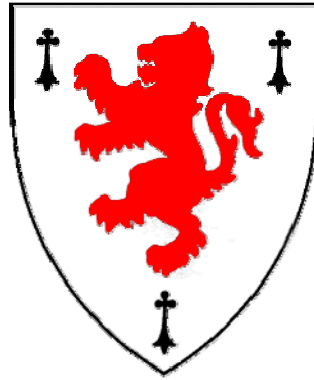


O'Dwyer Clan Newsletter



**Virtus Sola
Nobilitas**

Nuachtlitir Mhuintir Dhuibhir

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Dundrum House, Dundrum, Co. Tipperary, Ireland



In a departure from our traditional rallies which have been held in Ireland, there is growing enthusiasm around the United States as a possible location, with Boston, New York and Virginia being mentioned as possible sites.

We are seeking US-based volunteers to help with the organization.

If interested, please contact oduibhir@eircom.net.

In this issue we focus on the history of Dundrum House, seat of the O'Dwyer clan leadership until its demise after the rebellion in 1641. Its history since falling into Cromwellian hands is indeed an interesting story. While the magnificent edifice and grounds are universally admired, its occupiers were less accepted, and the locals certainly had an ambivalent view towards them on occasion. Little remains to mark the once great O'Dwyer heritage there, but the memories and history are kept very much alive in the hearts of clan members all over the world.

Today it is a thriving hotel and golf course, and well worth visiting on any trip to Ireland to chase down the family roots.

We also have a biographical sketch of the life of Viscountess Clementina Hawarden, one-time resident at Dundrum, and a pioneer of photography when it was in its infancy.

We hope you enjoy it.

Dundrum House - our link with the past

Padraig O'Duibhir, with assistance from Donncha O'Duibhir



When the Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock in the 'New World' in 1620, the O'Dwyer clan still held sway in their ancient territory of Kilnamanagh, Co. Tipperary. They were not to know that within a generation, all would change, and change utterly. Their lands would be confiscated, and their Celtic way of life, which had survived since before recorded history, would be no more.

Philip O'Dwyer was chief of the clan, having inherited the title in the ancient way of election from his forbears stretching back over five hundred years to Donogh Magnus O'Dwyer in 1100, and probably even beyond that, but alas no older records survive.

His seat was located at the site of the present elegant building - Dundrum House Hotel in Dundrum, Co. Tipperary.

The Rebellion of 1641

As a result, it is said, of widespread incitement and provocation against the Celtic Irish throughout the province of Munster by certain elements of the Protestant class seeking to confiscate their lands, O'Dwyer was forced to lead an attack in retaliation against the English stronghold of Cashel on 31st Dec 1641. Over ten years of civil war ensued, during which Philip died of an illness, probably brought on by the stress of continued battle. In the end, the arrival of the despised Oliver Cromwell expedited the end of the war. Walled castles and tower houses, such as those held by the O'Dwyers, were useless defenses against his new generation of modern cannon and he leveled any structure which offered resistance. Most of the nine O'Dwyer castles were probably destroyed during his sweep across Tipperary, for we know from the war records that the clan put up a strong fight, as was their tradition. (They were known since ancient times for their fighting prowess - "the pillars of every battle-ford", according to an ancient Irish verse, a ford being a river crossing point).

It is probable that Philip's castle was also destroyed during this period, but no account has survived to confirm this.

As a result of the action at Cashel, the O'Dwyer lands of Kilnamanagh were confiscated, and the families scattered - the leading military leaders and soldiers were banished to Europe, while many of the remainder were transplanted to poor lands west

of the River Shannon in the province of Connaught.

The O'Dwyers, of course, were not alone. Similar treatment was meted out to clans all across the country, and the Cromwellian cry of "to Hell or to Connaught" (i.e. death or transplantation) echoed throughout the land. The contemporary Irish Ballad of the time - Séan Ó Duibhir a Ghleanna (John O'Dwyer of the Glen) - depicts the sorry scene for us:

"Hark the foe is calling,
Fast the woods are falling,
Scenes and sights appalling
Mark the wasted soil.
War and confiscation
Curse the fallen nation,
Gloom and desolation
Shade the lost land o'er."

Dundrum passes to Robert Maude

Much of the O'Dwyer land of Kilnamanagh was handed over to soldiers and officers in lieu of back pay, and to adventurers - those who had 'adventured' money to help pay for the war.

Philip's manor lands and castle at Dundrum came into the hands of Robert Maude, of West Riddlesden, Yorkshire, England, an officer in the Cromwellian army.

The size of his new estates and the richness of much of its soil, together with the newly established power given to his Protestant Ascendancy class, ensured prosperity for Robert Maude.

There are many stories told about the acquisition of the Dundrum Estates by the Maudes and not least among them is the tradition that Philip O'Dwyer was hanged by Cromwell's orders from one of his own trees. The tradition goes on to say that an officer named Maude was employed to see the execution was carried out and when he saw O'Dwyer's daughter weeping at the foot of the tree for her father's death, he fell in love with her, obtained a grant of her father's land and married her. This is a very romantic story but unfortunately for the romance there is no foundation for it, since records confirm the lands at Dundrum were granted to Robert Maude Esq. as part of the Cromwellian confiscation.

The original Robert Maude was the father of Anthony who was a member of parliament for Cashel in 1686 and High Sheriff of the County in 1695. Anthony's son, Robert was created a baronet of Ireland in 1705 and he became a member of parliament for many years. In 1718 he was granted a knighthood and became Sir Robert Maude. He died in 1750. The Maude family at Dundrum rose to great eminence, later attaining the rank of Viscounts Hawarden and Earls of Montalt in the peerage of the United Kingdom.

The family has produced many distinguished soldiers and sailors including the famous general Stanley Maude, who in one of the celebrated battle campaigns of World War I, drove the Turks out of Iraq. He died before the end of the war from cholera at Baghdad in 1917, an interesting coincidence with Philip's earlier demise.

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

The building of Dundrum House

Sir Robert was the man responsible for the building of Dundrum House some time between 1730 and 1750.

It is said that the house was built adjacent to the O'Dwyer castle, 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 were planted.

The original house consisted of a two storey block with a high basement joined by short links to flanking wings or pavilions and it was very much in the style of Sir Edward Lovett Pearse.

The Maudes certainly had some members who were deeply unpopular among the locals, (many of whom, even to this day, are O'Dwyers who returned, by fair means or foul, to their ancient lands as tenants and labourers.)

One example is Sir Thomas Maude. One of the descendants of Robert, he is reputed to have worn a tail. This tradition probably grew from his devilish reputation, enhanced, no doubt, by the fact that he was involved in the prosecution of Father Sheehy, the martyr priest, from Shanrahan, Clogheen, who was hanged in front of Clonmel jail in 1766. Indeed it is interesting to note that the "packed jury" who sentenced Fr. Sheehy to death met in the drawing room of Dundrum House.

Improvements

Between 1755 and 1775 Sir Thomas Maude accumulated large debts of £27,000 carrying out improvement work to his estate. He sponsored large-scale remodelling of the landscape, drainage schemes, an estate village at Dundrum (which still exists today), new tenants and resettlement. He developed a deer park, in which he built three houses where the estate workers lived (and protected his deer). When the famous agricultural expert Arthur Young visited Dundrum in 1776 he was highly impressed with Maude's farming methods. He had opened up a noble lawn in front of the house and cleared the River Multeen. He had introduced the Berkshire pig; and also the Leicester sheep in preference to the long-legged Irish breed. Interestingly, he had 40 plough bullocks, but only 12 cows. He stall-fed 100 cattle over the winter. He had taken over many of his small farms as their leases expired, and made big farms of them, draining and improving them. This, though laudable from a farming point of view, was accomplished only with a high degree of suffering on the part of the tenants evicted from those small holdings.

The accumulated debt of £27,000 passed to his brother Cornwallis Maude, Viscount Hawarden (d.1803), after 1777. Undaunted, Cornwallis compounded the problem by marrying three times: he had 16 living children, all of whom had to be provided for; a marriage portion for a daughter could vary from £2000 to £6000. One daughter, Emily, married Lord Dunalley of Kilboy near Nenagh in 1826. In modern times their estate was bought by Tony Ryan, founder of Ryanair.

Cornwallis Maude's third wife, Anne Isabella Monck, was only 18 when she married him in 1789: he was 48. There is an account of a ball given by him in 1780 at which Anne Isabella completely outshone his daughter Elizabeth Letitia Jane who was three years older than her new stepmother.

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

19th century.

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

In 1842 Cornwallis the 3rd Viscount evicted 200 catholic families, 1,300 people in all, from his estate in Dundrum. This was highlighted in a series of letters to the 'Nation' by the local curate, Fr. Patrick O'Brien Davern. The Viscount considered them libellous, and initiated legal proceedings against the priest and the paper. O'Connell offered help; Michael Doheny was engaged for the defence; so also was Richard Lalor Sheil. However, Fr. O'Brien Davern caught a fever and died, and so the case never came to court. The charges surfaced again in the Devon Commission hearings of 1844, at which John Stewart, Maude's agent, strongly repudiated the charges.

In 1844-45 the house was described as a capacious structure standing in the centre of one of the most extensive wooded parks in the country.

In 1860 an extra storey treated as an attic above a continuous cornice was added by the fourth Viscount Hawarden who was the first and last Earl of Montalt.

An interesting occupant of the house was Lady Clementina Hawarden (1822-65) who married Cornwallis Maude in 1845. She became an early pioneer of the new art of photography, following her arrival at Dundrum in 1857 and went on to receive later critical acclaim for her depiction of family members, and life around Dundrum. Her work can still be viewed at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. One admirer of her work was Lewis Carroll, himself a keen photographer. Her husband became an assistant whip in the House of Lords and a lord in waiting to Queen Victoria. Much was expected of Cornwallis Maude, their son and heir, but he was killed in the First Boer War at Majuba Hill in 1881. One of the daughters, Florence, gives her name to 'Lady Florence's Walk', the beautiful tree-lined walk from the estate gate to the village of Dundrum.

As well as founding the village of Dundrum, the Maude family was also responsible for bringing the Great Southern and Western railway through Dundrum, and the Victorian station house can still be seen today, though alas it is no longer in use as a working station.

More recent times

With the coming of the Land Acts the 4th Viscount, now the Earl de Montalt, sold Dundrum in 1903. He himself died in 1905. A cousin, Robert Henry Maude, became 5th Viscount. When Dundrum House and demesne were put on the market, the family of the remaining O'Dwyer clan was approached by the land Commission with a view to a possible purchase given the historic connections to the family. Family and financial reasons stood in the way however. The estate was divided, and the house with some surrounding land were acquired by a religious order and were used thereafter for an industrial school.

Later the Presentation Sisters set up a Domestic Science College in the spacious wings and it was also used as a Novitiate and Retreat house.

It finally came into the hands of Mr. Austin and Mrs. Mary Crowe, who transformed it into the elegant hotel and golf course which we know today.

It remains today the spiritual home for O'Dwyers all over the world, with its direct connection to our long-lost days of glory in Celtic times.

oOo

**Viscountess Clementina Elphinstone Hawarden, (1822-1865)
pioneering photographer**

Dundrum House has certainly seen its share of eclectic characters down through the years, but the one who was probably most endeared by the local population was undoubtedly Clementina Hawarden.

She was born at Cumbernauld, Glasgow, in Scotland on June 1, 1822 into prosperous circumstances. Her father, Charles Fleeming, was an admiral in the British Royal Navy, and he married her Spanish mother, Catalina, in 1816.



Clementina Hawarden

created somewhat of a scandal as far as the Hawardens were concerned, because of the social unsuitability of the match. It is probably for this reason that the young couple remained in London for the first twelve years of their marriage. Clementina gave birth to ten children in all, eight of whom survived her – seven daughters and a son.

Their circumstances in London were comfortable, but took a dramatically prosperous turn in 1856 with the death of her father-in-law. Her husband then inherited his father's title, and became 4th Viscount Hawarden. The large family estates around Dundrum House also passed to him by way of legacy, making him one of the largest landowners in the British Isles.

Dundrum House

The family moved to Dundrum House the following year. Their new surroundings must have provided tremendous freedom for a large growing young family, away from the stifling confines of London. It certainly appears to have allowed Clementina time to indulge in more leisurely pursuits, and it is here that her photographic career began to blossom. She captured striking landscape views of the countryside around Dundrum, and of scenes around Dundrum village such as the railway station. She was especially fond of photographing the local people as they went about their daily work. Farm workers with their implements are a frequent theme in her collection.

Photography critics have noted strong Catholic influences in her work, as well as an artistic style which is reminiscent of Dutch baroque paintings.



*Young man with tripod,
Dundrum House, west wing*

Return to London

Her time at Dundrum appears to have been short-lived, for the family returned to South Kensington, London in 1859. This relocation may have been necessary to facilitate the political ambitions of her husband – he became an Irish Representative Peer in the House of Lords, London in 1862, and continued an active role in politics for over twenty years until 1886. However, Clementina's interest in photography endured despite leaving her inspirational surroundings at Dundrum. Part of their new home was converted into a studio, where she took many photographs of her children in costume poses.

Her stature and critical acclaim grew in maturity, and she was sufficiently well regarded to warrant exhibitions of her work at the Photographic Society of London in 1863. Her 'Studies from Life' collection was awarded a silver medal for best amateur contribution. She repeated the performance the following year, 1864, and again won a silver medal - this time for composition.

One of her admirers was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898), *aka* Lewis Carroll. Best known as author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and other works, he was also an accomplished photographer and produced almost 3,000 pieces in his lifetime, many of which have survived. He was an admirer of the "Lady Photographer" (as Clementina became known), and purchased several of her works.

Her legacy

Alas her career was short-lived – she tragically died of pneumonia in 1865, shortly after her second winning triumph. She was survived by her husband and eight of her children. She was clearly highly regarded, for her work was posthumously exhibited at the Dublin International Exhibition in 1865. The bulk of her work can be viewed today at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and other examples can be found at the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, and the Musee d'Orsay in Paris. For those with an interest in the history of Dundrum House, a trip to the Victoria and Albert Museum is well worthwhile. Over 700 of her works were donated to the museum in 1939 at the outbreak World War II. Although the prints are small by today's standards, measuring only a couple of inches on a side, the hand of a skilled photographer can clearly be discerned, and some the works give interesting glimpses into 19th century life around Dundrum¹.

Her husband continued in politics for many years after her untimely death and was raised to the status of Earl de Montalt in the peerage of the United Kingdom in 1886, a title which he held until his death in 1905, after which it became extinct.

NOTE 1: Thanks to the work of the Victoria and Albert Museum, a large selection of her work may be viewed online at: <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/search/> by entering "Clementina Hawarden" in the search box.

Joke Corner



My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink, as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asks: "Do you know her?"

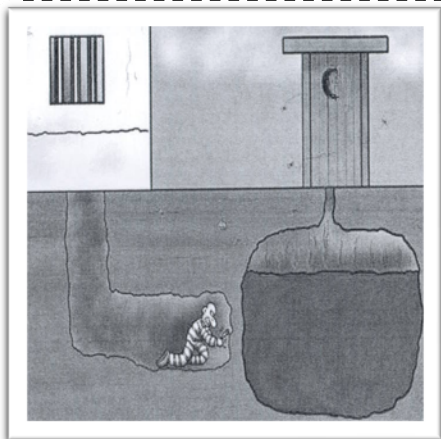
"Yes", I sighed. "She is my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she has not been sober since".

"My God", says my wife, "Who would have thought a person could go on celebrating that long!"

I am my own grandpa!

Many, many years ago when I was twenty three,
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be.
This widow had a grown-up daughter who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her, and soon the two were wed.
This made my dad my son-in-law and changed my very life.
My daughter was my mother, for she was my father's wife.
To complicate the matters worse, although it brought me joy,
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.
My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad and so became my Uncle,
Though it made me very sad.
For if he was my uncle, then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter who, of course, was my step-mother.
Father's wife then had a son, who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson, for he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother and it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too.
If my wife is my grandmother, then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it, it simply drives me wild.
For now I have become the strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpa!

With thanks to <http://members.home.nl/siouwke/genealogie/iokes.htm#Cemetery%20Inscriptions>



For those having a really bad day, it could always be worse. Just look at the poor guy on the left!

Have you got a story, joke, recipe or enquiry you would like published? Please forward it by e-mail to oduibhir@eircom.net. Published by the O'Dwyer Clan, a non-profit organization devoted to O'Dwyer family history - www.dwyerclan.com.