

Reverend Canon Horace Webb Townsend [634]



Church and Parish Records of the United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross by the Rev JH Cole

ROSS.]	ABBEYSTREWRY.	261
<p>Canon Goodman died on the 18th of January, 1896, in his 68th year.</p> <p>A handsome entrance arched gateway to the church grounds has been recently erected to his memory.</p> <p>1896. March 8. HORACE WEBB TOWNSEND, R. Abbeystrewry, per mortem Goodman.</p> <p>On the death of James Allen, A.B., R. V. Creagh, on 9th of May, 1896, that parish was united to Abbeystrewry.</p> <p>The church population of the union is about 470.</p> <p>There are two churches—Abbeystrewry Church, in Skibbereen, and Creagh, about four miles to the west. The former has sittings for about 400. A beautiful organ has been presented by the late O'Donovan, D.L., of Lissard, to commemorate the Jubilee of her gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.</p> <p>Divine Service is held in Abbeystrewry Church on Sundays, at 12 noon and 7 p.m., and on chief festivals; on Wednesdays, at 8 p.m. Holy Communion, fortnightly. In Creagh Church, Service is at 12 noon and 6 p.m. Holy Communion, monthly.</p> <p>The union is under diocesan scheme. Abbeystrewry receives £74 a year from "Boulter" fund, and £100 a year from "Goulding Augmentation Fund," as long as the parish subscribes £44 a year to that fund. The assessment is £250, and to Goulding Fund £44. The stipend of Rector is £300, and salary of Curate, £120.</p> <p>The parochial school is Abbeystrewry National School, which is in the "Church Meadows" School house, which was built by subscription as "a memorial of Divine mercy vouchsafed to survivors of the great famine of 1846-48." There is also a Collegiate and Intermediate School under private tuition.</p> <p>Parochial organizations support branch of Y.M.C.A., 80 members; G. F. S., about 60 members; Bible Classes in connection with each; Church of Ireland Temperance Society, 100 members; Band of Hope, 50 members, etc.</p> <p>Abbeystrewry Glebe House was built in 1847, by Revd. R. Boyle Townsend. It stands in about fifteen acres of glebe land, subject to a rent of £14 a year. It has been enlarged by Revd. H. W. Townsend, at a cost of £200 borrowed from R. C. B.</p> <p>Creagh Glebe House is a fine one, with beautiful walled-in garden of one acre, and fourteen additional acres of glebe land; rent, £22 a year.</p>		

Horace Webb Townsend, of Cuilnaconarha, Co. Cork, b. at Belgaur, in the Bombay Presidency, in 1838, son of E. H. Townsend, formerly Secretary to the Government at Bombay, under Hon. East India Company. Grandson of Revd. R. Townsend, Prebendary of Lackeen, and Rector of Magourney, Cloyne (Brady), and grandson (maternal) of Revd. Horace Townsend, of Derry, Co. Cork, Rector of Carrigaline (Brady). T.C.D., B.A., 1860; L.C.E. 1861; F.R.G.S.I., 1863; M.A. 1870; Member of Senate. Ordained Deacon 1870, by Archbishop Trench, at Dublin; Priest 1871. Organising Secretary, dio. Dublin, Glendalough, and Kildare, 1872; Curate of Blessington, Co. Wicklow, 1870; Rector of Donoughmore and Donard, 1872; R. Leixlip, 1874; Clerical Secretary and Superintendent I. C. Mission, London 1879; R. Kilmeen, Ross, 1888 to 1896; Rural Dean, 1896.

Mr. Townsend married, in 1863, Anne Charlotte, dau. of M. Crawford, of Rockfield, Co. Meath, and has issue Edward H., B.E. and B.A., T.C.D.; Horace C., B.A., T.C.D., clk. in holy orders, missionary under C. M. S. in Ceylon; Louisa Maude, m. to R. Stuart King, of Rohika Durbhunga, India; Susan H. M., missionary under C. M. S.; Annie Kathleen; Frances E.; F. Hilda; Lilian A.

Creagh Glebe, which was for a while the residence of the Curate, is now let.

Extracts from Lewis' Topographical Dictionary 1837

ABBEYSTREWRY, a parish, in the Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER; containing, with part of the market and post-town of Skibbereen, 5570 inhabitants. This parish is situated near the southern coast, on the road from Cork to Baltimore, and is intersected by the river Ilen. It contains 9362 statute acres, as applotted under the tithe act; and is said to derive its name from a religious house, the ruins of which are situated close to the northern bank of the Ilen, one mile west from Skibbereen. About one-third is waste land or bog, the former consisting of rocky elevations which in some parts afford tolerable pasturage; the bog is only of small extent, and peat is becoming somewhat scarce. Generally the system of agriculture is not much improved: the heavy old wooden plough is still used. The substratum is entirely of the schistus formation: there are quarries of excellent slate at Derrygoole, but not much worked; and throughout the parish is found clay-slate for building and repairing the roads. There are numerous large and handsome residences: the principal are Hollybrook, the seat of R. Becher*, Esq.; Lakelands, of T. J. Hungerford, Esq.; Coronea, of Mrs. Marmion; Gortnamucalla, of H. Newman, Esq.; Carriganare, of Mrs. Evans; Laghartydawley, of A. McCarthy, Esq.; Mill House, of J. Clark, Esq.; Clover Hill**, of J. Sweetnam, Esq.; Weston, of D. H. Clarke, Esq.; the glebe-house, the residence of the Rev. R. B. Townsend (*Richard Boyle Townsend* [332]); Abbeyville, the seat of G. Brenham, Esq.; and Rossfort, of J. Ross, Esq.; The living is a vicarage, in the diocese of Ross, and in the patronage of J. S. Townsend (*John Sealy Townsend* [507]), Esq., the impropiator of the rectory: the tithes amount to £647, of which £200 is payable to the impropiator, £20 to the vicar (under an appropriation grant of the late Earl of Shannon), and the remainder to the lessees of Col. Townsend (*Colonel John Townsend* [230]). The church, situated in the town of Skibbereen, is a large edifice, in the early English style of architecture, with a lofty square tower at the east end: it was built on a new site in 1827, at an expense of £1200, of which £900 was given by the late Board of First Fruits; and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have recently granted £180 for its repair. The glebe-house, near the town, was built in 1824, by aid of a gift of £450 and a loan of £50 from the same Board, on a glebe of fifteen acres purchased by the Board and subject to a rent of £13. 7. per annum. The male and female parochial schools are situated near the church, and were built in 1825, at the expense of the vicar. An infants' school was built in 1835, and is supported by subscription; and there is a Sunday school for both sexes, under the superintendence of the vicar.

* *Becher connections here with Philip Townsend* [304] and *Barbara Townsend* [306]. ** *Richard Townsend* [310] died here in 1814.

Abbeystrewry Church



Abbeystrewry is said to have got its name from a Cistercian abbey, the ruins of which are situated on the river Ilen on the road to Ballydehob. A new site was found in the town and a new church was given a license for divine service on 11th April 1827.

SKIBBEREEN, a market and post-town, partly in the parish of ABBEYSTROWRY, but chiefly in that of CREAGH, Eastern Division of the barony of WEST CARBERY, county of CORK, and province of MUNSTER, 42 miles (S. W.) from Cork, on the mail road to Bantry, and 167 1/4 (S. W.) from Dublin; containing 4429 inhabitants. In 1691, an engagement took place in the vicinity between the forces of Jas. II and Col. Becher*, who commanded about 500 of the militia, when the former were put to flight, with the loss of 60 men and a large number of cattle. Three years afterwards, a party of 40 rapparees came into the town and plundered the custom-house, which belonged to the port of Baltimore, and killed two revenue officers. The town, from its situation in a wild, unenclosed part of the country, has frequently been the rendezvous of disaffected parties, but it has been much improved of late years, and is now a very flourishing place. It is situated on the southern bank of the river Ilen, and comprises seven streets; that part which extends into the parish of Abbeystrewry is called Bridgetown, and consists of three streets, one of which has been recently formed. The number of houses in the whole town is 1014, many of which, in the eastern part and in the parish of Creagh**, are large and well built: the approaches have been much improved by the formation of new lines of road at each extremity. This place had formerly a very considerable trade, arising from the manufacture of woollen cloth, linen, checks, and handkerchiefs, which has altogether declined: it is, however, very advantageously situated for trade in an extensive and improving district; the tide from the harbour of Baltimore flows up to the town, and the river is navigable for vessels of 200 tons' burden to Oldcourt, two miles below Skibbereen. In the town are capacious storehouses for corn, and a considerable quantity of flour is also exported from the mills of Mr. J. Clark, on the bank of the Ilen, a quarter of a mile from the town. A porter brewery upon an extensive scale was established in 1809; it is the property of Daniel Mc Carthy, Esq., and is in full operation, many of the neighbouring towns being supplied from the establishment. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday, the former for the Bridgetown portion, and the latter, which is the principal market, for Staplestown. Milk and fuel are also exposed daily in the market-place for sale. The supply of provisions is very abundant, particularly fish and poultry: pigs and sheep are also sold in great numbers. The marketplace being small, and the market-house old and inconvenient, the articles brought for sale on the regular market-days are exposed in the public streets and in a place called the square. Fairs are held on May 14th, July 10th, Aug. 2nd, Oct. 12th, and Dec. 11th and 23rd; and petty sessions on Wednesdays. The sessions-house

and bridewell is a large and handsome building in the Grecian style, occupying an elevated site near the entrance to the town from Cork. There is also an infantry barrack; and Skibbereen is the residence of the inspecting commander of the coast-guard stations of the district, of which it is the head, comprising those of Milkcove, Glandore, Castle-Townsend, Barlogue, Baltimore, Long Island, Crookhaven, Dunmanus, and Whitehorse, and extending from Sheep Head to Rosscarbery. The parochial church of Abbeystrewry is situated in Bridgetown; it is a large edifice in the early English style, with a tower at the east end, erected in 1827, at an expense of £1200, towards which £900 was contributed by the late Board of First Fruits. Parochial schools for boys and girls were erected near the church, in 1825, by the vicar; and an infants' school was built in 1835. There is also a Sunday school under the care of the Protestant clergyman. Near the R. C. chapel are large school-houses, built by the late Dr. Collins, which are supported by the National Board. A dispensary is maintained in the customary manner. There are numerous large and handsome houses near the town, the principal of which are noticed in the description of Abbeystrewry.

** Col Becher was the father of Elizabeth who married Horatio Townsend [104]*

*** Becher connections with Mary Townsend [121] and Edward [401].*

Townshend Family Group at The Castle ca 1898



Miss Purdon, Geta (?), Helen Morragh, Mrs Cairns, Miss U Somerville, Charles Loftus Townshend [5C01] (in trilby), Prof Edward (with beard) & Mrs Townshend [6B20], Miss Becher, Cherry Spaight, Edie Whitla (dau of [541]), Arthur Townshend [537] of Myross (in boater), Miss Martin, Not known man in dark suit and boater

Madam O'Donovan, Captain Gorges, Sylvia Townshend [268], B Somerville, Miss Charlotte Townshend [5D27], Beatrice Townshend [5C01], Madame de Bunsen
Georgie Whitla (son of [541]), Rita Morragh, Commander Stokes, **Rev Horace Townshend [634]**, Col Coghill, Grace Somerville



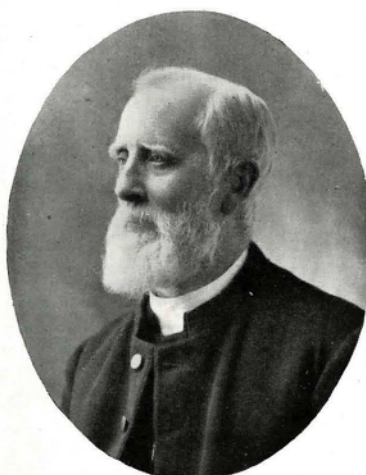
Mr. R. S. Topp.

Topp.—ROBERT SAMUEL TOPP, Brookville, Glanmire, co. Cork; second son of Richard Williamson Topp, Royal Navy; born December 4th, 1871. A descendant of an old English family, the first recorded being Thomas Topp, of Wilts, 1450, from whom descended Alexander Topp, of Whitton Hall, Salop, John Topp, Stockton House, Wilts., Sir Francis Topp, Bart., of Tormarton, Gloucestershire, and John Topp, of Alderley, Cheshire, whose eldest son John came over to Ireland about 1778-80, and settled in Cork, being great-grandfather of the present representative; R. W. Topp, Royal Navy, married Catherine, daughter of Robert Martin, Brooklodge, Glanmire, co. Cork, a descendant of the Martins of Ross, and Ballinahinch Castle, co. Galway; Lieutenant James Martin, of Ross, founded the Cork branch, being given a grant of land in that county for his services to the Crown about the year 1660. Member of Committee of Munster Agricultural Society. Recreations: hunting (United Hunt Club), and tennis.



Mr. Henry Toppin.

Toppin.—HENRY TOPPIN, Queenstown; son of the Rev. Canon Toppin, of Tramore, co. Waterford, and grandson of the late Charles Samuel Tandy, of Sion Lodge, Waterford; born at Phillipstown House, Tipperary, in 1868; educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and in Germany. District Inspector of Police, Queenstown District, since April, 1906. Married, April 14th, 1893, Amy Constance, daughter of John Greene, J.P., of Gaulstown, co. Meath.



Rev. Canon H. W. Townsend, M.A.

Townsend.—REV. CANON HORACE WEBB TOWNSEND, M.A., The Rectory, Skibbereen; eldest son of the late Edwin Hume Townsend, of Culnaconna, J.P., late of H.E.I.C.S.; born at Belgaum, Bombay, in 1838; educated at Bath Grammar School, Kingston School, Trinity College, Dublin; B.A., 1860; M.A., 1871; L.C.E., F.R.G.S.I., 1863. Ordained Deacon, 1870, and Priest, 1871, by Archbishop Trench, of Dublin; Rector of Abbeystrewry and Creagh since 1896; Surrogate and Rural Dean; Canon of Inniskenny, and Precentor of Ross; formerly Curate of Blessington, co. Wicklow, 1870-72; Incumbent, Donoughmore, 1872-74; and of Leixlip, co. Kildare, 1874-79; Clerical Secretary, I.C.M., London, 1879-88; Incumbent, Kilmeen, co. Cork, 1888-96. Member of the Diocesan Board of Education, representing Ross; President, Skibbereen, Church of Ireland Temperance Society, and the Church of Ireland Young Men's Christian Association; Vice-Chairman Skibbereen Technical Instruction Committee; Chaplain to the Workhouse. Has travelled in Europe, India, Australia, Africa, etc. Married, in 1867, Charlotte Anne, daughter of Matthew Crawford, of Rockfield, co. Westmeath,

and has issue two sons, Edward Hume, B.E. Assistant Engineer London and North-Western Railway, Rev. Horace Crawford, B.A., Rector of Craigs, co. Antrim, and six daughters, Louisa Maude, Susan H. M., Annie Kathleen, Frances Emma, Florence Hilda, and Lilian Alice.

	Curates
1951	Vivian William Darling
1963	Oliver Arther Pa
1634	Hugo Scampe (Vicar Aghadown, 1635-1653)
1653-1666	Commonwealth and Protectorate Period
1669	John Godfery
1671	Zachary Braly
1688	Samuel Moreton
1692	Benjamin Bousfield
1709	Richard Baldwin
1745	Francis Dutham
1766	John Corkee
1771	Horatio Townsend
	Curates Since the Diestablishment in Diocese Ross
1883	William O'Neill
1887	Edmond Beatty
1892	Charles Tottenham
1898	William R. Cole
1900	Edward James
1911	Robert W.H Hadden
1914	Harold Hadden
	No curates after H. Hadden until 1949
1949	Phineas Bury
1950	Edward Rainsbury
1953	Leonard Buckley-Jones
1959	David Clarke
	Vicars Rectory Improprate
1781	William Robinson
1819	Richard Boyle Townsend
1850	Horace Thomas Townsend
	Rectors
1857	James Goodman
1896	Horace Webb Townsend
1915	Edwin Sikes

Horace and Charlotte's Headstone in Creagh Cemetry



In Loving Memory of
Charlotte Anne
beloved wife of
Rev. Canon Townsend
Rector of this parish May 1st 1913
also of Horace Webb Townsend
of Cuilnaconarha
Canon of Cork, Precentor of Ross
and for 19 years rector of the parishes
of Abbeystrewry and Creagh
died January 19th 1915 aged 76 years