

John Hancock Townsend [523]

Myross Wood, Leap, Co Cork



**Braughing Church, Herts where Katherine's father was Vicar**



**Extract 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 apportioned 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].*

\*\* *John Hancock' grandfather.*

**Transcript of a letter from Edward Hume Townsend [626] to Commander John Townsend [622] concerning the absence of the Myross family**

April 16. 1874.

Cuilnaconartha, Clonakilty,

My dear John,

Your letter of 5th December now before me gave me the first account of your projected change of residence, and your future plans: by this time you are I trust pleasantly settled in your new abode. Your dwelling is I believe in or near Clapham, which used to be rather a pleasant, almost, country, village: now I suppose that like other places near London, it swarms with Railways.....To you the change of life, both in manner & place, will be great, and I can easily imagine you and the boys' regretting leaving Weston, but your reasons for going were very intelligible, and you are fortunate in being associated with a man of Mr. Baxter's character, to say nothing of the advantage to yourself of having a life of steady employment, which is certainly to those who can undertake it, a great advantage.....One very worthy member of our family has I am afraid fixed himself permanently at Nice (Rich'd M.T.) (*Richard Mellifont Townsend [236]*). The Derry family have migrated to England - for how long, we do not know - and the Myross family will I fear follow their example: with the last named, we have had very little intercourse, but I always regret the increase of absentee landlords.....Lucy(?) has been remarkably well thank God since her return home, and is now one of the busiest persons in the house: Susan has not been very well of late -: The weather is now becoming warm and bright, which I trust will help to restore her: she unites with me in love to dear Minny and your young folk, who I hope will find London agree with them -: I am my dear John, affectionately yours **E.H.Townsend.**

**Transcript of a letter dated 11 June 1874 from Edward Hume Townsend [626] to  
Commander John Townsend [622] concerning John and Myross**

June 11. 1874.

Cuilnaconartha, Clonakilty,

My dear John,

I hope that you have more nearly reached the state of "permanently settled" than you had, when you wrote on 20th April, and that you are not now living a bachelor life, as you were then. First then regarding your visit to Ireland, I hope that we shall have room enough for you.....as well as a welcome for. I lately called on your Agent Mr. Bryan of Dunmanway: he & his Mother, a nice old lady, are very grateful to you for giving them your agency : I hope that you will find Mr. Bryan quite satisfactory: I think that I should prefer him to his late Uncle. I hope that the Derry family will return to Ireland: the only question is when? - I fear that the case of J.T. of Myross is less hopeful: I truly hope that these two houses will not long remain vacant, - their families will be much missed in that neighbourhood. I am very glad to read your testimony to Frank Candy's character: I remember him almost from the cradle -: his parents were (his Mother is still) very old friends of ours: for his father we both had the highest esteem. - Farewell my dear John -: with love from our trio, to dear Minny, & all your young people. I am affectionately yours **E.H.Townsend.**