

Trinity College, Dublin



Painting of Derry House



Derry ca 1900
Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



Extracts from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

MYROSS, a parish, in the Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 6 miles (S. W. by W.) from Ross; containing, with the village of Union-Hall, (which see) 3459 inhabitants. Here was formerly the abbey of Maure, or of the Clear Spring, founded in 1172 by Dermod McCormac McCarthy, King of Desmond, for Cistercian monks; the foundations of the buildings, and the burial-ground, may be traced at Carrigiliky. The parish forms an obtuse peninsula between Castlehaven and the harbour of Glandore, having the main ocean to the south; it comprises 3319 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act, and valued at £3333 per annum. The surface is very uneven, but the land in general is fertile, producing excellent crops of corn, flax, and potatoes; the more elevated parts, however, afford only scanty pasturage for cattle; there is very little waste or bog: near the centre of the parish are some interesting lakes. Agriculture is much improving, particularly near Brade and Myross Wood, the rector having introduced the most improved implements. The soil is generally shallow, resting upon a substratum of schist, in some places rising into hills of considerable elevation. Considerable efforts are now being made to work the slate more efficiently: many of the inhabitants are engaged in the fishery. A fair for cattle is held on Holy Thursday. Myross Wood (*acquired by John Sealy Townsend [507] sometime between 1837 and 1846*), the demesne of F. H. Copinger, Esq., is very large, extending northward to the Leap, and affording the best woodland in the barony; Clontaff is the residence of R. Townsend (*Richard Mellifont Townsend [236]*), Esq.; Bawnlahan, of Major Powell (*father of Rev Francis Powell who married Caroline Townsend [5B20]*); **Brade (Braad)**, of the Rev. E. P. Thompson (*Braad formerly belonged to Philip Townsend [500] and then his son Richard [501]*); Union Hall, of Capt. Somerville*; Ballincolla, of Capt. Lyster; and Rock Cottage, of J. French, Esq. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of the Bishop: the tithes amount to £500. The church is a very handsome cruciform edifice, with a tower: it occupies a gentle eminence, near the western termination of Glandore harbour, having been erected on that new site in 1827, at a cost of £900, a gift from the late Board of First Fruits, at which time this living was separated from those of Kilmacabea and Kilfaughnabeg: the present situation was adopted from its contiguity to the village of Union Hall. The parochial schools, which are aided by the incumbent, who also supports a Sunday school, are situated in Union-Hall, as also is a national school for females; and about 170 children are educated in three private schools. On a lofty eminence, above the wood of Myross, are the remains of the church of the union, which was left to fall to decay in 1827: it occupied the site of the abbey De Fonte Vivo, or "the clear spring," being near the sea shore, on the south-western side of the parish. On the haven, opposite to Castle-Townsend, are the ruins of Rahene castle, which in former times protected this ferry; and about a mile to the east are fragments of Castle Ire, on a bold and commanding eminence. At Rock cottage, now the residence of J. French, Esq., Dean Swift wrote his poem of "Carberiae Rupes."

* *This might be the same person as Captain Philip Somerville who is shown in 'An Officer of the Long Parliament' living at The Prairie, Schull. If this is the case there are connections here with Henrietta [242], Anna [408] and Maria [5D07].*

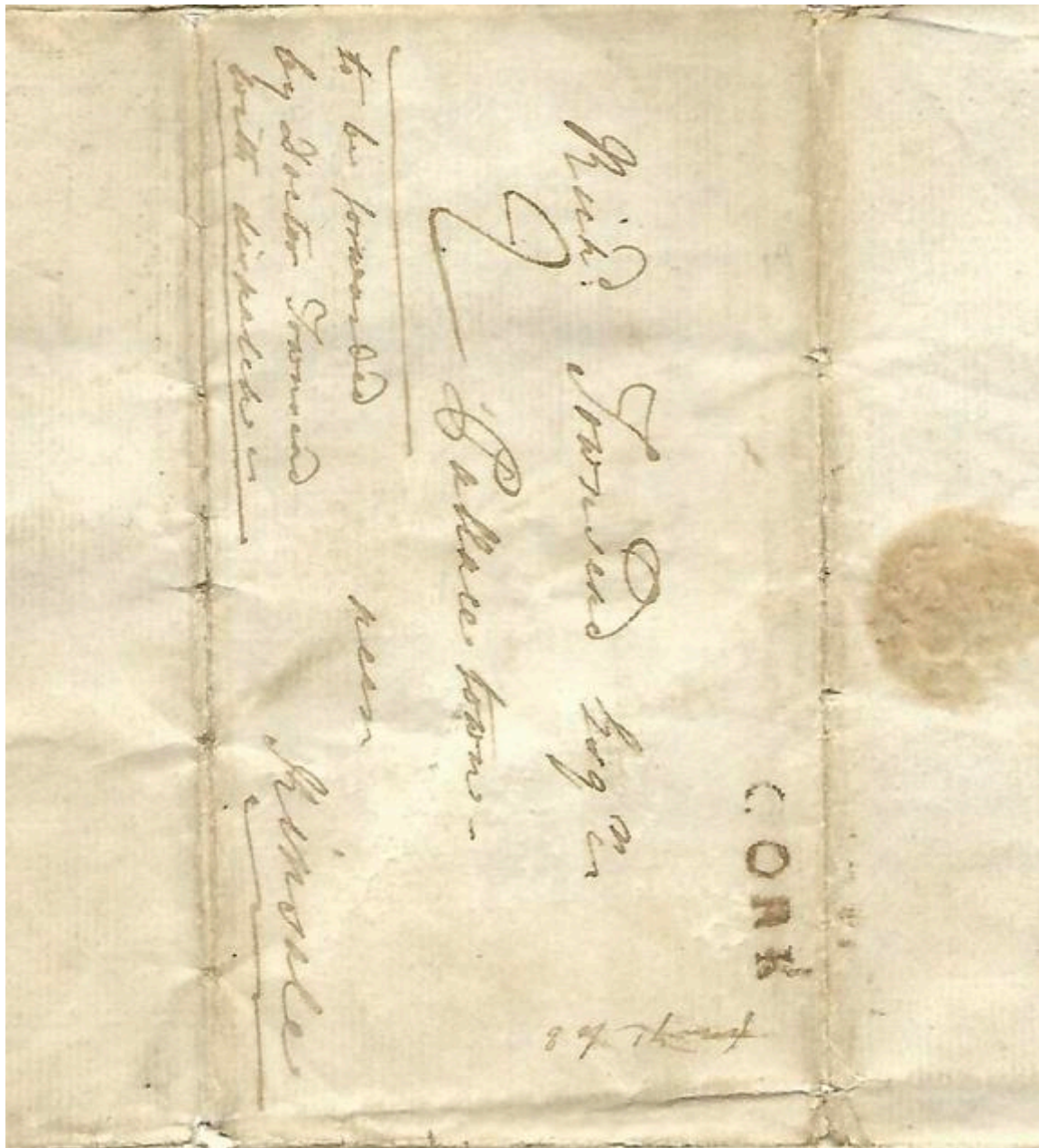
ROSSCARBERY, a market and post-town and parish, and the seat of the diocese of Ross, partly in the barony of IBANE and BARRYROE, and partly in the Western Division of the barony of EAST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 32 miles (S. W.) from Cork, and 158 (S. W.) from Dublin on the road from Cork to Skibbereen; containing 8714 inhabitants, of which number, 1522 are in the town. The town, which is wholly within the Western Division of East Carbery, is situated on the southern coast, at the head of an extensive creek called Ross harbour, and occupies the summit of a gentle eminence; it consists principally of a square and four small streets, containing 282 houses, mostly of indifferent appearance, and retains but few vestiges of its ancient importance. The manufacture of coarse linen was formerly carried on to a very considerable extent, but has latterly greatly diminished, and the inhabitants are chiefly employed in agriculture and in fishing. Near the town are the extensive flour-mills of Mr. Lloyd, in which more than 5000 barrels of fine flour are

annually made. The harbour, situated about half a mile to the west of Dundedy Head, occasionally affords shelter to small vessels, but only in moderate weather; the entrance is nearly dry at low water, and at high water it is rocky and dangerous, especially when the wind is from the sea. On the bar are ten feet at high water of spring, and eight feet at neap, tides. The harbour itself is almost useless from a ridge of sand hills which has accumulated nearly to the height of 12 feet, and extends across the entrance, leaving only a channel of a few yards in breadth on the west side, through which the tide rushes with great rapidity. The inner bay, which is more than a mile in length and about half a mile broad, is, on the receding of the tide, a dry firm sand, and might be reclaimed at a moderate expense. A new line of road has been carried across the bay by a raised causeway, 400 yards long, and connected with the mainland by a bridge at its western extremity. The bay is celebrated for the great numbers of silver eels which are taken in it during the summer months. The market is on Wednesday, but is indifferently supplied; and fairs are held on Aug. 26th, and the 19th of Sept. and Dec. The market-house is an old building in the centre of the square. A constabulary police force is stationed here, and at Milk Cove is a coast-guard station, which is one of the three that constitute the district of Skibbereen. Petty sessions are held every Wednesday, and a court for the manor of Ross every three weeks, at which debts not exceeding 40s. are recoverable. The court-house is a very neat building; adjoining it is the police barrack. The parish comprises 12,535 statute acres, of which 1288 are tithe-free; about three-fourths of the land are arable, and the remainder, with the exception of a portion of bog and waste, is in pasture. The surface is very uneven, rising in some parts into hills of considerable elevation: the soil, though light, is fertile; but, except on the lands of Mr. Townsend (*Probably William Townsend [504], an accomplished agriculturalist, who died in 1816*) and other resident gentlemen who have adopted every improvement in husbandry and the use of the best farming implements, the system of agriculture is in a very backward state: much of the land is cultivated by the spade, and manure is carried to the field on the backs of horses. Several large slate quarries have been opened, of which some produce slate of very superior quality; and copper ore and manganese abound in almost every part, but no efficient means are employed to work them to advantage. The principal seats are Cahirmore, the residence of T. Hungerford*, Esq.; **Derry, of the Rev. H. Townsend** (*Rev Horatio Townsend [5D00]*); Castle Downeen, of R. Smith, Esq.; Milleen, of the Rev. W. Jennings; Millfield, of Lieut. Lloyd, R.N.; Farley Cottage, of T. Hungerford**, Esq.; and The Hill, of Capt. W. Starkie. The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Ross, partly appropriate to the vicar choral, and partly to the dean and chapter, in trust for the economy fund of the cathedral: the tithes amount to £776. 19. 4., of which £434. 0. 11. is payable to the vicar choral, and £342. 18. 5. to the dean and chapter. About 130 children are taught in five public schools, of which the parochial male school is supported by the dean and chapter and the vicar choral; the parochial female school-house was built by Lord Carbery; and an infants' school is supported by Miss Townsend [*5D10*]. There are also four private schools, in which are about 120 children; and two Sunday schools. The Rev. S. Jervois, in 1786, bequeathed £400, the interest of which is annually divided among the Protestant poor, and £10 annually, which is paid as apprentice fees with the most deserving boy and girl in the Sunday school. The Rev. T. Hoare, the present vicar choral, has also given by deed £500, the interest of which is annually divided among the most necessitous poor of the parish. On an island which was formerly joined to the mainland are the ruins of Downeen castle; and at Ballyvoureen are the remains of an ancient house in the Elizabethan style, formerly the residence of the Copinger family. At Temple Faughnan, about a mile and a half from the town, are the ruins of a house erected by the Knights Templars in 1301, and modernised in 1712. Adjoining the town are the remains of the abbey founded by St. Faughnan: the side walls of the choir of the church, rudely built of unhewn stone, are still standing; on the south side are the remains of a circular arch, and adjoining the ruin is the tomb of the Rev. J. Power, who died in 1831: it is much resorted to by pilgrims. In the south wall of the cathedral is an old carved head, said to be that of St. Faughnan. Banduff castle, built by the O'Donovans, and afterwards called Castle Salem, was an extensive building with a walled park and more than 300 acres of oak wood, all now destroyed. In the grounds of Tinneel are the remains of a cromlech. The Rev. Horace Townsend [*5D00*], author of the Statistical Survey of the county of Cork, is resident at Derry, in this parish.

* Hungerford connections with Barbara Townsend [210] and Richard Townsend [315].

** Catherine daughter of Mary Townsend [506], who married Thomas Somerville, married Thomas Hungerford of Farley Cottage.

**Lieut General Samuel Townsend's [400] Letter to his cousin
Richard Townsend [6A00] of Pallastown**



My Dear Richard — Upper Wimpole Street - London
4th April 1787

I have received of Jason of the 26th of last month,
& delivered Mr Swaine's letter to Mr Dawson with my
own hands, & at various times gave Him of Letter to me
to read & read desired He would loose no time in writing
to Mr Swaine, & to you also, if He judgd it necessary —

When He first came to me with His Lawyer Mr
Proper to demand the five thousand pounds, I laugh'd at
the application, & told Him it was evidently a mistake, a
misunderstanding, & ask'd Him if it was possible that
you could have sent Him to me for so large a sum of
money, without the least advice of Mr Prother — He however
affirm'd that of mistake was not on His side — When
He read Mr Swaine's letter of 4th He said it was a mistake
of Mr Swaine which He was of more surpris'd as as Mr
Swaine was extremely clear, & as Man of Business,

However I find every thing is settled here except of part,
and as a proof of His being right He inform'd me that
very other sum was remitted from Iceland hither
& lodg'd in Mr Banks, & that the remitters benefited

near one percent by it, the course of Exchanges being
in favor of Ireland - I told Him I could say nothing
to that, but that I knew to a certainty that you was
at all times ready to fulfill y^r engagements with
the most exact punctuality, of which He had not y^t
least doubt - M^r Crispin informs me the money
must be remitted here (tho' Mr Dawson) & ask'd
me if I wou'd receive it on y^r account - I told Him I
shou'd readily do any thing you desired to promote y^r
interest or convenience, & in that respect cou'd say no
more than that y^r directions shou'd meet every atten-
tion from me in & thro' I repeat to y^r self, if I can
serve or oblige you, I desire you will command
me most freely -

M^r Townsend joins me in sincerest compl^t
& regards to you & your Townsend & fire side, &
I ever am My D^r Richard

I sent y^r letter to y^r truly affect^d Cousins
their Lawyers, who
did not return it till
yesterday or I shou'd have
acknowledg'd it sooner

J. H. M. Townsend

ENVELOPE :

CORK

Richd. Townsend Esq;

Pallace town; near Kinsale.

to be forwarded by Doctor Townsend with dispatch.

LETTER :

Upper Wimpole Street, London.

7th April 1787.

My Dear Richard,

I have received your favour of the 24th of last month, and delivered Mr Swaine's letter to Mr Dawson with my own hand, and at the same time gave him your letter to me to read, and had desired he would lose no time in writing to Mr Swaine, and to you also, if he judged it necessary.

When he first came to me with his lawyer, Mr Crispin, to demand the six thousand pounds, I laughed at the application and told him it was evidently a mistake, a misunderstanding, and asked him if it was possible that you could have sent him to me for so large a sum of money without the least advice of your brother. He, however, asserted that your mistake was not on his side. When he sent Mr Swaine's and yours, he said it was a mistake of Mr Swaine's, which he was the more surprised at, as Mr Swaine was extremely clear, and no man of business.

However, I find everything is settled here except your part, and as a proof of his being right, he informed me that every other sum was remitted from Ireland hither and lodged in your bank, and that the service thus benefitted near one per cent by it; the course of exchange being in favour of Ireland. I told him I could say nothing to that, but that I knew to a certainty that yours was at all times ready to fulfil your engagements with the most exact punctuality, of which he had not the least doubt. Mr Crispin informed me the money must be remitted (??) (and so did Mr Dawson), and asked me if I would receive it on your account. I told him I should readily do anything you devised to promote your interest or convenience, and in that respect could say no more than that your directions should meet every attention from me --, and this I repeat to yourself; if I can service or oblige you I devise you will command me most freely.

Mrs Townsend joins me in sincerest compliments and regards to you cousin Townsend and fire side, and favour me by Dr Richard.

Your truly affectionate Kinsman,

Sam'l Townsend.

I sent your letter to their lawyer, who did not action it 'till yesterday, or I should have acknowledged it sooner.