Mathew & Maude of Tipperary

By Art Kavanagh

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Mathew & Maude of Tipperary

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Mathew & Maude of Tipperary

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Mathew

Fr. Theobald Mathew

Perhaps the most famous of all the Mathew family was the priest whose name became synonymous with the Temperance Movement, Fr. Theobald Mathew.

Lady Elisha Mathew, sister of 2nd Lord Llandaff, survived him dying in 1840. She left, in her will, all her estates to the Duke of Leinster, James Daly and Rev. Theobald Mathew with remainders to Viscount Chabot, his son Viscount Jarnac, Captain Mathew reputed to be her son by George IV, and James Daly.

Father Theobald Mathew was the godson of Elizabeth Mathew and she was very caring towards him. He was descended from Theobald Mathew and Anne Salle, the founders of the Thurles and Annfield lines, through his father, a second cousin of Francis the 1st Earl. Fr. Mathew was therefore a third cousin of Elizabeth Mathew.

Fr. Mathew became very famous because of his campaign against the abuse of drink. He was ordained as a Capuchin monk in 1814 and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the poor of Cork city. It was there he saw the dreadful effects of the abuse of alcohol at first hand. He founded the Temperance Movement, which became a national body. Its success can be gauged by the fact that the production of spirits in Ireland more than halved in the early 1840s. He was also provincial of the Order from 1828 to 1851. When the Famine struck in the mid 1800s Fr. Theobald worked tirelessly to relieve the sufferings of the stricken. He was sent to America in 1849 and returned in 1851. Due to his ill health he had to refuse the offer of a bishopric. He became a chronic invalid and died in 1856.

Incredible Mathew Hospitality

Dean Swift planned to stay a month at the seat of George Mathew, in Thomastown (between Tipperary and Cashel) but was so smitten with the hospitality he stayed three months! Guests were encouraged to treat Mathew's house as a hotel, taking advantage of the forty bedrooms, the large coffee room and bar and the detached tavern. Newspapers were provided, billiard tables, games, fishing tackle, rods, buckhounds, foxhounds and harriers, a bowling green and twenty hunters in the stables.¹ It was stated that the Lord of Thomastown greeted every guest by saying "This is your castle; here you are to command as in your own house; you may breakfast, dine, and sup here whenever you please, and invite any of the company as are most agreeable to you, or you may dine in the common parlour, where a daily ordinary is kept; but from this moment you are never to consider *me* the master of the house, but only as one of the guests."

The Origin of the Mathew Family

Viscount Thurles was Thomas Butler the eldest son of Walter the 11th Earl of Ormonde. Thomas's wife was Elizabeth the daughter of Sir John Poyntz of Acton, Gloucester and she was a Catholic. Thomas died tragically in a drowning accident as he was travelling to Ireland from England in 1619.² His widow, Elizabeth had three sons and four daughters. Elizabeth's eldest son became the 12th Earl and the 1st Duke of

¹ Peter Somerville-Large *The Irish Country House*

² The ship was called the *Skerries*

Ormonde. She did not remain a widow for long. She married George Mathew of Llandaff, Glamorgan, in 1620.

George and the widow, Elizabeth,³ had two sons, Theobald, who founded the Thurles and Annfield dynasties of Mathew and George Reihill, later of Thomastown, who managed the estates of the Ormondes in Tipperary.⁴ In the process George succeeded in acquiring substantial properties himself. The fact that George Reihill married Eleanor Butler, the daughter of Lord Dunboyne and widow of Lord Cahir (another Butler) helped considerably. George raised her young son the 4th Lord Cahir and when he was of age married him off to his niece, Elizabeth. George Reihill was the ancestor of the Thomastown Mathews.⁵

When the Duke and Duchess of Ormonde were away in England or in Dublin the maintenance of Kilkenny Castle was the provenance of Captain George Reihill Mathew, their relation. The Duchess bombarded him with orders ' my Lord and I doe so much apprehend the danger to the roof of the old hall of the castle of Kilkenny and he desires it may be secured, repaired and mended with as much speed as may be'-' I desire you will furnish the castle of Kilkenny to be in readiness to receive me, my son and his family in the middle of next month'⁶

³ This enterprising lady managed to save Thurles during the Cromwellian wars by telling Cromwell that she had refused to allow a Royalist company under Colonel Brian O'Neill to occupy the town and sought Cromwell's help. This action saved the town of Thurles from being despoiled and saved the Mathew family from being dispossessed.

⁴ In the late decades of the 18th century there were three branches of the family, at Thomastown, Annfield (near Thurles) and Thurles. They managed to survive as Catholic landowners because of the patronage of the Duke of Ormonde, their relation.

⁵ George surrendered Cahir Castle to Cromwell in 1649. Apparently he had been warned by his mother, Elizabeth, to follow that course of action as she had done in Thurles.

⁶ Ibid

Matthew of Thomastown, Annfield and Thurles

When Lady Cahir died George married another widow who brought with her a dowry of £10,000. She was the widow of the last Earl of Tyrone.



Thurles Castle 2003

She had no children and when George died in 1689 she became somewhat isolated at Thomastown.⁷ She fled to London in 1690 where she petitioned the government for help, stating that she, a Protestant, had been driven out of Ireland by her inlaws who were Catholics.⁸

George Reihill was succeeded by his second son⁹ Theobald, who was also twice married. He died in 1711. Theobald's son, George, known as "Grand" George, inherited

⁷ Thomastown was built around 1670 by George Reihill. Prior to that he had lived in Cahir Castle.

⁸ Marnane Land and Violence in West Tipperary

⁹ The eldest son, George, was educated in England and died on the way home from England in 1666.

the estate of Thomastown. In his will¹⁰ Theobald left several bequests including monies to be put in trust and managed for his three daughters until they got married or reached the age of twenty-one.¹¹ He expected a return of eight per cent on the money. He left money to the youngest son Bartholomew and to 'his dear cousin' Major George Mathew of Thurles. Four convents in Clonmel¹² benefited from his largesse as he left them £50 each. He was quite fussy about his funeral arrangements and insisted that he be interred at Thurles where his father and grandmother, Lady Thurles, were interred. He asked his son to remember his desire to have a monument erected in Thurles.

The Succession Plans of the Mathew Family

The problem of succession in the Catholic Mathew families contrasts with the almost smooth successions achieved by the families of the Butlers of Cahir and the Ryans of Inch.

The Thurles Mathews were fortunate in that there were three single male heirs following the death of Theobald Mathew in 1699. This meant that no stratagem had to be used to avoid carving up the estate.

However a failsafe plan was put in place in the event that the male heirs were not forthcoming. In 1713 a settlement was put in place, which ensured that in default of male heirs the

¹⁰ None of the Mathew wills is remarkable and they were all predictable. There are two other Mathew wills to be seen in the *Inch Papers*.

¹¹ The ladies in question were (1) Elizabeth who married Christopher O'Brien of Co. Clare, (2) Frances who married John Butler of Co. Tipperary and (3) Elinor who married Kean O'Hara of Co. Sligo.

¹² What is significant about this is that, in what we perceived as a time of persecution of the Catholics, four convents were in existence in Clonmel.

estate would go to the Annfield and Thomastown branches successively. Similar plans must have been put in place in the other Mathew properties because in 1738 the Thurles and Thomastown estates were joined because of the failure of direct heirs in Thomastown.

It should be noted that 'Grand' George Mathew who died in 1738 had converted in the early years of the 18th century. This inheritance did put a strain on the Thurles owner, George Mathew, who felt it incumbent to change his religion in 1740.

Theobald of Thurles (who died in 1699) did in fact have several sons and daughters himself. He was married three times. By his first wife, Margaret the daughter of Sir Valentine Browne he had three sons, George, known as Major George who inherited in 1699, Edmund who died young and James who married Elizabeth Bourke, daughter of the 3rd Baron Brittas¹³. James had no family. He also had two daughters – Elizabeth who married the 4th Lord Cahir and Anne who married Viscount Galmoy.

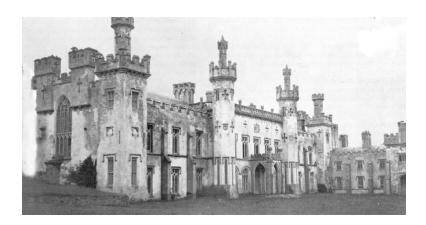
By his second marriage to the heiress, Anne Salle of Killough Castle, Co.Tipperary, he had one son, Thomas who succeeded to the estates. By his third wife, Catherine Neville, an Englishwoman he had two sons and two daughters – Mary who was Maid of Honour to Queen Mary, the wife of James II and Catherine who died unmarried. The sons were Francis, who entered Military Service in France and Peter, who became a priest and ministered in England.

The Annfield branch of the family found life a little more complicated in that Theobald of Annfield, ¹⁴ who inherited in

¹³ He is acknowledged to be the father of James Mathew of Thomastown and later of Rathclogheen, who was adopted by his cousin and guardian the 1st Earl of Llandaff. James of Rathclogheen is the ancestor of the modern day Mathews.

¹⁴ In 1713 Theobald of Annfield appointed Edward Fitzgerald, a merchant of Waterford, to recover rents, debts etc.

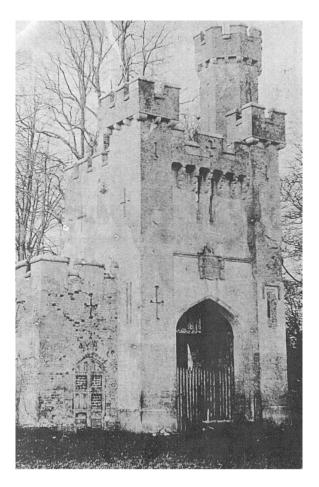
1714 had two brothers. However there is no record on any legal pressure being applied to compel the family to comply with the penal laws of inheritance. When Theobald died in 1745 the estate went to his son Thomas Mathew.¹⁵ Again there does not seem to have been any pressure put on Thomas to divide the estate. However, in 1755 just prior to Parliament considering framing anti-Catholic laws Thomas decided to convert and became a Protestant. The fact that his relation, George Mathew of Thurles, who had inherited Thomastown, was now elderly and had no male heir may have been a contributory factor also. George died in 1760 and Thomas Mathew of Annfield now became the sole owner of all the Mathew properties.¹⁶



Thomastown Castle

¹⁵ Thomas had three sons and two daughters, one of whom, Mary, married John Ryan of Inch. The sons were Theobald, who inherited in 1714, Edmund who died in 1772 and James of Borris who married the heiress Anne Morres. They had one daughter who married her cousin Charles Mathew. ¹⁶ Ibid.

Thomastown had been repaired and reconstruction began in 1711.¹⁷ It was reported that "Grand" George Mathew and his family lived 'frugally' on the continent for seven years on £600 a year in order to devote his £8,000 rental to the laying out of his 1500 acre demesne and the fitting out of the house with forty bedrooms.¹⁸



Gateway to Thomastown Castle

¹⁷ W.Nolan in *Tipperary History and Society*

¹⁸ T. Power in Land, Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary.

Thomastown had been repaired and reconstruction began in 1711.19 It was reported that "Grand" George Mathew and his family lived 'frugally' on the continent for seven years on £600 a year in order to devote his £8,000 rental to the laying out of his 1500 acre demesne and the fitting out of the house with forty bedrooms.²⁰ Fifty years later it was visited by Thomas Campbell, who, although quite enraptured with the natural setting of the house against the backdrop of the Galtees, was less than overjoyed with the neo classicism of the garden and park layout. He had this to say 'every violence that she is capable of suffering has been done to nature'. He raged against 'the square parterres of flowers, terraces thickly studded with busts and blind avenues' and regretted that the whole park had been 'thrown into squares and parallelograms with numerous avenues fenced and planted'.

"Grand" George of Thomastown turned Protestant in the early decades of the 18th century and was elected an M.P. for Co. Tipperary. George sat as a Tory and a supporter of the 2nd Duke of Ormonde. He was also elected M.P. for the period 1727-1736. He died two years later. This was the same George Mathew who was visited by Dean Swift in 1719. In 1704 he was one of nine Catholics in the county who were given licenses to carry arms. However this situation changed after 1715 when the government ordered the seizure of Catholic horses and arms. At some stage in the following years George and his son were apprehended and searched for arms.

Mathew of Thurles & Annefield

The other two branches of the family remained Catholic. When Lady Thurles died she left her second son Theobald the

¹⁹ W.Nolan in *Tipperary History and Society*

²⁰ T. Power in Land, Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary.

town and manor of Thurles and an estate of four thousand acres. He was married three times and his second wife was Anne Sall, an heiress. Theobald gave her estate to his second son Thomas and so began the Annfield family.

The changes in land ownership, which was effected by the necessity of the Ormonde Duke to reduce his overwhelming debts, benefited many landowners in Tipperary, including the Mathew family. They used the opportunity to consolidate and expand their holdings.²¹

The Mathew family owned Thurles town and because of their patronage the Catholic Butler bishop was allowed to live there.²² In addition the Mathew family of Annfield built Inch and Thurles Chapels. A plaque on the wall of the chapel, which was built in 1730 in Thurles, stated that it was built by 'Big' George Mathew. He was the George Mathew of Thurles who married his stepsister Martha Eaton. He was also the son of the Major²³ mentioned above. The Tabernacle of the well-built chapel was bought in Paris for £50 and donated to the church by the Mathew family.

In the climate of the times, which was hostile to Catholicism, the family took what steps they deemed necessary to protect their property. For example an oath of allegiance to the British monarchy was framed which would be sworn by Catholic subjects in Ireland as an indication of their loyalty. Catholics were divided on the issue but in Tipperary it would seem that the majority of the prominent Catholics favoured the

²¹ Other families to benefit were Sadleir, Coote, Langley, Baker, Cleere, Dawson, Dancer and Harrison – T. Power in *Land*, *Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary*.

²² Whelan in *Tipperary History & Society*

²³ The Major was given a D.C.L. at Oxford and was later an emissary to the courts of Versailles and Madrid. He was a Major in the Dragoon Guards. After the battle of the Boyne he was twice arrested as a Jacobite but later released. He died in 1725.

Matthew of Thomastown, Annfield and Thurles

idea. This acceptance was spearheaded by Archbishop James Butler II and George Mathew.

Thomastown, Thurles & Annefield Amalgamated

The Thomastown dynasty came to an abrupt end with the death of "Grand" George and his grandson who both died in 1738. "Grand" George's son, Theobald, had died two years earlier in 1736. He was married to a cousin from Thurles, Mary Ann Mathew. Her brother, George of Thurles inherited Thomastown at this time. As George of Thurles had no sons the Thomastown and Thurles estates passed into the ownership of Thomas of Annfield in 1760. The will, transferring the ownership, was contested unsuccessfully by Margaret the daughter of George of Thurles.

The Mathew Family – Religion & Politics

Thomas had converted to the Church of Ireland in 1755 and he was returned an M.P. for Tipperary in 1761. In the turbulent political climate of the times, his election was seen as a triumph for the pro Catholic interest in the county. Thomas was perceived as being of dubious conformity himself.²⁴ He conformed again in 1762.²⁵ He was elected M.P. again in 1768

²⁴ Bric in *Tipperary History & Society*

²⁵ There were six Mathew conversions in the 18th century – George of Thomastown in 1711, Thomas of Thomastown and Annfield in 1740 and 1762, James of Cashel 1761, Francis (1st Earl of Llandaff) 1762 and Charles of Thurles 1768.

but by a very small margin of 25 votes. On petition the result was overturned. Unlike the Pritties who were very widely connected with the Protestant landowning classes, Thomas Mathew had to rely on his own voters and whatever support he could muster from among the more liberal gentry.

That particular election was fought in a very bitter manner. In the early part of the 18th century one of the Mathew ladies had married Sir James Cotter, the chief advocate of the Stuart cause in Ireland. Cotter was executed for his pains in 1720. This alliance was alluded to some forty years later, when Sir Thomas Maude of Dundrum, made this fact public and indeed objected to Mathew on the grounds that 'he had professed the popish religion many years after the age of twelve and had not conformed to the Protestant religion or educated his children as required by several acts of Parliament'.

The Mathews were no strangers to political controversy. In the by-election of 1735 Joseph Damer was elected as an M.P. for the county. He had been advanced in the Mathew interest (Tory). The defeated candidate, John Dawson, attributed his failure to certain irregularities, chief of which was the delayed opening of the poll by Theobald Mathew of Annfield, the Sheriff. This delay facilitated the creation of freeholders who voted for Damer.

Thomas Mathew's son, Francis, was also perceived as being a closet Catholic. However, Francis was fortunate in that he had John Scott (later Lord Clonmell) as his brother-in-law. Scott became solicitor-general and was very influential in Government circles. Through his influence, Francis, formerly an opposition M.P., became a government supporter and this led to his elevation to the peerage as Lord Llandaff in 1784. Though he had, to some extent, changed his allegiance, he still championed the Catholic cause right up to the end of the century and beyond. The Act of 1778, which gave an enormous measure of relief to the Catholics, was widely welcomed by the Catholics in Tipperary. The men most associated with the carriage of the Act were Francis Mathew of Thomastown, Lord Clonmel (John Scott – a brother in law of Francis Mathew), Sir William Osborne and John Hely-Hutchinson.²⁶ The main features of the Act were (1) the removal of the requirement that Catholic property had to be divided among the surviving sons. (2) Leases could now be given for more than 31 years. (3) The removal of the decree that a son who converted would get immediate possession making his parent a tenant for life only. The Act would only apply to people who took the oath of allegiance.

In Tipperary county over 900 people took the oath. This number probably represented the vast majority of Catholic landowners in the county and included Archbishop Butler and many of his clergy.

That is not to say that Francis favoured any change in the status quo with regard to property rights. During the heyday of Whiteboyism he stood four square with the landlords. After the murder of Ambrose Power, a landlord, in 1775, over sixty of the leading figures in Tipperary including Francis Mathew and Thomas Maude, pledged their lives and fortunes to suppress Whiteboyism.²⁷

With the re-emergence of considerable agrarian unrest, the American war of Independence and threatened French invasions Volunteer Corps were founded all over Ireland. In Tipperary, by 1782, there were eighteen functioning Volunteer corps. In the north of the county the leading gentry all had their own corps including Peter Holmes, Henry Prittie and Carden of

²⁶ This close association between Lord Clonmell and Francis Mathew wasn't always harmonious. According Barrington, in his *Reminiscences*, Lord Clonmell fought duels with Lord Llandaff, Lord Tyrawley and others.

²⁷ Bric in *Tipperary History & Society*

Templemore.²⁸ The corps on the Cahir estate was composed of Catholics and was commanded by Pierce Butler, Lord Cahir's brother. Cornelius O'Callaghan had his own corps. Each corps was comprised of about forty rank and file members drawn from the head tenantry or from friends or associates of the colonel. Francis Matthew had three corps, one in each of his main holdings at Thomastown, Annfield and Thurles.

Thomas died in 1777 and was succeeded by his son Francis who sought election as an M.P. for the county in 1790. However on petition the seat went to John Bagwell who had been sponsored by Henry Prittie who did not stand. The other M.P. who topped the poll was Daniel Toler. Later, in 1796, Francis Mathew was elected without opposition to the seat when Daniel Toler died in that year. In the election of the following year Bagwell and Mathew were returned unopposed.

Francis was made Baron Llandaff of Thomastown in 1783 and he was later made Earl of Llandaff in 1797. The Earl lived the life of a Lord and entertained and was entertained royally. Jonah Barrington the famous barrister, hosted a dinner in Dublin which was attended by many of the great nobles including the Duke of Wellington, Sir John Parnell, Lords Dillon, Yelverton, Clonmell, Buckinghamshire, Blacquirie and Llandaff. The latter loaned him two cooks. Barrington stated that the 'the evening passed amidst that glow of well-bred, witty and cordial vinous conviviality which was, I perceive, peculiar to high society in Ireland.'

During the precarious year of 1798 Hon. Francis Mathew now known as Lord Mathew administered the oath of allegiance to over 1000 people at Golden chapel. His father, the Earl, died in 1806.

²⁸ Stoney, Jocelyn, Toler and Parsons were also part of this group.

The Mathew Family in the 19th Century

In 1812 Francis the 2nd Earl, employed the architect Richard Morrison to 'throw a Gothic cloak over the earlier house' (at Thomastown) as Nolan so aptly put it.²⁹ 'Towers, battlements, parapets, a Gothic hall and Gothic library gave the mansion its much admired castellated appearance which is present to this day in the ruins' Quoting the field surveyors he goes on to say ' surrounding scenery and richness of the soil, the age and antiquity of the timber, entitle this demesne to rank with the first in the kingdom.'

The Mathew finances had begun to creak somewhat, even when Thomas died, despite the income from rents on the Thomastown estate, which had grown substantially in the hundred years from 1718 (£8,000) to 1808 (£28,000). The family also benefited from urban rents collected in Thurles.

Another source of income was the dowry. Fortuitous marriages brought additional wealth to the Mathew family starting with George the first Mathew to arrive in Tipperary, who married the widow of Viscount Thurles. His son George Reihill married the widow of Lord Cahir who was also the daughter of Lord Dunboyne. "Grand" George Mathew, a grandson of George Reihill, married as his second wife Lady Ann Hume who brought him an estate worth £10,000 in the 1680s. He converted the title to his own use and that of his heirs and used the money to make further land purchases. Francis

²⁹ Nolan in *Tipperary History & Society* - The architect he engaged for this immense project was William Vitruvius Morrison, who is best known for his designs for Fota House, near Cobh, and Brittas Castle, near Thurles, which was to have been "the first 'archaeological' 19th century castle in Ireland", a full-scale replica of Warwick Castle.

Mathew, the 1st Earl received £10,000 with Ellis Smyth of Co. Wicklow when they married in 1764.

These were the most illustrious and beneficial marriages entered into by the members of the family. They brought advancement in terms of social standing, wealth and land.³⁰

Mathews were British landowners also.³¹ This did not prevent the estate going into debt.

Francis was in serious debt when he inherited in 1777 due largely to marriage payments and unpaid debts from previous generations.³² Trustees were appointed by Parliament to unravel his affairs and lands had to be disposed of.

When he died in 1806 the estate was still very much in debt for a variety of reasons one of which was his sponsoring a bill to bring a water supply to Thomastown Castle. By 1810 most of the debt had been paid off but new debts had arisen due to the personal borrowings of Francis the 1st Earl and his sons Francis (who became the second Earl) and Montague. They borrowed from James Scully their head tenant (£12,000) and David La Touche the Dublin banker (£2,400) and others. In the period of 1809 –1814 sales of land on the Thomastown estate realized £149,950. Two of the principal purchasers were

³⁰ After 1710 the pattern of Mathew marriages continues to exhibit social ambition. In the male line the Thurles branch made alliances with the Butlers of Kilcash and the Brownlows of Lurgan. The Thomastown men married into the Butlers of Ballyragget and the widow of the last Earl of Tyrone, while the Annfield members married women from the families of Shelly, Morris and an Indian nabob.

³¹ T. Power in Land, Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary.

³² Thomas Mathew also gave away lands. John Scott, a solicitor who later became Viscount Clonmell, was made trustee of lands, which Thomas Mathew settled on his mistress. In 1768 Scott was married to Mathew's widowed daughter. In the same year that Scott's wife died (1771) he got possession of the lands of Thomas Mathew's mistress and he laid claim to monies in right of his wife. -T. Power in *Land, Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary.*

Nicholas Maher (£26,000) and James Scully (£33,200). Maher and Scully now entered the landowning class where up to this they had only been tenants. Another purchaser was Thomas Ryan who spent £8,000.

Francis the 2nd Earl died in 1833. He had been predeceased by his brother Montague in 1819. His second brother George was insane and had died in 1832, so the estates passed to Elizabeth his sister. She too died unmarried in 1841.

Francis in his youth had been a very close friend of the Prince Regent and his wife was a daughter of John la Touche of Harristown, Co. Kildare.

While the main branch of the family disappeared the Mathew name was kept alive by brothers of Fr. Mathew. For example, Francis Mathew of Rockview House who was mentioned in the will of Elizabeth was married twice and had four sons and two daughters. His descendants became judges, lawyers, surgeons, engineers, clergymen, Army Officers, businessmen, nuns and some of them were prolific authors.

Many were educated at Eton and went on to universities such as Oxford, Trinity and Cambridge. One of the authors was a Bishop in various parts of the world, David James Mathew. He published more than eighteen books dealing with a variety of historical subjects including one entitled *Sir Tobias Mathew*. That branch of the family is represented today by Michael Mathew,³³ an international banking consultant of Camberley, Surrey.

Another brother of Fr. Mathew was Charles and his numerous descendants likewise went into the professions and the service. One of his grandsons was knighted as Sir Charles Mathew. They are represented today by Robert, a Barrister who lives in London, Thomas, a businessman who married a Russian

³³ His father, also Michael, an R.A.F. officer was killed during the Second World War in 1943.

Princess, Francis Anthony a stockbroker and Anne who married the 6th Earl of Norbury.

The modern Mathew descendants are too numerous to detail in this book but interested persons can see the details in Burkes Peerage.

Maude

Dundrum House, the seat of the Maude Lords Hawarden, is now one of Ireland's premier Hotels. Dundrum House, a magnificent building designed by Sir Edward Lovett Pearce in the middle of the 18th century, was bought by Mr. Austin and Mrs. Mary Crowe about thirty years ago. Much of the old building has been retained and is carefully maintained.

A general election was held in 1761. One of the candidates was the very right wing Protestant, Sir Thomas Maude. The other was the converted Catholic, Thomas Mathew. Thomas Mathew was perceived as being of dubious conformity.³⁴ He conformed again in 1762.³⁵ During the course of polling, Maude's election agent, Daniel Gahan, questioned the qualifications of freeholders, whether they were born of Catholic parents, educated as Catholics, or if converts, to produce their certificates of conversion. Gahan challenged Mathew's election agent, Thomas Prendergast, with the assertion that his wife was Catholic and that therefore he was disqualified from voting. A duel ensued resulting in Prendergast's death.

The fact that three candidates, Maude, Mathew, and Henry Prittie of Kilboy, went forward in the election meant that a contest was inevitable. When polling closed on 8 May 1761 the poll stood thus: Prittie 924 votes, Mathew 532, and Maude 486, with Prittie being elected (marking the successful entry of that

³⁴ Bric in *Tipperary History & Society*

³⁵ There were six Mathew conversions in the 18th century – George of Thomastown in 1711, Thomas of Thomastown and Annfield in 1740 and 1762, James of Cashel 1761, Francis (1st Earl of Llandaff) 1762 and Charles of Thurles 1768.

family to the county representation) and a double return made in respect of the other two, because of which both candidates were obliged to petition. The result of the petition went in Maude's favour and he was deemed elected.

The Maudes owned Dundrum and several townlands in the neighbourhood of Mokarky, Cooleky, Parkestowne and part of Curragheen.

Origins of the Maude Family

They were descended from Robert Maude of West Riddlesden, Yorkshire, who bought lands in Kilkenny and Tipperary in the latter half of the 17th century. His wife was Frances Wandesforde, the sister of Christopher Wandesforde, the 1st Lord Castlecomer. Robert was the father of Anthony who was an M.P. for Cashel in 1686 and High Sheriff of the county in 1695. Anthony's son, Sir Robert, also an M.P., was created a baronet of Ireland in 1705 and died in 1750. These men were only sons. Sir Robert had several children but he left his estates to his eldest son, Sir Thomas, who was created Baron in 1776.



Dundrum House now a Hotel (courtesy Mr.& Mrs. Crowe)

Sir Robert was the man responsible for building Dundrum House. It is said that the house was built adjacent to the O'Dwyer castle, which was knocked down and the castle stones were used for building the house. In the course of time the demesne was enclosed and contained 2,400 acres of which almost a thousand acres were planted. The original house consisted of a two-storey block over a basement. It would seem that Dundrum House, designed by Sir William Lovett Pearce, was built sometime between 1730 and 1750.

Sir Thomas Maude

At the Clonmel assizes of June 1762 a reward of £20 was offered by 27 leading landowners including Maude and Henry Prittie (Dunalley) for the discovery and prosecution of "each of the first three Papists guilty of carrying arms in said county".³⁶ Three years later Sir Thomas Maude was elected High Sheriff. He was considered to be an extreme right wing Protestant at the time.

As High Sheriff in 1766, he was intimately involved in the Fr. Sheehy affair, which has been dealt with in the notice about the Bagwell family. Fr. Sheehy's trial was not conducted in a manner conducive to his obtaining justice. Prosecution witnesses perjured themselves and in addition, on the day of the trial, the streets outside were patrolled by a party of horse, led by Thomas Maude of Dundrum, who was said to have 'menaced Sheehy's friends and encouraged his enemies'. This involvement by Sir Thomas was to have serious repercussions almost a hundred years later when one of his lateral descendants was standing for election.

Sir Thomas Maude and Sir William Barker, who were closely involved in the events of that decade, were subsequently associated with schemes to promote Protestant settlement on

³⁶ This was in response to an outbreak of Whiteboy activity.

their estates. As early as February 1767 Maude was seeking Protestant manufacturers for settlement on his estate at Ballintemple, and in the 1770s he promoted the linen industry. This led to a period of sustained employment in the general area. In 1766 there were just forty-four on the estate but by 1831 there were almost one hundred and sixty. This occurred as a result of the Whiteboy activity of the 1760s.

Between 1755 and 1775 Sir Thomas Maude accumulated debts of £27,000, which passed to his brother Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Hawarden (d. 1803), after 1777. A successful marriage by Thomas Ralph, second Viscount (d. 1807), to the daughter of the archbishop of Cashel (later Earl of Normanton) may have served to reduce the debt, for the Hawarden estate survived intact to be one of the largest in the county in the nineteenth century³⁷.

Most of the money spent by Sir Thomas was used to improve his estates. He sponsored large-scale remodelling of the landscape, drainage schemes, an estate village at Dundrum, new tenants, and resettlement. He developed a Deerpark in which he built three houses in which the estate workers lived (and protected his deer). Such endeavors could entail substantial capital investment the scale of which is indicated by the fact that in 1775 the principal debt owed by Sir Thomas Maude stood at £27,000 at a time when his improvement schemes were most intense.

Following the murder of Ambrose Power, a landlord, in 1775 over sixty of Tipperary's leading figures, including Thomas Maude and Francis Mathew, pledged their lives and fortunes to suppress Whiteboyism. In the following months two developments strengthened the resolve of the gentry. First, a revised and extended Whiteboy act was passed which added to the list of felonies incurring the death penalty and increased the powers of the magistrates. In the following year 1776 a number

³⁷ The lands owned by the Maudes exceeded 15,000 acres by the mid 1800s.

of Volunteer Corps were formed and one of these was founded by Sir Cornwallis Maude, the brother of Baron de Montalt. By May two corps under Benjamin Bunbury and Sir Cornwallis Maude were formed, in July another at Nenagh under Peter Holmes, and by the end of the year another 28. These corps, coupled with the determination of the gentry following Power's murder, served to quell Whiteboy agitation at this time.

Maude was a staunch government supporter and he was rewarded for his support by being elevated to the peerage in 1776 as Lord De Montalt.³⁸ He was one of twenty-two new peers created in that year as part of the government's winning of support for delicate measures, notably the despatching of 4,000 troops to America.³⁹

Following the 1768 election Maude came in as a government supporter having been made a privy councillor by Townshend⁴⁰. Maude's advancement as a privy councillor was an expression of the new policy enunciated by Townshend of creating a strong 'Castle' party, dependent on the lord-lieutenant, and rendering him a majority in parliament in return for patronage. But most Tipperary gentlemen, entering parliament in 1768, opposed government, with Maude and Guy Moore Coote (MP for Clonmel, 1761-82) the only committed government supporters.

Sir Thomas Maude, Baron de Montalt, died in 1777 and his estate and honour of Baron de Montalt passed to his brother Cornwallis who was forty-seven years old at the time. Cornwallis was later given the title of 1st Viscount Hawarden in 1793.

³⁸ At that period most of the Tipperary M.P.s were generally, though not always, government supporters including Pennefather, John Damer, Peter Holmes and John Hely-Hutchinson, with only four in opposition – O'Callaghan, Prittie, Osborne and Mathew.

³⁹ T. Power Land, Politics & Society in 18th century Tipperary.

⁴⁰ George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend, was a Privy Councillor in England and held office in Ireland.

Cornwallis Maude 1st Visount Hawarden

Cornwallis was married three times. Unlike many of his peers who were married a number of times, Cornwallis did not rush into his second marriage. He waited nine years after his first wife's death in 1757. The three wives were from mainland Britain and this would suggest that Cornwallis spent some considerable time in England. The fact that seven of his eight daughters married English gentlemen would support that assumption. In addition to the four daughters he had six sons, and while they too may have spent considerable time in England, the two who succeeded to the title must have spent a reasonable time in Ireland. They were Thomas Ralph, the only son of the second marriage, who became the 2nd Viscount, and Cornwallis the eldest son of the third marriage, who became the 3rd Viscount.

While his son, Thomas Ralph, the 2nd Viscount, by his first marriage, had no children and his son Cornwallis, the 3rd Viscount had only one son and four daughters, the remaining sons of the 1st Viscount were remarkably prolific and details of their descendants can be seen in Burkes Irish Family Record. They were quite amazing people who achieved high office and served in far-flung lands.

Sir Cornwallis seems to have steered clear of politics in the county and in fact represented the borough of Roscommon in parliament. It is not surprising that he was somewhat less active politically than his brother with the burden of a very large family to be settled. He simplified his position even further by employing the professional estate agents Coopers in the $1780 \mathrm{s}^{.41}$

He lived to see the 1798 rebellion and the Union and he died in 1803. Despite the fact that he managed to escape becoming embroiled in any way during those controversial periods, his son Thomas Ralph did not.

In July 1798 the Hon. Thomas Maude, the son of the 1st Viscount Hawarden, gave evidence against two Dundrum men, Ryan and Coffey, who had been arrested on the charge of breaking the curfew. They were tried by court martial at Cashel. Maude gave evidence that his men, residents of Maudemount, had discovered the accused men absent from their homes on that night. This evidence was collaborated by three of Maude's tenants, a farmer, a cooper and a weaver. The prisoners pleaded not guilty and stated that they were out looking after their cows. Several witnesses spoke on their behalf including one of the Manserghs. Despite this, both men were found guilty and sentenced to be shot and then beheaded and their remains to be buried near the 'other traitors' in the street adjacent the jail at Cashel.⁴²

The Maudes & the Whiteboys

Thomas Ralph died in 1807 and the honours and lands passed to his half brother, Cornelius Maude, who became the 3rd Viscount Hawarden. In 1815 Viscount Hawarden sent a series of letters to William Gregory, the Under Secretary at Dublin Castle concerning renewed agrarian disturbances. Sometime before

⁴¹ The family originally settled at Killenure near Cashel in the 1740s as part of the household of Archbishop Price. They later rose to prominence in the Treasury Office in Dublin. As well as being agents for the Damer estate they were agents for the Maudes, Cashel See, Erasmus Smith and Lloyd estates.-

T. Power in Land, Politics and Society in 18th century Tipperary

⁴² D. Marnane A history of West Tipperary from 1660

May of that year he wrote as follows:- "I have learned of the meetings (of Whiteboys, to use this generic term) which take place nightly and the strength of their assemblies Notices have been served upon many of my tenants for the purpose of fixing the price at which they were to let their lands for potatoes. ... The tenants who are in the new village (built by me) have also received threatening notice... such being the state of the country, allow me to again suggest the necessity of having troops or assistance afforded me."

Sometime later he wrote to the Under Secretary again saying:-

"I regret to say outrages have increased. On the night of the 2nd (May) I armed my steward, gardeners and bailiffs, together with two other men.... remained out till daylight.. most of the threatening notices which have been posted up were against strangers (warning against taking land) I have this minute returned from Cashel, where I saw Mr. Wilicocks, Chief Constable who has promised to send me four dismounted men to accompany me out this night, as I consider it neither prudent to go without a stronger party (to search for Whiteboys) or to leave Lady Hawarden unprotected."

Yet another letter complains that :-

"Further outrages were last night committed.....and the following houses were (attacked).....Daniel Heffernan's was the last they attacked. They fired three or four shots into his house and afterwards brought him out for the purpose of shooting him but allowed him to return on his swearing to quit his farm by Thursday. They (the people attacked) all agree in stating the force of the party (of attackers) to have been from forty to fifty people..."

Despite the unrest on his estate the Viscount's attitude hardened if anything as in 1816 he was said to have embarked on a religious crusade against Catholic labourers of Clonoulty, Knockavilla and Anacarty when he sacked everyone who refused to work on Church holydays.⁴³

Despite his troubles at home Cornwallis was not one to miss a good party. It was noted by a diarist, Emma Sophia Sherwill, the fiancé of Sir William Parker Carrol, a Tipperaryman, that she had been introduced to Viscount Hawarden at Court in London, at a Grand Ball in 1817.⁴⁴ A great friendship existed between the Prittie, Carrol and Maude families. A story is told that this arose because Parker's father deputized for the very young Henry Prittie (the second Lord Dunalley) in a duel with an English officer.⁴⁵

In 1831 the son of the Rev. Carew Armstrong was shot inside the demesne of Lord Hawarden. Carew Armstrong was in a state of constant warfare with his parishioners. He obtained hundreds of decrees against them but he was unable to serve them. In the same year Carew Armstong's proctor, Denis O'Shaughnessy, was murdered and robbed of his tithe valuation book while valuing a field of wheat at Kilpatrick.⁴⁶

To his credit, Cornwallis, the 3rd Viscount, made a determined and successful effort to solve the tithe problem in his area. Whatever the reason it is definitely the case that both Maude and his neighbour Carrol introduced revolutionary thinking with regard to the collection of tithes in their areas. They simply by-passed the hated proctors altogether and increased their own share of the tithes, being large landowners. Many of the tenants were Catholic. This move led to a period of relative peace and harmony on the estates in the north of the county.⁴⁷

Seventy-five years after his granduncle Sir Thomas Maude had become embroiled in the judicial murder of Fr.

⁴³ Marnane

⁴⁴ D. Murphy *The Two Tipperarys*

⁴⁵ See the Prittie article for this detail.

⁴⁶ McGrath in *Tipperary History & Society*

⁴⁷ D. Murphy *The Two Tipperarys*

Sheehy, Cornwallis the son of the 3rd Viscount stood for election for the county. He was a conservative candidate and his running mate was Ponsonby Barker in the 1841 election. They were opposed by the liberal candidates Valentine Meagher and Robert Otway Cave.

Cornwallis was to find out that the Tipperary Catholics had long memories. While canvassing in Newport someone scrawled a message on his carriage. It read 'who hung the priest?'

In the subsequent name and shame game both Catholics and Protestants blamed each other for writing the message.

However on the day in question a large congregation came out of Mass in Newport and saw the message scrawled on the carriage. Some of the people became so incensed that they answered the question by dispatching the carriage over the bridge into the river Mulcair where it smashed on the rocks disgorging champagne, cheroots and cold meats.⁴⁸ To add insult to injury the servants of the young lord were attacked by a crowd, which was batoned, by the police as the local Temperance Band tried to quell the tumult.

On the hustings in Clonmel the conservative candidates met with a torrent of abuse from the supporters of the liberal candidates. Cornwallis Maude was jeered with the shouts of 'who hung the priest' but Michael Laffan, the Catholic Archdeacon from Fethard, attributed Maude's unpopularity to the evictions that were being carried out on the Maude estate at Dundrum.

The Maude Family in the 19th Century

In 1842 the Viscount evicted 200 Catholic families, 1300 people in all, from his estate at Dundrum. In 1843 Fr. O'Brien Davern reminded the Viscount that he was descended from a

⁴⁸ McGrath in *Tipperary History & Society* pg. 278

Cromwellian settler whose usurpation of the estate (of the O'Dwyers of Kilnamanagh) was made legal.⁴⁹

Cornwallis was married to an English lady in 1811 and they had one son and four daughters. Predictably two of the daughters married English noblemen and one died unmarried. The other, Isabella, married Lt. Colonel Charles Tottenham⁵⁰ of Woodstock, Co. Wicklow. Cornwallis died in 1856 and was succeeded by his son, Cornwallis, the 4th Viscount.

The 4th Viscount had the distinction of being a lord-inwaiting to Queen Victoria from 1866-68. He was created Earl de Montalt in 1886. An Army man, he was a Captain of the 2nd Life Guards. He was also an honorary Colonel of the Tipperary militia. He was a Justice of the Peace and a Magistrate. In addition he was a Custos Rotulorum and Lieutenant for the county. It was during the 4th Viscount's tenancy of the estates that the Land Acts came into force compelling landlords to sell their farms to the tenants. Prior to these events he built an extra storey on to Dundrum House in 1860 and carefully maintained the gardens and lands. The Maude family was responsible for bringing the Great Southern and Western Railway through Dundrum.

The 4th Viscount was married to Clementina, the daughter of Admiral the Right Hon. Charles Fleeming. They had two sons (the second of whom died in infancy) and seven daughters. Five of them married, two to Irish gentlemen and the other three to English men. The fourth daughter, Kathleen, married to Gerald Brooke of Sommerton, Co. Dublin and the seventh lady married Major William Adam of Kinnea, Co. Cavan.⁵¹

⁴⁹ This may not have been true as there is no mention of the Maudes in Prendergast's *Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland*.

⁵⁰ For notices of this family see *The Wexford Gentry II* by Art Kavanagh & Rory Murphy.

⁵¹ Isabella the eldest married the last Baron Colchester and they had no family. Elphinstone Agnes the 5th daughter married the Hon. Walter James

Maude of Dundrum

Cornwallis, the eldest son of the 4th Viscount, an Army Officer, was killed in the Boer War in 1881. He had married Eva Brooke, a sister of Gerald of Sommerton, and he left two daughters.⁵²

The Maude Family in the 20th Century

When Cornwallis the 4th Viscount died in 1905 the earldom became extinct but the other honours passed to his cousin Robert Henry, a retired Colonel who was the eldest son of Very Rev. Robert Maude, the Dean of Clogher.⁵³

Robert Henry, the 5th Viscount Hawarden, died in 1908 and his son Sir Robert Cornwallis Maude became the 6th Viscount at the age of eighteen. This young man, a Lieutenant in the Coldstream Guards, was killed in action in 1914. His brother Eustace Wyndham Maude became the 7th Viscount.

Eustace Wyndham Maude the 7th Viscount was born 1877 and also joined the Army. He served in World War I and was mentioned in despatches. He survived the War and in 1920 he

Sugden and they had a family. The 6th lady, Leucha Diana married Sir Thomas Courtenay Warner and they had children.

⁵² His eldest daughter, Clementina, became heir to the possessions of several families – Lords Elphinstones, the Flemings (Earls of Wigtoun), the Keiths (Earls Marischal) and the Drummonds (Earls of Perth). She married William Frederick Loftus Tottenham in 1909. She died in 1961.

⁵³ Very Rev. Robert William Henry, Dean of Clogher, was the 3rd son of Sir Cornwallis Maude the 3rd Viscount. For an account of the descendants of the other sons of the 1st Viscount see Burkes Peerage.

married Marion Wright of Derby and they had two sons⁵⁴ and one daughter.⁵⁵

The 7th Viscount died in 1958 and was succeeded by his eldest son Robert Leslie Eustace Maude, the 8th Viscount Hawarden. Robert was born in 1926. He was educated at Winchester and Oxford and later joined the Army. He served with distinction in World War II. He married Susannah Gardner and they had two sons and one daughter, Sophia Rose.⁵⁶

His younger son is the Hon. Thomas Maude who lives in Kent and who is married to Christine Stowe.

The eldest son is Robert Connan Wyndham Leslie Maude who became the 9th Viscount when his father died in 1991. Sir Robert was born in 1961 and now lives in Kent. He is married to Judith Bates of Kent and has one son, Varian John.

Sir Stanley Maude was a cousin of Captain Anthony Maude of Belgard Castle in Co. Dublin. Sir Stanley was a General in the Great War and he commanded the expedition to Mesopotamia. General Maude expelled the Turks from Iraq and was killed in Baghdad in 1917.

Captain Anthony spent Easter at Knocklofty with the Donoughmores. It was a bit of a picnic as the house was mostly under dustsheets, but they enjoyed the fishing and the peace and quiet of the Suir valley. All three, with another guest, Maurice Headlam, an English Civil Servant, left on Easter Monday taking the Dublin train from Clonmel. At Thurles the

⁵⁴ The younger son was the Hon. Henry Maude who lived in Kent and was High Sheriff of that county. He served in World War II and was married to Elizabeth Lockie of France. They have two sons Francis Hugh and Anthony Eustace and one daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth married Andrei Majidian of Tehran and they have a son Daniel Martin who was born in 1996.

⁵⁵ She married Peter Baxter of Dorset and they had one son, Charles and three daughters – Joanna, Margaretta and Victoria who were all born in the 1950s.

⁵⁶ Sophia Rose married Michael Steel from Hantshire and they have one son, Anthony (b. 1988) and three daughters Isabella (b. 1984), Emily (b. 1992) and Oriel Sophia (b. 1995)

train stopped for longer than usual. They whiled away the time playing bridge. Then someone came and told them that there was a rebellion in Dublin and that the train would go no further. Nobody seemed to know what had happened. The Donoughmores, who were intent on returning to England, decided to take the next train south hoping to catch the boat from Rosslare.

Captain Maude, anxious to join his wife and children at his home in Dublin, hired a car and set off with Headlam, stopping to buy provisions in case his family was without food. By the time they reached the Curragh it was eleven at night so he decided to knock up Captain Harry Greer, the manager of the National Stud, and ask him for a bed for the night. They found the house locked and barricaded, but Greer, looking out, recognised Captain Maude and let them in.

Early on the Tuesday morning Captain Maude and Headlam set off from the Curragh. They reached Maude's home, Belgard Castle, without incident. As they drove up the avenue they saw, standing behind the closed gates of the courtyard, Maude's two schoolboy sons and his fourteen year old daughter, each holding one of their father's guns and ready to defend the house against the rebels.

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