

Donovan & Colclough
Of County Wexford

By

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Revised Edition 2014

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Original illustrations/ Photographs

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Donovan of Ballymore



Ballymore House

The Donovans of Ballymore have been in occupation of their property since the year 1694. Mortagh Donovan inherited the house and lands from his uncle Thomas Kieran, a wealthy Dublin brewer and an Alderman of the city.

In 1994 the late owner Richard Donovan and his wife Margaret created a most interesting museum of family items from past generations.

Richard died in 2007 and this obituary is a moving tribute that speaks volumes of the man.

Obituary of Richard Donovan d. 2007

A noted community man, the news of his death was met with sorrow across the county (Wexford). Ballymore Historic Features, the privately run museum at Ballymore, which he developed over many years with his wife Margaret, attracted thousands of visitors annually. The award winning family museum was founded as a labour of love in 1994, and was a treasure trove of the history of a family which has been intricately linked with local life for centuries.

Born on April 20, 1927, Richard went to the Dragon School in Oxford and to the famous Rugby School, and then on to New College, Oxford, where he studied politics and economics. He then went on to study law, and practised in London, Canada and New York.

His beloved Ballymore was damaged by fire in 1957, and having taken over the farm on the death of his father, he returned to London and practised there for a year or two with with the intention of restoring the farm. He married in 1959 and came back to Ireland with the intention of practising here. He quickly found the farm took up all his time.

When he returned to Ireland, he also became involved in numerous community organisations. He was always concerned with community matters in the Ferns area, and was active on the Church of Ireland Ferns Diocesan Council. He was an active spokesman for the establishment of Ferns Play Group, and also supported the restoration of St. Mogue's Cottage in Ferns.

Further afield, he was also one of the original founder members of the charity Concern through his godmother Margaret Greene, an anthropologist who had experienced the horrors of the Biafran War.

From 1990 until recently, Richard served as Chairman of the Board of the Katherine Howard Foundation, a charitable organisation set up by his late friend. This Foundation, which gives grants especially to early childcare groups in communities and other worthy causes, was very dear to his heart. 'He served as Chairman for fifteen years,' said Philip Jacob, fellow board member. 'He was a hands-on Chairman, and was devoted to the work of the Foundation. He was an extraordinary man, and was very knowledgeable and interested in many things.

Richard was also a member of the North Wexford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and North Wexford Tourism, both of whom have paid tribute to him.

The Ballymore Historic Museum

The museum boasts hundreds of items that have been family heirlooms through the centuries, from estate books to family albums, and from horse trappings (and traps) to cannon

balls and bayonets not to mention all the minutiae that went into the making of the genteel Donovan household. The museum is a veritable Aladdin's Cave of historical treasure and the magic was more than complete when one was fortunate enough to have Richard or Margaret as a guide.

High up on the walls and almost tucked away out of sight is a pair of bows, (as in bows and arrows), at least five feet in length. Upon inquiry Richard casually disclosed that they were used by the females of the family in archery practise, not to become proficient bow - ladies, but as an enjoyable outdoor recreation which helped the development of a good figure and posture.



Richard Donovan in the Museum

The Botanic Gardens Anecdote

Another of Richards anecdotes relates how his ancestor, the Richard Donovan who built the farmyard and laid out the grounds and garden, met his wife Frances. His parents and family had fled to Dublin when the 1798 insurgents occupied the house and established their camp on Ballymore Hill. The house remained unoccupied for a number of years and the young heir was reluctant to take up his inheritance, burdened as it was with charges and obligations to other family members.

Richard was friendly with Frederick Moore, the founder of the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin. He undertook to help him with the establishment of his extensive collection of exotic plants. One day he was planting out some new arrivals from abroad when a young lady visited the gardens with her Aunt. The ladies entered into conversation with him about the project and he was struck by the young girl's intelligence and quick perception. When they had left he enquired as to her name, which he then recognised as an intended guest at his Uncle's house that evening. He went home to his lodgings and borrowed his brother's suit of clothes and turned up at the dinner party to renew acquaintances.

In due course Richard and Francis married and settled at Ballymore. They undertook the repair of the house, the building of the present farmyard, and the layout of the garden with its fine greenhouse. The greenhouse has now been reconstituted as the tea room and kitchen to serve the visitors to the family museum.

The First Donovans in Wexford

The Donovans of Ballymore, and Clonmore, Co. Wexford descended from Rickard Donovan, a Munsterman, who acquired his estates in the Ferns area, totalling some 2000 acres, in 1694 from his brother in law Thomas Kieran, who had purchased the lands from Arthur Parsons the original Cromwellian grantee.

Rickard was descended from the O'Donovans of Cork and the lands he acquired, in Co. Wexford, had been in the possession of Edward Masterson, a descendant of the celebrated 16th century adventurer, Thomas Masterson (who acquired the Church lands at the expense of the Kavanaghs). The Donovans were in possession of Ferns Castle for almost two hundred years after this time. We can assume they lived there for a number of years until they moved to Ballymore.

Rickard Donovan's wife was Bridget Kieran and they had five sons and three daughters who married respectively,

Gough of Ballyorel, King of Mackmine, and Rev. Michael Mosse. Four of the five sons married and the three eldest had descendants who will be dealt with in rotation. The fourth son Thomas had one son Mortagh, and there is no further notice of that family.

His eldest son, Mortagh, was left Ballymore by his uncle Thomas Kieran in 1694 and on the death of his father in 1707, Mortagh was left all the other estates with the exception of Clonmore (leased from the Randalls of Randall's Mill and the Deeps), which Rickard left to his second son Cornelius.

Mortagh was twice married, firstly to Lucy Archer, the daughter of Henry Archer of Enniscorthy, by whom he had two sons Richard 1st and Henry (who appears to have died young as there is no further notice of him) and secondly to Anna Carew of Castleboro, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. One of the daughters, Catherine, married Rev. S. Hayden, Rector of Ferns, who was killed by the rebels in Enniscorthy in 1798.

Mortagh's eldest son, Richard 1st, married Elizabeth the daughter of Edward Rogers of Bessmount, Wexford, and they had one son Edward and two daughters who got married, Lucy to Gilfrid Lawson, son of Sir Wilfrid Lawson of Cumberland, and Frances to Charles Hill of St. John's Co. Wexford.

Edward Donovan of Ballymore, became a Barrister-at-Law, with a practice in Dublin. In 1747 he married Mary the daughter of John Broughton of Kent and they had six sons and five daughters. Three of the girls died unmarried and the other two, Julia and Lucy married Robert Verner of Dublin and James Barker also of Dublin. Four of the sons died unmarried and one, the third son, George, married a Miss Devereux of Wexford and went to America.

The Donovans in the 19th Century

Edward's eldest son, Richard 2nd, succeeded to the estates. Richard is stated to have repaired the beautiful stone

groined chapel of the Castle and held Masonic meetings there from time to time (not Orange orgies as mistakenly reported by Hore and Dr. John O'Donovan). He had a son also called Richard 3rd who was Sheriff of the County in 1859.

Richard, married Anne, the daughter of Goddard Richards of Grange, Co. Wexford and they had nine sons and five daughters. Three of the girls married, Anne to Solomon Speer of Co. Tyrone, a barrister, Mary to John Glascott of Killowen, Co. Wexford, and Eliza to William Russell Farmar of Bloomfield, Co. Wexford. Five of the sons appear to have died unmarried or young and here follows an account of the other four sons:

(1) Richard 3rd the eldest, of Ballymore, born in 1781, (the man mentioned in the early part of this narrative) married Frances the eldest daughter of Edward Westby of High Park, Co. Wicklow, and they had four sons, Richard 4th, Edward Westby, an army officer, Henry George and Robert, and three daughters, Phoebe, Frances and Anna.

(2) Robert, the third son married a Miss Taylor and had five sons, Richard, Robert, Henry, Edwin, and Albert William, and one daughter Harietta who married James McKenny of Dublin.

(3) George the 5th son married and had children, details unknown.

(4) William of Enniscorthy married a Miss Dallas of Portarlinton and had one son William John.

Richard 4th the eldest son of Richard (b. 1781) succeeded to the family property and married Elizabeth Agnes Wynne, daughter of Henry Wynne, Rector of Ardcolm, Wexford. They had three daughters none of whom married and two younger sons- Charles an Army officer and explorer and Edward who became a successful engineer in Manchester.

The eldest son Richard 5th, studied for the bar, but on his father's death in 1880 took on the responsibilities of the family property. He sold off all tenanted lands under the Land Acts. He was married to Constance Eleanor Lillingstone and had one

son. He died suddenly in 1916. He was survived by his only son Rickard who served in the Royal Navy and fought in two World Wars. He had three daughters one of whom Phoebe was a distinguished artist.

Rickard died in 1952 leaving two sons and one daughter Felicity, now living in London. The two sons were Richard 6th, the late owner of Ballymore, a qualified solicitor and Christopher a medical doctor who also lived in London.

Richard's son, Brian Donovan, is the founder of Eneclann a very successful award winning history and heritage company based in Dublin.

The descendants of Cornelius the second son of Rickard Donovan

Cornelius of Clonmore married Bridget the daughter of Abraham Hughes of Ballytrent, Co. Wexford and they had two sons, Abraham, a physician of Enniscorthy, who did unmarried and Rickard of Clonmore who married Winifred the daughter of Henry Milward of Ballyharron, Co. Wexford, and had five daughters who got married, Eliza to Cadwallader Edwards of Ballyhire, Sarah to John Cox of Coolcliffe, Winifred to Rev. Joseph Millar of New Ross, Lucy to John Glascott of Alderton, Co. Wexford and Julia to Richard Newton King of Mackmine.

Cornelius married again when his first wife died - to Mary the daughter of John Harvey of Killiane Castle, and they had two sons and two daughters, one of whom Juliana married Cornelius FitzPatrick an ensign in the Wexford Militia, The two sons were John and Cornelius but there is not further notice of them so they may have died young.

The descendants of Rickard, the third son of Rickard Donovan

Rickard of Camolin Park, married a Miss Nixon and they had five sons and one daughter, Juliana who married in 1741, Richard the 6th Earl of Anglesey and when he died, Matthew Talbot of Castle Talbot, Wexford.

The eldest son George died young and the second son Cornelius was a Captain in the Dragoons who had a daughter Mary (married Robert Blaney of Camolin). The other sons were Richard, Rickard and Denn Nixon, about whom there are no further notices except about Richard. In the Dr. ODonovan Notes on the Parishes it is stated that Captain Richard Donovan, who married Elizabeth the daughter of Major Edward Rogers, of Bessmount, Enniscorthy, died in 1768.

Colclough of Tintern

John Colclough 'The Rebel'

“Farewell Enniscorthy!
John Colclough takes a fond farewell!
Green hill o’er the Slaney!
Old windmill where our heroes fell!
Farewell Town o’Wexford –
Our capital thro’ Freedom’s Strife!
On the bridge o’er wide waters,
At morning I lay down my life!”¹

¹ P.J. McCall



The arrest of Colclough and Harvey

John Colclough (pronounced Coakley) was very much influenced by the views of his cousin Caesar and his friend Bagenal Harvey, both United Irishmen and both admirers of the French Revolution. He was a liberal who favoured granting the franchise to Catholics and who was opposed to the tithe system. Like Harvey he was caught up in the affair almost by accident. He did command a section of the rebel army at Ross where he acquitted himself with distinction. After the Rebellion the two friends fled to the Saltee Islands with John's wife and child and were arrested there. They were brought to Wexford and executed on Wexford Bridge along with John's uncle Cornelius Grogan of Johnstown Castle and John Kelly from Killane. John Colclough 'the rebel' had one daughter who married a Captain Young and lived at Ballyteigue.²

The First Colclough in Ireland

The Colcloughs were descended from a very ancient and noble family of Staffordshire, whose descendant Sir Anthony Colclough came to Ireland during the reign of King Henry VIII. He was a beneficiary of the policy of Monastic Dissolution. He

² Hore *History of Wexford* Vol. 5

was granted the estate lands and Manor of Tintern in 1565, by the order of Queen Elizabeth.



Tintern Abbey

He took up residence in Tintern and took possession of the vast estates. He married Clare, the daughter of Sir Thomas Agard, a Privy Councillor in Ireland and Governor of Wexford. They had seven sons, five of whom died young³, and five daughters⁴, one of whom died in infancy.

The two remaining Sons were Thomas the elder son and heir, and Leonard of Ballyknockan, Queen's County, who was High Sheriff of Wexford in 1596.

Leonard married Honora Walsh daughter of Walter Walsh, Lord of the Mountains, of Co. Kilkenny. Leonard was killed in a battle with the O'Byrnes of Wicklow in 1599 and left a

³ The third son Anthony was killed fighting in 1598 in the Nine Years War

⁴ Jaquet m. Sir Nicholas Walsh, Frances m. William Smethwicke, Mary m. John Cots of Salop and Clara m. William Sneyd

son, Anthony of Old Ross, whose two sons died without having married.

Sir Thomas Colclough Knt.

Thomas, the heir to the estates, inherited his father's title in 1609 and was known as Sir Thomas Colclough Knt., of Tintern Abbey. He was a Justice of the Peace for Wexford. Like his father he was a soldier and much of his working life was spent fighting with and trying to placate the Kavanaghs, one of whom Brian McCahir was the ancestor of the Borris Kavanaghs.

Thomas married twice⁵ and his descendants became embroiled in the Wars of the 17th century on opposing sides. One of his daughters Eleanor married Brian Kavanagh of Polmonty and Boris, a grandson of the famous Brian McCahir.

How the Colcloughs Acquired The Duffry

It was Thomas who enlarged the Colclough holdings by acquiring some of the Duffry from Henry Darnells (who had become the owner in 1599 at the expense of the Briens or Breens of the Duffry). This arrangement was legalised by patent in 1627. The Duffry was a huge tract of land stretching from the Blackstairs to Enniscorthy and from Ross to Bunclody. The name is an anglicised version of Dubh Tir, meaning the Black Country and it got this name because of the vast oak forests which covered it. In summer these oak forests looked black from the distance. This area was populated by the Briens or Breens who were descendants of the Sil Brain (descendants of

⁵ Thomas m. firstly, Martha d. of Archbishop Adam Loftus and they had six sons and five daughters. All five daughters married – Anne m. Nicholas Bagenal of Dunleckny, Co. Carlow, Jane m. John Wogan of Woxton Hall, Martha m. Major John Piggott of Co. Laois, Elinor m. Brian Kavanagh, Polmonty, Mary m. Sir Nichols Walsh, Ballycarrigmore, Co. Wexford. Thomas m. 2nd ly Eleanor Bagnel d. of Dudley Bagnel of Dunleckny. They had one son Dudley of Monart Co. Wexford ancestor of the Duffry Hall Colcloughs.

Bran a 5th century High King). This Gaelic tribe moved up to the Duffry from the Hook area shortly after the period of the Viking invasions. They were a subordinate sept to the Kavanaghs who ruled most of Wexford, Carlow and East Kilkenny until the beginning of the 17th century. Other lands in the Duffry, adjacent to Enniscorthy, were purchased by Henry Wallop and some of these later came into the possession of the Colcloughs.

John Colclough was the younger of the two surviving sons of Thomas (by his first marriage), and he lived at Pouldarrig He married Katherine, the daughter of Sir Walter Synnott, Knt, of Rosegarland, and they had two sons, both of whom died young and four daughters. Of the four daughters, one, Clara became a nun, and one died unmarried. Mary the eldest married James Butler of Cloughnagieragh, Co. Wexford, and Martha married Thomas Cullen of Cullenstown. This was clearly another attempt by the Colcloughs to intermarry with the 'native' families. The Synnotts, Butlers and Cullens were the descendants of the Normans who had come to Wexford four centuries before.

A Family at War

Adam Colclough was the elder surviving son of Sir Thomas, who died in 1624 and who was buried with Heraldic honours. Adam was created a baronet in 1628 and was entitled Sir Adam. He married Alice the daughter of Sir Robert Rich, Master in Chancery in England, and they had one son, Caesar Colclough, who succeeded his father as Sir Caesar, in 1637. In the 1641 rebellion Tintern, the home of Sir Caesar was garrisoned by a small force of thirty soldiers from Duncannon. It became home to some 200 refugees in the winter of 1641 but in the summer of 1642 it was taken over by the rebels (Confederates).

The rebel forces were led by Dudley, John and Anthony Colclough half uncles of Sir Caesar. They had refrained from

besieging the castle while Adam's widow, Lady Colclough still resided there, but she had left Tintern in the late Spring and it was then they decided to take it for the Confederates. As an added inducement, the Colcloughs were promised £400 if they captured the stronghold.

Sir Caesar had one son who died leaving no heirs. The estates then devolved on his kinsman Caesar Colclough of Duffry Hall, a grandson of Dudley who had attacked Tintern with his brothers.

This Dudley, of Monart, Co. Wexford, married Katherine the daughter of Patrick Esmonde of Johnstown and had three sons two of whom died in infancy. Dudley got a patent for the castle, town and lands of Monart in 1627. He sided with the Confederates during the Rebellion of 1641 and was a leader during the capture of Tintern, as already noted. After the suppression of the Rebellion, Dudley and his brothers were ordered to surrender their lands and transplant into Connaught, but following numerous lengthy appeals the order to transplant was ignored or forgotten, probably due to behind the scenes diplomacy.

The Post Cromwellian Era

During the Cromwellian epoch Dudley and his family went to live in Huntingdon Castle, in Clonegal, Co. Carlow, which had been built by Lord Esmonde in 1625. Lord Esmonde was a Protestant and an uncle of Dudley's wife. They remained in Huntingdon during the upheavals of the period, theoretically occupying the castle as a military station. Dudley died in 1663 but his family remained in Huntingdon until 1674. It is probable that they moved back to the Hall after that date.

Over 5,000 acres of their lands had been granted to Morris and Clayton, London adventurers, (the ones who put up the venture capital), who established an iron works at Forge on the river Urrin. John Morris and Robert Clayton were the front for a syndicate of English entrepreneurs, comprising, Sir John

Cutler, Sir Edward Heath, Timothy Stamp, Dr. Thomas Yates, Bridget Abbott, a widow, and Didier Fouchant. The iron smelting works were established because of the availability of the oak timber to fire the smelters.

The Colcloughs of course were very busy at this time and claimed to be Innocents in the 1641 Rebellion. Dudley's son Patrick was in fact a grantee of much of his father's confiscated estates. After prolonged legal wrangling he eventually succeeded in wresting back much of the lands. Interestingly the consortium fell asunder and Timothy Stamp broke into the offices of the Iron Works and stole the account books and property of the company to the value of five or six thousand pounds and fled to Dublin where he took refuge in the Castle'⁶

Dudley's surviving son, Patrick, of Duffry Hall, succeeded his father in 1663 and was High Sheriff for Wexford in 1688 and M.P. for Enniscorthy

It was Patrick who got back the Duffry lands and in 1685 he got a grant of 89 townlands in the Duffry for ever at a rent of £60 and made Duffry Hall his chief residence. He married Katherine the daughter of Walter Bagenal of Dunleckney, and they had four sons and two daughters. Of the four sons only two survived, as one son shot himself accidentally and another Thomas was killed in a duel in 1690.

The younger of the surviving brothers was Adam, of Boley, Co. Wexford, who married Margaret the daughter of Richard Masterson of Monaseed in 1701. They had two sons - Patrick of Dunmain who married Katherine Harpur and had no children, and Richard who died young - and three daughters, Catherine, Frances and Thomasina.

Adam married secondly to Mary the daughter of Andrew Forde of Ballyfad and had by her four sons and two daughters. The sons were Anthony, Caesar, Adam and Thomas, and the daughters were Elinor who died young and Mary who married Samuel Turner of Wexford.

⁶ Hore *History of Wexford* Vol. 6

The Duffry Hall Line

The elder of the two sons of Patrick of the Duffry, was Dudley of Duffry Hall who married Mary the daughter of the Hon. Francis Barnewall of Begstown, 4th son of Nicholas, 1st Viscount Kingsland. They had six sons and two daughters, Margaret, who married Charles Byrne Esq., of Kilmocar, Co. Kilkenny, and Mary Anne who married John Byrne Esq., of Cabinteely, Dublin, a descendant of Fiach McHugh OByrne.

One of the sons, Dudley died unmarried and another son Francis married a French girl and their descendants are in France to this day. The eldest son, Caesar, inherited Tintern Abbey in 1723, as noted above. He was known as the 'Great Caesar' and was a Colonel in the local Militia. His descendants will be dealt with later. Under his supervision Tintern was transformed and cottage industries sprang up and linen and woollen goods were produced. The estate prospered.

Thomas the third son of Dudley and Mary Barnewall, married his cousin Frances the daughter of Caesar Colclough of Rosegarland, and they had one son Adam, known as English Adam, who died unmarried in 1759. Thomas lived comfortably on his Rosegarland estate.

John the fourth son was married and lived in Ballyteigue, and Burke says of him that he was 'extinct in the male line'. The fact that his wife's name is not mentioned probably indicates that she was a 'commoner'. In fact she was a Sutton and a Catholic. Perhaps more damning was the fact that his grandson John was involved in the Rebellion of 1798, and was executed, his head being displayed on Wexford Bridge.

Henry the fifth son lived in Kildavin, Co. Carlow and was the ancestor of Lieutenant Colonel Colclough who eventually succeeded to the Colclough estates. Henry married, in 1729, Margaret, the daughter of John Beauchamp of Ballyloughan, Co. Carlow, and they had four sons one of whom Dudley, of Bohermore, Co. Carlow, died unmarried in 1759. His second son Beauchamp, born in 1732, married Bridget

McCarthy of Dublin, and had two sons Henry of Mount Sion, Co. Carlow, whose children died childless on the male side, and Beauchamp, High Sheriff of Carlow in 1813, later settled in Canada.

Beauchamp had five sons, three of whom died without leaving heirs, and Guy Carleton and Beauchamp Urquhart, of Elm Grove, Carlow. Guy Carleton a captain in the 103rd Regiment, married Elizabeth Crampe of Cork and had four sons and four daughters. His eldest son was Beauchamp Henry Dudley a Lieutenant Colonel of the Wexford Militia who succeeded as heir male of the Colcloughs in 1842. His other sons were Guy Carleton who went to the Indies and left a son Henry William Carleton, and Christopher Crawford and Henry William who died unmarried.

Beauchamp Urquhart of Elm Grove, married Mary Anne Jones of Carlow and they had a son Beauchamp, a Captain in the 19th Regiment posted to India. This Beauchamp was married twice and had a son by his first marriage, Beauchamp Urquhart who was born in 1867, and a son Henry and four daughters by his second marriage. The four daughters, Kitty Crawford, Wilhelmina, Selina and Georgina married respectively, Rev John Ireland Jones, Frederick Thomas Humphrey, John Barlow, and William Batt a solicitor.

The Colcloughs in the 18th Century

Caesar Colclough of Tintern, who inherited in 1723, was married twice, 1st. to Frances Muschamp the daughter of Sir Thomas Vesey. Bishop of Ossory, and secondly to Henrietta, the daughter of Agmondisham Vesey of Lucan and they had seven sons and six daughters. Three of the girls died unmarried and the other three, Frances, Ann and Harriet married respectively, Joseph Johnstone M.D., Caesar Colclough of Ashy and Portobello, Wexford, and William Thomas Esq., of Brookville, Kilkenny.

Of the seven sons, two died young, Agmondisham Vesey Colclough, a Captain in the Army, was killed in a duel in 1758.

Vesey, the heir presumptive, died young but had married Mary the daughter of Sir John Bingham of Mayo, and left a son Vesey who survived his grandfather Caesar to inherit Tintern.

The other three sons married and here is an account of their descendants, before reverting to the descendants of Vesey who inherited from his grandfather.

Adam of Duffry Hall, a J.P. and High Sheriff of Wexford in 1769, married Mary Anne the daughter of John Byrne of Cabinteely, Co. Dublin. They had six sons, three of whom died unmarried. The other three were Caesar, Dudley and Sarsfield.

Caesar was a Barrister at Law and Chief Justice of Prince Edward's Island and Newfoundland. He married Susan Leech of Westminster and left a daughter Mary Grey Wentworth, who became heir general of the family on the death of her kinsman, Caesar Colclough of Tintern in 1842.

The Newfoundland Caesar was a Barrister and during the Rebellion of 1798 he was a government spy. He gave information to the Government on the activities of John Kelly of Killane. He was the last Colclough to own Duffry Hall.

Dudley was a Parson who lived in Enniscorthy Castle and married Mary Gavan of Dublin and had some children most of whom died young.⁷ The one who survived was Agmondisham Vesey Colclough of Newtownbarry. He married Matilda Barker Jackson. Agmondisham had no heirs.

The last of the three, Sarsfield, of Upper Kildavin, Co. Carlow who succeeded to the male representation of the family on the death of Caesar Colclough of Tintern in 1842, was married to Margaret the daughter of Patrick Colclough of Anneville in Co.Laois and had two sons and six daughters. Four of these ladies died unmarried and the other two, Ann and Mary married respectively, Nicholas Browne, a Captain of the 41st Regiment and Patrick Brennan a Sub Inspector of the R.I.C.

⁷ Dudley was a witness in the trial of William Alcock for the murder of John Colclough (Dudley's cousin).

One of the sons, Adam, died unmarried and Patrick Sarsfield Colclough succeeded his father as male heir. Patrick Sarsfield of Anneville in Co. Laois and for a time of Woodbrook, Co. Wexford, married Frances the daughter of Michael Brennan of Dromore, Co. Kilkenny, and they had two sons who died in infancy and four daughters one of whom Mary married Dudley Brennan. When Patrick Sarsfield died in 1867 the descent of the male line devolved on Beauchamp Henry Dudley Colclough a descendant of Henry Colclough of Kildavin as noted above.

To revert to the descendants of Vesey Colclough of Tintern, M. P. for Wexford and High Sheriff 1767. Following his marriage to Katherine the daughter of George Grogan of Johnstown Castle, he had three sons one of whom died young. It was Vesey who encumbered the estates with debt.

The Most Colourful Colclough

His eldest son was Caesar Colclough of Tintern, already alluded to in the early part of this narrative, had spent over 20 years on the continent and his name was associated with the United Irishmen who went to France seeking help.⁸

Born in 1766, Casesar married Jane Stratford the daughter of John Kirwan, barrister at law. They had no children. He was perhaps the most colourful of the Colcloughs. During the Winter seasons Wexford was a riot of social occasions, balls private parties and musical evenings. The Colcloughs of Tintern surpassed all their peers. The upper storey of their George's Street town house was turned into a small theatre where visiting players entertained their friends, Harveys, Hughes, Letts, Esmondess, Boxwells, Derinzys, Nunns, the Marquis of Ely, Tottenhams, Boltens, Rowes, Kyans, and Herrions are but a few from the catalogue of bigger landowners who 'spent the season in the town'.

After the French Revolution, when news of the great events had come to the port by word of mouth, Caesar became an enthusiastic supporter of the plebs. Bursting with enthusiasm he went to France. Upon his return he joined the Revolution's foreign supporters. He was abroad during 1798 and indeed did not return to Ireland until 1814, and his estates remained intact until his death. At this period they were managed by his youngest brother John. He died in 1842 and the estates devolved on Mary Grey Wentworth Colclough, and the heir male was Patrick Sarsfield Colclough, of Anneville and Woodbrook.

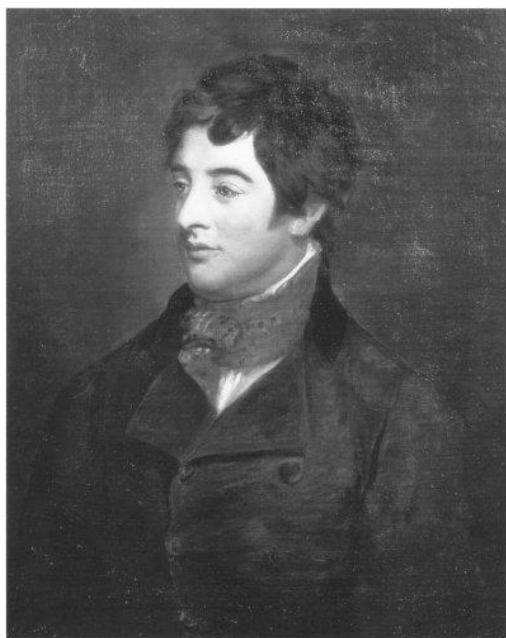
When Caesar returned to Wexford in 1814 he resumed his position as head of the family and administrator of the estates. He built the village of Saltmills for his workers and tradesmen in order to remove them from the vicinity of Tintern. He was elected to Parliament in 1818 the same year he got

⁸ Life in Wexford Port by Nicky Furlong – an article in *Wexford History & Society*

married. Neither his wife nor the local political machine encouraged him to continue his political career. The next twenty years were spent travelling and the estates were managed by his agent Goff. Nonetheless he maintained an interest in the locality and when a local school was established he directed that it should not be sectarian. It was to receive, Catholic, Protestant, Quaker or Jew.

He died without having any family and the estates eventually passed to Mary Grey Wentworth after much legal wrangling. In fact most of Mary Grey's life was spent trying to protect her inheritance. The cost of the continuous litigation was enormous and contributed to the encumbrancing of the properties.

John Colclough Killed in a Duel



John Colclough

Vesey Colclough's other son John, an M.P. for Wexford was killed in a duel, at Ardcantrisk, by William Congreve Alcock of Wilton in 1807. His funeral was said to have been one of the largest ever seen in Co. Wexford. John Colclough's remains were waked for a week in the theatre on the top of the Colclough town house, in Georges St. Wexford What made the tragedy more poignant was the fact that John was engaged to be married to a sister of William Congreve Alcock his opponent.



The Colclough/Alcock Duel

John was, by all accounts an industrious man who pulled the family fortunes back from the brink of bankruptcy through his enterprise and initiative. The estates had been seriously encumbered by the extravagance of both his father and grandfather. John was co-owner of a bank in New Ross and set up a milling industry in Tintern. His untimely death halted the progressive plans for the restructuring of the estates and Tintern itself and hastened the demise of the once great family. (For an account of the duel see the article on Alcock)

The Last of the Colcloughs

Mary Grey Wentworth, who was born in 1811, married John Thomas Rossborough of Mullinagood, Longford, and he assumed the name Colclough. This together with the arms of the Colcloughs was granted by Letters Patent in 1853. They had four daughters, two of whom died unmarned. The other pair, Louisa Maria Susanna and Susanna Francis Julia both married. The younger, Susanna Francis Julia married John Lloyd of King's County and Louisa Maria Susanna married Franc Digby Biddulph, a Captain in the 3rd Middlesex Militia and he assumed the name Colclough by letters patent in 1886. Franc and Louisa had one son Caesar who died in infancy and one daughter Lucy Wilmot Maria Susanna Biddulph Colclough the last of the once great Colcloughs of Tintern and the Duffry.

Lucy Wilmot Maria Colclough of Tintern Abbey, was born in 1890. She lived in the Colclough Family Castle of Tintern until 1958 when she presented Tintern Abbey to the Nation. She retained the lands remaining to her following the Land Acts of the 1890s. What neither she nor her predecessors knew, was that the family had lived on top of a graveyard for 400 years! It was only following an archaeological dig in 1982 that this was discovered.

She was the last of the Tintern Colcloughs and prior to presenting the Castle to the nation she had the rooms cleared and the rubbish burned. The 'rubbish' that was destroyed, except for a few items saved by a curious workman, consisted of all the estate records and other documents dating from the 16th century. And so a priceless collection of manuscripts and documents of importance to the Nation were inadvertently destroyed.

Miss Colclough, who was disappointed twice in love, both men having died young, never married. She lived with the sister of her last admirer, a Miss FitzGerald and they both ended their days in Saltmills.