

### Shepperton

Rose-Marie was born here



**The Castle and St Barrahan's Church 2013**



**The Main Street**



## Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

**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 apportioned 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 [221]*), 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. Not far distant from the castle are the remains of the old church of Glanbarrahane; and near it is a well, dedicated to St. Barrahane, still frequented.

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

\*\* *Rose Marie's great grandfather.*

# Late Mrs. Salter-Townshend — many deserved tributes

THE passing of a great matriarch, Rose-Marie Salter-Townshend, on Sunday, July 6 last, has left the community in Castletownshend in mourning.

There are a few famous names associated with the historic village but none more so than the family that gave it its name.

Historically, King Charles the first gave the land to Maurice Fitzgerald Stephens Townshend and in 1640 the Townshend family built the castle by the sea.

The very existence of the castle gave the village its name and the family are justifiably proud of the fact that there has been a Townshend living in it ever since.

## LEGACY

Rose-Marie was an only child, but she valiantly preserved the family legacy and the architectural integrity of the castle.

Rose-Marie Salter-Townshend was Irish. She was born at Shepperton Park, which is just four miles from the village.

For a short time Rose-Marie and William lived in England but they moved back to Ireland in 1941 when the children were small.

Out of respect for the wishes of Rose-Marie's father, Maurice Fitzgerald Stephens Townshend, William Salter agreed to take the Townshend name when Maurice died in 1948. And so the legacy continued.

Never one to rest on her laurels, Rose-Marie took to looking after the big house with her usual zeal. And, over the next fifty years or more, she became a true figurehead for the village.

## TRIBUTE

At the service of thanksgiving for the life of Rose-Marie Salter-Townshend on Wednesday, July 9, the Reverend Trevor Lester paid a very special tribute to her.

He began by saying her Christian faith was inseparable from all other acts and aspects of her life and that everyone present in the crowded Church of St. Barrahan's would remember something very special about this marvelous lady.

He said he had always associated the word abiding with Rose-Marie because all of her efforts, energies and commitments were measured in terms of fifty years or more.

She married William over sixty-five years ago and they had five children, Geraldine, Robert, George, Anne and Peter and had fourteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In fact, she met the youngest of her great grandchildren only a few days before she passed away. A family member said she was waiting for Adam to arrive before she could go to her rest.



The late Mrs. Rose-Marie Salter-Townshend.

Reverend Lester said that Rose-Marie was a very strong, caring, good mother and grandmother and was quick to assist her family in any way that she could.

She was, he said, the accountant of the family and ran the castle for fifty-one years before handing it over to her daughter, Anne, in the late 1990s.

## FOR RNLI

She was one of the first people involved in self-catering holidays in West Cork. She fought long and hard to get the tourist office in Skibbereen. And her involvement with the RNLI was remarkable.

"For fifty years she ran all the fundraising events for the RNLI and now there is a committee to do what she used to do", said Reverend Lester.

Many years ago she received a silver medal for twenty-five years unbroken service and only a few years ago she received a gold medal for fifty years service from the Princess Royal.

In a moving tribute at the graveside, the Area Manager of the RNLI, Ann Sweeney, said a few well-chosen words acknowledging Rose-Marie's inexhaustible efforts on behalf of the RNLI.

During her life, Rose-Marie was also involved in the Castlehaven Nursing Association for over sixty years and she received a lifetime award for her commitment to that association.

On a personal note, Reverend Lester said he remembered her especially as somebody who was deeply committed to this church, where she acted as church warden for many years. She was also the unofficial tour guide at St. Barrahan's.

He said she was an active member of the organising committee involved in running the classical concerts at St. Barrahan's since it was established twenty-three years ago.

At the removal on Monday

night, which was attended by Reverend Lester and Fr. Charlie Sweeney, the castle grounds were full of people who came to pay their respects.

Reverend Lester said: "I got the idea that she would have liked to have been there. I could see her cajoling everyone to buy a cup of tea — the proceeds of which would go to the Castlehaven Nursing Association, or perhaps the RNLI, or another charity that was very close to her heart, third world poverty".

As part of the memorial ceremony, Rose-Marie requested that people wouldn't send flowers but make a donation to Concern instead. That is, of course, if they wished to do so.

Even the ground where she's now buried is testimony to her civic-minded nature: twenty years, or more, ago she donated the land to the church when it became clear that more land was needed.

At the end of the service, which was also celebrated by Canon George Salter (retired) and Archdeacon Bantry-White, Reverend Lester said: "We are now just left with memories, but we will always have those memories of a marvellous lady".

Everyone has his or her own memories of Rose-Marie. Here we record a few comments from local people on a life that was richly led for eighty-six years.

John Collins, a resident of Castletownshend, said: "Everyone liked her, there was no question about that. People admired her because she was a straightforward, steadfast and upstanding member of the community".

He said people liked the fact that they knew where they stood with her. He said she was "an honourable woman and you could take whatever she said to you to be the truth".

Her death, he said, signalled the end of an era. However, he said: "She has left a wonderful legacy. She will be sorely missed".

Local woman, Mary McKennedy said: "We are all in shock. She was so much a part of the community it's hard to believe that she's still not around".

Mary said Rose-Marie always acted with the best interests of the village at heart and instigated a lot of things that improved life for people in the community, such as the local playground and tennis court.

"She was involved for so long it's hard to give a full account of all that she achieved over the years", she added. Like many others, Mary spoke with genuine appreciation of the fact that "she was just there".

Fergus O'Mahony, who is the chairman of the Castlehaven Community Council, described Rose-Marie as "a lovely old lady".

As a restaurant owner, he said: "I dealt with her in business for the last fifteen years and I always found her to be courteous and helpful. She was also very knowledgeable of the tourism industry in Ireland".

In fact, he said: "She was a standard bearer for Irish tourism," bearing in mind that she was one of the first people to operate self-catering apartments. And, he said, "She started in the 1940s when no one else was doing it".

He said she was meticulous in her dealings with everyone and a tireless worker for a myriad of local organisations. "She may have looked like a small, thin, wiry woman but she had boundless energy — she was amazing", he said.