

The Butlers of Ballyslatteen: two Famine notebooks

By Joe Walsh

Among the papers of Professor William F. Butler of Queen's College, Cork (1869-1930) are two Famine notebooks of interest to readers of this Journal. One (entitled Notebook A in this article) comprises a "List of Butler Tenants before the Famine", and the other (entitled Notebook B in this article) is headed "Famine Relief Meal Fund (Ballyslatteen) 1847" and comprises a list of subscriptions to that fund.

Both notebooks are identical in appearance and measure approx. 3½ ins. (9 cm) across and 6 ins. (15 cms) down. They are to be found at Ref. U82, 1-12 (specifically in Box 12, File 17) in the Boole Library, University College, Cork, and are reproduced below with the permission of the Librarian of the Boole Library. The copies obtained for publication in this Journal have been deposited with the Local Studies Dept. of the Co. Library, Thurles.

Ballycurron		Land C.		Amount of land
Tenant's name	No. of fam.			if any
* Wm. Keating	6	3	Dwyer	nothing but a house
* P. Keating	7	2	Keating	same holding
	13	5		
2				
Lower Abbey				
Edm. Crowley	4	1	Wid. Keating	no land
J. Ryan	6	1	Wid. Keating	no land
J. Pashen	3	1	Keating	no land
J. Keating	7	1	P. Keating	no land
M. Boland	7	5	Keating	no land
J. Keating	2	1	Wid. Keating	no land
J. Pashen	6	1	Wid. Keating	no land
J. Carol	3	1	Wid. Keating	no land
M. Curry	5	1	J. Carol	no land
M. Curran	5	1	J. Keating	no land
	50	14		

A photo-copy of two (adjoining) pages from one of the Butler Famine notebooks. (By kind permission of the Librarian, Boole Library, U.C.C.).

Because they have been carefully preserved and are still quite legible (allowing for minor instances of blurred or illegible handwriting), only minor explanatory footnotes have been added in an attempt to elucidate some apparent obscurities. The placenames mentioned all more or less adjoin each other in the Golden-New Inn area. They range in extent from 977 acres (Lagganstown) to 250 acres (Suirville), and are all situated in the civil parish of Relickmurry and Athassel.

Prof. Butler belonged to a well-known Catholic landed family in Co. Tipperary and was the son of Thomas Butler (1837-1919) of Ballyslatteen, who served as a magistrate in Cos. Down, Clare, Cork and Kerry. The professor was Professor of Modern Languages in Queen's College, Cork from 1895 to 1910, and Registrar of QUC from 1906 to 1910. An Assistant Commissioner for Intermediate Education in Ireland, he was also a member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the Royal Irish Academy, a council member of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society and a fellow and (1928-1930) president of the Royal Society of Antiquaries for Ireland.

In addition to numerous articles in the Journal of the Cork H & A Society Journal and the Journal of the RSAI, he was the author of *The Lombard Communes* (1906), *Confiscation in Irish History* (1917) and *Gleanings from Irish History* (1925). He resided in Mount Verdon House, Cork, now 66 Wellington Road. Amongst his papers (preserved in UCC) are notes on Irish history comprising documents copied from the Public Record Office's original manuscripts, lost when the building in the Four Courts complex housing the PRO was destroyed in 1922 during the Civil War.

Prof. Butler's paternal grandfather, Richard Butler (1792-1870), married Elinor Dillon of Donnybrook, then in Co. Dublin. According to pencilled notes on the two Famine notebooks in what is identifiable (from the rest of his papers in UCC) as the professor's hand, it was his grandfather Richard and the latter's wife Elinor who compiled both Notebooks.

Readers of this Journal may be interested in two other biographical details regarding the Butler Family. Prof. Butler's great-grandfather, John Butler (1747-1801) of Ballycarron, married Alice Scully of Kilfacle, a member of another notable Catholic family of Co. Tipperary; see "The Scullys of Kilfacle" by James O'Donoghue in *THJ* 1989 (pp. 38-51), and "William Scully of Ballycohey" by Gerard Moran in *THJ* 1992 (pp. 63-74). Finally, Prof. Butler should not be confused with his more famous namesake and uncle, Lt. General Sir William Butler of Bansha Castle – friend of Parnell; Home Ruler; supporter of the Irish language movement; Senator of the National University and for ten years *aide-de-camp* to Queen Victoria – who died in 1910.

APPENDIX

Notebook A

List of Butler Tenants before the Famine

76 op Lagganstown
No more men required

1846

Tenants before the Famine
by R. Butler of Ballyslatteen

[cover page]

Milk [?] to -----? to Capt. Ogle' from Abbey – 13
11 from B.c.n [?] & Lisgibbon

[page 1]

Ballycarron

Tenant's name	No. of Family	Able to work	Landlord	Grants of land if any
Wm. Keating	6	3	Dwyer	Nothing but a house
Patrick Keating	7	2	Quinlan	Same holding
	13	5		

2 Lower Abbey

Edmd. Crowley	4	1	Widow Stritch	No land
Js. Ryan	6	1	Widow Stritch	No land
Js. Brohan	3	1	Guilfoyle	No land
Js. Kirby [?]	7	1	Patk. Fogarty	No land
Mr. Boland	7	5	Quin	No land
Js. Stritch carpenter	2	1	Widow Stritch	No land
Js. Rorke	6	1	Widow Stritch	No land
Js. Carroll	4	1	Widow Smith	½ an acre
Mr. Curry	5	1	Js. Carroll	No land
Mr. Currinane	6	1	Ts. Keating	No land
	50	14		

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Lower Abbey

Js. Flaherty	5	1	P. Connors	No land
Js. Burke	3	1	Widow Smith	¼ acre
Ts. Guilfoyle	7	1	Same	1 acre
Wm. Guiry	6	1	Wm. Dwyer	No land
Wm. Currivan	7	1	Widow Smith	¼ acre
Davy Hourigan	3	2	Widow Smith	No land
Denis Guinan	4	1	Widow Stritch	No land
Ts. English Clerk of the Parish	5	1	Same	No land
Patk. Lory [Leamy]	7	2	Ts. Keating	No land
Mr. Burns	3	1	Patk. Kane	No land
Richd. Leary [Leamy?] tailors	6	2	Wm. Dwyer	No land
Ts. Kane - might be in the workhouse	8	0	Tom Quin	No land
Widow Burke	5	1	Widow Smith	4 acres
Mr. Carrigan lodger	2	1	Pauper	No land
14				
71		16		

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Lower Abbey

Ts. Brown	6	1	Widow Burke	No land
Patk. Cahill	6	2	Widow Smith	½ acre
	12	3		

Six acres and ½ of land
 — [?] 133 human
 beings on Lower Abbey

Upper Abbey

David Fleming	2	1	Ts. Keating	1 perch
Js. Currivan	4	1	Living with Widow Currivan	No land
Thos. Quin	5	1	Ts. Keating	¼ acre
Edmd. Brohan	6	2	Rev. G. Smith	4 acres

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Lagganstown

Householder's name	No. of family	No. able to work	Quantity of land	Who he holds under	
Pat. Burke tailor	3	1	1 acre	Sir Henry Keating ²	m P.W
Michl. Ryan mason	3	1	No land	Same landlord	m
Laur. Miers labr.	6	1	Do.	Same landlord	m P.W
Danl. Heffernan do.	7	2	1 acre	Same	m P.W
Darby Carroll do.	5	1	No land	Same	m P.W
Js. Brien	4	1	4 acres	Same	P.W
David Nagle old soldier	6	3	3 acres	Same	P.W
Connor Kennedy	3	1	No land	Same	m P.W
--- Ryans smith	7	4	3 acres	Same	P.W
Mr. Hourigan	7	1	¼ acre	Same	P.W
Thos. Murphy	2	1	2¼ --	Same	P.W
Mr. Murphy	4	1	5 ---	Same	P.W
Timothy Gibbons					
Wm. Ryan	4	1	2 --	Same works at Galty View	
	61	19	21½ acre		
Wm. Boland	3		0		

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Widow Ryan 3

Lagganstown

Timy Dea no house	self	1	No land	Sir H. Keating	m
Tim Ryan's woman	3	0	No land	Same	
Widow Power	5	0	1 acre	Same	
Js. Walsh labr.	4	1	1 acre	Same	m P.W
Darby Maher	2	1	1½ acres	Same	m
Widow Connors	4		0	Same	m
Pat. Fennessy lodger	2	1	0		
Js. Nagle	4	2	0	Same	P.W
Mr. Cussen	1	1	0	Same	P.W
Leond Mahony	5	2	4 acres	Same	

Ts. Nagle carpenter	3	1	No land	Same
T-- [?] Wid. [?] Brian				
having family	11	0	-- acres	
Wid. Finnane	3	0	0	D. Ryan 55 a.
J. Hickey no house	4	1	0	
14				
	51	11	7½	

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Derrycloney

Householder's name	No. of family	No. able to work	Quantity of land	From whom held		
Thos. Hanrahan	7	2	¼ acre	[?]	m	P.W
Wid. Ryan	3		1 acre	Same	m	
Edmd. Lonergan	5	1	2 acres	Same		P.W
Js. Loughnane	7	1	0	Rd. Loughnane	m	P.W
4						
	22	4	¾			

Ballyslatteen

Patk. Burke tailor	5	1	0	Wid. Keating 50	m	
Michl. Smith	6	1	1	Same	m	P.W
Denis Keogh	7	2	4	Rd. Keating 50	m	P.W
Tim Hogan weaver	5	1	4	Same		
Patk. Keeffe labr.	6	2	2	Same		P.W
Ts. Kinnealy	6	2	0	Wm. Buckley	m	P.W
Ml. Nagle	7	1	1½	Rdwd. Ryan		P.W
7						
	42	10	12½			

Ballyslatteen

Tom Walsh	2	1	0	Lodger		
Js. Elliot	5	2	2	Wid. Markly	m	P.W
Ts. Dillon	5	1	1	Same		
Edmd. Cummins	8	3	1	Same		
Wid. Mara	6	0	5	Ed. Ryan		
Ts. Whelan labr.	3	1	0	Lodger		P.W
Js. Ryan mason	5	1		0	m	P.W
8						

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Names recommended by me to Capt. Ogle for work at Lisgibbon

Ter. Brien
Js. Donohoe
P. Brown
Js. Grace

Wilm. Loughnane [?]

P. Connors

Js. Smith

E. Kerwick

Wm. Hill

Lagganstown

27 heads of families

112 individuals requiring food

30 persons able to work

47 acres of land, of these 2 widows holds 18½ acres

and have 11 in family without food and none able to work.

These persons have paid up their last May rents and also a running gale that has been all-owed them hitherto.

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Hymenstown

Five heads of families

23 individuals requiring food

6 able to work

9 acres of land

Masterstown

Six heads of families

41 individuals requiring food

12 able to work

15 acres of land

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Derrycloney

Four heads of families

2 individuals requiring food

4 able to work

3¼ acres of land

These three townlands are the property of Mr. Robbins – the tenants all but four hold immed. under him and their rents are paid to May 1846.

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Ballyslatteen

15 heads of families

78 individuals wanting food

19 able to work

21½ acres of land

None of these persons live under me.

[page 13]

Boys and Women looking for work on Road

David Lentera [?] Bel ----

Miers woman Lagganstown

Heffernan do. do.

David Nagle do. do.

Ryan woman do.

Ts. Mahony boy

Kirwan girl Belt [?]

Hogan's house

Mullane woman

Keogh girl

Fahy's boy Js. Keating

Ml. Nagle child do.
 Elliot boy do.
 Cummins do. do.
 Ts. Walsh girl
 Js. Brien woman
 Wid. Connors little girl
 Mary Walsh woman
 Donovan boy

Ts. Nagle
 Brien Hennessy boy
 Wm. Hourigan boy
 Bridget Hourigan
 Pat Brien Wid-son
 Tom Ryan ---- to Michl.
 Tom Butler boy Masterstown

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	tons	cwt.		
Ge----r				
Elliot breaking stones	6	10	5	5
3½ days on the road			1	9
2 do.			1	0
share of ground dug			10	2

Jany 22 pd

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	tons	cwt	2	d
Kinnealy ----				
Breaking stones	8	4	6	10
3 days on road			1	6
2 days do.			1	0
Share of ground			10	2

Jany 22 pd

2 8

Payments

16 10

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Kinealy pd

Donovan pd

2 0

2 0

2 6

1 0

1 6

2 0

1 10

2 0

2 0

12 4

2 6

Breaking stones c ---- d

2 0

Digging ground

5 0

16 10

2 6

	2	0
	1	7
	2	0
	2	6
	2	0
	12	3
	3	0
	2	6
	18	1
Donovan cash	2	0
do.	2	0
do.	1	0
do.	2	0
	7	0

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1st lot of ground dug by Elliot Kinealy & Lonergan Earned by E. and K.	12 10 2 6 10 4	Pd. Londergan ----t.	2 6
2nd lot do. dug by ed. Kinly and Donovan	13 6 5 0	Pd. Donovan	5 0
----- for 2nd lot	8 6 1 6		
P ---- d by E. and K -----	10 0		

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N.B. Relief Committee in Golden Co. Tipperary - Famine

Com. for relief Golden	----mh - Townlands
Viscount Chabot Chm.	Patk. Green
Sir H. Keating V.Cm.	Par. Ballygriffin
Lr. Creagh	Cloughleigh & -----
Robt. -----	Monteen & Ardobreen
Thos Butler Ballycarron	Ballycarron, Lisgibbon
Thos. Scully	Bawnbrack
Rev. J. M. Poole	Golden
Rev. J. O'Connor	Golden
Richard Creagh	Sergt's. & Comerford's lot
Richd. Butler Ballyslatteen	----- Ballyslatteen
Henry C. White	Ballinlne, Ballinlough
Jerh. Scully	Mantlehill & Knockroe
Js. Mathew	Thostown

Edmd. Dalton
Wm. Dalton

Ballygriffin
Thostown, Ballyglasheen

[page 19]

Mahony
Js. We -----
Ryan Blert [?]
Hogan ch ----
Hogan Cloughleigh
Maley
Biddy

Notebook B
Famine Relief Meal Fund (Ballyslatteen) 1847

**Subscriptions to the Meal Fund at
Ballyslatteen**

The Famine 1847
Ballyslatteen &
Ballycarron
Grandmother's writing

Butlers

[cover of notebook]

Meal Fund

Subscribers' names

Nathl. Robbins	£20	0	0
Thos. Butler pd	£15	0	0
--- Keating pd	£10	0	0
Francis Massey pd 4	£10	0	0
Rich Butler pd	£10	0	0
Children at Ballyslatteen pd	£2	10	0
Standish Butler pd	£2	0	0
----- Cleary pd	£2	0	0
	£71	10	0

pd - Michael Cleary, Pat English &
Andrew Hickey
Dl. [Daniel] Ryan, Wm. Hickey, Matt Mahony,
Matt Nugent

[page 1]

Subscribers

Andrew Hickey
Patk. English
William Hickey
Js. Hickey
Matt. Mahony
Js. Brien
Widow Keating pd

Masterstown pd
Masterstown pd
Ballyslatteen pd
Derrycloney
Lagganstown pd
Ballyslatten pd
Lagganstown pd

£71	10	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0
£1	0	0

Edwd. Heffernan	Suirville	£1	0	0
William Meyrick	Lisgibbon pd	£1	0	0
David Burke	Ballycarron pd	£1	0	0
Wm. Quinlan	Ballycarron pd	£1	0	0
Js. Peters	Ballycarron pd	£1	0	0
		£85	10	0

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Subscribers

Mr. Js. Butler	Ballycarron pd	£1	0	0
& Mrs. Butler	Ballycarron pd	£1	0	0
		£87	10	0

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Subscribers

Stephen Moroney	Lagganstown pd	£0	10	0
James Meara	Lagganstown	£0	10	0
Js. Fitzgerald	Lagganstown	£0	10	0
Richd. Brien	Ballycarron pd	£0	10	0
Js. Harragan	Ballycarron	£0	10	0
Widow Doorty	Lisgibbon pd	£0	12	6
James Dwyer	Bawnbrack pd	£0	10	0
Danl. Ryan pd	Lagganstown pd	£1	0	0
Mat Nugent pd	Lagganstown pd	£0	10	0
Widow Hogan pd	Ballyslatteen pd	£0	10	0
		£93	12	6

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Subscriptions received

Thos. Butler Ballycarron	£15	0	0	Cash pd	£	s	d
Francis Massey	£10	0	0	Jan'y 14 pd			
Richd. Butler Ballyslatteen	£10	0	0	Malcomson Brothers for			
Ballyslatteen children	£2	10	0	4 tons of Indian meal at			
Js. Butler	£1	0	0	£19 per ton	76	0	0
Mr. Cleary	£2	0	0	Pd for basin and iron stand			
Andrew Hickey	£1	0	0	for it	12	2	
Patk. English	£1	0	0	Pd for a large scoop to weigh			
Wm. Hickey	£1	0	0	meal in	6	0	
Matt. Mahony	£1	0	0	Pd for a scoop to fill	1	1	
Js. Brien	£1	0	0				
Widow Keating	£1	0	0				
James Heffernan	£1	0	0				
Widow Hickey	£1	0	0				
To Jan'y 15th cash recd.	£48	10	0		£76	19	3

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Subscriptions recd.	£48	10	0
Nathl. Robbins Esqr	£22	0	0
---- Keating Esqr	£10	0	0
Standish Butler Esqr	£2	0	0
Willm. Meyrick	£1	0	0
David Burke	£1	0	0
Willm. Quinlan	£1	0	0
John Peters	£1	0	0
Stephen Moroney	£	10	0
John Fitzgerald	£	10	0
Richd. Brien	£	10	0
Patk. Meyrick	£	10	0
Js. Harrigan	£	12	6
Widow Doherty	£	12	6
Js. Dwyer	£	10	0
	£88	2	6

Balance brt. forwd.	£76	19	3
Jany 15. Pd Messrs. Sargint for			
10 cwt. wholemeal	£9	10	0
Feb'y 2nd Bt. of R. Grubb and			
Sons 1 ton of wholemeal	£19	10	0
Pd in advance by me	£17	16	9
Feb'y 12 - Recd. from J. B.			
treasurer to the fund the above			
balance of	£17	16	9

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Subscriptions recd. since Feb'y 12	£88	2	6
Matt Nugent	£	10	0
Widow Hogan	£	10	0
Mrs. Butler Ballycarron	£1	0	0
	£90	2	6

Subscriptions yet unpaid

Js. Hickey	£1	0	0
Edwd. Heffernan	£1	0	0
Dl. Ryan	£1	0	0
Ts. Meara	£	10	0
	£3	10	0
	£93	12	6
Honbl. Js. Massey pd 5	£5	0	0
Feb'y 28 Michl. Gavin Esqr			
(of Kilpeacon)	£5	0	0

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1847

Jany 23rd	Paid John Butler as treasurer of the Ballyslatteen meal fund the proceeds of our 1st day's sale	£11	11	2½
--- 26th	Paid John Butler and recd. on 2nd day's sale	£4	16	0
Feb'y 29th	Pd Js. Butler do. on this day's sale	£15	13	6
		£32	0	8½
Feb'y 1st	The 4th day of sale Pd J. B.	£1	5	9
5th	Pd J. B. this day amt. of sale	£20	10	7
12th	Pd J. B. this day amt. of sale	£21	9	10½

19th	Pd J. B. this day amt. of sale			£75	5	11
				£22	7	6
				£97	13	5½
Feby 24th	Total amt. recd. for meal sold previous to this date					
26th	Sum handed J. B. amt. of this day's sale			£23	8	4
March 5th	Do.	do.	do.	£23	2	7½
---- 12th	Do.	do.	do.	£23	0	7½
---- 19th	Do.	do.	do.	£21	1	½

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to the editor of this Journal for drawing his attention to the Notebooks, and to Mr. Sean O'Driscoll, MA, of 24 Lime Trees Road East, Douglas, Cork, who in turn alerted the editor to their existence and location. For assistance with footnotes the author is indebted to Dr. Denis G. Marnane, Tipperary town. He is also indebted to Mr. Paddy Leamy of Marlhill, New Inn, who was consulted regarding the identification of surnames and placenames in the Notebooks, and who advised that descendants of a substantial number of the families named in the Notebook still reside in Co. Tipperary, but in most cases in townlands other than those mentioned in the Notebooks.

FOOTNOTES

1. For. Capt. Ogle, a Famine relief officer, see Parliamentary Papers 1847, Vol. 50.
2. Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Keating (1777-1847), owner of Lagganstown Upper and Lower.
3. Robbins was a local landowner with 1,500 acres in three townlands.
4. The Masseys lived at what is now known as O'Malleys of Suirville.
5. See n4.