

Edward Mansel Townsend [401] (Splendid Ned)

Whitehall



The house has the most wonderful view over Roaring Water Bay but has been spoilt by the modern windows



The Front door





Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

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 applotted 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 Aughadow 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 Rincolisky castle, built by the O'Driscolls 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.

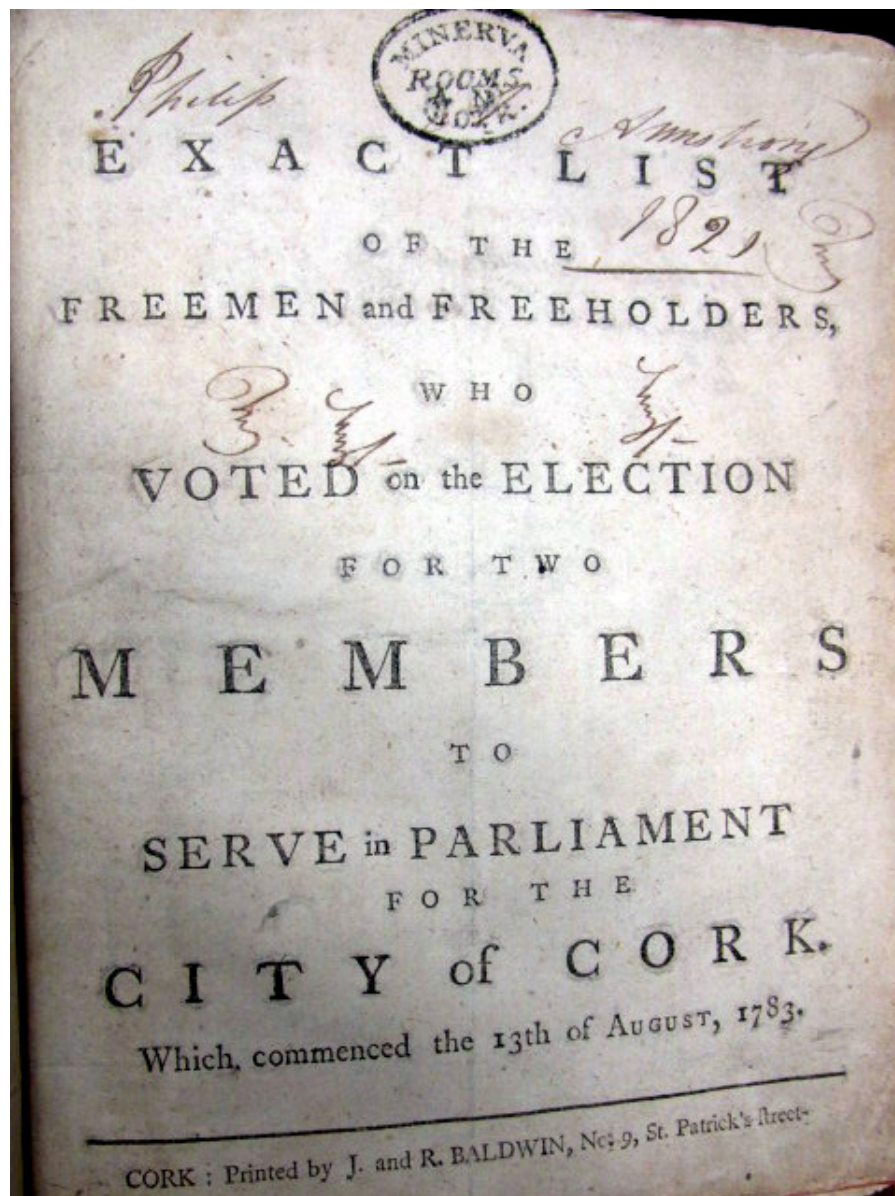
* *Becher connections with Horatio Townsend [104] and Richard Townsend [201].*

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

*** *Edward's grandson.*

CREAGH, a parish, in the Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER; containing, with the greater part of the post-town of Skibbereen, 5914 inhabitants. It is situated on the southern coast, and comprises 6897 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act and valued at £4849 per annum, of which about 80 are woodland. The surface is very uneven, rising into mountains of considerable elevation, and of the schistus formation, extending over about one-third of the parish; they are mostly rocky and bare, but in some places afford excellent pasturage. There are few fields where the rock does not appear, but there is scarcely an acre which does not afford some pasture or tillage, which is carried even to the top of the hills. There are about 20 acres of bog. The land under cultivation yields tolerable crops, mostly produced by spade labour. The parish is bounded on the north by the River Ilen, along the banks of which the land is very good and in many places richly planted. The whole of the corn exported from Skibbereen is shipped at an excellent quay at Oldcourt, on this river, to which vessels of 200 tons' burden can come up at high water, being conveyed thither in small four-oared boats. A manor court is held every three weeks, for the recovery of debts under 40s.; and here are the ruins of an ancient castle, now converted into corn-stores. Near the southern boundary of the parish, which opens upon the Atlantic, is Lough Hyne, a curious and extensive bay, penetrating nearly two miles inland, and the passage from the sea being very narrow, and between craggy cliffs, the water rushes through it with great violence on the ebb and flow of every tide. The best oysters and several kinds of sea fish are found in it; and in its centre is a small island, containing the ruins of Cloghan castle, one of the castles of the O'Driscolls. The surrounding scenery is very beautiful, the mountain sides being clothed with young and thriving plantations. A new road has lately been formed, and other improvements are in progress. Good slate is obtained in many places. The principal seats in the parish are **Creagh House, the residence of Sir W. W. Becher***, Bart.; Killeena, of the Rev. John Wright; the glebe-house, of the Rev. H. B. Macartney; Lough Hyne Cottage; of D. McCarty, Esq.; Inane, of H. Marmion, Esq.; Glenview, of S. Lewis, Esq.; Green Park, of John Gallwey, Esq.; and there are some large and substantial farm-houses. The living is a rectory in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £500, and there is a glebe of 15 acres. The church is a small neat edifice, with a square tower ornamented with pinnacles: it was erected by aid of a gift of £600, and a loan of £400, in 1810, from the late Board of First Fruits. The parochial school was built on the glebe in 1834; it is in connection with the Cork Diocesan Association, but is principally supported by the rector; and there is a national school in Skibbereen. In these about 150 boys and 60 girls are taught; and there is also a private school of about 50 children. The ruins of the old church adjoin the present edifice; on the glebe is a holy well.

• *Connection also with Mary Townsend [121].*



Record of Edward's Vote (Line 12)

FREEMEN.		[6]		FREEMEN.	
	W. L. P. B.				W. L. P. B.
Thomas Fennell, butcher	0 1 1 0			Henry Davis, gent.	0 0 1 0
John Harrison, Esq;	1 1 0 0			Thomas Gregg, gent.	0 0 1 0
Thomas Coldwell, butcher	1 1 0 0			Rev. James Brown, clerk	0 0 1 0
Jasper Lucas, jun. merchant	1 0 0 1			Thomas Burnett, merchant	0 0 1 0
John E. Fitzsimmons, gent.	1 1 0 0			Edmond Knapp, merchant	1 1 0 0
Richard Haycock, gent.	0 0 1 1			John Good, land-waiter	0 0 1 0
Samuel Austen, gent.	0 0 1 1			Mathias Hendley, gent.	1 1 0 0
Thomas Croker, gent.	0 1 1 0			William Austen, Esq;	0 0 1 0
John Leiceffer, merchant	1 1 0 0			Joseph Heard, clothier	1 1 0 0
John Colthurst, Esq;	1 0 0 1			Thomas Hardway, butcher	0 0 1 0
Edward Strettle, Esq;	0 0 1 1			John Heard, clothier	0 0 1 0
Edwd. Maun. Townshend, Esq;	1 0 0 1			James Power, shipwright	1 1 0 0
Pierce Power, Esq;	0 1 1 0			Henry Paxley, Esq;	0 0 1 0
Edward Collis, Esq;	0 0 1 1			Robert Wixson, Esq;	1 1 0 0
Henry Touchstone, merchant	1 1 0 0			Joseph Heard, jun.	0 0 1 0
Edward Roche, Esq;	0 1 0 1			Thomas Austen, Esq;	1 1 0 0
John Symphon, Esq;	1 1 0 0			Phineas Riall, gent.	0 0 1 0
William Norris, gent.	0 0 1 1			James Uniack, Esq;	1 1 0 0
Abraham Farren, Esq;	0 1 0 0			Marmaduke Peacock, Esq;	0 0 1 0
William Croker, gent.	0 0 1 1			Noblet Johnson, cooper	1 1 0 0
Robert Delacour, Esq;	1 0 0 1			Uther Philpot, Esq;	0 0 1 0
Thomas Barry, gent.	0 0 1 1			George Newenham, jun.	1 1 0 0
Palms Westrop, Esq;	0 1 0 1			Rev. John Meade, clerk	0 0 1 0
Charles Leslie, Esq;	0 0 1 1			Thomas Going, Esq;	1 1 0 0
William Tonson, Esq;	1 0 1 0			Thomas Wood, tanner	0 0 1 0
Hugh Lloyd, Esq;	0 0 1 1			George Walsh, cooper	1 1 0 0
Thomas Brown, merchant	1 1 0 0			George Wood, tanner	0 0 1 0

Extract from the

Irish News 8 June 1999

Flatley and friend view £2m seaside hideaway

by Tommy Barker

The EGO has landed.

The all-singing, all-dancing and very much All Cash Michael Flatley, flew into Skibbereen in Cork over the Bank Holiday weekend to view a £2m seaside home up for sale. He dropped from the skies courtesy Celtic helicopters, on Sunday to meet with a local auctioneer and visit the most expensive house to come up publicly for sale outside Dublin, historic Whitehall House on Roaringwater Bay.

The world-class property, owned for many years by a German family, has its own beaches, a ruined castle, the 16th century Rincolisky Castle, and 100 acres of land as well as two walled gardens. The house has six bedrooms, separate staff quarters, a farm yard, a stunning setting with sea views around the headland from Baltimore, a jetty and moorings - but does not have a ballroom.

The former Riverdancer, who grossed more than \$100m with Lord of the Dance, has said on several occasions he wants to buy a home in Ireland. The £2m asking price on Whitehall will hardly bother the dancer, who last year claimed he was making £1m a week. He already has a base in Dublin and houses in the US, in London and in France, along with a 131' yacht called the Lord of the Dance.

Boston-born Flatley, now in his early 40s, touched his precious size 8 feet down on West Cork soil lunchtime Sunday, and was then seen getting into the almost humble VW Passat of Skibbereen auctioneer Charlie McCarthy. Mr McCarthy is a joint agent on the house with Ian Finnegan of Finnegan Menton of Dublin. Last summer, Mr Finnegan bought the £3m Reen na Furrira estate near Sneem in Kerry for a client.

Whitehall House has portions dating back to the early 1600s, but most of it is 19th century and is in excellent repair. The vendors are the Schmitz family from Cologne, who bought it in 1962.

Mr Flatley was accompanied by a young woman companion who was not identified. He spent about one hour visiting the house and flew out in the early afternoon from Ilen Rovers GAA grounds.