



**TIPPERARY HISTORICAL JOURNAL
2000**

© County Tipperary Historical Society

**www.tipperaryllibraries.ie/th
society@tipperaryllibraries.ie**

ISSN 0791-0655

Parliamentary Representation for County Tipperary, 1560-1800

By Michael O'Donnell

Introduction

1. The Background

The term parliament was first used in the 1230s to describe the king's *Curia Regis*, a council to which nobles and prelates were summoned and which over centuries developed into an upper house (Lords). In England in 1258, 1264 and 1265 county representatives, or knights, were also summoned to consult with the king; and in the last of those years burgesses from corporations were also so summoned. The knights and burgesses sat apart from the magnates and prelates and formed an embryonic House of Commons. The English parliament of 1376 produced the first Speaker of the Commons (the earliest reference to such for Ireland is 1449); early in the fourteenth century English parliaments began formally to enact statutes and from then onwards their powers began to increase.

The first advisory council to sit in Ireland met in 1264 at Castledermot. Originally those who attended were rich barons who held large estates, abbots and bishops – the sort of people who could levy taxes and supply money. It was not until the last third of the fourteenth century that knights of shires and burgesses from corporations were summoned; and from this period onwards lords and prelates were not invited to assemble unless knights and burgesses were also called.

In those early years parliament was perambulatory. There is a record that a parliament sat at Cashel in 1536. It was at the parliamentary session of 1541 that an act was passed which limited sittings to the towns of Dublin and Drogheda as being convenient places. However, when the session of 29 May 1585 moved to Drogheda that town was found to be not suitable and from then onwards sittings were held only in Dublin. The only later variations were the Confederation of Kilkenny and the Cromwellian parliaments. The former, as its name implies, sat at Kilkenny and the latter at Westminster.

The Confederation was formally established on 24 October 1642. The two organs of this new government were the General Assembly and the Supreme Council. The General Assembly was very clearly modelled on parliament. It was convened by means of writs issued to all lords spiritual and temporal, as well as counties and boroughs. The counties and the boroughs returned their members on a franchise that was similar to that used in parliamentary elections, that is forty-shilling freeholders for the the county and the borough members according to their respective charters.

The full complement of the Assembly, lords and commons, was about 300 persons. Not being able to establish precisely where each County Tipperary member was elected for, I have grouped all together under the county. Also, I am very conscious that this may not even be the full representation.

But soon Cromwell set to the business of saving “free Conscience from the paw/ Of hireling wolves whose Gospell is their maw”. Ireland's Confederation was no more. Following the



Cromwellian settlement the parliaments of 1654, 1656 and 1659 met in Westminster, London, to which Ireland sent thirty members. Tipperary and Waterford counties were united and sent two members; the elections for these were held in Clonmel. The towns of Waterford and Clonmel were also united and sent one member; the elections were held at Carrick-on-Suir. Cashel and Fethard were not represented.

On the question of taxation the Irish members of 1659 broke with Westminster to form the General Convention of 140 members, which assembled in Dublin in March 1660. Out of this latter grew the parliament of 1661, of which almost all the members were of the old Planter stock; among the few exceptions was Sir John Stephens, who sat for the borough of Fethard. Another parliament outside that of the ordinary was the one called by James II in 1689. This sat in the King's Inns in Dublin.

Following the Glorious Revolution a new parliament met in 1692. Before it sat an act had been passed in the English parliament which would profoundly affect the position of Irish Catholics. By this act [3 William & Mary, c. 2; 24 Dec. 1691], which applied to both lords and commons, all members were required to take an oath and make a declaration. Both of these were particularly offensive to Catholics in that they repudiated transubstantiation and referred to the celebration of the Mass and worship of the Blessed Virgin as idolatrous superstitions.

The act, to which members entering parliament from 1692 onwards had to subscribe, remained in force in Ireland until 1800 and in England until 1829. Between 1728 and 1793 Catholics, and those married to Catholics, could not represent their county or vote at parliamentary elections; they were likewise excluded from the floor of the House of Commons throughout the eighteenth century and from the public gallery. However, Catholics seem not to have sought election to the Commons following this act; the exception was at Tipperary in 1761 when Thomas Mathew was disqualified on the grounds that he was a Papist.

Another aspect of eighteenth-century parliaments was the infrequency of general elections. For two-thirds of the eighteenth century parliaments lasted during the lifetime of the monarch; that of George II lasted thirty-three years until he died. Such lengthy parliaments often led to non-attendance by members for long periods, especially at times of ill-health or other pressures. This problem was alleviated by the Irish Octennial Act [7 Geo. III, c. 3; 16 Feb. 1768], which limited the life of parliament to eight years.

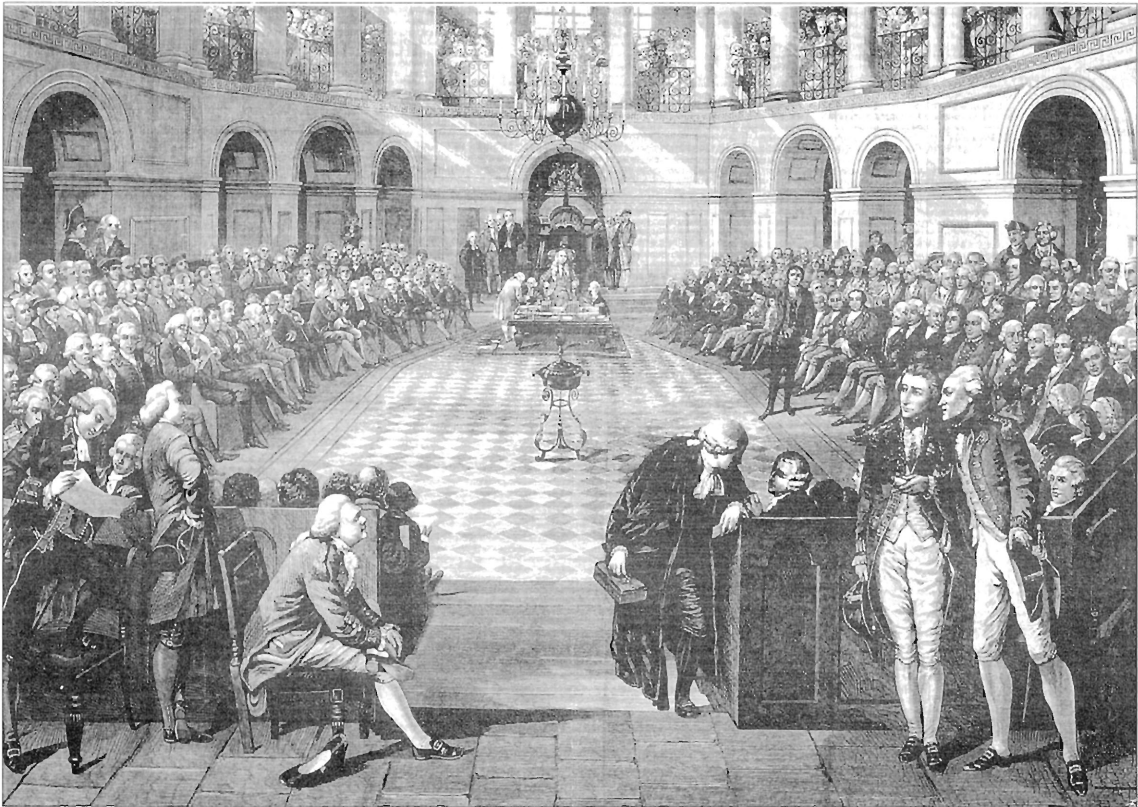
County of the Cross

The County of Tipperary, which was represented by two members from 1640 onwards, was created out of two counties that had existed since medieval times; one the county of church lands and the other the secular county. According to Sir John Davies, writing in 1606, the church lands or County of the Cross was "above 300 years old" and, he thought, the first county to be so defined in Ireland. The lands within this county were demesne lands of the Archbishop of Cashel together with lands belonging to abbeys and religious houses. All these lands were dedicated to the Cross of Christ, hence their title.

This County of the Cross had sent representatives to great councils since the second half of the fourteenth century, but for unknown reasons had ceased to do so for part of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. However, the representation was resurrected for parliaments of Elizabeth I (to serve, perhaps, the needs of the Earl of Ormond who had the controlling influence in this county) and was to continue until the parliament of 1634. On 24 March 1636 a bill was introduced in the Commons to unite the County of the Cross into Tipperary.

When, in 1660, Charles II returned the Palatinate of Tipperary to the Duke of Ormonde he





The old (pre-Union) Irish parliament in session.

added to it the County of the Cross. The Duke was now to hold the Cross in the same manner as he held his Palatinate. Thomas Carte in his *Life of Ormonde* noted that the Cross was of “no large extent, it was scarce practicable to find a sufficient number of Freeholders in it to serve as a Jury upon any trial”. And he recorded that many of the gentlemen and inhabitants of that peculiar county had long wished to be united with the main county.

Following the flight of the second Duke of Ormonde an act [2 George 1, c. 8; 20 June 1716] was passed which extinguished the Palatinate of Tipperary. The second section of this act enacted “that whatsoever hath been denominated or called Tipperary or Cross Tipperary, shall henceforth be and remain one county for ever under the name of the County Tipperary”. And so the Cross was subsumed into the secular county. The extents of the Cross lands in the county are listed in vol. ii of the *Civil Survey of 1654 (Tipperary)*, pp. 357/418. The County of the Cross had two towns within its domain – the capital, the city of Cashel, and Fethard. Both were founded by Archbishops of Cashel and paid an annual rent to the sitting Archbishop.

The county divisions that we know today came to us with the Normans. They had known such a land division in England which had grown out of the old Saxon land division called the shire. The county also owes something to the French land division, the *comte*, which had been carried into England and Ireland also by the Normans. Sometime in the early 1200s a shire or land division comprising the present Tipperary and Limerick had been created, but about the year 1250 this had been divided into the two counties of Tipperary and Limerick. The electoral

franchise for this county was based on an English act of 1430 [8 Henry VI, c. 7], which restricted it to persons resident in the county and having a freehold to the value of forty shillings a year, at the very least. An Irish act of 1542 [33 Henry VIII, c. 1] confirmed that of 1430 and also enacted that the electorate be resident.

The representatives of the electorate were to be chosen by the freeholders and were to be “notable knights of the same counties for which they shall be chosen, or otherwise such notable esquires, gentlemen of birth of the same counties as shall be able to be knights; and no man to be such knight which standeth in the degree of yeoman or under”, according to an English act of 1445 [23 Henry VI, c. 14]. As a consequence, in the earlier period the county was represented by powerful landowners such as Sir John Everard, but after the 1690s merchants and lawyers began to displace them and to use parliament as a vehicle for self advancement.

However, the influence of parliament in Ireland derived from land and did not represent the broad mass of the people. For example, in 1790 the population of Tipperary was estimated at 181,000; yet the county electorate consisted of no more than 1,480 freeholders.

Despite the small electorate county elections were held over days and on some occasions over weeks, which “tended to corrupt the morals of the people, and to lessen the freedom of elections” according to an Irish Commons committee report of 1768. The greatest consequence of this was disputed returns and complaints of “undue elections”. Some semblance of electoral reform was undertaken in 1775; and in another resolution of 1777 the Commons decreed that witnesses called in a disputed election had to be compensated at the rate of 4d. a mile travelling expenses and 4s. a day for maintenance. These had to be paid by the person making the claim.

Nevertheless, men continued ardently to seek to represent their county. When the High Sheriff had the writ for a new election read in the court of the county (Clonmel for Co. Tipperary) between the hours of eight and nine o'clock in the morning, there was no shortage of candidates. The High Sheriff, it should be noted, had no powers to influence the selection of candidates. This was left to the assembled freeholders who were requested to “choose two sufficient men to be knights for the county”. And those chosen were expected to be “grave, wise, learned, skilful, and of great experience in the causes of policy”; and that they should not be silent or dumb in the House, but should at all times “speak in the furtherance of the interests of the king and commonwealth”.

Origins of boroughs

Like the county certain towns enjoyed the privilege of electing members to parliament. These were known as boroughs. Originally a borough signified a fortified town, but in time it came to mean a town possessing a corporation of citizens and privileges conferred by royal charter. Following the issue of writs for a new election to the sheriff of the county he in turn sent a summons to all mayors and sovereigns of corporate towns requesting that each should choose and elect two burgesses “according to their old custom and usage” to represent them in parliament.

In earlier times the borough had elected tradesmen or craftsmen to represent it and these would have been resident and active within the borough. But once the burgesses began to elect non-residents a change occurred. The new MPs were smaller landowners, merchants and lawyers, whose sole interest was so often self-advancement rather than the good of the borough. Another abuse was the creation of vast numbers of honorary freemen who would support one side or the other in a dispute.

A prime example of this was that which took place in Fethard between the Barton and



O'Callaghan interests when the borough, at one point, had close to 900 freemen – probably more than the whole population of the town. The three corporations in south Tipperary had deteriorated to such a point that the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations, reporting in the 1830s, noted that they were of “no service to the community”, that their functions and electoral systems were totally at variance with the democratic spirit of that age. In short, all three were self-perpetuating cliques that were wholly Protestant in character.

Though sizeable Protestant communities grew in various centres within the county such as at Cashel, Tipperary, Nenagh and Roscrea from the mid seventeenth century onwards, only three towns had the right of representation in parliament. These were Clonmel, Cashel and Fethard; and all three were in the southern half of the county. One, Clonmel, was the Duke of Ormonde's capital town in the county, and the other two were within the County of the Cross and nominally owing allegiance to the Archbishop of Cashel.

Clonmel was a corporation borough having a mayor, nineteen burgesses and about seventy freemen. These combined constituted the town's electorate. This electorate was based on the charters of 5 June 1552 and 5 July 1608 and hardly changed throughout the eighteenth century. In 1790, for example, Clonmel had seventy-two freemen, almost all of whom were non-resident, and these together with the mayor and the nineteen burgesses were the sole electorate in a town that was estimated to have had 9,000 inhabitants.

Stephen Moore's ambitions

By the beginning of the eighteenth century Clonmel corporation was about to become a controlled, or pocket, borough. On 29 September 1724 Colonel Stephen Moore, unscrupulous and violent and adept with both pistol and sword, was elected mayor of Clonmel. This was the beginning of his efforts to convert the borough to his family's advantage. He had already made an attempt on Fethard in 1719, but was seen off. He also set his sights on Cashel in the mid-1730s, but again failed. However, in the fullness of time, he was successful in Clonmel and the Moore/Mountcashell interest there was to remain paramount until the family sold the control to the Bagwells at the century's end.

Like its neighbour Clonmel, Cashel was a corporation borough having a mayor, seventeen aldermen and from seventy to eighty freemen. The charters which granted it the franchise were those of 20 July 1484, 18 March 1542, 19 October 1557, 11 February 1583, 3 October 1637 (this one also gave the title of City of Cashel to the town), and 22 June 1639. This last was to remain the governing charter until the corporation was disfranchised in 1870.

In its earlier life control of the borough lay in the hands of the Archbishop of Cashel. A prime example was the episcopate of Archbishop Palliser (1696-1726), who appears to have admitted to their freedom all the young men he ordained for the church. Likewise the Archbishop bestowed preferment on those clergymen who aided him in the management of the borough.

In 1727 the Pennefather family took control of the borough and fastened that control by having none but family members elected as aldermen or freemen. The Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in their 1835 report on Cashel noted: “...for generations [it] was one of the most arbitrarily governed of the Irish freeman boroughs. The municipal council sat in secret”.

As he did in both Clonmel and Fethard Colonel, Stephen Moore set his sights on Cashel's corporation and in 1733 a contested election arose between himself and Richard Pennefather. Moore had the support of the Archbishop of the day together with the government. Henry



Boyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, threw his weight behind Pennefather. After much claim and counter-claim Richard Pennefather was declared the winner. To help Moore gain victory some 120 freemen had been admitted to the corporation, but following the Pennefather win these were weeded out over time.

The third borough, that of Fethard, was described thus in *Finn's Leinster Journal* of 8 January 1791:

the town has an estimated 560 inhabitants. The electors are, the returning officer, 12 burgesses, and above 300 freemen, mostly non-resident. And so careless of its representation that they never attend to vote but when the private interests of party call forth their exertions.

Throughout the centuries Fethard, which had been founded by the Archbishop of Cashel, received a number of royal charters, but the governing ones were those granted by Edward VI on 28 May 1552 which gave to the town the same privileges as Kilkenny. This charter was further amplified by that extended by James 1 on 18 February 1608. The corporation of 1608 consisted of a sovereign (also a burgess), a portreeve, a recorder, 12 burgesses and an unspecified number of freemen. In the seventeenth century residence within the Liberty of the town was an essential qualification for burgesses and freemen; and generally no more than four freemen were admitted each year (two by the outgoing sovereign and two by the incoming). But in time irregularities respecting freemen crept in.

From the granting of the charter of 1552 it seems most likely that the local magnates, the Everard family, had the controlling interest in the corporation. The family were to retain this control for close on two hundred years. Despite the aggressive moves by Colonel Stephen Moore to gain control of the borough in 1719, he was seen off. Cornelius O'Callaghan was Recorder (or law officer) to the corporation since 1712 and had been MP for the town in 1713; it seems that he wielded considerable influence among the burgesses of the corporation and so held a controlling interest.

But a more permanent change came when his son, Robert O'Callaghan, was elected MP in 1754 to represent the town. The new control was cemented through the admittance of 98 freemen in this year of 1754 – all sympathetic to the O'Callaghan interest. This was the first break with age-old custom, and from then onwards there seems to have been no limit to the admittance of freemen. With the passing of the Act of Union the county together with Clonmel and Cashel sent members to the Imperial Parliament; Fethard was disfranchised.

Throughout the biographies, all dates before 1752 are old style, but the year has been taken to begin on 1 January.

2. A Chronological List of Members:

1559(60):

Co. Tipperary: Patrick Sherelocke; Oliver Grace, Carny.
Cross Tipperary: [No members listed]
Clonmel: John Stridche; Henry White.
Cashel: [No members listed]
Fethard: Nicholas Hackett; Theobald Nasshe.

1568(69):

[No list has been preserved of the members who represented Tipperary in this year].



1585/86:

Co. Tipperary: James Butler, Knockloughtie; Redmond Everard, Fethard.
 Cross Tipperary: Richmond Archbold; Edmond Prendergast, Newcastle.
 Clonmel: Geffry White; John Bray.
 Cashel City: Denis Conway; Patrick Kerny.
 Fethard: William Nash; David Wall.

1613/15:

Co. Tipperary: Sir Walter Butler of Kilcash; Sir John Everard of Knockelly. John Tobin, Cumpshinagh, *vice* Sir Walter Butler who was created 11th Earl of Ormond.
 Cross Tipperary: Edmund Butler of Cloghcully; Thomas Laffan of Greystown.
 Clonmel: Nicholas White; John Bray.
 Cashel: John Halye; John Sall.
 Fethard: Edward Everard; Redmond Hackett.

1634/35:

Co. Tipperary: Thomas Butler, Drangan; Theobald Purcell, Loughmore.
 Cross Tipperary: Sir Thomas Gough, Clonmel; Geoffrey Mockler, Dracoasland.
 Clonmel: Henry White; Geffry Barron [Expelled 3 Dec. 1634].
 Cashel: Thomas Little; John Haley.
 Fethard: Thomas Everard; Thomas Henes.

1640/49:

Co. Tipperary: Hon. James Butler of Ballydoyle; Thomas Butler of Kilconnel.
 Clonmel: William Smith; Richard Gethings.
 Cashel City: Thomas Little, senior; Patrick Boyton, Clonosker, Roscommon.
 Richard Haley, Recorder of Cashel, *vice* Thomas Little, deceased.
 Fethard: Thomas Hennessy; Patrick Vyn.

1642/49: Confederation of Kilkenny:

Co. Tipperary: Archbishop Thomas Walsh of Cashel; Piers Butler of Cahir; Sir Richard Everard; Geoffrey Barron; Theobald Butler, Lord Dunboyne; Edmund Butler; Thomas Butler; Thomas Carve; Thomas Hennessy; Richard Haley; John Haley; Dr. Gerald Fenell.

1654/59: The Cromwellian Parliaments:

1654/56: Cos. Tipperary and Waterford: John Reynolds, commissary-general, and Colonel Jerome Sankey. Waterford city and Clonmel: Captain William Halsey.
 1656: Cos. Tipperary and Waterford: Sir John Reynolds and Colonel Daniel Abbot. Waterford city and Clonmel: Captain William Halsey.
 1659: Cos. Tipperary and Waterford: Sir Jerome Sankey and Thomas Stanley; Waterford city (and Clonmel?): Captain William Halsey.

1661/66:

Co. Tipperary: Thomas Sadlier, Killvelagh *vice* J. Butler, Lord Dunboyne; Bartholemew Foulke.



- Clonmel: Sir Thomas Stanley, Tickincorr, Waterford; Sir Francis Fowke; Sir James Shaen, Bishopstowne, West Kilmore, Roscommon; *vice* Sir Thomas Stanley.
- Cashel Borough: Col. Richard Lehunt; Eliagh Greene.
- Fethard: Nicholas Everard; Maurice Fenton, Mitchelstown; Sir John Stephens, Dublin *vice* Everard deceased; John St. Leger, Doneraile *vice* Fenton deceased; Redmond Barry, Rathcormuck, Cork *vice* St. Leger deceased.
- 1689:**
- Co. Tipperary: Nicholas Purcell, Loughmore; James Butler, Grangebeg.
- Clonmel: Nicholas White; John Bray.
- Cashel: Dennis Kearney; James Hacket.
- Fethard: Sir John Everard; James Tobin.
- 1692/93:**
- Co. Tipperary: Sir John Meade, Ballintober, Cork; Stephen Moore, Kilworth, Cork.
- Clonmel: Robert Blennerhassett; Richard Moore, Kilworth.
- Cashel Borough: Samuel Green, Killaghy; Samuel Hughes, Archerstown.
- Fethard: Colonel Thomas Cleere, Kilbury; Captain Richard Sankey, St. Johnstown.
- 1695/99:**
- Co. Tipperary: Sir Robert Meade, Ballintober, Cork; Stephen Moore, Kilworth, Cork.
- Clonmel: Robert Blennerhassett; Richard Moore, Kilworth.
- Cashel: Samuel Greene, Killaghy; Anthony Maude, Dundrum.
- Fethard: Mathew Jacob, St. Johnstowne; Thomas Carter, Robertstown, Meath, and Hollybrook, Dublin.
- 1703/13:**
- Co. Tipperary: Sir John Mead, Ballintober, Cork; James Dawson, Ballyneacourty or New Forest; James Harrison, *vice* John Mead deceased.
- Clonmel: Thomas Medlicott, Dublin; Robert Hamerton, Ballyneale or Newtowne.
- Cashel: Samuel Green, Killaghy; Kingsmill Pennefather; Mathew Pennefather, *vice* Samuel Green, deceased.
- Fethard: Mathew Jacob, St. Johnstowne; Epaphroditus Marsh.
- 1713/14:**
- Co. Tipperary: James Dawson, New Forest; George Mathews, Thomastown.
- Clonmel: Robert Hamerton, Newtown; Stephen Moore, Barne.
- Cashel: Kingsmill Pennefather; Mathew Pennefather.
- Fethard: Sir Redmond Everard; Cornelius O'Callaghan, Shanbally.
- 1715/27:**
- Co. Tipperary: Kingsmill Pennefather, Cashel; Humphrey Minchin, Annagh.
- Clonmel: Robert Hamerton, Newtown; Stephen Moore, Barne.
- Cashel: Richard Buckworth, Lissheen; Mathew Pennefather.
- Fethard: Epaphroditus Marsh; Guy Moore, Crohane; Joseph Slatterie *vice* Marsh deceased; Stephen Moore, The Barn, *vice* Slatterie mis-elected.

1727/60:

Co. Tipperary:

Kingsmill Pennefather, Cashel; James Dawson, Ballyowen; George Mathew, Thomastown *vice* Dawson mis-elected; Joseph Damer, Roscrea and Mount Eccles, Dublin *vice* Pennefather deceased; Nehemiah Donnellan, Nenagh and Artane, Dublin, *vice* Damer deceased; Stephen Moore, Moore Park, Cork, *vice* Mathew deceased.

Clonmel:

Guy Moore, Abby; Stephen Moore, Barne; Robert Hamerton, Newtowne, *vice* Guy Moore mis-elected; Robert Marshall, Dublin, *vice* Stephen Moore mis-elected; Guy Moore, *vice* Hamerton deceased; Sir Thomas Prendergast, Dublin, *vice* Moore, mis-elected; Guy Moore, *vice* Marshall promoted Justice; William Bagwell, Clonmel, *vice* Moore, mis-elected; Guy Moore, Abby, *vice* Bagwell deceased.

Cashel:

Mathew Pennefather, Cashel; Richard Buckworth, Lissheen; Richard Pennefather, New Park, *vice* Pennefather deceased; William Carr Buckworth, Lissheen, *vice* Buckworth deceased; Kingsmill Pennefather, Cashel, *vice* William Carr Buckworth deceased.

Fethard:

Mathew Jacob, jun., St. Johnstown; John Cleare, Kilburry; Robert O'Callaghan, Shanbally *vice* Cleare deceased.

1761/68:

Co. Tipperary:

Henry Prittie, Kilboy; Thomas Mathew, Thomastown; Sir Thomas Maude, Dundrum *vice* Thomas Mathew, Thomastown, mis-elected.

Clonmel:

Richard Moore, Moore Park; Guy Moore (Coote), Abby; Colvill Moore *vice* Richard Moore deceased.

Cashel:

Richard Pennefather; Kingsmill Pennefather.

Fethard:

Cornelius O'Callaghan, Shanbally; Hon. Stephen Moore, Kilworth.

1768/76:

Co. Tipperary:

Sir Thomas Maude, Dundrum; Francis Mathew, Thomastown.

Clonmel:

Hon. Colvill Moore; Guy Moore (Coote), Abby.

Cashel:

Richard Pennefather; Kingsmill Pennefather; William Pennefather *vice* Kingsmill Pennefather deceased.

Fethard:

Cornelius O'Callaghan, Shanbally; John Croker, Ballyneguarde, Co. Limerick.

1776/83:

Co. Tipperary:

Henry Prittie; Francis Mathew.

Clonmel:

Stephen Moore, Marlfield; Guy Moore (Coote), New Abbey.

Cashel:

Richard Pennefather; William Pennefather.

Fethard:

Cornelius O'Callaghan; David Walshe.

1783/90:

Co. Tipperary:

Henry Prittie; Daniel Toler.

Clonmel:

Hon. William Moore; Stephen Moore, Barne.

Cashel:

Richard Pennefather; William Pennefather.

Fethard:

Cornelius O'Callaghan; Thomas Barton; Daniel Gahan *vice* O'Callaghan promoted Lord Lismore.

1790/97:

- Co. Tipperary: John Bagwell; Daniel Toler; Hon Francis Mathew elected 1795 *vice* Toler deceased.
- Clonmel: Stephen Moore, commonly called Lord Kilworth; Hon. William Moore; Hon. John Moore *vice* Stephen Moore declared Earl of Mount Cashell.
- Cashel: Richard Pennefather, Newpark; William Pennefather, Athlone.
- Fethard: Thomas Barton; Daniel Gahan.

1798/1800:

- Co. Tipperary: Hon. Francis Mathew, commonly called Lord Viscount Mathew; John Bagwell.
- Clonmel: Stephen Moore, Sapperton, Tallow; Thomas Newenham; John Dennis in room of Newenham who accepted Escheatorship of Munster.
- Cashel: Richard Pennefather; Hon. Joseph Lysaght; Richard Bagwell in room of Lysaght who accepted Escheatorship of Munster.
- Fethard: John Taylor; Major William Ponsonby.

[Return of the name of every member of the lower house of the Parliaments of England, Scotland and Ireland, H.C., 1878, lxii, 3 vols.; John Lodge, "Parliamentary register", *Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniae, 1152-1827* (London, 1852), i, pt. i, pp. 1/40; *Journals of the House of Commons of Ireland, 1613-1800*; W.R. Scott, "Members for Ireland in the Parliaments of the Protectorate", *JRSAI*, 5th Series, iii (1893), 73/77; Mícheál Ó Siochrú, *Confederate Ireland, 1642-49* (Dublin, 1999); J.G. Simms, *The Jacobite Parliament of 1689* (Dundalk, 1966), p. 25.]

Biographical Details

[Names in italics are themselves the subjects of biographies]

ABBOT, Colonel Daniel. (MP Co. Tipperary, 1656).

Colonel Abbot was one of the military officers elected to represent the united counties of Tipperary and Waterford in the 1656 parliament. It is likely that he represented "the Baptists and persons of like fanatic spirits". He may also have represented the interests of General Charles Fleetwood, but this is not certain, as he did not sign the petition written at the end of 1655 requesting the return of Fleetwood to Ireland as lord deputy. He did write from Nenagh in 1658 offering his support to Henry Cromwell the new lord deputy. However, as County Tipperary politics during the Interregnum and the early years of the Restoration have not to my knowledge been explored in any great depth we cannot be certain. The election may also have been a contested one as Henry Cromwell wrote to Secretary John Thurloc, on 20 August 1656, that *Sir John Reynolds* was gone into Tipperary to secure his election

The earliest reference to Daniel Abbot is that he was a captain in Okey's regiment of dragoons in the New Model army, and that he was a major in the same regiment in 1647 and 1648. His origins in England seem to be obscure.

In April 1649 a regiment of dragoons was selected by lot for duty in Ireland under Cromwell, of which Abbot was appointed colonel and Francis Bolton the major. During its campaign in Ireland General Ludlow mentions the bravery of Abbot; and between 1649 and 1651 he was very active in raids on the Irish. For one of its exploits in 1650 Cromwell promised Abbot's



dragoons the better pay of a regiment of horse. In 1656 Abbot petitioned Cromwell to fulfil this promise, which was granted in 1658 possibly due to the good offices of Charles Fleetwood. Of this pay rise Henry Cromwell, lord deputy, wrote on 12 January 1659: "I must needs say, I am startled at so incongruous an action".

From his council of officers in Ireland the Lord Protector, in May 1656, appointed six men - among them Colonel Daniel Abbot - to act as trustees for the purpose of satisfying the arrears of pay due to officers and men for their service in Ireland.

For himself Abbot obtained land in Tipperary and Kilkenny together with property in the town of Clonmel. In March 1667 he was confirmed, by the terms of the Act of Settlement, in his possession of 2,682 statute acres in the barony of Galmoy, Co. Kilkenny, 2,367 statute acres in the barony of Owny and Arra in Tipperary, and 2,367 statute acres in Upper Ormond in Tipperary. He also had an involvement, together with Colonel Prittie, in the re-opening of the lead and silver mines in north Tipperary. Abbot even brought over skilled labour from England to work the mines.

And yet he disappears from the records for the last quarter of the seventeenth century and there seems to be no mention of his descendants in published works dealing with eighteenth century Tipperary as happened with his contemporaries. This was despite being the owner of 6,300 statute acres in the 1660s, which would have made him a figure of importance in Tipperary society.

Being at all times republican in his sympathies, he was suspected of opposition to the Restoration of Charles II. This, together with the fact that the Planters old and new were more interested in the protection of property than in implementing radical ideas, may account for his being written out of history; and he may not have married. In January 1660 Abbot was arrested by Sir Charles Coote on charges of hostility to Parliament. When Sir William Flower travelled about Tipperary in October 1660 asserting the authority of the Duke of Ormonde he called on Abbot at Nenagh who, up to that date, was Governor of the town. In a letter to Lady Ormonde Flower writes of his distrust of Abbot and notes that the Duke was reluctant to renew Abbot's leases. When parliament brought in a Bill of Indemnity on 24 May 1661 some thirty persons were excluded from its terms because they were persons who were fanatics and opposed to Charles's Restoration and had gloried in the death of his late father. Colonel Abbot's name appeared on that list. However, on 10 June 1661 the English Privy Council dropped the names from the bill and so Abbot escaped censure or worse.

In 1663 he was again suspected of complicity in the "plots" (real or concocted) to overthrow the government by capturing Dublin Castle and take prisoner the Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Ormonde. A reward of £100 was offered for Abbot's arrest, but he succeeded in escaping. Nevertheless, a Chancery Pleadings case shows he was alive in 1669; but a Sir George Hamilton was the principal occupier in Nenagh parish in the 1665/66 Hearth Money Returns.

Abbot's subsequent history is not known.

[*Palatinate Chancery Pleadings*, 6th Report DKPRI, appendix, 72; R. Dunlop, *Ireland under the Commonwealth* (Manchester, 1913), 57; Burke, *Clonmel*, 246; Charles H. Firth, *The Regimental History of Cromwell's Army* (Oxford, 1940), 621/23; H.M.C., *Ormonde Mss.*, iii (1904), 9; *Reports of Records Commrs, 1821-25*, 15th Report, 119; T. C. Barnard, *Cromwellian Ireland* (Oxford, 1975), 39; Thomas Laffan, *Tipperary's Families, etc.* (Dublin, 1911), 51; Thomas Birch (ed), *A Collection of the State Papers of John Thurloe* (London, 1742), iii, 466/67, iv, 276, 421, v, 327, vi, 744; Dermot F. Gleeson, *The Last Lords of Ormond* (London, 1938), 162].

ARCHBOLD, Richmond (MP Cross Tipperary, 1585/86).

He was elected to parliament in April 1585, probably in the Ormond interest as he was one of those who signed a petition to safeguard Ormond's lands when an Act of Attainder was being



passed on the Earl of Desmond. This family name seems to have been variously written as Archbold, Stacbolde, and Stacboll; and was eventually anglicized as Staple or Stapleton.

It has been difficult to identify precisely this MP. He was probably the Redmond Stapleton, *alias* Stackbold, who was recorded in an Ormond Deed of 13 May 1587. This Redmond was son and heir of Walter who was son of Robert who was son of William. The family had lands in the parish of St. Patrick's Rock in the County of the Cross. The Edmond Stapleton of GortmcEllis in the same parish who held lands in 1640 was probably a descendant of theirs. This Edmond was transplanted and the lands passed to the Pennefather family.

However, to muddy the waters further there is among the extant fragments of sixteenth and seventeenth Chancery Bills a reference to Richard Archbold *alias* Stacbolde, dated 1580s, of St. John Grange, Co. Tipperary. St. John Grange is probably St. John Baptist's Grange, close to Lisronagh, Clonmel and part of the lands of the County of the Cross. Another, bearing no date, records a Richard Stackbold of St. Johnes Grange in Cross Tipperary, son of Redmond Stackbold, late of Dublin, yeoman. Archbold may have been a member of the Leynestowne branch of the Stapleton family. Their lands were close to Cashel and within the County of the Cross. An Ormond Deed of 22 November 1616 records that a Thomas Stapleton of Lynestowne sat on a Grand Jury in Cashel.

[National Archives, *Chancery Bills*, E220, F59, N43; *Ormond Deeds*, ed. Edmund Curtis, see vols. v and vi at Stapleton; John O'Hart, *The Irish and Anglo-Irish Landed Gentry, etc.* (Dublin, 1884), 346; *Cal. S. P. Ire.* (1509/73), 461; *Cal. S. P. Ire.* (1586/88), 53].

BAGWELL, John. (MP Co. Tipperary, 1792/97; 1798/1800).

John Bagwell first took his seat for Tipperary on 20 January 1792 when the *Hon. Francis Mathew* was declared mis-elected. Bagwell, formerly, had contested Cork City in 1775, sat as MP for Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, and been elected to represent Doneraile, Co. Cork in 1790.

In the county election of 1790 it was expected that the candidates would be *Henry Prittie*, the outgoing MP, who would likely obtain the first seat and the second would have been contested between *Daniel Toler*, the other sitting member, and *Francis James Mathew*, who was Lord Llandaff's eldest son. At the time of selection Prittie withdrew his name and nominated John Bagwell in his stead.

When the 1790 election count was completed on 26 May, *Daniel Toler* had 1,491 votes, Mathew 845 and Bagwell 776. The first two were declared elected, but Bagwell petitioned the House of Commons against the return. After a wait of a year, on 7 May 1791, Bagwell was declared the winner of the second seat and promptly abandoned Doneraile. He was returned unopposed in the election of 1797; he represented the county in the Imperial Parliament from 1800 to 1806, but was defeated by the Catholic vote in 1807 and 1812.

John Bagwell was the only son and heir of *William Bagwell* who was the second son of John Bagwell who had a banking business in Clonmel. John, the grandfather, had, in the late 1720s and early 1730s, purchased an estate of nearly 3,000 acres in south Tipperary which was land formerly owned by John Slattery and Lord Dunboyne.

John the MP, born in 1751, was of the junior branch which continued in the banking and corn merchant business. But John was reared at Belgrove, Cobh, Co. Cork by his mother's people and probably lived here for some years after his marriage. He may not have returned to Clonmel until Marlfield was purchased in 1780 from *Stephen Moore*. About 1785 John Bagwell, who was by then a rich man, built for himself a mansion at Marlfield which was destroyed in 1923 during the Civil War, but rebuilt two years later.

John married, on 4 February 1774, Mary the daughter of Richard Hare of Ennismore, Co.



Kerry and sister of the 1st Earl of Listowel. By this marriage he had two sons, William and Richard, and four daughters. John Bagwell died on 21 December 1816 and was succeeded to the Marlfield estate by his elder son, William. The latter died unmarried in 1825 and the estate passed to John son of Richard.

Bagwell made various attempts to break the monopoly which the Moore family held on the Clonmel corporation but without success, despite the casual manner in which the Moores controlled the borough. Eventually, in 1799, Lord Mountcashell (Moore) sold his controlling interest to Bagwell.

John Bagwell was appointed Governor of Co. Tipperary on 14 March 1792, and High Sheriff for the county on 14 February 1793. He raised a county militia regiment in the 1790s of which he was the commanding officer; it has been recorded that in 1798 he gave them *carte blanche* in dealing with rebels so long as he did not have official knowledge of their deeds. But when the Dublin government introduced a bill of Indemnity to protect Judkin Fitzgerald, the High Sheriff for the year 1798, from legal prosecution for misconduct in Tipperary, Bagwell spoke against Fitzgerald's behaviour at that period. Bagwell, speaking in the Commons chamber, said that "his [Fitzgerald's] zeal had in a great many instances carried him much too far, and excited a great deal of reprobation from many gentlemen in the county".

While in parliament he had interested himself in the political needs of Catholics. He supported the Catholic Relief bill of 1792 and was one of the minority of 84 who voted for Henry Grattan's Catholic Emancipation bill of 1795. This may have been no more than political opportunism. In his day he had himself changed his religion from Presbyterianism to the Established Church, probably to forward his social position.

Bagwell opposed the bill for an Act of Union when it was first introduced in the Commons, but subsequently blew hot and blew cold on the subject. Soon after he was visited at Marlfield House by Lord Cornwallis, the Viceroy, who wrote to the Duke of Portland that Bagwell would give "unqualified support to the union" and added that "the objects he [Bagwell] solicited were promised". At a meeting held in Clonmel on 10 August 1799 the voters instructed their two county members to vote for the Union to which Bagwell replied in vague terms two days later that he would conform his conduct in parliament to meet the general approbation of his constituents. In the final phase of the debate on union, which occurred in January 1800, Richard Bagwell (John's younger son and MP for Cashel) spoke in favour of the union.

Nevertheless, when the final vote was taken on 6 February 1800 John Bagwell and his two sons (William of Rathcormack, and Richard of Cashel) voted in opposition to the Act of Union. Promises made by the opposition had won the day. However, in the long term this move seems to have caused a serious decline in Bagwell's political fortunes as he could no longer rely on the county's Catholic vote. Bagwell seemed always to have been motivated by personal gain and political advantage, and could be said to lack that feel for the mood of the times that can keep men on the winning side.

[Hughes, *Patentee Officers; Burke's Irish Houses*, i, 203; Burke, *History of Clonmel*, 131, 133, 161, 172, 183, 195, 215, 231, 321; E. M. Johnston, "State of the Irish House of Commons in 1791", *RIA Proc.*, 59c, 23; *Comms. Jnl. (Ire.)*, xv (1797), 6/7; C. M. Tenison, "Cork MPs, 1559-1800", *JCHAS*, i (1895), 41/42; *BLG*, 1871, 44; *BIFR*, 1976, 50/51; Thomas P. Power, *Land, Politics, and Society in eighteenth-century Tipperary* (Oxford, 1993), 318/23; Burke, *Commoners of G.B. and Ire.*, iii, 141/42; Lecky, *History of Ireland, etc.* (London, 1913), iv, 283; *Finn's Leinster Journal*, 29 May 1790, 11 May 1791, 20 May 1795, 5 Aug. 1797, 21 Aug. and 4 Sept. 1799.]

To be continued.

