Reverend Richard Boyle Townsend [332]



The Castle and St Barrahane's Church 2013



The Main Street



Abbeystrewry Church



Abbeystrewry is said to have got its name from a Cistercian abbey, the ruins of which are situated on the river Ilen on the road to Ballydehob. A new site was found in the town and a new church was given a license for divine service on 11th April 1827. The present church was opened by Canon Goodman on 18th December 1890 after extensive renovations at a cost of £3,000 of which he contributed £700 himself.

	Curates
Date	Name
1634	Hugo Scampe (Vicar Aghadown, 1635-1653)
1653-1666	Commonwealth and Protectorate Period
1669	John Godfery
1671	Zachary Braly
1688	Samuel Moreton
1692	Benjamin Bousfield
1709	Richard Baldwin
1745	Francis Dutham
1766	John Corkee
1771	Horatio Townsend
	Curates Since the Diestablishment in Diocese Ross
1883	William O'Neill
1887	Edmond Beatty
1892	Charles Tottenham
1898	William R. Cole
1900	Edward James
1911	Robert W.H Hadden
1914	Harold Hadden
	No curates after H. Hadden until 1949
1949	Phineas Bury
1950	Edward Rainsbury
1953	Leonard Buckley-Jones
1959	David Clarke
	Vicars Rectory Impropriate
1781	William Robinson
1819	**Richard Boyle Townsend**
1850	Horace Thomas Townsend
	Rectors
1857	James Goodman
1896	Horace Webb Townsend

1915	Edwin Sikes
1951	Vivian William Darling
1963	Oliver Arther Pa

Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

ABBEYSTREWRY, a parish, in the Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER; containing, with part of the market and post-town of Skibbereen, 5570 inhabitants. This parish is situated near the southern coast, on the road from Cork to Baltimore, and is intersected by the river Ilen. It contains 9362 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act; and is said to derive its name from a religious house, the ruins of which are situated close to the northern bank of the Ilen, one mile west from Skibbereen. About one-third is waste land or bog, the former consisting of rocky elevations which in some parts afford tolerable pasturage; the bog is only of small extent, and peat is becoming somewhat scarce. Generally the system of agriculture is not much improved: the heavy old wooden plough is still used. The substratum is entirely of the schistus formation: there are quarries of excellent slate at Derrygoole, but not much worked; and throughout the parish is found clay-slate for building and repairing the roads. There are numerous large and handsome residences: the principal are Hollybrook, the seat of R. Becher*, Esq.; Lakelands, of T. J. Hungerford, Esq.; Coronea, of Mrs. Marmion; Gortnamucalla, of H. Newman, Esq.; Carriganare, of Mrs. Evans; Laghartydawley, of A. McCarthy, Esq.; Mill House, of J. Clark, Esq.; Clover Hill**, of J. Sweetnam, Esq.; Weston, of D. H. Clarke, Esq.; **the glebe-house, the residence of the Rev. R. B. Townsend** *(Richard Boyle Townsend [332])*; Abbeyville, the seat of G. Brenham, Esq.; and Rossfort, of J. Ross, Esq.; **The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of J. S. Townsend** ***(John Sealy Townsend [507])*****, Esq., the impropriator of the rectory: the tithes amount to £647, of which £200 is payable to the impropriator, £20 to the vicar (under an appropriation grant of the late Earl of Shannon), and the remainder to the lessees of Col. Townsend** *(Colonel John Townsend [230])*. The church, situated in the town of Skibbereen, is a large edifice, in the early English style of architecture, with a lofty square tower at the east end: it was built on a new site in 1827, at an expense of £1200, of which £900 was given by the late Board of First Fruits; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £180 for its repair. The glebe-house, near the town, was built in 1824, by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £50 from the same Board, on a glebe of fifteen acres purchased by the Board and subject to a rent of £13. 7. per annum. **The male and female parochial schools are situated near the church, and were built in 1825, at the expense of the vicar**.

* *Becher connections here with Philip Townsend [304] and Barbara Townsend [306].*

** *Richard Townsend [310] died here in 1814.*

SKIBBEREEN, a market and post-town, partly in the parish of ABBEYSTROWRY, but chiefly in that of CREAGH, Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 42 miles (S. W.) from Cork, on the mail road to Bantry, and 167 1/4 (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 4429 inhabitants. In 1691, an engagement took place in the vicinity between the forces of Jas. II and **Col. Becher***, who commanded about 500 of the militia, when the former were put to flight, with the loss of 60 men and a large number of cattle. Three years afterwards, a party of 40 rapparees came into the town and plundered the custom-house, which belonged to the port of Baltimore, and killed two revenue officers. The town, from its situation in a wild, unenclosed part of the country, has frequently been the rendezvous of disaffected parties, but it has been much improved of late years, and is now a very flourishing place. It is situated on the southern bank of the river Ilen, and comprises seven streets; that part which extends into the parish of Abbeystrewry is called Bridgetown, and consists of three streets, one of which has been recently formed. The number of houses in the whole town is 1014, many of which, in the eastern part and in the parish of **Creagh****, are large and well built: the approaches have been much improved by the formation of new lines of road at each extremity. This place had formerly a very considerable trade, arising from the manufacture of woollen cloth, linen, checks, and handkerchiefs, which has altogether declined: it is, however, very advantageously situated for trade in an extensive and improving district; the tide from the harbour of Baltimore flows up to the town, and the river is navigable for vessels of 200 tons' burden to Oldcourt, two miles below Skibbereen. In the town are capacious storehouses for corn, and a considerable quantity of flour is also exported from the mills of Mr. .J. Clark, on the bank of the Ilen, a quarter of a mile from the town. A porter brewery upon an extensive scale was established in 1809; it is the property of Daniel Mc Carthy, Esq., and is in full operation, many of the neighbouring towns being supplied from the establishment. The market days are Wednesday and

Saturday, the former for the Bridgetown portion, and the latter, which is the principal market, for Staplestown. Milk and fuel are also exposed daily in the market-place for sale. The supply of provisions is very abundant, particularly fish and poultry: pigs and sheep are also sold in great numbers. The marketplace being small, and the market-house old and inconvenient, the articles brought for sale on the regular market-days are exposed in the public streets and in a place called the square. Fairs are held on May 14th, July 10th, Aug. 2nd, Oct. 12th, and Dec. 11th and 23rd; and petty sessions on Wednesdays. The sessions-house and bridewell is a large and handsome building in the Grecian style, occupying an elevated site near the entrance to the town from Cork. There is also an infantry barrack; and Skibbereen is the residence of the inspecting commander of the coast-guard stations of the district, of which it is the head, comprising those of Milkcove, Glandore, Castle-Townsend, Barlogue, Baltimore, Long Island, Crookhaven, Dunmanus, and Whitehorse, and extending from Sheep Head to Rosscarbery. The parochial church of Abbeystrewry is situated in Bridgetown; it is a large edifice in the early English style, with a tower at the east end, erected in 1827, at an expense of £1200, towards which £900 was contributed by the late Board of First Fruits. Parochial schools for boys and girls were erected near the church, in 1825, by the vicar; and an infants' school was built in 1835. There is also a Sunday school under the care of the Protestant clergyman. Near the R. C. chapel are large school-houses, built by the late Dr. Collins, which are supported by the National Board.

** Col Becher was the father of Elizabeth who married Horatio Townsend [104]*

*** Becher connections with Mary Townsend [121] and Edward [401].*

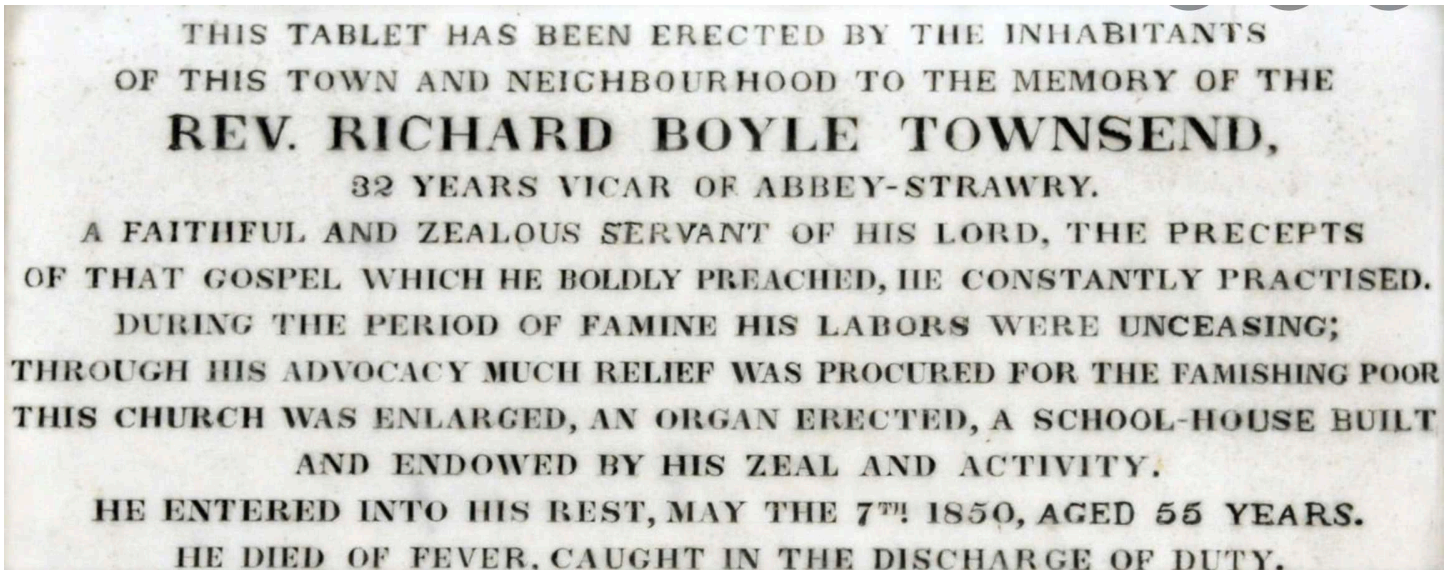
GLANDORE, a small but rising village, in the parish of KILFAUGHNABEG, Western Division of the barony of EAST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 miles (S. W.) from Rosscarbery; containing about 200 inhabitants. This seems to have been a place of some importance at an early period, as appears from the erection of the castles of Glandore and Kilfinnan; for many years it continued in a very impoverished state, but it has again become a place of considerable note through the spirited exertions of its present proprietor, J. Redmond Barry, Esq., who has within the last few years expended upwards of £10,000 in various improvements. It is situated on the eastern side of Glandore harbour, which affords secure anchorage to vessels of large size; and is navigable to Leap, a village on the Cork and Skibbereen mail road. The scenery at the entrance of the harbour is extremely picturesque, and is remarkable as having formed the subject, of a Latin poem, called "Carberiae Rupes," written by Dean Swift, who spent some time in the neighbourhood. A pier has been recently constructed near the village, which affords protection to about 20 fishing yawls of three tons each; fish of every kind is abundant in the bay. Many elegant houses and a comfortable hotel have been erected, and from the beauty of its situation and the salubrity of the climate, the village has become a favourite place of residence, and much frequented during the bathing season; baths have been erected and every accommodation afforded for the convenience of visitors. The principal residences are Glandore Castle, the seat of P. Morris, Esq.; Glandore House, of J. Redmond Barry, Esq.; Glandore Cottage, of JFH. Townsend *(Judge John FitzHenry Townsend [250])* Esq.; Glandore Lodge, of R. Adams, Esq.; Stone Hall, of Major T. Allen; Westview House, of Major Edw. Allen; Chateau Maria, of F. Allen, Esq.; Kilfinnan Castle, of T. Raneland, Esq.; Prospect House, of John Morris, Esq.; Glenville, of Capt. E. Hart; Union Cottage, of Mrs. Donovan; and Cliff Cottage, of the Rev. Mr. Walker. A school-house capable of containing 600 children has been lately erected by Mr. Barry, with the aid of the National Board of Education; the boys receive instruction in agriculture and trades from competent teachers, and a model farm and carpenters' workshop are connected with it. The management of the girls' school reflects the highest credit on Miss Adams, the acting patroness, who most benevolently devotes her time to its superintendence: an infants' school has also been established.

CASTLE-TOWNSEND, a village, in the parish of CASTLEHAVEN, East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 4 1/2 miles (E.) from Skibbereen; containing 901 inhabitants. This village, which derives its name from Castle-Townsend, the seat of Col. Townsend *(Colonel John Townsend [230])*, is situated on the north side of the harbour of Castlehaven, and consists of one long street, with a shorter one diverging from it, comprising 150 houses, which are mostly small but well built. It contains the custom-house for the port of Baltimore, and is a coast-guard station in the district of Skibbereen, and a constabulary police station. It occupies a gentle declivity, which descends to the bay, and is well adapted for an extensive trade, but has none, except a little in fish. The harbour, which is half a mile wide, is well sheltered, and vessels of 500 tons' burden can anchor within the haven. There is a ferry to the opposite parish of Myross, affording a ready communication with the village of Union-Hall, on the harbour of Glandore. The fine

seat of Castle-Townsend was attacked, in 1690, by about 500 Irish troops in the interest of Jas. II., under young O'Driscoll, who were so warmly received by the proprietor and a garrison of 35 men, that in two assaults they lost 40 of their number, with their commander and two other officers. It was attacked again, soon afterwards, by Mac Fineen O'Driscoll, at the head of 400 men, who, having slain five of its garrison of 30 dragoons compelled the rest to surrender. Col. Culliford subsequently retook the castle, after killing ten and capturing five of the Irish garrison. The elegant church of Castlehaven stands on a bold eminence above the village; and the parochial and infants' schools are also situated here. --See CASTLEHAVEN.

CASTLEHAVEN, a parish, in the East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 4 1/2 miles (W.) from Skibbereen; containing 5619 inhabitants. This parish, anciently called *Glanbarrahane*, derived that name from a deep rocky glen dedicated to St. Barrahane, and its modern appellation from the castle that protected the haven. This parish is situated on the harbour of the same name, on the southern coast, and contains 10,421 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £6336 per annum. About two-thirds of the land are cultivated; the remainder is waste, consisting of high barren rocky ridges, or bog. Cultivation is principally performed by the spade, or the heavy old wooden plough. The harbour is more than half a mile in width, and is very secure and well sheltered: it is adapted for vessels drawing 10 feet of water, which can lie about a quarter of a mile above Reen Head, with the rocks called the Stags in sight. The coast here is bold and picturesque, with several small islands lying off it, the principal of which are Horse Island and one called Blackrock. The Stags are three very conspicuous rocks lying four miles (S. W. 1/2 W.) from the entrance of the harbour; and Toe head is a broad promontory, between which and Gokane point is a small but well sheltered bay. The principal seats are Castle Townsend, the residence of Col. Townsend *(Colonel John Townsend [230])*; Point House, of R. B. Townsend *(Richard Townsend [332])*, Esq.; Drishane, of T. Somerville*, Esq.; Smithville, of T. Townsend *(Thomas Townsend [319])*, Esq.; and Shepperton, of M. Townsend *(Jonas Morris Townsend [222])*, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the alternate patronage of the Crown and the Bishop: the tithes amount to £600. The church is a large and very handsome edifice, with a lofty square tower supported by buttresses and crowned with pinnacles: it stands in the demesne of Castle Townsend, and was built in 1827, of hewn fawn-coloured freestone obtained from the quarries on Horse Island, at an expense of £1500, of which £1250 was granted by the late Board of First Fruits, and £250 was contributed by Col. Townsend *[230]*. There is an elegant glebe-house, standing on a glebe of 15 acres. The male and female parochial schools are in Castle Townsend, and are aided by the rector and Col. Townsend *[230]*. An infants' school was established there in 1835, and is supported by subscription. There are also four hedge schools and a Sunday school in the parish. The ancient castle, the walls of which are still visible near the mouth of the harbour, was built by the O'Driscolls, and subsequently belonged to the family of Touchet, of which George Touchet, Lord Audley, who had been governor of Utrecht, and was wounded at Kinsale in 1602, was created Earl of Castlehaven, in 1616: this title was enjoyed through five generations, but became extinct in 1777.

* *Somerville connections here at Elizabeth [225], Henrietta [234], Jonas Morris [237], John [316] and Mary [506].*


THIS TABLET HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE INHABITANTS
OF THIS TOWN AND NEIGHBOURHOOD TO THE MEMORY OF THE
REV. RICHARD BOYLE TOWNSEND,
32 YEARS VICAR OF ABBEY-STRAWRY.
A FAITHFUL AND ZEALOUS SERVANT OF HIS LORD, THE PRECEPTS
OF THAT GOSPEL WHICH HE BOLDLY PREACHED, HE CONSTANTLY PRACTISED.
DURING THE PERIOD OF FAMINE HIS LABORS WERE UNCEASING;
THROUGH HIS ADVOCACY MUCH RELIEF WAS PROCURED FOR THE FAMISHING POOR
THIS CHURCH WAS ENLARGED, AN ORGAN ERECTED, A SCHOOL-HOUSE BUILT
AND ENDOWED BY HIS ZEAL AND ACTIVITY.
HE ENTERED INTO HIS REST, MAY THE 7TH 1850, AGED 55 YEARS.
HE DIED OF FEVER, CAUGHT IN THE DISCHARGE OF DUTY.

Extract from Brady's Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross Volume II 1863

1819. June 11. RICHARD BOYLE TOWNSEND, A.B., was admitted to the vicarage of Abbeystrewry, vacant by death of Robinson, on the presentation of John Sealy Townsend, esq., dated 12th March, 1819, and certified to be under £100 per an. [D.R.]

1824. R. B. Townsend memorials for liberty to build a glebe-house; and on August 2nd, 1826, the Bishop certifies for an outlay of £751, late Irish currency, in building a glebe-house. [D.R.]

1827, April 11. Abbeystrewry new church, on new site, is licensed for divine service. And on 24th Oct., 1832, a memorial was presented to the Lord Lieutenant in Council to change the site (the ancient site being ill-adapted, &c.) of the church. This memorial was inadvertently delayed until the building was finished on the new site. [D.R.]

1834. Protestant population, 246.

1837. Abbeystrowry: a vicarage, with cure; 6 miles long by 4 broad, containing 15,165A. 2R. 38P. Gross population, 5,570. No Curate employed. Tithe composition, £18 9*s*. $2\frac{3}{4}d$. Augmentation allowance, payable by Ecclesiastical Commissioners out of Boulter's fund, £73 18*s*. 15A. 0R. 13P. of glebe, valued at £3 per acre, £45 4*s*. $10\frac{1}{2}d$. Subject to visitation fees, &c., 9*s*. Abbeystrowry glebe-house fit for residence, built in the year 1827, under the new Acts, at the cost of £461 10*s*. $9\frac{1}{4}d$. British, granted by the late Board of First Fruits, viz., £415 7*s*. $8\frac{1}{4}d$. as gift, and £46 3*s*. 1*d*. chargeable on the benefice in 1832, repayable by annual instalments of £1 17*s*. Incumbent is always resident in the glebe-house. Exclusive of the moneys aforesaid, Incumbent reports that he has expended £231 13*s*. $10\frac{1}{4}d$. on the premises, of which sum he has been repaid £122 7*s*. $0\frac{3}{4}d$. by the Impropriator, but has not any demand against his successor for the repayment of any portion of the residue. One church, capable of accommodating 360 persons; built in 1827, at a cost of £1,181 10*s*. 9*d*. Brit., of which sum £830 15*s*. $4\frac{1}{2}d$. was granted in way of gift, and £276 18*s*. $5\frac{1}{2}d$. in that of loan by the late Board of First Fruits, and the residue of £73 16*s*. 11*d*. was raised by the sale of pews. Of the loan aforesaid there remained £221 10*s*. $9\frac{1}{4}d$. chargeable on the parish in 1832, repayable by annual instalments of £11 1*s*. $6\frac{1}{2}d$. Divine service is celebrated twice on Sundays, and once on the principal festivals; besides an evening service on every Thursday. The sacrament is administered monthly, and on the great festivals. The rectorial tithes of this parish, compounded for £699, are impropriate, and belong to John Sealy Townsend, esq. [Parl. Rep.]

R. B. Townsend was the eldest son of John Townsend, Recorder of Clonakilty, by Eleanor, dau. of Richd. Townsend, M.D., of Dublin. John was the second son of Philip Townsend by Mary Delap, which Philip was third son of John Townsend, who was the fourth son of Bryan Townsend. [*Vide* Rev. Richard Townsend, of Scull, vol. i., p. 246.] He was ordained Deacon on 1st Feb., 1818, and Priest on 28th Feb., 1819, both at Cork. From 1819 to his death on 7th May, 1850, he was V. Abbeystrewry. He married Elisabeth, dau. of Richard Hungerford, esq., of Glandore, county Cork, but had no issue. His brother, John Sealy Townsend, esq., of Dublin, is a barrister-at-law, and married on 15th Dec., 1838, Martha-Catherine, dau. of the late Beecher Fleming, esq., of Newcourt, Skibbereen, and has issue a daughter, Judith.