

Parliamentary Representation for County Tipperary, 1560-1800

Part 2*

By Michael O'Donnell

Biographical Details

[Names in italics are themselves the subjects of biographies]

BAGWELL, Richard. (MP Cashel, 1799-1800).

Richard Bagwell took his seat as MP for Cashel on 28 March 1799 and represented the borough until November 1801, when he was ordained a minister. Bagwell's election was a radical change from the situation which had prevailed in Cashel since 1753. There the Pennefather interest had been supreme and the family had never disposed to others of a corporation seat.

Their reason for doing so at this critical period can only be guessed at; perhaps the Pennefathers, some of whom were receiving government pensions, were of the opinion that the Bagwell family would best represent the anti-Union interest. During the Act of Union debates he spoke in favour in January 1800, but followed his father into opposition to the measure when the final vote was taken.

Rev. Richard Bagwell, the second son of *John Bagwell*, was born in 1777 at Belgrove, Co. Cork. He received his basic education from a Mr. Carey, and entered Trinity College on 5 August 1793, where he had a BA degree conferred on him in 1797. It seems that he did not sit for any higher degrees at the college.

As noted he, in another career change, was ordained to the ministry of the Church of Ireland, whereupon he had to resign his parliamentary seat; but he did continue to work in local politics. Rev. Richard served as mayor of Clonmel in 1802/03, in 1805/06, and in 1807/08. He was vicar of Urney and Annagelliffe in 1804/05. He became Dean of Kilmacduagh in 1804 and held the position of precentor of Cashel between 1805 and 1825, which latter he held in tandem with a deanship of Clogher diocese. He was presented as dean of Clogher on 21 February 1805 and was installed on 27 March.

In 1808 he married Margaret, the daughter of Edward Croker of Ballyneguarde, Co. Limerick, and had two sons, John (born 1811), who in 1833 married Fanny Prittie, the sister of Lord Dunally; and Edward. John succeeded his uncle William at Marlfield (in 1826) and was the father of the notable historian, Richard Bagwell. This John was High Sheriff, Co. Tipperary in 1839 and Lord of the Treasury from June 1859 to July 1861.

Richard, the Dean and MP, died on 25 December 1825 aged forty-eight and was buried in St. McCartan's Cathedral, Clogher, Co. Tyrone churchyard. His grandson, Richard the historian, raised a tablet to his memory in the cathedral.

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[BIFR, 50/51; Burke, *Clonmel*, 176, 323, 325; T. P. Power, *Land, Politics, and Society in Eighteenth-Century Tipperary*, (Oxford, 1993), 224, 320 (hereafter Power, *Tipperary*); G.D. Burtchaell and T.U. Sadleir (eds.), *Alumni Dublinenses*, (Dublin, 1935) (hereafter *Alum. Dub.*); J.B. Leslie, *Clogher Clergy and Parishes*, (Enniskillen, 1929), 36/37; Burke Mss., *Collections relating to Clonmel*, i, 144, Mount Melleray Abbey, Cappoquin.]

BAGWELL, William. (MP Clonmel, 1755/56).

At the election held on Monday 20 October 1755, to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of *Robert Marshall* to a judgeship of the Common Pleas, Clonmel's corporation returned Guy Moore as its parliamentary representative. William Bagwell, on 6 November, petitioned parliament that the election was not lawful and that he (Bagwell) had on election day received the majority of the "legal Voices". The dispute was referred to the Committee of Elections and Privileges, who made their report on 19 January 1756. Having heard the report the House divided 106 for Moore and 106 for Bagwell; but the Speaker cast his vote for Bagwell who was declared duly elected.

However, this struggle for independence within Clonmel's corporation was a short-lived one because within two years William Bagwell was dead. The new member, returned unopposed, was *Guy Moore*. Thereafter the Moores held almost unchallenged control in Clonmel, sending two members to parliament in each election between 1761 and 1799. In the latter year Lord Mount Cashell (a Moore) sold the patronage of the borough to *John Bagwell*, William's son.

In 1737 William was admitted a freeman of Fethard Corporation, but he never participated in an active way in that body. Instead his interest lay in Clonmel where he was resident. On 19 April 1748 a faction opposed to the Moore control of Clonmel's borough held a meeting in the Tholsel at which they passed a number of by-laws for the better running of the corporation. They also elected 23 burgesses and 10 freeman; William Bagwell was one of the freemen. This faction decided to test its strength at the election of October 1755 and, as we have seen, William Bagwell won the borough seat.

The origins of the Bagwell family in Clonmel are obscure, and beyond William's father are difficult to tie into a continuous line. William Bagwell the MP was the second son of John Bagwell, who was a merchant draper and banker at Main St., Clonmel. This John's father may also have been John, since in 1710 a John Bagwell senior and John junior were freemen of Waterford's corporation. A John Bagwell is also recorded in a lease from Sir Redmond Everard and dated May 1694 for lands at Ballyboy.

John Bagwell (the merchant father of William the MP), who was a member of the influential Presbyterian community in South Tipperary, married a daughter of Rev. Mr. Shaw, a Presbyterian clergyman in Dublin, and had three sons: John who in time became a gentleman landlord at Kilmore, Clonmel; Phineas a merchant in Cork; and William the MP; and probably three daughters: Grace, who married John Davis; Mary, who married William Riall of the Clonmel banking house, and an Elizabeth.

John the merchant later conducted his affairs in the slate house and out-offices adjoining the Quay which he had purchased from *Robert Marshall* on 2/3 November 1720. This property in time passed to Bagwell's son-in-law William Riall and in 1820 was sold to the Provincial Bank; today this is an hotel in Sarsfield Street, Clonmel. As a banking house John represented the Dublin banking firm of Kane and La Touche, as well as that of Burton of Dublin and Armstead of Cork, which must have helped to improve his fortune.

Being a banker he loaned and held money. An example is the will of *Mathew Jacob, senior*, of St. Johnstown, where it is recorded that Bagwell held a mortgage on that estate. Another such is that of Robert Cooke of Kiltinan, Fethard, who in January 1739 repaid a mortgage of £1,356. 14s. 4d. to Bagwell. Another will, drawn up in 1748, noted that John Bagwell was holding £200 in safe-keeping, the property of the testatrix.

John the merchant in the years between 1720 and 1740 began to acquire a landed base in South Tipperary. He paid in September 1729 £5,952. 15s. to the bankrupt Edmund Butler, Lord Dunboyne, for 864 plantation acres at Ballydoyle, Ballyduff and Loughkent. On 25 August 1733 he purchased, for £13,591. 12s., a total of 1,497 plantation acres from John Slattery of Redmondstown, Clonmel, which included lands at Kilmore, Cahirclogh, Redmondstown (which had been leased from Lord Cahir since 21 April 1687) and Lisronagh. Kilmore in time became the seat of the senior branch of the Bagwell family. By the end of his days John Bagwell, the merchant, was reputed to have had an annual income of £20,000.

John, son of the merchant, (whose marriage settlement was dated 26/27 May 1736) married Anne, daughter of James Calwell, a Bristol merchant, and they had an only child, also named John. At the time of this marriage John the merchant settled the lands of Kilmore, Ballydoyle, Ballyduff and Loughkent on his son. John of Kilmore died in 1738 and his wife Anne died in 1739. Anne Calwell appointed her father as guardian to her infant son. However, John the second of Kilmore had in time to mortgage this estate to William Barton of Grove, Fethard and Bordeaux and in 1778 the property was sold to Phineas Riall, a relative of Bagwell.

According to Amyas Griffith, John the second of Kilmore (who, incidentally, made a bid for the prestigious county seat in the general election of 1768, but came last in the poll) saw the headless corpse of Fr. Nicholas Sheehy before him every time he sat at table; he died a lunatic in August 1784 leaving children. The last of the Kilmore branch died poor in Clonmel in August 1821. John (the merchant) Bagwell's will was dated 7 December 1752 and proved on 6 May 1754. In it he records his son William (the MP) and two daughters, Mary Riall and Grace Davis.

William, the MP and younger son of John the merchant, continued in his father's business in Clonmel. He was, according to Canon W.P. Burke, a Presbyterian in religion; and 'the dissenting bodies then included the most influential traders' in Clonmel. In 1749 the marriage settlement, dated 8 & 9 April, granted the land of Burgagery (or Cooleens), Clonmel to William, with the proviso that the dowries of his sisters be settled out of the property. William married Anne Harper, the daughter of John Harper of Cork, who was head of the private banking firm of Harper and Armstead. She brought him a considerable dowry. In 1751 an only child, *John Bagwell*, was born to them. Through his wife William Bagwell inherited the Harper estate at Cobh, Co. Cork, which passed in trust to his son John Bagwell on the death of Harper in 1762.

William Bagwell's will was dated 23 July 1756 and proved on 30 November following. It records children, Dorcas, June, and Isabella, all under age; sister Grace Davis; though, strangely, not the son, John of Marlfield.

[BIFR, 50/51; Burke, *Clonmel*, 117/20, 174/79, 188, 319, 325/26; *Commons' jn. Ire.*, v(1796), 240, 332/58; Skehan, 'Fethard Freeman', *Ir. Geneal.*, iv, 315; BLG(1871), i, 44; Power, *Tipperary*, 225, 244/45; Finn's *Leinster Journal*, 9/13 July 1768; Burke, *Commoners of G.B. & Ire.*, iii, 141/42; *Blake Butler Mss.*, NLI Ms. 12,028; I.R.B. Jennings, 'Old Wills', *Waterford Arch. Soc. Jn.*, 17(1914), 102/03; *Lists of Forfeitures 1688 and Claims to 1701*, NA Ms.2/466/39, p.110(992); P.B. Eustace (ed.), *Registry of Deeds, Dublin: Abstracts of Wills, 1708/45*, (Dublin, 19566), i, 285; 'Bagwell Family', NLI, GO Ms. 139, 70/73; *Registry of Deeds*, RD66/256/46118, RD81/560/58830, RD27/476/17851, RD79/167/55157, RD76/27/52564, RD93/315/65584.]

BARRON, Geoffrey. (MP Clonmel, 1634; Confederation of Kilkenny, 1642/49).

Geoffrey was elected on 19 June 1634 to represent the borough of Clonmel in the House of Commons, but was expelled from that body on 3 December 1634. He subsequently represented Clonmel as a member of the Confederation of Kilkenny.

The earliest known member of this family was Geoffrey Barron, who made a grant of some manors on 12 April 1422 to Edmund Butler, son of Thomas. A later Geoffrey (he died in 1601) married a Beale White (she died 1610) and had Laurence as his eldest son. This Laurence, who died suddenly on 17 January 1623 and whose will was proved in the same year, married secondly (c. 1616) Katherine, the daughter of Thomas White of Clonmel, and had Elizabeth and John. The will of this Katherine was dated 8 May 1625. Laurence was the owner of a house in Mary Street together with 1,000 acres of land in Glenahiry, south of the town; the greater part of the land was mountainous and poor.

Laurence's first marriage was to Mary Wadding of Waterford, sister to Fr. Luke Wadding. He had five children by this marriage: Katherine (17 years in 1622); Geoffrey the MP, born in 1607; Bartholomew, who became the Franciscan Fr. Bonaventure Baron (born 24 July 1610); Luke (this Luke had been sickly since birth and died on 27 September 1625 aged about 13 years); and Michael. Mary Wadding died about 1615 while the children were still young; later in life Bartholomew wrote (in Latin): 'happy mother, happy wife,/ Most honoured! and you leave us'.

Geoffrey Baron was educated by a Mr. Flahy of Waterford and in 1630 was admitted to the Inns of Court in London, where he was described as a 'young man of great promise and virtue', leading one to wonder if he took the oath of supremacy to gain admittance, and if his Catholicism had been laid aside. In 1628 Geoffrey married Dorothy, the daughter of Nicholas Wise of Waterford, but she seems to have died within a year of the marriage. There is no record that Geoffrey married a second time.

Soon after taking his seat in the parliament of 1634 Barron became leader of the Catholic party, which does highlight his abilities because he was then only twenty-seven years old. In the opening session, in the belief that they would obtain 'Graces' or a form of religious toleration, the Catholic party went into opposition led by Barron. Strafford (Thomas Wentworth), the lord lieutenant, decided to break this opposition by making an example of Barron whom he described as 'a young man, a kind of petty chapman's son who by peddling left him some two hundred pounds a year, of all others the most mutinous and bold'.

Strafford had his way on 3 December 1634 when Barron was expelled from the House and lodged in Dublin Castle 'for his misinformation made in this House'. Strangely, on the previous day the members of the Commons had accepted Barron's explanation of his opposition. On 11 December 1634 he was released from Dublin Castle, and brought to the House of Commons where he made abject apology on his knees for his conduct. The Journals of the Commons at this period note that Barron's health was not robust, which may account for his early release. Thus ended his parliamentary career; with his removal parliamentary opposition was crushed. But his public life was by no means ended.

He was elected to represent Clonmel on the General Assembly of the Confederate Catholics meeting at Kilkenny on 24 October 1642; he became an enthusiastic supporter. Because he was quite a linguist he was accredited, together with a Fr. Matthew O'Hartegan, to the French court as the Confederacy's agent; both of them were at Nantes in May 1642. But in September 1642 he landed at Wexford with Colonel Thomas Preston and a supply of war material for the Confederate army. He left Waterford again for France in late December 1642, but on this occasion he was captured by an English vessel and taken to Dunkirk. Following negotiations he was released in March 1643 and then travelled on to Paris, where he was to spend four fruitless months.

By September 1643 Baron was back in Ireland and was soon appointed Treasurer to the Confederation. He was with Preston at the investing of Duncannon Fort between 20 January and 19 March 1645, and kept a diary of the event which was subsequently published in Latin by his brother Fr. Bonaventure.

During this period Fr. O'Hartegan represented the Confederacy at the French court, but at a meeting of the Supreme Council held at Clonmel on 25 March 1645 the members expressed a lack of confidence in him and requested Baron to replace him. Baron did not land at La Rochelle until October of that year.

While at La Rochelle he (Baron) met Rinucinni the nuncio, who was making his way to his post in Ireland. In a letter sent to Cardinal Pamphili Rinuccini refers to Baron's fine appearance, his politeness and pleasing conversation. The nuncio must also have impressed Baron because he became an ardent supporter of the Papal representative.

Baron seems to have been one of the moderates on the Confederation (though he seems to have attended but one session of the Supreme Council, the 9th, of 12 November 1647 to September 1648), urging unity at all times and opposed at all times to a breach with Rinuccini, the nuncio. So much so that Richard Bellings, the secretary to the Confederation, described Barron as an 'ardent nuncioist'. On 28 February 1647 he, together with *Gerald Fennel*, was deputed to present Ormonde with a new peace offer. However, he actively opposed Ormond's entry into Waterford.

Between November 1649 and August 1650 he was in Waterford, which was besieged by Ireton and the New Model Army. He was among those who put their names to the articles of surrender. At its fall he was granted his life and probably, according to the then usages of war, ordered not to appear again in arms against the Cromwellians. But Baron went on to Limerick, before which Ireton soon appeared. Here, though he was a member of the group of officers who discussed surrender terms with Ireton, he strenuously opposed such a surrender. When the city finally capitulated on 27 October 1651 Baron was specifically excluded from the terms of the agreement as not being worthy of mercy and was described as being 'the principall instrument in the holding out of Waterford against us' and as 'professing his malignity against us to the utmost'. On 9 November 1651, dressed in his best suit of 'white taffitie' and aged forty-four, he was hanged at Limerick with eight others. His severed head was displayed on one of the city's gates.

[Dermot B. Fenlon, 'Wentworth and the Parliament of 1634. An essay in Chronology', *R.S.A.I. Jn.*, 94(1964), 159/75; NA, *Index to Prerogative Wills*; Burke, *Clonmel*, 62, 315, 326, 469/79; *Commons' Jn. Ire.*, i(1796), 86/88, 90; Hugh Kearney, *Strafford in Ireland, 1633/41*, (Manchester, 1959), 59, 243; B. Jennings(ed.), *Wadding Papers*, (Dublin, 1953), 238; *Civil Survey, Co. Waterford*, (Dublin, 1942), vi, 94; James Burke, 'The New Model Army and the problems of siege warfare, 1648-51', *I.H.S.*, 27(1990), 24/25; Micheal O Siochru, *Confederate Ireland, 1642-49*, (Dublin, 1999), 138, 182; Rev. Athanasius, ofm, 'Geoffrey Baron', *The Commemoration of the Siege of Limerick*, (Limerick, 1951), 51/57; NLI GO. Ms. 223; *Ormond Deeds, 1413-1509*, No. 55.]

BARRY, Redmond. (MP Fethard, 1665-66).

Redmond Barry was elected to represent the borough of Fethard on 4 December 1665 and continued to do so until parliament was dissolved on 7 August 1666.

Barry had his property at Lisnagar near Rathcormack, Co. Cork. Sir Richard Cox (1687) described Rathcormack as belonging to the branch of the Barry family "commonly called MacAdam". Later the family moved to Ballyclough, Co. Cork; they claimed a connection with the Barrymore family and to being the senior stem.

The earliest known is a Redmond Barry, alias McAdam, of Rathgormuck, who died on 6 December 1590. He had a son and heir, John, who died on 10 December 1635.

This John had the three sons – Redmond his heir, John and David. The son Redmond was the MP above. Redmond Barry married, firstly, Mary, a daughter of John Boyle of Castle Lyons, Co. Cork, by whom he had four children, James, his heir; Anne; Catherine; and Martha. Mary Lyons was dead by 1666. The daughter Catherine later married Alan Broderick, 1st. Viscount Middleton and MP for Cork city, 1692/1710.

Redmond Barry married, secondly, in 1666, Jane, the daughter of Sir Nicholas Purdon (who had been elected MP for Baltimore on 10 April 1661), of Ballyclough, Co. Cork. By this marriage Redmond had four children; Redmond, Thomas, Alice and Margaret. At various dates between 1692 and 1743 two of his sons served as MPs for Rathcormack, Dungarvan and Tallow.

Following the Act of Settlement Redmond Barry had all his misdemeanours pardoned – they were not specified – and his estates regranted to him by a general pardon issued from Whitehall by Charles II on 25 April 1661. He was appointed Sheriff of Co. Cork on 11 December 1663. He 'died in the Irish Quarters of Rathcormack Augt. 1690 before any of the Co. Cork was reduced to H. Majesty's obedience'. His will, dated 3 March 1682, was proved on 23 March 1691. He 'was and died a firm protestant'. At the time of his death his estate seems to have been heavily mortgaged, and Thomas Purdon (brother to his second wife), the executor to the will, was under attainder for high treason. In the end his widow (Purdon), who married again, inherited all his goods, but paid none of his debts.

[John Lodge, *'Baronetage of Ireland'*, NA Ms. 2/448/28; C.M. Tenison, 'Cork MPs, 1559-1800', *JCHAS*, i(1895), 74; P.B. Eustace, 'Index to Will Abstracts in the G.O., Dublin', *Anal. Hib.*, 17(1949); *BLGI*(1958), 57, at Bury-Barry, formerly of Ballyclough; *BLGI* (1904); *Cal. S.P. Ire.*, 1660/62, 319; J.L.J.Hughes, *Patentee Officers, 1173-1826, etc.*, (Dublin, 1960), 8, (Hereafter Hughes, *Patentee Officers*); Burke, *Clonmel*, 286/87; R. Refausse and H. Smith, 'W.H. Welphy's Abstracts, etc.', *Ir. Geneal.*, vii (1987), 171, 176, 178; NLI, GO Ms. 3, f.40; Sir Richard Cox, 'A description of the Kingdom of Cork' ed. Robert Day, *JCHAS*, viii(1902), 158.]

BARTON, Thomas. (MP Fethard, 1783/90; 1790/97).

Thomas Barton was first elected on 8 August 1783 and re-elected, without being opposed, in 1790. But it is hardly likely that his electors were as well pleased with his performance in the 1790/97 session as they had been in the previous one. In this second period his attendance at the Commons was extremely poor for reasons that are not given. So bad was it that one one occasion he was ordered to be taken into custody by the Serjeant-at-Arms of the House.

In the election for a Speaker of the House in 1790 Barton voted for William Ponsonby (eldest



"French Tom" Barton.

son of Speaker John Ponsonby and connected through marriage with Barton), rather than John Foster who obtained the position. Barton did not represent the borough at the general election of 1798, but when it was dissolved following the Act of Union he received £7,500 in settlement (half the value of the borough).

From the time that Grove and the Fethard property were purchased, the Bartons had expectations that they would exercise control over the town's borough. But the O'Callaghans of Shanbally, Clogheen had copper-fastened such control and had made of Fethard a pocket borough. William Barton, the son of the purchaser 'French Tom', made various efforts between 1751 and 1772 to obtain a seat among the burgesses of the corporation, but he was balked by a series of underhand moves even though half the existing burgesses and freemen supported him.

O'Callaghan, with his eye on a peerage, had no intention of sharing political power in Fethard. For example, in June 1772, William Barton was validly elected a burgess, but O'Callaghan had him ousted. The consequence of this was that Barton and O'Callaghan fought a duel in which Barton was wounded in the thigh. Following this Barton and those burgesses and freemen who supported him withdrew and formed a rival corporation. In May 1776 William put his name forward for the position of MP for the borough of Fethard (an election that cost him almost £161), but at the final count on 27 May Barton had received only 64 votes to 353 for *Cornelius O'Callaghan* and 340 for *David Walsh*. On 20 June 1776 William petitioned the House of Commons disputing the return, but the matter was decided against him on 26 January 1778.

The stand-off between the two factions in Fethard lasted through various lawsuits until 1782, when the Cornelius O'Callaghan of the day and Thomas Barton, the son of William, came together and decided to patch up their differences. This agreement may have been brokered by William Chambre Ponsonby, who was brother to Thomas Barton's prospective wife Mary and related through marriage with O'Callaghan. This accord may have served as all, or part, of Mary's marriage portion.

The result of this agreement was that Cornelius O'Callaghan and Thomas Barton were agreed candidates for Fethard in the election held on 8 August 1783. They placed an advertisement in the press over their joint names, and also over their joint names wrote to the Sovereign of the corporation requesting his support. Naturally, both were successful.

The parliamentary reports of the day describe Thomas Barton as being of an independent mind (independent of government control, that is) and of being interested in parliamentary reform. However, before the election of 1783 Barton appears not to have supported the reform movement called the 'Constitutional Associating Freeholders' even though his wife's uncle, Sir William Barker, was a leading promoter of it. Possibly Barton wished to secure his agreement with O'Callaghan, and his election, before he showed his hand.

When Henry Flood brought in a motion on 29 November 1783 for the more equal representation of the people of Ireland in parliament, Barton was among the list of MPs who voted for it. Barton was considered to be a doubtful supporter of government in a report on members of the Commons which was compiled in 1784/87. He was also a firm opponent of a commercial treaty between Britain and Ireland which Prime Minister Pitt desired to introduce in the Irish House of Commons in February 1785. This proposal was seen by many as furthering the interests of Britain rather than Ireland.

In May of 1795 Henry Grattan introduced a bill in the Commons to grant emancipation to Catholics which was heavily defeated, but among the 84 who voted in its favour was Thomas Barton. Barton also interested himself in the Volunteer movement of the day and in the reforms

which they advocated. He held the rank of major in the Fethard Independent Volunteers. It may be no harm to quote what Lecky wrote in his history of Ireland: 'to be the head of a well appointed corps was now the highest distinction of an Irish gentleman'.

Like his father, William, Thomas Barton had made some efforts to gain a burgess seat on the official corporation in Fethard. Following the 1782 agreement with the O'Callaghan faction he was co-opted as one of the thirteen burgesses, but when on 27 June 1785 he was nominated for the position of sovereign he was not elected. The rift between the O'Callaghan and Barton factions had not been fully closed. The final bonding came in 1787 when O'Callaghan had gained his peerage and the two corporations were united. On 25 June 1787 Thomas Barton was elected sovereign of the new body. Thereafter the corporation became a rubber stamp for the wishes of the Lords Lismore (O'Callaghans) and the Bartons.

Thomas Barton, born on 26 January 1757, was the eldest of six children of William Barton of Grove, Fethard and Grace Massy, the daughter of Charles Massy, Dean of Limerick. He was the grandson of Thomas Barton ('French Tom') of Bordeaux who had purchased the estate at Fethard in 1751. The first of the Barton family to appear in Ireland is reputed to have been a common soldier who came with Elizabeth's army at a date unknown. By some means he or his son acquired land in Fermanagh; the earliest reference is to a Thomas Barton who was resident at Enniskillen in 1610.



The Barton seat at Grove, Fethard. – Copyright Joe Kenny.

The earliest member of the Barton family for whom solid documentary evidence exists is Thomas, or 'French Tom', who was born at Curraghmore, Co. Fermanagh 'in my father's house', according to his journal, 'the 21st December 1695, old style'. French Tom goes on to record that 'his father William Barton was the second son of William Barton of Bowe Island'. This is probably the William Barton who together with John Delap received a wool licence in June/September 1680. William's of Bowe Island 'father's name was Anthony Barton, descended from the Bartons of Barton Hall, Lancastershire'. This claim to a landed ancestry may well have been a piece of wishful thinking on the part of a man who had made a success of his life.

'French Tom' writes that he was reared as a merchant by his maternal uncles Thomas and William Dickson. On 1 November 1722, old style, he married Mary Delap. She was the youngest daughter of his granduncle, which probably meant that she was much older than he. One child only, William, was born to this marriage on 5 August 1723 at the Delap house near

Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. 'French Tom' left for France in 1725 and from then onwards Mary Delap and he appear not to have lived together.

In France he began his working life as a factor at Marseille and later at Montpellier. Later still 'French Tom' moved to Bordeaux and prospered there; by the age of fifty he was 'engaged in a great extensive Trade, by which he had acquired a very considerable Fortune'. In 1742 his son William joined him as partner in the business and by 1747 he was the biggest buyer and shipper of the finest clarets in the Bordeaux region. In time he acquired his own vineyard, thus becoming the earliest of the shippers to produce his own wines. He also bought a residential property – 'my country house in Medoc' – at the entrance to the Gironde river.

On 1 February 1751 'French Tom' Barton, through his agent *Robert Marshall*, purchased the estate of the bankrupt Everard family near Fethard. For this he paid £30,500 which the owner, James Long Everard, accepted as being sufficient to clear all outstanding debts. Tom claimed that this purchase exhausted the greatest part of his stock in trade and his personal fortune.

Nevertheless, on 6 January 1757, Barton purchased 'the mansion house with the offices and appurtenances and the demesne lands of Grove', comprising 206 plantation acres together with 86 plantation acres of woodland. This was to be the Barton family home for the next 200 years. These purchases helped the Bartons' entry into Irish landed society. For example, 'French Tom' and his son William are listed as dining, together with some others, with the lord lieutenant on Wednesday, 2 December 1761.

Soon after, William Barton made an advantageous marriage to Grace Massy on 1 August 1754 (according to the family historian); the marriage settlement was dated 15/16 July 1755. She came with a dower of £3,000. Grove and the property around Fethard was then settled on William for his lifetime's use. William had by his marriage six sons (Thomas being the eldest) and three daughters.

When 'French Tom' died he willed his Irish property to his grandson Thomas rather than to his son William. This led to a rift between father and son and much money passed into the pockets of lawyers before Thomas came into his own on the death of his father in 1792. At this period William's Fethard estate returned an annual income of between £1,000 and £2,000 which placed him in the fourth category among the gentlemen of the county and was sufficient for the moderate wants of a moderate country gentleman.

Despite being at odds with his father, William continued his interest in the Bordeaux side of the business and was actively involved in the early 1770s and became especially so after 'French Tom' died on 18 October 1780. Following the death of his father, and the financial collapse of numerous merchants in the Bordeaux region, William, a remote and taciturn character prone to litigation who seldom mixed with the Irish merchant community at Bordeaux, spent the early 1780s in that city ruthlessly pursuing the family's creditors — one merchant owed him close to £4,000 — and so well did he succeed that by 1788, another time of recession in the wine trade, he is reputed to have had sufficient money to purchase wine to the value of £20,000 from failing merchants.

Having put the Barton shipping business on something of an even keel he took his sixth child, Hugh, then aged about 20, into partnership with himself on 27 May 1786. At this period a Breton Huguenot, Daniel Guestier, also joined the partnership. In time this became the B & G wine business that we know today, but eventually this passed out of Barton control. In the early 1820s Hugh Barton himself purchased a vineyard of 35 hectares in Leoville in the Medoc and this, together with the Chateau Langoa, remains in Barton control to this day. This chateau produces a select and expensive wine.

Thomas Barton the MP entered Trinity College Dublin on 7 July 1773 as a fellow commoner

(this was a privileged position in Trinity; they were ranked next to *fili nobilis*), having previously been educated by a Mr. Jessop. Thomas married Mary, the daughter of Chambre Brabazon Ponsonby of Ashgrove, Co. Kilkenny. She was related to the Earls of Bessborough, Speaker John Ponsonby, and the Barkers of Kilcooley, Co. Tipperary.

Mary was a spendthrift like her brother and so given to overspending that on one occasion her husband refused to settle her debts, which Sir William Barker her uncle did. Thomas and Mary had six children, the eldest of whom, William, inherited the Grove estate. This William married Catherine, the daughter of Samuel Perry of Woodroffe, Clonmel and through them the Barton line continued at Grove until Captain Charles Robert Barton died in 1955. Grove is no longer a Barton property. Thomas Barton died in 1820, and his wife Mary in the following year. [Cyril Ray, *Langoa-Leoville Barton, 1821-1971*, (Oxford, 1971), 5/16; *The Clonmel Gazette*, 10 July 1790; L.M. Cullen 'The Irish merchant communities of Bordeaux, La Rochelle, and Cognac in the eighteenth century', *Negoce et Industrie en France et en Irlande aux XVIIIe et XIXe Siecles*, eds. L.M. Cullen et P. Butel, (Paris, 1980); E.M. Johnston, 'State of the Irish House of Commons in 1791', *ProcRIA*, 59c, 51; E.M. Johnston, 'Members of the Irish Parliament, 1784/7', *ProcRIA*, 71c, 170; E.M. Johnston, *Great Britain and Ireland*, (London, 1963), 393; W.G. Skehan, 'Fethard Corporation, etc.', *Ir.Geneal.*, iv(1969/70), 81/82, 189; B.F. Barton, *Family of Barton*, (Dublin, 1902), 62; *Alum. Dub.*, 47; *Commons' jn. Ire.*, xi(1796), 64, 73, 81, 97/98, 152, 193/94, xiv(1796), 153, xv(1796), 54; *Fethard Corporation Books*, NLI Ms. 5859, ff 177, 184, 191, 214; NLI, G.O. Ms. 114, ff.177/78; *Finn's Leinster Journal*, 1 June and 26 June, 1776; *Commons' jn. Ire.*, xviii, 17/313; *Hibernian Journal*, 16 Oct. 1772; *Ormonde Mss.*, H.M.C., iv(1906), 672; *Lord Lieutenant's Dinners*, NLI Ms. 1467; W.G. Neely, *Kilcooley: Land and People in Tipperary*, (Belfast, 1983), 71/72, 93.]

BLENNERHASSETT, Robert. (MP Clonmel, 1692/93; 1695/99).

Robert Blennerhassett was elected MP for Clonmel on 26 September 1692 and again on 8 August 1695. He was MP for Limerick from 1703 until his death. He was the second son of Arthur Blennerhassett of Tralee and Mary, the daughter of Rev. Garrett Fitzgerald, Archdeacon of Emly (1617-38), of Ballinard near Herbertstown, Co. Limerick

According to Charles Smith the historian, the first of the Blennerhassett family to settle in Kerry was Robert, who came from Flimby in Cumberland as an undertaker with his aged father, Thomas, in the reign of Elizabeth 1. By his marriage (to Elizabeth Conway the daughter of another planter) this Robert (who was MP for Tralee in 1613 and again in 1635/39) had three sons, one of whom was Arthur. Arthur, the third son, seems to have made a career in the army and on 17 May 1680 was recorded as having the rank of Captain. This Arthur had seven sons and three daughters. Robert was the second son. Another son, Arthur, was a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

Robert Blennerhassett entered Trinity College, Dublin as a pensioner on 22 May 1667 giving his age as 15 years and his place of birth as Loughgur, Co. Limerick. There is no record of his having obtained a degree; but he was admitted to the King's Inns on 4 June 1678. Thereafter he pursued a career in law and politics.

Robert was elected Recorder or law officer by a majority of votes to the corporation of Cashel on 9 October 1679 and was retained in that office by the 1688 charter of James II in which he was named as one of the 24 burgesses. When William III confirmed the old charters to Cashel on 5 August 1690 Robert was re-appointed as Recorder and seems to have continued in this office up to 1712.

He was also Recorder to Fethard's corporation from sometime before 1707 until 1712. A reading of the two corporations' minutes would suggest that he held both positions concurrently. A new Recorder for Cashel was not elected until 31 March 1713. His having

signed, in the House of Commons on 28 March 1696, an address declaring William III to be true king of Ireland and opposing all his enemies was probably of considerable benefit to his career.

On 22 June 1705 the Duke of Ormonde appointed Robert to the position of Seneschal of the Liberties of the Palatinate of Tipperary, which was confirmed on 19 July 1705; on the same day he was nominated second Justice, Master of the Rolls, and Prothonotary of the Liberty of Tipperary. He seems to have been the last to hold the office. Robert also became, on 9 August 1711, his Majesty's Prime Serjeant-at-Law, and occupied this post until his death.

According to the Chichester House Claims it would seem that Robert had land in the barony of Clanwilliam in Tipperary and in the barony of Conello, Co. Limerick. Robert married Alice, the daughter of Sir Thomas Osborne of Tickencor, Clonmel. She was the widow of Thomas Warter of Cullen, Co. Limerick. By this marriage Robert had a son, Arthur, and four daughters (Mary, Annabella, Alice and Elizabeth). Arthur, the son, who was born in Clonmel, also entered Trinity College. At his entry date of 15 May 1704 he gave his age as 16 years. Though Arthur (who was a King's Counsel and MP for Tralee) married, he died without a family and so the family line descended through a brother of Robert the MP. Robert Blennerhassett's will was dated 20 January 1713 and was proved on 25 May 1713.

[BIFR, 133/36; Skehan, 'Fethard Corporation, etc.', *Ir.Geneal.*, iv(1971), 308; Burke, *Clonmel*, 317, 521; Kearney, *Strafford in Ireland*, (Manchester, 1959), 246; Charles Smith, *The Antient and Present State of the County of Kerry*, (reprinted Cork, 1979), 30/31; *Commons' jn. Ire.*, ii(1796), 145/46; Raymond Refausse, 'The Welfhy Will Abstracts in RCB Library, Dublin', *Ir.Geneal.*, vi(1985), 816; Walford, *County Families of the U.K.*, (London, 1860), 58; A. Finn, *Cashel and its Ancient Corporation*, (Dublin, 1930), 7, 22; F.E. Ball, *Judges in Ireland, 1221-1921*, (New York, 1927), ii, 207/08; *Alum. Dub.*, 75; NA, *Index to Prerogative Wills*; Hughes, *Patentee Officers*, 13; E. Keane, P.B. Phair and T.U. Sadleir (eds.), *King's Inns Adm. Papers, 1607-1867*, (Dublin, 1982), 41 (Hereafter *King's Inns Adm.*); 6th Report, DKPRI, Appendix, p.83; *Ormonde Mss.*, HMC, v(1908), 320; 'Pedigree of Blennerhassett', NLI Ms.4112; *Cashel Corporation Minutes*, NLI Ms.5575, ff. 51r, 92r, and Ms. 5576, unfoliated; T. Blake Butler, 'Seneschals of the Liberty of Tipperary'. *Ir.Geneal.*, iii.(1956/67), 115; *Blake Butler Mss.*, NLI Ms. 12,033.]

BOYTON, Patrick. (MP Cashel, 1640/49).

Patrick Boyton was elected to represent Cashel in February 1640. The Boytons were an ancient Cashel family that had lands at various points about that place. As early as 1307 a Philip Boyton had made a grant of land at Boytonstown; and a deed of 26 September 1463 records a Robert Boyton as being reeve (a man elected by his fellow tenants to act as intermediary between them and the lord of the manor). The family was an important one, as is emphasised by their having burial rights within Cashel's ancient cathedral. Nevertheless, because of different family names – Patrick had lands at Kilfeakle parish, Paul at Ballyclerihan and Newchapel, and George at St. Patrick's Rock, in 1640 – it has not been possible to devise an ancestral family tree for Patrick.

Patrick's father may have been the Edward Boyton of Thomastown who on 20 April 1637 received a lease of the Rectory of Rathleyiny from James, Earl of Ormond. This Edward was a burgess and alderman on Cashel Corporation in 1638. In 1640 this Edward was described as having 277 plantation acres (which he had purchased from Lord Dunboyne) at Ballyturnymacoris (Ballytarsny Mckeorish) in the parish of Dangandargan, Middlethird barony. Among the extant Chancery Bills is an undated marriage settlement between an Edward Boyton and *Geoffrey Mockler* of Mocklerstown, Clerihan.

The earliest reference to Patrick is dated 21 November 1639 when he entered King's Inns to be trained as a lawyer. Young men who entered the King's Inn were trained in the English tongue and English standards of civilised behaviour. The entrants were obliged to take the oath

cited as John son of John son of Edmond, was dated 1632, but he died some time after 10 March 1632 when he was recorded as being a burgess on the corporation. John may have been a cousin of the other member sitting for the borough at this time, *Nicholas White*.

Among the items listed in his will were his harp and his books, and 'my sd. son John shall have and receive the gould Jewel bequeathed by my father unto me which now my sister Ann Bray hath'. To judge from his will and from a reading of the patent and close rolls of James 1 and Charles 1, business must have been good to him. It seems that he also advanced money to needy creditors on the security of land.

In the charter which James 1 granted on 5 July 1608 to Clonmel, John Bray was among the named burgesses, though two years previously, on 29 September, he had been deprived of the sovereignty of Clonmel and 'with nine other Clonmel and Cashel citizens are kept in Cork gaol ever since to the very great loss of their business'. On 30 May 1613 he was one of the deputation of Recusants from Parliament who attended on James 1 desiring relief for Catholics

[John Lodge, *Pardons of Licences of Alienation*, vol. 19, p. 87, NA. MFS. 42/9; Burke, *Clonmel*, 44, 45, 50, 219, 315, 328; NA, *Index to Prerogative Wills; Cal. S.P. Ire, 1611-14*, 355.]

BRAY, John. (MP Clonmel, 1689).

On 7 May 1689 John Bray was elected to represent Clonmel in the parliament called by James 11. A John Bray, an Irish papist, petitioned the Council in Dublin in 1654 desiring that he be left in peace. Following the Restoration of Charles 11 (in 1660) the Bray family made unsuccessful attempts to recover their property around Clonmel, but seem subsequently to have obtained a farm at Galbertstown near Thurles from Captain George Mathew. At this same period the family held at least two houses in Clonmel, one in North Lane and the other in West Gate Lane. One of these may have been the family home.

When James II's new charter was granted on 29 September 1688 a John Bray was among those listed as burgesses. He was probably the grandson of the *John Bray* who represented Clonmel in 1613. But this John Bray paid the price when William III gained power in Ireland. On 11 May 1691, at the Tholsel in Dublin, John Bray an ex-alderman of Clonmel and a 'member of the pretended parliament', was declared attainted.

[Burke, *Clonmel*, 86, 108, 259, 260, 317.].

BUCKWORTH, Richard. (MP Cashel, 1715/27, 1727/39).

Richard Buckworth of Lisheen, Cashel was first elected to represent the borough of Cashel on 21 October 1715. The 1727 election was held on 3 November. The earliest known member of this family was Major Richard Buckworth, who was a 1649 officer, that is one who served the Protestant cause in the 1640s rebellion and who was loyal to Charles II and his father.

His son was probably the John Buckworth who was an alderman of Cashel in 1673. . Among those attainted by the parliament of James 11 was John Buckworth of Shanballyduff. Shanballyduff was also given as John's address in a Tipperary Jury list for 1683, but he seems also to have had property at Biggsland and Gortnadrugh. When, on 29 June 1691, William III renewed Cashel's charter John Buckworth was one of the aldermen listed. On 29 June 1692 John Buckworth was elected mayor of Cashel, and was re-elected on 29 June 1694 and 29 June 1695. At this time John had property at Attikett, Carrickfreagh, Loughnamains and Drom. This John married a daughter of *Richard Le Hunte* of Cashel and had a son Richard.

Richard Buckworth the MP married Annie Carr and had at least two sons: John (born 1703), and William (born 1705). Annie Carr died on 21 July 1709. John Buckworth, pensioner, entered Trinity College, Dublin on 5 April 1721 when he gave his age as 16 years and his father as

Richard. This John, who died in 1759 at Ballycummusk, was born at Cashel and he received his earlier education from a Mr. M'Donnell in that place.

On 4 September 1702 the Duke of Ormonde leased to Richard Buckworth of Cashel 194 acres in Ballycomusk, 207 acres in Killeene, 85 acres in Monelumperry, 225 acres in Tubberdorane, 349 acres in Carhuedoty and Baunekeale, all of which was plantation measure and in the barony of Eliogurty. The annual rent to the Duke was £14. 2s. 8d. In the 1720s Richard was leasing and purchasing parcels of land near Cashel, but by the late 1730s the family may have suffered a financial set-back because on 11 April 1737 Richard and his two sons sold 700 plantation acres for £5,000 to Theophilus Bolton, Archbishop of Cashel.

Richard the MP was granted a commission of the peace for Co. Tipperary for 1715 and again for 1727. Like his father, Richard served as mayor of Cashel in 1705, 1707 and 1712.

He died in 1739 and was succeeded by his son William Carr as MP for Cashel.

[T.U. Sadleir, 'Manuscripts at Kilboy, etc.' *Anal. Hib.*, 12, 134, 136; A. Finn, *Cashel and its Ancient Corporation*, (Dublin, 1930), 11, 18; *Intestates*, NLI G.O. Ms. 257, f.60; Burke, *Clonmel*, 109n; NLI, G.O. Ms. 225, ff. 233, 245, 251; *Alum. Dub.*, 109; *Rec. comm. Ire. rep.*, 1821-25, 616/37; *Blake Butler Mss.*, NLI Ms. 12,035; 6th Report DKPRI, Appendix, 76; Mary Hickson, *Ireland in the Seventeenth Century*, (London, 1884), ii, 42; *Cashel Corporation Minutes*, NLI Ms. 5575, f.2r., f.102rv, 112v, 117v, Ms. 5576, unfoliated, Ms. 5577, f.5r., Ms. 5578, f.12r; *Registry of Deeds*, RD57/186/37933, RD56/76/37027, RD67/32/45221, RD71/94/49120, RD87/151/61012; *Vicars, Wills.*].

BUCKWORTH, William Carr. (MP Cashel, 1739/53).

He was elected to represent the borough of Cashel on 23 October 1739 following the death of his father. William Buckworth was the younger of two children born to *Richard Buckworth* and *Annie Carr*. When his mother died, the administrator of her estate was 'Richard Buckworth, the lawful husband'. William later assumed the name of Carr to enable him to inherit his mother's estate.

William Carr Buckworth received his early education from a Mr. M'Donnell of Cashel. He entered Trinity College, Dublin on 5 April 1721 as a pensioner; and received his BA in the Spring of 1725. He was admitted to the King's Inn, Dublin on 28 July 1724 and was called to the Irish Bar in 1731.

On 22 June 1732 Councillor Carr was sworn to Cashel's corporation council. He was admitted a freeman of Fethard Corporation in 1745. There was probate of his will in 1753, and he was succeeded as MP by *Kingsmill Pennefather* on 31 October 1753.

[Skehan, 'Fethard Corporation, etc.' *Ir. Geneal.*, iv(1971), 319; *King's Inns Adm.*, 60; *Alum. Dub.*; *Intestates*, NLI G.O., Ms. 257, 60; *Cashel Corporation Minutes*, NLI Ms. 5577, f.14v.].

[For the Tipperary members of the Irish Convention, which sat in February 1660, see Aidan Clarke, *Prelude to Restoration in Ireland*, (Cambridge, 1999), 213/15]

To be continued.