

THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF GALWAY

ITS PAST—ITS PRESENT—ITS PEOPLE—ITS PLACES.

(SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR TUAM HERALD.)

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CHAPTER XIX.

THE BLAKES OF COOLCOON AND MERLINTOWN.

John Blake of Coolcoon was Recorder of Galway 1642, and in 1652 refusing to sign the article of Surrender to Cromwell's forces, all his property and the Castle of Coolcoon were forfeited by Cromwell on whose death his eldest son and heir Francis Blake, petitioned the crown to restore him his father's Estate; Francis Blake of Coolcoon was a Justice of the peace for Mayo, (see Lascelles lists of patent offices) Francis Blake, was either the son, or the Grandson of Miles Martyn of Ballyglass County Mayo.

The Ballyglass Estate belonging to the Martins has descended, and is now part of the Estate of Charles Ormsby-Blake; the name of Martin, has also descended in the Blake family, Francis Martin died 6th December 1615 seized of the four quarters of Ballyglass, three quarters of Carrowreagh in the county of Mayo also bequeathed to the Blakes and in 1652 it was sold in the landed Estates Court, and purchased by the late Robert Tighe, Francis Blake of Coolcoon (was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Martin Blake, of Coolcoon, who married Mabel daughter of George Browne of the Neale Co Mayo and became a Protestant.

This Martin Blake purchased the lands and Castle of Moyne in County Mayo and Ballyfruit from Sir Henry Bingham, 15th May 1711 the lands of Ballybane in the barony of Carra, which belonged to Colonel John Browne, of Westport, and were sold by him under Act of Parliament to Sir Henry Bingham.

Martin Blake of Coolcoon had two daughters Mrs Dillon of Hollywell and Alice, Mrs Kirwan of Blindwell. And an elder son and successor, Frances Blake, of Coolcoon who married 13th June 1721 Francis Daly daughter, and eventually Co heiress of Charles Daly of Callow or Harwood by his wife Anna, daughter of Hyacinth D'Arcy of Kiltullagh and of Clifden Castle. Mrs Blake of Coolcoon was niece of the Right Honourable Denis Daly of Carrowreagh who was Justice of the Court of Common Pleas and a Privy Councillor in the Reign of Jas the 2nd, which appointment he continued to hold, at the time of the Revolution, and with such impartiality and integrity, in those arduous times as to add lustre to his judicial character. Mrs Blake was sister to Bridget Lady Riverston wife of William Nugent of Pallas. Lord Riverston, and she was also sister to Mrs Donelan of Ballydonelan and Mrs D'Arcy of Ryebell Castle only brother of Anthony Daly of Callow, was M P, for Galway in 1783. He married the widow of Lord James de Burgh third son of John, Ninth Earl of Clanricarde, but dying without issue Mrs Blake and her sisters thus became coheiresses of their father Charles Daly of Callow, and upon Anthony's death a lawsuit took place between the Blakes of Coolcoon and the Dunsandie family which was at last compromised by Charles Blake of Moyne and the late Lord Dunsandie.

The Daly Arms were brought in and quartered on the Blake Shield in right of this marriage. Francis Blake of Coolcoon and of Moyne had issue by his marriage with Frances Daly of Callow an elder son and successor Charles Blake of Coolcoon and Moyne and a second son John Blake, Major in the British army. A third son Anthony Blake of Borne House married Margaret daughter of Martin Kirwan of Dalgin Park who died in 1817. A fourth son Martin Blake died at Houndwood unmarried in 1806. Two daughters Mabel and Anne both died unmarried. The will of Mabel Blake was proved in the prerogative Court, Dublin, in 1787, and that of her brother Martin Blake of Houndwood was proved in 1806. Their brother John Blake was major of the Galway Volunteers as proved by following extract from *Hardwicke*: "On the 31st May, 1779 the Galway Volunteers were embodied and John Blake, Esq, of Coolcoon selected major."

Charles Blake of Coolcoon and Moyne in 1764 was a member of the "Common Council" on the 1st Jan, 1764 Charles Blake of Coolcoon was a member of the Common Council. He married 17th April, 1762, Margaret, daughter of Denis Daly of Raford, by his wife Lady Anne De-Burgh, daughter of Michael, tenth Earl of Clanricarde. That marriage settlement was in possession of O Ormsby-Blake. Mrs Blake was niece of Hyacinth Daly of Dalystown and first cousin to the Right Hon Denis Browne Daly who married the daughter of the Right Hon John and Lady Elizabeth Ponsonby, daughter of the 3rd Duke of Devonshire; Mrs Blake, was first cousin to Margaret, wife of the Right Hon Sir Skeffington Smythe.

Charles Blake of Moyne was first cousin to Anthony Nugent of Pallas Lord Riverston, who married Olivia daughter of Arthur French of Tyrone.

Mrs Blake was sister to Anastasia Lady Browne of the Neale, wife of Sir George Browne sixth Bart, also sister to Letitia Bingham, mother of Lord John Clancourie. Michael Daly of Mount Pleasant who married Lady Anne Gora was Mrs Blake's brother. Mrs Blake's eldest brother succeeded to the Raford property. Malachy Daly of Raford died leaving no issue male but two daughters, Anne Christian, late Countess of Westmeath, and Maria wife of Andrew Blake of Furbough. (Charles Blake of Coolcoon and Moyne had issue by his marriage with Margaret daughter of Denis and Lady Anne Daly of Raford an elder son and successor Charles Blake of Coolcoon and of Moyne, Co Mayo and of Merlin Park Co Galway, a second son, Denis John Blake, Captain 89th Co. amongst Rangers, who was present at the battle of Alexandria on the Staff, of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie and the same shell which killed the General wounded in five places Captain Dennis Blake, who was awarded a gold medal after the engagement for bravery.

Charles Blake, had issue by his wife Margaret Daly a daughter Frances, who married John D'Arcy of Houndwood and left him a son, the Revd John D'Arcy, vicar of Galway, who married Isabella, daughter of John Lockington Reilly of Scarva, Downshire.

On the death of Charles Blake of Moyne, his widow Margaret Blake married John D'Arcy of Ballyhine, Co Mayo, and had issue by him a son, De-Burgh Darcy, and two daughters, Mrs Naghten of Thomastown Castle and Mrs Laurence of Lirraghan. On the death of her second husband she married Stephen son of Sir Walter Blake tenth Bart of Menlo, and dying at Woodstock she was buried in the family vault in the Franciscan Abbey, Galway. The eldest son of Charles Blake and Margaret Daly, namely Charles Blake, of Merlin Park was married on 3rd August, 1790 to his first cousin Georgina daughter and Co heiress with her sister Letitia wife of Samuel Peor, of Belleville Park, Co Waterford of Sir George Browne sixth Bart of the Neale Co Mayo, eldest brother of John 1st Lord Kilmaine by his wife Anastasia, daughter of Denis and Lady Anne Daly of Raford, and sister of Margaret, wife of Charles Blake of Moyne. Mrs Blake was first cousin to James Caulfield, Lord Kilmaine, also first cousin to John Lord Clancourie Malachy Daly of Raford and John Kirwan of Castlehackett, were also her cousins. Mrs Kirwan of Castlehackett having been a Miss Daly of Dalystown Mrs Giles Eye of Eyre Court Castle was first cousin of Georgina Mrs Blake, being the daughter of Michael Daly of Mount Pleasant, brother of Anastasia Lady Browne, of the Neale, the first baronet, was created a Bart on the 21st of June, 1638. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Dominick Browne of Castle Macgarrett, and had three sons, Sir George, 2nd Bart; from whom is descended in a direct line Georgina, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir George Browne, the 6th Bart and the wife of Charles Blake of Merlin Park. Sir John Browne, the first baronet's second son John, is an ancestor of the present Marquis of Sligo, and his third son ancestor of Dominick Browne of Bredfy. The direct line terminated with St George, 6th Bart, who was succeeded by his two daughters, as co-heiresses, Mrs Blake of Merlin Park and Mrs Peor of Belleville Park. The title went to Sir John Browne, the 7th Bart, and first Lord Kilmaine, Charles Ormsby Blake is descended in a direct line through his father's mother from Sir John Browne 1st Bart and his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Dominick Browne, of Castle MacGarrett. The Kilmaine family were originally Norman, and are on the Roll of Battle Abbey, the name stands 50th on the list.

The fourth Earl of Buckinghamshire married on 4th January, 1792, Margaretta, daughter and co-heir of Edmund Bourke of Urry, by his wife Julia, sister of Sir George Browne, 6th Bart of the Neale. Mrs Blake and Margaretta, Countess of Buckinghamshire, were first cousins, and the late Charles Kilmaine Blake and the Countess of Ripon were second cousins. Dodwell Brown of Rahins, Lieutenant R N, was first cousin to Mrs Blake. His daughter, Margaret, married the Honourable Henry Caulfield, of Hockley, brother of Lord Charlemont, in 1819. She was second cousin to Charles Kilmaine Blake, and James Molyneux, present Earl of Charlemont, is third cousin to Charles Ormsby-Blake. Georgina Blake was second cousin to Hector, Marchioness of Sligo, and to Emily, Countess of Howth, and to Ulrick, 14th Earl of Clanricarde, "related through her grandmother, Lady Anne Daly, 10th Lord Clanricarde's daughter." Mrs Blake died in Dublin 24th November, 1840, and is buried in the Royal vault, under the Grand Altar of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin. The articles of agreement dated 14th May, 1790, upon the intended marriage of Charles Blake and his cousin Georgina Browne, contains the following statement of the then very extensive estates of the Blakes of Merlin Park; "whereas a marriage is intended shortly to be solemnized between the said Charles Blake and the said Georgina Browne, and where as the said Charles Blake is seized and possessed of an estate in the following lands, that is to say, all that and those the four quarters of Moyne, the quarter of Carrowreagh, the Castle, the town, and two quarters of land of Coolcoon, the two quarters of land of Garrymore, the four quarters of Ballyglass, the four quarters of Carrowreagh, otherwise Kiltineagh, the four quarters of Ballytobber, the four quarters of Ballybane, the four quarters of Kiltarsaghane, Derradoughdergy, and the half quarter of Derrynosea coby. All situated, lying and being in the County of Mayo, and also all that and those the two quarters of Ballyfruit, situated in the County of Galway, and also all that and those the three quarters of land of Donihissey, otherwise Merlin Park, and the quarter of Ballye coby, situated in the County of the County of Galway,