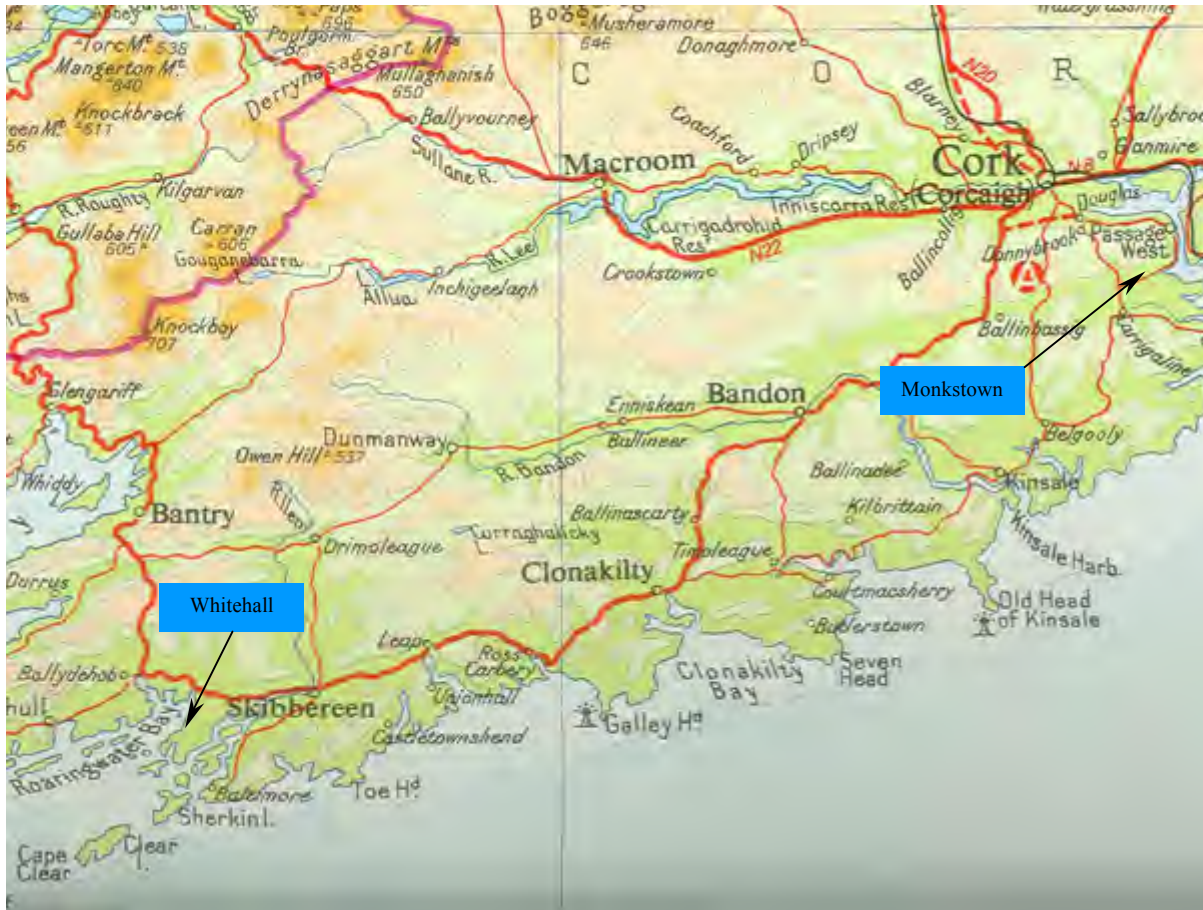


Elizabeth Hildgardis Townsend [244]



Prospect Villa



Monkstown, Cork



Transcription of a letter from John Henry Townsend [238] to Donald McLean concerning Elizabeth's sons Thomas and Michael

Dunbeacon, Bantry
May 29th 1858

Mr Dear McLean ^[1]

It would have given me sincere pleasure to have heard from you since the arrival of Mr Triphook in New Zealand but the accounts he has written of the kindness of Mr Strong (in your absence) again call for my very sincere thanks, which I beg you to accept in all sincerity. My nephews Thomas and Michael Warren are the bearers of this letter, and as they have not had much worldly experience yet, may I hope you won't think me too unreasonable in asking you to give them some of that counsel which you are so very competent to do, and which will be so highly useful to them both. They take a good outfit and small capital, but have not yet come to any decision as to what they will turn their attention to, nor do I think it would be wise they did before seeing the country and getting the opinion of so very respectable and qualified a person as yourself. Tom has a good knowledge of cattle & agriculture and Michael who has been at school in Germany will soon fall into rough work blest with a fine constitution and quiet habits. Indeed they both possess the latter and God grant that they may so continue. I have heard that the southern provinces of the South Island have fine tracts of country for horned cattle and sheep, and that many young men have settled themselves there, but I am perfectly of its capabilities; indeed it must widely differ from anything I saw in New Zealand if it is like what I have heard it represented. It will give me very great pleasure to hear from you, more especially if in your communication you can give me a good account of your happiness & health. I very often see your name along with all the civil officers of New Zealand in my almanac, but the roll of years forces me to mount my spectacles when book or pen is in my hands. Very often do I think of my New Zealand life, and it is not more than a month since I gave up an old colonial and bad habit – I mean my pipe. With every good wish believe me most sincerely yours

John H Townsend

[1] *McLean, Donald (Sir), 1820-1877. Administrator, runholder, politician and provincial superintendent. Crown Protector of Aborigines, Native Land Purchase Commissioner and Minister of Native Affairs. Appointed KCMG in 1874. Father of Sir Robert Donald Douglas McLean (1852-1929). (See DNZB 1990, Vol 1, 1769-1869, p255-258).*

Deed of Jointure

212.—Deed, dated 15th December, 1835, between William Warren, of Castletownsend, in the county of Cork, of the first part; and Richard Townsend, of Clontaff, and William Richard Townsend, of Pointhouse, Castletownsend, in said county, of the second part: whereby, in consideration of a marriage about to be solemnized between the said William Warren and Elizabeth Townsend, and for making a jointure for the said Elizabeth, and a provision for the children of said marriage, and also for the purpose of barring, docking, and extinguishing all estates tail, in consideration of 10s., said William Warren granted, sold, and assigned to said Richard Townsend, and William R. Townsend, the lands of Shanavally, Upper Ballybricken, and Rahanaltig, in the parish of Carrigaline, barony of Kerriurrihy, and county of CORK; Barnehely and Loughbeg, in the parish of Barnehely, same barony and county: To hold in trust for the several uses, provisions, and limitations expressed in a certain deed bearing equal date herewith.—Inrolled 6th June, 1836, page 155.

Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Directory 1837

MONKSTOWN, a parish, in the barony of KERRYCURRIHY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, on the new line of road from Passage to Cork, and on the western shore of the river Lee, at its confluence with the sea in Cork harbour; containing, with part of the post-town of Passage-West, 2199 inhabitants, of which number, 698 are in the village of Monkstown. The parish is bounded on the east and south-east by the Lee and the harbour of Cove; it comprises 1546 statute acres, of which about 100 are scattered woodland and ornamental grounds, 60 rock, and the remainder arable and pasture; the annual value is about £1500. The land is moderately well cultivated, though at a great expense and the soil being fertile is productive of good crops of corn and grass. The rocks are of clay-slate, and, near Carrigmahon, are precipitous and interesting; the steepest is called the Giant's Stairs, being a rocky promontory with receding ledges of rock, having the appearance of a rude staircase when viewed from the opposite bank of the Lee. There are several quarries of a red and brown stone, useful for many purposes, the former being chiefly used for lining limekilns. The river Lee affords every facility for water carriage, and here is excellent anchorage for vessels of all sizes. The village, which has a penny post to Cork, comprises a great number of detached villas and cottages, many being new and very handsome, particularly twelve beautiful marine villas recently built close to the shore; they are constructed in the pure Elizabethan style, and are chiefly occupied by respectable families as bathing-lodges, for which purpose the village is most favourably situated. It is built on the sides of a deep glen, which is thickly clothed with beautiful and thriving plantations, much increasing the natural beauty of the scene: the prospect is very extensive, taking in the woods of Ballybricken,

Rostellan, and Prospect; the islands of Haulbowline, the Rock, and Spike, with their numerous forts, depots, arsenals, and magazines; Ringaskiddy, crowned by its Martello tower; and the numerous vessels in the harbour. Among the elegant residences scattered over the parish are Monkstown Castle, that of R. B. Shaw, Esq.; Rock Lodge, of J. Galwey, Esq.; Carrigmahon, of De Courcy O'Grady, Esq.; Rockville, of J. Taylor, Esq.; Bellevue, of N. S. Parker, Esq.; and the glebe-house, of the Rev. Alex. Stuart, besides several very beautiful houses in the portion of the town of Passage that is in the parish, which, by means of the new road, has become one place with Passage. This road was designed by Robert Shaw, Esq.; it winds round the base of all the bold and wooded hills, only a few feet above the level of the highest tides, uniting Cork, Douglas, Passage, Monkstown, Carrigaline, and Kinsale: the estimated cost was £2700, one-third of which was to be paid by the barony, the remainder by the county.

The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Cork and in the patronage of Lord De Vesci: the income of the vicar is £50 per ann., payable out of the estate of Monkstown, and secured by the two noble proprietors. The glebe-house, with three acres of land, formerly the residence of Mich. Westropp, Esq., is held by lease for ever from Robt. B. Shaw, Esq., at £25 per ann., derivable from Primate Boulter's augmentation fund. The church, which stands on a picturesque elevation, is a cruciform edifice in the early English style, with a tower and spire, 70 feet high, at the east end: it was built of hewn limestone, in 1832, at an expense of £950, raised by subscriptions from the patrons and others; S. Hollingsworth, Esq., contributed £350, and the noble proprietors of the estate £100. It contains a fine organ and gallery: the west window is of stained glass, exhibiting the armorial bearings of the principal subscribers. The parochial and infants' schools are in Passage; they were founded by subscription in 1836, on land presented by W. Parker, Esq., to be held so long as they shall continue scriptural schools: the parochial school-house is very handsome, and will accommodate about 250 children; it is open to all children of Monkstown and Passage, and is supported by subscription. Besides these there are three private schools, in which are about 60 children. A parochial library has been established for the use of the poor, and an Indigent Room-Keepers' Society has been formed; both are supported by subscriptions. There is a bequest of £10 per ann., made by Mrs. Andrews, to the church, to commence after the decease of her husband.

AUGHADOWN, or AGHADOWN, a parish, in the East Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 3 1/4 miles (W. S. W.) from Skibbereen; containing, with several inhabited islands, 5419 inhabitants. This parish is situated on the north bank of the river Ilen, and comprises 7063 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £5400 per annum. Its surface is very uneven; in some parts, especially towards the north, it is rocky and unproductive; but near its southern boundary, towards the Hen, the land is good and produces excellent crops. About two-thirds of it are under cultivation; the remainder is rocky ground and bog, of which latter there is a considerable extent near Newcourt. The state of agriculture is not much improved; the old heavy wooden plough is still used, and some of the land is cultivated by spade labour; the fences are everywhere much neglected. Several good roads intersect the parish, one of which is a new line from Skibbereen to Crookhaven, likely to be of considerable advantage. The Ilen is navigable for vessels of 200 tons' burden nearly to its eastern extremity: a quay and storehouses have been constructed at Newcourt, but are entirely neglected, and the harbour is only frequented by a few sand boats, which discharge their cargoes there for the convenience of the farmers. The principal seats are Aughadown House, that of H. Becher*, Esq., occupying an elevated site in the midst of flourishing plantations, and commanding a fine view of the western coast; Lake Marsh, of Hugh Lawton, Esq.; **Whitehall, of S. Townsend***** (*Samuel Townsend [405]*) Esq.; Newcourt, of Becher Fleming**, Esq.; the glebe-house, the residence of the Rev. T. D. Moore; and Holly Hill, of the Rev. J. Copinger, P.P. . Fairs for the sale of cattle, sheep, pigs, &c., are held on May 6th and Oct. 2nd. A manor court is held monthly by a seneschal appointed by Lord Carbery, for the recovery of debts under 40s; and here is a constabulary police station. The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the rectory is partly impropriate in Lord Audley and partly

forms the corps of the archdeaconry of Ross. The tithes amount to £600, of which £300 is payable to the impropiator and appropriator, and £300 to the vicar. The church, situated on the margin of the river, is a small neat edifice with a square tower, and was built by aid of a loan of £500, in 1812, from the late Board of First Fruits. The glebe-house is handsome and commodious, and is situated on a glebe of 45 1/2 acres. In addition to the parochial schools, there are schools at Whitehall and near Newcourt, also a pay school. In the demesne of Whitehall are the ruins of Ricolisky castle, built by the O'Driscols in 1495; and on the grounds of Lake View are some picturesque remains of an ecclesiastical edifice, called by the people of the neighbourhood the Abbey of Our Lady.

* *Becher connections with Horatio Townsend [104] and Richard Townsend [201].*

** *Fleming connections with John Sealy Townsend [333], Eliza Townsend [5D05] and Horatio Townsend [6B05].*

*** *William Warren's mother was Anna Townsend [408] of Whitehall, sister of Samuel [405].*