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# Templemore houses and castles – drawings by Robert Smith

By Arthur Carden

The Victoria and Albert Museum<sup>1</sup> holds about 130 drawings by Robert Smith. The majority of the drawings are of buildings in India but there are over 50 drawings of Irish buildings, ruins and tombs of which several are of places in or near Templemore (a list appears at the end of this article). All the drawings are of great interest, having been made in about 1820 before the days of photography. It is hoped that this article will make them more widely known.

Robert Smith (1792-1883) was born in Dublin, and though he was a Lieutenant in the 44th Regiment when he made the Irish drawings, it is likely that he was on leave from his regiment rather than posted to Templemore Barracks when he found time to make the drawings. Those which survive may be those which the owners of the buildings did not buy. In 1840 he joined the Office of Arms at Dublin Castle, becoming Athlone Pursuivant. Some additional information has been recorded by Mallalieu<sup>2</sup> and in the Hayes Index<sup>3</sup>.

The author was told of the existence of the drawings by the Irish Architectural Archive<sup>4</sup> and had supposed this article would contain the first reproductions to be published until he found one in a book by Ann Crookshank and the Knight of Glin.<sup>5</sup> Though it is clear that Bence-Jones was aware of them, they are not directly mentioned in his book *A Guide to Irish Country Houses*.<sup>6</sup>

This article is confined to drawings of certain buildings in or near Templemore of special interest to the author. Advice has been received from Nancy Murphy and others, whose help is gratefully acknowledged.<sup>7</sup>

## The Castle, Templemore

The Carden family arrived in Ireland about 1665. They lived in Templemore Castle from 1698 until an accidental fire in about 1740. They acquired the castle from the Earl of Arran together with some 3,000 acres of land, a mill, and the profits of a fair, 'all being parcels of the Lordship of Templemore'.<sup>8</sup>

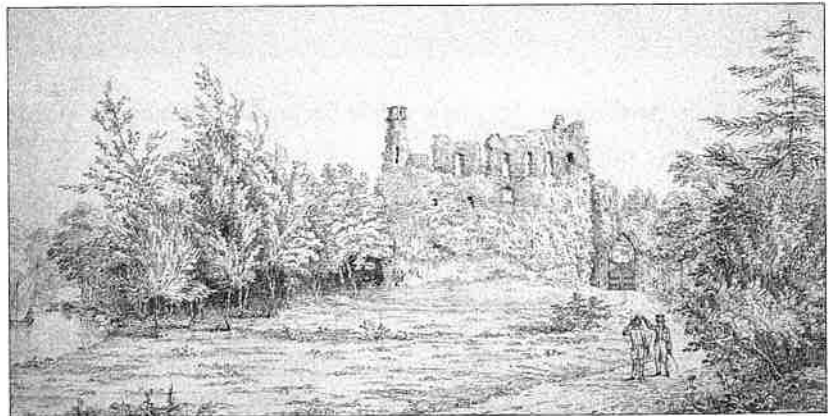


Photo: V & A Picture Library. Detail from D.261

Figure 1: Ruins of Templemore Castle. Robt Smith Del 1818

## Templemore House

Lewis stated in his 1837 Topographical Directory<sup>9</sup> –

The castle was, so lately as a century ago, the family residence of the Cardens, but in consequence of its accidental destruction by fire they removed to another house in the demesne, which was lately pulled down ...

It is believed that the house in Figure 2 is the one built following the fire in the castle. Building the house may have been one of the first acts of John Carden (1720-1774), grandson of John Carden who established the family at Templemore, when he became responsible for the estate on his father's death in 1747.

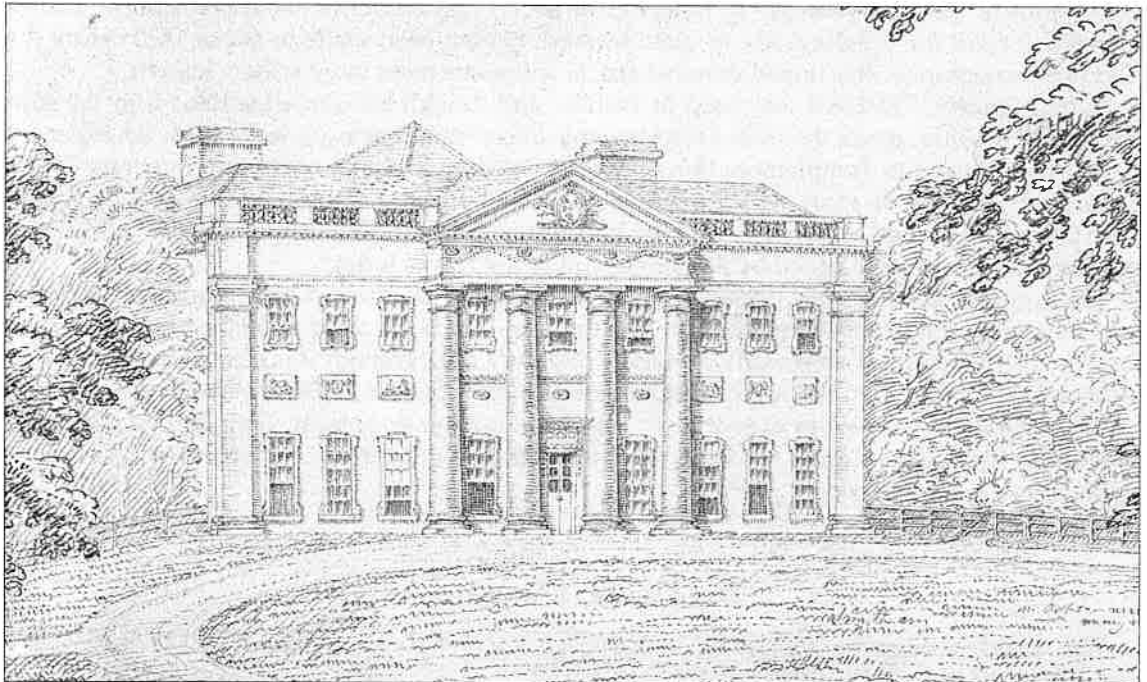


Photo: V & A. Picture Library. Detail from D.258

Figure 2: Templemore House. The Seat of Arthur Carden Esq. Rbt Smith Lt 44th Regt Del 1819.

In 1795, Seward's Hibernian Gazetteer<sup>10</sup> states, referring to Templemore, 'here is the handsome seat of Sir John Craven Carden.' In 1810 Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary<sup>11</sup> also mentions 'Sir John Carden's handsome seat at Templemore.' The adjective 'handsome' certainly seems appropriate to this house rather than to The Priory illustrated in Figure 3.

By 1819, the date of the drawing, John Craven Carden (1757-1820), who was created a Baronet of Ireland in 1787, was in charge and had built and moved into the house illustrated in Figure 3. His son Arthur (1777-1822), it seems, occupied the unwanted house. Arthur only succeeded to the title for two years, and he or his successor had demolished the handsome house by 1737.

## Templemore Priory and Templemore Abbey

Lewis continues –

the house was pulled down] for the purpose of erecting a new mansion on a more elevated spot. Since the demolition of the old house, Sir H.R. Carden's family has resided at the Priory, a modern building adjoining the Park, erected by the late baronet. The demesne, exclusive of the Park and large plantations, comprises 200 statute acres. It is situated within one mile of the town, and is surrounded with gardens and shrubberies laid out with much taste. . . . The park is well wooded, and contains a large sheet of water.

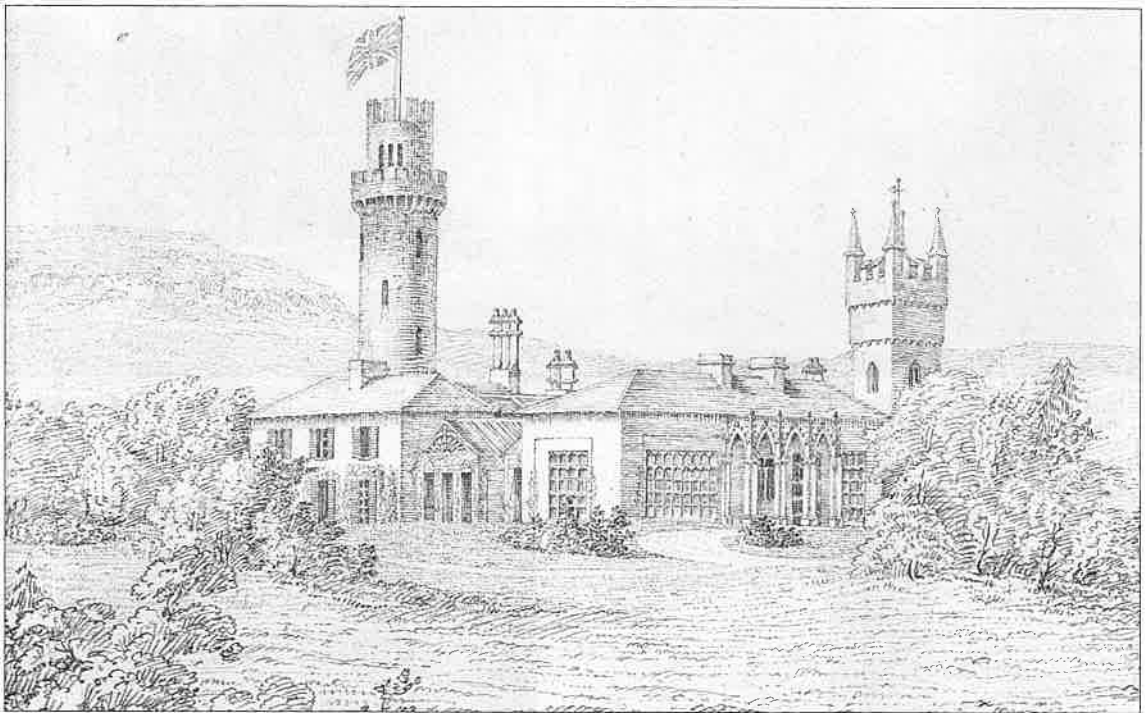


Photo: V & A. Picture Library. Detail from D.259

Figure 3: Priory Templemore. The Seat of Sir John Craven Carden Bart. Rob. Smith Lieut 44th Regt Del 1819.

Bence-Jones describes this house as 'no more than a single-storey Gothic cottage with a very tall round tower and a crocketed square tower.' These two towers are a considerable puzzle. They appear to have been of much earlier origin than the middle of the 18th century when the Priory was constructed.

He continues: 'it was subsequently greatly enlarged by William Vitruvius Morrison, in the Tudor-Gothic style.' This enlarged house, named Templemore Abbey, is illustrated in Figure 4. It was built in 1866 by the fourth baronet, Sir John Craven Carden, and the picture shows that the right hand tower – of Figure 3 was left standing. Templemore Abbey was burned down in 1922.

Figure 5, in the possession of Mr John Lanigan of Templemore, shows that the round tower was also left standing, and indeed it remained after the house was destroyed, being demolished in the late 1930s. In the 1902 Ordnance Survey it appears next to the formal gardens. Figure 6 shows one of the pinnacles of the right hand tower in use as a gravestone in the Catholic graveyard in Templemore. The author was shown this gravestone by Mr. C. J. d'Estelle Roe.

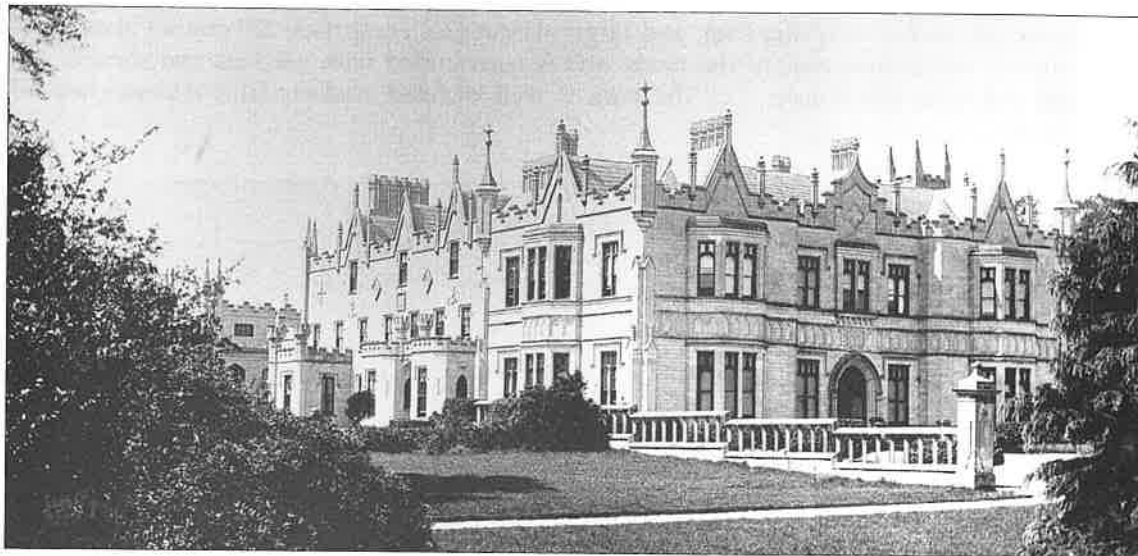


Figure 4: Templemore Abbey

Photo: Sir John Carden Collection



Photo: Nancy Sheppard, about 1925

Figure 5: Round Tower



Figure 6: Pinnacle.

Photo: Arthur Carden 1999

## Woodville Lodge

This house, half-a-mile to the south of Templemore, still stands, as may be seen from Figure 8. Now called 'Woodville,' it is owned by Mr Eugene Kelly, whose grandfather bought it in 1910<sup>12</sup>. Mr Kelly made many changes to the house in 1974, on the advice of architects with questionable judgement, including the removal of the wing which appears in Robert Smith's drawing. A number of original internal elements remain, including a large internal fanlight behind the portico, tile flooring and elaborate pillars framing a bay window not visible in the drawing or photograph, on the west wall of the house.



Photo: V & A. Picture Library. Detail From D.257

Figure 7: Woodville Lodge (Templemore) Co. Tipperary The Seat Of D. J. Webb Esq. Robt Smith Lt 44th Regt Del 1819.

In addition to The Priory, in 1837 Lewis mentioned the following local gentlemen's seats: Lloydsborough (J. Lloyd, Esq.), Woodville Lodge (D. J. Webb, Esq), Belleville<sup>13</sup> (The Hon. C. J. K. Monck), and Eastwood (T. Bennett, Esq.). If Robert Smith made drawings of the others, they have not survived. It is believed locally that 'Captain' Matthew Webb, born 1848 in Shropshire, who swam the English Channel in 1875 (the first person to do so), was a member of the same Webb family.<sup>14</sup>



*Figure 8: Woodville.*

Photo: Gerry Buckley, 1999

It appears possible that Woodville incorporates an earlier house called Jockey Hall, and that this is the building attached to its west side as seen in Figure 9. This building was much modified in 1974 and apparently had a ground-floor window in the north face and an entrance doorway where a recess can be seen in the middle of the west wall.



*Figure 9: Woodville.*

Photo: Arthur Carden, 1999

Jockey Hall was the residence of Nicholas Carden, a younger brother of John Carden (1731-1789) of Barnane, from about the time of Nicholas's marriage in about 1755 to a Catholic, and consequent ostracism by the family. Several of his children were born at Jockey Hall. His son or grandson Robert emigrated to Australia, and there are many of his descendants living there.

## Barnane

Jonathan Carden, the eldest son of the first Carden to live in the castle at Templemore, acquired the Barnane estate some five miles to the west of Templemore in 1701, although he had already leased the property and lived in the medieval castle there for some years.

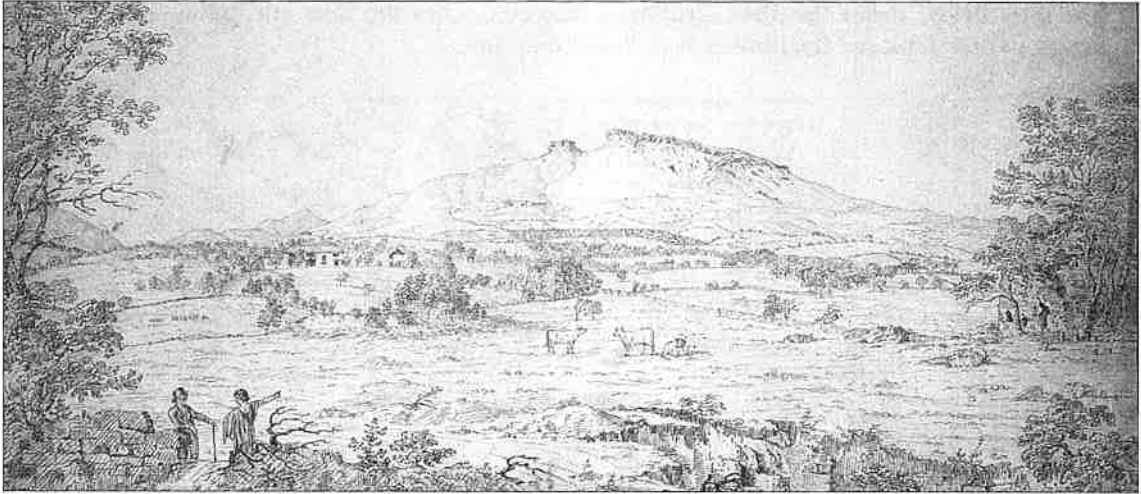


Photo: V & A. Picture Library. D265

*Figure 10: Rock of Barnane or Devil's Bit. Robt Smith Lt 44th Regt Del Sept. 1818.*

This fascinating drawing of Barnane before the mansion (illustrated later) was built is difficult to interpret. As will be seen from the attempt below to take a photograph from the same viewpoint, Robert Smith employed a degree of artistic licence. Perhaps he made the drawing in his studio from notes made on the spot.



*Figure 11: Same View in More Recent Times.*

Photo: Arthur Carden,



The Devil's Bit is rather less dramatic than in the drawing, and an additional conical hill has been added on the left. The lake no longer exists, but it would have been impossible to see from this viewpoint, being located in the low ground in the middle distance. The graveyard in the right foreground of both pictures helps to identify the viewpoint. These matters make it difficult to identify the position of the house, which was undoubtedly the one lived in by Woodcock Carden as a child.

The map below, from the 1840 Ordnance Survey, shows the lake and graveyard, and the mansion (which replaced the house) as it was at that time.

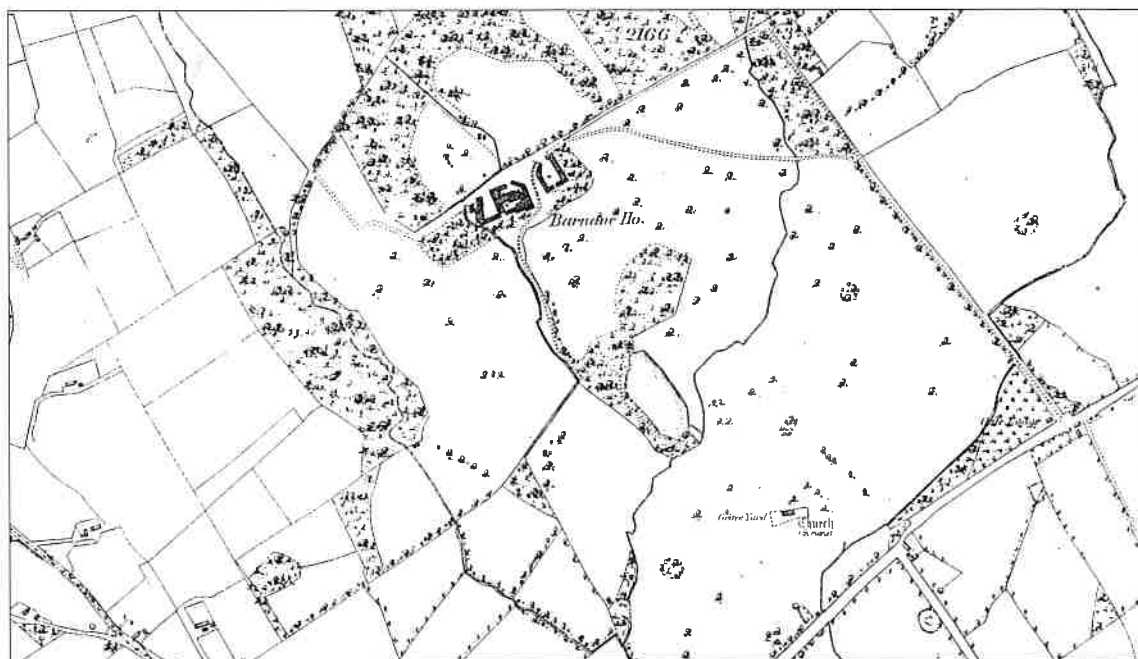


Figure 12: Extract from Ordnance Survey Ireland.

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The author speculates that the house in Figure 10, and enlarged in Figure 14, was on a site to the west of the mansion shown in the above map, in a position where a walled garden was later constructed. This speculation partly arises because of the possibility that the 'Gardener's House' – Figure 13 – at the SW corner of the walled garden might have been constructed from the original medieval tower house. The latter was on the site when it was acquired by the family in 1701 and the Cardens of Barnane probably lived in it for half a century before expanding it into the house illustrated by Robert Smith. It would also be logical for the new mansion to have been built alongside the house, so that the family could continue to live in the latter during the construction work.

However, Dr. Siobhan Geraghty, Heritage Officer, Tipperary (NR) County Council, disagrees. Visiting the site in April 2000, she declared the building as being of the same period as the garden wall into which it is inserted. It is also strange that the 1840 Ordnance Survey shows no building at this point. The theory is nonetheless mentioned here in case more evidence emerges.



Photo: Arthur Carden, 1999

Figure 13: The Gardener's house at Barnane

The Gardener's House at Barnane. Support for the idea that this was originally a late-medieval tower house is given by the fact that the walls of the lowest storey are 'battered' and contain arrow-slits. The unseen sides of the lower storey may have been buried when the land was levelled to create the walled garden and terrace.

The enlarged drawing below (Figure 14) shows no sign of the tower house which might have been nearby.

John Rutter Carden (1811-1866)<sup>15</sup> was aged seven when Robert Smith's drawing was made. His father died a couple of years later in 1822, and his widowed mother managed the estate during his minority and commenced the clearance of tenants. When he took charge it was reported that he

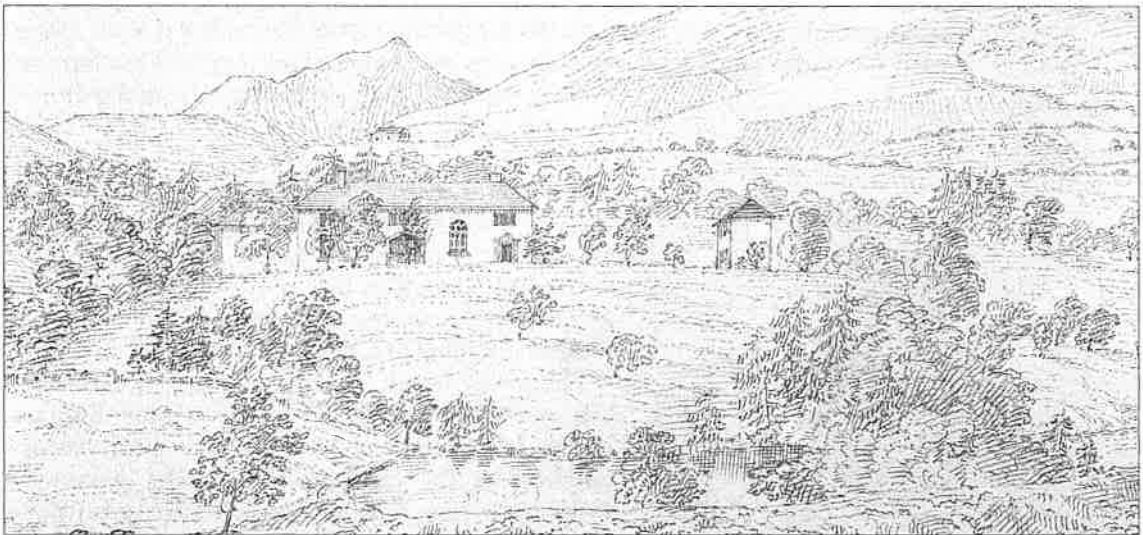


Figure 14: Detail from Figure 10.

earned the nickname 'Woodcock' because those who shot at him always missed. By the time of the 1840 survey, when Woodcock was still only 29, the new mansion had been built. His mother had a considerable fortune of her own, so it is not unreasonable to suppose she embarked on the project soon after her husband's death.

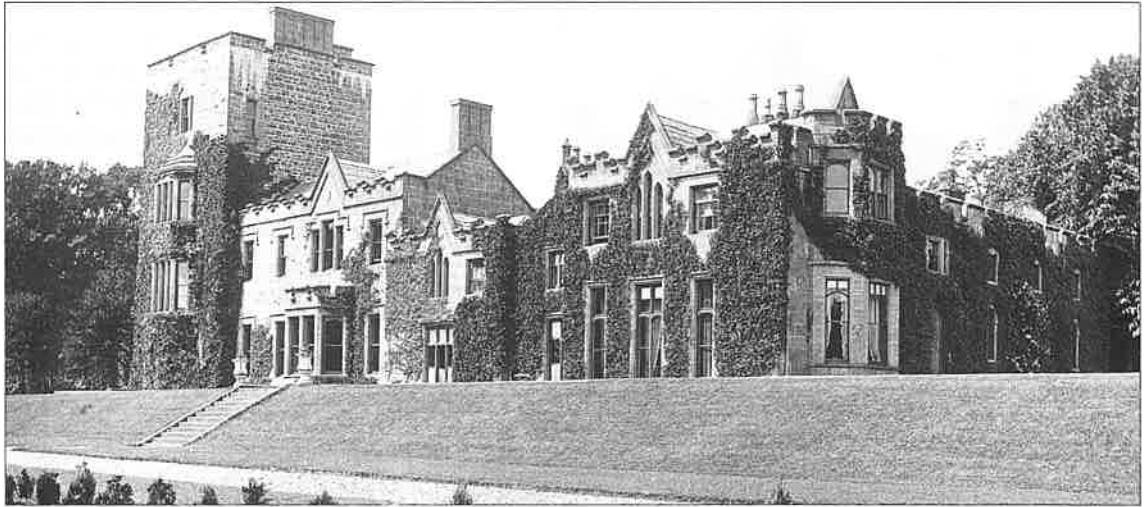


Figure 15: *Barnane*

Photo Courtesy of The National Library of Ireland: Lawrence Collection R 8023, About 1900

Sullivan tells a rather fanciful story, quoted more completely in an earlier issue of this journal:

... the insurgent tenantry brought with them a number of horses and ploughs, and now commenced to plough up the beautiful and extensive lawn before the hall-door. Mr. Carden had a swivel-mounted cannon on the top of the castle; he loaded it with grape-shot in view of the ploughing party, and then sang out to them that they had ten minutes to depart. They unyoked in five, and galloped off.<sup>16</sup>



Figure 16

Photo; Arthur Carden 1999

Whether this story related to the house in Robert Smith's drawing, or to the mansion illustrated in Figure 15, it is impossible to tell.

The last Carden to live at Barnane died in 1932, and the house became a ruin in about 1945 when in the ownership of Mr. Walter Thompson.

The tower house in Figure 16 is at Killawardy, just outside the east boundary of the Barnane estate. It was also diagnosed as a 19th century building by the Heritage Officer: the stonework looks very like that of the Barnane 'gardener's house.' This could explain why it is not in the Ordnance Survey letters and why it is not mentioned in Geraldine Stout's book<sup>17</sup> on the monuments in Ikerrin barony. Local oral tradition is that it was built by the Lloyds, and the tower under the Devil's Bit built by the Cardens, as competitive 'follies.'

## Knockagh

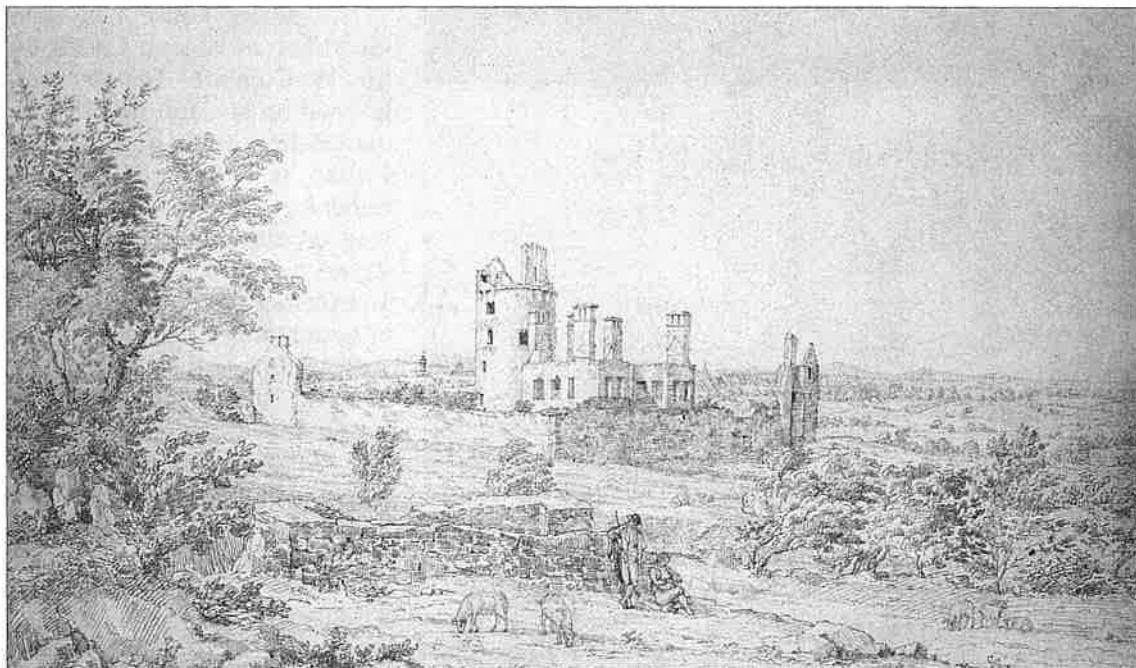


Figure 17: Knockagh Castle. Robt Smith Lt 44th Regt Del Aug. 1818.

Photo: V & A Picture Library, Detail from

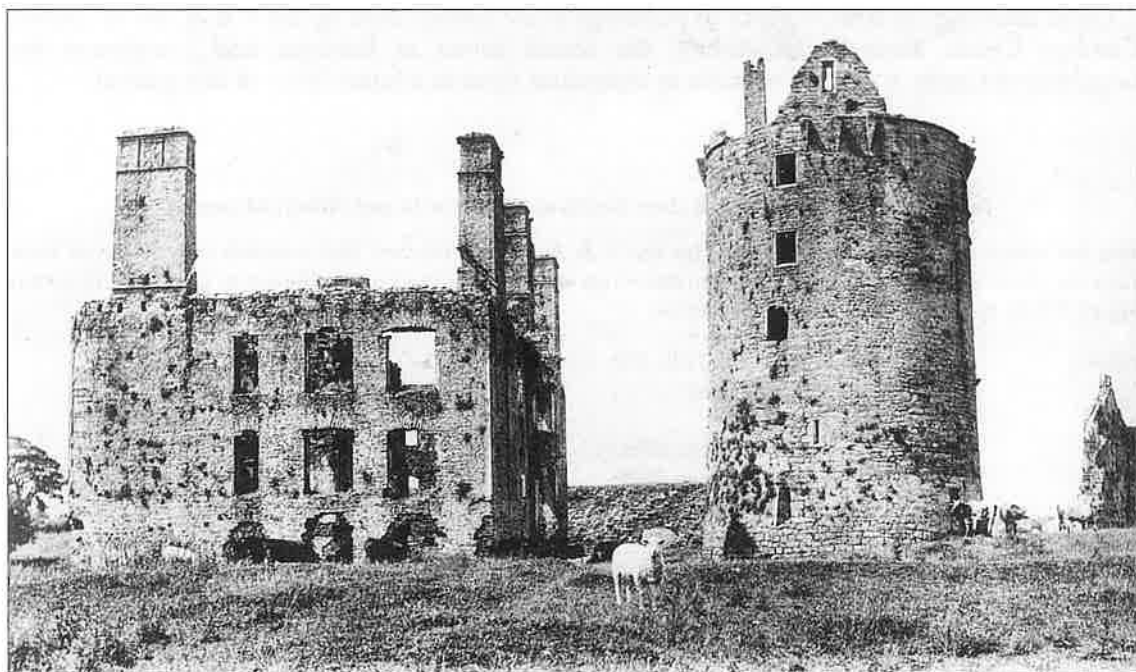


Figure 18: Picture Postcard of Uncertain Date in The Possession of Mr John Lanigan.

## Cloone Castle

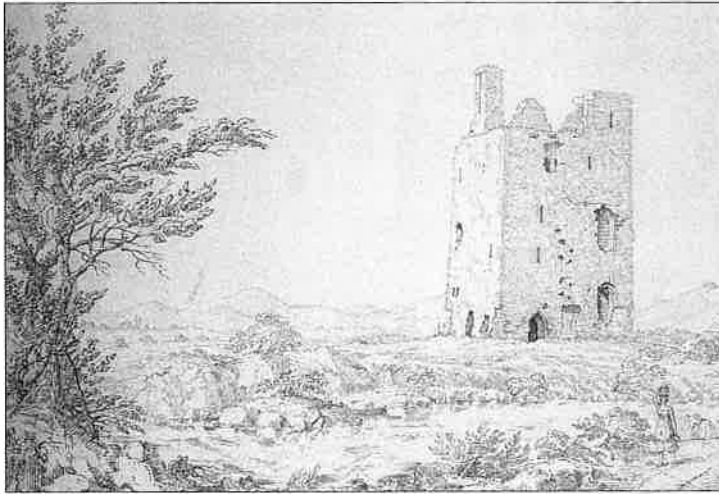


Photo: V & A. Picture Library Detail From D.260

Figure 19: *The Only Caption On This Drawing Is 'Robt Smith Lt Del 1818,' But A Manuscript Note Says 'Near Templemore Co Tipperary.'*

This tower house has been identified as Cloone Castle by Mr. W. Cullen of Templemore. It stood on his land until it was demolished in about 1920. Mr. Cullen is now aged 93 and remembers the tower well. It was on the west bank of the River Suir, south of Templemore in the civil parish of Loughmore East.

According to the Civil Survey of 1654: 'There is in Cloane . . . a Castle and a Bawne in reparaire, and the Walls onely of a stone house standing, and some few thacht Cabbins.'<sup>18</sup> It was held by 'Philip Purcell gent. Irish papist . . . in fee by descent from His Ancestors.'

## Other County Tipperary drawings

Other drawings by Robert Smith of buildings in the county, held by the V & A, are of Cashel, Clanboo Castle, Holy Cross Abbey, the round tower at Roscrea, and Loughmoe (or Loughmore) Castle. It may be possible to reproduce them in a future issue of this journal.

### Appendix – Drawings by Robert Smith at the Victoria and Albert Museum<sup>19</sup>

The list which follows is that prepared by the V & A Picture Library, but includes only those of Irish subjects, all of which are in Folio Q4a. The drawings were bequeathed to the library in 1891 by R.H.Soden Smith, F.S.A. Nos. 136-181 are in small format.

Adare:	Desmond Castle. 1820. (Co. Limerick)	D 163 – 1891
"	Augustinian Abbey	D 173 – 1891
"	Trinitarian Abbey	D 156 – 1891
Aney:	Baggotstown Castle. 1819. (Co. Limerick)	D 162 – 1891
"	Kilballyowen House. 1820.	D 157 – 1891
Birr:	Castle (Parsonstown). 1820. (Kings Co.)	D 146 – 1891
Bruree:	Castle. 1820. (Co. Limerick)	D 164 – 1891
Buttevant:	Abbey. 1820.	D 141 – 1891
"	Abbey of Ballybeg. 1820.	D 139 – 1891
"	Castle. 1820.	D 140 – 1891
Cashel:	Cathedral on the Rock.	D 256 – 1891
"	Hore Abbey. 1820.	D 165 – 1891

Clanboo:	Castle. (Co. Tipperary) 1821. <sup>20</sup>	D 136 – 1891
Clonfert:	House. 1821. (Co. Galway)	D 172 – 1891
“	Cathedral. Doorway. 1820.	D 179 – 1891
“	St.Brandon’s Glebe. 1821.	D 170 – 1891
Clonmacnois:	Temple.McDermot. Doorway. 1820 (Kings Co.)	D 181 – 1891
“	Stone Cross. 1820.	D 180 – 1891
“	The Seven Churches. 1820.	D 145 – 1891
Castle Dermot:	Abbey. (Co.Kildare)	D 255 – 1891
“	Stone cross. 1821.	D 144 – 1891
Dungarvan:	View. 1818. (Co. Waterford)	D 166 – 1891
Glendalough:	The Seven Churches. 1821.	D 168 – 1891
Holy Cross Abbey:	1819. (Co. Tipperary)	D 262 – 1891
Hospital:	Church. 1820. (Co. Limerick)	D 159 – 1891
“	Monumental Effigy. (? G.de Maresco 1226). 1820.	D 160 – 1891
“	(near) Cromlech. 1820.	D 161 – 1891
Kilcoleman:	Castle. 1820. (Co. Cork)	D 138 – 1891
Kilconnell:	Abbey. Exterior. 1820. (Co Galway)	D 142 – 1891
“	Monuments. (2). 1820.	D 143,178 – 1891
Kilkea:	Castle. 1820. (Co. Kildare)	D 177 – 1891
Kilmallock:	Abbey. Exterior. 1820. (Co. Limerick)	D 149 – 1891
“	Interior. (2). 1820.	D 153,155 – 1891
“	Church. Exterior. 1820.	D 150 – 1891
“	Abbey. Monuments. (2). 1820.	D 152,154 – 1891
“	Church. Interior. 1820.	D 151 – 1891
“	Southgate. 1820.	D 147 – 1891
“	A street. 1820.	D 148 – 1891
Knockagh:	Castle. 1818. (Co. Tipperary)	D 264 – 1891
Loughmore	Castle. 1818. (Co. Tipperay)	D 263 – 1891
Moydrum	Castle., 1821.	D 266 – 1891
Roscrea:	Round Tower and Church. 1821.	D.137 – 1891
Templemore:	House. 1819.	D 258 – 1891
“	Woodville Lodge. 1819.	D 257 – 1891
“	Castle. 1818.	D 261 – 1891
“	Priory. 1819.	D 259 – 1891
Miscellaneous views in Ireland (10), listed by the author as follows:		
	Lough Gur. (Co. Limerick)	D 158 – 1891
	Ruins (unidentified)	D 174 – 1891
	At Glendalough (see Glendalough above)	D 171 – 1891
	The Meeting of the Waters, Co Wicklow	D 167 – 1891
	Waterfall at Glen Alalur	D 169 – 1891
	Castle (unidentified)	D 175 – 1891
	Bellwood Cottage	D 176 – 1891
	House (unidentified)	D 254 – 1891
	Near Templemore	D 260 – 1891
	Rock of Barnane	D 265 – 1891

## FOOTNOTES

1. The copyright of the drawings by Robert Smith is held by the Victoria and Albert Museum and this document has been produced with the Museum’s consent.
2. Mallalieu, H.L., *The Dictionary of British Watercolour Artists up to 1920*, Woodbridge, 1976.

3. Hayes, Richard James, *Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation*. G K Hall & Co, Boston, 1965. The Index contains five entries referring to Smith's progress from his appointment as Junior Pursuivant in June 1840 until his death on January 13th 1883. There is no information about him held at the Genealogical Office and he is not mentioned by Susan Wood in her London University thesis on the Office.
4. The Knight of Glin informed the author that a number of the drawings at the V & A had been photographed for him many years ago, and the photographs deposited with other papers at the IAA. One was used in the book mentioned in the next footnote, and for an IAA Christmas Card.
5. Crookshank, Anne and the Knight of Glin, *The Watercolours of Ireland, works in pencil pastel and paint c 1600-1914*, London, Barrie & Jenkins, 1994.
6. Bence-Jones, Mark, *A Guide to Irish Country Houses*, London, Constable, rev edn 1995.
7. Many helpful comments on a draft of this article have been received from Mrs. Nancy Murphy of the Ormonde Historical Society, and also from Mr. John Lanigan and Mr. C. J. d'Estelle Roe of the Sijster Ainé Historical Society, Templemore, from the Knight of Glin, and from others. Thanks are also due to Mr. Nicholas Spence for help with photographing some of the drawings and for checking many of the quotations and references in the author's absence abroad.
8. Lease dated 1698 mentioned in Walsh, Paul P., *A History of Templemore and its Environs*, Roscrea 1991, p.19, and Deed dated 1704 copied by Sir Lionel E.G. Carden about 1900, before the destruction of the Four Courts in 1922.
9. Lewis, Samuel, *A Topographical Directory of Ireland*, 2 vols, London 1837.
10. Seward, William Wenham, *The Hibernian Gazetteer*, Dublin 1789.
11. Carlisle, Nicholas, *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, William Mather, London 1810.
12. Mr. Kelly was kind enough to show the author around his house in November 1999.
13. Walsh (Op Cit, p 23) states "[Lord Monk] lived at Belleville House until 1823 . . . It would seem that Belleville House was demolished soon afterwards, and the property became part of Carden land." It is therefore not possible, as some claim, that Templemore House and Belleville House were different names for the same building.
14. *Dictionary of National Biography*, Concise Edn., OUP, 1992.
15. For a biography of John Rutter Carden and the story of his attempted abduction of Miss Eleanor Arbuthnot, see the author's article "'Woodcock' Carden – a balanced account" in *The Tipperary Historical Journal*, 2000, p 120.
16. Sullivan, Alexander M., *New Ireland*, London 1877, p182 et seq., reprinted in James White *My Clonmel Scrap Book*, Waterford 1907.
17. Stout, Geraldine T, *Archaeological Survey of the Barony of Ikerrin*, Roscrea Heritage Society, 1984.
18. *The Civil Survey, 1654-1656, County of Tipperary, Vol 1*, edited Robert C. Simington, Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1934.
19. The V & A hold negatives of the drawings reproduced in this article and a few others, and may be willing to lend them. They will photograph the remaining drawings on request.
20. The drawings of Clanboo Castle and Roscrea Round Tower appear to be title pages for two volumes "View of Ireland". No trace of such volumes has been found.