

Reverend Thomas Uniacke Townsend [5A00]

Trinity College Dublin



Thomas' wife, Elizabeth Carr



Kells Parish Church



Inistioge Church



Extract from Leslie's Ossory Clergy & Parishes 1933

1869.—Thomas Uniacke Townsend, coll. Preb. with V. Inistioge, etc., Feb. 18, insta. Mar. 2 (*D.R.*). He was son of Thomas T. "gen." of Clyda, near Mallow, by Martha, dau of Redmond Uniacke; b. in Co. Cork, ed. by Mr. Maginn, ent. T.C.D. Oct. 17, 1825, aged 15, Sch. 1829, B.A. 1832; ord. D. 1837, P. —; C. Clonduff (Down), V. Kilsheelan (Lism.) 1849–58, R. and V. Fertagh 1858–69, C. Rathlogan 1863. He m. 23 April, 1839, at St. Andrew's, Dublin, Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Edward Carr of Arnestown, Co. Wexford, and had issue (1) Edward Carr; (2) Richard, m. Antoinette, dau. of Rev. Henry Denny; and several daus., including Maria, m. 1866, William C. Lyster; Helen, m. 1875, Lieut. Henry T. Meares, 21st Fus.; Eliz. Gertrude, m. 1866, Rev. Robert U. F. Townsend; Martha Ellinor, m. July 30, 1876, Rev. J. C. Corbett, V. of St. Botolph's, Colchester; Eleanor, m. (1) Henry Moore, 4th Regt., (2) J. F. Devereux of Rocklands. His wife, Eliz., d. April 8, 1876, and he d. 12 July, 1879.

Extract from Samuel Lewis' Topographical Directory 1837

FARTAGH, or **FERTAGH**, a parish, partly in the barony of **CRANAGH**, but chiefly in that of **GALMOY**, county of **KILKENNY**, and province of **LEINSTER**, 8 miles (S. W.) from Durrow, on the mail coach road from Athy to Cashel; containing, with the post-town of Johnstown (which is described under its own head), 3205 inhabitants. A priory for Canons Regular of the order of St. Augustine was founded here in the 13th century by the Blanchfield family, which, after its dissolution, was granted by Queen Elizabeth to a member of the family of Butler. The ancient chapel is still remaining, and contains a large table monument with the recumbent figure of a warrior, and formerly of a female by his side, supposed to be members of the Fitzpatrick family; and another tomb with a female figure, having a singular head dress. A few yards to the west of this building are the roofless remains of an ancient round tower, still 96 feet high and cracked from the doorway to the summit. The parish comprises 6353 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, and valued at £4067 per annum, which, with the exception of a very small portion of wood and a little waste, is good arable and pasture land. Near Ballyspellan is a quarry of fine limestone used for tombstones. The principal seats are Violet Hill, the residence of Gorges Hely, Esq.; Melross, of C. Hely, Esq.; and Ellenville, of Mrs. Hely. Fowks Court, formerly the residence of Chief Justice Hely, and now the property of his descendant, G. Hely, Esq., was a very handsome seat, but is now in ruins. A fair, chiefly for pigs, is held on the 5th of March. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ossory, and in the patronage of the Bishop; the tithes amount to £360. 19. The glebe-house was erected by a gift of £323 and a loan of £415 from the late Board of First Fruits, in 1828; and there is a glebe. The church is a very neat edifice, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £174 for its repair. About 120 girls are taught in the parochial school, and there are four private schools, in which are about 380 children. Here are the ruins of the castle of Killesheelan. The Ballyspellan spa, in this parish, is a powerful chalybeate, and is in great repute for its medicinal properties.

INISTIOGE, an incorporated market and post-town (formerly a parliamentary borough), and a parish, in the barony of **GOWRAN**, county of **KILKENNY**, and province of **LEINSTER**, 13 miles (S.) from Kilkenny, and 63 (S.) from Dublin, on the mail coach road to New Ross; containing 3221 inhabitants, of whom about 1000 are in the town. This place, which is situated on the river Nore, was at an early period distinguished for its religious establishments. An abbey is said to have been founded here about the year 800; but that to which the town was more especially indebted for its origin and early importance was an Augustinian monastery, founded in 1210 by Thomas, son of Anthony, Seneschal of Leinster, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and St. Columb. Allured, the first prior made the town which had risen up around it a free borough; and Milo Fitzgerald, the last abbot, who was afterwards Bishop of Ossory, rebuilt the tower of the church and erected the cloister; the priory continued to flourish till the dissolution, and with all its revenues was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Edward

Butler, Earl of Ormonde. In 1607, Theobald, Viscount Butler, obtained for the town, which at that time was defended with walls, the grant of a market and fairs; and in the following year it was incorporated by Jas. I. The preamble to the charter sets forth that it was an ancient loyal borough, and from its strength, and situation on a navigable river, was of great importance for the service of the Crown and the safety of the inhabitants of the counties of Kilkenny, Wexford, and Carlow. It suffered greatly in the wars previous to that time, and was much depopulated by sickness; though it obtained the grant of an additional fair, the town never regained its prosperity. In 1649 it was besieged and taken by Col. Abbot, for the parliamentarians.

The present town, though small, occupies a fine site on the western bank of the river Nore, over which is a handsome stone bridge of 10 arches, ornamented on one side with Ionic pilasters; it consists chiefly of a square containing 143 houses, which are well built and roofed with slate. In front of the houses are rows of lime trees, and in the centre of the area are the base and part of the shaft of an ancient stone cross, with an inscription in raised letters to the memory of David, Baron of Brownsford, of the Fitzgerald family, who died in 1621. An agricultural society was established here by W. F. Tighe, Esq., which holds its meetings in the court-house for the distribution of premiums. The manufacture of lace affords employment to a considerable number of the female population; and the river Nore is navigable for vessels of 100 tons' burden till within a short distance of the town. The market is on Friday; fairs are held on March 11th, June 9th, Oct. 12th, and Dec. 13th; and there is a constabulary police station, and a sub-post-office to Thomastown and New Ross. The corporation consists of a portreeve, 12 chief burgesses, and an indefinite number of freemen, assisted by a recorder, town-clerk, and other officers. The portreeve, who may appoint a deputy, and is also coroner and clerk of the market, and with his deputy a justice of the peace, is chosen annually from the chief burgesses on the Monday next after the festival of St. John the Baptist, and sworn into office on the Monday after Michaelmas-day. The chief burgesses are chosen from the freemen by the portreeve and a majority of their own body, by whom all officers are appointed and freemen admitted solely by favour. The corporation continued to return two members to the Irish parliament till the Union, when the borough was disfranchised. The portreeve, with two or more of the burgesses, holds a court of record, with jurisdiction extending to £20 late currency, every month.

The parish comprises 9620 statute acres, as apportioned under the tithe act, of which about 800 are woodland, 800 waste and bog, and the remainder arable and pasture; the land is good, and the system of agriculture has been greatly improved under the auspices of the agricultural society, over which Mr. Tighe presides. Lead ore in small quantities has been found on the bank of the river; and there is a quarry of remarkably fine granite, the field of which commences at Kingstown, on the bay of Dublin, and terminates at Killeen, a hill close to this parish. The surrounding scenery is extremely varied and beautiful, and the banks of the Nore are richly diversified with features of a picturesque and romantic character. Woodstock, the seat of W. F. Tighe, Esq., is a spacious and elegant mansion, finely situated in a demesne of nearly 1500 statute acres spreading along the margin of the Nore, and commanding extensive views of the various interesting objects on its banks; on one side are rugged rocks in striking contrast with luxuriant woods clothing the lofty hills to their summits; and on the other are fertile and richly cultivated plains interspersed with thriving plantations; among these the ruins of the castles of Brownsford and Clowen, on artificial mounds overhanging the river, are seen with peculiar effect. In the grounds are various picturesque rustic cottages, and several banqueting-rooms commanding from different positions the rich, bold, and varied scenery which here adorns the banks of the river. In the house is an excellent library, with a choice collection of paintings and some beautiful statuary. The late proprietor, W. Tighe, Esq., was the author of the Statistical survey of the county of Kilkenny; and his sister-in-law, the accomplished Mrs. Mary Tighe, was the author of "Psyche" and other poems; a monument and statue by Flaxman have been erected to her memory in the church-yard of Inistioge. The other seats are Firgrove, that of J. Robbins, Esq.; and Ballyduff, the property of Sir Josiah Coghill, Bart., R. N. The living is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Ossory; one-half of the rectory is impropriate in Sir Wm. Cox, Bart., and the other is annexed to the vicarage, which is united to the rectory and vicarage of Cloneamery, and in the patronage of the Bishop. The tithes amount to £430, of which £200 is payable to the impropiator, and the remainder to the incumbent; and the tithes of the benefice amount to £365. The glebe-house is a handsome residence, and the glebe comprises 10 acres, subject to a rent of £3 per acre. The church, a handsome structure in the early English style, harmonising with the tower of the ancient monastery, with which it is incorporated, was rebuilt in 1824 by a gift of £900 from the late Board of First Fruits and by subscription. There are two schools supported by Mr. and Lady Louisa Tighe, in which are about 150 children. An almshouse was built in

1788, by Mrs. Sarah Tighe, for eight aged widows, who receive a weekly allowance from Mr. Tighe, but there is no permanent endowment. A charitable loan fund has been established for lending sums not exceeding £3, repayable by instalments of 1s. 6d. in the pound every other week. There is a society for supplying coal to the poor, who deposit a sum weekly, the value of which, and of a penny per week added by the society to every deposit, they receive in coal at the end of the year; also a dispensary. There are some interesting remains of the monastery, consisting of two towers, one of which has been incorporated with the present church, and the other is square at the base and octagonal in the upper stages.

KELLS, an incorporated market and post-town, and a parish (formerly a parliamentary borough), in the barony of KELLS, county of MEATH, and province of LEINSTER, 8 miles (W. N. W.) from Navan, and 31 (N. W.) from Dublin, on the mail-coach road to Enniskillen; containing 6839 inhabitants, of which number, 4326 are in the town. This place, formerly called Kenlis, is of remote antiquity, and appears to have acquired, at a very early period, a considerable degree of importance. It is pleasantly situated on the south-west bank of the river Blackwater, and in 1831 contained 734 houses, in general neatly built, though in some instances without much regularity. The approaches from Dublin and Drogheda are finely embellished with lofty trees, and the general appearance of the town is cheerful and prepossessing. A silk and cotton lace manufactory was established in 1824, and affords employment to about 100 females; the establishment has been patronised by her Majesty, Queen Adelaide, and three medals have been presented by the Dublin society to the proprietor; nearly the whole of the lace is sent to England. There are a brewery and a tannery in the town, and a considerable retail trade is carried on. The market is on Saturday, and is amply supplied with provisions of all kinds, oats, and meal, with yarn, coarse linens, and merchandise, and also with cattle, sheep, and hogs. Fairs are held under the charter on the Thursday before Shrove-Tuesday, the day before Ascension-day, Sept. 9th, and Oct. 16th, and two new fairs are held on July 16th and Nov. 17th. There is a chief constabulary police station. Under various charters, of which the last was granted by Jas. II., confirming all existing privileges, the corporation consists of a sovereign (who is a justice of the peace), two provosts, 24 burgesses, a recorder, notary and town-clerk, two serjeants-at-mace, and other officers. The freedom is obtained only by favour. The borough sent members to the Irish parliament from the reign of Elizabeth till the Union, when it was disfranchised, and the £15,000 awarded as compensation was paid to Thomas, Earl of Bective.

The parish comprises 8124 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act. The land is of very good quality; about three-fourths are meadow and pasture, and the remainder arable land in a good state of cultivation. About a mile from the town is Headfort, the noble mansion of the Marquess of Headfort, beautifully situated in a well-planted demesne of more than 1200 statute acres, intersected by the river Blackwater, which within the grounds expands into a fine lake. On the north side of the town is the handsome residence of the Archdeacon of Meath; and within the parish are Rockfield, the seat of R. Rothwell, Esq.; Drumbarrow, of H. Woodward, Esq.; and Cannonstown, of J. Rothwell, Esq. The living is a rectory, in the diocese of Meath, united from time immemorial to the chapelry of Duleen and the rectories of Rathboyne and Burry, constituting the union of Kells and the corps of the archdeaconry of Meath, in the alternate patronage of the Bishop and the Crown. The tithes of the parish amount to £553. 16. 6., and of the whole union to £1180. 16. 11. The glebe and other lands belonging to the archdeaconry comprise 2170 $\frac{1}{4}$ statute acres, let on lease and producing £464. 11. 1, with renewal fines of £259. 7. 8, making the gross revenue of the archdeaconry £1904. 15. 9. per annum, exclusively of the mensal lands, comprising 177 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres occupied by him. The church, to the repairs of which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £104, is a spacious ancient structure, with a detached square tower on the north side, surmounted by a spire, and erected at the expense of Thomas, first Earl of Bective; on one of the faces of the tower are three busts sculptured in stone, representing a bishop and two other dignitaries, with an inscription recording the rebuilding of the church, in 1572, by Hugh Brady, Bishop of Meath: among others is a fine monument to Sir T. Taylor, first baronet of the Headfort family, and Anne, his wife. Near the church are the remains of an ancient round tower, about 90 feet high, unroofed, and having the entrance on the north; and in the churchyard is an ancient cross, richly decorated. About 110 children are taught in the public schools of the parish, of which the parochial school for boys is supported by the Archdeacon of Meath, and that for girls by the Marquess of Headfort. A new national school upon a large scale is about to be built under the patronage of the Marquess; and there are eight private schools, in which are about 400 children, and a Sunday school. A savings' bank has been established, the deposits in which exceed £20,000.

KILSHEELAN, a parish, partly in the barony of UPPERTHIRD, county of WATERFORD, but chiefly in that of IFFA and OFFA EAST, county of TIPPERARY, and province of MUNSTER, 5 miles (W. N. W.) from Carrick-on-Suir, on the road from Clonmel to Waterford; containing 1531 inhabitants, of which number, 283 are in the county of Waterford. The village comprises 57 houses and 290 inhabitants, and is a constabulary police station. Here is a bridge over the river Suir. The principal seats are Newtown Anner, the residence of Lady Osborne; Landscape, of -- Congreve, Esq.; and Gurteen, of E. Power, Esq., of which only the stables are yet built. Adjoining the magnificent woods of this demesne, which contains a cromlech, is a large ravine composed of strata of red sandstone, white silicious sandstone, and soft slaty rock, which decomposes into a pure yellow ochreous earth. It is a vicarage, in the diocese of Lismore, united to the rectory of Kilmurry, and in the gift of the Marquess of Ormonde, in whom the rectory is impropriate. The tithes amount to £380. 11. 11., of which £250. 7. 2. is payable to the vicar, and the remainder to the impropriator; the tithes of the benefice amount to £754. 19. 1. About 80 children are educated in two schools, one of which is principally supported by Lady Osborne. The late W. Power, Esq., of Ballydino, left 30 acres of land and £5000 for the establishment of an almshouse, which is not yet finished.

Thomas's Collection of Rare Books



The Old Cemetery, Cobh

The grave of Thomas Uniacke and his son Richard Hungerford Townsend [5A02]

