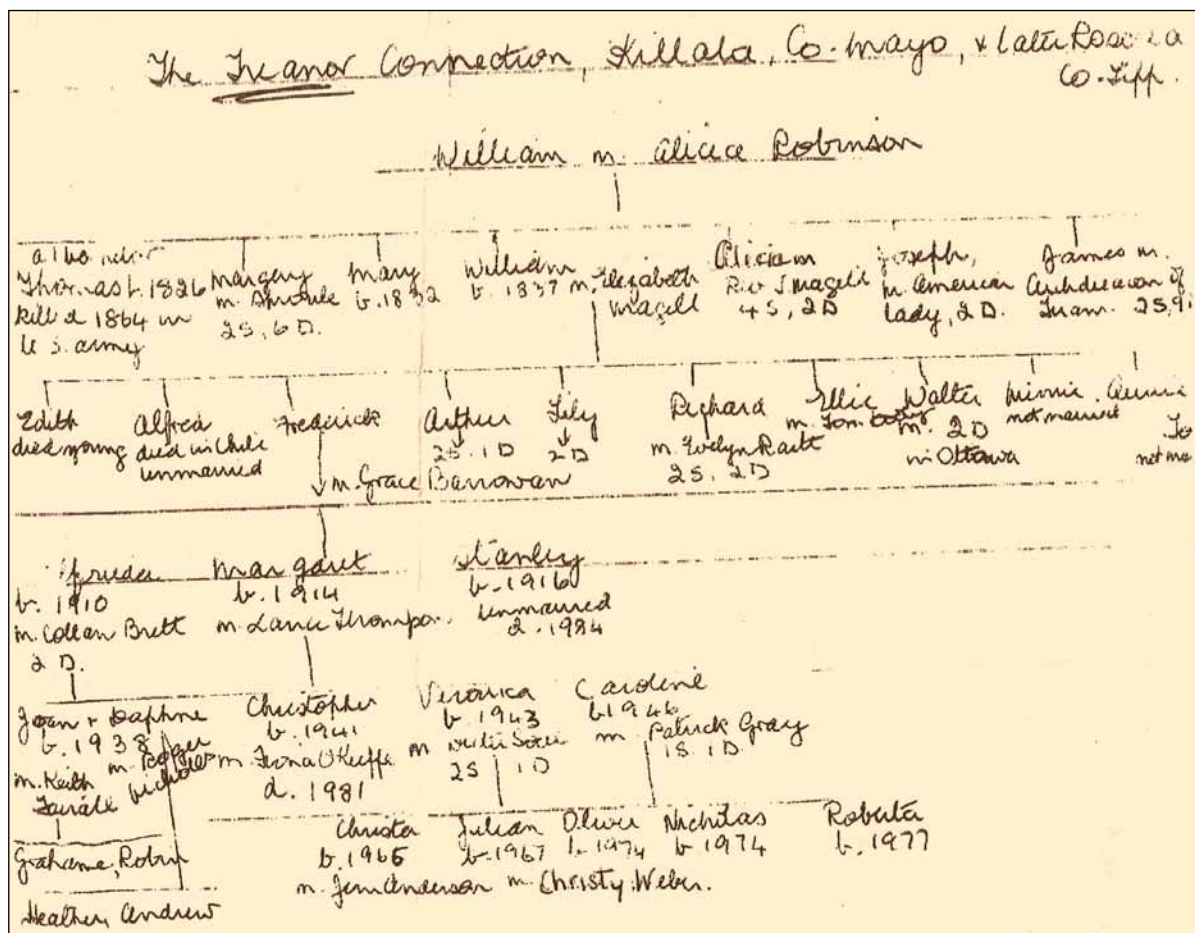
I found him in the 1901 census, with his wife Bessie (59) and children Tom (16), Ellie (24), Lily (28), Minnie (22), while his sons Fred (30) and Arthur (29) were staying in Rathmines, Dublin with their cousin James Perkins from Co Mayo who was a commercial traveller in the draper's trade. I have not

managed to trace this relationship, but there was a shopkeeper in Killala in 1858 named James Perkins, and another named Thomas Treanor.

There is also a charming reference to William in the Journals of John Long for December 1896.

*"After that I visited Roscrea, where I had fellowship with S.W.H. Nesbitt, the Methodist Minister, who was my superintendent in the Colportage work; also William Treanor, a Godly draper, whose influence for good is very great in that town. During that time and for the space of five years, I was a Methodist member in fellowship, at their class meetings, love feasts, and Sacramental means of grace. It would be ingratitude for me to ever undervalue the help I got at those meetings; and the encouragement received from those men of God".*

## Margaret Thompson's tree





Marny sent me a tree drawn up by Margaret Thompson, one of William's granddaughters. This was my starting point for researching this part of the family. Margaret had just died in 2008, and the tree came from her daughter Veronica Söll.

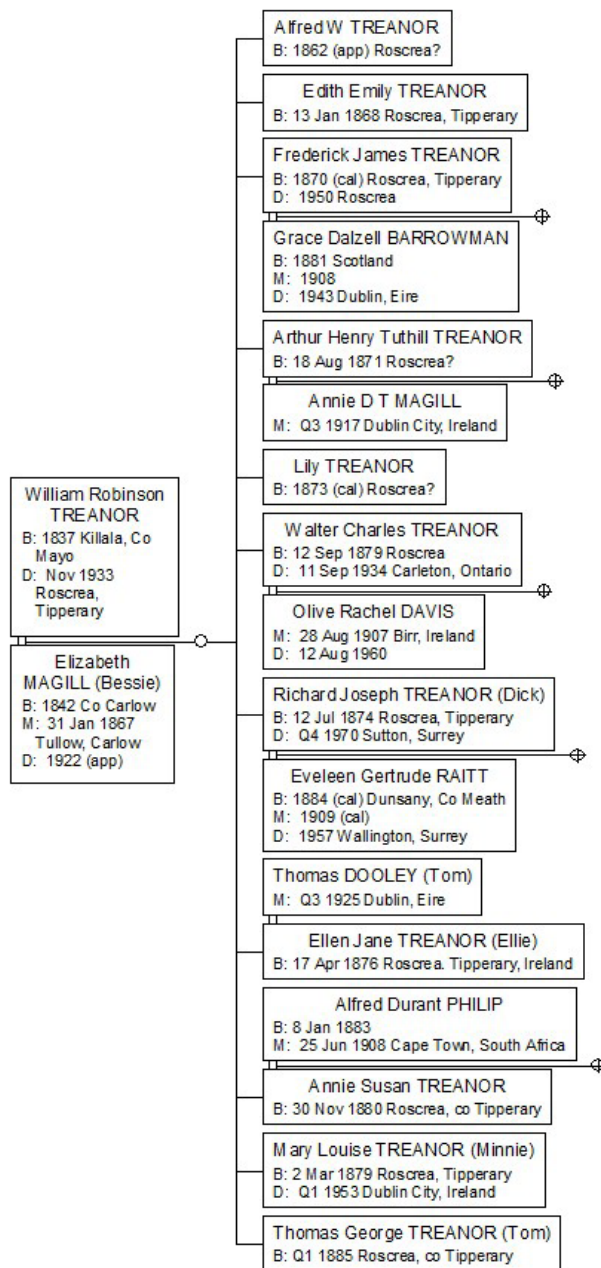
William married **Elizabeth McGill**. I found this registered in the Parish Church of Tullow in Co Carlow. William is a shopkeeper of Roscrea Parish, son of William Treanor, merchant. Elizabeth is from Tullow parish, daughter of **William Magill**, tailor and postmaster. They were married by licence on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1867. The witnesses were William Magill and H.J Johnston.

Veronica Söll noticed my reference to the draper's shop in Roscrea, and wrote:

*"This was in our family. When I was a small child we visited there and I remember my grandfather Fred Treanor, and my uncle Arthur Treanor, both quite old at the time. Fred was a well respected man, active in the local Church of Ireland as well as being the church organist, and someone to whom anyone in the town who was in distress could come for assistance. After Fred (by then a widower) died, I believe Arthur's son Billy ran the place for a while and then it was sold."*

*Fred had two daughters (my mother Margaret and her older sister Elfriede), and just one son, James Stanley, who took a degree in mathematics at Trinity. Both he and my mother, who studied modern languages, were scholars of Dublin University. James joined the British Indian Civil Service, so none of them was interested in carrying on the family draper's trade in Roscrea."*

I found a newspaper article on William's funeral in the Irish Independent on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1933. The chief mourners were his sons Fred and Arthur, and another son Rev R



J Treanor. Mr G Treanor and Wm Treanor are the sons of Arthur Treanor (Gerald and William). I do not recognise Mr R J B Jackson, a son-in-law. It is interesting to see the Dean of Tuam present – that was Jim

*Irish Independent*  
21<sup>st</sup> Nov 1933

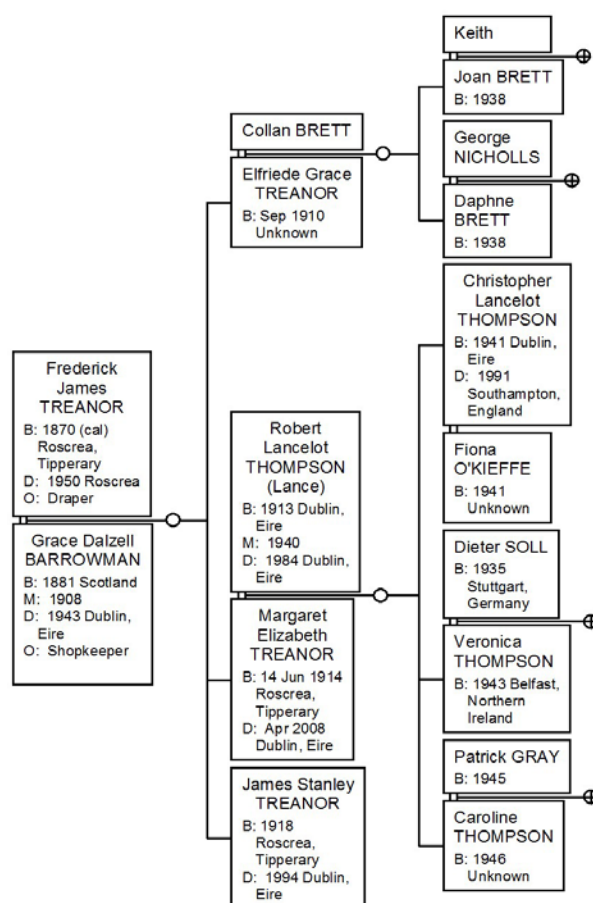
Lendrum, husband of Isy Treanor. William had lived to the ripe old age of 96.

## Edith Emily & Alfred Treanor

Edith Emily Treanor was born on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1868, and according to Margaret Thompson, she died young.

Alfred W Treanor was born around 1869. I found him aged 31 in the 1901 census, living at 63 Balfour Road, Islington with his younger brother Richard J Treanor aged 26. He was a bank cashier.

He was a passenger on the Ortega from Punta Arenas to Liverpool on 26<sup>th</sup> Jul 1915 aged 46 and address as c/o Anglo South American Bank, 63 Broad Street, London EC, occupation: bank clerk. On Margaret Thompson's tree it says "*died in Chile unmarried*".



## FUNERAL OF MR. W. TREANOR

The funeral of Mr. Wm. Treanor, Roscrea, was very largely attended.

The chief mourners were:—Mr. F. Treanor, Mr. A. Treanor, Rev. R. J. Treanor (sons); Mr. G. Treanor and Mr. Wm. Treanor (grandsons); Mr. R. J. B. Jackson (son-in-law); Very Rev. the Dean of Tuam, Mr. R. Ellis, Limerick (relatives).

Amongst those present or represented were:—Rt. Rev. Dom McCarthy, Lord Abbot of Mount St. Joseph; Rev. F. O'Molloy, Adm., Roscrea; Rev. J. Matthew, Limerick; Rev. J. Houlihan, P.P.; Rev. J. England, Cork; Rev. J. Hynes, Rev. T. A. Hanna, Rev. J. Woods, Rev. C. Milligan, Rev. Chancellor Daly, Capt. Reed, Messrs. J. Burke, T.D.; F. A. Elliott, P. Grantley.

The officiating clergy were:—Rev. R. Leo Cole, B.D.; Rev. J. Berkenshaw, Rev. H. Massey, Rev. W. M. Thompson, Rev. Mr. Hutchison, Rev. R. J. McDonagh.

## Frederick James Treanor 1870-1950

I found Frederick James Treanor in the 1911 census with his wife **Grace Dalzell Barrowman** and baby daughter Elfriede Grace, living at 9 Parkmore in Roscrea, with a servant. They were being visited by Grace's brother John and sister Christina.

Fred and Grace had three children that we know about.

## Elfriede Treanor 1910

I first came across Elfrieda Grace Treanor as a baby with her parents in the 1911 census. She married **Collan Brett**, and they had at least two daughters: **Joan** and **Daphne**. Joan married **Keith** and had two sons, **Graham** and **Robin**. Daphne married **George Nicholls** and also had two children: Heather and Andrew.

## Margaret Elizabeth Treanor 1914-2008

Fred's next child Margaret was born on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1914 in Roscrea. Her daughter Veronica told me "*she did modern languages at Trinity College Dublin, and always attended the Scholar's Dinner with her brother Stanley*."

*In her later years, as she became one of the*

*oldest living scholars and moved up the table towards the provost's seat, she would hope that the other slightly older scholar hadn't died in the meantime, because then she would have to sit next to the provost and she thought him a very boring person! She had a totally different personality from Stanley but was quite a personage in her own right".*

She married **Robert Lancelot Thompson** in 1940. Lance was from Dublin, and the second of four children of Maxwell Thompson and Eleanor Rudd. I have a detailed tree for the Lancelot family originating from Margaret, as well as her tree for the Treanor family referred to earlier.

Margaret had three children. **Christopher Lancelot Thompson** was born in 1941. He married **Fiona O'Kieffe**, but I am not aware of any children. Christopher died in Southampton in 1991. His wife Fiona is still living.

Margaret's second child **Veronica J Thompson** was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland in 1943. She married **Dieter Gerhard Söll** from Stuttgart in Germany, and they had three children. **Christa Felicity** married **Martin Watson** on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010, but sadly died a little over a year later on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011. Their second child **Julian Richard Söll** was born in 1967 and lives in Brookfield in Wisconsin with his wife **Christine Anne Weber**. They have four children: **Justin Lance, Emily Anne, Mitchell John, and Adam**. Veronica's third child was **Oliver Phillip Söll** who lives in Austin, Texas, with his wife **Rebecca Howard**.

Margaret's third child was **Caroline Susan Thompson**, born in 1966. She married **Patrick J Gray**, and they had two children: **Nicholas James Gray**, and **Roberta Elizabeth Gray**.

## James Stanley Treanor 1918-1994

I first came across their third child James Stanley in *The Times* 11<sup>th</sup> June 1936 receiving a degree in mathematics from Trinity College Dublin. He was from the Methodist College in Belfast. I also found a report on his appointment to the Civil Service in *The Times* on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1940. He was known as Stanley.

I later found him travelling back from Bombay to Liverpool, on the *Britannic*, arriving 21<sup>st</sup> October 1945 (see below). He was elected to the Kildare Street University Club in November 1945, and was then living in The Square in Roscrea.

He died in Dublin in 1994, unmarried.

I was contacted by one of his students who wrote:

*"I live in Dublin and attended St. Andrew's College (Clyde Road and later Booterstown) between 1969 and 1975. 'Stan' as we called him taught us honours level mathematics. He told us about his work in India in the British Civil Service and that he got 100% in his maths exam for the position. He had a very good singing voice and played the organ very well and led the hymn singing every morning. He chewed on meggezones constantly as he was always worried about losing his voice. He actually worked out the volume of a meggezone for us in class one day. I have very fond memories of him. He was a great character. As a result of his influence and excellent teaching*

LIVERPOOL									
Passenger	Age	Sex	Occupation	Address	Religion	Marital Status	Notes	Remarks	Remarks
mbay	760.	TURBY, Richard Jeremy	1st.			2	The Barn House, Chinnor, Oxon.	Infant	India
.	761.	TIPSON, Kenneth George	do.	39			New Tree, Sampford Arundel, Taunton.	Indian Police	do.
.	762.	TIPSON, Lillie	do.	38			10. Coshycoote Ave., Herne Hill, S.W.24.	Housewife	do.
.	763.	TREANOR, James Stanley	do.	29			The Square, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, Eire	Civil Service	do.
		Pennance Lanner,						Wine Agent	do.

James Stanley Treanor in the passenger list of the *Britannic*



## STANLEY TREANOR

In June we said goodbye to Mr. J. S. Treanor, who retired from the teaching staff after 18 years work in the Mathematics department. In fact this was his second retirement as he had had a very successful career in the Indian Civil Service prior to coming to St. Andrew's.

Stanley Treanor originated from Roscrea, and, after primary education entered Methodist College, Belfast on a music scholarship. There he took lessons in piano and violin and later changed to the organ. In his scholarship year, 1934, he gained two awards: an Entrance Scholarship in Mathematics and Physics to Queen's University, Belfast, and a Sizarship in Mathematics to Trinity College, Dublin. Opting for Trinity he studied Mathematics, gained a Foundation Scholarship in 1936 and a First Class Moderatorship in 1938.

While in university he was active in various societies, including the Choral Society, the Mathematics Society, of which he was Secretary, the University Philosophical Society where he became Secretary and was awarded a silver medal in oratory, the Players where he acted as pianist, arranger and also part composer of the revue "Above Board" 1939. He also sang in the Centenary Church choir where he learned a vast amount and took singing lessons for 1½ years.

Having completed his degree course, Mr. Treanor then did a post-graduate year, during which he lectured for two exams in Mathematics and worked for the Civil Service examination. In that examination he was placed 2nd. for Northern Ireland and 5th for India. Having decided upon India he was assigned to the United Provinces of Agra and Dudh (now the state of Uttar Pradesh), but first came a probationary year in University College, Oxford, studying Indian criminal law, Indian history, Urdu and Hindi.

In the autumn of 1940 he set sail for India, only to be torpedoed at 1.45 a.m. on 21st September, while the ship was 70 miles north-west of Co. Donegal. Their lifeboat was picked up by a Belgian trawler bound for Fleetwood from Iceland (and fortunately not travelling in the opposite direction as he only had tropical clothing!) A month later Stanley set out again. This time the convoy was attacked by a bomber, but his ship was untouched. Calling at Freetown, Cape Town and Durban he finally arrived in Bombay in mid-December 1940.

Early postings included Meerut, Agra, Bareilly and Kanpur where he worked in administration and district work as well as hearing law cases as a magistrate. On India achieving independence in 1947 he decided to work in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). There he spent six months as Collector of Khulna District, being chief administrative officer for an area of about 2,000 square miles and with a population of 2/3 million. Then he moved to Dacca, the capital, and became Secretary to the Governor and in various Departments in the Provincial Secretariat. Here he spent eleven years in many and varied spheres of work, civil defence, planning, agriculture, excise and taxation, industry and commerce. By the end of his career in East Pakistan he was Commissioner of the Rajshahi division and left in May 1960.



Apart from his many official duties Mr. Treanor had many other interests during this time. He was deeply involved in amateur dramatics as actor, author, composer and producer. For eleven years he was organist at St. Thomas Pro-Cathedral. For exercise he took tennis, squash and swimming and for mental diversion he played bridge. On three occasions he had close encounters with cobras but sustained no damage.

Returning to Ireland he spent 2½ years in retirement before coming to St. Andrew's in January 1963 as a part-time teacher of Mathematics and French, and then when John Ruddock left, the position became a full-time one. In 1965 Stanley took the Higher Diploma in Education, gaining First Class Honours. From then on he worked in the Mathematics department and also became involved in music. Annual carol services had begun in 1967 and Mr. Treanor soon began to assist with these. He it was largely who developed them into the very large and successful occasions they have since become, and the school is deeply indebted to him for his enthusiasm, musical ability and organisational skill in this sphere.

Stanley also organised two music hall evenings, "Gaslight and Song", an evening of Victorian music in March 1977, and "Passion and Plush", a similar evening of Edwardian song, in March 1980. Two serious music concerts were also organised and promoted by him, one in May 1976 and the other in May 1977. He was also involved in the production of "The Pirates of Penzance" in 1973 and "The Mikado" in 1975.

Other interests include reading where he claims to read thoroughly but not widely (wildly!?) In fact he has an astonishing capacity for retaining information and if ever you wanted to know anything Stanley Treanor was the man to ask. He confesses to an addiction towards writing satire, light verse and "Keats and Chapman" stories. For 18 years he has been a member of the Culwick Choral Society and is also a member of the Strollers, a festive and musical body. Each summer he sets out on an epic journey across Europe to places like Greece and Yugoslavia. He speaks four languages, English, French, German and Urdu, and has a working vocabulary of Italian, Serbo-Croat and Greek, a touch of the polymath in fact.



Asked about his reactions towards retirement he replied that he had not thought about it at all, but would have to consider his newly acquired state on his return from the continent in September.

We take this opportunity to thank Stanley for all his hard work and devoted services to St. Andrew's College over the past 18 years and to wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

R.H.

*I became an engineer. After the Leaving Certificate exams he always held a party for the honours students at his house. He produced a powerful concoction called a 'Radshahi' which caused a resounding hang-over".*

Following this lead I got in touch with the school. Another of his students responded, sending me the valedictory to him from the school magazine when he left the school, and some additional photographs. She also wrote:

*"He was eccentric to say the least! Extremely intelligent and certainly far too academic to teach those of us who weren't good at maths! He taught those who were taking Higher Level Mathematics in the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate State examinations. However, I starred in every show he produced while I was at school (two evenings of Victorian Music Hall songs and The Mikado), as well as the carol services each Christmas.*

*Dun Laoghaire Choral Society was formed in 1982 and I became a member then. Stanley joined us shortly afterwards and used to sit in the back row of the basses reading the newspaper, doing crosswords and sucking Zube throat lozenges!!*

*He used to float around the corridors here in a black gown (all the Masters wore them at the time). When we had him for maths (only when the teacher of the 'duffers' was out sick) we used to rub the blackboard duster over the back of his chair. He'd sit down and, of course, when he got up again his gown would be covered in chalk dust which would cause Stanley to sneeze like you have never heard anyone sneeze before! He clearly suffered with asthma or something bronchial and was constantly sneezing and wheezing! He was always fumbling in his pockets for little orange tins of Zubes!*

*I have always loved singing and Stanley produced some great musicals etc".*

Veronica confirms this description of her uncle.

*"Yes, indeed, he was a noisy man, with much harrumphing. One of those people who dominate a room. I remember him with pleasure and his wonderful singing voice (he sang the tenor solo role in the Messiah at Christmas in Dublin)".*

## Arthur Treanor 1871

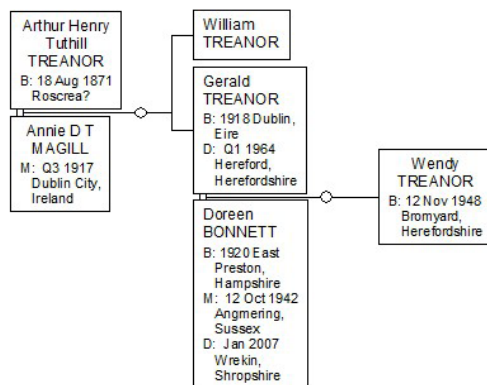
William and Bessie's next son Arthur Henry Tuthill Treanor was born on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1871 in Roscrea. In the 1901 census he and his elder brother Fred were staying with their cousin James Perkins in Kennilworth Square, Rathmines, Dublin. They were all in the drapery trade.

Arthur was a commercial traveller staying at a hotel in Exchequer Street in Dublin at the time of the 1911 census.

It appears he married Annie D T Magill in 1917 in Dublin South and they had two sons. According to Veronica Arthur's son Bill ran the shop in Roscrea after Fred died, and then



Stanley Treanor standing in line waiting to be made up before appearing on stage in the St Andrews College production of The Mikado in 1975



Fastnet lighthouse

sold it. We know nothing more about Billy except that he appears to have attended his grandfather William's funeral.

Arthur's second son Gerald Arthur Treanor was born in Dublin in Q4 1918. He became a veterinary surgeon. He married Doreen Iris Bonnett on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1942 at Angmering in Sussex. She was serving with the WRNS at the time, and was the daughter of Frank Bonnett (a dairyman) and Florence Spence from Tewkesbury. They had a daughter Wendy Treanor on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1948 at

Bromyard in Herefordshire.

Gerald died in Hereford in 1964. Doreen died in Wrekin, Shropshire in January 2007.

## Walter Charles Treanor

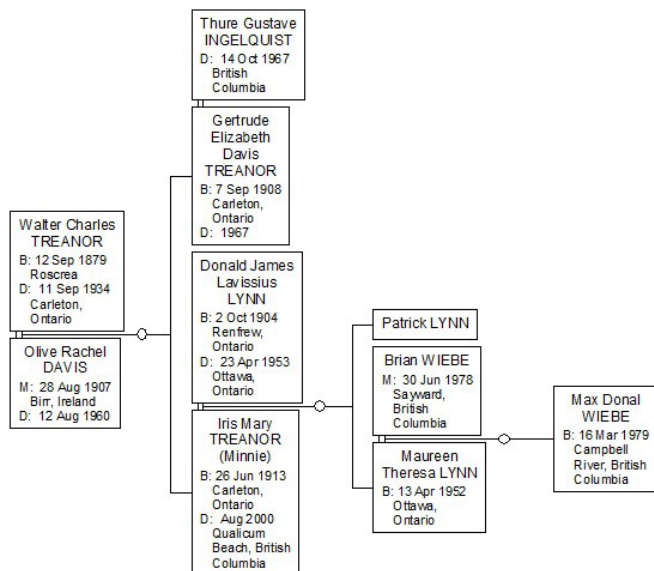
The 1901 census includes a Lily Treanor, daughter of William and Bessie Treanor aged 28. We know nothing more about her.

Their son Walter Charles Treanor was born on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1914 in Roscrea. His registration with the Institute of Mechanical Engineers details his education and early career. He was educated at Roscrea Grammar School and then at Wesley College on St Stephen's Green from 1893-1895. From 1895-1899 he attended the Inchicore Science School and City of Dublin Science and Art Schools, passing in machine construction and drawing, steam, applied mechanics, physics and electricity.

He then served a five year apprenticeship 1899-1900 at the Inchicore Works of the Great Southern & Western Railway. This was followed by a year at the North Wall Iron Works, and from 1901-1903 in the Commissioners of Irish Lights Service as an engineer on the SS Ierne, on construction of the Fastnet Rock lighthouse. On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1905 he was admitted to the Roscrea lodge of Freemasons.

From 1904-1906 he served as engineer in charge of a regular watch with the White Star line of steamships, and held a marine certificate from the UK Board of Trade. From 1907-1913 he was in charge of the coining press at the Royal Mint in Ottawa. In 1913 he was appointed Inspector of Fog Alarm Stations for the Great Lakes.

He married Olive Rachel Davis in Birr on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1907. They had two daughters. Gertrude Elizabeth Davis Treanor was born on 7<sup>th</sup> September at 64 Second Avenue, Carle-



ton, Ontario. She married Thure Gustave Ingelquist, a construction superintendant. They both died in 1967.

Their second daughter Iris Mary Treanor was born on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1913 in Carleton. She married Donald James Lavissius Lynn from Renfrew in Ontario in a Catholic church. They had two children: Patrick Lynn and Maureen Theresa Lynn. Donald died in April 1953, and Iris in August 2000 at Qualicum Beach, British Columbia.

Maureen Lynn married Brian Wiebe at Sayward in British Columbia in 1978 and they had a son Max Donald Wiebe in 1979.

Walter Treanor died on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 1934 in Ottawa Civic Hospital from post-operative shock following an operation for colon cancer. They were living at 64 Renfrew Avenue. He is buried at Pincrest Cemetery (Section G). His wife Olive died on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1960.

## Richard Joseph Treanor 1875-1970

I found Richard Joseph Treanor in the 1901 census living with his brother Alfred in Islington. He was recorded as "*Assistant of customs Civ*". He appears again in the 1911 census with his wife **Eveleen Gertrude** living in Bristol. He was an Examining Officer, aged 36, born in Roscrea. His wife was aged 27 from Meath. We now know her maiden name was Raitt, and that she was born in Dunsary, Co Meath. They were married two years previously in 1909.

I found Eveleen's death registered in Surrey Oct-Dec 1956. But in the phone directory I also found an E Treanor living in his house in 1973, in Wallington, who I am guessing is their daughter. According to Margaret Thompson they had two sons and two daughters (twins), but we only know the names of two of these

(Brian and Elizabeth).

I found Richard Joseph in the 1930 telephone directory, living in Wallington at 8 Hillside Gardens. His name appears immediately before my grandfather's name in that directory. I suspect they were in touch with each other.

Dorothy Hearne says of him "*About 20 years ago a son of Uncle William called Dick, with twin daughters, called on us, also very pleasant. He lived in Wallington and was the person who had rung Aunt Annie*".

He was still there in the 1964 directory.

One puzzle is that he appears in the obituary to his father as Rev R J Treanor, whereas the two census returns have him as a civil servant and the phone directory does not prefix him with Rev. I checked Crockfords, and he does not appear as an Anglican clergyman, though it is more likely that he was a methodist.

He died in Sutton in 1970 between October and December, aged 96. His death registration gives his birth date as 12<sup>th</sup> July 1874.

## Brian Magill Treanor

I came across the marriage of Brian Magill Treanor in *The Times* for 12<sup>th</sup> April 1950. This identifies him as the son of Richard Joseph Treanor. He was marrying **Audrey Cooling**.

I may have found his promotion to Lt Colonel in *The Times* for 5<sup>th</sup> May 1958.

I also found his death in Dec 1990 at the age of 77 in Claro, North Yorkshire (Vol 2 P 2039). This also tells us he was born on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1913. I recently obtained his birth certificate which confirms he was the son of Richard Joseph Treanor and Eveleen Gertrude Raitt.



## Ellen Jane Treanor 1876

Ellie was born to William and Bessie Treanor in Roscrea on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1876. She was listed as a draper whilst living with her parents in the 1901 census.

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1925 she married Thomas Dooly at the Centenary Chapel in Stephens Green, Dublin. This is the Tom Dooly who Dorothy Hearne describes visiting Ballinrobe with 'Uncle Joe' in about 1926, soon after this marriage. He was a factory manager born in Kings County, son of Thomas Dooly (1822-1896) a Poor Law Officer and Gertrude Sarah Usher (1824-1886) from Parsonstown, later known as Birr, in Kings County (Offaly).

Thomas was a widower and in the 1911 census was living at 9 Castleholding in Roscrea with his first wife Susan. He was 'Clerk of Union and District Councils'. He does not appear to have had children with either of his wives. More information on the large Dooly family can be found on the Giordano-Bisco tree via Ancestry.

## Annie Susan Treanor

Annie was born to William and Bessie in Roscrea on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1880. She sailed to

Cape Town on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 1904. There she married Alfred Durant Philip on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1908. He was the son of Rev John Frederick Philip and Jemima Huckley both from South Africa.

She made a trip to London, arriving on the *Goorkha* on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1914 together with her two year old son Durant Philip - this was their first son William Durant Philip, who later married and had two children in Cape Town.

Annie and Alfred also had Marion Jane Philip on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1918. She married Isaac Kleyn (1919-1995) and they also raised a family in South Africa. Marion died on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at Amatole in the Eastern Cape.

## Minnie (1879) and Tom (1885)

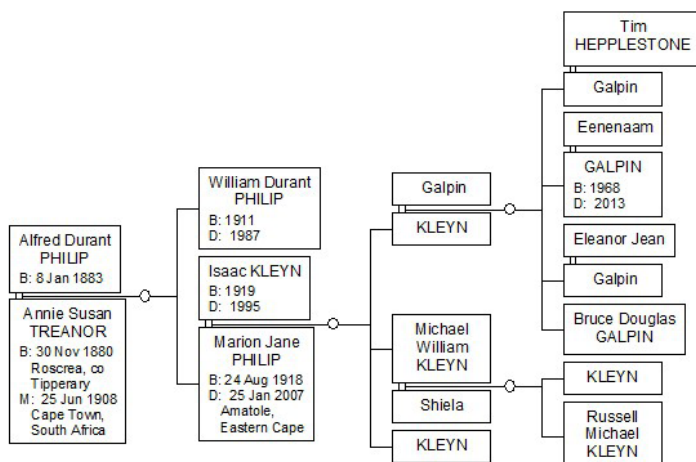
Mary Louise Treanor was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1879 in Roscrea. She appears as Minnie, a teacher in the 1901 census. She was still at home in 1911. Margaret Thompson says she remained unmarried. I have been unable to trace her.

Thomas George Treanor was born in 1885, a late addition to the family. He was listed as Tom while living with his parents in the 1901 census and was a scholar.

He arrived in Toronto as a clerk aged 21 on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1906. He also travelled on the *Lucania* from Queenstown to New York on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1906, on a trip paid for by his brother W C Treanor of 410 Perth Ave, Toronto.

On 24<sup>th</sup> Dec 1916 he arrived in Liverpool on the *St Paul* from New York, and was a clerk aged 29. In Feb 1920 he crossed from Montreal in Canada heading for Chicago in USA, and was a bank clerk.

In the 1920 US census he was a lodging in Dorchester Avenue, Illinois aged 32, and was a bank clerk. I was unable to trace him after that.



## CHAPTER 7

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# Alice Treanor

### Alice Treanor 1841

According to Dorothy Hearne's tree, William and Alicia had another two daughters, Adelaide and Alice. But for a long time I could find no record of them.

An Alice also appears on Margaret Thompson's tree, between William and Joseph, married to Rev J Magill.

A Rev John Magill conducted the funeral of Margery Treanor together with Archdeacon James Treanor, and was described as "*Rector of Essexford, Inniskeen*", which is in Louth.

As the evidence for Alice grew stronger I had another go at searching for her. And I found an Alice Magill in the 1901 census aged 59 and from Co Mayo married to Rev John Magill also aged 59 from Co Cavan. They were



Alice Magill

living at 2 Aghnacue, Aghabog, in Monaghan. He was a Church of Ireland minister.

Alice Treanor must have been born around April or May 1841, because Joseph Peter Treanor was born in June 1842.

They had two sons, both of whom were undergraduates at Trinity College Dublin, and both born in Co Sligo. Evelyn was aged 22, and Waller aged 20.

I found Alice Magill again in the 1911 census living at Essexford, Killany in Louth, in a house owned by the "*Church Body*". This time she was aged 70, born in Co Mayo,



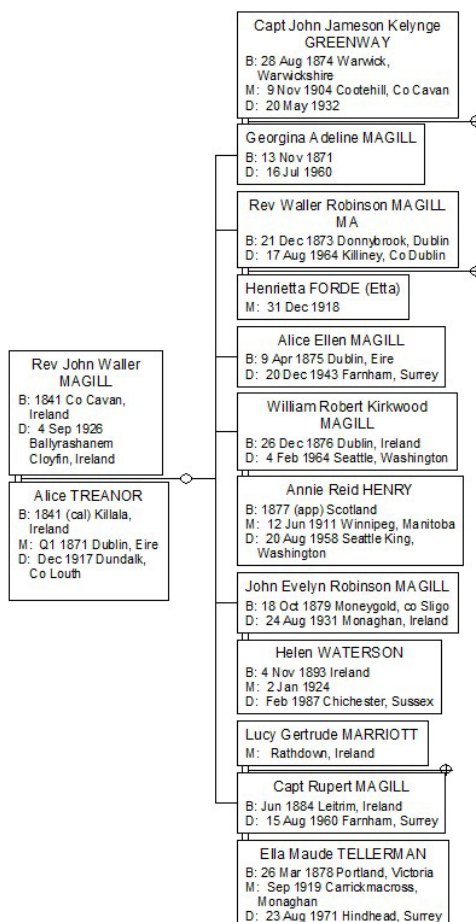
Aghabog parish church

Rev John Magill

Georgina Adeline  
Magill in the  
Army Nursing  
Service1901 census of  
Alice and John  
Magill's family in  
Essexford

which further indicates a birth around April 1841. Her husband John was a Clerk in Holy Orders in the Church of Ireland. They had been married for 40 years (so in around 1861).

I found Rev John Magill in the 1889 edition of Crockfords. He was born in Co Cavan, ordained deacon in 1877 and priest in 1878. He was a curate at Ahanplish 1877-81, at Killargue in Co Leitrim 1881-85, incumbent at Garrison in Co Fermanagh 1885-92. We also know he was Rector at Essexford in Louth in 1916.



CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.										
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)										
FORM A.										
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY										
Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.
	Christian Name.	Surname.								
1	John	Magill	Head of Family	Church of Ireland	Read and write	59	M	Clerk in Holy Orders	Married	Co. Cavan
2	Alice	Magill	Wife	Church of Ireland	Read and write	59	F		Married	Co. Mayo
3	Evelyn	Magill	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Read and write	22	M	Undergraduate J.E.D.	Not Married	Co. Sligo
4	Waller	Magill	Son	Church of Ireland	Read and write	20	M	Undergraduate J.E.D.	Not Married	Co. Sligo





I have been in contact with Alice's great granddaughter who has posted a family tree on Ancestry. They had six surviving children out of nine: Georgina (1871), Waller (1873), Alice (1875), William (1876), Evelyn (1879), and Rupert (1884).

Alice died in December 1917 in Dundalk, Co Louth. John died on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1926 at Ballyrashane Rectory in Cloyfin, Coleraine.

## Georgina Adeline Magill

Their eldest Georgina married **Captain John Jameson Kelynge Greenway** on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1904 at Cootehill in Co Cavan. He was born 28<sup>th</sup> Aug 1874 in Warwick. At the time of his death on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1932 he was governor of Horfield Prison in Bristol. They too had six children. Georgina died aged 88 on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1960 in Fleet.

Georgina's eldest was **John Waller Harry Kelynge Greenway** (Harry) born on 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 1907 in Ahabog, who became a Lt Col in the 8<sup>th</sup> Gurkha Rifles of the Indian Army. He retired from the army and was ordained a priest in the Anglican Church, with parishes at Saxmundham and Theberton in Suffolk and finally at Itchen Abbas in Hampshire.

He married **Eleanor Margaret Keymer** in June 1935 in Farnham, Surrey. They had four children: John Bernard Kelynge Green-

way born on 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1936 at Shillong, India, David Harry Arnold Greenway born 15<sup>th</sup> January 1939 in India, Elizabeth Marion Greenway (known as 'Buffy') born 7<sup>th</sup> September 1941 at Murree, India, and Susan Margaret Greenway born 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1944 at Kasauli, India. He died in November 1994 in Winchester, and his wife in June 2006 also in Winchester.

Her second was **Arthur Rupert Courtney Kelynge Greenway**, born 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 1908 in Lisburn, Co Antrim. He joined the Gloucestershire Regiment aged 18 and served in Karachi, Peshawar, Dalhousie, the Punjab, Iraq, Iran, Cyprus, Alamein, Uttaranchal, Java, and Rawalpindi, rising to Lt Col in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.

He married **Patricia Dobree Anderson**, known as Patsie, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1936 at Bawnmore, Yateley in Hampshire. Arthur died on 22<sup>nd</sup> Aug 1995 at Farnham in Surrey. His wife Patsie died on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2001 at Frimley. They had three daughters: **Sarah Georgina Jill Greenway** (Jill), Patricia Moya Greenway (Moya), and **Nicolette Olivia Greenway** (Nikkii).

Jill was born on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1941 at Muree in the Punjab. She married Major **Peter Leslie Newth** at All Saints' Church in Fleet near Aldershot on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1963. Peter died in February 012 in Yeovil. Jill died

**Georgina's family:**  
Top row: Waller (or possibly Evelyn) Magill, Georgina and her sister Alice. Mid row: son Harry, mother Alice, Father John, and son Arthur. Bottom row: children Mary, Cyril and Frank.



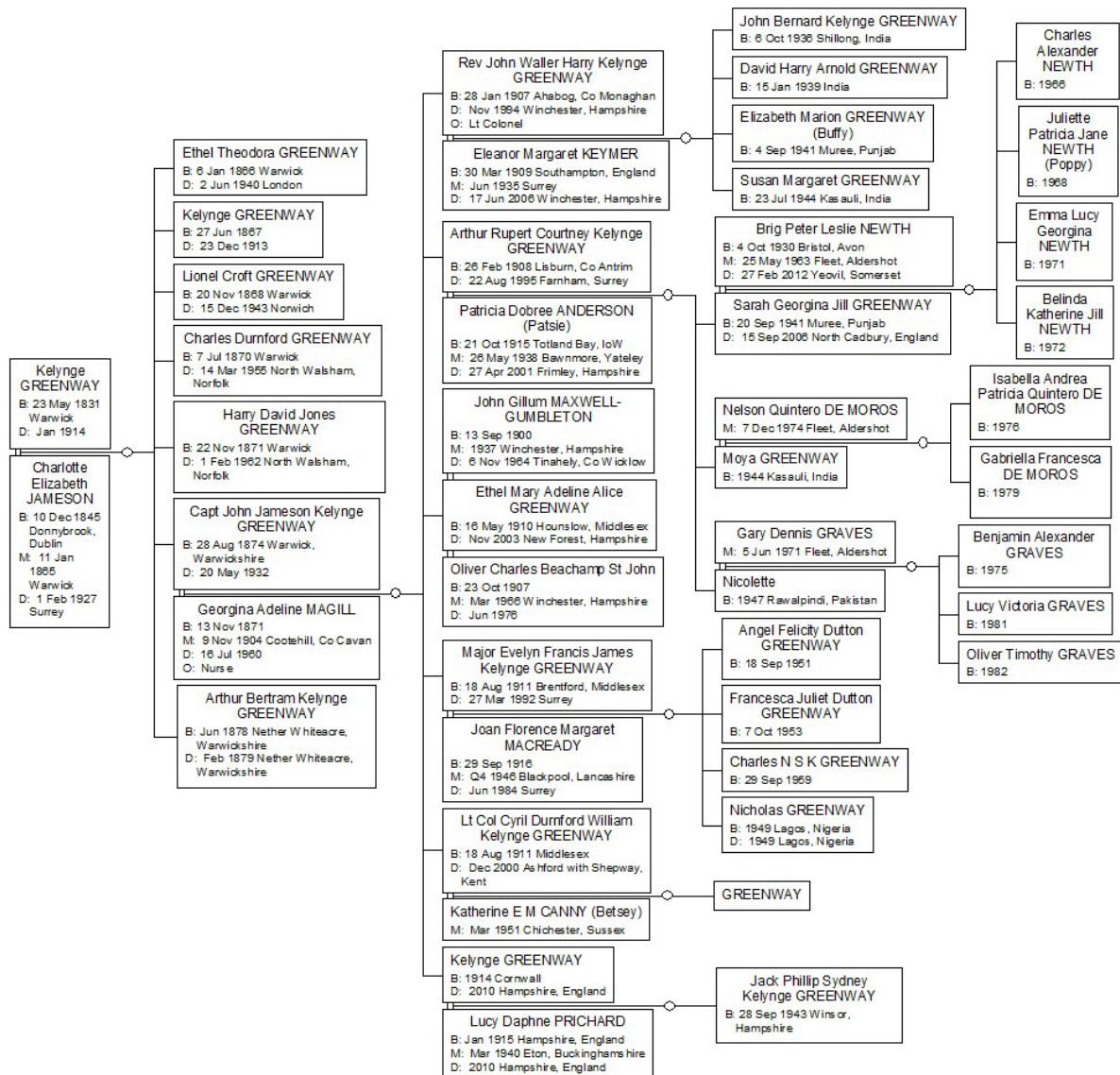
Rev John Waller  
Harry Greenway



Capt John  
Jameson Greenway



**John Jameson Greenway** (bottom left) with his brothers Durnford, Harry and Kelynge Greenway (top row), his cousin Sydney Jameson, and brother Lionel



in September 2006 in North Cadbury. They had four children, Charles Alexander Newth (1966), Juliette Patricia Jane Newth (Poppy) (1968), Emma Lucy Georgina Newth (1971), and Belinda Katherine Jill Newth (1972).

Moya was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1944 at Kasauli, India. She married Nelson Quintero de Moros on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1974 at All Saints'

Church, Fleet, Hampshire. They have two daughters, Isabella Andrea Patricia Quintero de Moros (1976) and Gabriella Francesca de Moros (1979). She lives in England.

Nicolette was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1947 at Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The whole family returned to the UK in March 1948.

Nicolette married Gary Dennis Graves

on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1971 at All Saints' Church, Fleet, Hampshire. They have three surviving children, Benjamin Alexander Graves (1975), Lucy Victoria Graves (1981), and Oliver Timothy Graves (1982). They all live in Washington State, U.S.A.

Georgina's third was **Ethel Mary Adeline Alice Greenway** born 16<sup>th</sup> May 1910 in Hounslow. She married **John Gillum Maxwell Gumbleton** in 1937 in Winchester. He died in November 1964 in Tinahely, Co Wicklow. She remarried Oliver Charles Beauchamp St. John in 1966, and he died in 1976 aged 68. She died aged 93 in November 2003 in the New Forest.

Georgina then had twin sons Cyril and Frank on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1911. **Evelyn Francis James Kelynge Greenway** (known as Frank) became a Major in 4<sup>th</sup> Bn The Gloucestershire Regiment. He married **Joan Florence Margaret Macready** in 1946 in Blackpool. They had daughters, Angela Felicity Dutton Greenway born 18<sup>th</sup> September 1951, Francesca Juliet Dutton Greenway born 7<sup>th</sup> October 1953 and a son, Charles N.S.K. Greenway born the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1959, plus a son Nicholas Greenway in Lagos, Nigeria who died as a baby. Joan died in June 1984 in Surrey. Frank died on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1992.

His twin **Cyril Durnford William Kelynge Greenway** (Cyril) became a Lt Col in the 5<sup>th</sup> Mahratta Light Infantry. He married Katherine E M Canny (known as Betsey) in Chichester in March 1951 and one child. Cyril died in December 2000 in Ashford, Kent.

Their fourth and last son was also a military man. **Sydney Herbert Percy Kelynge Greenway**. Sydney was born on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1914 in Cornwall and joined the Royal Tank Regiment rising to Lt Col. He married **Lucy Daphne Prichard** in March 1940 in Eton. They had a son Jack Phillip Sydney Kelynge Greenway

born 28<sup>th</sup> September 1943 at Windsor. They both died in Hampshire in 2010 when she was 95 and he was 96.

## Waller Magill 1873-1964

Alice and John's second child was a son born on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1873 at Donnybrook, Dublin: Waller Robinson Magill. He appears in the 1911 census, a boarder with the Duncan family in Clifton Co Antrim, aged 30. He was a Church of Ireland clergyman.

I looked him up in Crockfords, and found that he got his BA from Trinity College Dublin in 1901 and his MA in 1909. He was ordained deacon in 1904 and priest in 1905, and was a curate in Lisburn 1904-8, St Marys in Donnybrook Dublin 1908-9, Holy Trinity in Belfast 1909-14, and vicar of Kilkeel from 1914. He later became rector of Ballyrashane and Kildollagh in the diocese of Connor from 1925.

**\*MAGILL, Waller.**—T.C.D. B.A. 1901, Div. Test. 1904, M.A. 1909. d 1904, p 1905 Down. C. of Ch. Ch. Lisburn, 1904-08; St. M. Donnybrook, Dub. 1908-09; H. Trin. Belf. 1909-14; I. of Bright 1914-22; C-in-c. of Ballyrashane 1922-25; R. of Ballyrashane and Kildollagh, Dio. Connor, from 1925. (Net Inc. 4501 w Gl. val. 321.) *Ballyrashane, Coleraine, Ireland.*

Waller Magill's entry in the 1932 Crockfords Clerical Directory

He married **Henrietta Forde** (Etta) on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1918 and they had three children that I know about.

**Waller Brian Brendan Magill** was born in 1920 and was ordained in 1944, becoming vice principal of Queens Theology College in Birmingham 1950-55, and chaplain at Rugby School 1955-62.

Waller and Etta's other two sons were **Terence John Patrick Forde Magill**, born 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1924, and **Michael Desmond Magill**, born 20<sup>th</sup> June 1927.

Rev Waller Magill died aged 90 on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1964 in Killiney, Co Dublin.

## Alice Ellen Magill

Alice was born on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1875 in Dublin. She was in Islington, London for the 1901 census, and with her parents in Killanny in 1911. She died unmarried on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1943 at Eldon House in Farnham, Surrey. She was also known as “Nellie” and was a nurse like her sister, Georgina.

## William Kirkwood Magill

Alice and John’s second son was William Robert Kirkwood Magill, born in Dublin on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1876. He was known as Kirkwood.

According to family legend he was banished from the family home for pawning his younger brother’s only pair of decent trousers for £5 to bet on a horse!

He went to Canada where he married **Annie Reid Henry** on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1911 in Winnipeg. His brother Evelyn visited them there in 1911. He served in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force during WW1. By 1925 they had moved to Seattle. His wife died there on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1958. They had no children.

Kirkwood died on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1964. Nikkii found his unmarked grave in Snohomish, Washington.

## John Evelyn Robinson Magill

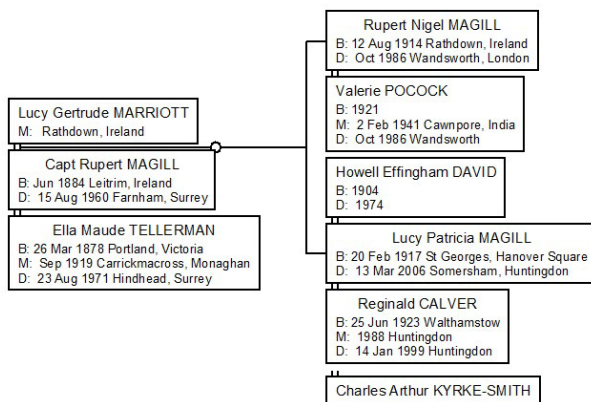
Alice and John’s third son was born in Moneygold, Co Sligo on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1879 and known as Evelyn. He was ordained and became a missionary. He married **Helen Water-son** in January 1924. He died at 51 in Monaghan in August 1931. She lived until 1987 and died in Chichester.

## Rupert Magill

Their fourth son was born in June 1884 at Manor Hamilton in Tyrone. He was an army captain in the Royal Fusiliers. In 1913 he married **Lucy Gertrude Marriott** in Rathdown and they had **Rupert Nigel Magill** in August 1914 and **Lucy Patricia Magill** in February 1917. He subsequently married **Ella Maude Tellerman** from Portland, Victoria in Australia at Carrickmacross in September 1919. She was a widow, previously married to John Vladistav.

Rupert died on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1960 in Farnham. His second wife died in August 1971 at Hindhead in Surrey aged 93.

Rupert Nigel Magill married **Valerie Pockock** in February 1941 at Cawnpore in India. They had three children. They both died in Wandsworth in October 1986.





## CHAPTER 8

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# Adelaide Treanor and Joseph Peter Treanor

### Adelaide Treanor

I know nothing about William and Alicia's daughter Adelaide Treanor, apart from her appearance in both Dorothy Hearne's tree and one I obtained from Derek Treanor.

I tried every trick I know to search for her in Ireland and England, without success. According to Dorothy she was married in London and had several sons. But I have been unable to find whom she married. There is a photo that might be her on page 115.

### Joseph Peter Treanor 1842-1928

William and Alicia's fourth son Joseph Peter Treanor was baptised on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1842. His is the entry in the parish registers that was amended a few times, causing confusion when it was transposed into some databases.

Joseph must be the "Uncle Joe" that Dorothy mentions, who *'went early to the States, married there and had daughters. He was a funny little man, who talked all the time and apparently had made money.'*

We first find him in 1878 in San Francisco at 120 Sutter listed in a street directory as a 'manufacturer's agent'. He was still a manufacturers agent in a 1889 Californian street directory at 2326 Pacific Ave, San Francisco. He was at the same address in 1890 where the business was named Treanor &

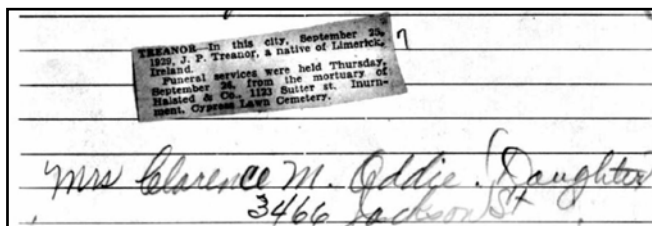
Penlington. Their "occupation" was shown as Real Estate, and later that year it relocated to 39 Sutter. He would have been aged 48.

In 1896 he was listed in a San Francisco City Directory as a 'merchandise appraiser' living in Fruitvale. By 1902 he was an insurance agent in San Francisco. In 1906 he was still an insurance agent but in Fresno California at 501 Montgomery.

I found him as a passenger travelling back from Manchester to San Francisco in 1927, aged 85. This must be the trip Dorothy mentions on which he visited Ballinrobe when she was about 14.

I also found him in the US census for 1910 and 1920, living in Alameda, California. By 1910 he was widowed. This tells us he emigrated to the US in 1869, when he was aged 27.

He died on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1929 at Malory Hospital in Sutter Street, San Francisco. The funeral home registration mentions a daughter Clarence M Addie of 3466 Jackson Street, who I have been unable to trace.



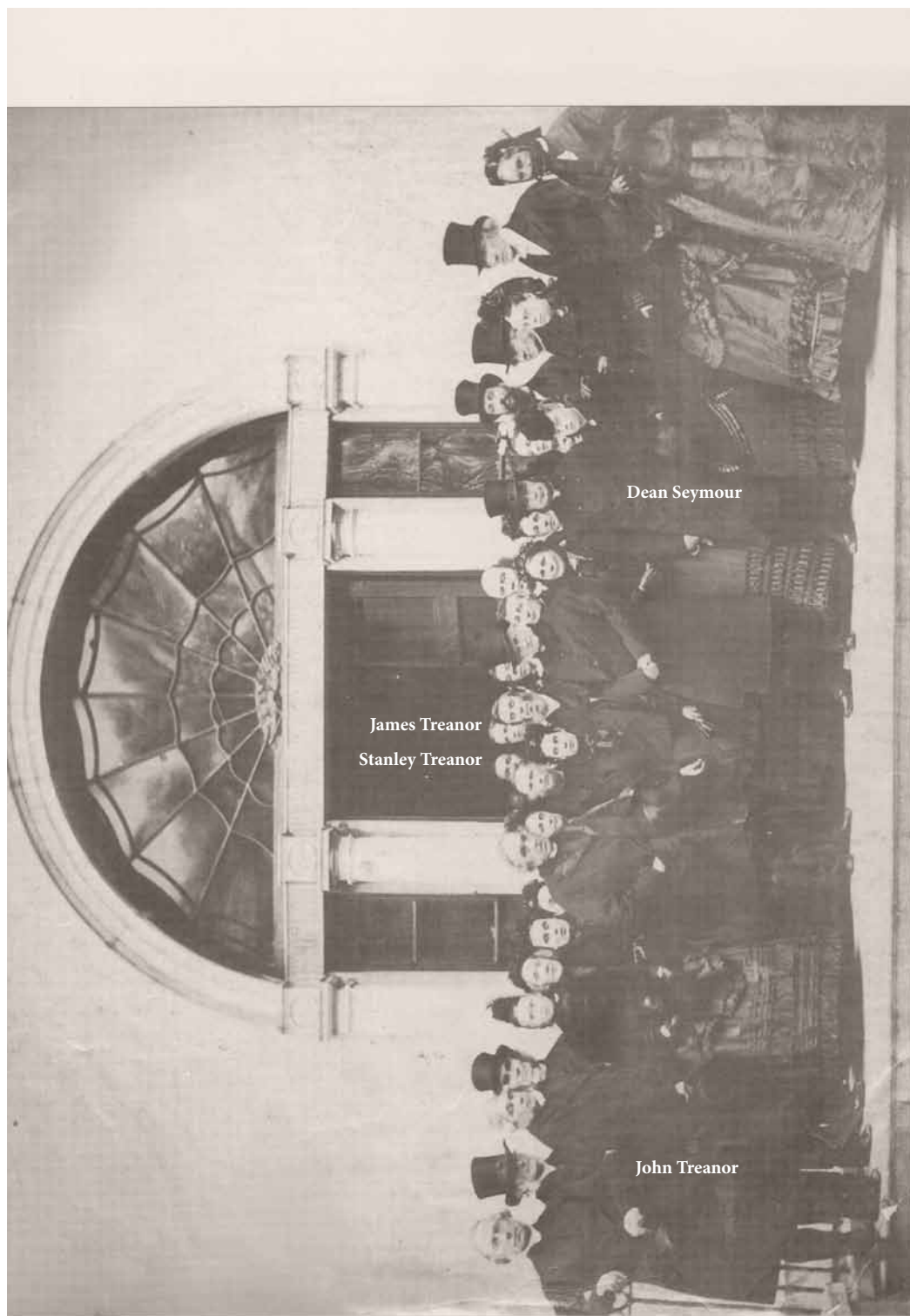


Plate 1

A group photograph taken outside the former deanery on the occasion of the consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral in 1878. Many of the individuals can be identified and some of them are referred to in the contemporary newspaper account of the consecration given in Appendix VIII. Those who can be identified can be listed as follows, reading from left to right: (1) Rev'd Meredith, (2) Canon Traynor, (3) Rev'd William Disney Roe, (4) Rev'd W. G. Carroll, (5-8) unidentified, (9) Bishop Bernard of Tuam, (10) unidentified, (11) Rev' Disney Roe (in front), (12) Mr. Stanley Traynor (at back), (13) Rev'd James Traynor, (14) unidentified woman (at front), (15) Mr. B.C. Davidson, (16) unidentified, (17) Dean Seymour, (18) Canon Cory, (19) Bishop Robert Gregg of Cork, (20-21) unidentified, (22) Dean Burton, (23) unidentified, (24) Lady Clontbrock (Dillon), (25) Lord Clontbrock, (26) Rev'd Andrew Todd, (27) unidentified, (28) Lord Astown (Trench), (29) Mrs. Trench.

## PART 3

# Archdeacon James Treanor's family

## **Great grandparents and their descendants**

In this section I examine the lives of James Treanor and Marian Seymour, and explore our Seymour ancestry, which is quite extensive. We then trace all the descendants of my grandfather's siblings. My grandparents, Victor and Annie, are dealt with in the section that follows.

Tuam Cathedral was central to the life of the Treanor family in Co Mayo and Co Galway. The photo opposite was taken outside the cathedral following its restoration in 1878 and includes four members of our family who were clergy at Tuam: Canon John Treanor, Stanley Treanor, James Treanor, and Dean Seymour.

## CHAPTER 9

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# The Archdeacon

James with  
Dorothy on  
his back, at  
the Rectory in  
Ballinrobe

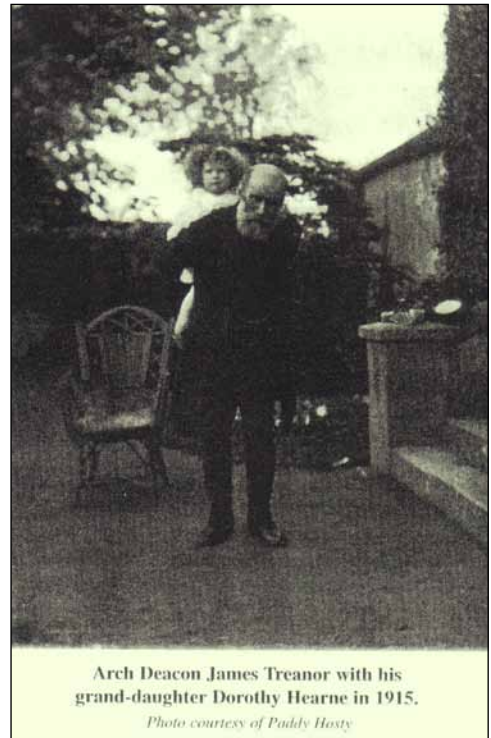
### Archdeacon James Treanor 1845-1926

William and Alicia Treanor's youngest child was James William Treanor, my great grandfather. He appears on the first page of the new parish register, in which births, deaths and marriages are entered on standardised forms, with a great deal more information. So I know he was born on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1845, and was baptised on 21<sup>st</sup> March. His father's occupation is shown as "*Clerk of petty sessions*".

The first reference came from Dorothy Hearne who wrote about the family history to my cousin Desmond soon after he had visited her in 1992. Dorothy spent most of her life in Ballinrobe, and knew James quite well. Averil Staunton found a photo of the Archdeacon carrying the young Dorothy Hearne on his shoulders. It is clearly taken outside the rectory at Ballinrobe. It was the first picture I saw of him.

Dorothy's note tells us

*"Grandfather never talked much about his early days, so they may not have been happy. His mother was said to be a blue-stocking who had him reading at 3 and introduced him to Hebrew at 6! Grandfather James, was the youngest of the family. I know nothing about his parents, who are said to have died young,*



*and he was brought up by an uncle, father of Stanley Treanor, who was father of the cousins in Walmer".*

We know his mother was still alive in 1856, when James was 11, although his father had died by then. The uncle she refers to was Canon John Treanor.

At that time his Uncle John was the rector at Rahoon Barna, about 3 miles from Galway.



According to Lewis' Topographical Directory "It is a rectory and perpetual curacy, in the diocese of Tuam; the rectory forming part of the union of St. Nicholas, or wardenship of Galway; and the perpetual curacy, part of the union of Kilcummin. The tithes amount to £117. 1s. 6d, and the glebe comprises 34 statute acres".

It would probably be a lot more comfortable than William and Alicia's house in Killala.

Marny Howe sent us a photocopy of extracts from a clerical directory at the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin. I recently saw this for myself. The directory has also been published as a book titled "Clergy of Tuam, Killala and Achonry".

**\*TREANOR, James, Wigmore, Upper Walmer, Kent.**—T.C.D. B.A. 1871, Div. Test. (1st cl.) and Ch. Formul. Pri. 1872, M.A. 1899. **¶** and **p** 1870 Tuam. **¶** C. of Tuam 1870-74; R. of Athenry 1874-77; Kiltullagh 1877-82; Preb. of Kilmainmore, or Can. of Tuam, 1887-90; Provost of Tuam 1890-98; R. of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, 1882-1923; Exam. Chap. to Bp of Tuam 1890-1923; Archd. of Tuam 1898-1923; Preb. of Killybegs, in Tuam Cathl. 1890-1923; Dioc. Nomnr. M. of Rep. Ch. Body and M. Standing Cte. of Gen. Synod 1904-24.

James followed his cousin and his uncle into the church. He took a BA at Trinity College Dublin in 1871. By that time, there was a railway between Tuam and Dublin, making the journey a lot easier. He was ordained in 1870, and was a curate at Tuam until 1874, when he became rector of Athenry. This is the same year as his uncle John became Prebend of Tagsaxon, which included the parish of Athenry.



The Rectory in Ballinrobe

1874 must have been a memorable year for the family. James married Annie Marian Sara Seymour on 13<sup>th</sup> August of that year. Marian (as she was called) was quite a catch – the daughter of Robert Butson Seymour of Clonfert (see page 74).

James and Marian's first son was baptised by his father at Athenry on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1875. This was my grandfather, William Victor Kinhead Treanor, known as Victor. He followed in his father's footsteps to Trinity College Dublin, where he gained a first in Divinity, and was himself ordained. Almost all his male descendants were ordained, including my cousin Desmond's son Timothy, who was ordained in 2008.

James had a very successful career in the church. After Athenry, he was rector of Kiltullagh in 1877, and rector of St Mary's Church in Ballinrobe from 1882 to 1923. He became Archdeacon in 1898, becoming the

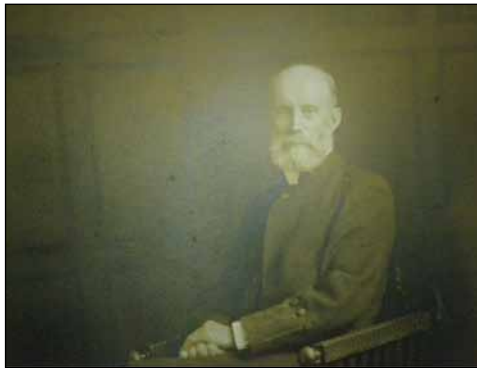
James' entry in the 1926 edition of Crockfords



The church at Athenry is now a heritage centre (below left)

Kiltullagh Church, which has now been converted to a private house

A rare photo of  
Archdeacon James  
Treanor, from  
Timothy Treanor



Venerable James Treanor.

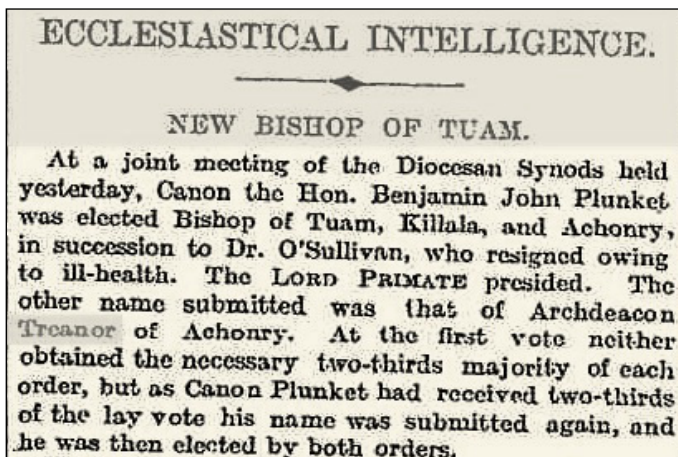
According to a report in The Times on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1913 he narrowly missed out on becoming the Bishop of Tuam (see below).

Wigmore in  
Church Street  
Walmer

James Treanor retired from Ballinrobe and ceased being Archdeacon in 1923. He had bought a grand house called Wigmore in Church Street, Upper Walmer, Kent, and moved there with his two unmarried daughters, Alice and Muriel. Sheila Treanor tells me he intended to return to Ballinrobe once his daughters were settled, but died before he could do so.

In a book titled St Mary's Cathedral: Restoration and History Derek Treanor found the photo reproduced on page 64 taken in 1878 when the cathedral was re-consecrated following the restoration. This

The Times 11<sup>th</sup>  
April 1913



has many of our clerical Treanors, and was taken in the last year of the life of Canon John Treanor and of Dean Seymour.

I found an obituary notice for the Archdeacon in the Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Mercury for Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. According to this he was "*of tall stature and fine physique, and an enthusiastic gardener*".

The obituary tells us that "*he was suddenly taken ill on Thursday morning while gardening, and died on Saturday. The funeral was on Thursday afternoon at St Mary's, in Walmer*". Many of the family were represented. Walmer is where his cousin Rev Thomas Stanley



Treanor had lived from 1874 until his death in 1910. Two of Stanley's daughters were at the funeral with their husbands: Mrs Lewis Hulke (born Louie Helena Mary Treanor, but known as Tites - see page 34), and Mrs McHutchin (born Mabel Anita Stanley Treanor, known as Anita - see page 35).

The mourners included James' unmarried daughters Alice and Muriel Treanor, his married daughters Isy Lendrum, Marian Edna Hearne, and Evelyn Seymour Aston (with her husband Henry Woodward Aston). My uncle (James' grandson) Victor Lyons Treanor was also there. James' eldest son (my grandfather) Rev Victor Treanor "*who had been with his father during his brief illness was unfortunately himself too unwell to attend the funeral*". There



## DEATH OF ARCHDEACON TREANOR.

The death took place on Saturday at his residence, Wignmore, Upper Walmer, of the Ven. Archdeacon James Trianor, at the age of 81 years.

The Ven. Archdeacon Trianor was the son of William Trianor, Esq., of Killala, and was a cousin of the late Rev. T. Stanley Trianor (for many years chaplain of the Downs Station, Missions to Seamen, and resident in Deal, whose widely read books, "Heroes of the Goodwin Sands," "The Log of a Sky Pilot," "The Cry from the Sea and the Answer from the Shore," &c., have special local interest).

The late Archdeacon had a distinguished career at Trinity College, Dublin, where he obtained his B.A. degree in 1871, and subsequently the M.A. degree. Among his most notable achievements at Trinity College was the winning of the important Hebrew prize, and he took a first-class Divinity Testimonium. Ordained in 1870, he was first curate at Tuam, and subsequently Rector of Athenry, Ballinlough, and Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, spending the greater part of his life in the last-named place, to the rectory of which he was appointed in 1882. He was Rural Dean, Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Tuam, Prebendary of Killybegs, and in 1890 Canon of Tuam, becoming in 1898 Archdeacon of Tuam.

An elected member of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland, he was a leading member of the Glebes and Churches Committee, and of the Standing Committee of General Synod.

In the Diocese of Tuam he was an ex-officio member of the Diocesan Council as Joint Hon. Sec. of Synod; one of the three Diocesan Nominators; a member of the Diocesan Court, and ex-officio Governor of the Tuam Diocesan Board of Education.

Greatly interested in foreign missions, Archdeacon Trianor originated the Tuam Own Missionary Scheme.

He married Annie Martha Sarah, daughter of R. B. Seymour, Esq., of Hemmingville, Clonfer, Kiltallenagh.

Archdeacon Trianor came to reside in Walmer in 1923, and for some 18 months past had lived at Wignmore, Church Street (formerly the residence of Mr. W. H. Burch Koshier, J.P.). He regularly attended St. Mary's Parish Church, Walmer, and occasionally assisted at services there.

He was greatly beloved by all classes in his parish town of Ballinrobe, and not only was this town in mourning on receipt of the news of his death, but was represented at the funeral by Mr. Potter. During his short residence in Walmer Archdeacon Trianor was equally beloved by all who knew him here.

Of tall stature and fine physique, the late Archdeacon was an enthusiastic gardener, and was busily engaged in his garden on Thursday morning. He came into the house with the intention of going to church, when he had a sudden attack of illness, which on Saturday brought to a close the earthly life of a revered and devoted Irish Churchman.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon at the churchyard attached to the ancient church of St. Mary. The mourners were the Misses Alice and Muriel Trianor, Mrs. Lendrum, Mrs. Hearne (daughters), Mr. and Mrs. Woodward Aston (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. Victor Trianor (grandson), Mr. Jack Potter, Major H. C. Owen, Mrs. Lewis Hulke, Miss Hulke, Mr., Mrs. and Miss M. McHutchin. The Archdeacon's son, the Rev. Victor Trianor, who had been with his father during his brief illness, was unfortunately himself too unwell to attend the funeral; while Dean Lendrum (Dean of Tuam) and Mr. Robert Hearne (sons-in-law) were unavoidably prevented from attending. Those present in the little church included Surgeon-Rear-Admiral Bett, Major-General Sir Michael Russell, K.C.M.G., C.B., Mrs. Arthur Matthews, Mr. C. R. Taylor, Mr. Owen Golds, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Somerton, Dr. A. G. Lorena, Mr. B. D. Mantle, Mr. J. Popkiss, Mr. Ratliff, etc.

The cortege was met at the lych gate by the Vicar (Rev. Dr. Radcliffe) and the Rev. A. A. Midwinter, the latter reading the opening sentences of the Burial Office, as the cortege passed slowly along the old path by the venerable yew trees to the ancient church. Here the 90th Psalm was said, and the lesson from 1 Cor. xv. was read by the Vicar. At the graveside, where the quietude of a more springlike afternoon than we have had for some time was broken only by the singing of the birds, the committal prayers were read by the Vicar.

Flowers were sent by Victor and Annie and their children; Isy and Jim; Marian and Robert; Alice and Muriel; Harry and Evelyn; Dorothy; Barbara and Hilary; Major and Mrs. Owen; Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Taylor; Walmer Court; Mrs. Lewis Hulke and Miss Hulke; Mr. and Mrs. McHutchin and Mary; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Matthews; Mr. and Mrs. Sydney B. Hulke; Miss B. L. Hulke; Surg.-Rear-Adml. and Mrs. William Bett.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. W. D. Pittock, of Upper Walmer.

James' obituary from the *Deal, Walmer and Sandwich Mercury* for Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1926

is a list of others on the obituary notice.

Flowers were sent by Victor and Annie (my grandparents) and their children, Isy and Jim, Marian and Robert, Alice and Muriel, Harry and Evelyn, Dorothy Hearne, Barbara and Hilary (Evelyn & Harry's children), Mrs and Miss Lewis Hulke, Mr, Mrs and Miss Mc Hutchin. There are others listed on the obituary notice that I could not identify. It was a big family gathering.

Sheila recalls that the Archdeacon liked to pray in Greek, and that my grandfather

St Mary's in Ballinrobe is now a library



Walmer Court just behind St Mary's Church in Walmer



St Mary's Church in Walmer where James is buried



The graves of James, Muriel and Alice at St Mary's



Victor was the only one in the family who could do this with him, and was with him shortly before he died.

When we visited Ballinrobe in August 2008, the church had become the town library. Dorothy Hearne had campaigned to rescue it from ruin and played a major part in this change.

I searched the archives at the RCBL in Dublin for anything written by my great grandfather. He was an active member of quite a few church organisations, and on the Church Synod, but I could not find mention of him in the minutes of any of them. And then Derek told me he had the last letter written by James to his son Seymour in India in 1924, which he lent to me.

It was written on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1924, franked on 24<sup>th</sup> November, and arrived in Darjeeling on 16<sup>th</sup> December, just over three weeks later. The fastest ships between England and India took 18 days. Air mails began in 1911, but I believe they required a more expensive stamp, and this one was only 3½d.

The letter tells us they had been at Walmer Court for more than a year before they managed to buy Wigmore where his two daughters would have a home of their own. It was a larger house than they needed, and they planned to shut off two rooms, but the demand for smaller houses made them cost more. Wigmore had a large garden flourishing with apples, pears, peaches and small fruits. He thought Walmer was a more comfortable place for Alice and Muriel than Ireland "*where things will not be settled for many a day*".

The letter tells of a visit by Isy in June and July, and her fall down the hotel stairs in London on her way home. Evelyn looked after her for a while in London, and then





drove her back to Walmer. At that time they were still staying in Walmer Court, and she recuperated in the shade of the trees in the large garden there. Muriel then accompanied her back to Ballinrobe.

The Archdeacon had two sons, one of whom became a vicar (my grandfather, Victor), and the other (Robert Seymour) was an engineer who became a tea planter in Darjeeling. Isy married a vicar (Jim Lendrum). Evelyn married an engineer. Two of his daughters died young (Mary and Dorothy), and another two died as spinsters (Muriel and Alice). These are my father's uncles and aunts, although I never heard him mention any of them, or his many cousins.

Wigmore, Upper Walmer, Kent.  
Sunday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>

My Dear Seymour

I am actually writing in Walmer Court, but I have dated as above, as we hope to be moving in <sup>on Tuesday</sup> our new home, and I write to-day, as there will be little time for writing after to-day, before the mail goes.

We have been busy for some time past. Alice & Muriel doing various things in the house, but my contribution has been mainly in the painting line. I helped a little in preparing the drawing room, <sup>a home</sup> I had begun to give up hope of securing at Walmer; we had an eye on Wigmore for almost twelve months, as we knew it w<sup>d</sup> be sold, but when it was set up for sale the price was far beyond our means. However there was no purchase all the summer, and it was finally offered to us on terms which we c<sup>d</sup> accept, and I am glad that before I am taken, my two daughters will have a home of their own. They will be much more comfortable here than they c<sup>d</sup> be anywhere in Southern or Western Ireland, where things will not be settled for many a day to come. Wigmore is a larger house than we need, and there are two large rooms which we can shut off. But a much smaller house w<sup>d</sup> be in greater demand, and w<sup>d</sup> have cost more.

There is a good garden at the back of the house, well stocked with apples, pears, peaches (which flourish here) and all small fruits. There is a very large garden in front just across the road—there is no house in front of us where we shall have our vegetables; both gardens were in a deplorable condition. But we have made a wonderful change already—I have purchased & brought the trees on the wall into order, and we have some things down for next year—if I live to see it. We w<sup>d</sup> have had much more done, only that Muriel had to go back to Treavor with Dr. J. & remained in Treavor and Ballinrobe (not with Muriel) and we sadly missed her help. Dr. J. was with us in June and July for over three weeks, and I never saw her looking better when Dr. J. came for her. They proposed to remain in London for four days, & see Wembley and then return to Treavor. But Dr. J. slipped on the Hotel stairs and fell to the bottom, getting concussion of the brain (slight) injuries to the spine, with the muscles of the neck torn. Happily Evelyn took her in, and after 10 or 12 days restored her down to us. She came as a wreck, with her arm in a sling, her neck rigid—she couldn't move her head without pain, and she had to keep lying down. Happily, here in Walmer Court we were about 200 yds of the public road, shaded by trees, and as the weather was

Delightfully fine we kept her lying down in the open, and she improved gradually. She was most of two months with us, and even then the Dr. w<sup>d</sup> not let her travel by herself, so Mr. went back with her, as I have told you. The Dr. says she will be all right with time and care.

My main object in writing was to wish Dorothy and you a very happy Christmas. We have been asked to spend it with the Hultkes—whom you met in Dublin. He has been for some time with the rank of Colonel. Mr. Hultke is a daughter of Stanley Treavor's, and two other sisters are married and live in Walmer, and they all have been most kind to us.

I thank God that I am in excellent health, but my term cannot be long, as I live like March of 75 I shall be 80.

I had a letter from my old friend Kimhead, who is much my senior, and is still in prime.

affly Father

CHAPTER 10

The Seymours

Marian Seymour

Annie Marian Sara Seymour  
1849-1909

James Treanor married Annie Marian Sara Seymour on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1874. I found their marriage in the parish register for the Church of St Mathias in Dublin:

The ceremony was performed by Charles H Seymour, Dean of Tuam and was witnessed by Thomas Berry (for the wife) and William Treanor (for the husband). Thomas Berry was the uncle of Thomas Stirling Berry whom Marian's sister Sara married. He lived just outside Dublin at Leixlip. William Treanor must be William Robinson Treanor, James' uncle, who was a draper in Roscrea.

Dorothy Hearne tells us "Grandmother was the daughter of Robert Butson Seymour, and niece of Dean Seymour of Tuam. I have been shown her father's name on a family tree



Marriage  
certificate of  
James Treanor to  
Marian Seymour

Page 5.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
1874.	August 13 <sup>th</sup> 1874	James Treanor Annie Marian Sara Seymour	full 40	Bachelor Spinster	Clerk in Hof's Office	Adelphi, London 10 Adelaide Road	Wm Treanor Robert Butson Seymour	Gentleman Gentleman
Married in the Church of St Mathias according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Ireland by me, Thomas H. Seymour, Dean of Tuam								
This Marriage was solemnized between us		{ James Treanor Annie Marian Sara Seymour }		{ in the Presence of us, { Francis Berry William Treanor }				



in some book of the peerage, but it doesn't seem to be in the ancient tome which is all I have of the kind here. It would presumably be traceable in some sort of public reference library. I think it is the same family as the Duke of Somerset and I believe he had some kind of estate in the Irish midlands – Cavan I seem to think. The money from this was inherited from him by his 2 daughters, Grandmother, and Auntie, and the remnants were the little estate over which there was all the fuss when Grandfather died. I am sending a little book which was in the house and which Timothy might as well have as representative of Grandmother, and which tells quite a bit about the Seymours. Grandmother was staying with her uncle, the Dean of Tuam when she met Grandfather. He and his cousin, Stanley Treanor, were I believe the two curates”.

Des thought that the little book was ‘*The Seymours of Connaught*’ and had a red cover. I have not yet seen it, but I wonder if it might be ‘*Reminiscences of Charles Seymour*’ which I found in the National Library in Dublin. I searched there for all books by and about the Seymours, and also came across a book of sermons.

Stanley Treanor was curate at Tuam from 1862 to 65, and James from 1870 to 74. So they did not coincide. They appear standing next to each other in the group photo on page 64.

Marian was born on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1849 at Clonfert in East Galway, where Robert Butson Seymour owned an estate. We know the date from her grave.

I do not know where Marian lived after her father's death. I suspect that her mother died in 1871, about three years before her marriage. Marian was living at 10 Adelaide Road in Dublin at the time of the wedding.

James and Marian married at the end of James' curacy, in 1874, shortly after he moved



to Athenry.

James' wife Marian died of Tuberculosis on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1909 in Ballinrobe, and is buried in the churchyard there. She shares her grave with her two daughters Dorothy Margery and Mary Adelaide who also died of TB, which Marian caught whilst caring for TB patients. Creagh House in Ballinrobe, had been turned into a TB hospital (see photo on page 103). The photograph (above) of her grave was taken in the pouring rain. It identifies her as “*the daughter of Robert Butson Seymour*”.

**Marian's grave in the churchyard of St Mary's in Ballinrobe**



**Marian, with her younger sister Sara Seymour behind her**



## Robert Butson Seymour

Marian's father, Robert Butson Seymour, had died back in 1855, when she was 6. At the time of the Griffiths valuation the family owned around 3,000 acres in Co Galway. Robert's personal estates were around 600 acres, mostly let to tenants.

The obituary notice for James describes his wife Marian as the daughter of R.B.Seymour of Hemmings Ville, Clonfert. This is one of the properties listed in the Griffiths valuation as belonging to Robert Butson Seymour. I first found it on an 1840 OS map where it is clearly marked. The house and farm have the same name today.

I met the Finney family who have owned Hemmings Ville since the 1880s on a visit with Brendan Crouchen in 2011.

*Freeman's Journal*  
24 Jan 1837: only  
just legible

**MARRIAGES.**  
On the 23d instant, Joseph O'Keefe, of Cork, Esq., to Arethusa, daughter of Ignatius Callaghan, of Clonsilla, county Dublin, Esq.  
On the 18th instant, at Monkstown, the Rev. William James Wall, of Kildare, to Mary Hampton, second daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Lloyd, of Rockville, county Roscommon.  
On the 19th instant, Robert Butson Seymour, Esq., of Clonfert Lodge, county Galway, to Eliza Hester, second daughter of the Rev. J. Lawler, rector of Castlenekard, in the diocese of Meath.

Another document on the landed estates of Ireland tells us:

*The representatives of Robert Seymour were leasing a house valued at £6 and almost 250 acres to Sidney Smith in 1855. The property was located at Killaltanagh, parish of Clonfert,*

Hemmings Ville  
farm in Clonfert,  
Galway



*barony of Longford.* This implies that Robert Butson Seymour must have died by then. The Griffiths Valuation of his estates was on 20<sup>th</sup> November 1856, and his property is listed as held by his representatives, so he had died before that, although I do not know when.

All the land surrounded in yellow on the map on the next page belonged to Robert Butson Seymour, together with an area described as "bog" alongside the Shannon River, and a few more acres to the right of this map. This is the very detailed 1840 OS Map that was used for the Griffiths Valuation. The land is situated within a long slow bend of the Shannon River, which you can see in the top right corner.

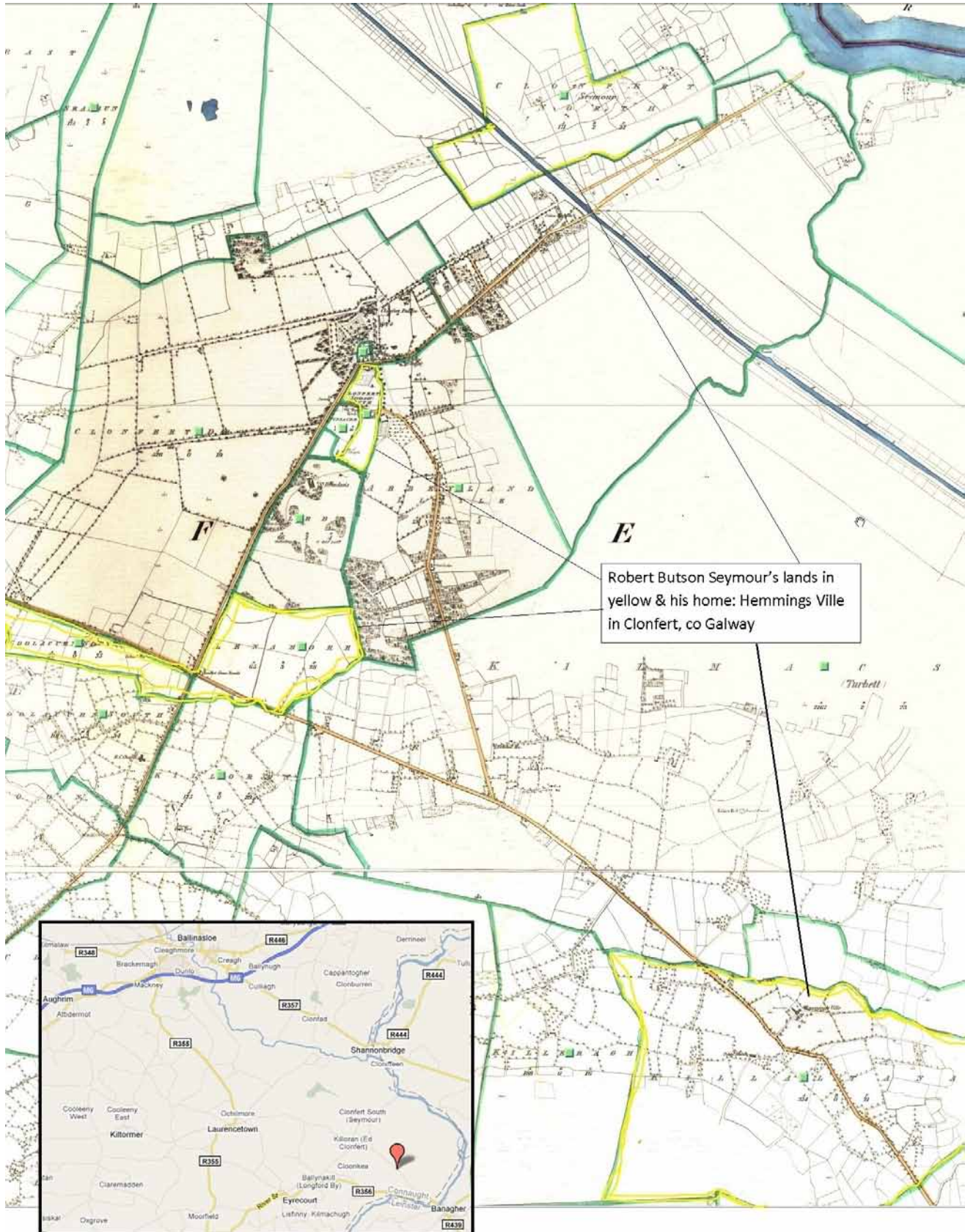
## Eliza Anne Lawler

For a long time the identity of Robert Butson Seymour's wife, my great x 3 grandmother, remained a mystery. His eldest child (my great grandmother Annie Marian Sara Seymour) was born on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1849, so we might expect a marriage in the years prior to that.

I had found a marriage licence between Robert Seymour and Alicia Clarke in 1847. It was in the *Index to the Act or Grant Books and Original Wills of the Diocese of Dublin 1800-1858*, 30<sup>th</sup> Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records Ireland (1899):

When I obtained details of this marriage from [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) I found that this Robert was a merchant and his father was George Seymour who was also a merchant. So this is a red herring. I subsequently found records of a legal dispute amongst his heirs, and that he owned and ran shipping out of Bray.

I had previously searched newspapers looking for the marriage, but perhaps not early enough. In the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1837 edition of the *Freeman's Journal* I found his marriage, to Eliza Hester Lawler, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1837.





## John Lawler 1775-1846

Eliza was the second daughter of Rev John Lawler, rector of Castlerickard.

The clerical directory for Meath tells us that the medieval church of St Nicholas in Castlerickard was in ruins in 1682, and was in “a sorry state” at around the time the Rev John Lawler was there, which was from 1819 to his death on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1846, “*but there was a service every Sunday afternoon*”. This makes it sound like a rather undemanding living.

I found John Lawler in Alumni Dublinensis. The entry says “*LAWLER, John, siz (his father), June 17 1794 aged 19, s of Mathew, Lindimagister, b Carlow, Sch 1796 BA Vern 1798*”. In plain English this says he was educated by his father, arrived in Trinity College Dublin in June 1794 aged 19, son of Mathew Lawler, schoolmaster, born in Carlow, and got his BA in the spring of 1798.

I was left wondering why it took Robert and Eliza 12 years of marriage before they produced two daughters (Annie Marian Sara in 1849, and Sara Fridzweeda in 1850). We can be pretty confident the daughters were not from another second marriage because Annie Marian named her first daughter after her mother: Eliza Hester Caroline Treanor, known in the family as Isy.

But then Judie Morris, a Seymour relative, discovered the death of a Robert Bateson Seymour on [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) at Hemmings Ville on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1854, aged 15. This son must have been born around 1839. The address makes clear he was a son of Robert Butson Seymour. The death of their first born son must have been a real tragedy. There would probably have been other children that did not survive.

From the clerical directory we can identify John Lawler’s father as Mathew Lawler, a schoolmaster, and that John had married a

Miss Hemming, who would be Eliza’s mother.

I found the vestry minutes for Castlerickard at the RCBL, which was fortunate because the parish registers were all lost in the fire in 1922. An appendix to the minutes records the marriage of John Lawler’s eldest daughter, Mary Anne Lawler, to Simeon Robert Eyre Seymour on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1831:

*“On the twenty second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, and married in the Parish Church of Castlerickard and by the Rev John Lawler, Rector, Mary Anne Lawler his eldest daughter, spinster, to Simeon Robert Eyre Seymour of the County of Galway, Esquire. In witness thereof we sign our names..*

*John Lawler, Rector of Castlerickard*

*Simeon Robert Eyre Seymour*

*Mary Anne Lawler*

*A M Hemmings*

*Michael Ryan*

*Charles Seymour*

*Thomas Hopkins”*

The next and last page of the vestry minutes records the birth of Mary and Simeon’s first child:

*“On the First day in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four I certify that I baptised in the Parish Church of Castlerickard in the County of Meath Anna Elizabeth Matilda Daughter of Simeon R E Seymour of Somerset Esq Co Galway and Mary Anne Lawler his wife. Her sponsors being Cap William Hemmings 25<sup>th</sup> Regt, Eliza Anne Lawler, and Eliza Hester Lawler. In witness thereof we have signed our names..”*

I think we can safely infer from this that Marian Seymour’s maternal grandmother was named Eliza Anne Hemmings. Marian’s parents house at Hemmings Ville must be named after her family.

I found the death of an Eliza Annie Lawler



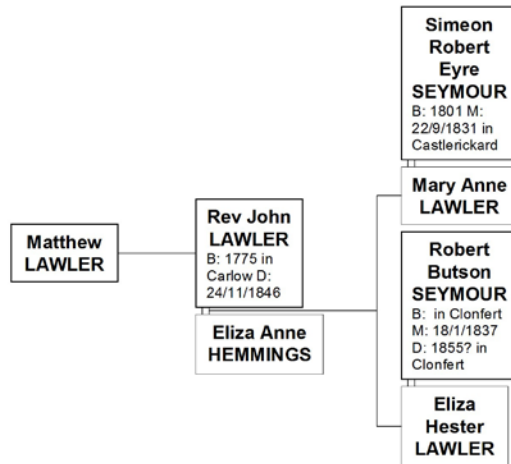
in Co Tipperary in 1871, but have nothing to corroborate that this was her.

I found an entry in Alumni Dublinensis for a Henry Vane Hemmings, Pem (Mr Lawler), Oct 15, 1821, aged 16; s of John Miles; b Isle of Man Sch 1824. BA Vern 1827. MA Vern 1835. LL.B and LL.D Vern 1850. Could this be a brother of Eliza Hemmings? I also found a Matthew Hemmings who entered TCD May 13 1749 (N.E.P) BA Ven 1755. We also find him in the Dublin clerical directory. On 20 Apr 1757 he married Martha Towers of Finglas, mother of Matthew. He later married Mary Weldon, daughter of Col Weldon of Portarlington. He is the father of Matthew Hemmings who entered TCD Sept 5 1791 aged 18, s of Matthew, Clericus; b Co Dublin. This may provide clues to tracing the Hemmings family, who are direct ancestors. But for now these are merely loose ends to be tidied up later.

## Robert Seymour 1763-1821

Robert Butson Seymour's father was Robert Seymour. This is the Robert who "*settled in Clonfert*" according to Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland, and was the third son of Joseph Seymour (1736 – 1819) and Susanna Thomas, who are my great x 4 grandparents.

I have been contacted by Judie Morris, who is descended from a related branch of the Seymour family that have been researching the Seymours for more than sixty years. She and her mother have been looking for the direct links between the Seymours of Co Galway and the family of the Duke of Somerset, which includes Jane Seymour, wife of Henry VIII. In the process they have collected copies of every Seymour will they could lay their hands on. And fortunately for us, amongst these she



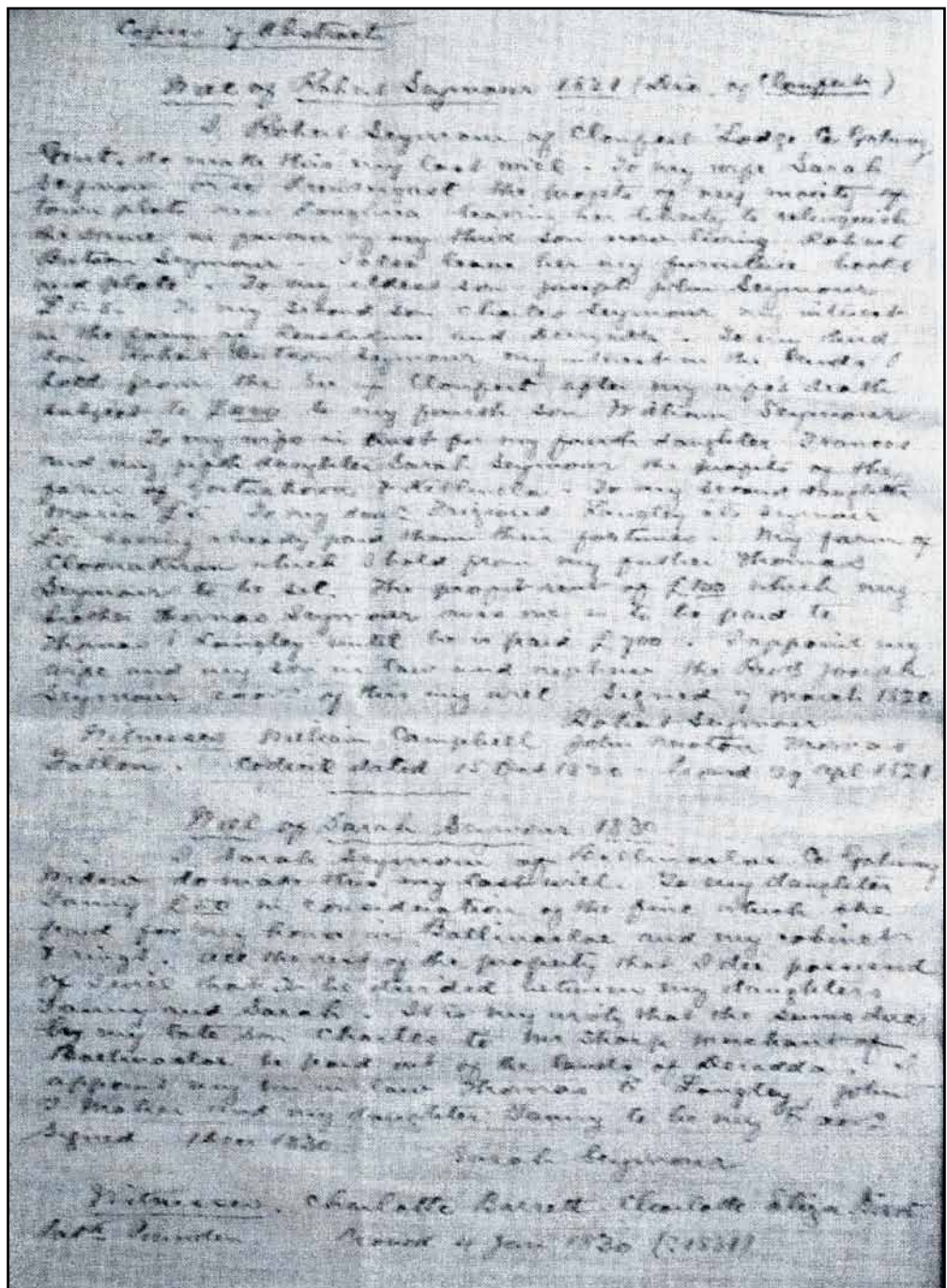
discovered the will of Robert Seymour that clearly identifies him as the father of our Robert Butson Seymour. The will was dated 7 March 1820 with a codicil dated 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 1820, and was proved on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1821.

All Judie has is a copy of a copy that is barely legible. But it is of such importance that I have included it on the next page. We have both had a good go at deciphering it, and pretty well agree on what it says.

From this we now know that Dorothy Hearne was not strictly correct when she described the Dean of Tuam as Marian's uncle. He was actually a much older cousin: they have the same grandparents. They are actually related twice directly and once by marriage. The most direct relationship is via Robert Butson Seymour's sister Maria, who was the Dean of Tuam's mother. But the Dean's paternal grandfather was also the son of Joseph Seymour and Susanna Thomas.

Robert Seymour's will identifies his wife as Sara Prendergast. From *Reminiscences of Charles Seymour* we discover she was the sister of Elizabeth Prendergast who married Charles Seymour, Robert's brother, who was

The barely legible copy of the will of Robert Seymour, father of Robert Butson Seymour.



the grandfather of the Dean of Tuam.

Robert leaves plate and sums of money and various interests in land to each of his children, which very helpfully identifies them.

## Joseph John Seymour 1782–1861

The eldest son of Robert Seymour and Eliza Prendergast was Rev Joseph John Seymour.

I found him in Clergy of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh. He went to Trinity College Dublin on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1807 aged 15, so he was born around 1782. He graduated in 1812 and got his MA in 1832. He was curate and later vicar of Ballymacward in the diocese of Clonfert from 1820 to his death on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1861.

Rev Joseph John Seymour married **Anne Young**, and had two sons that we know of. The first was **William Francis Seymour** (1815-1899), Rector of Abington, who married twice. First to **Mary Jane Vanderkiste** who had a son and two daughters (**William**, **Mary Jane**, and **Anne Elizabeth**). The second marriage was to **Elizabeth Topp**, who gave birth to **St John Delincourt Seymour** who became the Dean of Cashel.

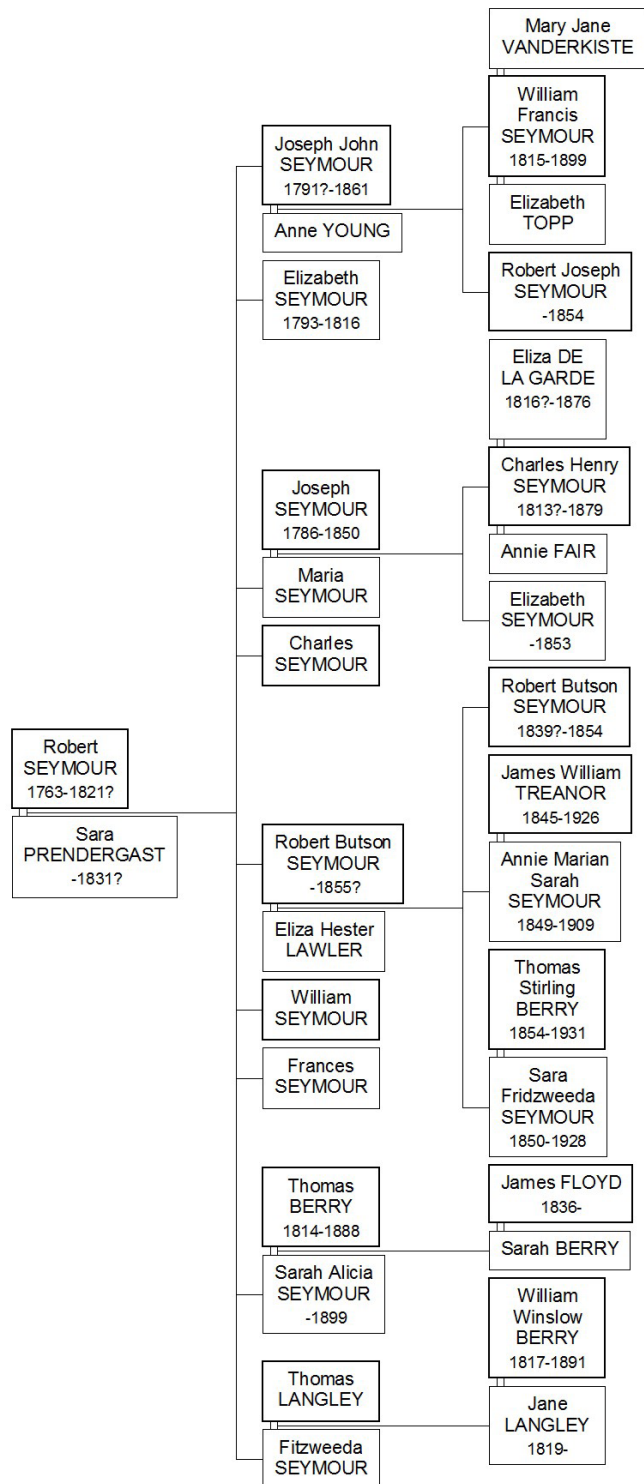
Joseph's second son was **Robert J Seymour**, whose death is reported on 9<sup>th</sup> May in the 19<sup>th</sup> May 1854 edition of Freemans Journal, at Annaghdown Glebe. Annaghdown is next to Loch Corrib, just north of Galway City.

Strangely the death of Robert J Seymour is also recorded on a shield on the railings of the grave of the Dean of Tuam, which says he died on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1854. I think the contemporary death notice in the Freemans Journal is more likely to be accurate, although we might be confusing two people with the same name (and same parent's names).

## Elizabeth Seymour 1793-1816

Robert and Sara's eldest daughter Elizabeth does not appear in his will because she died before him, aged 22. I found out about her from a memorial plaque on the right hand wall of Clonfert Cathedral, just past the entrance door, which says "*In sacred memory of Elizabeth the eldest daughter of Robert and Sara Seymour, born 28<sup>th</sup> June 1793, departed this life March 27<sup>th</sup> 1816*".

I visited Clonfert cathedral with Brendan







Memorial plaque  
to Elizabeth  
Seymour  
in Clonfert  
Cathedral

Crouchen on the day when a madrigal concert was to be held, and while he and I were searching around for water and cleaning up this memorial to make it legible, the church was full of the sound of two of them rehearsing for that evening's performance.

There are some interesting bas reliefs on the chancel arch of the cathedral, showing a mermaid, and a dragon (see opposite page).

The Seymour graves are mostly from the Somerset branch of the family – not Robert's.

### Charles Seymour

Robert and Sara's next son was Charles Seymour, who is referred to as "*my late son*" in his mother's will, which was signed on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1830.

Their third son was Robert Butson Sey-

mour, Marian's father and our direct ancestor, who inherited most of the lands. I am not sure why these went to him in preference to his elder brother Rev Joseph John Seymour. Robert was described earlier.

Robert and Sara's next daughter was Maria Seymour, who married her cousin Rev Joseph Seymour (1786-1850), and was the mother of the Dean of Tuam. So that explains the closest link between Dean Seymour and Marian Seymour. The Dean was 35 years older than her, so was more like an uncle than a cousin.

Roberts father Joseph had inherited most of his father's lands. So before examining Maria and her family (see page 86) I will take a look at Robert Seymour's parentage.

### Joseph Seymour 1736-1819

For a while the parentage of Robert Seymour was in doubt, because in the transcript of his will there is a passage that says "*My farm at Cloonykevan which I hold from my father Thomas Seymour to be let...*". So this copy of his will implies that his father was Thomas Seymour.

By the time of the Griffiths valuation forty years later this farm appears to be owned by Robert's brother Thomas Yellow Seymour. Robert's father, Joseph Seymour, died in 1819, a year before the will was drawn up. This might explain why the farm was being "*held from my father*", and could be seen as another indicator that his father was Joseph. I even wonder if this passage in the will might originally have said "*which I hold from my father for Thomas Seymour*" and been transcribed incorrectly missing the "*for*".

I discussed this dilemma with Judie who has studied the Seymours for many years. Here is what she says:

*"My immediate reaction was that Robert*

Madrigal concert  
at Clonfert  
Cathedral



may have been referring to his father-in-law, Sarah's father, although I don't know if he was a Thomas.....rather, if I had to guess, I'd say his name was Robert Prendergast, or at least that the name Robert came into the family via Prendergast. However, I then read over the will and it definitely states 'father Thomas Seymour.' What I think has happened is that the person who was copying the will has made a simple error. I've seen examples of mistakes like this before, and have made them myself. Notice that around the mention of father Thomas, the transcriber is writing about his brother Thomas and about Thomas Langley, so had Thomas on his mind. The original will is not extant.

Thomas and Mabel [DT: Belinda O'Madden] had only one son, Joseph, and two daughters. There is no room for error here. Joseph had three sons, Thomas, Charles and Robert. This too is definite. There is no Thomas available who could possibly be Robert's father. I think from memory that even Burke's Landed Gentry says that Robert, son of Joseph, settled at Clonfert. Robert's eldest son is Joseph, and the first son is usually named for the father's father. Robert also does not have a son called Thomas, which he surely would if his Dad was Thomas.

I think I could write in stone that this is a simple error, albeit a scary one! Your e-mail pointing it out certainly made me sit up and take notice. However, do not worry Dave – you have my word that Robert's parents were Joseph and Susanna”.

There is a family myth recounted to me by Sheila Treanor, who heard it from her cousin Dorothy Hearne, daughter of James



and Marian's eldest daughter Marian. The story tells of one generation of the Seymour family that only had daughters, one of whom married a son of the Butson family. He then

Bas reliefs in Clonfert Cathedral.

Cloonykeevan in Griffiths

CLOONYKEEVAN. (Ord. S. 100 & 108.)									
Henry Mahon, .	Thomas Seymour, .	Land,	. . .	147	2 19	112	0 0	—	112 0 0
		Total, .	. . .	147	2 19	112	0 0	—	112 0 0

### Lyster and Prendergast crests

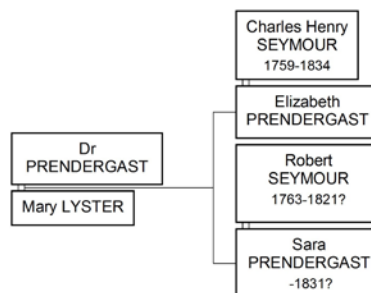
took her name, and became Butson Seymour, as part of an arrangement under which he would inherit the land.

Given the possibility that Robert Seymour's father was Thomas and not Joseph Seymour, I wondered whether there might be an intervening generation, with his father being Thomas Butson. But for this to be true a number of other documents would have to be wrong. Burke's *"Landed Gentry of Ireland"* lists Joseph as having three sons, and we have traced many of their descendants, so we know this is correct. One of these sons, Robert, is listed as *"settled in Clonfert"*, and is clearly described as *"of Clonfert Lodge"* in *"Reminiscences of Charles Seymour"*. We have three independent sources for Robert's wife being Sara Prendergast, so she could not be a Sara Seymour who married a Butson. I think we have to treat this as an intriguing myth. I suspect it was fuelled by the fact that neither of Robert Butson Seymour's daughters was able to inherit his lands after he died without any surviving sons.

### Sara Prendergast

We know from *Reminiscences* that Sara Prendergast's parents were *"..the well known Dr Prendergast of Loughrea and Mary Lyster of Rocksavage"*. The Lyster family owned estates at Rocksavage, and are descended from the Saxon kings of Mercia. The Prendergasts were a land owning family from Tipperary. The crests of the Lysters, and the Prendergasts are shown at the top of this page.

Robert's parents were Joseph Seymour and Susanna Thomas. Burke's *Landed Gentry of Ireland* tells us that in 1760, Joseph Seymour married Susanna, widow of A.Thomas, and had three sons and two daughters. I know nothing more about Susanna Thomas.



I can trace the descendants of most of their children, but there is only room here to describe those most closely connected to us.

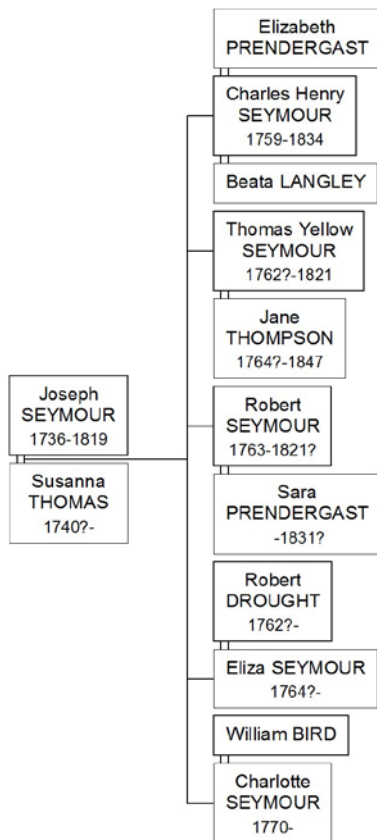
### Charles Henry Seymour 1760-1834

The eldest was Rev Charles Henry Seymour (c1760-1834) who was vicar of Kilonan and Prebend of Kilmovee. I first found out about him from Burke's *Landed Gentry of Ireland*.

At the National Library in Dublin I came across a book titled *"Reminiscences of Charles Seymour"* by A.J.Seymour. Graham Seymour writes that this *"is an amusing read although I suspect it contains a large measure of poetic licence. I believe the author was Anne Jane Fair [Dean Seymour's third wife]"*.

On page 8 of *Reminiscences* I found this little story that links Charles with Killala where the Treanors come from:





"It is well known that during the rebellion of 1798, the French forces affected a landing on the western coast of Ireland, possessed themselves of the town of Killala, and fixed their headquarters in the Bishop's palace. The Bishop was holding a visitation when the French ships entered the bay, so that the clergy were gathered around him, Charles Seymour being among them.

Escape from a place so vigorously guarded was of course difficult, and the attempt very hazardous; but he prevailed on a beggar to exchange dresses with him, and thus disguised in rags he eluded the enemy's watchfulness, travelling unsuspected till he reached Foxford,

### SEYMOUR OF BALLYMORE CASTLE.

THOMAS PATRICK DUNBAR SEYMOUR, of Ballymore Castle, J.P. co. Galway, b. 4 Oct. 1865.

**Lineage.**—During the reign of WILLIAM III, two brothers, Thomas Seymour and John Seymour, went to Ireland as Officers in the English army, and settled in Connaught. From the elder, THOMAS, derive the SEYMOURS of Ballymore Castle, and from the younger, JOHN, the SEYMOURS of Somerset, co. Galway. An elder brother of these *d.s.p.*, leaving his property to his only sister, who m. Col. Sadleir.

THOMAS SEYMOUR, m. 1735, Belinda, dau. of A. O'Madden, of Clare Madden, co. Galway, and had one son, JOSEPH, his heir, and two daus., Catherine, m. Samuel Harrison, of Spruce Hill, co. Galway, and Belinda, m. Robin Cooke, of Galway. The son and heir,

JOSEPH SEYMOUR, m. 1760, Susanna, widow of A. Thomas, and had issue, three sons and two daus.,

1. THOMAS, of whom presently.

2. Charles, Vicar of Kilronan, m. Beata, dau. of Fergus Langleigh, of Knockanure, co. Tipperary, and was father, *inter alios*, of William Digby Seymour, Q.C., M.P. for Sunderland 1852-5, and for Southampton 1859-65, m. 1847, Emily, dau. of Joseph J. Wright.

3. Robert, who settled at Clonfert, co. Galway.

1. Eliza, m. Robert Drought, of Ridgemount, King's Co.

2. Charlotte, m. William Bird, M.D., of Birdville, King's Co.

where the rebels were in force. The whiteness of his hands, contrasted with his wretched attire, excited their suspicions, and it was with great difficulty that he escaped from this perilous situation. Journeying onward as far as Ballinasloe, he fell in with the Kings troops; who, discovering the gentleman under such a garb concluded that he was a spy, and were proceeding to try him by drum-head court martial.

Immediate death was before him; and not a hope of deliverance appeared; for how could he establish the truth of a story that carried on its face the stamp of the most romantic improbability! By a very providential interposition he was again rescued: an officer, who had been in company with Mr Seymour some time before, recognised him at this dreadful juncture, and by his testimony all was satisfactorily cleared up".

Charles Seymour first married **Eliza Prendergast**, whose sister Sara married Robert Butson Seymour's father, Robert.

Eliza gave him three children that we know about. The eldest was Joseph Seymour whom we will examine in a moment, and two

Seymour entry in  
Burke's Landed  
Gentry of Ireland

daughters, Susanna and Anne.

According to *Reminiscences* Charles cheerily comforted his two daughters when they lamented over the isolation of the neighbourhood, by assuring them that, “lonely as it was, they need not be alarmed for their future prospects”, and reminding them of the saying that “if marriage was ordained, husbands would come down the chimney if no other way was open to them”. One daughter married a **Mr Henry Thomas Eager** from Kerry and had two sons (Edward and Joseph) and two daughters (Emily and Anne Marie), and the other married a **Mr Ryan** from

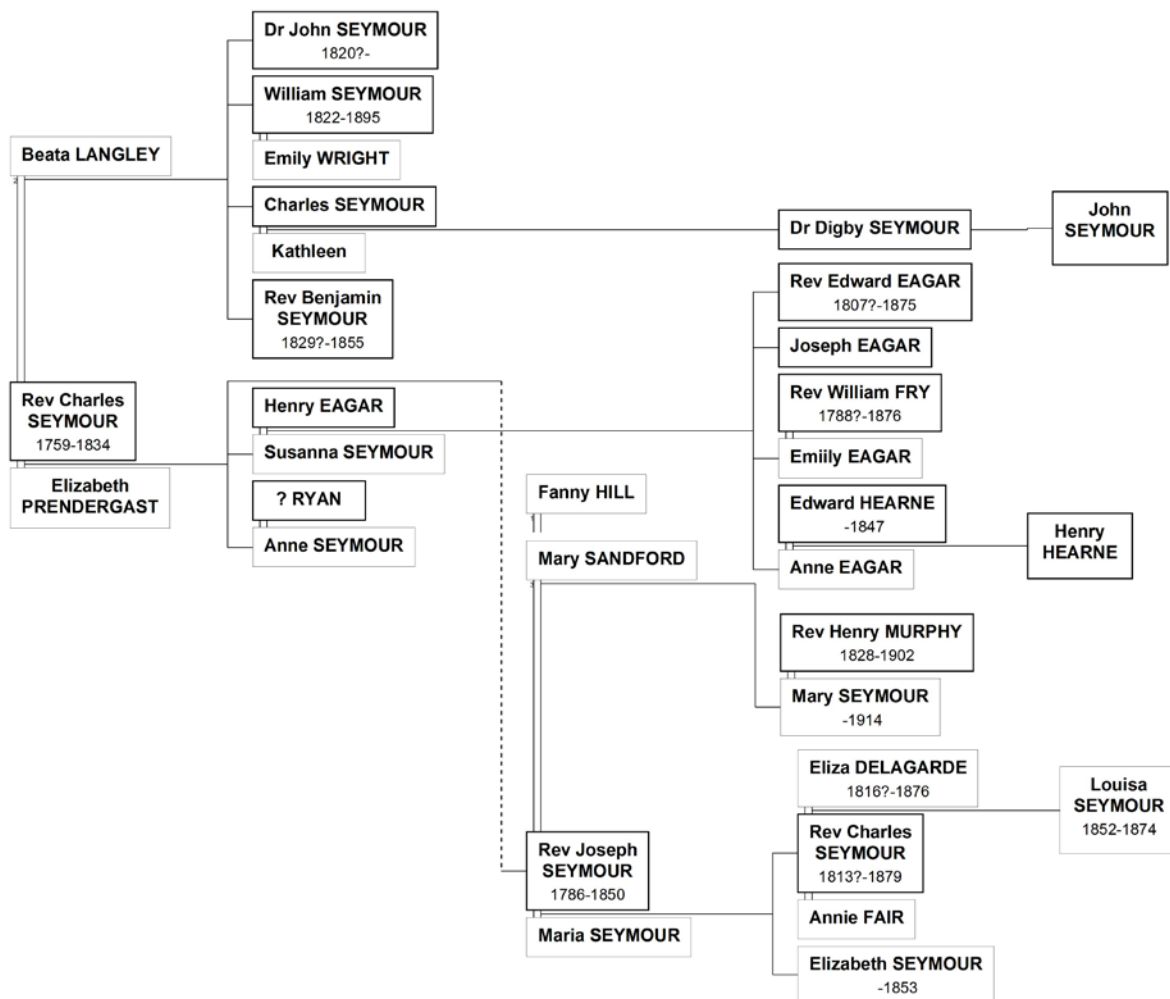
Carlow. Both husbands were officers in the militia.

Charles’ second wife was **Beata Langley** of Knockanure, Co Tipperary. According to *Reminiscences*, her mother, if she had been a man, would have been Earl of Cassalis. They were married on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1818. She was a handsome, gentle, and kindly person, and must have been very even-tempered, for her husband used to call her “Mrs Placid”.

Beata gave him four sons:

**John Seymour** (1920) who entered the medical profession, and died young.

**William Digby Seymour** (1822–1895)



who became MP for Sunderland and later for Southampton, and married **Emily Wright** in September 1847. His life is well described on Wikipedia.

**Charles Seymour**, who went to America, and became a prosperous railway engineer. He visited the old country on five occasions and other members of his family also visited Ballymore between the 1920's and 1960's.

Their fourth son was **Rev Benjamin Seymour** who died soon after taking Holy Orders.

Three generations of the family, Charles and his wife Kathleen, their son Dr Digby Gordon Seymour and his son John Randolph Seymour, had co-operated in producing four large volumes of Seymour family history. These include a copy of a book of sermons by Rev. Charles Seymour, published in 1895, and the interesting story of his escape from capture by rebels during the 1798 rising. A large collection of his letters has been digitised (see [www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/s/Seymour,Digby\\_Gordon.html](http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/s/Seymour,Digby_Gordon.html)).

## Joseph Seymour 1786/7–1850

Rev Joseph Seymour, was born in Co Mayo at some time around 1787, and was the eldest son of Rev Charles Seymour and Eliza Prendergast. He was married three times. His first wife, **Fanny Hill**, was drowned while bathing a few weeks after their marriage.

His second wife was **Maria Seymour** (Robert Butson Seymour's sister), who bore him at least four children.

Their first child was Charles Henry Seymour, who became Dean of Tuam. Dean Seymour's grave also lists a sister **Elizabeth Seymour** who died on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1853, and according to notes in the book on Tuam Cathedral she was the third daughter of Rev Joseph Seymour, and died at

Joseph Seymour's first wife, Fanny Hill, was drowned while bathing a few weeks after their marriage. He next married Maria, daughter of Robert Seymour and Sarah Prendergast, and consequently his double first cousin. His third wife was Mary Sandford. His eldest son, by Maria Seymour, Charles Henry, was a well-known figure among the clergy of the Irish Church during the

Excerpt from *Reminiscences of Charles Seymour* concerning Joseph's first wife

Annadown Glebe. This implies that they had another two daughters.

Maria is reputed to have "*dropped dead at the breakfast table*".

A plaque in Tuam cathedral was placed there by **Mary Murphy**, another sister of the Dean, whom I believe to be the daughter of Joseph's third wife **Mary Sandford**.

In *Reminiscences* Joseph is glowingly described as an exceptionally honest and caring man, who during the famine of 1847 "*often rose from table leaving his simple meal untouched, saying that he could not eat when the people were starving before his very eyes*". This may be an example of the poetic licence that Graham refers to.

## Charles Henry Seymour 1813-1879

Joseph and Maria's son Charles Henry Seymour was Dean of Tuam, and a very important figure in the Protestant community of Galway and Mayo.

There is a pretty pair of stained glass windows in Tuam Cathedral with the inscription:

TO THE MEMORY OF CHARLES & ELIZA SEYMOUR. SHE RESTS IN JESUS SINCE MARY LOUISA – ONLY CHILD BORN NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 1852 June 15<sup>th</sup> 1874. Rev XIV5.

There is also a brass plaque that says "*This cathedral restored by public subscription is a monument to the untiring energy and devoted zeal for the glory of God of the late Charles Henry Seymour A.M. Dean of Tuam. During 16 years, and in adversity and much sorrow, he laboured in this great work, mercifully spared to*



Seymour  
window in Tuam  
Cathedral



*see it completed and the church consecrated Oct 8<sup>th</sup> MDCCCLXXVIII. He was called to his rest April 14<sup>th</sup> MDCCLXXIX. Lively stones witness his faithfulness during a ministry of 38 years. Rev: Chap.XIV Ver.13. This brass is erected by his sister Mary Murphy MDCCCLXXXI”*

His half-sister Mary Murphy was married to Rev Henry Charles Murphy. I suspect they are the parents of Louisa Mary Seymour Murphy who married Winslow Berry, the son of Marian's sister Sara Fridzweeda Seymour. There was a lot of intermarriage between the Seymours and the Berrys.

I looked up the Dean of Tuam in a clerical directory. This tells us he was born 1813 in Co Mayo, son of Rev Joseph Seymour, prebend of Kilmovee, who in turn was the son of Rev Charles Seymour who was also prebend of Kilmovee.

He went to Trinity College Dublin aged 18 on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1831. He was ordained in 1841 and curate at Castletown (1841), and at Tuam (1845), Rector at Achil 1847, Vicar and Provost of Tuam (1850-67), and Dean of Tuam (1867-79).

He married **Eliza Delegarde** and their only child **Louisa Mary** died 13<sup>th</sup> June 1874 aged 21 (commemorated by the window). His wife Eliza died two years later on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1876.

I found Elizabeth De La Garde in the 1841 Channel Islands census, aged 25, with her twin sister Sarah, and father **Charles De La Garde**, who was a banker aged 55. They have no mother with them. The Jersey connection explains their French name. Charles De La Garde is commemorated on a shield on the railings of the Dean of Tuam's grave, which says he died on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1860 aged 75, in Ballinrobe. For 30 years he was Colonel of the East Regiment of the Royal Jersey Militia.

Charles Seymour then married **Annie Fair** at St Peters in Richmond, Surrey on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1879. Annie's father was **Campbell Fair** who owned a house in Old Garden Street in Ballina in the Griffiths Valuation, and who erected the stone pulpit in the cathedral in memory of his father in 1874.

#### SEYMOUR AND DE LA GARDE

HERE RESTS IN JESUS  
“UNTIL THE DAY BREAK  
AND THE SHADOWS FLEE AWAY”.  
CHARLES HENRY SEYMOUR  
DEAN OF TUAM  
HE FELL ASLEEP ON EASTER MONDAY 1879  
AGED 65.

“MY BELOVED IS MINE AND I AM HIS”.

HERE RESTS ALSO ELIZA WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
WHO WAS TAKEN TO HER LORD SEPT<sup>R</sup> 9<sup>TH</sup> 1876  
AND THEIR ONLY CHILD MARY LOUISA AGED 21  
WHO PRECEDED THEM ON JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> 1874.

“THOU ART A PLACE TO HIDE ME IN”.

Charles Seymour died within two months of his second marriage on Easter Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 1879, aged 66. He died unexpectedly of a weak heart and congestion of the lungs after a short illness, a couple of hours before the death of Canon John Treanor, and they shared a funeral at St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam. He is buried at Tuam with his wife Eliza and daughter Louisa Mary.

The Dean of Tuam clearly played an important role in the Protestant community of Tuam. I came across a most revealing story that tells us something about the antagonism between the Protestant establishment of which he and Bishop Bernard were leading figures, and the Catholic community that outnumbered them in the district. What follows is from the Tuam Herald on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> 1871.

*“THE ABOMINATION OF POKERY*

*We have been sent a pamphlet containing a full report of a case which was tried at the last Galway assizes, creating at the time a considerable amount of interest. The suit was one for assault and battery, the plaintiff in it being the Rev Charles Seymour, the Protestant Dean of Tuam, and the defendant the Rev Edmond Thomas, the Catholic Administrator of the same town.*

*The reverend plaintiff alleged that he had been assaulted, and estimated the damages accruing from that assault at the round sum of £1,000. A county Galway jury, composed, we believe, mainly of Protestant gentlemen, acquiesced by their verdict in Dean Seymour's complaint that he had been assaulted, and awarded him a solatium for his sufferings, the sum of one farthing. In other words, a jury of the county Galway were so little able to see the hardships and sufferings of the Rev Dean Seymour that they awarded him just the one*

*ninety-sixth thousandth part of the sum so confidently demanded at their hands.*

*The story of the rencontre between Dean Seymour and Father Thomas is interesting as an evidence of the mild, sensible and Christian spirit in which the crusade against Catholicism is carried on in Connaught. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of last June, the Rev. Father Thomas was walking on the road in the neighbourhood of Tuam. Whether by accident or design, whether in the ordinary course of events or in hope of provoking a conflict, we know not, but it so happened that Dean Seymour was walking on the same road at the same time and in the same direction as Father Thomas, the Dean keeping always within a few paces of the Administrator. Unhappily for the peace of the town of Tuam there happened to be on the road at the same time a certain Thomas Kilgariff, who was accompanied by a female companion. Now, as Thomas Kilgariff has only attained the ripe age of seven years, the female, who appears to have been his sister being somewhat his junior, it is probable that nothing was, that fine June evening, more remote from his infantile imagination than that he was to play a great part in a forensic drama which was to occupy a special jury of the county of Galway for two mortal days, to excite the rhetorical vehemence of six counsel learned in the law, and to draw from Mr Justice Keogh a charge marked by characteristic humour and eloquence. However, it was to be. The juvenile Kilgariff was what would have been termed two centuries ago a 'malignant Papist' and as he passed Father Thomas he pulled his forelock and, in common with the little girl by his side, made to the priest that respectful obeisance which we believe is a common manifestation extended by little children in Connaught, not alone to the priest but to every stranger in a*

good coat who passes by. Wonderful to relate, the boy's bow and the girl's curtsy roused a pious and deadly wrath in the bosom of Dean Seymour. The holy anger which burned in the breast of St Paul when he saw the Ephesians bend to the silver statuettes of Apollo was nothing to the religious fury which the bow of Kilgarriff roused in the bellicose heart of that true champion of the Church Militant, the Dean of Tuam. All Exeter hall blazing in his eye, he sprang upon the terrified infant, and, shaking him by the arm, bellowed out, 'Why should you bow your knee for that fellow, and not for the living God?' Father Thomas would have been something more or less than mortal had he heard this outrageous insult with patience. He turned round and in the passion of the moment laid his hand on Dean Seymour's arm, expressing at the same time in pretty strong language his sense of the impropriety of his conduct. This was the assault committed, and for this Dean Seymour was awarded the smallest coin of the realm.

Our intention in reverting to this matter is not, however, to retell an old tale. It is to draw attention to the extraordinary proceedings of the Irish Church Mission, of which Dean Seymour is a prominent agent, indulged in

**Souperism** was a phenomenon of the Irish Potato Famine. Non-Roman Catholic Bible societies set up schools in which starving children were fed, and were subjected to religious instruction at the same time. Its practitioners were reviled by the Catholic families who had to choose between their faith and starvation. People who converted for food were known as soupers, a derogatory epithet that continued to be applied and featured in the press well into the 1870s. In the words of their peers: they "took the soup." Wikipedia

this trial. It is no exaggeration to say that the revelations only go to prove what we had always believed, that the Christian clergymen, in their efforts to prop up that monstrous spectre of folly and imposture, the Irish Church Mission, have recourse to acts from which a Buddhist saint or a Mussulman fakir would shrink in horror. We learn, for instance, that Dean Seymour had for years been in the habit of, at each recurring festival of the Catholic Church, sending to Father Thomas and other Catholic priests tracts assailing with gross virulence the holy day they were about to celebrate. But we must let Dean Seymour speak for himself. In a recent report of his to the Church Mission Society he informs the gulls who subscribe to that precious body that at a recent burial –

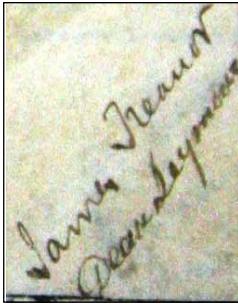
'Around the grave I addressed about two hundred Roman Catholics IN THE PRESENCE of the priest of the parish, who stood at the foot of the grave; I told the people of the true Purgatory and the Great High Priest. Is that the man, brethren, I said, to whom you confess? In the day of judgement and at the hour of your death is it to him that you trust? To the priest I said, My poor sinful brother, go you to the Great High Priest; kneel to Him; He is above; never dare again to profess to be able to forgive sins.'

If this is false, what are we to say to the falsehood of the man who wrote it? If it is true, what of the astounding impudence of his conduct. For our part we believe the story to be about as true as that of Dr Bernard, the Protestant Bishop of Tuam, that there are fifteen hundred Protestant children in the schools of the parish in Galway, the entire Protestant population of the county being, according to the Census of 1871, 3,238 souls". .

The Dean of Tuam's signature appears many times on the same pages of the Tuam parish register as Thomas Stanley Treanor,



and later with James Treanor. The ones illustrated here are from a page dated 1872.



### Thomas Yellow Seymour

The eldest son of Joseph Seymour and Susanna was Thomas Yellow Seymour, who lived at Ballymore Castle where he was born in about 1762. In January 1786 he married Jane Thompson, the only daughter of David Thompson of Banagher.

Their eldest daughter, Eleanor Seymour, married Peter Lambert from Castle Ellen. The Lamberts are another famous family. Their son, Water Peter Lambert was JP and High Sheriff for Galway in 1859.

Their daughter Isabella Lambert married Sir Edward Henry Carson, leader of the Irish Unionist Alliance and Ulster Unionist Party between 1910 and 1921. This was the barrister who represented the Marquis of Queensberry in the famous libel case brought by Oscar Wilde.



He was the first signatory to the Ulster Covenant, and lead the opposition to the 1914 Home Rule Bill. He formed the Ulster Volunteers who were pledged to resist it, and probably did more than anyone else to ensure that Ulster remained under Protestant control when the republic of Ireland was set up in 1922.

The eldest son of Thomas Yellow Seymour was another Thomas Seymour, JP and Lieut Colonel in the Galloway Militia, who became High Sheriff of Kings Co.

He was the one who purchased Ballymore Castle from Giles Eyre in 1824 – it had previously been rented.

His eldest son was Walter Seymour Secretary to the Grand Jury of Co Galway. One of his sons, Walter Gordon Seymour was the first County Secretary of Galway County Council when it was formed in 1899, and served as County Secretary until 1925. I found his memorial at St Nicholas Church in Galway City. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1925.

Another son, Rev David Seymour, was the intended victim of an attempted murder. Here is a report from the Nenagh Guardian 27 Oct 1852:

#### ATTEMPT TO MURDER

#### THE REV D SEYMOUR.

*As Mr Seymour was returning home on Friday night last in his gig, on the road from Clonfert to Laurencetown, a gun or pistol was snapped at him. He distinctly heard the cap exploding, and saw a man in dark coloured clothes immediately run off in the fields - fortunately the fire arm did not go off. Mr Seymour drove as fast as he could and reported the outrage to the police at Laurencetown. The case was fully investigated on Thursday at Laurencetown, before G. Fitzgerald Esq, R.M. and the local Magistrates. I understand*

Sir Edward  
Carson

*that the Magistrates have recommended that a reward should be offered by the government. The Rev Mr Seymour was generally liked in the locality. He had been obliged to order one or two processes to be served for the coming quarter sessions. Coupling this outrage with the murder of Mr Manifold in the next county, it will behove the magistrates and the police to be on the alert now that winter is fast approaching”*

Brendan  
Crouchen with  
Martin Naughton  
outside Ballymore  
Castle

## Ballymore Castle

So we now know that Robert Butson Seymour was descended from the Seymours of Ballymore Castle. The entry in Burke (reproduced earlier) says “*During the reign of William III, two brothers, Thomas Seymour and John Seymour, went to Ireland as officers in the English army and settled in Connaught. From the older, Thomas, derive the Seymours of Ballymore Castle, and from the younger, John, the Seymours of Somerset, Co Galway.*”

On a trip to Galway in 2011 I visited the area where the Seymours come from with Sheila Treanor’s son Brendan. From lunch-time conversations in the pub at Laurence-

town we learned that the name was pronounced with a sound half way between the French ‘c’est moi’ and the English ‘Seymour’.

We met the current owner of Ballymore



Panelled room  
at the base of the  
tower

Castle, Martin Naughton, who showed us in and let us wander around. It was built in three stages, starting with the ancient tower with walls about six feet thick at the bottom. The room at the base of the tower is wood panelled.

We climbed the circular stone staircase to the top, passing increasingly derelict rooms with rotten floors some of which

Ballymore Castle  
in 1967 (taken by  
David Wilkin’s  
parents).



The interior is of  
one of the rooms  
in the tower in  
2011





had completely collapsed. Birds were flying around in the top two rooms.

Afterwards we visited the Seymour mausoleum, which had been vandalised in 1971.

David Wilkins sent me an extract from a newspaper about the desecration of the Seymour mausoleum. When we visited the top section of the mausoleum was a complete mess and the bottom room was barricaded with a steel door. David also told me that "Simeon's father [DT: the Simeon who married

Mary Anne Lawler], Charles, then of Telltown House, paid for the mausoleum to be tidied up and secured after the vandalism and in Simeon's archive are photos of the damaged interior which are really distressing".

Here is what Wikipedia has to say about Ballymore Castle:

"Ballymore Castle in Laurencetown, County Galway, Ireland was originally a Madden tower house of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A house was added in 1620, and the castle has been much altered since then.

The castle was built in 1585 by John Lawrence on land he had acquired through his marriage to the daughter of O'Madden, Lord of Longford. It was damaged in subsequent wars and repaired by his son, Walter, in 1620. John Lawrence Jnr. was dispossessed by Cromwell in 1641, having espoused the royalist cause in the war of that time.

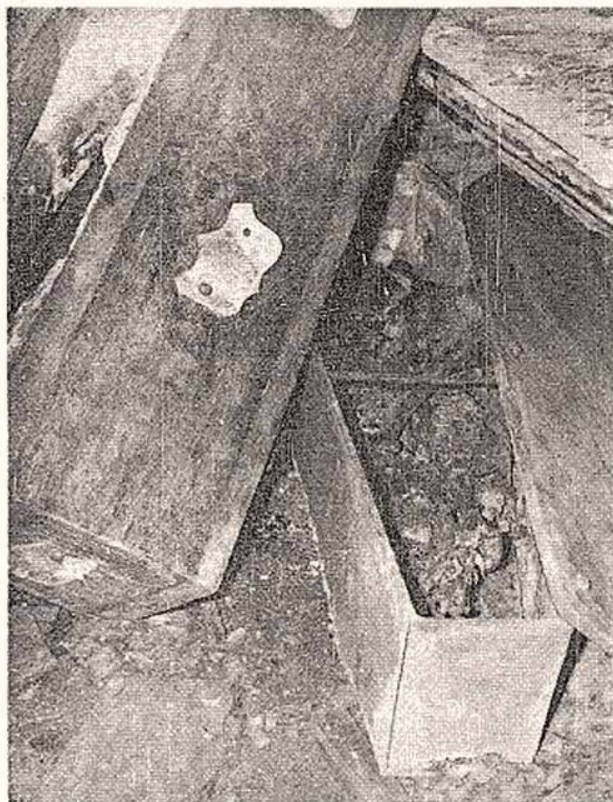
The castle and much of the estate was given to Sir Thomas Newcomen, who leased the

The Seymour mausoleum in 2011

Cutting from Sunday Independent of 28<sup>th</sup> February 1971 following the vandalism at the Seymour Mausoleum

PAGE 2 SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, FEB. 28, 1971

D



Two of the desecrated coffins in the Seymour vault at Laurencetown.

## Coffin raiders 'wanted treasure'

ACTS OF desecration in a Church of Ireland vault in the Co. Galway village of Laurencetown, eight miles from Ballinasloe, are baffling local Gardai, who are acting on the theory that the vandals were in search of treasure.

The vault contains the remains of the Seymour family, descendants of one of Henry the Eighth's wives, Anne Seymour. A local tradition says that the vault, built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, holds treasure boxes.

The desecrators prised open the steel doors at the foot of a stone stairway entrance, tore the coffins from their resting shelves and wrecked them. Breast plates were removed, lids were ripped off and the lead tops borne open, and the remains of several generations of Seymours exposed.

But the real mystery is whether the vandals found the legendary treasure. Investigations so far have been unable to confirm if the boxes existed or not.

Local postmaster Joe Connolly said: This is terrible vandalism. I don't know who would even think of an act like this. All the Seymours were very well liked here. Why can't they be left to rest in peace?

Eddie Naughton, whose father now owns the Seymour Estate said when they first discovered the vault door was forced open

they replaced a new lock but this was recently broken off as well. "I think a hydraulic jack must have been used to force these steel doors open."

He added he did not think there were any descendants of the Seymours now in Ireland but understood they had a nephew in Australia.

### 'CONSECRATED'

Thomas Carley, the local undertaker and auctioneer, said "You would be afraid of your life to go into that vault. It seems that when they saw the human bones they ran for their lives. What appears to be a treasure box is broken open but I don't know if there was anything in it or not. I think this carry-on was scandalous and everybody around here condemns it," adding "It's consecrated ground and as such, should command the highest respect."

Rev. C. J. Hodge, Rector, Church of Ireland said "This is despicable. It is unbelievable this can happen in the present day."



castle to the Lawrences for many years. On his death, it passed to his stepson, Nicholas Cusack of Cushinstown, County Meath, who sold it to John Eyre of Eyrecourt about 1720.

The Seymour family settled in the castle around 1700. The castle was modernised and a large house added in 1815. Thomas Seymour purchased the castle and lands outright from Giles

**Ballymore Castle viewed from the Seymour mausoleum**



Eyre around 1824. This family were to remain in possession of the castle until the early part this century. Mrs. Hale, a relative of the Seymours, inherited the estate which was somewhat reduced at this time a large portion having been acquired by the Irish Land Commission. She leased the castle to a family named Smiths and also to the infamous Major Belassy.

The Belassy family arrived in Ballymore

**Sitting room in the newer part of Ballymore Castle**



in 1948. Using the false pretence that his money was delayed in being transferred from his English accounts. He sought and obtained credit facilities from many shop owners and farmers in the local area. Time passed but the excuse remained unchanged. The family car was often seen leaving the castle at night and returning in the morning. This was a source of suspicion and puzzlement to many though a few who were aware of what was happening were 'encouraged' to maintain their silence. Staff eventually discovered that the valuable silverware of the castle was being removed during these nocturnal excursions. The major was arrested and received a short prison sentence. The family left Ballymore when they failed to elicit any financial help from the local clergy. Mrs. Hale returned and paid some of the debts incurred by Belassy to uphold the good name of the castle. It was subsequently sold together with its lands to Joe Naughton for £9,000. His family remain there to this day."

The Irish Land Commission was set up under the Irish Land Act of 1881, and enforced the transfer of land from landlords to their tenants, at a price based on about 16 years of rent. It is no surprise to find that this was very unpopular with the land owners, including the Seymours. Some say it resulted in a lot of very small farm holdings that were uneconomic, and consequently that it increased rural poverty.

## Thomas Seymour 1680

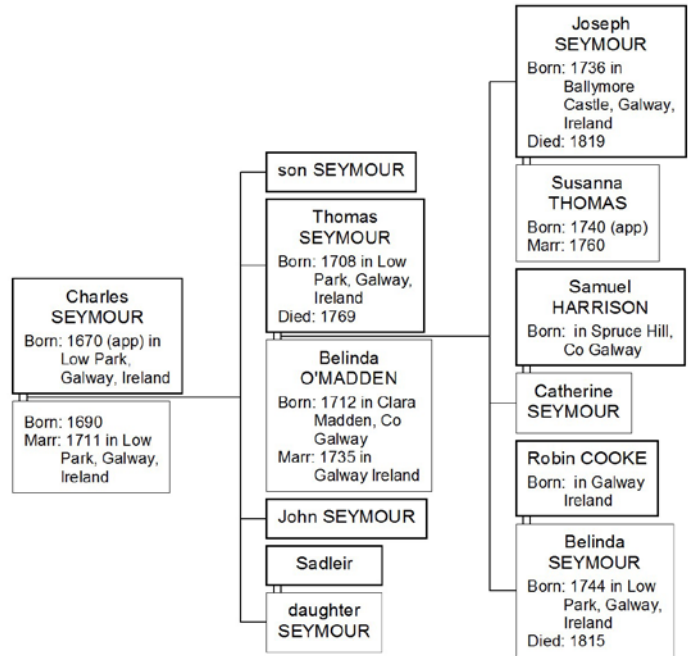
According to Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland, the earliest Seymour ancestor about whom we have any reliable information is Thomas, who was born at Low Park in Co Galway in about 1680.

Burke tells us "During the reign of William III [ie William of Orange, sometimes known as 'King Billy' 1689:1694], two brothers went to Ireland as officers in the English army, and

settled in Connaught. From the elder, Thomas, derive the SEYMOURS of Ballymore Castle, and from the younger, John, the SEYMOURS of Somerseset, Co Galway. An elder brother of these died without offspring, leaving his property to his only sister, who married Colonel Sadlier.

THOMAS SEYMOUR married Belinda, daughter of A O'Madden of Clara Madden, Co Galway, and had one son, Joseph, his heir, and two daughters. Catherine married Samuel Harrison of Spruce Hill, Co Galway, and Belinda married Robin Cooke of Galway”.

David Wilkins is descended from Samuel Harrison, and has more detail on them.



## Sara Fridzweeda Seymour 1851-1928

Marian Seymour’s younger sister was Sarah-Fridzweeda Seymour, sometimes called Freda.

She was named Sarah after her father’s mother (Sara Prendergast), following the Irish naming convention. The name Fritzweeda is quite common in the Prendergast family, and is spelled in a variety of ways. She married Thomas Stirling Berry, who became the Bishop of Killaloe.

Hilary Temple has a cracked old daguerreotype with “Mother and Aunt of Evelyn” written on the back. The heyday of daguerreotypes was between 1840 and 1860 which fits with the age of the two Seymour sisters, Marian and Sarah.

Both Dorothy Hearne’s tree and the one I received from Derek identify Marian Seymour’s sister as Freda, who married Thomas Stirling Berry. I found an announcement of their marriage on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1928 in the *Nenagh Guardian*.

In the 1901 Ireland census she is listed as Sara Fritzweeda Berry, aged 50 born in Co



Marian and Sara Seymour in a daguerreotype

Galway. Her husband Thomas is a clergyman aged 47 born in Queens County. They have three children living with them: Winslow SS aged 20 and a medical student at Trinity College Dublin, Elizabeth Violet G Berry aged 19 who is a scholar, both born in the City of Dublin, and Fritzweeda J M Berry aged 12

Number.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	
	No Person ABSENT on the night of Sunday, March 31st, or absent here EXCEPT their own acknowledged servants who may be out at WORK or TRAVELLING, &c., during that Night, and who RETURN HOME on MONDAY, APRIL 1st.		State whether "Head of Family," "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or "Other relative;" "Visitor," "Boarder," "Servant," &c.	State here the particular Religion, or Religious Denomination. (Members of Protestant Denominations are recorded and to describe themselves by the vague term "Protestant," but to enter the name of the Particular Church, Denomination, or Body, to which they belong.)	State here whether he or she can "Read and Write," or "Read" only, or "Cannot Read."	Years on last Birth-day.	Months for Infants under one Year.	Write "M" for Male and "F" for Female.	State the Particular Rank, Profession, Trade, or other Employment of each person. Children or young persons attending a School, or receiving regular instruction at home, should be returned as Scholars. Before filling this column you are requested to read the instructions on the other side.	Whether "Married," "Single," "Widow," or "Not Married."	If in Ireland, state in what County or City; if elsewhere, state the name of the Country.
	Christian Name.	Surname.									
1	Theobald	Berry	Head of family	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	47		M	Physician (M.D. of Ireland) Ret.	Married	Queen's County
2	Louisa Fitzgibbon	Berry	Wife	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	50		F		Married	Co. Galway
3	Winslow S <sup>r</sup>	Berry	Son	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	20		M	Medical Student J.E.D.	Not married	City of Dublin
4	Miss Violet G.	Berry	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	19		F	Scholar	Not married	City of Dublin
5	Fitzgibbon J <sup>m</sup>	Berry	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	12		F	Scholar	Not married	Kings County
6	Harriet	Whitehead	Servant	Church of Ireland	Read & Write	21		F	Housemaid Domestic Serv.	Not married	Queen's Co.
7	Maria	Pallissey	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read	66		F	Cook: Domestic Servant	Married	Queen's Co.
8	Mary	Fitzgibbon	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	32		F	Laundress: Domestic Servant	Not married	Queen's Co.

1901 census of the Berry family

born in Kings County.

In the 1911 census she is aged 50 and still married but staying with her son Winslow Seymour Berry, who has married a Louisa Mary Seymour Murphy aged 31 from Co Galway. I am guessing her surname because Winslow's mother in law is also present and is Mary Murphy aged 72 from Co Mayo.

Bishop Thomas Stirling Berry

There is also a nephew of Winslow named Charles Seymour Gallogly aged 15. I found him in the 1901 census the son of James Thomas Gallogly from Cavan and May Gallogly aged 30 from Co Galway.

## Thomas Stirling Berry 1854-1931

Rev Thomas Stirling Berry was born 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 1854 at Portarlinton in what was then known as Queens County (Co Laois), the son of Rev William Winslow Berry (1817-1891).

His mother was Jane Langley (1819) who was a daughter of Fritzweeda Seymour, who was Robert Butson Seymour's younger sister. Cousin marriages were quite common in Protestant families in Ireland, a result of their relatively small numbers within the larger population.

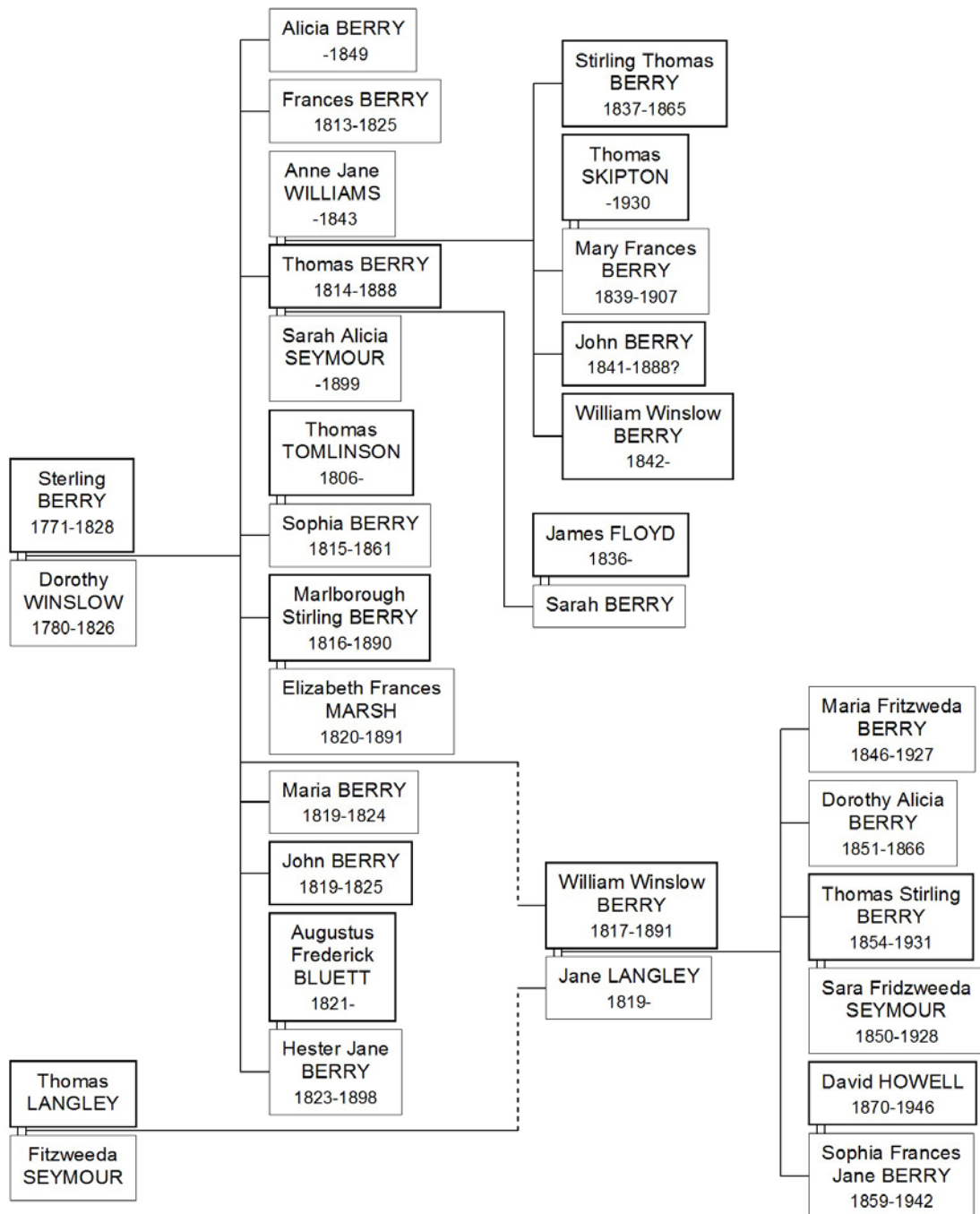
Rev William Winslow was the son of



Stirling Berry, born at Eglis Castle in 1771 See <http://sites.google.com/site/irishberry-genealogy/sterling-berry> for a very detailed tree of the Berry family compiled by Patrick Fleetwood Berry. This is my main source for information on the Berry family, including the photographs.

They were another clergy family. It says of the family "Their history reflects that of the Protestant Ascendancy class generally – accumulation of property, wealth and status, followed by its loss under the Irish Land Acts and migration from Ireland, mainly to the British Colonies. It deals chiefly with the





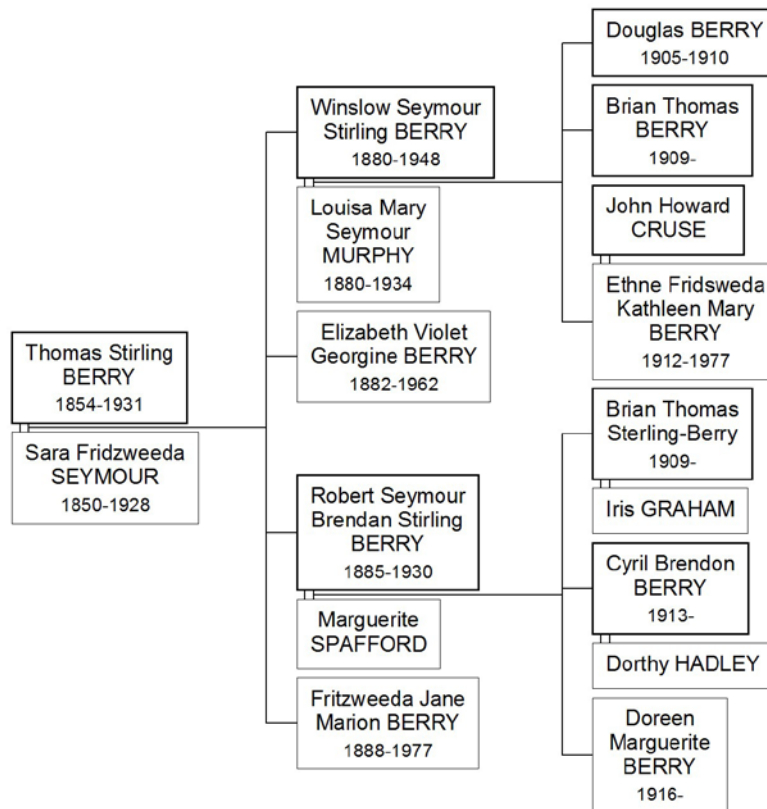
descendants of Thomas Berry (c. 1670-c.1728) who settled in Co. Westmeath, Ireland and is the earliest member of this Berry lineage for whom I have documentary evidence.

This family, originally based at Broadwood and later Eglish Castle, I have termed the "Eglish Family" ....

The first record of the progenitor of the other Berry family was in 1659, when John Berry was registered in the census at Clonhane, in King's County. Clonhane later became known as Dovegrove and I refer to this family as the "Dovegrove Family". In 1759, Thomas Berry (1737-1815) of the Eglish family married Frances Berry (1743-1807) of the Dovegrove

family. This (now combined) Berry family reached its pinnacle of achievement with the acquisition in 1776 of a country house called Eglish Castle, and extensive land holdings in the Barony of Eglish and elsewhere in the vicinity. Eglish Castle and associated land was sold 100 years later by Thomas' grandson, Rev. William Berry (1850-1920) under the Irish Land Acts".

The descendants of Marian's sister Sara Seymour and Thomas Stirling Berry are shown below.



## CHAPTER 11

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# Isy Treanor and Alice Treanor

Having explored the Seymours, we are now back to the Treanors. It is time to look at the children of Archdeacon James Treanor and his wife Marian Seymour. See the family tree on page 123.

While they were in Athenry James and Marian had their first child, my grandfather William Victor Kinkead Treanor on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1875. He gets a section all to himself, so I will begin here by looking at the rest of James and Marian's children.

### Eliza Hester Caroline Treanor 1877-1964

Eliza was born in Kiltullagh on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1877. Her first two names, Eliza and Hester, are from her maternal grandmother. She was known as Isy.

I visited Kiltullagh in 2011. The church was elegantly converted into a private house in 2009. I have photos taken by Chris Deakin, the present owner, during the conversion.

Isy married Rev James Alfred Lendrum (1865-1945), who was a curate at Ballinrobe from 1894 to 96. He was known as Jim, or sometimes as Lendrum. He was the son of Elizabeth and Thomas A Lendrum who was clerk to the petty sessions at Clonakilty from February 1872 to May 1903.



Kiltullagh Church:  
the knave is now a  
very comfortable  
living room

Jim became Dean of Tuam in 1923. The clerical directory shows his career:

*"Lendrum, James Alfred 1869/70 – 1945. Trinity College Dublin BA 1893 MA 1901. Deacon 1894 priest 1895 (Tuam); curate at Ballinrobe 1894-96. Rector of Castleconnor (Killala) 1896-1903; curate at St George Bloomsbury (Lon) 1903-04. Rector of Aglish at Castlebar 1904-23, Preb of Taghsaxon (Tuam) 1921-29. Preb of Kilmoylan (Tuam)*

Kiltullagh Church  
now converted to  
a house





James Lendrum,  
from a picture  
on the wall of the  
vestry in Tuam  
Cathedral



1923-25, Dean of Tuam & Rector of Tuam  
1923-45. Preb of Kilmatalway in St Patricks  
Cathedral Dublin 1927-44”

Hilary Temple tells me “Aunt Isy was formidable. She was the eldest daughter of the archdeacon, and married the Dean of Tuam. He was a strange man, and impotent (or that was the rumour)”. They certainly had no children. Hilary and Isy became friends when Isy was older.

The grave Isy  
shares with her  
mother and two  
sisters in the  
churchyard at  
Ballinrobe



In a letter to Seymour in 1924 her father writes of her visit to Walmer.

*“Isy was with us in June and July for over three weeks, and I never saw her looking better when Lendrum came for her. They proposed to remain in London for four days and see Wembley and then return to Tuam. But Isy slipped on the Hotel stairs and fell to the bottom, getting concussion of the brain (slight), injuries to the spine, with the muscles of the neck torn. Happily Evelyn took her in, and after 10 – 12 days motored her down to us. She came as a wreck, with her arm in a sling, her neck rigid – she couldn’t move her head without pain, and she had to keep lying down. Happily, here in Walmer Court we were about 200 yards from the public road, shaded by trees, and as the weather was delightfully fine, we kept her lying down in the open, and she improved gradually. She was most of two months with us, and even then the Dr would not let her travel by herself, so M [Muriel] went back with her, as I have told you. The Dr says she will be all right with time and care.”*

Her husband James Lendrum died aged 75 on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1945. I do not yet know where he is buried, although it is probably in Dublin where he was Prebend of Kilmatalway in St Patricks Cathedral.

Isy ended up living with Marian, and Dorothy Hearne looked after them both. Isy died aged 87 on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1964 and is buried beside her mother at Ballinrobe. Her name appears on the bottom tier of stones.

## Alice Fridzweeda Treanor 1878-1945

James and Marian’s second daughter Alice was born about 1878. The name Fridzweeda is from her mother’s great aunt, and came into the Seymour family via the Prendergasts.

Hilary tells us she was known as Dally (from "Aunt Ali"). She was Hilary's favourite aunt, and "was very patient, like a second mother" to her. Alice got engaged but her fiancée died of yellow fever on the Gold Coast (present day Ghana, on the west coast of Africa).

Dally and Aunt Muriel lived at Wigmore in Church Street Walmer with their father, and stayed on there for a while after he died. It was a very grand house and opposite the church. When James owned it, there was a tennis



court and a large garden beside the churchyard opposite that belonged to the house.

There is a "Miss Treanor" living at Wigmore in the 1930 phone directory. But by 1931 Miss A F Treanor appears in the phone directory at Glenside in Liverpool Road (Deal 528), so they had presumably sold the house.

In another phone directory for 1931 a Miss Treanor is living about half a mile away at 8 Herschell Road, with the same phone number



as they had at Wigmore (Deal 148).

Some time after Muriel's death in 1931 she may have moved again, because I found Alice in the phone directories for 1938, 1943 and 1945 living at 38 Herschell Square in Walmer with a different number. Hilary tells me she had her own house built a few years before she died.

Alice died 31<sup>st</sup> October 1945, unmarried, and is buried with her father at St Mary's, Walmer. She had caught TB while nursing soldiers on active service in the second world war.

Wigmore in Church Street, Walmer

Hilary Temple has this photo of her mother Evelyn with Alice holding a dog, taken in about 1885.

Treanor Miss A. F, 28 Herschell sq Walmer . . . Deal 1024



Alice's tombstone at the bottom of her father's grave at St Mary's in Walmer

## CHAPTER 12

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# Marian Treanor and Mary Adelaide Treanor

An old photo of Marian Treanor from Sheila's collection

### Marian Eda Treanor 1880-1965

James and Marian's fourth child was Marian Eda, born 11<sup>th</sup> November 1880, and "*carried as a baby to Ballinrobe*". She married Robert Ernest Hearne, the youngest son of John Hearne and his wife Frances. Marian is the mother of Dorothy Hearne, whom my cousin Des visited in Ballinrobe with his wife Dot in 1992.

We met a friend of Dorothy while visiting the church there: Averil Staunton is a local historian who is writing a history of the church. Averil told us that Dorothy nursed her mother patiently for many years, and remembered Marian as a difficult woman. Hilary told me Marian suffered from Alzheimer's later in life.

Marian died in her sleep in Ballinrobe in 1965, and is buried in the Hearne's section of the graveyard.



### Robert Ernest Hearne 1863–1942

Most of what I first discovered about Marian's husband Robert Ernest Hearne is from what is written on her grave.

Averil directed us to Killoshine, the house where Marian and Robert lived. It was raining hard and the house was a ruin and overgrown with trees. So we did not get a good picture of it.

Marian's grave in the Hearne section of the graveyard at Ballinrobe





## John Hearne 1805-1894

Robert's father was John Hearne (1814 - June 1894). His mother was Frances Anderson (1830 - 1 June 1894), whose father was Rev James Anderson, Rector of Ballinrobe from 1835-63.

Frances Hearne's grave is in the churchyard at Ballinrobe, just in front of the church. It says *"In memory of Frances, the beloved wife of John Hearne who departed this life 1<sup>st</sup> June 1894 age 64 years. Also in memory of John*



*Hearne who departed this life 20<sup>th</sup> February 1899 aged 84 years".*

I have been contacted by Graham Seymour, who is descended from John Hearne's brother Edward Hearne. He tells me that John Hearne was the Registrar and Petty Sessions Clerk in Ballinrobe.

I then found John Hearne listed in Slater's Directory for May 1861, in Market Street.

The Ballinrobe Chronicle on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 1881 has a story about him:

*"There was an 'attempt by shooting' on the life of John Hearne of Killoshine cottage. Hearne was a Land Agent for the Mountmorreny Estate in Cloongowla. He was hit several times*

*but walked home and survived the attack. Three men, Patrick Hession of Cloongowla and two of his nephews, Richard and John Nally of Ballykinave, Claremorris were charged with the attack but for some reason were not sent to trial".*

There is a later reference in The Times on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1882 that appears to be about the same event:

*"Mr. J.A. Byrne, QC. sat today in the Court House in Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, to investigate claims for compensation under the Crimes Act. There were eight cases to be inquired into, and the first was that of Lady Mountmorres, who claims for the murder of her husband at Clonbur on the 25<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1880. Among the other claims is one by Mr. Hearne, Petty Sessions Clerk, who seeks compensation for personal injuries inflicted on him on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb. 1880, when he was fired at and wounded a short distance from Ballinrobe."*

The incident was written up in the Illustrated London News, who also provided a sketch to illustrate the event. It was mentioned in a speech in Parliament by Earl Spencer on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1882 (although I wonder about the date):

*"I have in my hand a copy of a telegram received this afternoon from Dublin Castle,*

Grave of Frances and John Hearne in the churchyard at Ballinrobe

Shooting of John Hearne, from Illustrated London News



*which gives an account of a typical outrage— Yesterday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, as Mr. John Hearne, clerk of Ballinrobe Petty Sessions, county Mayo, was returning home after Court, he was fired at on the public road by two young men, who came behind him with revolvers. At least six shots were fired, there being four wounds on his body and two on his right hand; it is feared one will prove mortal. So close were the assailants in making the attack, that the discharge burned Mr. Hearne's coat, and he struck one of them with his walking-stick. The outrage is believed to be, without doubt, agrarian. Mr. Hearne had received a threatening letter in November last. He is agent to a small property of Mr. De Montmorency, from which three tenants were evicted in May last for non payment of rent, two of whom have since been reinstated. No arrests."*

An old postcard showing St Mary's Ballinrobe in its prime



John is mentioned in the Griffiths valuation as agent for the Kenny estates from 1880 to 1910. They owned 598 acres in Co Mayo. He was also a member of the Guardians of the Union of Ballinrobe, responsible for administering the Poor Laws.

In Griffiths his own house and a building nearby at Cloonliffen was rented from Colonel Charles Knox, a prominent local landowner. He also rented a house in the township of

Killoshheen from Robert Rutledge with a building and 43 acres, as well as owning his own house there. A Michael Hearne also owns a house there which is vacant at the time of the valuation on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1857.

I found this reference to R C Hearne: "Ballinrobe is one of the oldest courses in Connaught. It is first listed in the 'Golfing Annual', 1895-96, as being founded on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1895. It goes on to read 'a private one, consisting at present of only six holes, but it is hoped the other three will be added shortly. Ballinrobe station is within two minutes' walk'. There were 70 members and the first President was Col. C. H. Knox, Captain was T. Forde, and the Hon. Secretary was R. C. Hearne, Killoshine Cottage, Ballinrobe". So he too appears to be part of the same family.

John Hearne's father was another John Hearne (born 1783) and his mother was Charlotte Fair. His brother, Edward Hearne, married Annie Marie Eager daughter of Susanna Seymour (and Henry Thomas Eager) daughter of Charles Henry Seymour, grandfather of the Dean of Tuam. Another brother George shot his hand off in a tragic accident in January 1850. His sister Maria Emily Hearne married William Ormsby McCormick on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1848, son of Rev Charles McCormick who founded the Methodist Church in Ballina.

## Dorothy Hearne 1912-2002

Dorothy Marian Frances Hearne drew up a family tree for Des, a copy of which is reproduced in the Foreword to this book. She also wrote an account of the ancestry of the Treanor's which was the source from which most of my original research derived.

She lived in a thatched house on the edge of Ballinrobe, called Killoshine, that had be-





Dorothy Hearne  
in her garden at  
Killoshine (left)



Sheila thinks  
this picture is of  
Adelaide (right)

longed to her father, and now belongs to Brendan Crouchen. Her old house is now derelict and opposite there is a new building with the same name.

We know from Sheila Treanor's account that the thatched roof of Killoshine was in a terrible state in the 1990's, and that the whole house was in need of renovation, so this is no great surprise. Both Dorothy's father and her grandfather were born there. Her grandfather, John Hearne had built it onto the original much smaller cottage.

Hilary tells us "*Dorothy was a lovely woman, and very intelligent*", a sentiment echoed by Des. She devoted much of her life to looking after her mother and Aunt Isy. She died in Ballinrobe unarried on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002.

## Mary Adelaide Treanor 1882-1901

The next child of James and Marian Treanor was Mary Adelaide, born on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1882 and baptised by her father on 22<sup>nd</sup> October

1882, soon after moving to Ballinrobe.

She was known as Adelaide. She had some form of mental disability that limited what she could do.

Her mother nursed some TB patients, and caught TB herself. I am told she passed it on to Adelaide. The photograph below is of the old TB hospital at Ballinrobe.

Adelaide died when she was eighteen, and was buried in the churchyard at Ballinrobe on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1901.

Her mother eventually died of TB in 1909, as did her younger sister Dorothy in 1911 (see page 112).

Old postcard of  
Creagh House in  
Ballinrobe which  
became the TB  
Hospital.





## CHAPTER 13

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# Evelyn Treanor

### Evelyn Seymour Treanor 1884-1976

Photo of a  
youthful Evelyn

James and Marian's sixth child was Evelyn Seymour Treanor, born 1<sup>st</sup> October 1884. I first came across her in a census return for 1901, when she was living with my grandfather in Islington, together with his wife Annie Kerans and her elder sister Eveleen Kerans.

Evelyn wanted to be educated and asked for a portion of her inheritance to spend on going to college. Her father made sure that the boys had a good education but did not think this necessary for the girls. She went to the Froebel Institute in London, and lived with my grandparents in Islington in 1901.

Evelyn returned to Ireland where she became an inspector of schools.

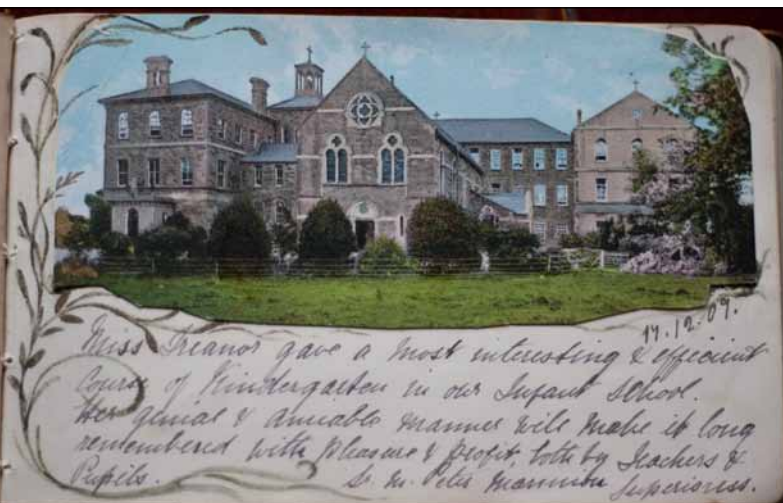
Evelyn's autograph  
book

Hilary Temple has an autograph book



given to Evelyn on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1907 by the staff at St Joseph's school. It says "Miss Treanor gave a most interesting and efficient course of Kindergarten in our Infant School. Her genial and amicable manner will make it long remembered with pleasure and profit both by teachers and pupils"

Evelyn appears in the 1911 census, staying in a hotel in Kerry aged 25. I imagine she was travelling around as an inspector of schools at that time.



**Friedrich Froebel** (1782-1852), the great German educator, is famous pre-eminently for his radical insight that the first learning experiences of the very young are of crucial importance in influencing not only their later educational achievements but also the health of society as a whole. He devised a set of principles and practices which would form part of an interactive educational process to take place in institutions which in 1840 he named 'kindergarten'.

The Froebel Educational Institute was inaugurated in October 1892 at a meeting in the Westminster Palace Hotel. After building delays, the college and school finally opened, in Colet Gardens, Talgarth Road, West Kensington, on 20th September 1894, and the Grand Opening by the Empress Frederick took place on 5th March 1895. The financial deficits were met by Claude Montefiore and Mrs Salis Schwabe.

Wikipedia

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1914 she married Henry Woodward Aston, an engineer. I found their marriage banns in November 1914 at Holy Trinity in Hoxton, Islington. It was announced in *The Times* 17<sup>th</sup> October 1914. The marriage took place in her father's church in Ballinrobe, in the opening months of the Great War, at the time of the battle for Ypres.

#### MARRIAGES.

**ASTON : TREANOR.**—On the 14th Oct., in the Parish Church, Ballinrobe, by the Honble. and Right Revd. the Lord Bishop of Tuam, assisted by the Revd. J. A. Lendrum, Rector of Castlebar, brother-in-law of the bride, HENRY WOODWARD, only son of Mr. W. H. ASTON, to EVELYN SEYMOUR, daughter of the Archdeacon of Tuam.

Evelyn was friends with Gertrude Aston which is how she met her brother Henry Woodward Aston. He was known as Harry, although at work he was known as Woodward. Harry was a Congregationalist and was never confirmed in the Church of England.



Evelyn

### Henry Woodward Aston 1885- 1963

Harry had a firm called Aston Construction, making steel frames for buildings. He was educated in Shropshire and never qualified as an engineer.

He lost his leg in an accident around 1926. Some boy pulled on a rope, and as a consequence a load of steel fell on him. First he lost his foot, and then because of gangrene he had a series of amputations, below and above the knee.

Hilary says "*he was a sweet and lovely*



Henry Woodward  
Aston

Evelyn's marriage  
announcement  
in *The Times* 17<sup>th</sup>  
October 1914

*man, much dominated by mother who had a fiendish temper. They were badly hit by the slump [depression in the thirties]. Mother was brilliant at creating decorations from nothing. Father's business was in Clerkenwell Road".*

He sold up eventually. Reinforced concrete took over from steel as the major building material. Harry was also a director of Redland Bricks, and much of his money was tied up in shares in the company, which his children wisely sold before the demise of the company. He was 78 when he died.

I also found Henry Woodward Aston in the 1901 census as a boarder at Wycliffe College, in Gloucestershire.

## William Henry Aston 1857-1937

I found Harry's parents in the 1901 census. His father is recorded as Wm Hy Aston, aged 44, an "employer" born in London. He is with his wife Sarah aged 51, from Gloucestershire, daughter Gertrude aged 14 born in Stroud Gloucestershire, a visitor named Fanny Woodward aged 44 from Gloucestershire, and two servants. They are living at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, in Hoxton, Shoreditch, which is the address from which the banns for Harry's marriage to Evelyn were published.

Harry's father William Henry Aston saw himself as an inventor and developed the first

circular escalator with Otis. It was installed at an underground station but was never used. I discovered it was at Holloway Road tube station. It was not a success.

Knowing his approximate year and place of birth from the 1901 census, I found the birth of William Henry Aston in Shoreditch in 1857 (Jan-Mar BMD Vol 1c P 155). From this I could trace his parents.

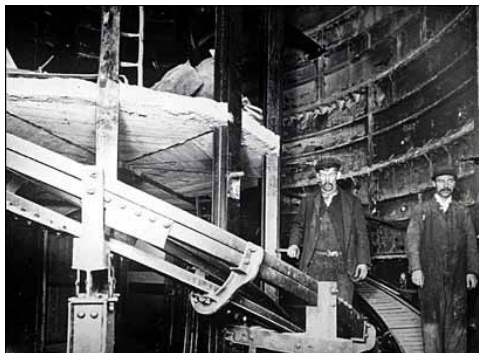
In the 1891 census I found William Henry Aston again at 46 Eagle Wharf Road in Shoreditch aged 34, running a Foundry and Iron Contractors. He has a housekeeper named Annie Elizabeth Woodward aged 44 (from Stroud), and a visitor Charles Tyler Aston aged 17 who is a founder and iron contractor. Their neighbour is manager of the iron foundry. This was after the birth of some of his children, so is a little puzzling, particularly with that name Woodward appearing again.

I found the answer: his wife, Sarah, is with his two children in Stroud in the 1891 census.

She is a draper, and has two drapers' assistants and an apprentice living with her, as well as Henry W (5) and Gertrude (4). They are living apart, each running their own businesses. Annie Elizabeth Woodward is Sarah's younger sister. The Fanny Woodward I found in the 1901 census was another much younger sister.

I found a younger William Henry Aston aged 24 living with his parents at 28 Charlotte Street in Shoreditch in the 1881 census. He is a "Clerk iron founder". His father George Aston aged 59 is an Iron Founder from Staffordshire employing 26 men, 3 boys and one female. His mother is Sarah aged 43 from Gloucestershire. He has siblings Johanna (26) a commercial clerk, Martha A (22), and Charles W (20) an iron moulder.

Reno's circular  
escalator at  
Holloway Road  
tube station

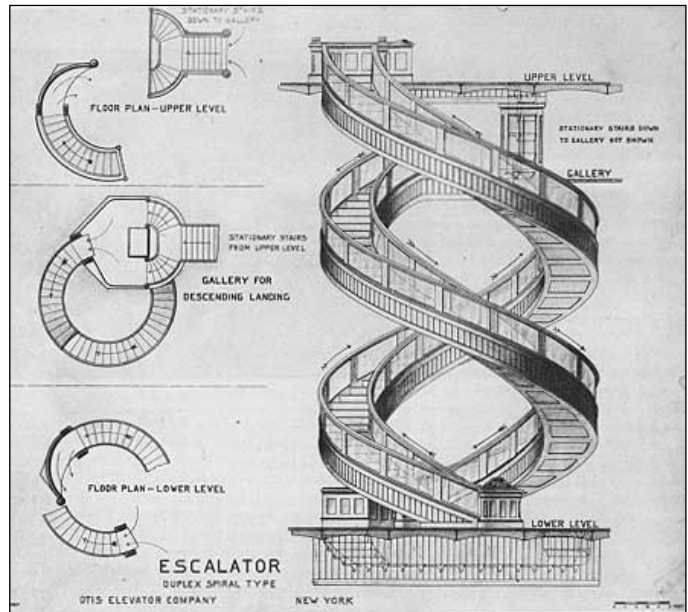




In the 1871 census William is 14 and a scholar. His father George Aston (49) is an Iron Founder employing 10 men and 3 boys from West Bromwich in Staffordshire. His wife Sarah (53) is from Stroud in Gloucestershire. I found two more siblings: David (25) an iron founder born in Wolverhampton and George T (20) an iron founder from Shoreditch. They are living in Forest Gate, West Ham.

In the 1871 census I discovered two more siblings: Elizabeth (13) and Emma (8)

William Henry Aston died on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1937 at 179 Gloucester Place, London NW1. Probate was granted to Henry Woodward Aston on 16<sup>th</sup> September, on effects worth £1,606 (£84,000 at 2011 values).



#### RENO'S CIRCULAR ESCALATOR

Jesse Reno moved to London in 1900 and devoted himself to creating what would become the first walkway. In 1902, his efforts were realized and his walkway was presented at the Earls Court Exhibition and then utilized as an amusement ride for four years. The patent for the flexible chain drive was held by William Henry Aston, making the unique electric walkway a joint engineering effort of both men and their companies. The mechanism enjoyed a handrail that moved in unison with the ascending and descending pallets. The walkway occupied a 23-foot diameter shaft with a vertical rise of 35 feet. The installation was made at the Holloway Road Station of the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway but apparently was never approved by safety inspectors for public use.

Reno's device is often referred to as a staircase, but was in reality a rotating walkway - although anyone stupid enough to try to walk on it while it was in motion should be considered brain-dead. My advice would have been to hold on for dear life.

The indications are that it was not owned by the railway and was installed purely as a demonstration unit. It may (possibly) have been operated for officials of the company, but it almost certainly

never carried the general public.

Having inspected it in situ and having seen contemporary sketches, I would explain the principle as follows:-

Imagine a helix that has the appearance of a rising spiral path and which follows a line similar to that of a circular staircase up the inner edge of a large vertical tube. As this path reaches the top its position moves away from the inner edge of the tube by an amount that must be greater than the width of the path. After passing the highest point it continues to spiral in the same direction but now moving downwards - it is now positioned inside the first spiral. At the bottom of the shaft, the inner path drifts across to the wall of the shaft and joins onto the rising spiral path that I described at the start of this paragraph.

The whole therefore forms one continuous loop with the path surface always remaining face upwards. This is unlike a conventional escalator where the surface is inverted in order to return it to the start of its travel.

The drive was just as incredible, with movement being provided by spindles that radiated from a driveshaft that ran down the centre of the shaft.

[http://www.theelevatormuseum.org/f/f\\_4.htm](http://www.theelevatormuseum.org/f/f_4.htm)



## Barbara Aston 1920

Their first child, Barbara Adelaide Seymour Aston was born on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1920 in Kensington.



I found the record of her marriage to Richard W A West in Kensington in December 1956. He was known as Anthony. He was ordained, and became the vicar of Benchworth and Boxhill.



Anthony's parents were from Clunbury in Shropshire, and were rather eccentric, living *"as if in a previous century"*. His father got a parking ticket in Shrewsbury and refused to go there ever again, to the great inconvenience of his wife. His parents ended up living with them at the vicarage in Benchworth. Anthony inherited quite a lot of money from his aunt before his parents died.

Barbara and Anthony had a daughter **Alison West**, and adopted a son **Luke West**.

Hilary describes Alison as *"having style"*. She married Chris Uden, who is *"big in drains"* and runs his own company in Dorset. They have a daughter named Claire Uden.

Luke is an IT director at Rightmove.com, and was previously involved with Lastminute.com. He married Claire and had a daughter named Kaitlin West in 1991. She is variously described by Hilary and Nick as *"lovely"*, *"keeping his feet on the ground"*, and *"very clever, with a degree in landscape architecture"*.

Barbara died in March 2004, aged 84, and was buried in Cerne Abbas, following a funeral at Brockham.

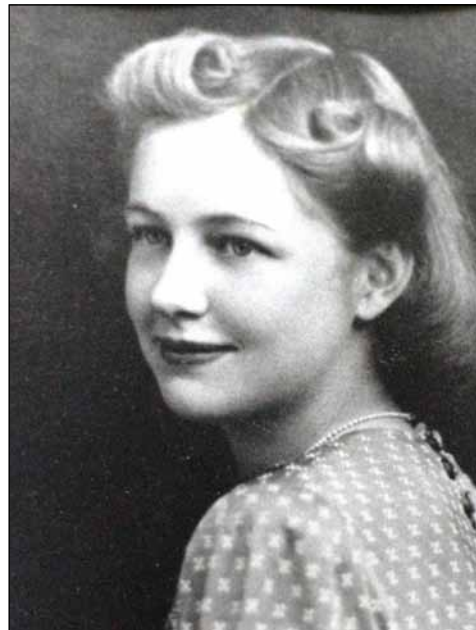
Evelyn with Barbara

## Hilary Aston 1924

Hilary Grace Woodward Aston was born in December 1924 in Southwick Street, and grew up in West London. They moved to Caulfield Road and then to Stafford Court.

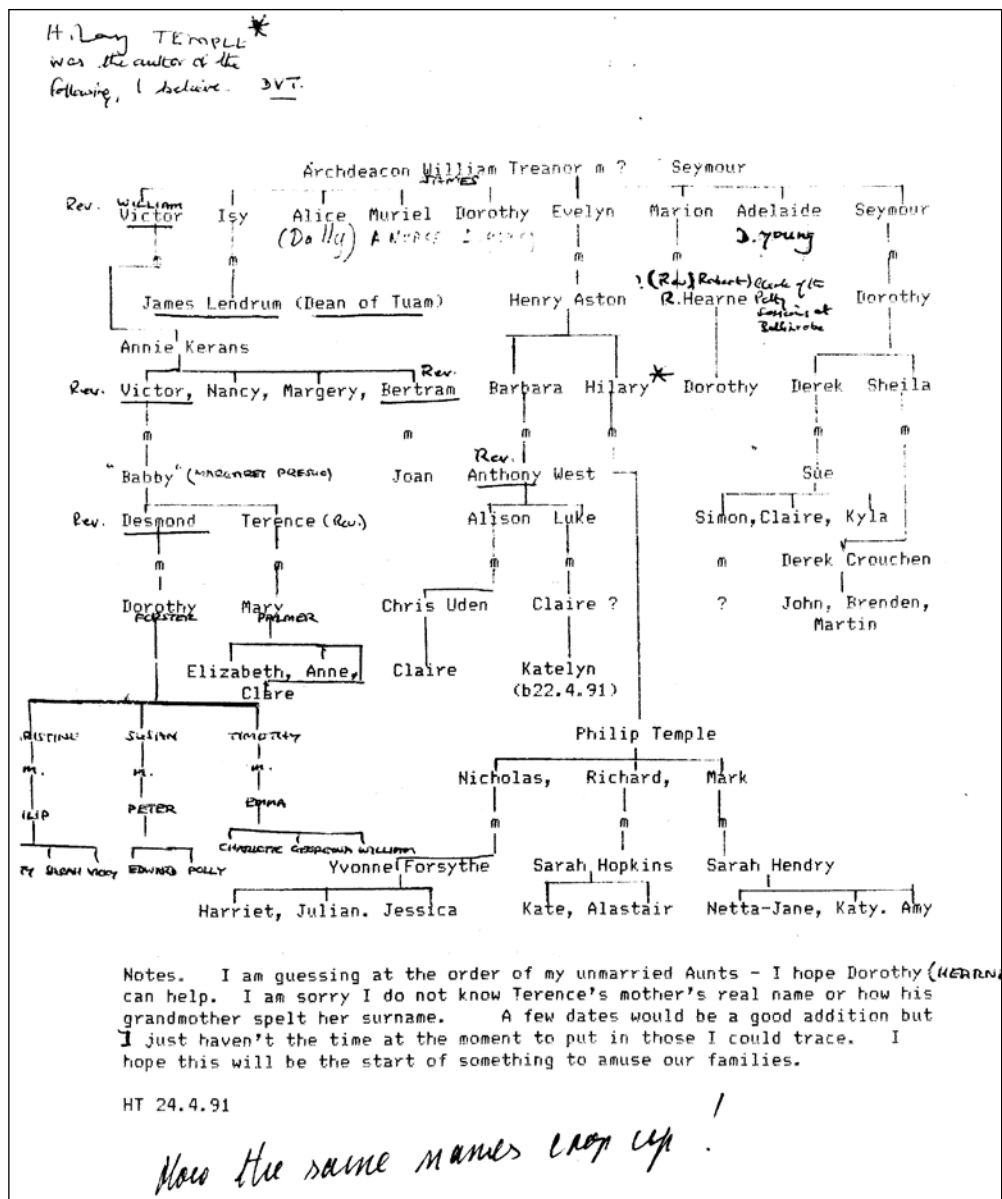
She married Philip Temple at Hitchin in Hertfordshire in 1945. Her husband's full name was Alexander Philip Fraser Temple (BMD Vol 5a P 3721 Jul-Sep Hitchin). Fraser

Barbara Aston



Hilary Aston





was his mother's name.

Philip came from the famous family of Archbishop William Temple (15 October 1881 – 26 October 1944) who was Philip's great uncle. William was the uncle of Philip's father, George Temple.

Hilary remembers meeting my father Bertram, although she did not see him at

Hanworth. She recalls him talking about his missionary work in South America, and saying there was no point in being a missionary unless you were medically trained. He said he'd seen awful things: Spaniards lined up Indians and just shot them down to get rid of them.

Hilary describes Aunt Annie (my grand-

mother) as very relaxed and fun to be around, and someone you could not help loving. She last visited Aunt Evie in a nursing home in Hove when she was 99. She still had her full wits, and explained ‘The Troubles’, and the IRA.



Hilary’s father (Harry Aston) thought Nancy was a saint, but could not stand her husband Alan, who “*knew everything*”. Hilary recalls driving with Alan sat in the back and telling her what to do. “*Alan and Nancy lived in Kensington early in their marriage. Nancy wanted to adopt children, but they did not have a two bedroom flat and so were not allowed to. Alan’s sister was definitely bonkers and was in some institution*”. Hilary and her sister were bridesmaids in pink dresses at Nancy’s wedding.

Hilary lives in a garden flat just off the Cromwell Road, in Earls Court. She and her son Nick are the source for a lot of information on my father’s aunts and cousins.

Des copied me a family tree drawn up by Hilary Temple in 1991, which is reproduced opposite.

Hilary and Philip were in Nigeria for 16 years, where Philip was an engineer building roads and other projects for the colonial service. I found a Hilary G W Temple travelling home to England from Lagos with her sons **Richard S Temple** and **Jonathan M F**

**Temple** on the Aureol, docking in Liverpool on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 1960.

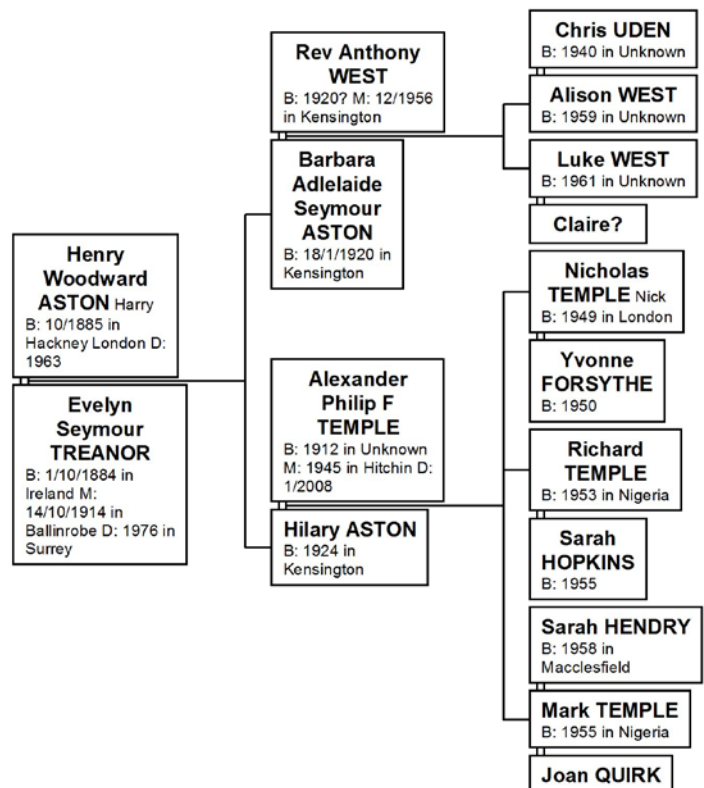
I also found the marriage of Jonathan M F Temple to **Sarah L Hendry** in Macclesfield in 1978, confirming his identity as it matches Hilary’s tree.

**Michael N F Temple** was born in 1949, and is known as Nick. He married **Yvonne C Forsyth**. Yvonne was born in 1950. Nick is an accountant, and worked as a UK partner in Arthur Andersen. He was also the chief executive of a Bootle law firm, and is now retired.

Richard P S Temple was born in Nigeria in 1953. He married ‘.

Jonathan M F Temple was born in 1955, and known as Mark. His first wife was ‘. His current wife is **Joan Quirk** who was also previously married and has three children.

Hilary Temple  
(née Aston) with  
her son Nick



# Muriel Treanor and Dorothy Treanor

### Muriel Treanor 1887-1931

James and Annie's seventh child was Muriel Roberta Adelaide Treanor, born in Ballinrobe on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1887 and baptised on 17<sup>th</sup> July by her father. Hilary Temple has marked her as "*a nurse*", and knew her as Aunty Mu.

In the year Muriel was born, James became Prebend of Kilmainemore, which gave him the title of Canon.

Muriel was a beneficiary in her father's will. She died on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1931 at Glenside, Liverpool Road, Walmer, Kent, as a spinster. Probate on effects worth £948 was granted to Henry Woodward Aston, husband to her sister Evelyn (£50,000 at 2011 prices).

It looks as though Alice and Muriel lived together until Muriel died in 1931. They were still at Wigmore in 1930 (or at least they

appeared in the phone directory with that address). In the 1931 phone directory, Miss A F Treanor is listed as at Glenside, Upper Walmer (Deal 528), which is where Muriel died.

Muriel is buried with her father in the graveyard at St Mary's in Walmer.

### Dorothy Margery Adelaide 1889-1910

Their eighth child was Dorothy Margery Adelaide Treanor, born 26<sup>th</sup> February 1889. She too died young, of TB, on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1910.

Two days before she died, the Ballinrobe parish register records a funeral conducted by James Treanor and his son Rev W.V.K Treanor.

We can imagine that my grandfather was visiting because his sister was very ill, perhaps

Muriel's grave in Walmer



Dorothy's grave in Ballinrobe







Treanor Aunts

bringing his new son, my father Bertram who was a three month old baby.

Hilary Temple has a couple of photos with “*Treanor Aunts*” written on the back of them, which are reproduced above.

They are clearly taken in the same studio, and are of women who appear to be in their twenties. Judging by the style of picture, they could be of the right period to be of Evelyn’s Aunts.

This kind of ‘carte de visite’ photograph did not begin until the 1860s, and they are more likely to be between 1870 and 1890. I wondered if they might be of Alice Treanor, who married Rev John Magill around 1875, and Adelaide Treanor, who I think was born either just before or just after Alice. We now have a pictures of Alice later in life and the right hand picture above does show a slight resemblance.

The style of these photos and the clothes they are wearing are too old fashioned to be of Evelyn’s sisters Muriel Treanor and Alice Fritzweeda Treanor in their late teens or early twenties, although some studies still used this older style right through to the First World War.

If we look at the other possibilities, they seem a lot less likely. Margery would have been in her mid forties, and was married in 1854, so it could not be her.

Hilary also has a separate cameo picture of Margery, which looks older. This is reproduced in the chapter on Margery Treanor (page 45).

Lydia was only about five years younger than Margery, and would be in her early forties so is also too old for these pictures - I do not know what became of her.

Their identities remain a mystery.



Alice Magill (née Treanor)

## CHAPTER 15

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# Seymour Treanor

### Robert Seymour Stanley Treanor 1891-1964

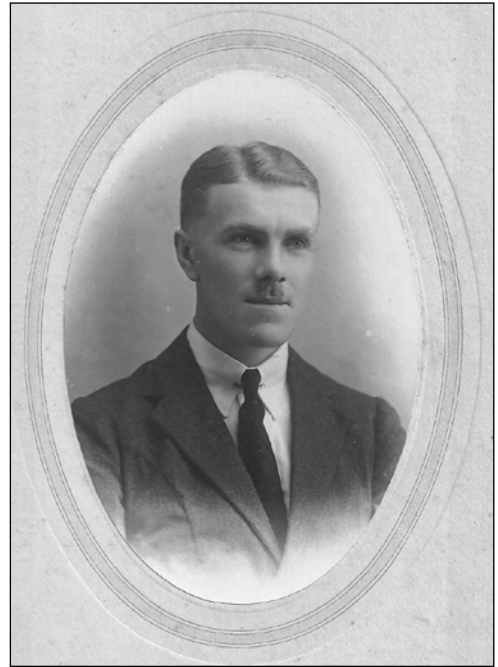
The last child of James and Marian Treanor was Robert Seymour Stanley Treanor, born 29<sup>th</sup> July 1891. He was named Robert after Marian's father, but was mostly known as Seymour in the family, and sometimes as Pat.

His mother died of TB when he was in his teens, and soon after he was sent to be brought up by his aunt Sarah in the Berry household. This was similar to his father's experience: James had been brought up by his uncle John after his father's death.

Seymour looks about eight in this picture of him with his mother and sister, which must have been taken shortly before she died. I suspect the sister is Dorothy, because his next oldest sister Muriel would have been four years older than him. Dorothy died of TB shortly after her mother.



Robert Seymour Stanley Treanor was with his father in Ballinrobe in the 1911 census, and described as an undergraduate at



Trinity College Dublin. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin as an engineer. He was not as clever as his elder brother Victor, who got a double first, but Seymour was a much better sportsman.

After university he wanted to go to America and work with his great uncle, Charles Seymour, on the Union Pacific railway. His father persuaded him to go to India instead, with introductions from Lord Kilmaine (James' godfather). Before long he

was building the Zoo in Lahore, and later worked on supervising the munitions factory at Dum Dum on the outskirts of Calcutta.

It was while playing tennis in Calcutta that he first met Dorothy Minna Mackie. He had to wait several years before he married her, in Darjeeling, and they had two children, Sheila and Derek. Their offspring are shown on Dorothy Hearne's family tree.

They were married in Darjeeling on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1923. I found their marriage registration and the registers of their two children at the British Library. This gave us Dorothy's full



name, and identified her father as William Mackie. She was aged 26 and he was aged 30. The witnesses were E J Kingsley and W A Black. I suspect that might be Edwin Kingsley, of whom more later. They were both resident in Darjeeling.

In searching for information on Robert Seymour Stanley Treanor in India I came across a court case in 1966 in which the Calcutta National Bank was trying to recover Rs 2,750,000 it had loaned Ranjit Bose to purchase the Rangaroon Tea Estate from "Treanor" in January 1944 for 4



million rupees (£2.8 millions at 2012 prices). This must be Sheila's father Robert Seymour Stanley Treanor. See <http://www.indiankanoon.org/doc/1845422/>

**Tennis party in Darjeeling**

In 2011 I met his son, Derek Treanor, and now have plenty of detail on that side of the family, and quite a few photographs.

Derek loaned me Sheila Treanor's unpublished autobiography, which is a gripping account of her life, and really brings their time in Darjeeling to life.

**Seymour and Dorothy at around the time of their marriage**

While running the Rangaroon tea estate, Seymour joined the North Bengal Mounted Rifles, and ended up as a Lt Colonel in command of them. Derek showed me photos of parades, and other ceremonial occasions with his father mounted in smart uniforms, meeting the governor and performing his duties. He was a fine horseman, and a leading polo player.

Well before the second world war broke

**Lt Col R S S Treanor taking a parade of the North Bengal Mounted Rifles**







Rangaroon

out, Seymour had concluded that India would go its own way, and had decided to leave. They moved to South Africa.

For a while they rented a house belonging to the Norwegian Consul, and did a fair amount of entertaining. After a meal her guests praised her catering, and Dorothy said they should thank Betty, her coloured servant: a reaction that did not go down well. Dorothy, found this troubling and never felt safe in the way they had in India.

I found a Lt Col Robert SS Treanor with his wife Dorothy and Daughter Sheila Mary Treanor as passengers travelling from Cape Town to Liverpool on the "Adviser" landing 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1946. Their residence is given as South Africa. This is a little time after the sale of the Rangaroon Tea Estate in Darjeeling.

Sheila describes the ship: "*The 'Adviser' was a collier and had been quickly rejigged to*

*carry passengers. The large coal bunkers had been turned into tiny claustrophobic cabins with five bunks in each. The women on the starboard side and the men on the port. I think there were about fifty-five passengers. The dining saloon and lounge were the only half civilised places on the ship*".

Seymour and Dorothy settled in Bourne-mouth, where Seymour died in 1964. He had heart problems, although he lived to 73, which is a lot older than his brother Victor.

Hilary told us that her Uncle Seymour and Dorothy became great friends with Hilary's parents later in life and they went on holiday together. Dorothy came to Hilary's niece's wedding and she has got photos somewhere. The men were both engineers.

## Mary Albertina Wells

Seymour's wife Dorothy Minna Mackie turns out to have a very interesting background.

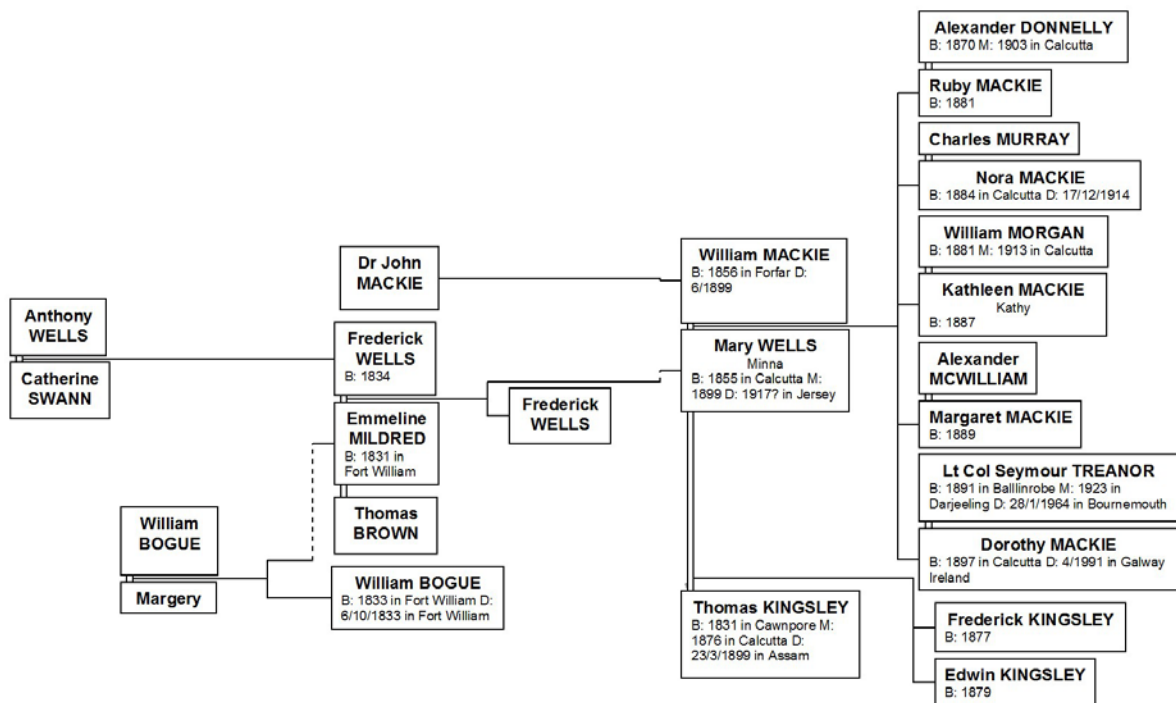
Derek began by telling me the story of Dorothy's mother, Mary Albertina Wells, known as Minna. According to all accounts she was an exceptionally beautiful woman.

She had met Thomas Kingsley in Europe, and returned with him to India where they were married in Calcutta on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1875. I found their marriage registration at the British Library (v158 p184). They had two children, Frederick Thomas Kingsley known as Fred (14 Oct 1877) and Edwin St John Kingsley, known as Ned (2 June 1879).

Minna became increasingly unhappy at having to 'share her husband with native concubines' on his estates in Assam. She was 24 years younger than Thomas, and was his third wife. He sometimes disappeared for weeks at a time to remote tea estates in north east Assam catching wild elephants for the teak industry in Burma. During one of these absences she managed to get hold of a couple

Rogue elephant  
shot by Seymour





of bullock carts, and made her escape to Calcutta with her two children, accompanied by their aya and a faithful servant. It was an extraordinarily long and arduous journey

There she was helped by friends, and eventually settled down with William Mackie, who was a mercantile lawyer and broker. She was unable to divorce her husband, so she could not marry William until Thomas died in 1899.

At the British Library I found their marriage which was by licence and according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1899. E Kingsley was one of the witnesses (the other was J Simson). William's father was John Mackie. William was a bachelor and she was a widow. They were only married for six weeks before William died.

Meanwhile they had five daughters, all born before their marriage: Ruby (1881), Nora (1884), Kate (1887), Margaret (1889), and Dorothy (1897), who was the youngest. They also had three boys, none of whom survived. Descendants of Nora's daughter Cynthia have been in touch. Nora also had a son who died at birth, and she died six weeks later. Cynthia

served as a QA nurse, was evacuated from France in 1940, and later survived when the hospital ship she was on was torpedoed in the Mediterranean. She married Jock Giles (8<sup>th</sup> Army), then lived in Kenya and finally retired in S Africa.

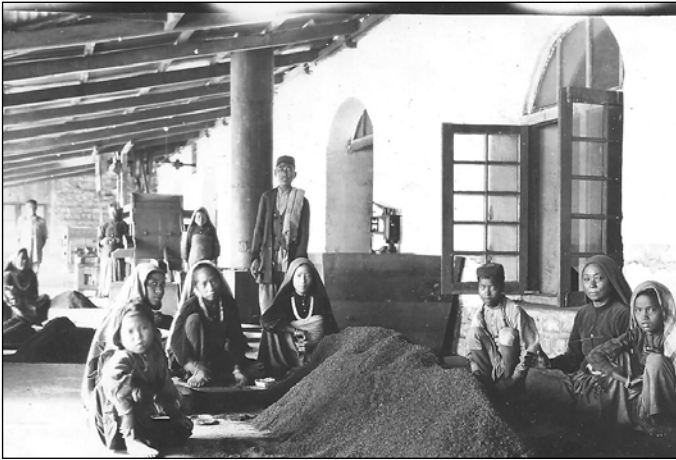
I have heard more than one suggestion that Dorothy's mother Minna may have been of French origin.

Minna's father was Frederick Thomas Wells, whose profession was give as "*H C Mariner*" on her marriage registration. He was in the pilot service of the East India Company. He was from Beccles in Suffolk, so was English by birth. According to the tree Derek Treanor gave me, his parents were Anthony Wells and Catherine Swann. I found their marriage on 18<sup>th</sup> November in Beccles, Suffolk on the Latter Day Saints IGI website.

Minna's mother was Emmeline Mildred Bogue. Minna was born in Calcutta. I found Emmeline's birth registration at the British Library (V 29 P311). Her mother's father was William Henry Bogue and her mother was Margery. Could they have come from

A photo of Minna taken from Sheila's book





Tea factory in  
Darjeeling

Pondicherry, or another French settlement in India? I searched records in the British Library in hope of finding an answer. I could not trace Margery who could possibly be French. But I have traced Emmaline's father.

William Henry Bogue was a sergeant in the Brigade Major's Office of the 16<sup>th</sup> Foot Brigade. Emmeline appears to have been baptised by the Anglican Chaplain in *"the barrack where divine service is performed"*.

I found the sad story of the birth of her brother, also named William Henry Bogue, on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1833, *"son of William Henry Bogue Deceased, sergeant 16<sup>th</sup> Foot"*. His baptism was at St John's Cathedral in Calcutta by an Anglican chaplain. Her brother only lived for a month and 22 days, and his burial service was also at St John's Cathedral on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1833. He was buried in the Fort William burial ground by T Proctor MA, chaplain.

So the Bogues were apparently Anglicans. Bogue is an Irish name. In the 1901 census there were 166 Bogues in Ireland of whom 8 were protestant. There were 99 in England and Wales, and 96 in Scotland.

I failed to find the death registration for Emmeline's father, which must have occurred early in 1833 after his son's conception and before his birth. Nor could I find their

marriage in the records on microfilm at the British Library. They may have been married in England, although I failed to find them anywhere in the UK.

## Dorothy Minna Mackie

From Sheila's writings we learn that Seymour met Dorothy playing tennis in Calcutta, where they first fell in love, although a serious romance was out of the question. Her mother opposed any marriage to a Protestant because of her own bad experience with the Kingsleys, quite apart from the attitude of Seymour's family.

It was not until much later that I discovered that Dorothy's mother Minna was born to a Protestant family, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1855, and baptised as an Anglican at St John's Church (the old cathedral) in Calcutta by a Church of England chaplain, Rev Joseph Richards. Her first marriage to Thomas Kingsley was also an Anglican ceremony. The first Catholic ceremony I came across was her marriage to William Mackie in 1899. The two boys she had with Thomas, Fred and Ned, who she brought to Calcutta were educated at St Joseph's College, a leading Catholic school, indicating her allegiance to the Catholic faith at that time. That side of the family remain Catholic to this day.





I have heard from a Judith, wife of Ned Kingsley's son John, that they visited Minna's grave in Jersey, which was unmarked and shared with two other people.

After her mother's death in the Channel Islands, Dorothy returned to India and was living on her brother Ned Kingsley's tea estate at Liza Hill in the Darjeeling area. She invited Seymour to visit her. He got along well with Ned and helped to run the estate while Ned went abroad and met and married his wife. There was a tennis court and plenty of sports in the neighbourhood. Despite the difference in religion, he and Dorothy decided to get married. They bought Rangaroon from Ned.

When I discovered that they were married in a Catholic church, I could imagine the reaction from the Treanor family in Ireland. Opposition was most strongly voiced in a letter from Seymour's elder sister Marian.

The Archdeacon was apparently more understanding, as his letter to Seymour a few months after their marriage makes clear "*My main object in writing was to wish Dorothy and you a very happy Christmas*". But Seymour was hurt by the rift with his favourite sister Marian, who had helped look after him as a teenager after their mother died. He stayed away from Ireland for the rest of his life.

My grandparents Victor and Annie were living in various places near Lucknow to the East of Delhi at that time, but I have not heard that they ever met up with Seymour's family.

I asked Hilary what the Treanor's thought of Seymour marrying a Catholic, and she was not aware of any strong feelings from members of the family she knew. She remembers playing with Sheila at Wigmores in Walmer as a small girl while visiting Aunt Dally. She recalls Victor discovering Sheila living in Lowestoft when she won a tennis tournament, and being surprised she had not already been in touch.

## Sheila Mary Treanor 1925

Sheila Mary Treanor was born in May 1925 and baptised into the Catholic Church on 6<sup>th</sup> June in Darjeeling. Her father is recorded on the birth registration with the surname Seymour-Treanor, and forenames Robert Stanley. He was listed on her birth registration as a tea planter. I found this information on microfilm at the British Library.

I also found Sheila's marriage to Derek H Crouchen in Bournemouth on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1946 and obtained the certificate. They were married in a Roman Catholic Church. Her husband Derek Crouchen was born in Lambeth on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1921 and at the time of the marriage just after the end of the war he was a Squadron Leader in the RAF, flying bombers, and had been awarded the DSO in Burma. His father Harry James Crouchen was a detective sergeant working at Tooting police station at the time of Derek's marriage, and was himself the son of a boot maker of the same name from Holt in Norfolk. Sheila and Derek lived in a police flat in Tooting immediately after their marriage.

A friend of Sheila's (Fionnuala) told me: "*Sheila was a brilliant artist and had paintings of Indian people, some in military uniforms, on the walls of her house*".

This friend pointed me to *Lord of the Leaf*,

Sheila and Derek  
about to ride one  
of their elephants



Sheila's painting  
of a tea picker



a story that mentions her, told by a tea planter on the internet at [www.outlookIndia.com](http://www.outlookIndia.com):

*"In a quiet corner sits Sheila Crouchen, lately retired to County Galway in Ireland. Mrs Crouchen was born in Darjeeling. Her mother's family owned several tea estates and she grew up on Rangaroon. She hasn't been to India since they left in the early 1940s nor*

*spent a night in a hotel in 50 years. Now she is at the Windamere for six weeks. 'I said to my boys, 'It's my last fling. I want to see it all once again''. She has seen Rangaroon, met old acquaintances, been bitten by a mad dog in the bazaar and will see the Taj Mahal before going home.*

*Tonight, as she passes old photographs around from personal albums, she comes up trumps. Many of the black-and-white snapshots have turned sepia, but like some twining umbilical cord they connect the past with the present. Scenes of weekend tennis parties on tea estates, family groups with servants and encampments on the way to Darjeeling. Teddy Young is transfixed.*

*'That's my Uncle Fred with his new car. It was the first car in Darjeeling' she says.*

*'Yes, wasn't he one of the Kingsleys? Didn't they own Liza Hill?'*

*'Oh, you remember the Kingsleys! My grandmother was a Kingsley...And that's King George VI's coronation procession in the bazaar. Dad mounted the Indian contingent for it in 1938'.*

*'What a mess the monarchy is making now. Terrible, don't you think?'*

*'But tell me, Mr Young, have you come to your last plantation?'*

*'Good heavens, yes. Absolutely.'*

This was how I first learned that Sheila's maternal grandmother was a Kingsley. I made contact with John Kingsley, the son of Dorothy's half brother Frederick Thomas Kingsley, who was living in Canada, but he was unable to provide much additional information.

Sheila's friend (Fionnuala) told me

*"Sheila's father was, indeed, the son of the rector in Ballinrobe. He went out to India, where he became a tea planter. Sheila was*

Fred's car crossing  
a river



*educated in the Loreto Convent there, I think in Bombay. Her mother was a really lovely lady, of French stock. She came to live with Sheila in Co. Mayo, and I enjoyed getting to know her, and was sad when she died. I was at her funeral.*

*Sheila's two sons had built the house they were living in - a really fine building, and she was heartbroken to have to move out of it to another house, closer to where I was in Cong. I forget why she had to move - the two boys went to the U.S. and settled in the East coast area where they have done very well and both are married to American women. Sheila later moved to an apartment in Galway, overlooking the river".*

Fionnuala said something about Derek's funeral that made clear that he had left Sheila and started another family: *"Either Brendan or Martin went to the funeral, but stood at the back of the church, not making himself known to Derek's second family".*

Hilary confirms this: *"Sheila had a disastrous marriage - he abandoned her with three children under five. Seymour fought in the second war, and became a Colonel. Derek has pictures of local Indians painted by Sheila - very good.*

*Sheila was brilliantly clever. She designed and built a wonderful house on top of a hill in Co Galway. She sold that and built another house by the lakeside. She sold that and now lives in Fisherman's wharf in the town of Galway which is much more practical for her. Sheila is great fun - the life and soul of the party, and knows scurrilous details of what happened in India and is prepared to tell!"*

Des writes: *"That was some house in Co. Mayo I can tell you. Dorothy and I visited her many years ago".*

Sheila became a successful pig farmer in

Devon, and later moved to Galway. She now lives in Galway City in a flat with a fabulous view of the river, where I spent a weekend with her and Brendan.



**Sheila in her flat  
in Galway with  
Brendan**

Sheila and Derek had three sons: John, Brendan, and Martin.

John lives in Devon and is a surveyor. It was John who attended his father's funeral, without making himself known to the other relatives there. He only found out about it at the last minute via a colleague at work, who persuaded him that he should attend.

Brendan and Martin now live in the USA, where they developed a successful building business. They are both married. Martin has a daughter, Emma, to whom Sheila addressed her autobiography.

**View from Sheila's  
flat in Galway**





Sheila and Derek.  
Note Sheila's  
resemblance to  
her grandmother,  
Marian.

## Derek Treanor 1928

John Derek Seymour Treanor was born in 1928 and baptised into the Catholic Church in November 1928 in Darjeeling by Friar Rev F Mulken. He is known as Derek.

From Dorothy Hearne's tree we knew that Derek, married a woman named Sue, and had three children: Simon, Claire, and Kyla.

He was the informant on his father's death certificate, and his name was given as J D S Treanor.

Searching on John S Treanor I came across his marriage to Susan Gillian Broughton in May 1961 at the Church of the Sacred Heart, North Road, Bideford. Derek was living with his parents at 60 Lexham Gardens, London W8, and Sue was with her parents at Driftwood, Bucks Mills, Parkham, Bideford, Devon. Derek was a chartered accountant.

I also found the birth of his wife, Susan Gillian Broughton in 1937 in Cambridge. Her father was Rex Oliver Broughton, a bank manager born in 1904 in Birmingham, and her mother was Joyce. I also found her father in the 1911 census, living in Bournemouth.

**Simon A S Treanor** was born in Lambeth in 1962. He married Catherine M S Campbell in Birmingham in May 1990.

**Fiona Claire Treanor** is their elder



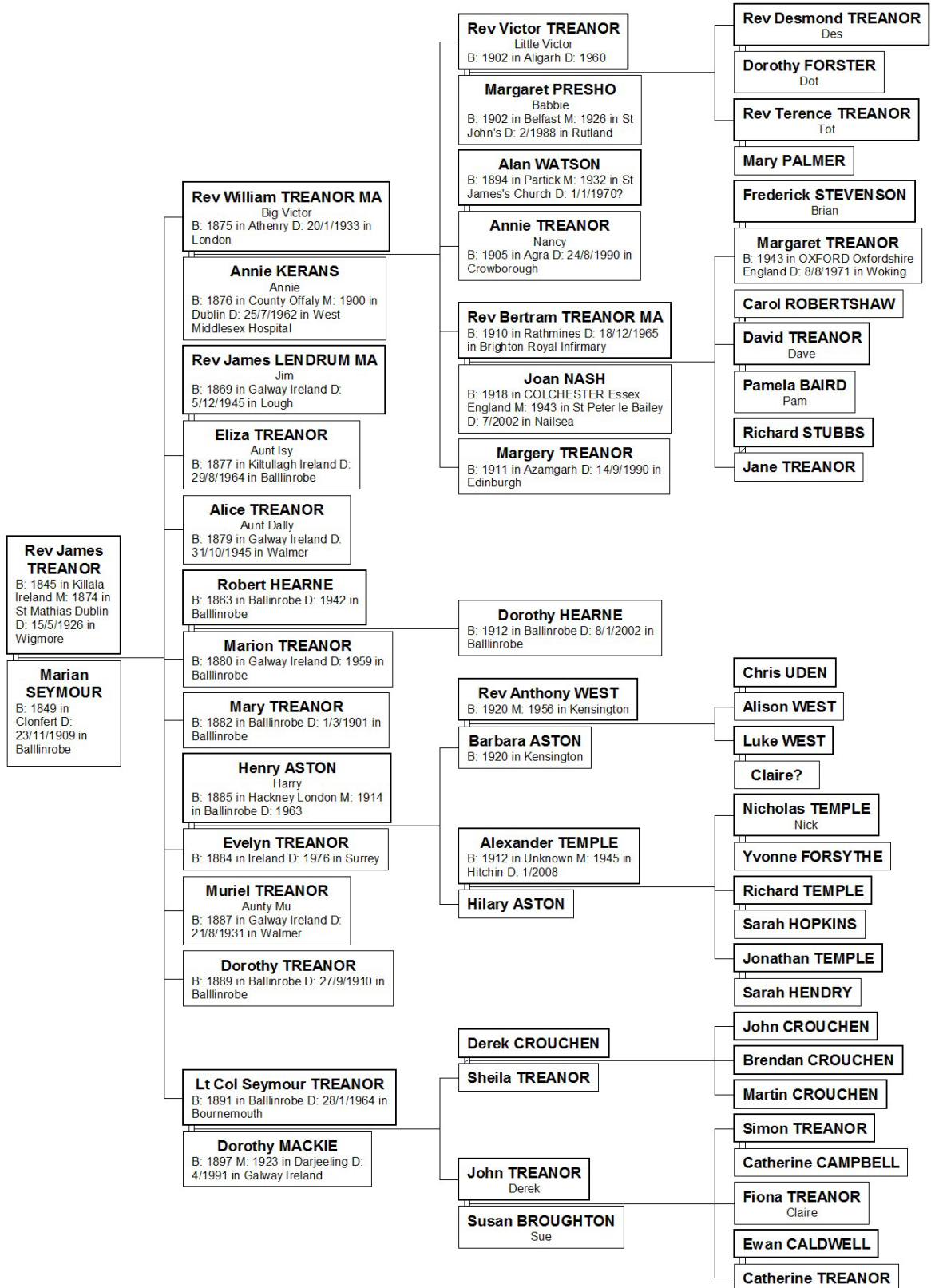
daughter, known as Claire.

**Catherine K S Treanor** was born in Watford in 1966 (Oct-Dec Vol 4b P 620). She married Ewan G L Caldwell in Watford in 1994.

Pam and I visited Derek and Sue a couple of times in 2011, and they provided many of the photographs that illustrate this chapter on Seymour Treanor, and filled many gaps in the story. Derek gave me family trees of the Treanor family, and also of the Kingsleys.

Derek and Sue  
outside their  
house near  
Rickmansworth







**Nancy (Annie Eveleen Watson), Victor, Joan, Bertram, Margery  
Nanna (Violet Nash), Gran (Annie Augusta Treanor), Aunt Evie, Babby (Victor's wife)  
Dave with Buster**



## Part 4

# My Grandparents

## **and their descendants**

My grandfather and his male descendants until me were all vicars. They were part of the generation of Protestant Irish that left Ireland, following the formation of the Irish Free State.

These are people I have known since childhood, and consequently there is much more I can say about them.

# William Victor Kinkead Treanor

### Victor's early years

The eldest child of Archdeacon James Treanor and Marian Seymour was my grandfather, William Victor Kinkead Treanor, born at Athenry and baptised by his father on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1875. He was known in the family as Victor.

His first name William will be from James' father. I am not sure where the Victor originates, other than that it was the Victorian age.

The name Kinkead came from James's very good friend Dr Kinkead, a local doctor in Tuam who became a professor of gynaecology at Trinity College. In his last letter to Seymour James writes *"I thank God that I am in excellent health, but my 'term' cannot be long, as if I live till March 17<sup>th</sup> I shall be 80! I had a letter from my old friend Kinkead, who is much my senior, and is still in practice!"*.

The family moved to Kiltullagh when Victor was two years old, soon after his sister Isy was born. Kiltullagh is a mainly rural parish where agriculture was the main source of employment, just over the Galway border in Roscommon. Five years later, when Victor was seven years old, they moved to the much grander rectory at Ballinrobe.

The rectory is very big and is right in the middle of the town, with quite a large garden, surrounded by a high stone wall.

It is just across the road from the main entrance to St Mary's Church. This is where Victor would have spent most of his childhood. It reminds me of Hanworth Rectory where I spent the most memorable years of my own childhood.

At one side of the entrance gateway to the church lies the school where Victor probably had his primary education: it is now the South Mayo Family Heritage Centre.

In referring to the rectory at Ballinrobe, Sheila Treanor recalls a little story that shows that Victor was not always the straitlaced gentleman I understood him to be. *"...the hall with its gracious staircase where Uncle Victor and his siblings took a donkey up the stairs and could not get it down"*.

When Pam and I visited Ballinrobe in 2008, the church had been turned into a library. Like many Church of Ireland

Entrance to St Mary's Church where the church school was





parishes, the congregation had dwindled since the formation of the Irish Free State and the church was becoming derelict.

The campaign to save it as a useful community facility was lead by Dorothy Hearne, one of James Treanor's grandchildren, who lived in Ballinrobe until her death in 2002. There is a plaque commemorating her on the wall of the chancel.



Victor followed the well established family career path to Trinity College Dublin, where he obtained a first in divinity, and won the Hebrew prize. This was conferred at a meeting of the Senate of Dublin University on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 1898.

The extract (above) from the Belfast Newsletter gives their names in Latin. Victor was 23 years old. It would have been relatively easy to travel between Tuam and Dublin by train at that time.

He was ordained deacon in 1899 and priest in 1900, both by Bishop Barry in London. I found a notice of his ordination as deacon in *The Times* Dec 23 1899, saying he was deacon to St John the Baptist, Islington.

Moderatores Seniores—Yates, Johannes Henricus (discip. schol.); Gwynn, Robertus Malcolm (discip. schol.); Phair, Joseph Pogue; Joly, Johannes Swift; Laird, Johannes Newsom; Moriarty, Cæcilius Carolus Hudson; Harvey, Eduardus (discip. schol.); Molony, Johannes Chartres (discip. schol.); Oram, Gualterus Carolus; Abraham, Jacobus Johnston; French, Arturus Cowan Digby; Hillas, Arturus Benedictus; Sealy, Jacobus (discip. schol.); MacQuaide, Thomas Bennett; Henley, Ernestus Albertus Guilelmus; Green, Carolus (discip. schol.); Rogers, Travers Guy; Treanor, Guilelmus Victor Kinkead; Graham, Georgius Fredericus.

Belfast Newsletter  
Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Dec 1898

Ballinrobe Library  
in what was St  
Mary's Church

Victor married Annie Augusta Kerans on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1900 in Dublin – I have a copy of the announcement in the *Irish Times*.

Annie was the daughter of a banker, Lyons Kerans, who was sub-agent of the Bank of Ireland in Mountbellew in 1880. Lyons had married his first cousin, Sarah Anne Kerans in 1874. Annie was their younger daughter, born in Kings County in August 1876. Her elder sister Eveleen Kerans was born a little over a year earlier in April 1875, and lived with my grandparents early in their marriage, and with my grandmother after Victor's death. Annie's father, Lyons Kerans, had remarried to a woman named Eliza in 1899. Her own mother had died in 1895 when Annie was nineteen.

Dorothy Hearne  
memorial in  
the library at  
Ballinrobe



Victor: note the  
wide dog collar,  
which indicated  
he was from the  
low church wing  
of the Anglican  
Communion



Annie Augusta  
Kerans, my  
grandmother



With the help of archivist Jan Woods I now have a detailed history of the Kerans family. From Brian Stevenson we obtained some very old Kerans family photographs. Pam and I have visited various places associated with the Kerans family on trips to Ireland, and taken more photos. My grandmother's origins are summarised in the next chapter and will be in another book on our *Kerans Ancestry*.

In the 1901 census, Victor and Annie were living in Islington at 50 Essex Road, in the parish of St Mathews, with his sister Evelyn Treanor, and Annie's sister Eveleen Kerans. He was a curate at St John the Baptist church in Islington from 1899 to 1901.

He first applied to join the Church Missionary Society (CMS) a year before he got married, and just six months after graduating, on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1899, but was asked to postpone it until he was fully ordained. He

Victor in  
the CMS  
Directory

Victor's entry in  
the CMS directory  
of missionaries

1624. Treanor, William Victor Kinkead.—Age 26. Of Canonbury, N. I. at Athenry, Co. Galway. Galway Gram. Sch.; Trin. Coll., Dublin; B.A. Senior Moderator, Gold Medallist, 1898; 1st Cl. Div. Test., 1899; M.A. 1902. 1899, July 18, offer of service postponed; Dec. 21, by Bp. Lond., and 1900, Dec. 23, by Bp. Barry. 1899—1901, C. of St. John the Baptist, Islington. 1901, re-offered, and June 4, A. as Missionary C.M.S.; Oct. 30, D. for U. Provs. (India) Mission—Aligarh. 1902, May, Agra. 1905, July, Aligarh. m. 1900, July 6, Annie Augusta Kerans.

may have got the idea of joining CMS from Rev Charles McQuaide who was a curate at Ballinrobe from 1889-94 and became a CMS Missionary in Lahore 1899-1905.

I found entries for Victor in Crockford's Clerical Directories for 1910 and 1926, from which we can plot most of his clerical career.

In 1901 he joined the Church Missionary Society mission in Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh, in the diocese of Lucknow. Aligarh is famous for a Muslim University. The main language is Hindustani.

Their first child Victor Lyons Treanor was born in Aligarh on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1902, not long after they arrived in India. Shortly afterwards they moved to Agra. From 1902 to 1906 Victor was at the CMS mission in Agra, famous for the Taj Mahal, and a major centre of Moghul rule. Aunt Nancy was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1905 in Agra. She was baptised Annie Eveleen Treanor after her mother and Aunt. Why she was known as Nancy I have no idea.

**TREANOR, William Victor Kinkead,** Allahabad, U.P., India.—Late Erasmus Smith Exhib. of T.C.D. B.A. (Sen. Mod. Eth. and Log.) 1898, Div. Test. (1st cl.) 1899, M.A. 1902. & 1899 Lon. p 1900 Bp Barry. Sec. C.M.S. Dio. Luckn. 1923. & C. of St. Jo. Bapt. Isl. 1899-1901; C.M.S. Miss. Aligarh 1901-02, p '06-07 and '17-21; Agra 1902-06 and 1907-09; Furlough 1909-11 and '21-22; Meerut 1911-12; Azamgarh 1912-15; Benares 1915-16 and '23; Org. Sec. C.M.S. N. of Ireland 1916-17.

In 1906 they returned to Aligarh for about a year, but according to his entry in Crockfords, they were back in Agra from 1907 to 1909.

There was a brass topped table in our living room throughout my childhood engraved with "Presented to Rev W.V.K.Treanor by the masters and students of the C.M.S. Anglo Ver School, Firozabad, 10<sup>th</sup> March 1909". Firozabad is about 25 miles west of Agra. This was one of the schools that he managed for the CMS.

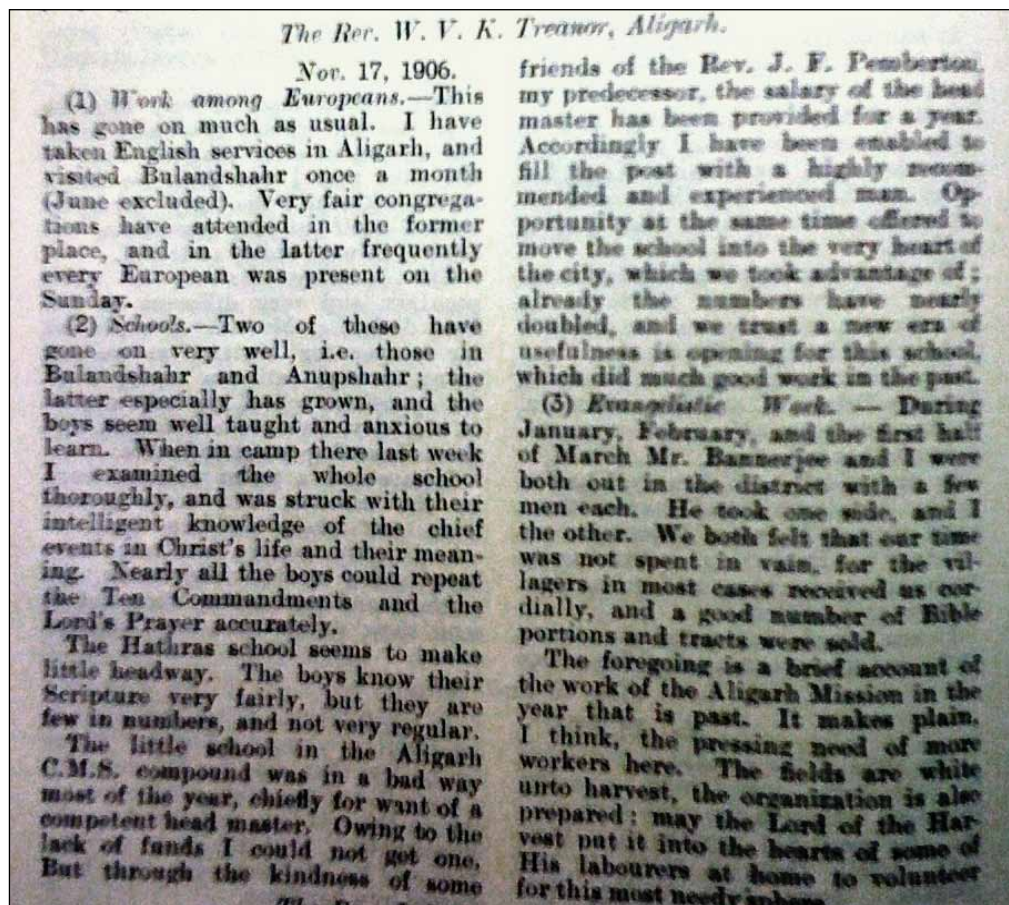
I found a Rev Treanor, Mrs Treanor

and two children on the passenger lists for the Massilia from Bombay to Liverpool, arriving 16<sup>th</sup> April 1909. This looks like my grandparents Victor and Annie coming home with Victor and Nancy.

I found copies of annual letters written to the CMS from India, in which he describes the work of the mission during the preceding year. These are held in the CMS archives at the Cadbury Research Library in Birmingham University. I only had my Iphone with me, but managed to use it to photograph many of these letters and other documents, which I have recorded in detail in a separate report. The letter below was one of the shortest, and gives a fairly typical impression of his activities.

In April 1910 an article by W V K Treanor

appeared in C M Review, titled “*The influence of Christianity on the upper classes of North India*”. I made a copy when I visited the CMS archives. In it he rejects the widespread view that missions in North India are not very successful, and that most converts are from the lower castes. He claims that many prominent and educated Indians would profess their faith if it were not that their families would be outcast. He gives examples from his own direct experience. He also shows how Hindus that oppose Christianity have adopted many of its practical ideas, such as the opening of orphanages, preaching in the bazaars, the sending of religious books to new graduates, the distribution of tracts, and even the holding of Sunday services. He ends



1906 annual letter to the CMS

by urging the “*Church at home*” to wake up to its responsibilities and “*send forth her sons and daughters, and make sacrifices to support them and their work when they are sent out.*”

This was the first time I had come across anything by my grandfather. He writes very clearly, and incisively. The letters reveal him to be a very effective manager as he identifies weaknesses in the organisation, weighs up the options and takes steps to put them right. He is also very much an optimist, and in many places gives the impression of over-estimating the impact CMS is having on society in India. At one point he reports a colleague providing a bible to Nehru, and he appears to think that Nehru was a closet believer, where I suspect he was a polymath who felt a need to understand Christianity.

Some of the language and attitudes he displays now sound anachronistic. He describes Hindus as “*heathens*”, and shows unshakeable conviction in the rightness of his own beliefs. It is interesting to reflect on how much the Church has changed these days, and generally promotes respect for religious faith of any denomination.

I found it fascinating to meet my grandfather in this way. Most of what I knew about him came from my father’s very negative accounts of a man who seemed totally dedicated to his work and lacked the emotional intelligence to relate to the needs of his own family. Through his writings I discovered a very intelligent and capable man, who was clearly loved by the people he worked with.

Victor and Annie were on furlough from 1909 to 1911, living at 99 Moyne Road in Rathmines, Dublin. Pam and I visited and took a photo of the house in 2008. Rathmines is a very pleasant and leafy suburb in the

south of Dublin.

My father, Bertram Laurence Treanor, was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1910, at their home in Moyne Road.

We next hear of Victor assisting his father at a funeral on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1910 in Ballinrobe. His mother had died the previous

Dave outside the house at 99 Moyne Road, Rathmines in Dublin where Bertram was born



November, and a couple of days later his sister Dorothy Margery Adelaide Treanor (1889-1910) died, presumably whilst he was visiting. They both died of TB. My father was a 3 month baby at that time, and I do not know whether he and Annie were also present.

A few months later on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911, the census shows that their eldest child Victor aged 9 was at the Boarding School of Monkston Cork in Mount Town Road, Dublin. Nancy aged 6 was staying with the Warren family at 2 Belgrave Terrace, Blackrock, Dublin. So both Victor and Nancy were left behind, and not even living together.

In that year my grandfather Victor took



up a posting for two years at Meerut, the place where the Indian Rebellion of 1857 had started, over the use of animal fats to coat cartridges, which offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers in the Indian Army.

Margery was born the day after Christmas, 26<sup>th</sup> December 1911. Meerut is in Uttar Pradesh

in India, about 44 miles north east of Delhi.

My sister Jane tells me that Bertram and Margery spent a lot of time together as children, but did not see much of their elder siblings, Victor and Nancy.

In 1912 Victor and Annie moved to Azamgarh, much further East in Uttar Pradesh,



Map showing Meerut at the top, Agra and Firozabad at the bottom, and Aligarh in between:



north of Benares (present day Varinasi), and not far from the border with Nepal.

Des has a brass table top engraved as a gift to Victor from "The staff and students CM High School, Azamgarh".

They moved on to Benares. We know that Bertram and Margery were with them at this time, with Victor and Nancy probably boarding somewhere back in the UK or Ireland. Victor would have been thirteen and Nancy ten in 1915.

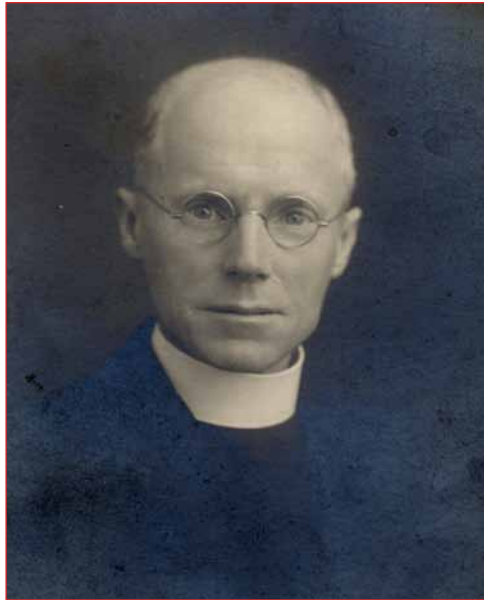
I found Bertie Treanor aged 4 and his sister Margery aged 3 on the passenger list of the ship Olympia arriving in Liverpool from Bombay via Port Said, Marseilles and Gibraltar on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1915. Their father is

Photo of Bertie aged 2 and Margery aged 5 ½ months with their mother, taken in June 1912 in London, before they returned to India.

**Postcard of City  
of Marseille**

listed, but for some reason their mother is not. My father always objected strongly to being called Bertie, so it is interesting to see that his father used that name for him when he was young.

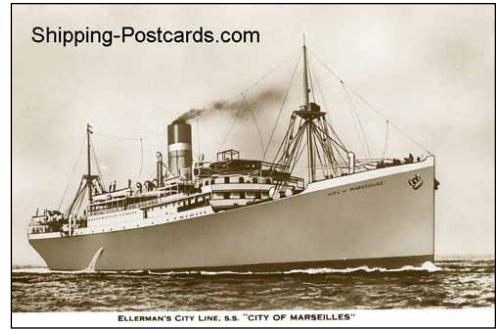
From 1916 to 1917 Victor became Organising Secretary for the CMS in what is now Northern Ireland: they probably lived in Belfast. The CMS office was at 62 Upper Arthur Street, Belfast in 1913, so that is probably where he worked. My father would have been 6 years old when they moved to Northern Ireland, and his sister Margery would have been four or five. This was the middle of World War 1. They still seemed to be able to travel freely between India and the UK.



W V K Treanor

I found the approval of £60 for the education of his son Bertram in the minutes of the CMS on three occasions (between 1924 and 1925). That would be about £3,000 in today's money

There was also £40 approved to allow Nancy to travel to India in June 1927.



His Annual Letter for 1921 tells us *“During October Aligarh became notorious through the action of Mr Gandhi and the Ali brothers in starting a non-cooperation university in Aligarh and using all the means in their power, including intimidation, to boycott the Muslim university (formerly the M.A.O College), and get the boys to come over to them”*. Later letters make frequent mention of the non-cooperation movement.

In 1917 they moved back to Aligarh for four years, returning on Furlough from 1921 to 1922.

I found Victor and his wife Annie on the passenger list of the City of Marseilles, a ship of the Ellerman City Line, which arrived in the port of London on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1921 from Calcutta, via Madras, Colombo, Port Sudan, Port Said, and Gibraltar.

My father would have been 11 years old. He was not on the ship with them. He was probably at a prep school somewhere. At least he may have spent some time with his parents during school holidays while they were on furlough. 1922 was the year that the Irish Free State was formed. It was also the year that Annie's father Lyons Kerans died. We think he was living in Dalkey, Co Dublin, although I have not located any record of his death. Victor's father left Ballinrobe to go to Deal in the following year, 1923.

There is an old story I heard 45 or 50



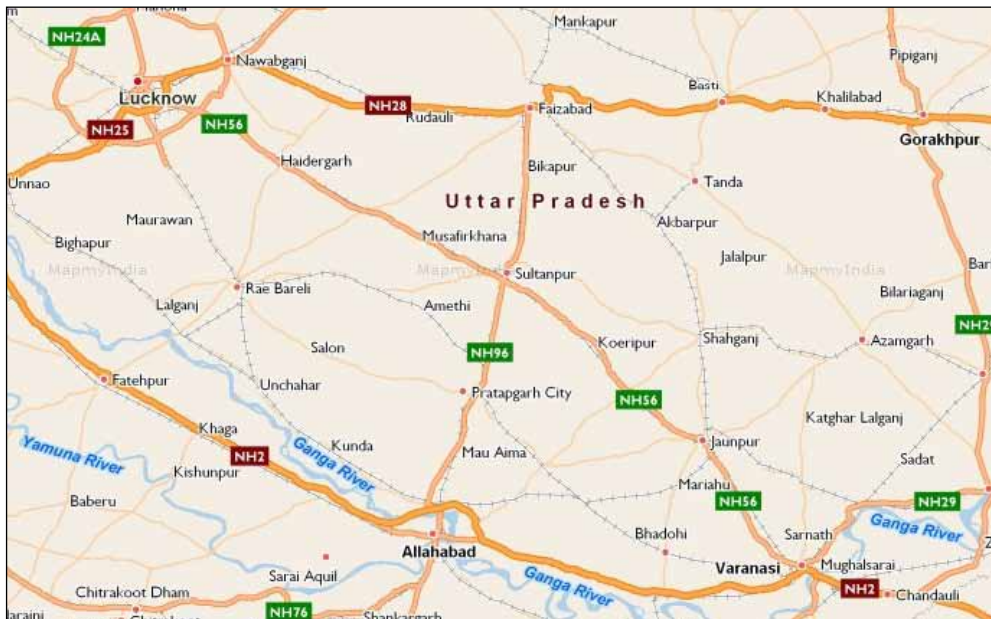
years ago, that my great Aunt Eveleen was working with the Ambulance Service. During the troubles my grandparents were strongly unionist and hung a Union Jack from their window, as did quite a few of their neighbours. There was some kind of republican demonstration outside, and feelings were running high. Aunt Evie brought the ambulance to their door and rescued them. This might have been connected with the Easter uprising in 1916, when Victor was Secretary of CMS in Belfast. Or it could have been at around the time of Irish independence

in 1922, when they were on furlough. Or it might even have been earlier than that, when they were staying in Moyne Street.

In 1923 my grandfather Victor returned to Benares, and soon afterwards was appointed Secretary of the CMS at Lucknow and Chaplain of Holy Trinity in Allahabad. We presume he lived in Allahabad, where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers meet. It is a famously beautiful city, the birthplace of Nehru, and half the prime ministers of India. It also has a respected university. It would be a very pleasant place to live. He remained CMS Secretary until 1929.

In his annual letter to the CMS in London, written on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 1925 he says “*Some years ago Mr Moti Lal Nehru of Allahabad and his son Jawahir Lal Nehru (now chairman of the Allahabad Corporation) renounced their big practice at the Bar and gave themselves up to the same object [DT: giving up most of their wealth and campaigning against British Rule in India]. Mr Jawahir Lal Nehru reads his Bible regularly. A few months ago he asked an Indian*

**Allahabad, one of the holiest cities in India, where the Ganga and Yamuna rivers meet**



**Map of Uttar Pradesh showing Varanasi and Lucknow**



Victor's grave in Blackheath. I am not sure where it is: we visited St James' church, but the graves have now been removed, and the graveyard has been replaced by a parish hall, the new rectory, and a grassed area. The photo shows somewhere more open – the local cemetery perhaps.

*Christian friend of ours here to get him a small bible which he could carry about with him on his travels, as the one he had was too large”.*

Victor and Annie returned to the UK on furlough from 1925 to 1927. According to the passenger list of the *City of London* on which they sailed from Liverpool to India with Nancy they stayed at 27 Leigham Court Rd in Streatham. My father would have been 15 to 17, and was at a boarding school (I have forgotten its name). The headmaster of my own school, St Lawrence College (a Rev Richard Perfect) was at the school with him. His father, the Archdeacon, died in May 1926 while they were on furlough, and we know they visited James in Walmer. The Archdeacon liked to pray in Greek, and Victor was one of the few people who could do it with him. They would stay at Wigmore, his house in Walmer.

In 1929 Victor and Annie left India for the last time, and moved into a house at 45 Kidbrook Park Road, Blackheath, London SE3. This was the address (written wrongly as 45 Kidbroke Road) that my father gave when he arrived in Argentina in 1930.

I found them on the passenger list of the Kaiser I Hind arriving in London on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1929 from Bombay via Malta and Gibraltar. This ship held the record of 18 days for the trip from Bombay to London. Their address is care of CMS, Salisbury Street, London EC4.

My grandfather Victor died on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1933. The funeral was on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1933 at St James, Kidbrook, Blackheath. He would have lived to see his oldest son Victor's children Des and Terence born in 1928 and 1929, and to see Victor graduate from the London College of Divinity in 1932.

I found his probate record, with effects valued at £1,036 (£60,000 at 2011 prices).



His obituary appeared in Church Missionary Outlook for March 1933:

*“For the first time for fifty-two years the C.M.S. has lost one of its Secretaries on the active list. The death of Rev W.V.K. Treanor on January 20<sup>th</sup> after only a few days’ illness came as a shock to all his friends. Although they had watched with concern the increasing severity of his fight with asthma, his spirit was so buoyant and undaunted and his outlook so cheery and hopeful that they looked forward to enjoying his comradeship for some while longer.*

*For nearly four years while Mr Treanor has carried the heavy responsibilities of the India and Persia secretaryship, his colleagues at Salisbury Square have discovered for themselves what European and Indian friends in the United Provinces learned of his quality during twenty-eight years of missionary service. They found him one of the most lovable of men, always ready to sink his personal preferences in*

*order to do what was needed most; broad and quick in his sympathies, combining a burning enthusiasm with untiring patience – all these derived from a close deep fellowship with his Lord.....”*

I wonder about the reference to asthma. My father told me he had died of a heart attack. Perhaps his colleagues mistook the shortness of breath brought about by angina for asthma, or perhaps he suffered from both.

I found him in the 1930 London telephone directory (and 1931 and 1932):

Above his entry in the directory we find Richard Joseph Treanor living in Wallington. This is the son of William Robinson Treanor, the draper from Roscrea. I wonder if they met. Dorothy Hearne says he was called Dick, and “*was the person who had rung Auntie Annie when he saw Uncle Victor’s death in the paper*”.

His wife Annie lived to a ripe old age. She was bombed out of the house at 45 Kidbrook Park Road during the war and lost much of her furniture and possessions. Des was staying in the house at the time, and remembers it as quite exciting. Nobody was hurt. The bomb appears to have damaged a large number of properties. Numbers 43 to 59 have been replaced with new buildings, including a small housing estate. In the 1945 telephone directory she was living at 6 Norwich Road, E7.

Under war reparations she was given 52 Haven Lane in Ealing, where she lived with her sister Eveleen throughout my early childhood, until her death in 1962.

The neighbouring house at 41 Kidbrook Park is quite substantial, and it is clear that this was a very pleasant leafy neighbourhood before the war. To the east of it there is now a huge area of council housing, which may have been put up on bombsites – this area is not far from London docks, and was badly hit.

I am amazed that my grandparents spent

Treanor R. J.8 Hillside gardens.....	Wallington	3375
Treanor Rev. W. V. K.,		
45 Kidbrook Park rd S.E.3.....	GREENWICH	1917

so little time with their children. From a very tender age they were sent to boarding schools and farmed out to lodge with total strangers during the holidays, not even with each other.

My grandmother was a very sweet and gentle woman with a strong Irish accent, and something of a mystical air about her.

I get the impression that my grandfather was very straitlaced. He was clever and dedicated to his mission, but may have been rather a cold man. My father received a formal letter from him when he reached the age of 21, saying that his father no longer took any responsibility for him. That was the last communication they had. It contrasts

My grandfather’s entry in the 1931 phone directory with his cousin’s entry above

Gran in the 1945 phone directory at Norwich Road

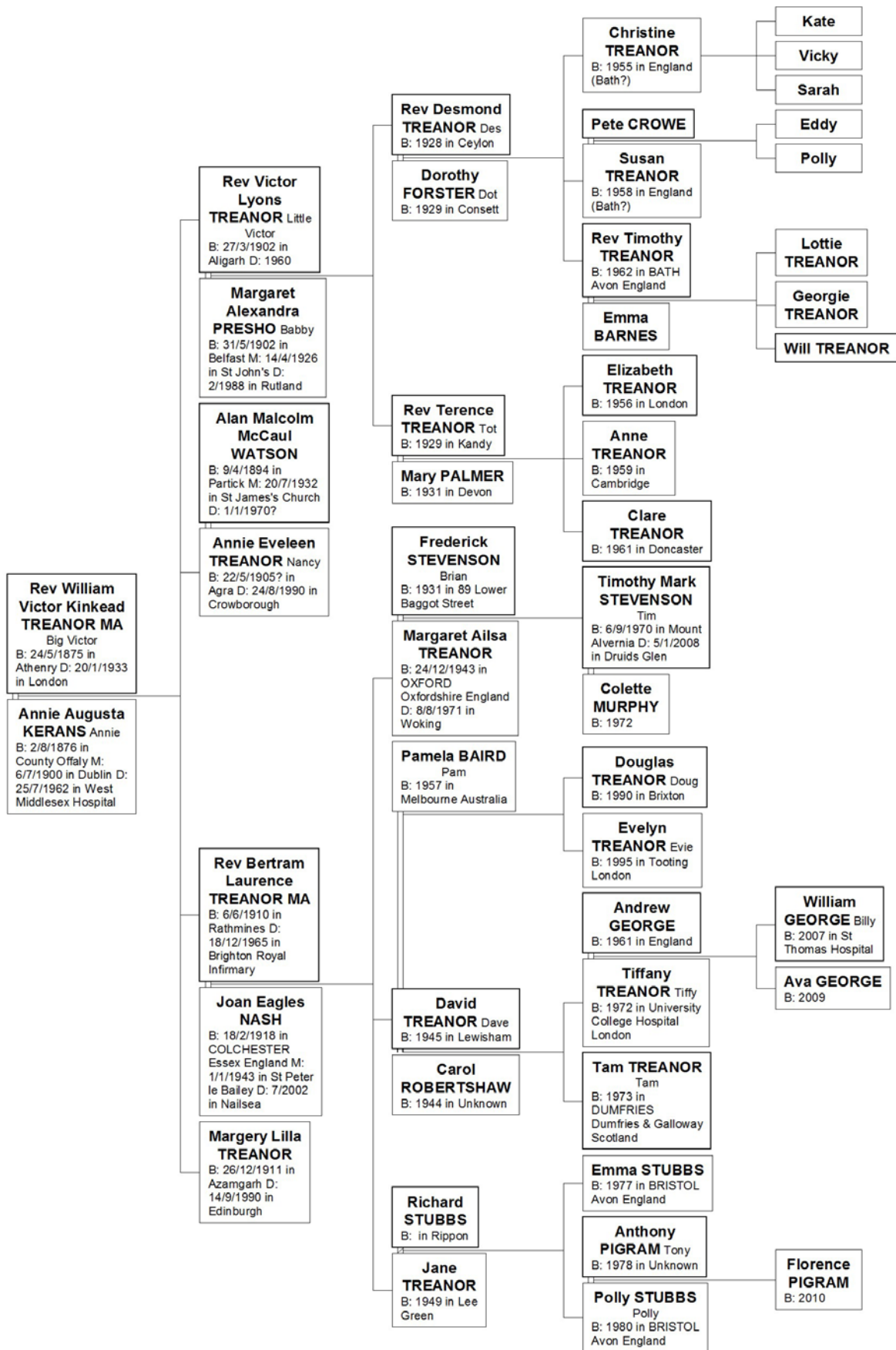
Treanor R. J.8 Hillside gardens.....	WALLINGTON	3375
Treanor Mrs. W. V. K.6 Norwich rd E.7..	MARYLAND	3982

with the warmth my great grandfather clearly expressed to his son Seymour in one of his last letters.

When I began this research back in 2008 I knew practically nothing about my grandfather beyond what my father had told me. During the last three years it is amazing how much I have been able to discover through researching the archives, and searching the internet.

41 Kidbrook Park Road, two doors up from the house my grandparents had that was bombed







## CHAPTER 17

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# Annie Kerans

### **Annie Augusta Kerans 1876-1962**

Annie Kerans was my father's mother, known to me as Grannie Treanor. She had a reputation for having a sixth sense: she read people's palms, and seemed to be able to tell things about them. I remember her dowsing for water, and the twigs twitched vigorously for her, but not for me.

My father told me how he visited a gypsy fortune teller at a fair who said he would very soon be travelling overseas to "do good". This was at a low point in his life having left school without matriculating, and wondering what to do. It helped him make up his mind to join the South American Missionary Society and go off to Argentina. When he told his mother, she went and found the gypsy and blessed her for her insight.

When Grannie read my palm she said I would grow up to be a doctor – not a clergyman like most of the other men in our family. I really believed her. It affected my choice of subjects when I joined the sixth form at school, and I even had a tentative offer of a place at Oxford to study medicine before I seriously began to wonder if this was the right thing for me, and changed to doing Psychology at Manchester instead. Looking



back on it, many of her own ancestors were doctors, while her husband's ancestors were almost all clergyman. Perhaps she saw more Kerans in me than Treanor. Either that, or perhaps I was just too naughty to be considered for the Church!

I knew her as a very kindly old lady. Nobody ever said a word against her.

My father told a story that shows she never lost the sectarian prejudices with which she was raised, as a Protestant from



**Bertram, Margery,  
Victor (back),  
Nancy and Gran  
(front)**

**23 Kenilworth  
Park in Dublin**

Ireland. She was nursed at home in the last year of her life, by a succession of visiting home nurses. When she discovered the Irish one was a Catholic, she banished her from the house. In all fairness, her mind was going at the time, so she would have lost some of

her inhibitions, but it says something about her deepest feelings on the matter.

Annie Augusta Kerans was born 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1876 somewhere in County Offaly in Ireland, and was the second child of Lyons Kerans and Sarah Kerans, who were cousins. Her elder sister, Eveleen Kerans, was born in Mountberrew, Co Galway on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1875.

When Annie married Rev William Victor Kinkead Treanor on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1900, she was living at 23 Kenilworth Park, Dublin, with her father and his second wife Eliza who had married the year before. Victor and Annie's marriage was listed in the Irish Times. I visited the road in 2011, and found their house up for sale, and a little run down. Some of the properties in that street are still in good condition, but theirs has had the brick painted pink— yugh! Harold's Cross is not such a smart area as Rathmines.

Her husband graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a First in Divinity on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1899, and had been ordained deacon by the Bishop of London earlier that year. They probably met while he was a student. The university is a couple of miles north of where Annie was living. I can imagine them courting along the Grand Canal, close to the Schoolhouse Hotel where I usually stay in Dublin.

My sister Jane has an original signed copy of Grannie's will. She died in the West Middlesex hospital in Isleworth on 25<sup>th</sup> July 1962 of pneumonia due to generalised arteriosclerosis. She left all her personal possessions and her house at 52 Haven Lane in Ealing to her sister Eveleen Kerans *"...with the wish that she will bequeath any of my personal effects which may still be in her possession at her death to my children Annie Eveleen Wilson, Bertram Lawrence Treanor, and Margery Lilla Treanor, as she may decide"*. She left all her savings to



Margery, and directed that on Eveleen's death the house, or the proceeds of its sale, be divided equally between Bertram Lawrence Treanor and Annie Eveleen Treanor. (Lawrence and Lilla were misspelled in the will). Here is a copy of her signature from the will:

## Lyons Kerans 1849-1922

We know very little about the childhood of Annie and her sister Eveleen, or the lives of their parents.

Their father, Lyons Kerans, was born at South Park in Ahascragh Co Galway probably in December 1849, and was baptised in January 1850 at the local parish church of St Catherine. He was the second youngest of the very large family of Dr Laurence Clarke Kerans, and Augusta Speedy.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1874 Lyons married Sarah Anne Kerans by licence at Charlton King's parish church, near Cheltenham. She was his first cousin, the daughter of Lyons Kerans, M.R.C.S. and his wife Emily Ashworth.

Sarah and Lyons were married in Gloucestershire where Sarah was born, so they clearly spent some time in England.

At the time their eldest child Eveleen was born they were living in Mountbellew, about ten miles from Ahascragh on the road to

Tuam. We do not know where they were in Mountbellew, but Lyons' father (Dr Laurence Clarke Kerans) had a property at Clonbrock in Mountbellew and ran a dispensary there. He rented his home, South Park, from Lord Clonbrock. Lyons is listed in an 1880 Belfast Directory as sub-agent for a branch of the Bank of Ireland in Mountbellew.

Sarah Anne Kerans died in January 1895 while they were living in Listowel, Co Kerry.

In 1908 Lyon inherited one sixth part of the residue of the estate of his sister Augusta Scott (née Kerans), whose only child Lucretia died aged 15 a couple of months after her mother.

I found Lyons living with his second wife Eliza at 20 Sorrento Road, Dalkey, in Dublin in the 1911 census. He was aged 61, and she was 53. They had been married for 12 years (ie in 1899), and had no children. This means they had married only months before Annie married my grandfather and left home, with her sister Eveleen. I wonder if there is a connection. They had all moved to London by 1901.

Eliza was born in Co Galway in about 1858, and was eight years younger than Lyons.

I tried to search the parish records of St Patricks Church in Dalkey to find any record of his death in 1922 but according to the RCBL there was no burial ground

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.														
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.														
FORM A.														
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.														
NAME AND RESIDENCE.		RELATION to HEAD of FAMILY.	EDUCATION.	AGE AND SEX.	DATE OF BIRTH.	DATE OF DEATH.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF DEATH.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF DEATH.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF DEATH.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF DEATH.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	
1.	Lyons	Head	Uneducated	61	1850									
2.	Eliza	Wife	Uneducated	53	1858									
3.	Mary Anne	Daughter	Uneducated	12	1899									

Lyons and Eliza Kerans in the 1911 census



Hooton Hall was demolished in the 1960's to make way for modern housing

Victoria Terrace in Beaumaris, Anglesey

Plas Llanfair cottage in Llanfairfechen where my great grandfather Lyons Kerans died

London Gazette August 1859 reporting Lyon's release from prison

there. There was a nearby cemetery at Dean's Grange, but I could not find him listed there.

Lyons' name is not listed on any of the memorials to the Kerans family in the parish church at Ahascragh, and he is not mentioned in his father's will. So I wonder if he fell out with his parents. Had his second wife perhaps been Catholic? He was granted probate on his brother Robert's will on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1922, shortly before his own death.

Lyons and Eliza were living in Kenilworth Park Road in Harold's Cross when Annie got married, so I tried searching the parish records of local Church of Ireland parishes to find their marriage in about 1899, but without success.

I did find a probate record for the death of Eliza Kerans at 23 the Mageough Home, Cowper Road, Rathmines in Dublin on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1929, granted to Eveleen Kerans. The Mageough Home was founded in 1878 to provide accommodation for "*elderly ladies professing the Protestant faith*". So that clears up one mystery: Lyons had not married a Catholic woman. And Aunt Evie still kept in touch with her. I later discovered that she was born Eliza Allen, the younger sister of Lyons's elder brother Dr Thomas George Kerans.

## Sarah Anne Kerans 1850-1895

Lyons Kerans married his cousin Sarah Kerans on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1874 in Cheltenham. She was the daughter of another Lyons Kerans and Emily Ashworth, and was born at Hooton Hall, Hooton Levitt, near Maltby in South Yorkshire in December 1850.

She was 4 months old in the 1851 census, living at Hooton Hall with her parents, her two older brothers and her grandmother, aunt and uncle. Ten years later in the 1861 census they were living at Victoria Terrace,



### COURT FOR RELIEF OF INSOLVENT DEBTORS.

The 27th day of August, 1859.

**ORDERS** have been made, vesting in the Provisional Assignee the Estates and Effects of the following Persons :

On their own Petitions.

John Clayton, late of No. 11, Albert-terrace, Garden-row, London-road, Southwark, Surrey, Dealer in Steel.—In the Gaol of Surrey.

Lyons Kerans, late of the Guildhall Coffee House, near Guildhall, London, Surgeon, out of practice.—In the Queen's Prison.

Beaumaris, Anglesey, Wales.

Just prior to that her father had spent 11 days in the Kings Bench prison in Southwark for a debt of £28. 8. 0d. He was qualified as a surgeon, but never practised, and appears to have spent his life living beyond his means, as a gentlemen.

Sarah's father died at Plas Llanfair Cottage in Llanfairfechan, near Bangor, Wales in 1864, and is buried in the local churchyard. Her mother



A daguerreotype of Sarah Anne Kerans' father Lyons Kerans in about 1850

on the wall of my childhood home at Hanworth Rectory. My cousin Des writes *"Dorothy agrees with me that the pastels were painted and exhibited in the Paris Exhibition. She is also certain that you have identified the people correctly (her memory is far better than mine) and, incidentally, many years ago she was given the pendant necklace which the woman is wearing. Susan (our second daughter) wore it at her wedding"*. A third pastel picture was of Laurence's mother, Sarah Clarke.

My great grandmother Sarah Anne Kerans died at Bank House, Listowel Co Kerry on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1895, when my grandmother Annie would have been aged 18. They were living above the bank where Lyons worked.

The Kerans are a very interesting family, and the subject of another book: *'Kerans Family History'*.

Emily died a few years later in January 1871. In April of that year Sarah was living at 32 Sea Bank Road, North Meols, in Southport, Lancashire, with her aunt Emily Ashworth, her cousin, medical student Frederick H. Ashworth and her younger brother Charles A. Kerans. Sarah was aged 20 and living off an annuity.

Her father, Lyons Kerans, was a younger brother of Dr Laurence Clarke Kerans. His wife Emily came from a very wealthy family, but between them they managed to spend it all, living well beyond their means. Paintings of them hung

## Laurence Clarke Kerans 1800-1886

Annie's paternal grandfather, Laurence Clarke Kerans, was born 7<sup>th</sup> December 1800. He became a physician, like his own grandfather, and many other members of the Kerans clan.

He married Ann Augusta Speedy



Pastels of Lyons Kerans and his wife Emily Ashworth



South Park in Ahascragh with Brian, Dymphna and Pam

(known as Augusta) daughter of Captain Robert Speedy at St Paul's in Dublin on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1833. According to the old Kerans family tree Des gave me she was born in 1807, but another source (IGS) has her born in Ahascragh, Galway, in about 1812. I do not know which is the more accurate.

Laurence and Augusta lived at South Park in Ahascragh and raised eleven children there. It is quite a small village that plays a very important part in our family history. In 2009 Pam, Brian and I stayed in their house at South Park as guests of the current owners, Dymphna and Michael Dunne.

Laurence's will lists carriages, horses and cows at South Park, and also shows he had interests in another farm (85 acres according to the Griffiths Valuation), and two dispensaries. So he was a wealthy man. Where the money came from I do not know. His own father was still alive when they moved in to South Park, but may have helped him.

To us there was a touch of magic about South Park, helped by some of Dymphna and Michael's stories, and the whiskey that flowed quite freely that night.

## Ann Augusta Speedy 1807–1888

Augusta comes from a very colourful family. Her father was Captain Robert Speedy, Provost Marshall of Dublin, which means he was responsible for military discipline.

Her younger brother Major James Speedy (1811-1868) married Sarah Squire (1818-1897), author of a fascinating memoir describing her life in India, South Africa and New Zealand. In this Sarah recalls visiting James' sister Augusta in Galway in 1843 on their return from India:

*"We arrived at home and landed in Portsmouth, and then went to mama at Chigwell. We then went to Dublin to see James' father and mother, and also went to County Galway to see his sister Augusta, and then we left the children for a while with grandma in Dublin and went to Bristol and Clifton and other places, and enjoyed ourselves greatly".*

Sarah's father, Tristram Squire, fought Napoleon in Spain and Portugal, and narrowly missed the battle of Waterloo. He rose to be the commanding officer of the 13<sup>th</sup> Prince Albert's Light Infantry regiment, retiring with the rank of Colonel. Much of his service was in Bengal, India. He was a brigade-major at the famously successful storming of the citadel at Ghuznee in Afghanistan. Later, most of the regiment including British wives, children were wiped out in the 'massacre in the passes' on the frantic retreat from Kabul through the bitter blood-stained snow.

Sarah, aged seventeen, was courted by her husband James Speedy in the romantic setting of the Taj Mahal. He was an officer with the Buffs, and also came from a military family in Ireland: his grandfather Robert was a colonel, and his uncle Thomas rose to be a general. After their marriage they served in north



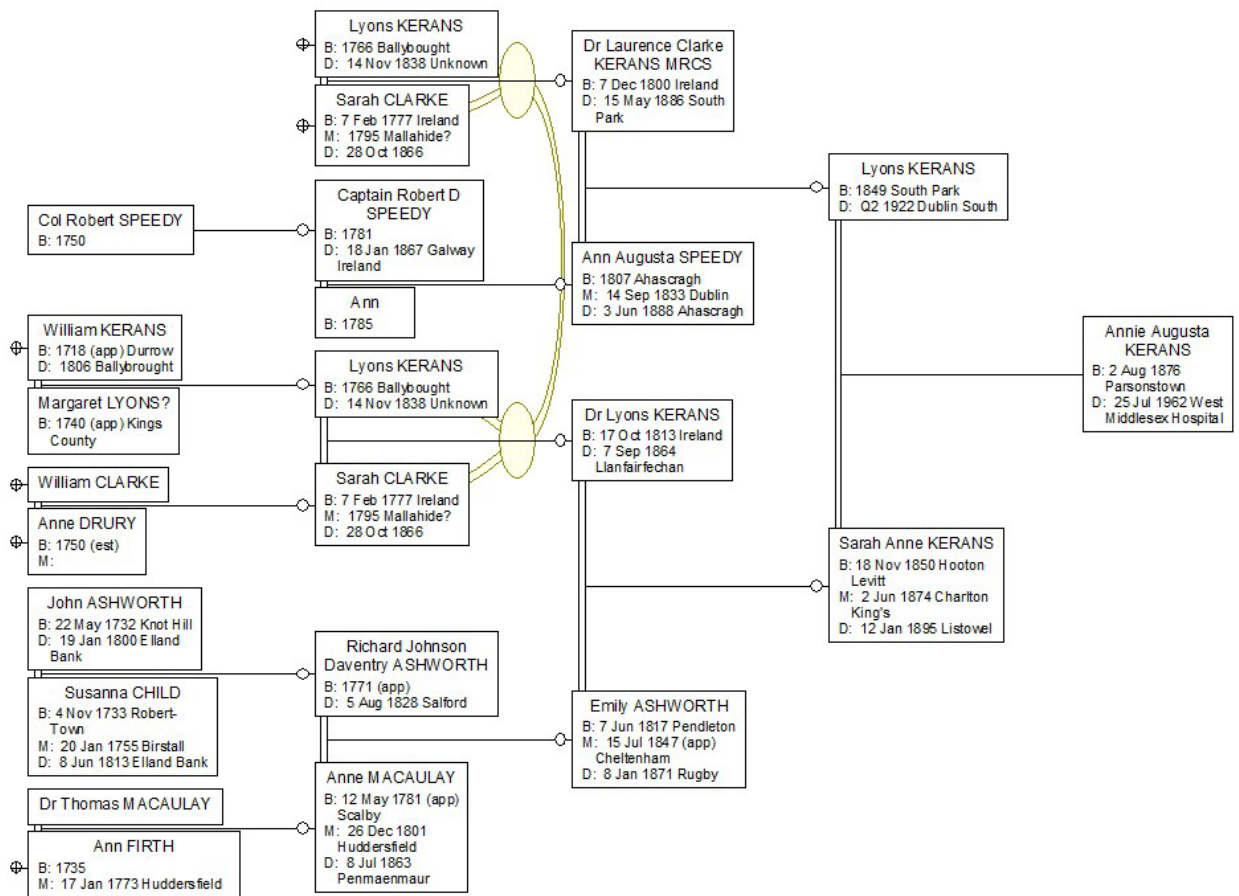
India. They were later stationed in west India at Poonah and Bombay, and the province of Sind at Karachi and Hyderabad, on the Indus River. By 1850 James' health put an end to his military career and they moved to Waikato in the recently pacified colony of New Zealand, where he became the first resident magistrate.

Their son Tristram Charles Sawyer Speedy (1836-1911), known as Charlie, led an even more extraordinary life than his mother's. He was one of the most renowned adventurers and explorers of the Victorian age, *'a legend in his own time and a gifted linguist (like his father), a commander of armies and the confidant of monarchs and maharajas'*.

He was given the title Basha Felika by King Tewodross II of Abyssinia, and put in charge

of training his army. But he fell out with the King, and was later involved with Lord Napier in the rescue of the “*Abyssinian prisoners*” who the King had kidnapped. These included Augusta’s son, Laurence Clarke Kerans.

## Kerans family memorials in St Catherine's Church in Ahascragh



## CHAPTER 18

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# Victor Lyons Treanor

### Victor Lyons Treanor 1902-1960

My grandfather Victor's eldest son was baptised Victor Lyons – the second name being after his mother's father, and a common first name in the Kerans family. He was born on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1902 in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. John Crouchen tells me they knew him as "*little Victor*" and his father as "*big Victor*".

He sailed to Ceylon on 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1920 on the *Naldera* and worked as a tea planter a while. Nancy joined him out there. Victor's two sons were born in Ceylon. Des tells me that Nancy looked after them as small children.



Babbie and Victor  
with Des as a baby  
in Ceylon.

Victor and Babbie's elder son Desmond Victor was born in Kandy in Ceylon in March 1928 when Victor was 26 and a tea planter. Their second son Terence Gerald was born a year later in 1929, in Kandy. Victor was at his grandfather's funeral in Walmer in May 1926, so must have left for Ceylon some time after that.

I came across their names in the passenger list of a boat called the *Oxfordshire*, sailing from Rangoon to London via Colombo, and Port Said, arriving on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1930. It lists Victor Lyons Treanor as a planter, giving his parents address in Kidbrook, followed by his wife, Margaret P, and Terence aged 4½ and Desmond aged 2½ (which is the wrong way around). They are shown as boarding in Colombo in Ceylon.

We know Victor's clerical career from the 1959/1960 edition of Crockford's.

**TREANOR, Victor Lyons.**—Lon. Coll. of Div. 1932. d 1934, p 1935 Man. C. of Bolton 1934-37; V. of Ch. Ch. Lowestoft, 1937-46; C.F. (E.C.) 1940-45; Men. in Disp. 1945; V. of Owlerton 1946-52; St. Jas. Doncaster, 1952-59; R. of Todwick, Dio. Sheff. from 1959; Ed. Sheff. Dioc. Year Book from 1959. *Todwick Rectory, Sheffield.* (Tel. Kiveton 283.)

He graduated from the London College of Divinity in 1932. His father died in 1933, shortly before he was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Manchester in 1934. He became a



**Victor in uniform  
as a padre**

curate in Bolton and was ordained priest a year later in 1935.

In 1937 he was inducted as vicar of Christ Church Lowestoft, where he remained until 1946. Terence tells me *"Some of the churchgoers were rather narrow-minded and Desmond and I would sometimes slip in through the back door of the Gaumont. Despite his difficulties, my father built up a sizeable congregation. One annual occasion was the visit of the lifeboat crew, whose bosun would read a lesson. My father learned to steer him away from anything tricky lest he paused, and then came out with phrases such as 'Too 'ard .... Too 'ard'."*

Throughout the war years the parish was run by two elderly priests, while Victor was working as an army chaplain (1940 – 45). He was mentioned in despatches during action in Normandy in 1945. Des says that they only saw him three times during the war. Victor was attached to the Guards Armoured Division when they crossed the Rhine.

After the war Victor became Vicar of Owlerton in Sheffield, where he continued to wear his old battledress, now dyed dark

blue. Terence describes this as an economy measure, as money was always very short. The Church's finances were also in a rocky state, and Victor raised a large sum by visits to local businesses. The local cinema's advert in the local paper said *"Come to the Astra Cinema on weekdays, and Owlerton Church on Sundays where you will always be sure of a good programme."*

Victor often chatted with the regulars at the local pub, many of whom were ex-servicemen. The local paper published a picture of him at the bar, which led to protests from teetotallers all over the country.

Victor was promoted to St James in Doncaster, known as 'the railway church', where he ran the largest Church of England Men's Society Group in the diocese. He worked himself into the ground, and suffered several heart attacks, before moving to a less demanding country living at Todwick, too late to save him – he died aged 58 in 1960.

In his younger days Victor was a fine sportsman, who played cricket in the first XI for Campbell College, Belfast (an Independent Grammar School). He was also good at tennis. Terence describes him as *"a modest and self-effacing man, who was generous and unselfish"*. He made great sacrifices to send Des and Terence to Oakham School, and

**Terence, Victor,  
and Des**





made sure they had as much pocket money as their contemporaries, most of whom came from much better off families.

My own parents had a similar attitude – I remember my mother going to work at the Nestlé chocolate factory to pay my school fees at St Lawrence College

## Margaret Alexandra Presho 1902-1988

Victor married Margaret Alexandra Presho, known as Babbie on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1926 in Belfast. Des thinks it was at St John's at Malone, as this is the only Anglican Church in that district and his mother lived in a very posh part of the Malone Road.

She was born in Belfast on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902, and completed her education in Switzerland!

Des recalls that his grandparents were Sam Presho and Maud Simpson. Sam died when Des was very young. The Preshos were “*well-to-do Belfast business people - Leather I believe!*”. Des also mentions a brother Christy.

On the LDS website I found the birth on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1867 at Antrim in Ireland of a Samuel Alexander Presho. His father was Christopher Presho, and his mother was Margaret Lowther.

With this coincidence of names, it is likely that this Sam is Margaret Alexandra Presho's father. The next year they had Christopher Presho on 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1868 in Antrim. This Christopher probably died because they had another son named Christopher on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1878 in Down. Jane Dorothea Presho was born 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 1871. Mary Sarah Presho was born 20<sup>th</sup> May 1872. Emily Margaret Presho was 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1874 in Antrim. Robert James Lowther Presho was born 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 1876.

We first come across their business in an 1877 directory. It is Presho and Balmer,

wholesale leather merchants and boot top manufacturers in 40 & 38 North Street, Belfast. (In the 1861 directory this shop was Mercer Kerr & co., wholesale druggists and general merchants). They were still there in 1880 and 1901, and their residence in 1880 was 10 Lincoln Avenue, Belfast.

I found the will of Robert James Presho who died in 1906, the beneficiary of which was Christopher Presho, Leather Merchant. I think this was their youngest son.

By 1907 they had moved the business to 11-13 Talbot Street, and changed it to *Presho, C., & Sons, wholesale leather and boot factors, saddlers' ironmongers and shoe grindery warehouse,; res., Belmont Lodge. There is also a Presho, S. A., leather merchant, in Marian Villa, Green Road, Belfast.*

Christopher appears in a 1910 Belfast Directory in *11 to 13 Talbot Street as Presho, C., & Sons Ltd, wholesale leather and boot factors and wholesale saddlers' ironmongers.* They are still there in 1913, and also appear there in the 1915 Kelly's Street Directory for Belfast. I also found Presho, Samuel A., leather merchant, Ardean, Green Road, Belfast in 1910, who Des confirms is his grandfather.

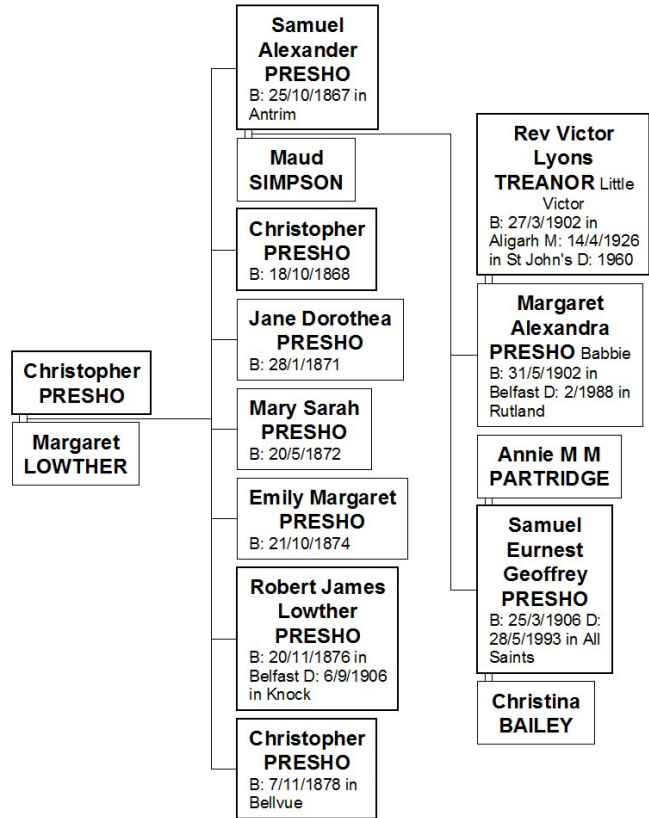
Des says “*Belmont Lodge was definitely the family home of Grandfather's Father. I remember my Mother often saying that she always went there on Sundays and was bored stiff because the men discussed business all the time. She told me that 'they were war profiteers', thanks to their sales during World War 1*”. Beaumont Lodge is now a hotel.

I also found an S E G Presho living in Leicestershire between 1934 and 1953, in the phone directory. In 1934 he is at 7 University Road, Leicester. After 1949 he is at 8 Woodfield Road, Oadby. The same S E G Presho appears to have married Annie M M Partridge in

Surrey in 1935. Des tells me that this was his uncle Barney, who was the headmaster and owner of Stoneygate Preparatory School in Leicester, which is where Des's son Tim was educated before going to Marlborough.

Des tells me *"His full name was Samuel Eurnest Geoffrey Prescho and he was certainly married to the lady whose surname was Partridge. I can only just remember her - Aunt Peggy. I took Barney's funeral on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1993 in All Saints, Morston, Norfolk, where he had lived for many years after Peggy died (of cancer). Eurnest is what the service sheet says, so I guess that is correct"*.

So Sam Prescho's parents were Christopher Prescho, and Margaret Lowther. Christopher began the leather business in Belfast with a partner named Balmer at some time in the early 1870s. He then took it over himself, and as his sons matured, he expanded it to include Sam and his brother Christy.

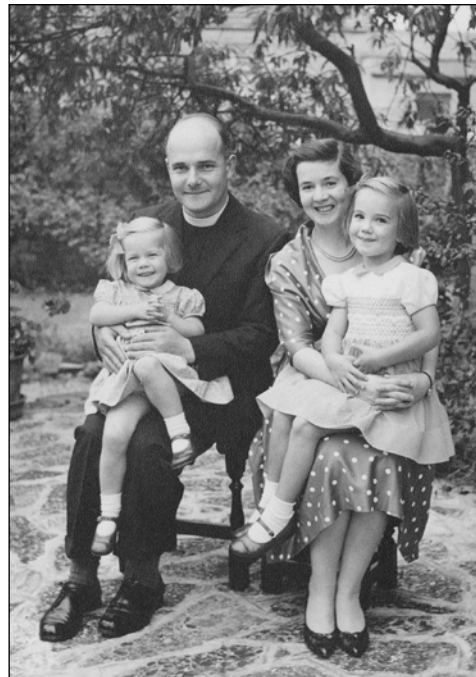


## Desmond Victor Treanor 1928

Des took a theology degree at Durham University in 1953 and went straight into the Church.

He married Dorothy Forster (Dot) in St John's chapel (St Mary the less) in Durham on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1954. Dot was born in June 1929 in Consett, Co Durham. Her father Herbert Emerson Forster was a farmer. Her mother was Martha.

Des was ordained deacon in 1954 and became curate of St Thomas in Oakwood until 1957, when he moved to St Andrews in Sudbury. He became vicar of St Stephens, Lansdown, Walcot in the diocese of Bath and



Des and Dot with Susan and Christine

**TREANOR, Desmond Victor.**—St. Jo. Coll. Dur. B.A. (3rd cl. Th.) 1953, Dipl. Th. 1954. d 1954. Kens. for Lon. p 1955 Lon. C. of St. Thos. Oakwood, 1954-57; St. Andr. Sudbury, 1957-59; V. of St. Steph. Lansdown, Walcot, Dio. B. & W. from 1959. St. Stephen's Vicarage, Richmond Place, Bath, Somt. (Tel. Bath 60864.)

Des in Crockfords clerical directory



Family picture at my mother's funeral in 2002, with Des and Dot in the middle, and Terence and Mary behind them. Tim is just behind Des. I am to the left of them with Tiffany and Evie

Back row: Kate, Emma, Lottie, Will, Second row: Tim, Georgie Sue Vicky and Sarah, Christine. Front row: Peter, Eddy, Dot, Des, and Polly.



Wells from 1959, living at the vicarage in Richmond Place.

I remember visiting Des and Dot in Bath, for the baptism of their son Timothy Treanor. Des was my godfather, and I was to be Tim's. Their parish included one of the grand crescents that Bath is famous for.

After that they moved to Derby, where I again visited them on my way back to Manchester University. I also recall visiting him in Leicestershire, where he was the rural dean in 1991. Des is a very talented painter.

Des and Dot's son Timothy served with the Royal Engineers for 23 years (he commanded the Ghurka Engineers in Bosnia) and rose to the rank of Lt. Col. When he retired from the army he took a first in Theology at Oxford University, and was ordained in 2008 aged 46, keeping up at least two family traditions.

Tim's marriage to Emma Barnes was announced in *The Times* 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1985.

Des died on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015. His funeral was on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at St Peter & St Paul in Great Bowden where he had been rector.

## Terence Gerald Treanor 1929

Terence read history at St John's College, Oxford, where he met Mary Palmer who was at St Hughes. They met at a punt party on Midsummer's Day 1950, and married on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1955 in Plymouth.

Mary was born in Stonehouse, Plymouth in September 1931. Her father was a banker named Reginald W Lakeman Palmer, and her mother was Elizabeth Mary Lane Grose.

After curacies in London and Cambridge he became the youngest Vicar of St Mary's in Doncaster, where he stayed from 1960-1966. He was co-opted onto the Borough Education Committee.

I remember visiting him in Doncaster while I was at university, and being very impressed by his daughter Elizabeth's playing on the violin. I also recall him being much more sympathetic to Labour politics than the rest of the family. Des calls him "Tot".

In 1966 he returned to Oakham School as Chaplain and Head of Religious Education, and stayed on well past the usual retirement age. He was a housemaster for 15 years. He refereed rugby matches, and played for the staff against the boys, but hung up his boots when he reached 40. He was Secretary of the Old Oakhamian Club.

Since retiring Terence and Mary have settled into a quieter life, but Terence continues to take services on most Sundays, and Mary teaches music (unpaid) at the local primary school. They both help children learning to read.





Mary is a talented musician. She ran the music department at a primary school in Oakham, where she built up an orchestra of over 70 pupils, and plays the organ in local parishes.

Elizabeth Treanor, their eldest daughter, was a violinist. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music, and at the prestigious Juilliard in New York. She was a soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic. I recall one of her early concerts, as soloist in

Tchaikovsky's violin concerto at the Barbican. The concert was sold out, and I had to queue for a returned ticket. She died of pneumonia in February 2014

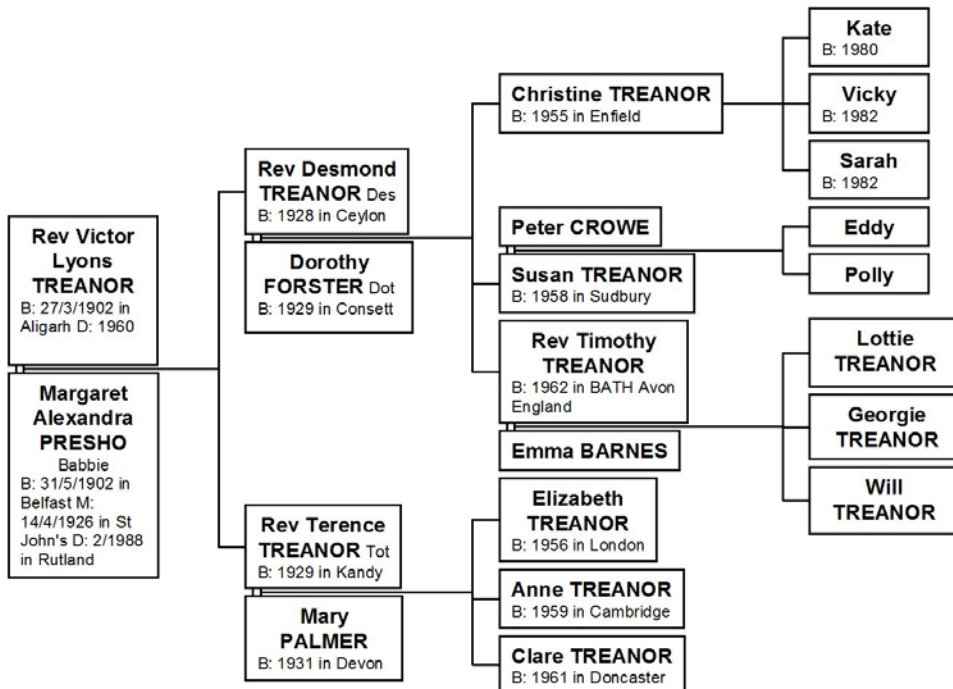
Anne Treanor is their second daughter. She went to Bedford College, London University where she read French. She is married to a special needs teacher, Mike, and has a little boy called Joe. They live in Glastonbury, and Anne works with Relate.

Clare Treanor, their youngest, was born in Doncaster. She got a First in Russian at London University, and is a member of the Hansard team at the House of Lords.

Terence with  
Gran, Nancy, Alan  
and Aunt Evie



Notice from  
*The Times* for  
Elizabeth's concert  
at the Barbican



## CHAPTER 19

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# Nancy Treanor

### Annie Eveleen Treanor 1905-1990

Nancy and Alan's  
wedding

Nancy was born in Agra on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1905 and baptised Annie Eveleen, after her mother and aunt. We always knew her as Auntie Nancy. My Treanor cousins sometimes called her N, just as my father was B and his other sister was M.

She spent a lot of her childhood with her brother Victor. I found them returning with their parents on the Massilia from Bombay and arriving in Liverpool on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1909, shortly before Nancy was five. In the 1911 census she was staying with the Warren family in Blackrock, Dublin. It must have been a rather lonely childhood. Victor was staying elsewhere in Dublin. They do not appear to have lived with their parents for any extended period of time after 1909.

I next came across her in June 1927, when



the minutes of the CMS show that her father obtained “£40 towards cost of daughter Nancy going to India”.

Nancy was in Ceylon while her brother Victor was out there as a planter. I found a record of her returning from Ceylon on the Barrabool, docking in London on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1931. This was four or five months after Victor came back. She was described as a nurse.

She married a Scottish accountant: Alan Malcolm McCaul Watson in 1932. They never had children. According to my father,

Bertram, Nancy  
and Margery in  
April 1924



she married him “*on the rebound*” from some other failed relationship. I vaguely remember that her unhappy romance occurred in Ceylon. Des thinks it was with a doctor.

The way I found out about that is rather amusing. I was about eleven, and doing the washing up with my father at Hanworth, and asked him something that promoted him into birds and bees territory. He was unprepared, and ended up getting me totally confused. He told me that when people got married, God sent them children. He got across the basics, although he was not strong on the biology of it, which I learned some time later from school. Anyway, I rather cheekily pointed out that sometimes God got it wrong, resulting in unmarried mothers. And what about Auntie Nancy – she was married but did not have any children. That was when he told me that there was something not right about their marriage, and that he had tried to persuade her to get the marriage annulled. He implied that some time after the wedding it was still unconsummated. But Nancy insisted that she had made her vows and would stick with



Alan and Nancy  
in Lowestoft in  
August 1934



them. She was always very loyal to Alan whenever I was around.

I found Alan’s business number in the telephone directory in 1928, as a chartered accountant. In 1937 he was living at 4 Coleherne Road, SW10. This is just around the corner from West Brompton tube station. He was still there in 1950.

By the time I was sent to stay with them aged eight or nine, they were living at 41 Bentham Way, in Ealing. They are in the 1953 telephone directory at that address. It is just around the corner from Haven Lane, where Grannie Treanor lived. While I was there he gave me a stamp album and tried to introduce me to the delights of stamp collecting, letting me choose from his box of swaps, and showing me his most prized collections. He wore galoshes to go out in the rain – the only time I ever came across such a thing. They are a kind of rubber boot that you slip over your leather shoes to stop them getting wet. Freud would have described him as “*anal retentive*”.

Alan Malcolm  
McCaul Watson

I have no idea how he met Nancy, or where. But I have managed to trace his origins in Scotland. He was born on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1894 in Partick, Glasgow.

From this I traced Alan’s father’s birth registration, which is barely legible. Des tells



Margery and  
Nancy in  
Crowborough

me Alan's father was a woollen manufacturer in Yorkshire prior to retiring to Cookham, Berkshire. He was Malcolm McCaul Watson, and recorded on Alan's birth registration as a manufacturer and salesman. Alan's mother was Mary Rosemund Gibson. They were married in Paris on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1892.

Alan's paternal grandparents were Robert Kier Watson, a manufacturer and businessman from Glasgow, and Isabella McCaul, who were married on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1862.

Nancy and  
Margery in their  
thirties



On Boxing Day, the whole family gathered at Hanworth rectory. It was a huge house, with plenty of space to accommodate them all. After lunch, I was sometimes told to take Uncle Alan for a walk. He was the most boring man, with clipped speech, and darting looks. He walked along smartly with a cane swinging swiftly back and forth in his right hand, clicking on the ground every couple of paces. And he blew tunelessly through his teeth whenever the conversation ran dry.

Aunt Evie and  
Nancy outside  
Nancy's house in  
Brighton



Not long after Grannie died Alan retired and they bought a bungalow at 46 Highbank, Westdene at the back of Brighton. As children we visited quite often. Aunt Evie went to live with them. She had a bit of a wicked streak, and used to delight in winding Alan up. Poor old Nancy was desperately trying to keep the peace.

Nancy was very kindly, and helpful, and rarely expressed strong views on anything. She always had a sweetie tin to hand when we visited. The house was very trim and tidy. I remember her as old fashioned, and a bit out of touch with the world of the sixties. She once said she thought Neville Shute's books were a bit racy. I was reading *On the Beach* which was a big hit at the time, dealing with the aftermath of a nuclear war, and *A Town Like Alice* which was made into a film.

Alan died in 1970. I did not see much of Nancy after my father died. There were no more family gatherings at Christmas. Before long I moved to Scotland.

After Margery retired I once took my children Tiff and Tam to visit her and Nancy at Helen and Stan's flat in Wadhurst. I saw them both again just a year before they died, in Crowborough. By that time Nancy was quite frail, and living in a nursing home. I introduced them to Pam. She told Pam that her husband Alan had been a "*great man, a truly great man*". I could only smile.

## CHAPTER 20

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# Margery Treanor

### **Margery Lilla Treanor 1911-1990**

Margery was the youngest of my father's siblings, born in Azamgarh in India, not far from the border with Nepal on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1911 and baptised by her father on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1912 at Trinity Church, Azamgarh. His occupation is given as CMS honorary chaplain.

Margery joined the Church Missionary



**Margery Treanor**

Society, and worked most of her life around Lucknow, where her father had been. I found a number of records of her travels back to the UK from India.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> 1939 she arrived in Liverpool on a ship called Cilicia (Anchor Line) which sailed from Bombay via Karachi, Suez, Port Said, Marseilles, and Gibraltar. She gave her address as 45 Kidbrook Park Road, Blackheath, and is shown as a missionary, whose permanent residence is in India.

**Aunt Evie with  
Margery and  
Bertram, taken at  
the Royal Westgate  
Studio in Bath in  
about 1928**

Margery playing  
tennis in June  
1934



Bertram and  
Margery on a walk



This is just before the outbreak of the second world war in September 1939 when the Germans invaded Poland. They had already invaded Czechoslovakia. Margery would have been 29 years old.

I found her in the CMS Committee Index, which lists every decision of the committee concerning her.

Margery's CMS  
record

Treanor, Miss M. I.			
Vol.	Page	Description of Matter	Date
97	472	Acceptance as missionary for U. Prov.	June 9, 1937
	475	Located to United Provinces	
104	201	Closed probation from 1.1.48	March 10, 1948
106	244	Grant from Travel Fund	May 9, 1951
109	469	Approval of appointment as Asst. Organizer for Women's Work, Lucknow Diocese	May 13, 1953
109	460	To receive rent allow. of £5.20 p.m.	November 13, 1954

From this we can see that she joined CMS on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1937 and was sent to United Provinces, where her father had been. On 13<sup>th</sup> May 1957 she was appointed as Assistant Organizer for Women's Work in Lucknow Diocese.

She arrived in London on a ship called Asturias from Bombay via Aden and Port Said on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1950.

I remember a visit from her at Handen Road around that time, when she was back on furlough. She spent hours laughing and talking with my parents, and at the age of 5 I recall feeling a bit left out of it.

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 1955 she arrived in London on the Corfu, from Bombay via Aden and Port Said. She is described as a missionary, and gives her mother's address in Ealing.

I then found her in the passenger list of a ship called the Strathaird, arriving in London from India on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1959. She is listed as a teacher, and again gives Grannie's address in Ealing.

In the photo above of Bertram and Margery walking along a path they both look to be in their twenties. I wonder if they met up when Bertram came home from Argentina on furlough in 1935? It is probably more likely to have been taken soon after the outbreak of war in 1939. They both returned home that year, Margery in August, and Bertram at the end of October.

Margery retired some time in the eighties,





**My favourite picture of Margery, at the summit of what looks like Snowdon**

and lived in Crowborough with Connsie. They had been close friends for a very long time in India. The picture below was taken by Connsie's brother when Margery gave him a birthday lunch.

Margery suffered from a stroke whilst visiting Inverness, and died on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1990 in Tunbridge Wells. While she was unconscious in hospital, her elder sister Nancy died in her nursing home in Crowborough. They had both left everything to each other in their wills. As a result they were both deemed to have died intestate. Each of their five nephews and nieces received an equal share

of their money, which turned out to be more than anyone had expected.

Margery had inherited some money from her mother, and looked after her investments very carefully. Des had helped her out several times thinking she was as poor as a church mouse. But it turns out that she thought she should only spend her earnings, and must look after her capital.

This made a huge difference to me. I was starting a new life in London after leaving Laurieston, and had just struggled to buy a house with Pam. Doug was a baby. It gave me the opportunity to set up a software company with the National Housing Federation, which I eventually bought from them in 1995. It was a very successful enterprise, and quite changed our fortunes. So I have always felt a great depth of gratitude to Margery and Nancy.

I recall Elizabeth Treanor playing very beautifully on her violin at the funeral in All Saints Church in Crowborough, where Margery was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1990.



**Margery with Connsie at Crowborough**



## Part 5

# My parents

My father was born in Dublin, the son of missionaries who were away for most of his childhood in India. He spent ten years as a missionary in South America, returning to Oxford at the outbreak of the second world war. He took his degree there whilst running a parish and acting as chaplain to the local prison during the war.

He was a parish priest in Lee Green in south London, then at Hanworth in west London, and finally at Hove in Sussex. He died in his mid fifties from the same heart problems that took his father, his brother, and my nephew Tim, and would have taken my cousin Des and me in our sixties had it not been for the wonders of modern surgery. This is his story, and that of my mother and my sisters.



## CHAPTER 21

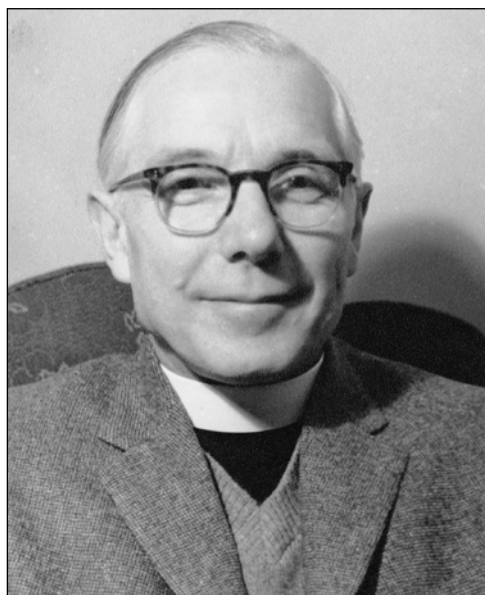
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# Bertram Treanor

### **Bertram Laurence Treanor 1910-1965**

Bertram was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1910 at 99 Moyne Road in Rathmines, Dublin while his parents were at home on furlough. He returned with them to Meerut in India in 1911, where his sister Margery was born on the day after Christmas.

I sometimes wonder where the name Bertram came from. A search on the internet reveals that it derives from the obsolete Old



**Bertram with  
Margery at St  
Leonards on Sea in  
Sept 1922 when he  
was 12 and she was  
10. Their parents  
were on furlough  
that year**

High German Berahttram (bright raven), a compound name composed from the elements beraht (bright, famous) and hraban (raven). The name and its variant Bertrand were introduced to England at the time of the conquest. There are no family antecedents I can find. It was a name around at that time: think of Bertrand Russell, or Bertram Mills Circus to pick two contrasting examples. His middle name Laurence was from his great grandfather, Dr Laurence Clark Kerans, whose portrait hung on the wall at Hanworth Rectory.

My father hated to be called Bert or Bertie.



His siblings had the strange habit of referring to each other by the letters of their names. So Bertram was “B”, Nancy was “N”, and Margery was “M”. I even heard my mother saying “B dear...”. And Des always refers to him as “Uncle B”.

I know little of my father’s childhood.



It was not particularly happy. He was left to board with strangers for most of the time while his parents worked in India. He struggled at school both academically and in sports, and left without metriculating.

Bertram joined the South American Missionary Society and sailed to Buenos Aires via Spain in July 1930. He was 20 years old.

From Buenos Aires they made their way by train to Resistencia in the Chaco region bordering Paraguay. I remember him describing the vast Pampas full of cattle

ranches, and gauchos on horseback.

In 1989 Pam and I did a similar journey, north on a 28 hour train journey from Buenos Aires, up past Uruguay and the Fray Bentos factory, to Posades for a visit to the Iguazo Falls. It was very little changed. We passed through sleepy towns where horses were almost as common as utility trucks.

After a day at the falls, we took a bus through Foz in Brazil and Ascuncion in Paraguay, on our way to Salta to meet the Bishop of North Argentina, David Leake. David was brought up in Argentina: both

This picture of Bertram with his mother was on the same roll of film as shots of him on the journey to South America, so must have been taken on a trip to the beach somewhere, shortly before he departed.



Olivia Leake, Bertram, and Dorothy Tompkins at Algarrobal

his parents were missionaries together with Bertram in the 1930s.

On 21<sup>st</sup> August 1930 Bertram arrived at Algarrobal, the largest mission station in the Chaco region. This was one of the poorest areas of Argentina, and the last to be developed. The native Indian population had managed to maintain their hunter gatherer existence in this isolated region, although this was increasingly under threat. Vast

Bertram with some companions at a stop at Vigo in Spain on the journey out. He is the one wearing the light trousers.

Dave with Rachel Leake at Mission Salim



irrigation schemes were replacing more and more of the forests with crops.

The missions each kept a journal in which they recorded every service held, numbers attending, the text and the sermon preached. These were rather like a ship's log, recording comings and goings, births and deaths, and mostly mundane matters.

Even when an exciting event occurred, the bare facts would be recorded. People were invariably referred to by their surnames, or as "The Bishop", even when the writer was referring to himself.

The first record of Bertram Laurence Treanor was in a visitors book, where his home address was shown (wrongly) as 45 Kidbroke Road, Blackheath, London SE3.

Algarrobal is now known as Mission Chacana. We found the following entries in the Algarrobal Journal:

21 Aug 1930 Treanor arrives from London

24 March 1931 Treanor sits Mataco exam

6 June 1931 Treanor's 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday

Dave at mission  
Salim with Rachel  
Leake and Indian  
women

5 Nov 1931

Treanor to Guemes to learn

Spanish

*I remember a story he once told me about this experience. He arrived not speaking a word of Spanish, to stay with a family. There he was met by the woman of the house, whose husband was out. He was too shy and uncertain of the language to explain that he was dying to use the toilet, and suffered discomfort for a couple of hours until her husband returned.*



18 Dec 1931 Treanor returns from Guemes

18 March 1932 BLT to Salta for eye test

6 Oct 1932 Treanor officiated at a funeral

25 Dec 1932 Treanor preached sermon

13 Feb 1933 News arrives from London of the death of Treanor's father.

His father had died on 20<sup>th</sup> January, and is buried in the churchyard at Blackheath. Bertram was just 22. I was 20 when Bertram died. There are echoes of a similar lack of understanding between us, although I feel my own father had much more grounds for concern!

Bertram drinking  
mate with his  
friend Nye



Bertram at  
Algarrobal

Shortly after his birthday he received a letter from his father, pointing out that he was now an adult and could not expect any further financial support from his parents. My father always described his own father as stern, cold and disapproving.

11 Aug 1931 Mataco grammar exam





A Señor Torro had repeatedly requested that they open a new mission at St Patricio, but plans for this were thrown into disarray by the illness of the person who was to lead it. My father and two of his colleagues, Cox and Grubb, fought hard to be permitted to do it without him. They were young and enthusiastic.

I met two or three elderly Indians at Chacana who remembered being taught in school by my father. They sung a song they had learned from him, and showed me the tin shack that was their classroom. He and his friends had developed a vegetable patch at the mission to improve the diet.

Funny that: I never saw my father do anything in the garden at home. He was hopeless at anything practical. He could barely boil an egg, and had to call for help from his curate to repair a fuse. But he always did the washing up.

The following entries are from the St Patricio journal, mostly in my father's own handwriting.

28 July 1933 *Work started on the first dwelling house*

5 Aug 1933 *Finished making 3500 adobes*

**Adobe** bricks are a natural building material made from sand, clay, water, and some kind of fibrous or organic material (sticks, straw, dung)

11 Aug 1933 *Started second dwelling house. Treanor's dog shot for persistent killing of goats.*

In another journal there was a story from around this time of Treanor going to court to speak up for some Indians accused of persistent trespass and allowing their goats to stray into the local farmland. The government had sold the land they had occupied since time

immemorial to the farmers, who regarded the Indians as pests.

The Anglican missionaries roused Churches back in England to raise funds to buy about 10,000 acres that was due to be sold by the government, so as to protect it as a home for the native people.

12 Nov 1933 *204 people living in the mission*

14 Jan 1934 *small girl in Abigo's village bitten very badly by alligator while drawing water.*

10 March 1934 *Don Brigido arrived in order to talk about a 'denuncio' which had been signed by several of our white neighbours against the mission for stealing. Mr Grubb accompanied Don Brigido down to Espirillo where they spoke with a few of those that had signed the 'denuncio' and finally came to the following terms:-*

(a) *all rifles should be confiscated from the Indians for an indefinite time.*

(b) *that no family should possess more than two dogs*

11 & 12 March *Collected guns of the Indians, storing them in the store.*

1 April 1934 *Received from Los Blancos from the Commissario a 'denuncio' which had been drawn up by Señor Gregorio Pay and sent to Don Brigido in town.*

6 April 1934 *Mr Grubb and Mr Treanor went to Espirillo to see Snr Gregorio Pay but arrive to find him already mounted ready to leave for town, thus there was no opportunity for conversing with him.*

7 April 1934 *Messrs Grubb and Cox went to see Don Brigido about the 'denuncio' and arranged that those who had signed the denuncio should meet at Resistencia on the Monday in order to talk over things and try to come to some agreement.*

The South America Handbook describes

Resistencia as the bustling, hot and energetic capital of the Province of Chaco.

9 April 1934 *Messrs Grubb and Treanor went to Resistencia and lunched there. After lunch no one had arrived. They, accompanied by Don Brigido went to Espirillo in the car, where they met a few of the 'protesters' but*



Bertram driving the V8 Utility

*no agreement was come to at all beyond a suggestion made by Mr Grubb that the worst offenders (stealing) should be transferred temporarily to Algarrobal.*

10 April 1934 *In the evening we collected the people together and told them our intention of sending some of them to Algarrobal. The suggestion was taken all round fairly favourably.*

16 April 1934 *Severiano left with 40 odd people for Algarrobal, consisting of some of Allito's people and some Halwo's. They left quite happily.*

12 May 1934 *Camion arrived from Pilcamayo with the Bishop and Messrs Grubb and Tomkins, also Indians Marcelina and husband Nicanos.*

13 May 1934 *Mr Treanor licensed to be a lay preacher.*

14 May 1934 *Car left with the Bishop, Messrs Grubb and Tomkins for Algarrobal.*

30 Sept 1934 *First service in the school.*

28 Nov 1934 *First church council meeting*

*to decide those ready for baptism.*

14 May 1935 *First baptisms (followed by a list of names)*

2 June 1935 *The Bishop confirmed first converts (28) in the school.*

25 June 1935 *Treanor left for furlough accompanied as far as the line by Feliz.*

I found a record of his arrival in London on board the Highland Brigade on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1935, having: boarded at La Plata in Argentina.

27 June 1935 *Cox arrives to take over the Chaco mission in the absence of Treanor.*

4 Oct 1936 *Treanor ordained (in England)*

I found Bertram in the 1936 electoral roll at St John's Hall, a residential theological college in Highbury, Islington. The college



Everitt, Dorothy  
Everitt, Bertram,  
Marcelina and  
Nicanos in front  
of the new school

was damaged by an air raid in 1942 and moved first to Wadhurst School and later to Nottingham, where it remains today.

9 Nov 1936 *The staff of St Patricio travel to the line to meet Rev Treanor on his return, but he was sick at Algarrobal*

13 Nov 1936 *Treanor arrives from Algarrobal by train.*

19 Nov 1936 *Rev Treanor's new wireless arrives on train*

6 Jan 1937 *White settler kills an Indian*

6 Feb 1937 *Revenge killing*

5 March 1937 *Everitt and wife join staff and start to build the church.*



St Patricio Church



Rev B A Tomkins, Bishop Every, and Rev B L Treanor at consecration of the church



St Patricio font, and DT with Pastor Ezekiel at Mission Carboncito where it is now



23 Oct 1937 Treanor left for Buenos Aires to be ordained priest.

15 Nov 1937 Rev Treanor returned.

1 May 1939 The children's school numbers 120. The adult school too is

St Patricio mission

16 March 1937 Work begins on the foundations of the church.

4 April 1937 Treanor makes record three and three-quarter hour trip in Sulky from Los Blancos

19 April 1937 East gable of the church is completed.

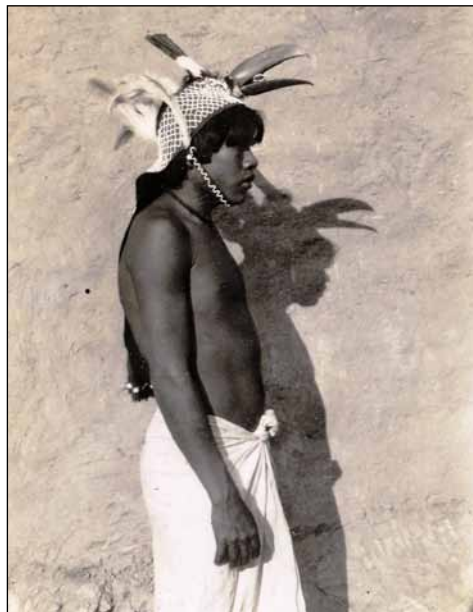
20 May 1937 Bathroom added to Treanor's house

22 May 1937 Church is finished

25 May 1937 Church is consecrated

5 Oct 1937 Treanor sits priest's exams

**Sulky** is a lightweight cart with two wheels and a seat for the driver only but usually without a body. It was pulled by horses or dogs, and is used for harness races.



Puchagaik, described on the back as one of our brightest boys - helps Price with much of his language work





Photo by my father of children bathing near St Patricio

*growing in numbers.*

21 June 1939      *Mr Treanor to La Tuacal on medical trip*

18 July 1939      *Hungarian doing oil/petrol survey*

13 Aug 1939      *Mr Treanor called at Algarrobal to arrange furlough*

20 Sept 1939      *Rev Treanor resigned from SAMS and left for London via Buenos Aires.*

In 1953 200 copies of the bible in Mataco arrived and were rapidly sold out. In January 1954 a measles epidemic hit the mission; many Indians leave spreading the disease. 37 people died before it was over in February.

More of the Indians of South America were wiped by diseases brought over by Europeans than from any other cause.

My father talked about his journey home in 1939. The war had begun with the German invasion of Poland on 1<sup>st</sup> September

1939. The harbour at Buenos Aires was full of German warships, though Argentina was notionally neutral in the war. The hotel he stayed in was full of Nazi officers. He had real problems finding a berth on a ship to England. They half expected to be sunk as soon as they left the neutral territory of the harbour, and had a frightening voyage home.

I found his name on the passenger list of the Highland Chieftain, of the Royal Mail Lines, which sailed from La Plata via Rio to the port of London, arriving 30<sup>th</sup> October 1939.

Throughout my early teens my father ran a Kings Own camp with children from his parish in Hanworth, combining with those from other churches in London. The grand finale of this was always a bonfire night at which he told us stories of his adventures amongst the Indians in the Chaco.

That was fifty years ago, but I can remember at least the echoes of those stories.

There was one about a local chief dreaming that my father had acted disgracefully with one of his daughters. The Indians believed that what happened in your dreams was real, and he accused my father and there was a big row.

At one point he found the Indian women became very frosty with him, and stopped attending church. He found that he had been confusing the Mataco word for “evil” with the word for “woman”, and praying to “*deliver us from women.*”

Before they had the V8 utility truck it was a very long ride on horseback to the other mission, or to the nearest town for supplies. He obtained a bicycle with solid rubber tyres – it was just too easy to puncture inflatable tyres. This was a much quicker way of getting to town than on horseback, but it meant he had to go alone. One day he found himself trapped by a pack of wild boar, and had to climb a tree to escape them. They wrecked his bike, and he

Photos by my father of children at St Patricio





ended up having to walk for miles to get home.

I recounted this story to David Leake, the bishop, and he said “*but that happened to my father!*”. One of our fathers had clearly borrowed the story – who knows? It certainly kept a lot of teenagers spellbound, under the night sky, around a bonfire on the coast in Wales.

I had been told Bertram caught malaria, and became too ill to stay in Argentina. But that did not tie in with the contemporary journals I had read. There was just one reference to a medical visit. He certainly had malaria at one point, but if he had been invalided home, the journal would surely have said so.

I asked his sister Margery what had made him leave the mission. She said it was obvious: he was 29. There were relatively few missionary women. Two of them had married colleagues of his, and he knew he wanted his own family. I imagine these were Olivia Leake, and Dorothy Tomkins. The war forced him to make up his mind, and leave at short notice, or it might be impossible to get home.



## Oxford and Lee Green

Bertram went to Oxford when he got back, becoming curate at Marston Church and chaplain to Oxford gaol. He took his degree in classics at St Peter’s Hall Oxford, and tells me he went to regular tutorials, read and wrote essays, but only managed to attend two lectures during his whole time at the university. There was a war on at the time.

In Oxford he met my mother, Joan Nash. She told us that Bertram asked her out a few times before she accepted. She wanted



David and Rachel Leake with Pam on our way to the missions

Bertram and Joan on their wedding day

to enjoy life, and feared he might be narrow minded. She did not much fancy the idea of being a vicar’s wife. But eventually she found he was not at all like that, and said “*he knew how to let his hair down*”.

He was living in Oxford in the vicarage at 12 Polstead Road, and my mother was at 4 St Margaret’s Road when they married on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1943. She was Major Joan Eagles Nash of the Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Nursing Service. The wedding was at St

St Patricio

Joan in a punt at Oxford before she met Bertram (right)

Bertram, Joan, Dave and Margaret in the porch at Handen Road (below right)

Letter to Bertram from Helen aged 14 (below left)

Peter le Bailey in Bertram's college at Oxford, and the witnesses were Joan's father, Chunky (Henry E Nash), Helen Nash her sister, and Rev Victor Lyons Treanor vicar of Christ Church Lowestoft, Bertram's elder brother.

Joan's sister Mary arranged a hotel for their honeymoon, in Brighton, where Mary worked at the hospital. But when they arrived, there was no record of the booking. The clerk on reception said to him *"if you and your daughter would like to wait over there, we will try to find a hotel that can take you"*.



My mother pulled herself up to her full four foot nine inches and declared *"I am not his daughter, I am his wife!"* She had won a bet only a few months earlier that she could pass for a child on a bus.

Soon after their marriage he became vicar of St Mathews in Oxford. They were living at 118 Abingdon Road when Margaret Ailsa Treanor was born, on Christmas Eve 1943.

In 1944 they moved to Handen Road, Lee Green in South East London, where Bertram became vicar of The Church of the Good

15 Ashley Park South,  
Aberdeen.  
16/9/42.

Dear Bertram,  
Congratulations, on your engagement  
I am sure you will find Joan a nice  
little wife. She is very sweet (and to  
tell you the truth secretly, she is my  
favourite sister.) I am sure you will be  
very happy. When she was home on leave  
she told me such a lot about <sup>you</sup> that  
I feel I already know you. Although  
I am longing to meet you in person.  
I have been in bed with the flu.  
This is my first day up.  
Joan will be home on leave again  
very soon. But I do hope she will  
not go abroad. Hoping to see you very  
soon, And that it won't be long to the  
time when you will be another one in our  
large family.  
Love  
Helen.







**The vicarage in  
Handen Road, Lee  
Green**

Shepherd. I was born in a nursing home in Lewisham while they were living there just before the war in Europe ended, on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1945.

My sister Jane was born four years later, on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1949. She was a small baby when we moved to Hanworth Rectory in 1950.

I have a few memories of life at Handen Road. I loved the cherries from the two cherry trees in the garden. I fell out of the tree next to the garage and into a pile of manure, from which I got a septic leg.

At four years old I was allowed to walk with my friend David to and from the kindergarten. We used to play on the local bomb sites, on our own, and with other kids from the neighbourhood. There were very few cars in those days, and it was quite normal for children as young as four to play in the streets unsupervised. Compared with the horrors of the war, just ended, the risks we faced were of little significance.

My father had a curious mix of very liberal views and heartfelt conservatism. In the years of rationing following the war, students coming from Africa to the universities in London found it very hard to get lodgings. My parents had plenty of spare room in the vicarage. So we had a succession of young Africans living with us. They brought coconuts, bananas, and peanut butter with them, which were rare treats, and all sorts of curry spices. My parents both loved curries.

A young soldier brought a Greek girl back with him just after the war, and asked

my father to marry them. She could speak no English, and he could barely speak any Greek. So he gave them language lessons in amongst the wedding preparations, and drew on his classical Greek in an attempt to make sure that they each had at least some idea of what the other expected from a marriage.

My parents actively boycotted the corner shop on our street because the shopkeeper there broke the rationing restrictions by offering black market groceries to those willing to pay the extra.

## Hanworth

St Georges Church in Hanworth was a challenging post for my father. There were barely a dozen people at communion on his first Sunday.

It was an historic church, attached to a hunting lodge belonging to Henry VIII, where he courted Anne Boleyn. The original lodge was long gone, and replaced by some very grand apartments, with ornate gardens full of topiary. My father contributed to a book on its history: I have a copy.



**St George's  
Church  
Hanworth**

### Hanworth Rectory in the fifties

In front of this was Hanworth Air Park, where fighter planes took off from grass runways during the war. The old hangars had been turned into the *International Forwarding Agency* that packed up air freight, delivered all day long in large lorries. At the bottom of our front drive was an anti-aircraft gun emplacement.

The Rectory was huge, and set in 40 acres of what had been farmland, in a dairying area, about 13 miles west of central London. In the year before we arrived the grounds were sold to the council to create a recreation park with tennis courts, a bowling green, several football pitches, and a new library. The garden of Hanworth Rectory was reduced to 12 acres.

There was a very old wooden tithe barn, a carriage shed and a gardener's cottage. Given the terrible shortage of housing after the war, my parents let the cottage to a gypsy family. Jane and I will forever remember the mother shouting for her little boy to come in for his dinner "Alfoy!".

They kept moving their garden fence a few feet further, thinking my parents wouldn't notice. They did, but said nothing.

The tithe barn was used by Shem and George (a Jew and a gypsy) a couple of rag and bone merchants who also ran a scrap metal business from there. They were supplied



by tinkers and people that went around the streets with horses and carts calling for "any old iron".

My friends and I built track bikes from the broken bits and pieces we found on the scrap metal heap, and rode around the rough tracks in the neighbourhood. This really was on the edge of London at that time.

The parish was changing fast. The dairy farms had been bought by the council and Bucks Farm was becoming the Bucks Farm Estate. A population of 7,000 in the parish when my father arrived had turned to more than 20,000 by the time he left ten years later. Most of them were poor, and living in council houses. Heathrow Airport was opened about five miles away, providing employment.

My parents worked hard to build up the church congregation. I remember my father complaining that they needed more middle class and professional people to provide leadership in the community. There were too many council houses and not enough private estates being built.

He started a youth club: you could only attend if you went to the church. Anyone who brought a new person to the church was given

Iris, Margaret, Bertram holding Jane, Dave, Joan, and Anne, in the porch at Hanworth Rectory while Iris and Anne were living with us



a badge in front of the whole congregation at the family service held at 11.30 am every Sunday morning. I got my badge for bringing Paddy Langham.

Anyone who came to the early communion service on a Sunday morning was invited back to the rectory for breakfast, and to play in the grounds. By this time my mother was supplementing their meagre income with eggs and meat from a large flock of chickens. Everyone got boiled eggs and cereals, on long trestle tables. These tables were then paired up and turned into table tennis tables.

Every summer the youth club went camping. This was a very cheap holiday for children from poor families, in ex-army tents on campsites in Devon, Cornwall, Wales, Anglesey, and the Isle of Wight. They were called the Kings Own camps: Christ being the King of course!

These camps grew out of an idea that began at Lee Abbey, an evangelical community near Lynton in Devon. My father was one of the young clergy that started camps for young Christians there. Another was Canon Scantlebury, commonly known as Scant. I was at school with his son Julian.

One year the campers were almost washed away by the great flood that engulfed Lynton and Lynmouth in August 1952. The campers spent the night on the flat roof of a café by the beach at Lee Bay, watching the waters

rushing past them carrying all sorts of debris, including cars, out to sea.

My earliest memories of holidays were under canvas, at Lee Abbey. My father was in charge, and my mother ran the kitchen tent. I will never forget the smell of burnt porridge!

As a result of all this endeavour St George's Church became full to overflowing. And we had a series of curates living with us. We also had dry rot in the Rectory.

The rector gets free accommodation as part of his living, but is responsible for maintaining the rectory: great big house, very small income. Every few years the ecclesiastical authorities carried out an inspection. And they found dry rot in a structural beam. So they loaned my father the money to pay for the works, but deducted the loan repayments from his miserable stipend.

We could never afford to heat the house. There were hooks for our coats behind the door of the living room, which was kept warm with a coke fire. Going to bed we first took up a hot water bottle, and then raced into our pyjamas and under the blankets before we froze to death. Jack Frost painted pretty patterns on the windows.

As part of the repair works, the back wing was separated off as accommodation for the curate and his wife (Tony Betts). The enormous front bedrooms were divided in two. And we had a series of lodgers, also supplementing the household income.

My parents were resourceful, and made the most of what they had! But they could no longer afford my school fees. I hurriedly took the eleven plus exam (the only person from my prep school to do so) and went to Hampton Grammar.

Grandad and Nanna lived in Monson Terrace in Tunbridge Wells, with a swimming



A Kings Own camp



**Nanna and  
Chunky with  
Bruce outside  
their home in  
Monson Terrace,  
Tunbridge Wells**

pool at the end of their road. My grandfather, Chunky, became ill. I think he had bladder cancer. They came to live with us. Chunky recuperated by sorting out the walled garden. He penned my mother's chickens into one end, and grew great crops of vegetables at the other. Then the next year the chickens changed ends, and he grew even more vegetables where they had been. His garden shed was full of First Prize notices from the local flower show, which was held at the recreation ground on the other side of Hanworth.

This was not to be confused with the Church Fête which was held every year at Hanworth rectory. A great marquee went up on the lawn, and a stage was erected, and there were stalls and fairground roundabouts, and a whole series of theatrical and comic performances and competitions on stage. I remember one year it was opened by Nancy Roberts who played Granny Grove in one of the first television soaps. She had learned her craft at a drama club run at my father's church hall in Oxford, together with Margaret Rutherford, and a number of other people who became well known subsequently.

On Boxing Day, the whole family gathered at Hanworth rectory. It was a huge house, with plenty of space to accommodate them.

Despite never having two brass farthings to rub together, my parents always invested as much as they could in our education. Margaret went to St Brandons in Cleveland,



I went to St Lawrence College, in Ramsgate, and Jane to St Leonards School near Hasting. They always managed to find someone willing to help them pay the fees.

My mother went out to work at Nestlé's chocolate factory in Hayes to help pay the bills. After a while my mother went back to nursing, and soon became night casualty sister at the West Middlesex Hospital in Isleworth, where she gained the nickname "sputnik" because she scuttled around the corridors at such great speed despite her small stature, rather like the first Russian satellites racing around the Earth.

My father's first car was an old Austin 8, bought a year or two before we left Hanworth. My mother learned to drive by taking it round and round the lawn. She needed it to cope with his failing health.

Before his fiftieth birthday, my father

**The main stage at  
a Church Fete at  
Hanworth**



suffered the first of a number of heart attacks. He was in hospital for several weeks, and the parish was looked after by a succession of visiting vicars, one of whom was William Walker, who ran a little local preparatory school. He always brought a senile old vicar with him to assist at communion. The parishioners quite liked Willie, but did not get along with the older man. I went camping with him with the kids from his school, and he bought me my first ever pint of bitter, even though I was only 16.

It turned out that Willie was a fraud and had never been ordained. Yet he had conducted weddings and funerals, and taken countless services. This was all very embarrassing for the church – the marriages had to be done all over again because he was not licensed to do them. It was a great scandal, and my poor father, not long out of hospital, had to go to court to testify at his trial. Walker got seven months.

I was a pretty ungrateful wretch. In the latter years I hated my boarding school, where I was regularly caned and in trouble, usually for forgetfulness, or being cheeky in some way. The headmaster had been at school with my father, except that he was academically brilliant, and became captain of the England Hockey Team, whereas my poor old father had hay fever and never excelled at anything at school. He had some incredibly old fashioned ideas and a very narrow view of Christianity. We were not allowed to play ball games on Sundays, and spent long hours in the chapel.

Trips to central London were quite rare, but I can recall a few. We always ate lunch at Lyons Corner House near Trafalgar Square. This was a large self-service restaurant. I now wonder whether Dad was attracted to it because Lyons was his grandfather's name, and was common in his ancestry.

## RECTOR SAYS HE WAS GRATEFUL TO "PARSON"

### MAN ON MARRIAGE CHARGES

William Frederick Walker, aged 33, who was principal of a private school at Ferry Road, Teddington, Middlesex, visited him in hospital, sometimes wearing a clerical collar "as if he were a parson", the former Rector of Hanworth, Middlesex, the Rev. Bertram Laurence Treanor, said at Feltham Magistrates' Court, Middlesex, yesterday.

Walker, said to be of no fixed address, appeared on remand on nine charges of solemnizing marriages by falsely pretending to be a clergyman, between January 30 and October 1, 1960. He was sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court on all nine charges. He pleaded Not Guilty, reserved his defence and called no witnesses. He was granted bail in two sureties of £500 each.

### "FEES HANDED OVER"

Mr. Treanor, now Vicar of Old Church, Hove, said that all fees for marriages performed by Walker were handed to him (Mr. Treanor) either by Mr. Smith, his verger, or Walker. "I was quite content for him to take the services—indeed very grateful", he added.

Mr. Arthur Ernest Smith, of Rookeries Close, Hanworth, the verger of St. George's Church, Hanworth, said that Walker officiated at weddings at the church in July and September, 1960.

The Vicar of All Saints, Hampton, Middlesex, the Rev. John Leslie St. Clair Garrington, produced the marriage register of his church for October to December, 1960, and said that Walker conducted services and marriages for him at the church.

"Believing him to be in holy orders, I invited him to do so", Mr. Garrington said. "At our first meeting I understood him to say that he was in holy orders, and that he had a licence to officiate in the diocese of Southwark. I asked him to get a licence from the Bishop of London so that he could legally officiate at my church."

Mr. Garrington said that Walker always paid him the fees for the marriages Walker performed. "I offered them to Mr. Walker but he refused to accept them", Mr. Garrington added.

Margaret  
and David at  
Hanworth



On one occasion, when I must have been about five or six, my parents bought lunch for Margaret and me and sat us down to go back for food for themselves (and possibly Jane who would have been a baby). Naturally, we could not eat our food without grace, so as Mum and Dad walked back to the self-service counter, Margaret and I sang

*“Thank you for the world so sweet,  
thank you for the food we eat  
thank you for the birds that sing  
thank you God for everything”*

The whole restaurant fell silent in appreciation of this performance. My parents felt quite embarrassed. Margaret and I just tucked in to our meal.

The old vicarage at  
Sackville Road



The new vicarage  
at Vallance  
Gardens



## Hove

Eventually ill health made the work at Hanworth too much for my father, and they moved to a much quieter parish, at the Old Church of St Andrews in Hove. Buster the dog was too old and infirm to manage the change, and was put to sleep. We all had to reduce our possessions from filling a vast six bed mansion to fit into what seemed to us like a tiny three bedroom house in Hove.

This was the church Nanna and Chunky went to. They rented an apartment in Hova Villas, just around the corner.

The Old Church was not used to having a vicar with a family, and soon agreed to buy

a rather larger vicarage in Vallance Gardens, just a few minutes from the sea front at Hove.

My father was concerned about contemporary issues. He supported ecumenism and was in favour of family planning. He thought there was something fundamentally wrong with the way doctors kept people's bodies alive in homes and hospitals when dementia had taken away their minds, or they were suffering miserably from chronic and debilitating illness.

He wrote about these things in the parish newsletter, and became an easy target for local journalists in search of a story. In the Brighton and Hove Argus he was described as the “*Euthanasia vicar*”, and there was a cartoon of him in the boxing ring fighting the medical establishment.

For many years he was one of the authors of the Bible Reading Fellowship notes. He



practiced homeopathy, and in his latter years he was increasingly attracted by the healing ministry.

Ten years or more after his death, Jane and I found an old Dictaphone tape into which he had dictated letters to parishioners. We wanted to hear his voice again, but found what he had to say really quite disconcerting. No matter what the recipient's problem, God's love would solve it. Where someone had died, it was God relieving them of their suffering, and they would now be bathed by the warmth of his love. For others he held out the promise of healing, having felt the warmth passing through his hands when he touched them.

He was doing his job, giving comfort to people. My friends who met him described him as saintly. I remember Des telling me how strongly he felt the presence of God in him. All of this was, and remains, quite alien to me.

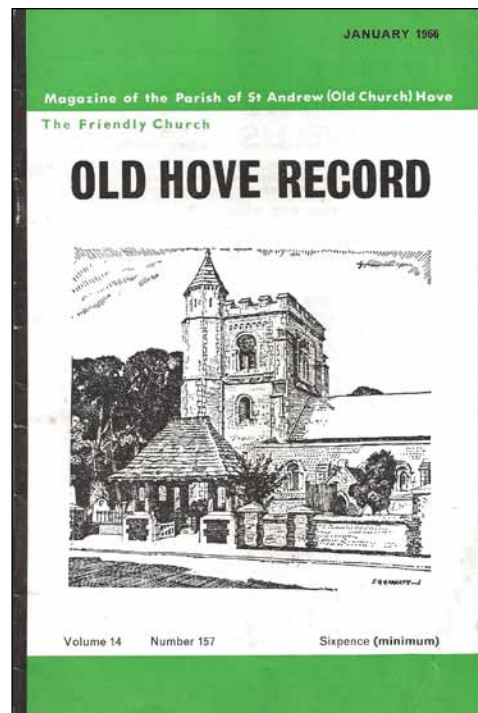
My sister Jane was much closer to my father than I was, and absolutely adored him. But she noticed that he had a particular problem with teenage boys – it was not just with me. She recounts an episode when our cousin Jenny came to stay at Hove, aged about sixteen. Her boyfriend drove from Wadhurst on his motorbike to visit her at our house. Dad opened the door to him and immediately sent him packing. He saw a young man dressed in bike leathers, and imagined the worst of him. He was not even allowed in to say hello to Jenny, and it never occurred to Dad to phone her mother to check if it was OK for Jenny to see Brian. Poor Brian was a very decent chap who really did not deserve such treatment. He became Jenny's husband.

Margaret had similar experiences when a boyfriend called on her. He had made the innocent mistake of sitting in Dad's chair in the living room. Dad turfed him out of it and interrogated him to see if he was suitable for

her, which was all hugely embarrassing for Margaret, who never brought a boy home again. This was a particular blind spot he had – in general he was the most gentle and caring man.

He died in my final year at university, in 1965. He had had a series of minor heart attacks over the previous six years. When he complained of chest pains one evening my mother called the doctor, who insisted it was indigestion. My mother disagreed – she was a nurse, and knew what she was talking about. But nurses were always taught to defer to doctors, and on this one occasion when she should have stood her ground, she did not. By morning he was in desperate pain and she called an ambulance. But by then the stroke had caused too much damage to his body. His organs were beginning to fail.

My mother made an official complaint against the doctor, who was not entirely sober when he had attended my father, and



Parish magazine with a black border when my father died

A painting of my father, done about a year after his death. I was feeling very inspired by the Picasso sculpture exhibition at the Tate, which I had visited earlier that day

he agreed to accept early retirement.

Margaret and I took it in turns to sit with my mother day and night at the hospital: she slept in the waiting room. After nearly two weeks at the hospital my mother was close to collapse from anxiety and exhaustion. We had just refused an operation that might have prolonged his life by a week or two, but with no hope of ever leaving his bed in hospital. He would not have wanted it. His kidneys had failed, and his liver too, and he was in steady decline. Margaret and I persuaded her to come home and get a good nights sleep to give her the strength to deal with what we all knew was inevitable.

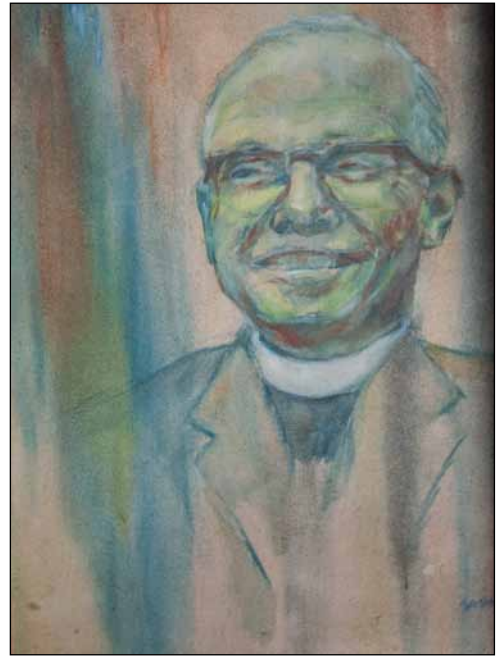
At one o'clock in the morning we had a call from the hospital to say that he had died. We all drove in to stand with my mother beside his dead body and say our farewells. It was 18<sup>th</sup> December 1965. He was 55 years old, two or three years younger than his own father when he died, and a year younger than his brother Victor.

The headline on the front page of the Brighton and Hove Argus was "*Euthanasia Vicar Dies*".

The church was packed for the funeral with people standing in the aisles. There were dozens of clergy, and friends from his old parish at Hanworth, and from further back in his life.

His ashes were laid in the garden of remembrance at the Old Church of St Andrews, on Christmas Eve 1965. My mother insisted we go out for a meal that night – it was Margaret's birthday, and we should celebrate it, and get on with our lives.

It was a devastating tragedy for my mother. When a vicar dies, he leaves nothing, and his family become homeless. His pension was worth next to nothing. My



mother took a whole succession of residential jobs, as nursing sister at children's homes, and later at Lancing College. My sisters and I did not really have a home any more, except what we made for ourselves.

I often wonder how my father and I might have got along had we been able to meet up later when I was a little older and perhaps wiser. Yet he had a similarly difficult relationship with his own father which he never resolved. His father died when he was 22, while he was in South America.

Des said about him: "*Uncle B., as he was known to me, was an extremely kind, enthusiastic man of deep and sincere convictions, which is why, I believe, he certainly did his best and did a good job according to his lights. He had the most amazing smile which I always felt radiated the love of God. That he had some strange ideas (haven't we all!) there is no doubt but I think he was much appreciated by many who shared his evangelical and homeopathic views and I shall always remember him as a thoroughly good man*".

## CHAPTER 22

# Joan Nash

### Joan Eagles Nash 1918-2002

Joan was born in Colchester on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1918, while her father was fighting in the second battle of the Somme in France. In April, a couple of months after her birth, he was gassed, and spent some time in a hospital, where he was able to buy little cards to send home. Jane has a whole collection of these.

Her father was Captain Henry Ernest Nash (1888-1960) who was serving with the East Lancashires. Her mother was Gertrude Violet Wagstaff (1896-1966), known as Vi to her friends and Nanna to us.



Joan and most of her sisters went into nursing. At the time of her marriage Joan was a major in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service (the QAs). She was in charge of a hospital treating airmen that had suffered terrible burns, that required a very high standard of barrier nursing.

Chunky's card home to his new daughter

Joan with her grandmother, Jessie Wagstaff (née Bloys)



**Major Joan Nash  
of the Queen  
Alexandra's  
Imperial Nursing  
Service**



There was a grand staircase at the rectory, which went straight up from the middle of the hall, and divided beneath an oval stained glass window of the lion and the unicorn, and continued left and right, with the rail going all the way round and down the other side. Here is a picture of Nanna and Chunky looking down from the top of the stairs

She tells a revealing story of her first visit to Bertram's mother at her home in South East London. As she sat in a chair with a cup of tea Grannie had made her, she absent mindedly wiped her finger across a shelf and looked at the dust it had collected. Gran saw her. She felt terribly embarrassed!

Joan was a very active vicar's wife for many years, running Young Wives groups, and the Mother's Union, and was the well organised manager of many of the events that my father ran.

Her parents came to live with us at Hanworth in the fifties. Chunky sometimes took me fishing at Sunbury weir. He and I always got along very well. He had a great sense of humour, and was always fun to be around. Not like Nanna, who was a right Tartar! There was a little secret I was sworn to keep about these fishing trips. Chunky would find a nice spot for me, and buy me a comic and some sweets, and then spent a long lunch

**Nanna with Jane  
in her pram me  
in the deck chair  
and Margaret on  
the ground, at  
Hanworth**



time in the local pub. He was not supposed to drink any more, possibly for health reasons. I know he once faced a court martial for drunkenness and was demoted, although overall he had a distinguished military career, and ended up a Lt Colonel. I never told.

After my father died, my mother was faced with a very difficult situation. She had to vacate the vicarage, and find some way to set up a new home with Jane still at school. For the first few weeks they lived in her mother's flat, while Nanna spent her last days in a nursing home. I was at University.



But Nanna died six months after my father. So Joan went to live with her sister Mary who was running a children's home on the outskirts of Oxford with her husband Phil. Jane continued at boarding school in St Leonards.

Things gradually improved. She managed to buy a house in Lullington Avenue in Hove.

She took a job as matron at a childrens' home near Chichester. Jane had a horrible time there. The boys would go through the bins pulling out her personal letters and things, and then tease her with them.

Jane got a place to study nursing at St Mary's Paddington, and Joan eventually got a job as matron at Lancing College.

During the school holidays she went caravanning around Europe with friends and relatives.



**Joan with some of her paintings, from the local paper in Nailsea**

Lancing College wanted her to live in the sanatorium so she would always be available 'on-call'. After two or three years she decided it was pointless keeping a house empty in Hove, and sold it.

I remembered a painting she had done when she was younger, and bought her some oil paints for Christmas to have a go. It proved the perfect hobby for her.

Then disaster struck again. She had disciplined one of the cleaning staff at the school when he was sent to clean the sanatorium, and he took his revenge by hiding behind the door of her bedroom and hitting her over the head with a chair when she went to go to bed. She fought him off and raised the alarm. But she was so traumatised by the assault that she could not possibly stay in the sanatorium, and took sick leave. She really was in a dreadful state, and carried a stick with her all the time. The man got a short prison sentence, but she always feared he would come after her again. The school was understanding for a while, but eventually she had to leave.

Through her church connections she was housed by St Richards Housing Association in Portslade. She never had a proper paid job again.

As she recovered she got back into travelling, and bought a Commer motor caravan. She was a regular visitor at Laurieston Hall, staying on her way up to visit her sister Mary at Tannis Court Farm in the Trossachs. She helped Mary running her bed and breakfast. After doing that for a while, Joan began working as a volunteer at the local tourist office in Callander.

St Richards threatened to evict her because she was away for so much of the time. They had a very paternalistic view of their role in housing the needy.

This prompted her to think hard about where she should live. She considered taking one of the cottages at Laurieston Hall, where she always fitted in very well on her visits. She taught us how to keep chickens, and to clip their wings so they could not fly out of the chicken run.

She applied to be housed in sheltered accommodation by Hanover, and they offered her a flat in Nailsea, about 15 miles out of Bristol, which was where Jane lived with Richard and their children. This was far enough from Jane for her not to be living on top of her, but convenient for keeping in close touch.

She spent many of the happiest years of her life in Nailsea, and had many friends there. She was a regular at her local church, and was one of the first in the district to use

**Joan at Laurieston. Dave with Tiffany on his shoulders. Her Commer van is just visible**





Our last holiday together in Switzerland, with Jane

an electric scooter: she campaigned to get dropped pavements at junctions so that she and others in her position could get around. She turned up at her MP's surgery where she could not get in because there was no dropped pavement in front of it, so he had to come out to see her. But she had made her point, and the whole incident got into the local paper.

Joan was very resourceful in getting around. She arranged trips to Venice and the Italian Lakes via a local tour company, and rail trips all over the country. When she got too old for that, Jane and I got into the habit of taking her on holidays together. Joan chose where to go, and often did quite a bit of the organising, and we took her. We had

The whole of the Nash family outside Hova Villas: Iris, Mary, Nanna, George, Chunky, Helen, Joan



a couple of memorable trips to Florence and Switzerland.

Joan moved into a local nursing home where she was very well cared for in the last year of her life. As she aged she lost more and more of her capabilities, but always adjusted and learned to make the most of whatever she could do. She was a great example to us all on how to grow old gracefully.

Joan died in June 2002. Des and Terence both preached at her funeral in the local church at Nailsea, where her ashes were scattered a few days later.

We can trace Joan's ancestry back a few generations. Her grandparents were working class. Her father's family were blacksmiths and her mother's (the Wagstaffs) were farriers and publicans. But that story is the subject of a separate book, *The Nash Story*. Meanwhile her family tree is on the page opposite.

Joan was the eldest of four sisters and a brother, all of whom did well for themselves.

Iris married a bank manager, Eric Dudley and had a daughter Anne, who married the son of a Lord, and became an interior designer.

Mary married Philip Hunt and together they ran children's homes. They had Sarah and Steven - Steve became a sea captain.

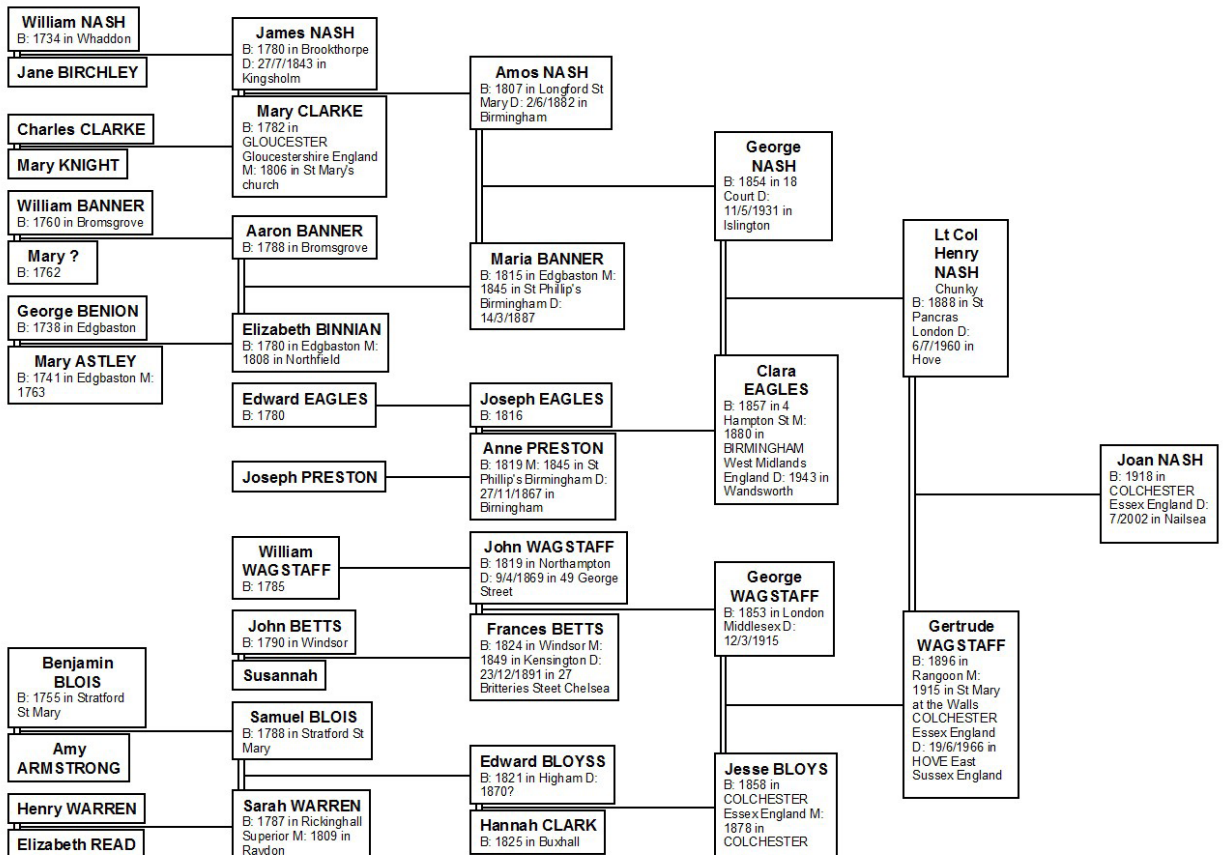
Helen married Trevor Marshall and lived in the Falkland Islands for a while. They had Jenny and Chris. After Trevor's early death from Multiple Sclerosis she married Stan and ran a pub in Wadhurst. Her daughter Jenny married Brian Elliot and went into teaching. Their son Mathew Elliot lives in New Zealand, and researched Nanna's family for some time before I got interested in it.

George married Rita while in the army in Malaya. They had John, who became a professor at a university in Canada, and Tricia. They lived in Brisbane where Rita remains. George died there in May 2015.





Joan's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in our garden at Pendle Road. Joan is between her sisters Mary and Iris, with me to the right of Iris and Jane to the left of Mary. Behind Joan are Mary and Terence with Elizabeth to their left, Brian behind them, and Pam hiding at the very back. The front row is Tam holding Doug, Tiffany, Evie, Polly and Emma. Jenny and Chris are behind Mary. To Chris' left are Anne's daughters, Joanne and Emma



# Margaret Treanor

### **Margaret Ailsa Treanor 1943–1971**

Margaret was the eldest sibling, born on Christmas Eve 1943 in Oxford. By all accounts she was not too pleased when her baby brother came along eighteen months later, stealing some of her limelight. There is a story of her popping a brick into my pram whilst I was asleep.

I remember a rather frightening incident

Margaret at  
the entrance to  
Monson Terrace  
where Nanna  
lived in Tunbridge  
Wells



that happened a year or two after we moved to Hanworth. She and I were playing in the paddock about 100 yards from the house, when Margaret fell into a wasps nest and was attacked by the whole swarm. Her shrieks brought George, the rag and bone merchant from the tithe barn next to our house, who leaped across the stream, and without a care for the stings, picked her up in his arms, and ran up to the house. It was impossible to get the wasps off her: even with her clothes removed they were in her hair. So mum ran a bath and plonked her into it, with some vinegar to ease the pain.

Margaret was good at spoonerisms. One day she came running into the house from the drive shouting “*quick quick, the boys are blacking the pickberries*”. Not that my parents were too bothered that someone else was looking forward to blackberry and apple crumble as much as we did.

Margaret went to school at St Brandons in Clevedon, and afterwards trained at Dr Barnardos in Tunbridge Wells as a nursery nurse.

She emigrated to Australia on a £10 ticket in 1967 with her friend Rita Ollington, a couple of years after Bertram’s death. We all waved goodbye to her on a vast ocean liner.

In those days international phone calls cost a fortune, so we relied on occasional



**Margaret and Brian at their wedding, with Joan and Rita**

letters to keep in touch.

She met and married Brian Stevenson in Sydney in 1969. My mother flew out there for the wedding. Brian was a distant relative on the Kerans side of the family. His great grandfather Dr Laurence Kerans was our great great grandfather. His own father was head of the Indian Medical Service in Kashmir. His ancestry is written up in Brian's Ancestry.

Soon after their marriage they moved to Hong Kong, where Brian was involved as an import and export agent. Then when Margaret was expecting a baby in 1970 they moved back to England, to a flat in Woking, just around the corner from Brian's mother Gussie. It was intended to be a temporary move..

Their son Timothy Stevenson was born in September 1970, soon after they returned home. It was not an easy birth, and Margaret became very ill soon afterwards. She developed a cancerous brain tumour, and within two or three months of Tim's birth she was in hospital undergoing more and more ferocious treatments, culminating in her death in August 1971.

This was quite devastating for all of us, but most especially for Brian who was left alone to bring up Timothy. Of all her children, Mum was probably closest to Margaret, and had barely adjusted to losing Bertram before she had to deal with losing her eldest daughter.

Tim spent some time with his Aunt Helen in Wadhurst when he was very small, but was mostly brought up by Brian in Woking. Soon after that I moved to Scotland and had Tiff and Tam, and a couple years later Jane moved to Bristol and had Polly and Emma. We all tried to meet up a couple of times a year, usually at Jane's house in Bristol, so the cousins got to know each other.

Eventually Tim followed in the family tradition and travelled to Australia, where he met Colette Murphy at Crabbe's Creek, not far from Byron Bay. They lived together in



**Cricket in the park near Jane and Richard's house. Richard with Emma on his back, Tim holding the bat, with Dave behind him. Tiffany with Polly on her shoulders, and a very cool looking Tam.**

Australia, and then back in the UK before settling in Ireland which at this time was being described as the Celtic Tiger. They bought a home in Swords, and Tim worked in sales for a software company in Dublin.

They married in Dublin in February 2007 – my sister Jane and I were at the wedding with Brian, Emma, Pam, and Bindi, an old



**Tim and Colette with Brian and Colette's parents Helen and Philip Murphy at their wedding**



Dave, Colette, Tim and Pam at Polly's wedding



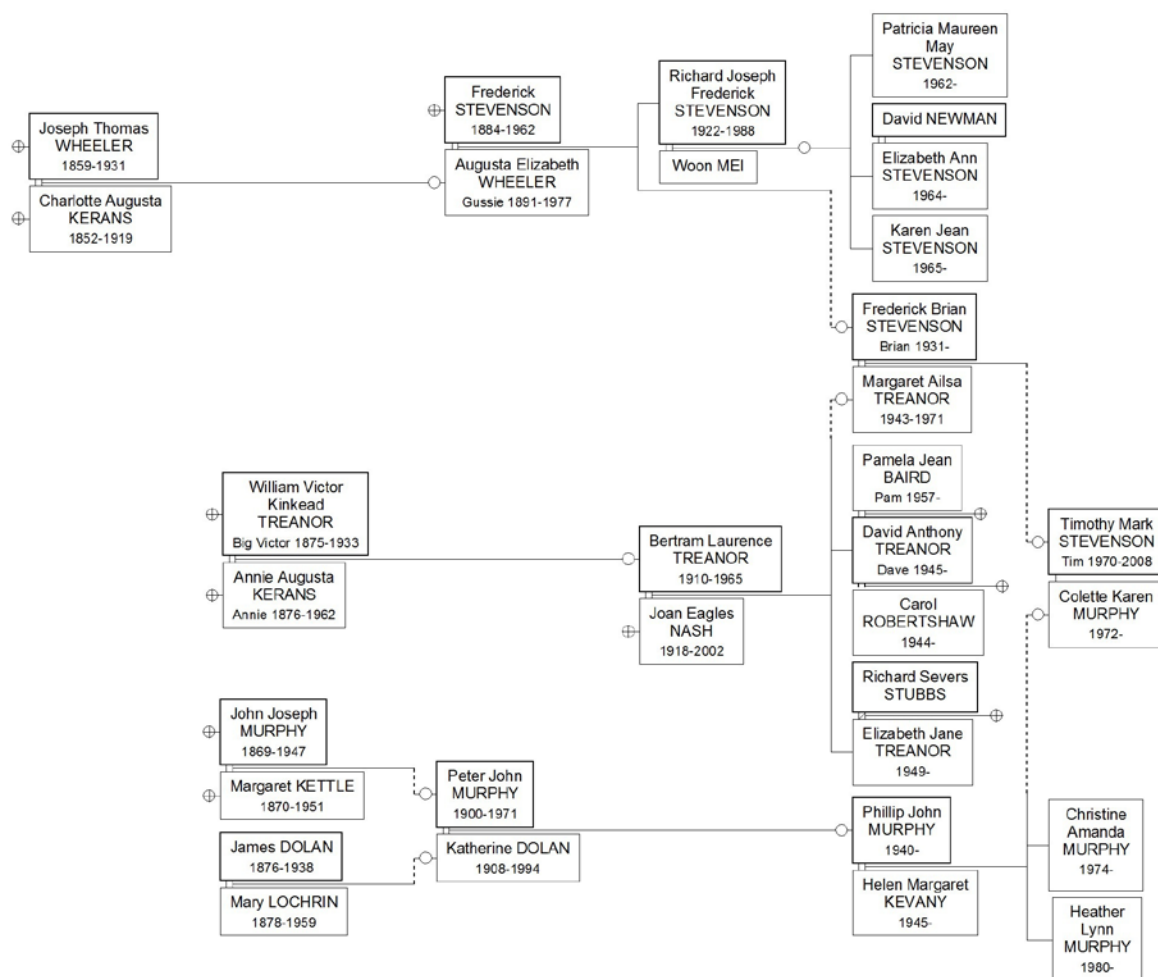
The church tower and round tower at St Columba's in Swords where Tim is buried



friend of Margaret's from her Australia days.

Tim and Colette came to Bristol for Polly and Tony's wedding a few months later.

Tim died less than a year after that, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2008, of a massive heart attack, and is buried at St Columba's church in Swords, just north of Dublin.



## CHAPTER 24

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# Dave Treanor



### David Anthony Treanor 1945

I was born a couple of days before the end of the war in May 1945, and educated at St Lawrence College, in Ramsgate, Kent.

I graduated from Manchester University with a degree in Psychology in 1966, shortly after Bertram died. After a couple of years doing research in decision theory at Manchester University, I joined Smith's Industries on their graduate trainee programme, as a computer programmer, and later a systems analyst.

My elder daughter Tiffany Treanor was born in February 1972, while her mother and I lived in a communal house in Tufnell Park, north London. Six months later we were part of a group of people that set up an alternative



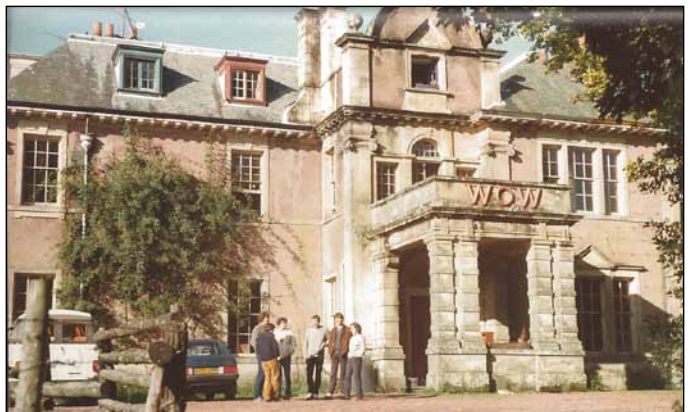
Doug, Evie, Tam, Andrew, Pam, Dave, Tiffy holding Ava, Billy in our garden in Wimbledon 2011

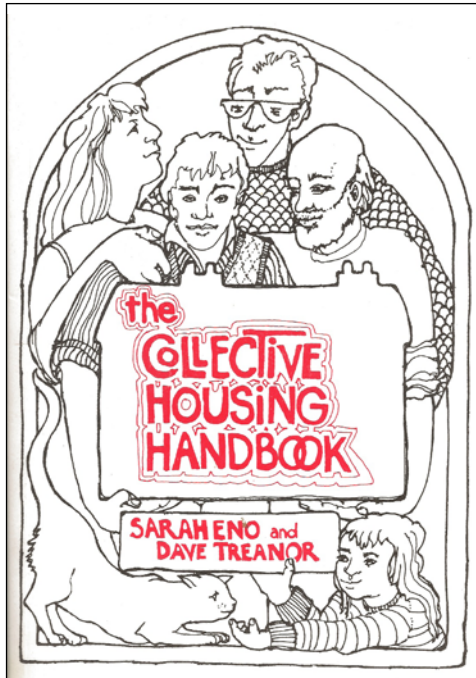
Hand milking at Laurieston, with Tam helping, in the late seventies

community at Laurieston Hall in Galloway, south west Scotland. Our son Tam Treanor was born there in February 1973.

We ran conferences on a wide range of issues relating to green and social politics, the women's movement, and a variety of other topical issues.

Laurieston Hall takes the WOW out of Woolworths!





Our economy was quite self-sufficient, with organic gardening and small scale farming. We built and sold woodstoves, and installed a hydro-electric scheme which is still running very successfully thirty years later.

During this time I wrote a couple of books: *Legal Frameworks for Communes and Collectives* in 1975 which became a chapter in *Alternative England and Wales*; and *The Collective Housing Handbook* in 1980, which

Dave and Pam's wedding 1988, with Tam, Audrey (Pam's mother) Pam, Jack (her father) Dave, Tom (from Laurieston), Joan, and Tiffy



I wrote with Sarah Eno, and was partly funded by Brian Eno.

In 1987 I moved back to London, and married Pam Baird, from Melbourne. We had two children: Douglas born in June 1990 and now a hospital manager, and Evelyn in January 1995. I began working with housing co-operatives in London, and then for the National Federation of Housing Associations, where I wrote a number of books on social housing in the UK and Europe, including *Buying your home with other people* which was published by Shelter, and *Housing Investment Appraisal*.

In 1991 I set up a business developing computer systems for housing associations, initially as a subsidiary of the National Housing Federation. This developed over a number of years into M3 Housing, based in Mitcham just south of London ([www.m3h.co.uk](http://www.m3h.co.uk)). I also ran the National Housing Maintenance Forum ([www.nhmf.co.uk](http://www.nhmf.co.uk)) promoting best practice in the maintenance of social housing. Since retiring I have researched and written *Housing Policies in Europe*. We live in Wimbledon.

Tiffy is a yoga teacher and graphic designer. She married Andrew George at Laurieston Hall in July 2008, and lives in South East London. Andrew works with overseas students at London University. My first grandson, Billy George, was born in December 2006, and Ava in September 2009.

Tam lives in Edinburgh and did an MSc in sound design at Edinburgh University, having spent the preceding years as a musician and running song writing workshops for disadvantaged teenagers.

Pam's family is described in *The Baird Story*. They mostly originate from Scotland, and emigrated to Australia at around the time of the gold rush in the mid nineteenth century.



## CHAPTER 25

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# Jane Treanor

### Elizabeth Jane Treanor 1949

Elizabeth Jane Treanor was born in October 1949 at Lee Green, and moved to Hanworth as a small baby. She was educated at St Leonards in Hastings, which was a convent school. After school she trained as a nurse at St Marys Paddington.

She then followed the well trodden trail to Australia, travelling overland through Afghanistan, India, and south-east Asia, with Richard Stubbs. They spent two or three years working in different parts of Australia before returning via central and north America.

They came back to England in the mid seventies, married, and settled in Bristol, where they had Emma (July 1977) and Polly (August 1980).

Richard worked for insurance companies as a computer programmer. Jane still works as a nurse in a medical practice.

They had two daughters. Emma Stubbs works in computer systems, and is beginning a family with Tom Taylor-Bigg. Polly Stubbs runs a small graphic design business with her husband Tony Pigrem, and now has her own daughter Florence. They all live in Bristol within a mile of each other.

Richard and Jane separated, and Richard left computing, and now works in building.



**Jane's family  
with Tim in their  
garden**

Jane and I have got into the habit of going off on holiday each year, to exotic places, such as Morocco, Costa Rica, Mauritius, Rajasthan, Namibia, Cuba, and Cambodia. We often follow in Emma's footsteps – she is very fond of travel.

**Jane in Namibia  
2009.**



# Killala parish registers

### Killala Vestry Minutes

Burial: 25<sup>th</sup> February 1795 Burial of Mary Trenor, wife of Thomas Trenor of Killala aged about 46. [This may have no connection with our family].

Baptism: Jan 26 1796 Margaret daughter of William and Ellen Lyton, maiden name Traynor

Baptism: 6 Jan 1797 Maria, daughter of Richard and Elenor Burke, maiden name Cooper. [Could our Eleanor Burke be the same as Eleanor Cooper?]

Baptism: 22 October 1798 Thomas son of Thomas and Eleanor Traynor, maiden name Cooper

Baptism: 15 March 1800 John son of Thomas and Eleanor Trenor, maiden name Bourke

Baptism: 14 October 1802 Thomas of Thomas and Eleanor Trayner, maiden name Bourke

Baptism: 16 Dec 1804 Baptism Lilly daughter of Thomas and Eleanor Trainor of the parish of Killalla, maiden name Cooper.

Baptism: ? March 1806 Alice – daughter of Thomas and Margaret Robbison (maiden Kirkwood)

### Killala Parish Registers

#### 1810 - 1845

Baptism: September 6<sup>th</sup> 1810 Thomas and Bridget, twins of James and Alicia Orme, maiden name Hughes.

Baptism: April 12<sup>th</sup> 1811 Eleanor, daughter of Joseph and Bridget Cooper, maiden name Orme

Marriage: William Traynor to Alicia Robinson both of Killala by licence June 6 1825.

Baptism: 14 April 1826 Son Thomas baptised son of William and Alicia Trayner maiden name Robinson

Marriage: 23 May 1827 James Perkins married Lydia Trainor – married by licence.

Baptism: 9 September 1827 Margery baptised daughter of William and Alicia Traynor maiden name Robinson

Baptism: 24 February 1828 Eleanor daughter of James and Lydia Perkins nee Traynor

Baptism: 6 May 1830 James and Lydia Perkins (née Traynor) son John baptism,

Marriage: 4<sup>th</sup> October 1830 Eleanor Bourke married Benjamin Wilson

Baptism: 9<sup>th</sup> June 1832 Baptism: Lydia daughter of William and Alicia Traynor nee Robinson.

Baptism: 14<sup>th</sup> June 1834 John Duke(?) son of Thomas Treanor and Bridget his wife

Baptism: 30 Nov 1834 John son of William and Alicia Treanor

Baptism: 22 Feb 1835 Lydia, daughter of James and Lydia Perkins

Baptism: 27 May 1836 Ormsby (?) John son of Thomas Trainor and Bridget his wife

Baptism: 23 February 1837 Alicia daughter of Thomas Traynor and Bridget his wife

Baptism: 5 May 1837 William son of Thomas Trainor and Bridget his wife.

Burial: 1838 burials: Ellen Perkins, aged 10

Baptism: 23 February 1839 Alicia daughter of Thomas Traynor and Bridget his wife [Pam and Dave wrote down this record twice – on two separate visits to the RCBL) with different years. My search of the Co Mayo records on line gives the 23/2/1840 – so there is some doubt which year is correct]

Burial: Thomas Treanor died aged 90 1839. [Only death registered in that year. November on the gravestone]

Baptism: 19<sup>th</sup> June 1842 William son of Thomas Treanor and Bridget his wife. [But William and Thomas are crossed out and replaced with Joseph son of William. There are at least three entries that appear to have been made at the same time, covering a period of months. We suspect these were being copied into the register from memory of perhaps from notes made at the time. We suspect that when they crossed out “William son of Thomas” they should also have crossed out “wife of Bridget”. We think Joseph is the son of William and Alicia. It would not be likely for Thomas and Bridget to have had Joseph in June and then William in December (although we are recording Baptisms and not births, so this is not

impossible). Dorothy Hearne has written of “Uncle Joe” coming to visit in Ballinrobe, which is further evidence].

Baptism: 18<sup>th</sup> December 1842 William son of Thomas Treanor and Bridget his wife.

Baptism: 10<sup>th</sup> July 1843 Mary daughter of Thomas Trainor and Bridget his wife

Burial: John Treanor buried 23 Aug 1845 aged 11 [in Register of Burials 1845-1875 ]

Burial: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1845: burial Lydia Perkins aged 40

Baptism: 21<sup>st</sup> March 1845 Baptisms: James, son of William Treanor and Alicia his wife otherwise Robinson born March 17 and baptized March 21 1845 by me TG Lapiere Curate [This record gets repeated at the beginning of the new Register of Births Deaths and Marriages 1845-1875, and identifies the father’s occupation as *clerk of petty sessions*].

Baptism: Baptised Killala 11 April 1847 William Ormsby Treanor born 11 March 1847 parents Thomas Treanor (shopkeeper) and Bridget Treanor.

Burial: Eleanor Treanor buried 21 August 1852 aged 97 [in Register of Burials 1845-1875]

Tuam cathedral, taken from the corner where the Treanor Graves are situated





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James Treanor



Marian Seymour



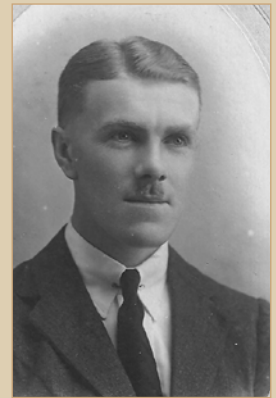
Victor Treanor



Evelyn Aston



Marian Hearne



Seymour Treanor



Bertram Margery  
Victor Nancy & Gran



Hilary Temple



Dorothy Hearne



Sheila & Derek  
Treanor