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# *The Bakers of Lismacue: A Family Chronicle*

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By Sir Augustine F. Baker

## **Introduction**

This account of the well-known Tipperary landowning family, the Bakers of Lismacue, Bansha, was written in 1922. The author, Sir Augustine F. Baker, who died in October 1922, was born in 1851 and educated at the Abbey School, Tipperary and Trinity College, Dublin. He qualified as a solicitor in 1878, was on the council of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland from 1889 to 1918 and was president of the Law Society for 1902-3. On the occasion of the visit to Ireland in July 1903 of King Edward VII, Baker was knighted. He practised at 5 Clare St., Dublin and lived nearby at 56 Merrion Square.

Because Baker's chronicle was completed in June 1922, only days before the destruction of the Four Courts and the Public Record Office in the Civil War, he had access to documentary material destroyed in that event. His opening paragraph suggests that he was writing something he intended to be read mainly by his family. The version published below has been edited and abridged, mainly for the purpose of confining it to the Tipperary branches of the Baker family – in Lattin, Lismacue and Ballydavid. Other branches had connections with Cork and Canada. Crossheads have been inserted to break up the text.

The editor of the *Tipperary Historical Journal* wishes to acknowledge the assistance and co-operation received from Mr. James Nicholson and Mrs. Katherine Nicholson (formerly Baker) of Lismacue House, who have given permission to publish this genealogical record and who have also supplied the photographs. – *Editor*.

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This history of the Baker family is not a history of personages who were of any importance to the world, and it will seem to any outsider to be concerned with small and trivial matters only. But these trivial things are what made up the daily life and experience of those whose blood we are, and we want to know all we can discover of their names and kindred, and the manner of their lives and being. We are interested to learn of the occasion when an ancestor died after 48 hours' "exchangeing of bullets" with rebels; how another gave his widow a life estate in his "aqua-vitae pott and materialls"; and again that, when another – a boy of 18 – sailed in India in 1778, we find loving traces of a mother's record of the day, important to her.

I thought that a family which had hung together in Tipperary for nearly three centuries should collect whatever they could of their history during that time. This is what I have endeavoured to do. I have had access to all the old family deeds and records, the certificate signed by the great Duke of Ormonde, the grants of the reigns of Charles II and Queen Anne, and the wills and marriage settlements of the Bakers from 1669 onward. Besides these I have examined records of the family in the Public Record Office, Dublin and in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and also in the Registry of Deeds.

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The first of the Baker family in Tipperary of whom we know anything was Thomas Baker of



Thomas of Ballinagleragh, a townland which adjoins, and lies to the east of, Lattin and Knockordan. He was a Protestant and came from England. He acquired several large farms both in Tipperary and Limerick, which he rented from the Roman Catholic landlords who before the Rebellion of 1641 were the owners of all the landed property in this district.

There is nothing to show what part of England he came from, nor who were his ancestors. The earliest recorded fact is the entry in the books of Trinity College, Dublin of his son's entrance on 30 September 1640. Walter was his name, and he was then 17 years old; he was born accordingly in 1623, and is described as the second son of Thomas Baker. Thomas was thus in 1623 a married man with a family at that date of at least two children.

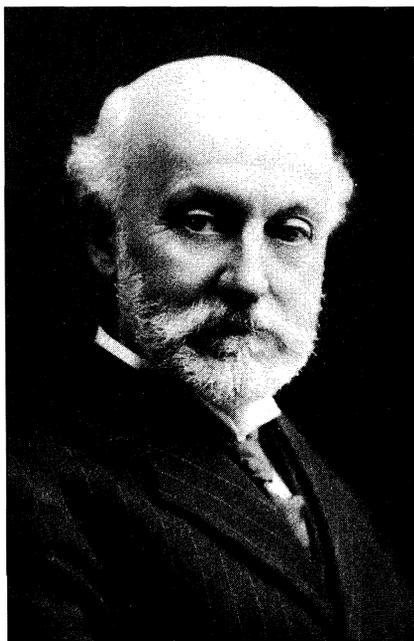
Attempts have been made to ally this family with the Bakers of Sissinghurst in Kent, but there is no definite evidence in support of any such theory. The Visitation of Kent in 1619 gives particulars of the latter family from the time of Henry VIII, but none of them can be traced as an ancestor of Thomas Baker. In *Burke's County Families* it is stated that Baker came to Ireland with Deputy Sussex. Baker may have been one of his retinue, but there is no evidence on the subject, and as Sussex was Deputy during most of Elizabeth's long reign, the statement is too vague to be of any value.

During the reign of James I many Englishmen came to Ireland to take up large farms from the territorial gentry, and often became successful and prosperous men. No doubt they had some skilled knowledge of farming which their landlords lacked, and the latter were only too pleased to secure an assured income from an industrious tenant. As will be seen, Thomas Baker held a very large area of land, all of it rented from the Irish lords of the soil. He held no freehold lands of his own.

In 1641 Thomas was residing with his wife and six children at Knockordan, adjoining Ballynagleragh. He had acquired considerable wealth. It consisted of several valuable farms, with cattle and stores of farm produce, and also money which he had invested partly in bills and bonds and partly on the security of his landlords' and others' estates. He also held a considerable sum of money in the house; the whole amounted to nearly £9,000, which today [1922] would be the equivalent of at least £60,000.

The great Rebellion of 1641, however, brought Baker's family almost to destitution. He defended his castle at Knockordan against the rebels for 16 weeks from October 1641 to the end of January 1642, when he died. Then the Earls of Ikerrin and Dunboyne and their forces came to the aid of the rebels, and when the defenders' ammunition was all spent they were forced to surrender the castle, on 2 February 1642, two days after Baker's death. The soldiers not only "stripped them of their wearing apparel, but robbed [them] of all their money bills bonds mortgages leases estates and goods whatsoever". The widow Ann and her six children were then turned out of doors.

This account of the siege of Knockordan is recorded in the deposition of Ann Baker dated 8



*Sir Augustine Baker*

**TABLE A**  
**(1623-1921)**

I.		Thomas Baker d. 1641-2
II.		Walter (and five others) d. 1669
III.		Thomas – Richard and three others d. 1692
IV.		William (and two others) d. 1733
V.		Hugh and ten others d. 1770
VI.		William (and eight others) d. 1808
VII.		William – Hugh (and 7 others) d. 1815      d. 1801
VIII.		Hugh (and two others) d. 1868
IX.		Hugh (and eight others) d. 1887
X.		Hugh (and another)

July 1642, just six months after her husband's death, taken by two Commissioners appointed to enquire into the losses and sufferings of the loyal population at the hands of the rebels.<sup>1</sup> All the estates of Baker's landlords were forfeited after 1641, they being "Irish papists not adjudged innocent", and the forfeited lands were parcelled out among the soldiers and adventurers, as recorded in the Down Survey.

Thomas Baker's lands are stated in his widow's deposition as follows, all being held for comparatively short terms of years. In Co. Tipperary he held 370 acres of Knockordan, 236 at Ballynagleragh, 642 at Lattin and Kilpatrick, 284 at Killenenalliffe and 279 at Buollinsillagh. In Co. Limerick he held 50 acres at Toughcloggin and 433 at Ballyorgan. All these totalled 2,294 Irish acres, more than 3,730 statute acres.

The forfeiture of the landlord's interest involved the forfeiture of the tenant's interest also; in this way the Baker family were dispossessed of all their farms. But by a piece of good fortune Baker had lent money to some of his landlords on the security of mortgages by them of the



lands which he rented from them. In this way what lawyers call the legal estate in the land was vested in him and in his heir Walter after Thomas's death. This legal estate, being vested in a "brittish protestant", was not forfeited.

In 1654 Walter Baker applied to the Irish Court of Exchequer for a declaration of his father's non-forfeitable rights, and a decree was made in his favour while Ireland was still under Cromwellian rule. Having obtained his decree, Walter in 1666 after the Restoration, in order to obtain letters patent granting him the lands, presented a petition to the Commissioners under the Acts of Settlement and on 15 February 1666 obtained their certificate.

The lands were then "set up and exposed for publique sale for the space of 14 days", and as no one would offer more than Baker it was declared that he was rightfully entitled. The original document, countersigned by the Duke of Ormonde as Lord Lieutenant, is still in the possession of the Baker family and is dated 14 May 1667. The letters patent from Charles II are dated 25 May 1667; the original patent, with the royal seal, is also in the Bakers' possession.

In the T.C.D. records of his son Walter, Thomas Baker is styled *generosus*, showing that he claimed to be of gentle birth. His castle at Knockordan, marked on Speed's map of Munster, was evidently destroyed by the 1641 rebels and deserted by the Bakers. The 1654 Civil Survey says of the site: "On the lands stands a bournt Castle with a little Bawne wanting repayre. The land is waste . . .".

Walter Baker's brother Richard is the only other one of Thomas's family of whom we have any trace. A farm at Solohead which Thomas owned was not included in Walter's patent, although his father had a mortgage on it. Walter leased it to Richard, who is shown in the hearth-money records for 1665 and 1667 as then in possession. Under the Act of Settlement it was given to the Duke of York, who then leased it.

In 1673 Richard Baker brought an action in the Chancery Court of the Palatinate of Tipperary claiming to be "quieted in his possession". The Solohead land, he claimed, originally belonged to Walter English a Papist, who both leased and mortgaged it to Thomas Baker.<sup>2</sup> The defendants relied on their lease from the patentee and the action apparently went no further. This is the last heard of Richard.

Robert Baker of Dublin, who in 1692 acted for Thomas Baker's widow, was probably a relation. In 1713 we twice find a reference to William Baker of Liserbehane [Lisobyhane?] in the Registry of Deeds; but we know nothing of him. A family of the name who acquired land as adventurers at Castle Eve, Co. Kilkenny were not related to the Lattin family. The latter were not unpaid soldiers or adventurers. The Tipperary Bakers were already settled here in the reign of King James, if not earlier.

Walter Baker married Martha Osborne. Described first as resident in Cullen in 1654 and afterwards as of Lattin, he was one of 15 men before whom an inquisition on oath was taken at a general sessions of assize and gaol delivery held in Clonmel in September 1663. In the same record are the names of Nathaniel Taylor of Noan and Theobald Mathew of Bansha, familiar names in the county.

The Baker lands are fully described in the 1666 certificate and in the 1667 patent, as are Walter's rights. The lands of Lattinmore were mortgaged to Thomas Baker by Murtough O'Heffernan to secure £150; Lattinbeg was mortgaged to him by Knocker O'Heffernan to secure £200; Kilpatrick was mortgaged to him by Sir Thomas McGrath to secure £100; Killenalliffe was mortgaged by Myles McGrath to secure £80. All were "Irish papists not adjudged innocent".

Walter Baker in his will on 7 September 1669 gave his wife Martha all her rings and half of his "monie, plate, pewter, beddings, brasse, chaires and potts", and a life use of the "aqua vitae pott with the materialls thereto belonging". To his eldest son Thomas he gave the lands in the



patent and two farms at Ballyturnkley [Ballytemply] and Glassramonid [North Kilross].<sup>3</sup> His farm at Shronell and £100 each he bequeathed to his sons Richard and Walter. To his eldest daughter Martha he gave £150 and "the great brasse panne", and to his daughter Mary £100 "and the little brasse panne". Probate was granted to Thomas Baker by the Archbishop of Cashel on 23 December 1669.

Little is known of Walter's two eldest sons Thomas and Richard. In October 1686 a deed of release released Thomas from the legacy by his father to his sister Mary; this was executed by Richard Chadwick of Ballynamaght and the payment was in consideration of Mary's marriage to Chadwick, of which there was no issue. Mary survived her husband and went to live with her brother Walter at Ballywire.

By her will (3 January 1730) she left a legacy to Mary, the daughter of Baraby Baker and the residue to Walter, son of William Baker of Lismacue, called after her father; see Table B. Thomas died intestate in 1692 and administration was granted in Cashel to his widow Mary. Her bond was signed with her mark and also by Robert Baker, who may have been an uncle of her husband; she was then living in Clonmel.

Richard and his issue succeeded under Walter's will on Thomas's death childless. He had the three children named above. The eldest William was in possession of all his grandfather's estate in 1700, when he married Margaret Massy; she was of the Duntryleague family, the first Lord Massy being her nephew.

Walter Baker, the youngest son mentioned in the will above, settled at Ballywire, now Ballywire. (For Richard and the two Walters, see III and II at Table B.) By his will dated 3 November 1740 Walter of Ballywire left his farms there and at Lizard Connell to his grandson Francis Wheeler, £1,000 his granddaughter Ellinor and £500 each to his grandchildren Oliver and Ann. He desired to be buried at Galbally close to his farms. He must have considerably increased the slender fortune his father had left him.

### **Ballydavid branch (1724)**

Walter Baker, the third son of Richard (see III, Table B), settled at Ballydavid near Bansha at the foot of the Galtee mountains in 1724. He and his descendants form a distinct branch; see Table L. His brother William (IV at Table B) married in 1700 Margaret, daughter of Hugh Massy of Duntryleague; see Table D.

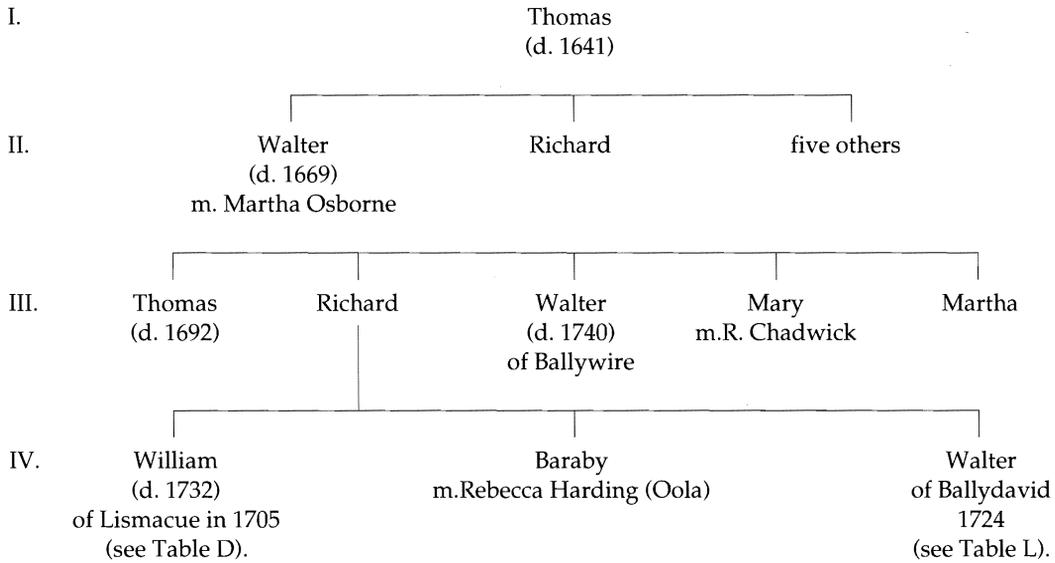
In 1703 William Baker (head of Table D) added to his possessions by purchasing from the Crown 29 acres (Irish measure) of Killenenalliffe, portion of this townland not comprised in the patent granted to his grandfather Walter. When Charles II's lands in Ireland were confiscated a second forfeiture of this land took place.<sup>4</sup> In 1699 an Act was passed for the sale of these, followed by another Act in Queen Anne's reign "for the more effectual selling . . . Estates to Protestants". By a deed of 31 May 1703 Commissioners granted the lands to William Baker in consideration of £96 which he had bid. This land is still part of the Baker estate.

In 1705 William Baker left Lattin and went to reside at Lismacue, which has been the headquarters of the family ever since. The dwellinghouse there was one of the largest in the districts, as appears from the 1665 hearth-money records when Robert Knight owned it. In 1704 Charles Blount was the owner of Lismacue and a large area extending to the foot of the Galtee mountains and up the Glen of Aherlow. Blount was a grandson of one of the Commissioners on the 1654 Survey and Distribution; no doubt he made advantageous bargains with adventurers, many of whom never came to Ireland.

Under the contract for the sale of Lismacue between Blount and Baker (dated 5 October 1704)



**TABLE B**  
**(1641 to 1700)**



Blount was allowed three years to cut down and sell the timber. "And Mr. Blunt doth further oblige himself [that] the Inhabts of Lismacue shall have litertie of cuting and drawing turfe for the use of the said landes from the mountains of Galty belonging to him."

By a lease made to William Baker on 25 April 1705 by Joseph Admer and Charles Blount for one year Baker became entitled to and entered into possession of Lismacue. Damer was kept safe because the rent of £73 was made payable to him, and Baker convenanted to give him security for £912, with interest at 8%. Baker's mortgage to Damer is dated 13 July 1705; the amount is £700 at 8% and the security is the land comprised in the original patent. This mortgage was enrolled by the careful Damer in the records of the Palatinate of Tipperary.

The conveyance of Lismacue to William Baker was executed shortly afterwards; it is dated 11 July 1705. The parties were Blount, Baker and Damer, the last-named joining to release his mortgage. The purchase-money was £1,300, and the lands are stated as containing 209 acres (Plantation measure) including Grallagh and Knockatinell.<sup>5</sup> This deed shows that the Blounts had been in possession from 1683.

Some of the old oak trees now in Lismacue represent this purchase by William Baker. He planted the double row of beech trees leading from the house towards the Cashel road after his purchase. In 1918 the writer counted the annual rings in one of these trees which had been blown down, and found them to be just 220 in number.

Under a settlement of 19 February 1718 executed by William Baker his son Hugh succeeded as tenant for life to all the real estate (including Lismacue) not acquired until 1705. William's widow was to have the life use of his plate. Although three Baker wills refer to Lismacue plate, no vestige remains of this accumulation of a century-and-a-half. This settlement was not registered until 1723, a common delay when evidence of a deed's execution had to be witnessed before a judge.



Hugh Massy of Dunryleague was one of the trustees; he was the father of the first Lord Massy. The other trustees were Matthew Bunbury of Kilfeacle and John Ashe of Ashgrove; all three families have now disappeared from Tipperary.

In 1714 reports reached the Government that the Tipperary magistrates were not as diligent as they ought in executing the Popery laws. A letter from Tipperary on 23 June 1714 to the Castle described the issuing of warrants and the arrests of two priests, Grace and Hedderman, who "sellebrated Mass in Tipperary, Lattin and Sronell." The letter is signed by William Baker, John Ashe and Matthew Bunbury.

In 1726 William Baker was High Sheriff of Co. Tipperary. The grant of probate of his will implies that he was entitled to use a crest and coat of arms; what they were we have no record of, but there is an existing record of a coat of arms on a silver cup made in 1750 by G. Hodder of Cork, which was loaned in 1919 to the National Museum.<sup>6</sup> In 1921 a confirmation of the old Baker coat of arms was issued from the Office of Arms in Dublin Castle.

William Baker (see IV, Table A) made his will on 16 October 1729. He left the farms near Lismacue which he held from Bunbury and one Pierce Butler to his wife for life, and thereafter to his son William. He also left his wife her jewels and "chariott and harnesse", with her choice of five of his horses. Since probate of this will was granted on 28 September 1733, it may be assumed that he died that year.

The land held from Bunbury, some 89 Irish acres, was part of Ballyverane and Fihertagh, at 6.3½d an acre. A lease of this was made by Thomas Bunbury for 41 years from May 1734. By a deed of sale of 16 October 1729 Baker had sold the woods on Lismacue to Hugh Massy for £600, with liberty "to saw and cole the said woods for three years . . ." By another deed of the same date he made a lease of Lismacue to Rev. Charles Massy for three stated lives at the yearly rent of £112.

This transaction was obviously to prevent his son Hugh residing at Lismacue after the testator's death and possibly turning the large family out of their home, as it is probable that Hugh was not on good terms with them. When he married Catherine Ryves in 1730 he was described in the settlement as of Lizardconnell (near Ballywire), not of Lismacue, and in 1752 he is described as of Castlesaffron near Doneraile in Co. Cork.

Hugh Baker's brother William, second son of William who purchased Lismacue, was called "Never Fear-em Billy Baker". How he came to earn his name is not known; possibly he rode races or was a duellist. About 1890 the writer was asked by an 80-year-old Galway man if he was related to "Never Fear-em", as he had many stories about the latter's exploits. The writer disclaimed kinship, casting away an opportunity!

William Baker (see V, Table D) died intestate at Castletown, Co. Limerick in November 1735 when he cannot have been much more than 35. Administration was granted to his brother Hugh, whose surety was another brother Godfrey. The latter started in business in Cork as a merchant and in 1744 married Elizabeth Cossart, daughter of a Cork merchant.

## Damer of Shronell

Little is known of the other younger children of William Baker, who died in 1733. In 1740 it was necessary to raise portions for them by a sale of part of the lands settled in 1718, because by a deed of October 1740 Lattinbeg was conveyed to John Damer of Shronell. The amount of the purchase money is not stated. Damer, who acquired considerable property in the area, including what is called Damerville, was an ancestor of the earl of Portarlington, whose estate were sold in the Landed Estates Court in 1877.



Hugh Baker (see V, Table A), who married Catherine Ryes in 1730, had a large family. But only two are known about, William the eldest and Hugh the third son. The latter's son, also Hugh, married in 1803 a daughter of Col. Lefroy of Limerick; she was a sister of Chief Justice Lefroy. The last-mentioned Hugh Baker's son, Rev. Hugh Lefroy Baker, married his first cousin Sybella Graves, daughter of the rector of Ballingarry. They had two children; a daughter, Mrs. Benson, who died in 1909, held property at Monaboola in the Glen of Aherlow on lease from the Dawsons.

John Baker, second son of Hugh Baker (see V, Table A), lived at Clonoun, Co. Roscommon. His daughter Sidney married in 1829 Rev. William Baker, rector of Shronell, and their daughter Kate was the wife of Charles Lever the novelist. In 1809 John Baker went to the Isle of Man, where he apparently got into financial difficulties. From 1812 to 1820 he had an appointment at the Marine School in Dublin. The writer knew Sybella Baker; she lived in Cashel with her nephew Rev. Hugh Baker, dying there in 1880.

In 1752 Hugh Baker (see V, Table A) was given power to charge the estate with £1,000 and his son William was allowed the rents of Kilpatrick for his own support. This charge, given by Hugh to his daughter Elizabeth, was not paid off until 1858, and then with purchase money from the railway company for land in Lattin.

Hugh died about 1770; his will was never proved. He it was who planted the avenue of lime trees at Lismacue leading from the bridge over the Arra to the gate on the Tipperary-Cahir road. The avenue was referred to approvingly in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* in 1849.

William Baker (VI, Table A), who lived from 1731 to 1808, married Elizabeth, daughter of Dean Massy and sister of Sir Hugh Massy of Doonas, Co. Clare. In 1773 he purchased two small pieces of land on the north side of Lismacue containing some six acres Irish measure. This land was part of Scartmacaveele (otherwise Scart), a large townland that included the modern Scart and Templenahurney. The latter, the modern name of the townland adjoining Lismacue on the north, is the original name of the whole parish of Bانشا, now called Templeeneyry, originally Tempullanery. In the Civil Survey (1654) it is Templeeneyry.

The conveyance, dated 14 September 1773, by William Russell of Tipperary, has a carefully drawn map, showing that the course of the river through Lismacue has undergone artificial changes. The avenue below the avenue bridge and whole of the west side of the Ash field must have been almost a lake; for 200 years above Poul-Koom the river has an artificial channel. It is banked up on the south side to prevent flooding of Barnlough townland – the head of the lake. Below Grallagh bridge the sides are banked in Curraghana.

## 1776 Tipperary Volunteers

At the close of the war with America England's military power was reduced to a low ebb. The Irish coast was threatened with invasion, and the Government had neither money nor men to resist it, so the country resolved to prepare its own defence. Such was the origin of the Irish Volunteers. Enrolment was restricted to Protestants though some Catholics contributed to its expenses. The force soon numbered over 100,000, and their power grew until in 1782 under Grattan's guidance they formed a serious factor in Irish politics and their influence was largely instrumental in procuring the independent Irish parliament in 1782.

A list of the officers of the Tipperary Volunteers is given in the *Munster Volunteer Registry*, a book dated 1782 loaned to the writer by Mr. Paul Flynn of Tipperary.<sup>7</sup> This shows that among the cavalry officers were Col. Sir Cornelius Maude (Dundrum), Lt.-Col. William Baker





(Lismacue), Major Edward Moore, Capt., Benjamin Bunbury, Lt. Samuel Bradshaw and Cornet William Chadwick. Baker's family is now the only one of these remaining in Tipperary. According to tradition, William Baker is said to have hanged rebels of 1798 at the avenue gate of Lismacue; but this is altogether a fiction.

William Baker died on 24 May 1808 and was buried in the vault in Lattin graveyard, which is in the north-west corner there. He was the last Baker interred there, Bansha churchyard being used by the family afterwards.

On his death in 1808 William was succeeded by his son William (see VIII, Table A), on whose marriage to Eliza Roberts, daughter of Sir Thomas Roberts of Britfieldstown, Co. Cork in 1805 father and son had joined in settling £12,000 on her. There was no issue of this marriage. The marriage settlement refers to a recent survey of the Baker estates – Lismacue and Grallagh (excluding Bansha and Ballinlough), 226 acres; Strat-MacEville or Scartmacaveele 6 acres; Killenenalliffe 354 acres; Lattinmore 430 acres. All of these are Irish or Plantation acres.

In the time of this William Baker a question of much importance to Lismacue as a residence arose. The lime-tree avenue from the house to the Tipperary road went through lands held from the Butler family for 99 years from 1722. This agreement was confirmed in 1731 by a formal lease. The lands were then known as Parknavaragan (fairs' field, adjoining the village so used), now Deer Park; Farranayana (level meadow), now the avenue field; and Curraghnashouk (hawks' field), also called Roche's field, after a man who committed suicide there when in 1854 Sadlier's Tipperary Bank failed.

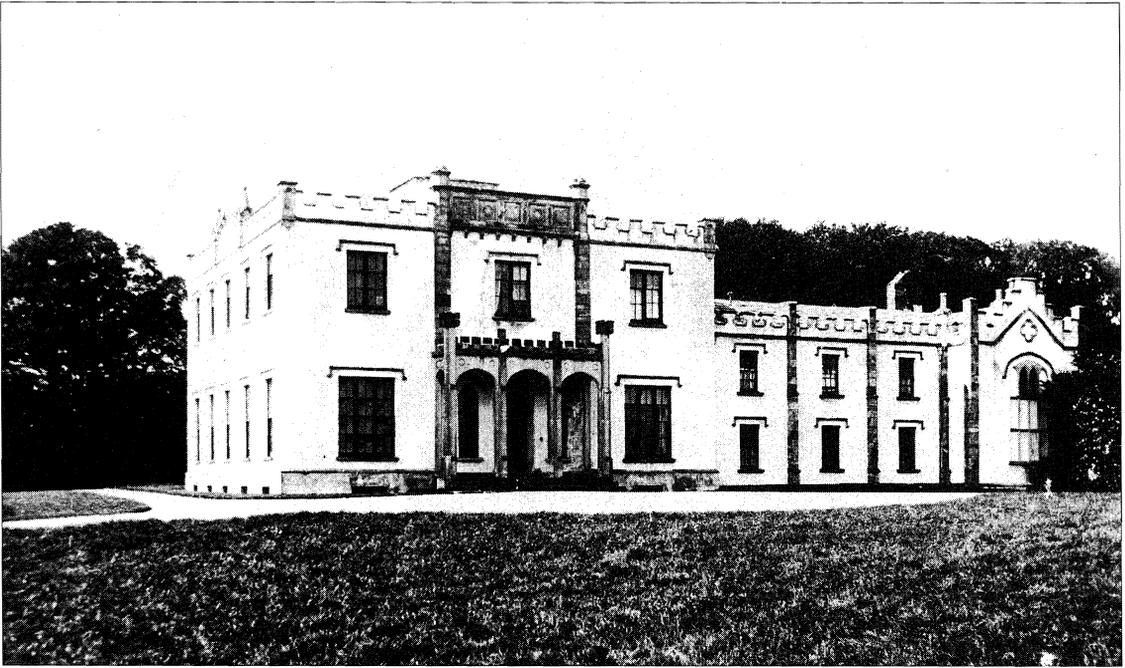
In 1813 the then William Baker built the present house at Lismacue and naturally wished to preserve the lime-tree avenue. However, Morgan Butler, a needy man, was not able to resist an opportunity for what looks like extortion and threatened to exercise his powers as landlord and cut down all the trees. Counsel's advice gave Baker little solace and in the end he had to pay £500 for the trees and take out a new lease. This head rent (of £3 an acre) was bought in by Hugh Baker in 1875 on the sale of Sadlier's estate.

On 27 November 1815 William Baker was waylaid near Thomastown when riding home from Cashel and murdered. The writer has not been able to discover the reason for this murder. It was not an agrarian crime and must have been for his activity as a magistrate. In his *History of Clonmel* Rev. William Burke states: "The event stirred the country to its depths. Returning from Cashel session . . . he was met by two men at the gate of Thomastown Park and shot through the head. Though a reward of £5,000 was offered and though scores of suspected persons were lodged in the bridewells, the secret which was known to hundreds was long kept . . . Eventually two men named Keating and Maher were imprisoned in Cahir. Keating . . . obtained some whiskey and, their conversation being overhead, Keating was induced to give evidence and Maher was hanged."<sup>8</sup>

The will of William Baker who died in 1808 (see Table A) mentions his mother's portrait in crayons now in the writer's possession, and two water-colour drawings by her sister, Mrs. Grace Barton of Fethard. This was the mother of the Barton who made a fortune as a wine merchant in France. William left his furniture and plate to his widow, and in 1876 the writer was informed by Godfrey Baker of Fortwilliam, Cork that this lady took away from Lismacue everything she could after her husband's death, leaving the testator's nephew Hugh (see VIII, Table F) an empty house.

William Baker (see VII, Table F) had three brothers – Hugh, Charles and Robert. Hugh was an officer in the Tipperary Volunteers and appears to have been a merchant in Tipperary town. He married Anne Reardon (who died in 1847) and died in his father's lifetime in 1801, leaving three children – Hugh, William and Elizabeth.





*Lismacue House, Bansha, at the turn of the century*

Hugh Baker (see VIII, Table F) succeeded to the estate on his uncle William's death in 1815. His sister Elizabeth died unmarried in 1867. His brother William entered Trinity College Dublin and was ordained. He was for some years a curate in Nenagh and about 1840 became Rector of Shronell, where he died in 1874.

He married a cousin, Sidney Baker, who died shortly after the birth of their only son, Hugh Sidney Baker. The latter also graduated from TCD and was ordained. After serving as a curate in Tipperary town he obtained an appointment in Cashel Cathedral, from which he retired through ill-health, dying at Ballydavid Wood in 1884. He married in 1860 Patience, daughter of Rev. George Cole Baker of Ballydavid, who died in 1918. George Sidney Baker became headmaster of Midleton College, Cork and later rector of Kilshannig near Mallow.

### **"The Nun of Kenmare"**

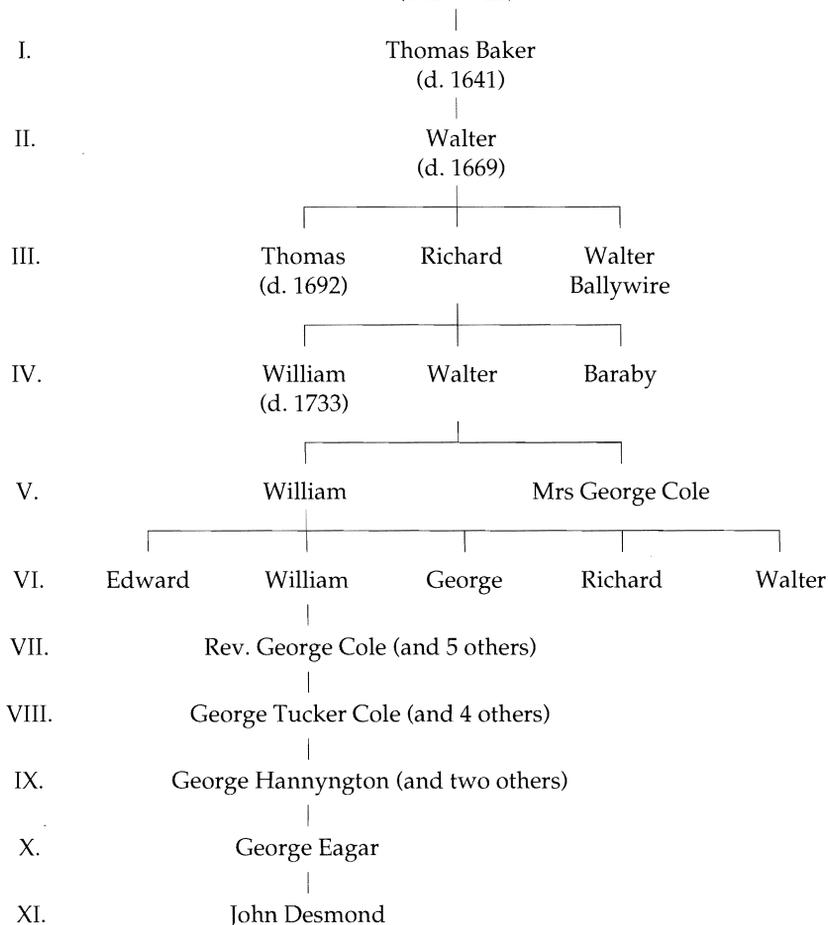
William Baker (see VI, Table A) who died in 1808, had four sons and one daughter. The eldest daughter married in 1790 James Johnston Stoney of Oakley Park in King's County [Offaly]. Of their seven children Sarah married Dr. Samuel Cusack of York St., Dublin. Their daughter became a Roman Catholic and entered a religious order. She was known as "the Nun of Kenmare" and wrote several semi-religious books. She also wrote a life of Daniel O'Connell.

Known in religion as Sister Mary Francis Clare, she established convents at Nottingham and in America and was Abbess of Knock. She died in 1899 aged 77. Some years earlier she became a Protestant again. The writer communicated with her in 1879 and learned that she had only one brother, Samuel, who went to New Zealand.

Hugh Baker (see VII, Table A), being born in 1798, was still a minor when he succeeded his uncle William in 1815. While an infant he was inoculated with smallpox, the custom then



**TABLE L  
(1623-1921)**



before vaccination was practised. As a result he lost the sight of one eye. He married Marion Conyers, the only child of Charles Conyers of Castletown Conyers, Co. Limerick. His marriage settlement listed the annuities and charges to which the Baker estate was subject. The oldest, a £1,000 charge created in 1752, was not paid off until 1858 when lands in Lattin and Bansha were acquired for the railway between Dublin and Cashel that was to have had a branch to Carlow.

Hugh died at Lismacue in 1868 aged 70: his wife Marion had died in 1854. They had nine children, for whom see Table F. Details of these nine, who include the writer, now follow in order of age. The eldest, Marion Elizabeth (1840-1916) married in 1865 George Cole Baker of Ballydavid, the eldest son of Rev. George Cole Baker, murdered at Ballydavid Wood on 31 December 1868. His murderer was never apprehended. The reason for this crime was the impending eviction of a tenant named Dwyer. The murder stopped the eviction for a time, but the dead man's father ultimately evicted Dwyer and was under police protection for years afterwards.

Marion Baker in 1876 remarried Frederick Browne, an advocate in Douglas, Isle of Man, where he died while boating in 1910. His widow settled in Dublin, where she died in 1916.



Anne Baker (1841-1902) married in 1866 Lt. Col. Dennis of Barraderry, Co. Wicklow who died aged 92 in 1903; there was no issue of this marriage. Mary Rachel Baker died in 1849 aged six.

Elizabeth Henrietta Baker (1844-1919) married in 1865 Robert Bell Gordon, a barrister of Hatch St., Dublin, who later settled in Canada, where he practised law, dying in 1915 aged 75. Hugh Baker's fifth child, also Hugh (1845-1887), succeeded to the estate on his father's death. A noted cricketer and horseman, he married in 1879 Francis Massy, daughter of John Massy of Kingswell, Tipperary. He died at Lismacue in 1887, and his widow married Major Ralph Bunbury, who died without issue in 1898; she died in 1917 aged 72.

After Hugh Baker's death in 1887 times in Ireland became unsettled and the value of land fell. The first incumbrancer filed a petition for sale and the agent, Mr. R. P. Bell, was appointed receiver as the owner was a minor. The estate was all sold except a part in Bansha village and Killenenalliffe. Hugh Baker, who succeeded on his father's death holds Killenenalliffe now [1922] as the only part left of the original estate acquired by Walter Baker in 1654. Lismacue was bought in at a low price by Major R. H. Bunbury, who wished to preserve it as a home for his wife and her children, and after his death it was transferred by his sisters on generous terms to Charles C. M. Baker.

Charles Conyers Massy Baker, the sixth child of Hugh Baker who died in 1868, was educated at the Abbey School, Tipperary and at Oxford. He joined the English Bar and in 1898 came to reside at Lismacue on his retirement, which (as related above) was assigned to him by the Bunbury sisters. The seventh child of Hugh Baker (1798-1868), William Baker (1849-1920), was also educated at the Abbey in Tipperary. He practised law in England until 1905, when he took over the directorship of Dr. Barnardo's Homes on the founder's death. He died childless in 1901.

Hugh Baker's eight child, the writer of this chronicle, Augustine Fitzgerald Baker, was named after Sir Augustine Fitzgerald of Co. Clare, a close friend of his mother. [For details of his career, see Editorial Introduction.] The last of Hugh Baker's nine children, Mary Rachel (1852-1919), married in 1878 John Twynam of Hampshire, who died in 1918. They had five sons, of whom four died in the Great War.

The eldest of the five children of Charles C. M. Baker (1847-1905), Allen, born in 1881, was in 1904 the first student to graduate from the Veterinary College in Dublin. In 1910 he married Francis Chadwick of Ballinard, Co. Tipperary (1887-1922).<sup>9</sup> The second son, Conyers Baker, born in 1884, became a solicitor and married Geraldine, daughter of Dean Devenish of Cashel, settling in India. The third son, Massy Baker, born in 1888, settled in Canada where he became an engineer. The fourth son, Denis, born in 1893, also graduated as an engineer in Canada, and the only daughter, Irene, born in 1895, became a nurse in 1918.

## Ballydavid Estate

Ballydavid was part of the extensive property of George Blount, who sold Lismacue to William Baker in 1705. Blount left his estates to Matthew Bunbury of Kilfeacle. The Ballydavid lease, dated 16 October 1724 was made by Bunbury, who was already in possession, having probably held them from Blount in the latter's lifetime.

Walter Baker (see IV, Table B) had two children – William and a daughter who married George Cole of Clonmel. Cole's son, also George, was an attorney in Clonmel, where he had extensive property and in 1793 was Mayor. Some house property there which passed under the will of George Cole was still in the possession of the Ballydavid Bakers at the beginning of this century.



In 1754 William Baker (see Table L) married Ann Dillon, daughter of John Dillon of Quarterstown, Co. Cork. William held other property, including Dromarkey, which has since passed from the family's possession. His eldest son Edward married in 1780 Mary, daughter of Benjamin Bradshaw of Alleen, Tipperary. They had no issue.

The second son, William Dillon Baker (see Table L) was the ancestor of the present [1922] Ballydavid family. He married in 1879 Patience Griffith, daughter of Edward Griffith, attorney, of Cashel. William was a wine merchant in Clonmel and later obtained an appointment in Dublin, where he died in 1828.

Rev. George Cole Baker, eldest son of William D. died at Ballydavid Wood in 1880. As already mentioned his eldest son, George Tucker Cole Baker, was murdered in 1868. The latter's son, another George, became an engineer with the Ventry Railway and died in a boating accident off Rosbeigh in 1894.

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### FOOTNOTES

1. Baker's debtors included Pier, Garrett and Phillip English of Solohead; Sir John McGrath; Conor Gary O Hifernan, baronet, Mortagh Boy O Hifernan; Phillip Sexton; Patrick O Meary. Others named who stripped Mrs. Baker of her property included Mortagh McGrath; Aulon McMorrhagh O'Brien; Miles McGrath and Sir John Morris, knight, from "neere Cashel". – Editor.
2. The jurisdiction of the Palatinate of Tipperary was vested in the Duke of Ormonde. It was created in 1328 and granted to James le Botiller (the butler) Earl of Ormond. It included all of Co. Tipperary save the barony of Owney and Arragh, added in 1661. In 1621 it was seized by the Crown but was restored in 1662 and continued until 1715 when on the attainder of James Duke of Ormond it was abolished. Its administration consisted of a Court with a Chancellor, a Court of Common Pleas with sheriffs and coroners, all modelled on officers of the royal courts; its records were lodged in the P.R.O., Dublin.
3. This "pott" was doubtless for distilling whiskey. By an Irish Act passed in the third year of Philip and Mary, a landowner worth £10 per annum could obtain a licence to make whiskey for his own use.
4. Although the ruins of Killeenenalliffe Abbey are marked on O.S. maps, no vestige of them now [1992] remains; the old pier of a gate was shown to the writer as all that was left of the Abbey.
5. The Down Survey states that an old castle stood at Grallagh, and some masonry is still discernible in a field near the river Arra. Local fairy superstitions have always interfered with attempts to excavate it.
6. This cup has recently been restored by the National Museum of Ireland to the present owner of Lismacue House. – Editor.
7. Flynn was the author of *The Book of the Galtees and the Golden Vale* (Dublin, 1926). – Editor.
8. See p. 205 of 1907 edition, including footnote (hh). – Editor.
9. Their son William practised as a 'vet' in Bansha until his death on 15 November 1977. – Editor.

