Major John Crewe Chetwood Townsend [6B04]

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Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

DONOUGHMORE, a parish, partly in the barony of BARRETTS, but chiefly in that of EAST MUSKERRY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 12 miles (W. N. W.) from Cork, on the new line of road to Kanturk; containing 6794 inhabitants. This parish comprises 22,000 statute acres, of which 8000 acres, which had been forcibly withheld from the see of Cloyne (to which nearly half the parish belongs), since the year 1539, were, in 1709, recovered by Bishop Crow, and are now the property of that see, but in the hands of the Commissioners under the Church Temporalities act: about 2880 acres are bog and mountain, and the remainder is good arable and pasture land. The soil is generally cold and wet, except in the neighbourhood of Derry, where the lands are well cultivated and very productive. Not more than one-fourth of the land is under tillage; the remainder is mountain pasture and bog, especially in the northern part of the parish, where a vast tract of heathy bog and moorland extends to the summit of the Boggra mountain, on which numerous herds of cattle are pastured. The principal residences are Derry, that of J. B. Gibbs, Esq.; Derry Cottage, of the Rev. W. Meade; Kilcullen, of Jer. Lynch, Esq.; **Firmount, of Horace**

Townsend* *(Horace Townsend [6B01])* Esq.; and Fortnaght, of the Rev. Morgan O'Brien. The new line of road from Cork to Kanturk passes through this wild district, and will contribute greatly to its improvement: the rivers Dripsey and Awenbeg have their rise in it. Fairs are held on May 18th and Nov. 21st for general farming stock. Near the cross of Donoughmore is a constabulary police barrack. A manorial court is held under the Bishop of Cloyne and petty sessions monthly. The rectory constitutes the corps of the prebend of Cloyne in the cathedral of St. Colman, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £1100. The glebe-house is a very old building; the glebe comprises 14 acres of fertile land. The church is a small and very old edifice in a state of great dilapidation, and is about to be rebuilt by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. A school is supported by the rector, in which about 20 children are educated; at Garrane is a school, in which about 30 boys and 20 girls are instructed, and for which a house was given by Mr. Stowell; and there are five pay schools, in which are about 300 boys and 160 girls. Between this parish and Kilshanig is the Pass of Redshard, where Lord-President St. Leger, in 1641, drew up such forces as he could raise to oppose the insurgents coming from the county of Limerick, and commanded by Lord Mountgarret, but on their messengers showing him their pretended commission from the king, he disbanded his forces and retired to Cork. This place gives the title of Earl to the family of Hutchinson.

* *John's father*

GARRYCLOYNE, a parish, partly in the barony of BARRETTS, but chiefly in that of EAST MUSKERRY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 5 miles (N. W.) from Cork, on the road to Kanturk; containing, with the village of Blarney (which is described under its own head), 2027 inhabitants. It comprises 3530 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £1870 per annum. There are several extensive dairy farms, and the butter is held in high repute: the cattle are well stalled and fed with clover, turnips, and tares. Agriculture has much improved within the last few years, and the farms, particularly those belonging to the gentry, are well cultivated: the principal manure is lime. A large quantity of limestone is procured on the demesne of Blarney, the only place abounding with it from Cork to Mallow: good manure is also obtained from the cattle stalls. The establishment of a farming society, excellent roads, and other advantages have combined to improve the system of farming, but in some instances the old method is still pursued. There is neither mountain nor bog in the parish. The line of the intended canal from Cork to Limerick passes through it; and there are boulting-mills capable of producing 6000 barrels of flour annually. In the parish are several gentlemen's seats: Blarney Castle is described in the account of that village, to the north of which is Putland's Glen, the residence of George Jeffreys, Esq., by whom it was planted, and who holds a lease of it from Mr. Putland, whose ancestor was a member of the Hollow Sword Blade Company, and a large portion of this parish was allotted to him; it originally formed part of the Clan-earthy estate, which being confiscated in 1692, was purchased from the Government by the company. To the north of the parish is the manor-house and castle of Garrycloyne, the property of John Travers, Esq., whose ancestor obtained a grant of it in 1604: the castle is a lofty square tower, built in 1535 by the Clancarthys; the house is spacious and well built on rising ground looking over a fine lawn of more than 100 acres, surrounded by fine plantations. *(Samuel Philip Townsend* [6A03] acquired the property in 1837).* Abbeyville is the seat of the Rev. W. Stopford. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Cloyne, united at a very early period to the rectory and vicarage of Grenaugh, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £512, and of the whole benefice to £1562; there is a glebe of 21 acres. The glebe-house was erected in 1807, by aid of a gift of £100 and a loan of £800 from the late Board of First Fruits. The church is a handsome building of the Doric order, situated on rising ground commanding a view of the village and plains. The male and female parochial schools are in the village of Blarney, and are supported entirely by the rector, who provides a house rent-free for the master and mistress; he also supports a Sunday school.

* *John's uncle*

Transcript of a letter from Edward Hume Townsend [626] John Townsend [622] concerning John's death

May 6. 1873. Cuilnaconartha, Clonakilty,

My dear John,

I forward the usual insurances receipt received from F.Gahan for you & Aubrey's inspection, to be returned at your convenience. - We are in some anxiety about John Hume's *([635])* wife, who is I fear in bad health; they are on the way to - if not arrived at the Cumberland Lakes - where Dora's parents at present are. I believe that they will consult some London Physician before they return: our Susy is in her usual state; her late doctor at Blarney, counseled her to take perfect rest -: she therefore takes no exercise - and I fear, under such a regimen has small chance of regaining health. We have some thoughts of taking her somewhere for remedial advice in the summer, but her feebleness makes it an anxious question how this can be performed. - These matters keep my poor wife in an anxious nervous state, I feel therefore for both Mother & daughter, it is necessary that something should be done as soon as it can be accomplished. Such is the state of matters in our small family. ……..Farewell my dear John: much love from Susan & myself to dear Minnie, Aubrey & your young people: believe me always affectionately yours **E.H.Townsend.**

The papers may have informed you of the sudden death of Major Townsend ([*6B04]*), son of the late Horace T (*[6B01]*) of Woodside: it was caused I believe by a fit, & was awfully sudden; no one was with him when he died: he leaves a widow, & I believe 3 young Children.

Map showing Firmount

