

This on my ring,  
This by my picture,  
In my book I write.  
Whether I sing,  
Or say, or dictate, this is my delight.

**George Herbert**  
1593-1633



# The Herberts of Currans and Cahernane

Includes Sketch of the  
Leahys of South Hill

Produced by Janet Murphy  
May 2011  
Available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

# Introduction

Though often poets have sung in vain  
To praise Killarney and fair Lough Lene,  
Sweet Muckcross and the West Demesne,  
    With Cahirnane's plantation;  
But let them view that rural seat,  
    So rare, so rich, so nice, so neat.  
So well secured from cold and heat.  
So blooming bright the darkest night,  
    Diffusing radiant beams of light  
    Much like a constellation.

**Mount Eagle, Castleisland by Ulick Kerin**  
(*Uileog Ó Céirín*) 1791-1863

**I**n May 1966, the remains of Gwendolen Egerton Herbert were interred in the family vault at Killeagy graveyard, Muckcross, an event that closed the curtain on the Herbert family's four hundred year history in Co Kerry.

Scant record is found of that history. Had the mansions of Muckcross and Cahernane, residences of the Herbert family, not survived the political turmoil of the early twentieth century – when so many residences of the gentry were burned to the ground – there would be little to remind of the family's presence in the area.

Muckcross House, a State owned folk museum, is magnificently symbolic of Herbert family history. Nearby Cahernane House, which functions today as a hotel, less so. Yet it was at Cahernane that the final chapter of the Herbert story unfolded.

The following sketch of the Herberts of Currans and Cahernane was aided by the research of former Civil Servant, Eileen Chamberlain. The time Eileen invested in this production was provided *ex gratia*. Her contribution to the unearthing of Kerry history is recognised in a selection of our email exchanges which is appended to this work.

Janet Murphy  
Killarney  
May 2011



Having been tenant long to a rich lord,  
Not thriving, I resolved to be bold,  
And make a suit unto him, to afford  
A new small-rented lease, and cancel th'old.

George Herbert

The history of the Herbert family in Kerry is told in the fortunes of Edward and Arthur, sons of Thomas Herbert of Kilcow.<sup>1</sup> Arthur, the youngest, established a residence Currans House and there evolved the Herbert family of Currans.<sup>2</sup>

Arthur married Mary Bastable of Castleisland and raised a large family. His eldest son George inherited Currans House in 1747, but died three years later. When George's son Arthur, rector of Tralee, died in 1760 at age 37 (his son Richard Townsend an infant), the early family history at Currans House went with him.<sup>3</sup>

Arthur, a brother of George, had established a new residence Cahernane House.<sup>4</sup> The tragedy of the hereditary line of his brother he addressed in the bequest of his home to his grand nephew, Richard Townsend.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas of Kilcow was the first of the Herberts to settle in Castleisland c1656. He was agent for his cousin Edward, 3rd Lord Herbert of Cherbury (see *Antient and Present State of the County of Kerry*, Charles Smith, 1756, pp36-38). Thomas descended from Sir Richard, brother of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. Earlier, in the later half of the sixteenth century, Charles Herbert (b1567; also descended from the said Sir Richard) and kinsman, Sir William (d1593; descended from the Earl of Pembroke) had spent time in Kerry as planter and undertaker following Queen Elizabeth's grant of lands (styled 'Mount Eagle Loyal') to the Herbert family. A number of properties are associated with the family at this period, including the castle of Castle Island (a ruin); Sandville House, Dysert, and Kilcow House, Dysert

<sup>2</sup> Note alternate spellings of Currans and Cahernane. Edward Herbert's history is told in the Herberts of Muckcross, symbolized in their former residence, Muckcross House, now a folk museum. See 'The Herberts of Muckcross', *Killarney History & Heritage* edited by Jim Larnar, The Collins Press, 2005

<sup>3</sup> Currans House, which was located between Killarney and Castleisland, was built c1700. It had a number of occupants following the Herberts, including Bland and Parker, but fell into ruin and was destroyed by fire in the late twentieth century

<sup>4</sup> Also referred to as Rockwood. Built in Queen Anne style c1750, it replaced an earlier structure on land purchased by Arthur from Colonel Maurice Hussey. It was rebuilt c1877 by Henry Herbert (1818-1898) and is utilized today as a hotel (The Cahernane House Hotel)

<sup>5</sup> Arthur Herbert of Cahernane married Lucy Brewster of Brewsterfield but they had no issue. He died in October 1771. It is suggested he bequeathed Brewsterfield to another nephew, Arthur Bastable Herbert



Cahernane House



Muckcross House

Richard Townsend's early life is not recorded. By profession he was a barrister, and represented the county in parliament. He also presided at the Irish Board of Stamp duties, and was chairman of Imprest (National Public Accounts). His marriage to Jane Stoughton of Lixnaw produced a large family of twelve.<sup>1</sup>

It is in the generation of Richard Townsend's eldest son, Arthur, that evidence of the family's import surfaces in public literature.<sup>2</sup> It is found in a press report of his death. Rev Arthur had taken a seat on a jaunting car to Tralee

On their way from Killarney when coming down the hill near Farranfore turn-pike, the harness was broken and the splash-board pressed upon the horse, which dashed off at full speed. The Rev Gentleman ... leaped off the vehicle and came heavily on the side of his head and shoulder

Rev Arthur was taken to a nearby cottage where an operation was performed but he died shortly after. Few, reported the *Kerry Evening Post*, were ever conveyed to the silent earth with feelings of more widely spread sorrow and intense regret

It is not alone in the circle of his own fire-side and hospitable board; it is not alone among persons of his own high class or creed that his death has created such unmingled regret. There is not one within the whole range of our county, whatever may be his grade in society, or even amid the angry politics of the day who has not heard of his melancholy end with deep and heart-felt regret or who will not long cherish the memory of the warm-hearted man, the urbane and unaffected gentleman

The report of his funeral, one of 'the most numerous processions that assembled in that neighbourhood for several years' and attended by 'high and low', 'rich and poor', 'of all creeds and classes', was equally charitable:

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Townsend Herbert (1754-1832). Educated at Trinity College, Dublin. Member of the Irish Bar 1780. Member of Parliament for County Kerry 1783; Clogher 1790; Granard in 1800. Appointed by His Majesty's Commissioners 18 July 1789 'for the stamping and marking vellum, parchment and paper and for managing the duties thereupon'

<sup>2</sup> Rev Arthur Herbert (1783-1835), rector of Castleisland, married Jane Denny, daughter of Rev Maynard Denny of Church-hill, Co Kerry in 1811. Their large family included Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Herbert of Torc Cottage, Muckross



Sir Thomas Herbert  
younger brother of Rev Arthur

On this mournful occasion the most deep and heartfelt sorrow at the melancholy and untimely death of as amiable and beloved a gentleman as ever lived, and whose death will long cast a gloom over the neighbourhood in which he resided

A number of poetic tributes were published, including one by Moore

It is not the tear at that moment shed,  
When the dark grave has just been clos'd o'er him  
That can tell how belov'd was the soul that's fled,  
Or how deep in our hearts we deplore him!<sup>1</sup>

A six verse lament by 'R.R.' continued the praise

A good man lies dead – one whose smile was a sun,  
That oft lit up with joy the face darken'd with care;  
The friend of the poor – but his race is now run;  
And those who would die for him weep in despair.<sup>2</sup>

Eldest son Richard found himself head of the household.<sup>3</sup> A sense of the carefree in the years of pre-famine Ireland is detected in a Killarney-Cambridge four-oared boat race on the lower lake entered into by Richard's brothers, Henry, Edward and Thomas, their opponents students of Trinity College, Cambridge. The Cahernane boys triumphed in the private bet, winning ten pounds in the process from Henry Herbert of Muckross for drawing such accolade on the locality.<sup>4</sup>

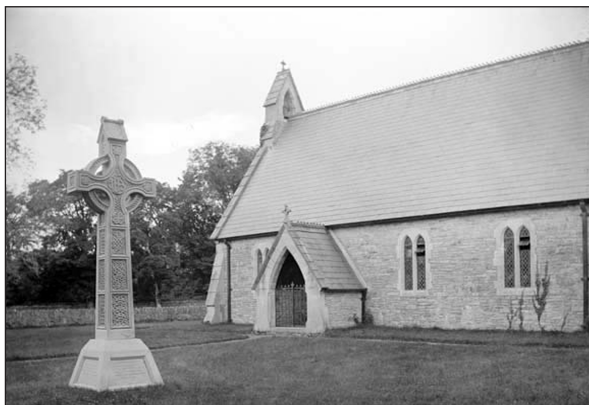
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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Moore (1779-1852) composed this verse on the death of a relative; it is included in *The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore* published in Paris by Galignani in 1827

<sup>2</sup> *The Kerry Evening Post* 25 and 29 July 1835. Rev Arthur was rector of Castleisland, Ballycushlane, Disert (Dysert) and Killeentierna from 1832 until his death. He was rector of Mourneabbey, Co Cork 1810-1832. He was buried in the family vault at the Church of Ireland Killarney. Following his death, kinsman Thomas Herbert was instated rector of Killeentierna and Dysert until his death in 1878

<sup>3</sup> Richard's mother Jane, 'an excellent and high-minded lady of the old and much beloved Church-hill branch of the Denny family' died at Cahernane House on 25 February 1858. *Tralea Chronicle & Killarney Echo*, 26 Feb & 2 March 1858

<sup>4</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 13 September 1841



Muckross Church in the 19th Century  
Built and endowed by Henry Arthur Herbert  
of Muckross in the early 1830s



Village of Cloghereen in the 19th Century  
Killeagy burial ground is identified on the distant hill by  
the celtic cross, a memorial to H A Herbert of Muckross

Rev Richard was actively involved in community affairs. In September 1855, he accompanied Henry Arthur Herbert of Muckross to greet the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland who turned the first sod of the new line of railway between Killarney and Tralee.<sup>1</sup> During a subsequent visit of the Lord Lieutenant, Lady Spencer and Prince Arthur, he officiated at a service held at Muckross church, when Rev Edward Herbert of Killarney Church of Ireland declined the honour on personal grounds.<sup>2</sup> He stood guarantor for the rebuilding of Killarney Church of Ireland.<sup>3</sup>

In January 1861, Rev Richard and his brother Edward gathered with leading members of the local gentry at Killarney's Railway Hotel to celebrate the coming of age of Henry Arthur Herbert of Muckross.<sup>4</sup> Shortly after this, the brothers had a celebration of their own: the return of another brother, Henry, after an absence of several years in Australia.<sup>5</sup>

Henry was a welcome figure at Cahernane for the single status of Richard meant that, as second eldest, the family fortunes rested with him.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 20 September 1855. George William Frederick Howard (1802-1864), 7th Earl of Carlisle, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1855-58 and 1859-64

<sup>2</sup> John Poyntz Spencer, 5th Earl Spencer, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland 1868-1874. Rev Edward Herbert had issue with the political stance of Henry Arthur Herbert, whose father had built the church. A reporter described the situation as farcical, and likened both Herberts to characters in Shakespeare's 'Comedy of Errors': 'Dromio of Syracuse was not more like to Dromio of Ephesus'; *Daily News*, 30 April 1869

<sup>3</sup> A twelve year project that began in 1858. Rev Richard acted as guarantor with John Leahy, QC, Henry Herbert, Dunkerron, John Martin, Killarney and C Goodman; see 'Consecration of Killarney New Church', *Kerry Evening Post*, 27 August 1870

<sup>4</sup> *Freeman's Journal* 31 Jan 1861. Richard Herbert's brother, Lt Col Edward Herbert (1820-1882) was captain of the Kerry Militia. He appears not to have married. His last address was Muckross Hotel, Killarney. In his will he remembered, in addition to his brothers Henry and Thomas and sister Penelope, 'his faithful servant man, Thomas Ellin'

<sup>5</sup> 'In which colony it is stated that Mr Herbert has realised a handsome fortune', *Freeman's Journal*, 16 May 1861

<sup>6</sup> Rev Richard Herbert (1816-1875). Entertained Lord Bishop of Limerick at Cahernane House in 1836 and 1839; member of the Kerry Grand Jury 1839; appointed to the curacy of Cahir, Co Kerry in 1842; actively involved in the Killarney Savings Bank, 'Rev Richard Herbert, with his usual urbanity and kindness, attended at the distribution', *Morning Chronicle*, 13 June 1854 and *Freeman's Journal*, 3 Nov 1852; attended address to Surgeon Charles O'Callaghan for services in the Crimea, *Freeman's Journal*, 29 April 1856. Rev Richard died in Rome, to where he had travelled with family members for the benefit of his health, on 24 February 1875 aged 59. He was buried in the English burial ground at Rome (*Tralee Chronicle & Killarney Echo*, 5 March 1875)



Cahernane House in the 19th Century



Symbolic Herbert Griffin  
set above the entrance to  
Cahernane House

If thou chance for to find  
A new House to thy mind,  
And built without thy Cost,  
Be good to the Poor,  
As God gives thee store,  
And then my labour's not lost.

George Herbert

Rev Richard Herbert died in 1875. Within two years of his death, Henry Herbert had rebuilt Cahernane House.<sup>1</sup> Newly wed to a Muckcross cousin, the couple were discontented with the existing structure, in particular the sanitary arrangements which consisted of a series of outside closets erected like sentry boxes, and superintended by a man nicknamed 'Patsy the Bucket'.<sup>2</sup> On completion of his new home in 1877, Henry had also completed his family of five, one son and four daughters.

In the community Henry was a magistrate, a member of various boards including the Asylum and Killarney Boards of Guardians, and in 1879, High Sheriff. He was also a 'good and generous landlord'

His tenants were attached to him, but they belonged to the Land League, under whose edict they had to withhold their rents; he was so kindly that he could not bring himself to dismiss any of his employees when they and their fathers before them had worked on the place for so many years<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Shortly after his return from Australia he had married Katherine Stewart, niece of Henry Arthur Herbert of Muckcross by his sister Louisa and husband Rev Edward Stewart of Sparsholt, Winchester

<sup>2</sup> *Bricks and Flowers, Memoirs of Katherine Everett*, London: 1949, p13. In this memoir by Henry's daughter Katherine, she described the destruction of the old Queen Anne house as tragic and its replacement 'a vast cube of grey cement', p20

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* p21. The volatility of the period is illustrated in the assassination of middle-aged kinsman, Arthur Edward Herbert of Killeentierna in 1882. Mr Herbert was returning from his duties as a magistrate near Castleisland when he was shot dead. The murder was widely covered in the press, including *The Kerry Sentinel*, 31 & 4 April 1882; *The Kerry Evening Post*, 5 April 1882; *The Graphic*, 15 April 1882; *Freeman's Journal*, 1, 4, 5, 6 April 1882 & 9 Jan 1883; *Daily News*, 3 April 1882; *York Herald*, 5 April 1882; *Leeds Mercury*, 6 April 1882; *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, 8 April 1882, *North Eastern Gazette*, 20 December 1883; *Belfast News Letter*, 6 June 1883



Stained glass in Killarney  
Church of Ireland

Rebuilding his home during the period of the land war had left Henry with a burden of debt. He could be found sitting alone brooding over his finances

He felt helpless to cope with his difficulties, and no whisky-and-water could relieve him from the constant fear that his bank would demand the reduction of his overdraft<sup>1</sup>

In 1896, Winifred Rutledge, Henry's eldest daughter, died in childbirth in Dublin.<sup>2</sup> It was there that Henry, while comforting his family, passed away. His body was returned to Killarney for interment at Killeagy in Muckross, as had his daughter's before him.

A transcription of the officiating Archdeacon's speech at the funeral gave insight into Henry's years in Australia

We have known Henry Herbert, many of us, a long time, but his active honourable life goes back further than probably any one present can remember. As a young and strong man, before he took up the duties of a resident landlord at home among his people, he lived an enterprising and active life in Australia, where he made remarkable discoveries in little known regions

Describing Henry as a kind and indulgent landlord, a just and merciful magistrate, supporter of the church who had 'very much to do with the erection of the building', the Archdeacon added

When a man has for some years retired from public life, he is often forgotten; other men step in and take his place, and the old friend is not remembered. It was not so with Mr Herbert. He was not, he is not, he will not be forgotten<sup>3</sup>

Shortly after Henry's funeral, it was reported that the Right Hon Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, would visit Killarney as guests of Professor and Mrs Butcher of Danesfort. The party would be joined by Mr and Mrs Jameson of Edinburgh who had rented Cahernane House.<sup>4</sup> The Herbert link to Cahernane was already loosening.

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<sup>1</sup> *ibid*

<sup>2</sup> An inscribed stained glass window to the memory of Winifred and her father can be seen in the Church of Ireland, Killarney

<sup>3</sup> *The Kerry Evening Post*, 19, 22, 26 January 1898

<sup>4</sup> *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 17 Aug 1898



# Church of Ireland Killarney

Inset, end of the line: memorial inside  
the church to the sons of Arthur Herbert  
of Cahernane



Their lives for their country,  
their souls to God

Inscription to Geoffrey Richard Arthur Herbert and  
Christopher Reginald Courtenay Herbert in Church of Ireland Killarney

Henry's son Arthur inherited Cahernane House in 1898, but times had changed for the landed families of Ireland. Status no longer held command and debt seems to have been Arthur's main inheritance. In October 1899, it was reported that a marriage had been arranged between Arthur and Theresa Boyle, daughter of Gerald and Lady Theresa. The marriage took place in London in December, Arthur's sister Violet was bridesmaid. Following the wedding, Arthur and his bride left for the Isle of Wight.<sup>1</sup>

The couple appear to have spent little time at Cahernane House and in the early part of the twentieth century, the house was in a poor state of repair. It was at this period that Cahernane House took on its new identity as a hotel, when Arthur leased to an assortment of hoteliers and associations.<sup>2</sup>

Though his marriage realised two sons, neither survived, and the direct line was severed.<sup>3</sup> In the face of this tragedy and rising debt, Cahernane House was sold to Cork café proprietor, Vincent Albericci.

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<sup>1</sup> *Morning Post*, 23 Oct 1899 & 15 Dec 1899

<sup>2</sup> Names include Gilmour, Sharp, and the Polytechnic Touring Association. Arthur was a restless soul. He appears not to have settled anywhere for very long, and had a number of addresses in Switzerland, London, the Isle of Wight and Majorca. In London he was a director of the North London Railway

<sup>3</sup> Geoffrey Richard Arthur Herbert, born at Cahernane in 1902 and Christopher Reginald C Herbert, born in 1906. Geoffrey was educated at Cambridge and worked for the Diplomatic Service in Bulgaria. He was a good linguist who gained knowledge of Bulgarian and Arabic. He was transferred to the Foreign Office and then to Cairo where, following promotion in 1929, he died at his post in 1930. Christopher, a pilot officer in the Royal Air Force, was killed in action over Holland in June 1941 shortly after marrying Celia Winifred Roundell, of Dorfold Hall, in Cheshire. A plaque to the memory of Geoffrey and Christopher is erected in the Church of Ireland, Killarney



### Herbert Griffin

Formerly erected at main entrance to Muckcross House  
as can be seen from the nineteenth century image below



Arthur's youngest unmarried sister, Gwendolen Egerton Herbert, an art teacher who had worked at the Slade School of Art in London, and had travelled widely, retained a small portion of what remained of family land. In the 1920s she returned to Ireland and set up home in a 'flat pack' style house, the arrival of which in Killarney generated great interest. Gwendolen's house was assembled in the former gardens of Cahernane House and there she lived until 1944, when alternative living arrangements were made between her and the Hilliard family, who purchased adjoining lands.

Gwendolen renovated and took up residence in a nearby gardener's cottage, and it was there that her brother Arthur, in poor health, returned to spend his last years with her. There is a story told of a fishing trip on the lake in the 1940s during which Arthur fell overboard and, being a well built man, his companion was unable to pull him back on board. He had to be held onto until he could be beached on the lakeshore.

With this image falls the curtain on centuries of history of the noble Herberts of Currans and Cahernane, Arthur stranded on the lakeshore, close to his abode, a converted gardener's cottage.

Arthur died in November 1954; a small, unremarkable notice appeared in the local press.<sup>1</sup> His sister Gwendolen lived on in the cottage (since demolished) until her death in 1966 and was a great spirited woman, who planted trees, tended gardens, and involved herself in community affairs. Carved griffins of the Herbert crest removed from the entrance to Muckcross House were gifted to her on her return and still stand ceremoniously amid the foliage at the entrance gate to her cottage, a crumbling reminder of what was once a grand part of Killarney's history.

Shortly before she died, Gwendolen went to Majorca to pay off some of her brother's debts, a noble gesture from an elderly lady living alone in a gardener's cottage. She was buried at the family vault in Killeagy, an event unacknowledged in the local press. Shortly after this her sister Violet arrived in a station-wagon to clear out her few belongings, and with them, all trace of the Herbert history in Killarney was removed.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Kerryman*, 6 November 1954

<sup>2</sup> There is a story told of Gwendolen falling feet first to the sky on the Church of Ireland steps, telling those who later asked after her 'it's really ok, I had quite pretty things on underneath'

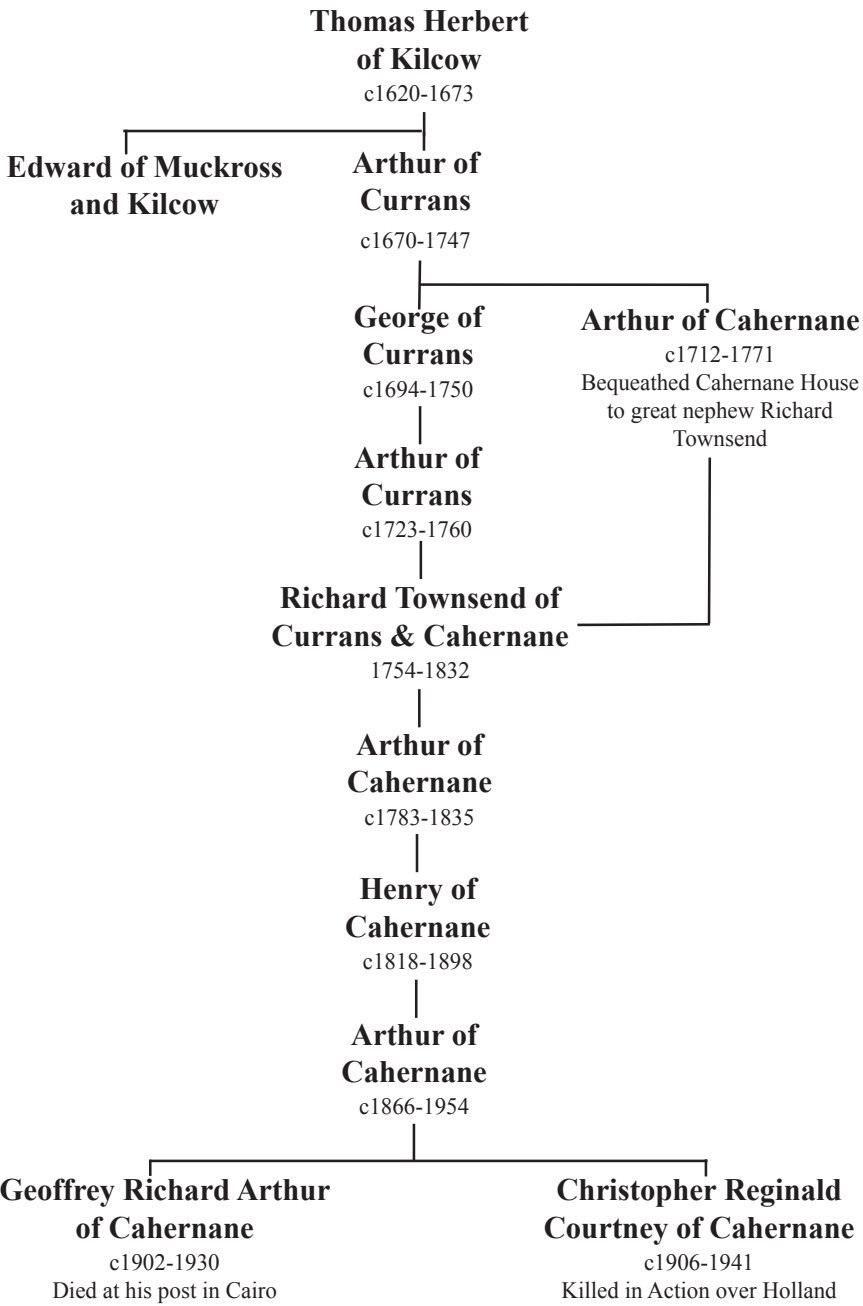


### From Mansion to Flat-Pack

Mr Hilliard of Killarney pictured outside Gwendolen Herbert's former residence and below, Herbert tomb at Killeagy burial ground, Muckross



# The Herberts of Currans & Cahernane



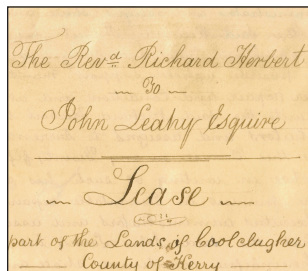


Ah! oft I strayed to that old mill  
 In summers that are dead,  
 By rich Woodlawn and down the lane  
 ‘Cross stepping stones I sped.  
 To Coltsman’s Seat and thro’ the weir  
 To verdant Rookery.  
 Then home again by Lover’s Path  
 To dreaming Sheheree

from Jeremiah King’s *History of Kerry*

In September 1825, Richard Townsend Herbert leased land to John Leahy, agent to the Muckcross Estate.<sup>1</sup> This arrangement was important, for the erection of a mill there would impact on the history of the power supply to Killarney.

The land at Coolclogher included a water-course mill site and dam, and small inoperative grist mill on the river Flesk.<sup>2</sup> Leahy planned to erect a corn mill, a project he expanded in 1840 by agreement with Richard Herbert.<sup>3</sup> Leahy’s four-storey corn and flour mill stood in close proximity to his home, South Hill House.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Leahy worked as agent to several estates, including Mr Herbert’s of Muckcross and Ardferit

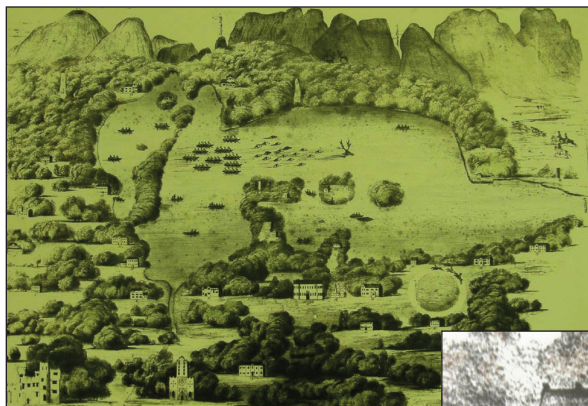
<sup>2</sup> Grist mill was a simple, water-powered mill in widespread use throughout Ireland from the seventh and eighth centuries. The milling business known as John and Richard Leahy & Co operated from College Street and Upper New Street, Killarney. John Leahy was also involved with the business of Deenagh flour mill, worked by the river of the same name in Killarney, his associate Christopher Gallwey. No trace of this mill remains. Christopher Gallwey was declared bankrupt in 1851

<sup>3</sup> Flesk mill was valued by the Ordnance Survey in 1845 at £1000

<sup>4</sup> John Leahy renovated an existing early eighteenth century house to create South Hill House, a substantial twenty-five room residence for his family. The front was added to again in the 1840s, planned, it is suggested, on Muckcross House



South Hill House  
and below, 1837 depiction of the Lakes of Killarney by  
Cornelius K Farrelly, Mr Leahy's residence inset



Leahy played a prominent role in town affairs. In 1830 he responded practically to the threat of famine in Killarney on learning a cargo of potatoes had arrived into Milltown

Mr Gallwey instantly ordered out Lord Kenmare's horses and carts, this example followed by Mr John O'Connell, Mr Leahy, Rev Mr Hyde and the coach company and their carts and cars returned laden, on Monday evening and were again despatched on Tuesday morning for another load. Were it not for the exertions made by the benevolent, many must have perished<sup>1</sup>

This scene of labour is contrasted with one of leisure, in a stag hunt which took place shortly afterwards and in which John Leahy and his family participated. O'Connell of Grena had organized the event to 'entertain visitors to the lakes and benefit the inhabitants of the town'. The 'new line of road' at the Eagle's Nest was animated: passengers from 'the haughty aristocrat to the humble clod of the valley' assembled as fifty barges, 'freighted with the rank, beauty and fashion of the neighbourhood' including the Earl of Kenmare, Hon Thomas Browne, gentlemen of the 'Wax Club' and 'the Cahirnane family' made ready. Also there were more than thirty boats from 'the middling and humbler classes'. The 'Liberator' and 'Captain Tangnee' gave notice

It would be impossible to attempt a description of the scene during near an hour while the hunt continued on shore, with the music of the dogs, reverberated by a hundred echoes, and on the lake Spillane, Ganzy and Fleming's bugles, the Irish and Scotch pipes, a half dozen village Paganinies, treating with a Dutch melody<sup>2</sup>

Ultimately, the stag became 'the prize of Mr Richard Leahy'.

Richard Leahy, John's second son, and his sons John Richard and Charles Edward assumed the business interests of the mill.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, 30 June 1830

<sup>2</sup> *Freeman's Journal*, 7 August 1833. 'Paganinies' allude to Italian violinist and composer Niccolò Paganini (1782–1840)

<sup>3</sup> In 1850, Richard Leahy operated a steam mill in Tralee. He married Eleanor Nash, daughter of Rev Edward Nash and his wife Clementina of Ballycarty House, Tralee. The couple lived at Strand Street House, Tralee with their thirteen children. Richard died in his early fifties; his obituary in March 1865 described him as hardworking in agricultural and mercantile affairs. He was stamp distributor for the county. His widow also died in her early fifties, in November 1876 at Strand Street House. The family tomb of Richard Leahy is located in the Church of Ireland, Ballyseedy



One of the Leahy tombs at Killeaghy  
and below, plaque inscribed to Henry Leahy, 25 years land  
agent to the Muckross Estates, erected by Col Arthur  
Leahy and Henry Arthur Herbert of Muckross



Leahy's eldest son John, a barrister, and fifth son Henry assisted their father in his land agency. In 1844, shortly before their father's death, John jnr described before the Devon Commission the dilemma facing the landlord on the eve of the Famine<sup>1</sup>

There is a farm on the Muckcross estate which has lately fallen out of lease, containing thirty acres and I wish to mention some circumstances about it, to show to what an injurious extent subletting is frequently carried. The lease was made about the year 1800; the rent was £10 Irish. It was then let to one tenant. There are on it now twelve families and supposing there to be on an average six persons in each family, there would be seventy-two persons. With such a mode of cultivation as there is in this country, this farm could hardly support the population on it. In cases like this some of the occupiers must of course leave; and though I do not approve of what is called depopulating farms, yet in such cases the landlord must choose between removing some occupiers, or lose a great portion of the value of his property<sup>2</sup>

John Leahy's decision to expand his corn mill in 1840 short years before the famine was to prove disastrous. In post-famine Ireland, the industry was in decline.<sup>3</sup>

In the years that followed, Flesk Mill ceased trading.

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<sup>1</sup> John Leahy died in 1846; a report of his death described him as active and intelligent, warm and steadfast. *Kerry Evening Post* 24 June 1846

<sup>2</sup> The Devon Commission enquired into the occupation of land. John Leahy pursued a career in law but Henry Leahy continued as land agent to the Muckcross Estates until his death in 1870 at age 50

<sup>3</sup> At its zenith, between its construction in the 1820s to the onset of a revolution in the manufacturing process of flour (a roller system of grinding replaced that of stone), the Flesk Mill was said to be making £5,000 per annum (*Ireland, Industrial and Agricultural*, published by Dept of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, Dublin, 1902). Steamships and cheap American corn (with its loss of export market), the post Famine population decline, and competition in the home market, all contributed to the demise of Irish mills. The decline was illustrated in *The Gael* magazine (New York) in November 1900, when it recorded that Killarney had, in 1833, 'extensive flour mills, iron smelting works, copper mines, tanning, bangle linen making, a bleach green and fulling mill, two breweries, two tobacco and snuff manufactories'. By 1899, all had gone 'with the exception of a very small tanning establishment and a flour mill, and a tweed factory'



Flesk Mill in ruin



Ballyseedy Church  
of Ireland  
and right, Richard Leahy  
family tomb



In 1879, Thomas Edison's carbon-filament light bulb was generating interest in a new technology – electricity. A bill passed in the UK Parliament in 1882 (Electric Light Act, amended in 1887) encouraged investment in this new form of energy. In 1890, Charles Edward Leahy approached the Killarney Town Commissioners for sanction to provide electricity to Killarney from the Flesk Mill.<sup>1</sup> He intended the supply to be at a competitive rate to the existing one of gas.

The Town Commissioners initially adopted Mr Leahy's proposal, but later rescinded on the grounds that the Commissioners should form a company and supply the energy themselves. Over the following year, a battle raged over who should supply the town, and Leahy faced open hostility at the hands of the Commissioners, on a number of occasions being ordered out of the room or simply refused permission to speak.<sup>2</sup>

In May 1891, on the second reading of the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders Bill in Parliament, the issue was still to the fore when an objection was raised against Leahy's 'monopoly' on electric light. 'The people of Killarney are opposed to it ... there is very little need in Killarney for electric lighting at all'.

The president of the Board of Trade, Sir M Hicks Beach, placed no credence on the objection

The town of Killarney is not an ordinary country town, but it is a place that is much resorted to by visitors, and it contains a number of large hotels, which do not exist in an ordinary country town. The application for a Provisional Order was opposed among others by the Chairman of the Town Commissioners, by Lord Kenmare, by thirteen persons resident in Killarney, and by the Killarney Gas Company; but with all due respect, my opinion is that the real opposition to the Order comes, not from the inhabitants of Killarney, but from the Gas Company<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Edward's brother, John Richard had gained employment with The District Messengers Company in London which introduced the electric call system. It is likely that John Richard drew the potentials of electricity to the attentions of his brother

<sup>2</sup> *Kerry Evening Post*, 22 February, 8 March, 21 June, 23 July, 17 December 1890; 31 January 1891

<sup>3</sup> [http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1891/may/28/electric-lighting-provisional-orders-no#S3V0353P0\\_18910528\\_HOC\\_5](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1891/may/28/electric-lighting-provisional-orders-no#S3V0353P0_18910528_HOC_5)



Lt Col Percy Edward Leahy (1883-1918)  
Son of Charles Edward Leahy  
Killed in Action in Germany July 1918

Three years later, Leahy's Electric Lighting Company was evidently up and running for it was still causing upset in the locality, on this occasion however, the problem was environmental<sup>1</sup>

Previous to the starting of the electric lighting works in Killarney, the Flesk Mills sluices were never worked on Sundays and were shut down every Saturday night, but now the mill is worked every day of the week and the sluices never shut, the most important industry in the district is imperilled<sup>2</sup>

In the years that followed, Flesk Mill continued to supply Killarney with electricity, but Charles Edward Leahy was no longer at the helm. By 1911, and describing himself as a retired merchant, he was living in London with his sisters.

At some point after 1918, Charles presented a memoir of one of his sons, Percy Edward, to the Imperial War Museum. Like so many other young men of this period, he was killed in action.<sup>3</sup>

Of Charles Edward Leahy, pioneer of electric light in Killarney, no more is known.

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<sup>1</sup> The provisional order granted to Leahy in June 1891 named the streets through which mains were to be laid within two years of the order as Fair Hill, College Street, Henn Street, Main Street, Kenmare Place, High Street, New Street, Cathedral Place, road to the asylum, road from bridge opposite Flesk Mills to Countess Road, from Kenmare Place to Lord Kenmare's demesne gate, Rock Road from upper end of High Street to Union Workhouse gate on the Tralee Road; *Belfast News Letter* 16 June 1891

<sup>2</sup> That industry was the Flesk Salmon Fishery. The concern was the obstruction of the salmon to their spawning grounds, and Leahy's alleged tardiness in fitting a structure to ease the passage of the fish. [http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1894/jun/08/the-flesk-salmon-fisheries#S4V0025P0\\_18940608\\_HOC\\_25](http://hansard.millbanksystems.com/commons/1894/jun/08/the-flesk-salmon-fisheries#S4V0025P0_18940608_HOC_25)

<sup>3</sup> Lt Col Percy Edward Leahy was resident sectional engineer to the Pacific Railway in Argentina before the War. He returned to England and obtained his commission in the York and Lancaster Regiment in 1914. Lt Col Leahy served in Gallipoli and in Egypt, before being posted to the Western Front where he was mentioned in Despatches. He was killed by a shell, aged 35, while directing his men during a raid on German trenches on 17 July 1918. Lt Col Leahy is buried at Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery Extension, Paris



### Father and Son

Col Arthur Leahy (above left) of the Royal Engineers and of Flesk House, Killarney who died of Rock Fever on duty in Gibraltar in 1878 and his son Professor Arthur Leahy, translator of ancient Irish literature. A plaque to the memory of Col Arthur and his brother Thomas is erected in the Church of Ireland, Killarney.

Below, Marie Smith recounts her childhood at South Hill House to Tom O'Sullivan, whose mother Eileen worked at the house



At some stage after Charles Edward left Ireland, his brother John Richard returned to reside at South Hill. He died in 1924, his wife Sara Wilhelmina Armstrong passed on six months later, and the history of this family's historic contribution to the town was lost in the tumult of the emerging Irish Republic.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> According to tradition, John Richard Leahy's family went to America. The Leahy family vaults are at Killeagy churchyard, Muckross. There is a separate grave to John Richard and Sara Leahy. Note on John Leahy's large family: His eldest son John was a judge who died suddenly while preparing to open court: 'In his untimely departure, this county is deprived of the services of an important law officer of the Crown, who dealt out justice irrespective of creed, class or of private feeling, and who never spared time or trouble when it was necessary to bestow upon a subject a more than usual amount of reflection and care', *Kerry Evening Post*, 14, 17 October 1874; *Tralee Chronicle*, 13, 16 and 27 October 1874. John White Leahy (1852-1907), only son of Judge John Leahy, was magistrate and High Sheriff. He founded an annual gathering known as the Killarney Convention and was an exponent of Temperance: 'He would note down the names and addresses of those who were fined for drunkenness at Petty Sessions and follow up each individual case with close and personal attention, visiting them in the lanes and alleys of Killarney. In numberless other ways, he was in a special sense the friend of the poor'. John White Leahy was found dead in the grounds of his house at South Hill. He had no issue. His distraught mother died one week later. *Kerry Evening Post*, 11, 14 September 1907; *The Kerry Weekly Reporter*, 14 September 1907. Of John Leahy's other children, Arthur Leahy (1830-1878), was Colonel in the Royal Engineers; a plaque to his memory is erected in the Church of Ireland, Killarney. His residence was Flesk House. Arthur's son Arthur (1857-1928) was Professor of Mathematics at Sheffield and translator of Irish literature; among his works he published two volumes of Heroic Romances in 1905 and 1906. Daughters from the Leahy and Herbert families would marry into the Butcher family of Danesfort: Richard Townsend's daughter Elizabeth married Vice Admiral Samuel Butcher in 1806; John Leahy's daughter Mary (1821-1886) married the Vice Admiral's son, Rt Hon Samuel Butcher, in 1847. South Hill House was sold to the Hilliard family in 1925 followed by a succession of owners including Palmer and Smith. It is known today as Coolclogher House and offers luxury accommodation by the Harnett family. During a conversation in 2008, Glenflesk resident Marie Smith recalled a childhood at Coolclogher House in the 1950s: an orchard at the back of the house richly loaded with fruits and berries of all kinds; an apple house where the fruit was laid out with artistic care; a coach-house with ornamented walls for saddles and bridles and the metallic name plates of the horses, and a piggery with quaint cauldron. Maire drew water twice-daily from the well and recalled how the white coating on the surrounding trees from the lime mill gave the area a ghost-like look. She spoke of the ghost that haunted Coolclogher House, heard many a time on the back staircase. After one scare too many, Maire's parents held a special Mass to aid the restless spirit. A strictly out of bounds playground was the 'listy', seen today from the road, it remains an area surrounded by superstition (Listy Murragh (*Lios Tí Murcha*) – Fort of Murchás House). There was once a bleach green in the field beside the Flesk Mill. Weavers lived nearby; folklore tells of a clachan of weavers situated under the 'listy'. One of the uses of their woven bundle linen was military clothing



Flesk Mill  
and inset, restored Bealick Mill at  
Macroon, Co Cork; a heritage site



Flesk Mill had ceased to operate as an electricity station by the 1930s on the advent of the national supplier. The area was subsequently utilized for a period as a lime mill, later to graze horses and in the 1970s, a blacksmith burned tyres there for shoeing horses. Since then the area has fallen into disuse. The mill is in ruin.

In 1997, one century on from pioneering Mr Leahy, it was proposed to regenerate the area with hydro electricity.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://historical-debates.oireachtas.ie/D/0473/D.0473.199701220412.html>



# Appendix

Selection of email exchanges

March to May 2011

In recognition of the research of Eileen Chamberlain



**24 March 2011 17:56:17**

Hello Jan

Do you know the Jenny Joseph poem - When I am old I will wear purple with a red hat that doesn't go. Well that is my philosophy nowadays and I think it's a great one. So adopt it now and rattle your stick around the railings, pick the flowers and hoard a few beermats from your night out tonight :):)

**25 March 2011 23:48:45**

Dear Eileen

Sitting here in my purple, with red hat, raising my brandy glass to Jenny Joseph but only after you, for the introduction.

**06 April 2011 13:45:18**

Hi Eileen

Had text from my mum: 'enjoyed book, especially Eileen. Her father served same places as mine in war, brave men lucky to survive but never spoken about'. I knew my grandad was a brave man, but that's all. Your diary really is quite a treasure.

**07 April 2011 12:24:10**

Dear Eileen

Just took delivery from our post lady of a delightful red hat, with purple trim, that doesn't quite go :) What a delightful gift, thank you so much! I have just taken a photograph of it and set it as wallpaper on my mobile, a colourful reminder of a simple but insightful philosophy..

**07 April 2011 20:00:24**

Hello Jan

Pleased you like the key ring. In America there is a Red Hat Society - women inspired by the poem. I found a site on Ebay that sold their items so I sent off to America for it :) Yes Ebay is quite useful at times - it was the only place where I could buy size 18 sewing machine needles.

I heard the Queen's itinerary announced today - surprised she isn't retracing Victoria's steps. Look forward to the jarvey book - only had a couple of experiences of the modern day ones. The first was actually on a ride out to Muckross House some years ago and the second, well as I was driving an insured and taxed car I could see no harm in driving what I was later told by numerous jarveys, was the 'wrong' way round the Ring of Kerry :):):)

**24 April 2011 10:08:28**

Dear Eileen

I've been reading through the mill text this morning and it is as bad as I feared; a horrible vacuous mess. I recall that most of my 'research' in 2009 came from phone calls to my sister-in-law in the uk who had broadband and an account with ancestry and 'checked' things for me! Seems like an age ago. Perhaps now though with your help I can make a better job of it; certainly I can do no worse.

So I am taking the liberty of sending some dates, which I hope you will ignore if I'm overloading you. I brought together two families in this booklet, the Leahys and the Herberts of Cahernane (or Cahirnane), both with big histories. Whether or not it will stay that way remains to be seen. I'll begin with Leahy.

We find John Leahy in Killarney as a clerk in the Muckcross Estate Office in the late 18th century. An 1837 map shows Leahy had a fine house at South Hill, one of about two dozen that then existed in the whole vicinity of the lakes. Have a note that this family may descend from O'Brien family of Abbeyfeale 13-17 century, unconfirmed. John Leahy's land agency interests seem to have been taken up by his son Henry as there's a plaque in the little church at Muckcross 'Henry Leahy of Flesk died 20 May 1870 aged 50 land agent to the Muckcross Estates for 25 years'. The plaque was erected by Arthur Leahy, Lt Col R.E. (his brother) and Henry A Herbert of Muckcross.

This history of this incredibly large family whose tombs dominate the local graveyard at Killeagy seems to have been effaced by the misfortune of the hereditary line, and the political situation.

My main interest is the mill, and curiosity as to how the Leahys came to be in Killarney. If you can add any flesh to this story, please do. As to the accuracy of all this, I stand - always - to be corrected.

**26 April 2011 18:34:40**

Hello Jan

I had a lovely relaxing day at my son's then came home and spent the evening reading *Sketches*. I thoroughly enjoyed it. It is great how you have brought the sketches to life. By 10.30pm I was reading our emails :):) I hope my laughs weren't too loud to disturb the neighbours! My cat Elliott kept giving me puzzled glances wondering if I was ok. The biggest laugh (after your Christmas Day experiences) was your reply re the wayward Blanche (p 139)

"She was far too busy swanning around Europe with her paintbrush and fortune to concern herself with a coachman's nipper" :):):) It took me straight back to Eleanor's wedding and I let my mind run too far maybe. :)

And then the last one "Bad news .... Not our Sarah". (I think you missed out a 'to be continued' there ) By that time it was almost midnight and I took myself to bed still smiling.

I took your books over to P\_\_\_\_ leaving him a copy of Royal Killarney with his grandfather's photo. R\_\_\_\_'s father spent an hour in the sun really enjoying Killarney Sketches and I was able to answer his questions on people in the book too!!!!!!

So today I started searching. No matter what combination I used I could find no reference to Flesk/Coolclogher Mill. I enclose what little I have unearthed so far. Edward Herbert Cahirneane has an interesting piece.

Have to mention those chilling scenes on the news - the so-called Real IRA. Why why why? The past cannot be changed but the future can be.

**27 April 2011 14:12:52**

Dear Eileen

I'm so glad you enjoyed the book, like you I spent several hours reading our mails and laughing out loud. Perhaps we will both end up in the tower.

My easter passed by unnoticed. We did have a barbecue at some point, and it rained, and so we huddled in the kitchen and ate there. Apart from that I was pretty much tied to this screen. Yesterday morning I ventured out to a funeral in Beaufort church, my (former) work colleague lost her father-in-law, Donie, over the easter weekend and he was such a gentleman. His son paid him a truly beautiful tribute from the altar, including a few funny stories, the sort that paint the picture of a life. It was very well done; outside among the chaos of the cars in the car park were a couple of horses, no doubt they led the way to the burial site, but I left before then.

I had a re-think on the mill book at the weekend, and it's strange that you sent a piece on Edward Herbert (for which I thank you) because with such little information surfacing on Flesk mill, I think now the focus of the history should be on the Herberts of Cahernane - the Leahys and Flesk mill will find their place within that.

**27 April 2011 14:51:13**

Dear Eileen

This morning I have been looking at the Herberts of Cahernane (or Cahirnane) and Currans (or Currens plus other spellings too). For your information Cahernane is a lovely spot by the lake near Muckcross, and Currans is between Killarney and the town of Castleisland, about half an hour's drive away. This branch is of the *Bricks and Flowers* book you purchased a short time ago. The branch goes like this: it began with Thomas of Kilcow (Kilcow near Castle island) who had two sons, Edward and Arthur. Edward's line branched into the Muckcross Herberts (though of course as always there was inter-marriage) and Arthur's line branched into Cahernane. Plus there were hundreds and hundreds of other Herberts along the way aswell:)

So what would I like to know. Well, I don't think there's a need to go back into the mists of time too far, I'm wondering what was going on at Cahernane House in the nineteenth century, because this house I am using as a visible symbol of the family's history in Killarney. The main residences appear to have formerly been in the Castleisland and Currans areas.

Cahernane House was built on land once in the name of Hussey and may have been known then as Rockwood. There is a quaint chapel in the graveyard at Killeagy with an inscription inside addressed to Hussey.

I had a closer look at the Herbert of Cahernane history this afternoon. It seems that the Thomas Herbert of Kilcow who came to Ireland in the mid 17th C was agent for his cousin, Edward Herbert, 3rd Lord Herbert of Cherbury (or Chirbury or Cherberry). When I followed this line back to the first Baron, he turned out to be Edward, Baron Castleisland and Baron Herbert of Cherbury, whose younger brother was poet George Herbert. The baron was associated with Ben Jonson, and George was connected to John Donne, Sir William D'Avenant (said to be Shakespeare's illegitimate child), William Habington and Sir Walter Raleigh. What great connections!

This evening I looked at Thomas Herbert of Kilcow, to see how his relationship as 'cousin' slotted into this rather literary family tree. I found that he was the son of Matthew, who was the son of Sir John, who was the son of William, who was the eldest son of Sir Matthew Herbert of Colebrook, lineally descended from Sir Richard Herbert, brother to William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke. It has taken me hours and hours to work this out, and quite what it has taught me I have not the slightest idea:)

**28 April 2011 19:48:05**

Hello Jan

Well all your other families have been comparatively straightforward! How many Arthur Herberts were there :) I know you are mainly interested in 19th century ones but to get a picture of them I went back to the 1700's. So, as you sit with your glass (or glasses) of wine watching tv tomorrow I thought you could look through these and discard as necessary :)

I know now that in the Arthur Herbert pages there are just probably two references to the one you are interested in. The other must be ermm. So yes I will watch a little of my taxpayers money being spent tomorrow but no doubt I will be back on the hunt! Just shout where I have strayed. Trouble is I am too inquisitive :)

**29 April 2011 14:43:40**

Dear Eileen

Well a very happy Royal Wedding Day to you, and I hope you are enjoying SKY! I went shopping this morning for a bottle of bucks fizz and some custard tarts from Marks & Spencer and didn't realize the wedding was so early :( Then in the petrol station I heard it was in full swing and so broke the speed limit home in time to see Kate and William standing at the altar. I popped a crumpet in the toaster, flicked on the kettle, put the bubbly in the freezer and went for my camera while the hymn was being sung and tried to settle down but I forgot the toaster, the smoke alarm went off and for a moment, all hell broke loose. But my daughter and I settled down and after the formalities were over, uncorked the fizz and opened a box of milk tray (M&S were out of custard tarts). I took about 400 photographs of the TV as William and Kate's unofficial photographer in Kerry, and managed to get both kisses. I attach the first, not bad considering I was on my sofa in Ireland. I've just set it as my desktop background. What a gorgeous looking couple.



And now it's all over, and the sun is glorious here, and I'm not used to bucks fizz during the day ... but I must do some work. Yesterday I sort of squandered the day at the library trying to find a news report of Gwendolen Herbert's death in 1966. It's a mammoth task as there is a reel to a month to plough through and the local paper has different editions for different parts of Kerry which more than triplicates the work. As ever I try to reinvent the wheel, and so now am trying to contact the local rector to see if she can check date in burial records, which I should have done in the first place.

**29 April 2011 16:56:21**

Hello Jan

Amazing quality on your phone camera. Yes she really did look perfect. I reckon when the Queen retires/dies then a generation should be missed out. Would bring a new life to the monarchy.

So after the famous kiss I searched this time on Cahirnane. It brought up some different articles with this alternative spelling.

**30 April 2011 11:23:43**

Hi Eileen

It wasn't my phone camera, it was my actual camera with zoom lens! How mad. I agree with you on passing over Charles, he just doesn't have the popular appeal does he? And though of course it's not his fault as such, can he really ever be truly forgiven for Diana? Talk about lamb to the slaughter. I look at my own 18 year old and imagine her being married off to a thirty-something in the glaring face of the media, I don't think she'd survive the week.

Spent a nice afternoon yesterday looking through the documents. My biggest problem I think is in not having 'done' the tree on the Muckross side which makes it impossible to discount an Arthur or add an Henry. I am going to try instead to stay on the main road to Cahernane. It was very interesting to read the eighteenth century items on the Lord Herbert of Cherbury title resurrection in 1743, after it 'hath been declin'd' in 1738.

Of today's items, all I can say is fantastic! I love the stag hunt article, especially as Richard Leahy was involved with the 'catch'; I see Edward Herbert of Cahernane enrolled in Kerry Militia in 1854; I wonder is he the Rev Edward Herbert of Cahernane who agreed to lecture for Prince Arthur in 1869? Did anything at all show up for Currans House? This poor place has vanished into the mists of time.

Time now for coffee and then I'll start writing. It's rally weekend here, an annual race around the lakes, draws big crowds with big noisy engines, and most of the locals, if I can count myself among them, baton down the hatches.

**30 April 2011 19:41:21**

Hello Jan

The Currans Herberts are a puzzle. I went round in circles on Peerage.com trying to find a hanging point. Currans House is a mystery too. Griffiths shows a Hugh Herbert but I didn't find anything else.

**30 April 2011 22:02:13**

Hello Eileen

It's been a long and laborious day Eileen, I've been slowly stitching text together but it's not coming easily. I did have a short break earlier to watch Britain's Got Talent, loved the Oxford students, 'Out of the Blue'. I'd love to wander around Oxford some day, and pretend.

**01 May 2011 15:50:59**

Hi Eileen

Found a few interesting things this afternoon on the Herbert front. First, an auction of a miniature of Richard Townsend Herbert but too late:( Next I found his son Richard's death on a memorial in a protestant graveyard in Rome (the wonders of the internet).

**01 May 2011 17:15:06**

Adore the cover Jan - the gate is crying out - enter and learn the glories of my past!

**01 May 2011 21:53:16**

Or maybe not:)

Many thanks for your finds Eileen, they are invaluable. I've just inserted a few odds and ends and added dates to my spaghetti junction of a family tree:)  
It's strange how you found Rev Richard's death in Rome just as I did.

As far as the mysterious Richard Townsend of the late 1830s is concerned, I think I will have to footnote and generalise. I suspect it was Arthur's brother for some reason. I've been having a similar problem this afternoon with Rev Edward of Cahirnane (the article you sent when he stepped in for the prince's visit). The Edward of Cahernane I have is Lt Col Edward Herbert, of the Kerry Militia (which you sent). He died at Muckross Hotel in 1882 but a Rev? I can

find no Edward in the previous generation who could fit the bill, so is it the same Edward, the Col and the Rev? I simply don't know. So it looks like it'll be easier to just leave this 'prince' article out, which is a shame, as it's lovely.

So now Eileen I'm shutting down, I can't believe how little I've done today, all my time spent looking for Richard and Edward. A dead end road of a day. Tomorrow I'm going to move on with Henry, and I have a list of obits to look for at local library on Tues. I think what is lacking in this whole sketch Eileen is a bit of drama. It's all about 'he married her and they had' and then 'he married her and they had'. And so on and so boring. I need some onion throwing, or door bell ringing, Cahernane is one big yawn at the moment:(

**02 May 2011 12:58:31**

Good afternoon Eileen

from a wet and grey Kerry, good old bank holiday weather. Just finished the Herberts - with bits and pieces to fill in of course - it's a sad old story really, the rise and the fall, but history is what it is. Wondering, did you find anything on the Husseys?

**02 May 2011 14:45:19**

Hello Jan

I believe I have sorted out Rev Edward Herbert. First read New Rev Herbert and when noted stop read the attached Court Case. There were many reports of this case but I chose an abbreviated one so if you do need them .....  
Rev Edward Herbert was the son of Rev John Herbert, vicar of Ledbury and formerly of Muckcross who was the brother of Henry Arthur Herbert. You will see that the Court case took place in the same area - Rev Edward Herbert banished to Ireland and that later the wife of Rev John Herbert, mother of Rev Herbert, died in Killarney. What do you think? You said you want onions and doorbells - you got them :):)

**02 May 2011 20:56:59**

Hi Eileen

Well bravo, what an amazing piece of research on Edward! I followed your line and it all fits with other documents I have, like vicars of Killarney: 1789-1809 Edward Herbert (he died 1810 as vicar of Overbury formerly of Muckcross at his brother H A H's home. Burke's says rector of Rindock, Worcs. Edward's father married Anne Martin of Overbury before he married again - a Bland, vicar of Killarney, all fits!). His wife Mary, mother of the lovely Rev Edward, died at the Glebe Killarney (two articles, two ages! 80 & 95). Mary

was the daughter of Bastable Herbert. And Edward's sister Frances married a Rev Edward Kenney but I'm afraid to pursue that!

Now to the lovely son, Edward. Vicar of Killarney 1834-1879. This is my understanding: Rector of Abberton, Worcs 1820; in 1831 a young lad named Heath bashes Herbert for slandering his father and Edward takes him to court; 1834 Edward is sent to Killarney; 1836 complaints in press about his five parishes, ministering to about 500 of 22,000; 1842 makes death threat to Henry Bevan about land; 1849 goes off to Worcester to marry Harriet Frances Evans of Hereford, while he's away the terrorising, sorry, proselytising, is done by Rev Hewson. In 1869 he refuses to preach for prince Arthur at Muckcross church.

He sounds like a lovely old sort! My god talk about keeping it in the family. BUT ... who was Rev Edward Herbert of Cahernane?

**02 May 2011 21:20:17**

Yes, I felt quite pleased with myself on that :):)) It suddenly made sense as I searched. Will have another go at the nice Edward Herbert tomorrow.

**02 May 2011 21:54:04**

Hi Eileen

The Husseys are an interesting lot, especially Sam, the land agent, but what I'd like to add if I can is the transition of Cahernane House from Hussey to Herbert property. Col Maurice Hussey of Cahernane of King James II army died in 1714; seems he bought the land from McCarthys in 1680s. Plaque says he had four sons (bet you a fiver one was named Maurice) and at least one daughter Catherine. Herbert built his first house at Cahernane c1750, so it's a relatively small window of time I'm looking at, 1714-1750, just some little nugget about this family. I was reading a couple of his letters online (held at Dublin castle) and there's a lot in them about Brewster, Bland and all the usual names. Arthur who built Cahernane married a Lucy Brewster. I suppose I'm just curious about the connection:) I just know there'll be a connection!

And now I've had enough for today. Tomorrow back to school run and library for dates. But before I go, I must transcribe this little gem I found, it's very curious reading; it's a lease of lands at Bunrour (Killarney) by Sir Thomas Herbert (the rear admiral) dated March 1852 to Valentine the Earl of Kenmare. 15 acres. 'Leased for a period of 3 lives eternally renewable. Queen Victoria, His Royal Highness Prince Albert and Albert, Prince of Wales for a yearly rent

of £52'. I wonder, did the royal family have a private holiday pad at Bunrour for three years?! Did they come incognito? It was pre-railway, so quite a trek! Wouldn't that be a story.

**03 May 2011 17:03:16**

Hi Eileen

Just a note to let you know how I got on today. Confirmed that Arthur Herbert of Cahirnane died in 1771 and it said no more about him. Found the death notice of Mrs Herbert, wife of the Rev Arthur who fell from a jaunting car. It was interesting because there's a mention about sectarianism and it also says she was laid to rest in Killarney churchyard in 1858 - which helped solve a puzzle because just below this, was a notice about a meeting to discuss the erection of a new church in Killarney, and I have a report of the consecration of that church 12 years later, in 1870. Richard Herbert, Cahirnane, Cpt Edward Herbert, Henry Leahy and a Henry Herbert of Dunkerron were all heavily involved in this. Closer reading told how new tombs were erected in place of the old, and the remains were re-interred. This explains alot, because I've often wondered about the location of the old tombs of the earlier Cahirnane Herberts because the graveyard is so tiny, so now I know. Later members were buried at Killeagy.

I found a notice of Lt Col Edward's death at Cahirnane aged 63, but nothing more, sadly. And a note of Richard Townsend Herbert's death, but the next issues which would probably have contained a description of his funeral were missing. Rev Richard Herbert's death in Rome was interesting because he had gone there with Edward and his sister Mrs Denny and her family for health reasons. It tells how it took them almost two weeks to travel there and that the journey as good as finished off Rev Richard. I had surmised that he died in Rome because he was there on church business, how wrong you can be.

One very interesting item I came upon just as I was leaving was the murder of Mr A E Herbert, JP, of Castleisland. Just had a quick browse and it seems he was murdered 30 March 1882. He seems to have been of Killeentierna House (many spellings), I wonder is he one of this branch?

**03 May 2011 18:12:58**

Hello Jan

This is the most comprehensive report + inquest. There are dozens of reports so I will read through them to make sure no info is missed.

**03 May 2011 21:05:51**

Well, I have to hand it to you Eileen, you don't waste time! I am absolutely so impressed, you should have been a detective at Scotland Yard.

I almost cried yippee when you found the Cahernane & Muckross connection, but two hours on - or is it three? - I'm feeling a bit jaded. Let me explain how I think it goes: Richard Townsend Herbert had a brother and sister. His brother Arthur was born c1757, so a Cahernane Herbert, as your article states. He was rector of Kilmacabee. He married secondly Mary Herbert of Muckross, which would again fit your article. According to Burke they had two daughters, Frances c1810 and Mary c1813 (married Townsend Somerville and Townsend). Burke makes no reference to sons, but elsewhere on the web I found Richard Herbert born c1802 (married a Holland) and Thomas Herbert born c1804 married Wilhelmina Jones 1829 attributed to the couple (Wilhelmina had Arthur Edward b1830 the man who was shot dead).

Something is not right somewhere. I looked too at Lord Leitrim, as it mentions Herbert was agent to him at some stage. The third Lord Leitrim was a William Sydney Clements, and he was assassinated too in 1878.

Now time to wash up, my head is spinning. Eileen, thank you so much, it will be good to give the poor man a mention anyway, if he does indeed belong in this picture. I don't think blasting someone to death on their road home is the answer to anything.

**04 May 2011 15:52:03**

Hello Jan

Just as I thought I was getting somewhere I got waylaid! What is this court case all about? I am trying to find the final result but not so far. Which Rev Herbert is involved? The piece on Rev Thomas Herbert of Kille.... or whatever is interesting as it says he is related to high society.

I think its coffee time for me and then a fresh start :) Maybe even two strong black ones :):)

**04 May 2011 19:29:35**

Hello Eileen

This gets more interesting by the minute! My first reaction to the court case was 'oh no'. And then I read it again, and it doesn't read well in Herbert's favour, does it? What did you make of it? I can't help concluding that Herbert took advantage of a young innocent. Orpen Palmer doesn't come out in a

favourable light, does he? Rev Maunsell fares better, he washed his hands of it (remember that name from Fitz Erin? I think his brother married a daughter of Rev Maunsell). It's an ugly story, I'm not warming at all to Arthur Edward Herbert, and I strongly suspect it's the same man. I see his father is Rev Thomas, and there's mention of others sons, including Thomas.

PS: Rev Hewson's death in Ballybunnion was odd, don't you think?! And I must check the tomb of Frederick De Moleyns in Killarney churchyard to see if he got the 'ungrateful country' inscription he desired!

**04 May 2011 20:16:21**

Hi Eileen

Don't know what to make of your second article, which paints Rev Thomas as nothing less than a saint in 1848? Had he, by 1856, given up on the church for lack of support and decided to go all out for what he could get for himself and his family? If so, what sort of 'calling' did he have?

I think I'll take a drive out to the old churchyard at Killeentierna tomorrow and see if I can get some names and dates from headstones, and then try to work out if and how this family fits in.

There is just one last Leahy you might search for me Eileen, and he's the one who brought electricity to Killarney (I was reading the newspaper articles today and the town commissioners gave him a really hard time for wanting to see competition and progress). He was Charles Edward Leahy, he had things up and running by the 1890s despite the opposition but by 1911 he was living in the UK with his sisters. Don't know what happened in between, if he was run out of town or if the business failed - or what caused him to leave. He married an Isabella Maria Quill and from what I could find had three children (son Percy Edward died in action). After that I don't know. I think he called the business Killarney Electric Lighting Company.

**04 May 2011 19:59:43**

Hello Jan

I need pointing back on the right track :) there are so many Herberts. So here are a few more pieces for you. I think its time now for me to read a nice easy novel whilst your head spins :)

**04 May 2011 20:21:34**

Hi Eileen

I suggest putting a hold on Herbert until I've been to the churchyard, because

there's something amiss here. Enjoy your novel, and have a well earned glass of something with it.

**05 May 2011 09:24:02**

Good morning Eileen

As I'm finalising the Leahy section, I thought it worth perhaps one quick check to see if there are any snippets on the sons I failed to 'find'. All but Charles are inscribed on the tombs, but I could never ascertain a thing about them. John, Richard, Thomas, Arthur and Henry all made their marks in some way. Only one daughter, Mary, who married a Butcher, seems to have left record, his other and eldest daughter Elizabeth, whose death notice you sent, seems to have died unmarried at Onslow Gardens. A daughter Frances died young. And so the remaining unaccounted members are:

Edward Leahy (1815-1879). Lived at Carriglea House, Killarney, you sent death notice which states MD. David Leahy (1818-1866) Death note I have states he died at Funchal, Madeira, to where he had gone for his health. Died young, but what happened before that? Charles John Leahy (1833-1866) married a Susan Thornton. Not sure about this last Leahy Eileen, if he fits here or not, because I can't locate my reference:( Thomas Leahy (1823-1903) of Carriglea. Longest surviving son, justice of the peace.

It's bucketing down here today. Think of me trudging around the graveyard (if I can find it) in my waterproofs.

**05 May 2011 18:29:10**

Hello Jan

I hope you didn't get too drenched :) Thursday is my morning for helping the homeless project in town - I collect food from a food distribution centre. Great firm - they donate M&S, Tesco, Waitrose food to us. So I started searching this afternoon.

The first entry on Leahy Various had me shouting with laughter. I wonder if it will do the same for you? :):) Maybe, maybe your heart will sink instead. But you may be able to use it to illustrate your difficulties in tracing the history of them.

There wasn't a great deal at all on the Leahys. They must have been a fairly quiet respectable lot. Now chicken for me and Elliott (my cat)

**05 May 2011 22:06:00**

Hi Eileen

You seem always to be out helping others Eileen, giving and giving. You're just not the going to get my hair/nails/eyebrows done type, are you:)

I did laugh at the poor woman who dropped dead after giving birth to baby number fifteen at age 60. It's laugh or cry really. And the illegal society arrests which included a Valentine Browne and Thomas Leahy?! The mind boggles ... Mostly I loved the Killarney electric piece because it detailed even the roads to be lit. There's an oft repeated story here that Killarney had electricity before London. I suppose it is conceivable that Killarney did have electricity before *parts* of London as the technology was so new, but I have no intention of researching it to disturb an urban myth.

You're right the Leahys seem to have been a decent lot! I see Edward Leahy may have married in Tralee and had a daughter but if that's all that has shown up, that and David's marriage to the widow Mundell, I think I'll leave the Leahys there. So now it's tidying up loose ends time and then laying up.

I had a complete wild goosechase day Eileen. Why oh why do I insist on constantly re-inventing the wheel? The weather cleared at lunchtime and I set off in the general direction of Killeentierna, I thought it would be easy enough to find an old church of Ireland. I drove around in circles for an hour, found other old burial grounds, but not the one I wanted. I travelled on to Tralee library and looked up Killeentierna House (which I should have done in the beginning naturally) because the funeral report you found said he was buried yards from his home. I read that Killeentierna House, known as Killeentierna Glebe, built by Rev Thomas Herbert c1839, stood close to the old protestant church in the village of Currow. The house was demolished, and two new houses built on the land. Armed with this information I returned from whence I came but could not find a church of Ireland in the village. This village consists of two shops, a church and a community centre, so it shouldn't be too difficult, you'd think. But nobody in the shops had ever heard of it, or even talk of it and to cut a long afternoon short, I'm no further on than this morning. And there was I, thinking I could drive to the church, hop out of the car, jot down a couple of names and dates from the tombs, and return said information to you!

I'm a bit stumped at the moment Eileen because there should be a church. The funeral report says, 'the funeral procession started from Mr Herbert's residence

at 11am for the burial ground, which is within a few hundred yards of where he resided'. Unless, he didn't live at Killeentierna House? But then the report of his assassination states he was walking the four miles or so towards home from Castleisland? I really can't imagine the old church of Ireland being pulled down, because graves and religious relics are generally respected here, and left alone. If the church was pulled down, what happened to the tombs? I shall have to go back to it tomorrow with a clear head and have a re-think.

I did get some documents today though that state that Thomas Herbert was rector of Killeentierna and Dysert from 1836-78, when he died. He married Wilhelmina Jones, daughter of Rev Henry Jones, rector of Lislea, Cork (does your heart sink at THAT name:)). He was the middle of three children, the eldest Rev Richard rector of Chelton, Hereford, and youngest Major Arthur, 39th regiment. His parents were Arthur Herbert of Cahernane and Mary Herbert of Muckcross.

And so, this murdered Herbert should really go in. But I would like clarification of Rev Thomas and Wilhelmina's offspring. There was a Jonas Travers Herbert died 1880 among your bits yesterday, 4th son of Rev Thomas. Arthur Edward another, from the information in the court case and the assassination reports. The next of kin Hungerford still bothers me, and Henry Carden, and of course why Burke failed to list the sons. He lists only two daughters, doesn't make sense, unless his head was done in from it aswell:) If I could find the tomb!

**06 May 2011 00:09:03**

Hi Eileen

Just been browsing for a while and looking at the parish of Killeentierna, a strange S-shaped tract of land, and read that in 1841 it was noted by O'Donovan that on the site of the old church is now a new protestant church, and elsewhere I find that 'The church was built by the late Board of First Fruits in 1814'. This reminds me of the old Churchtown church caper. I also found this in the *Reminiscences* of Sam Hussey (he of Edenburn House outrage): There was a contest for the chairmanship of the Tralee Board of Guardians. The Land League put forward a candidate who was at the time an inmate of Kilmainham gaol. The landlords, who at this earlier stage still had some power, conceived that the residence of the Home Ruler would not facilitate his control over the Board, and chose a candidate whose abode was not only more adjacent, but whose movements were unfettered. The voting was even, until Mr. A.E. Herbert came into the room and gave his casting vote against the involuntary tenant of the Kilmainham hostelry. For this he was murdered three days later, and by the crime they hoped to ensure that on the next

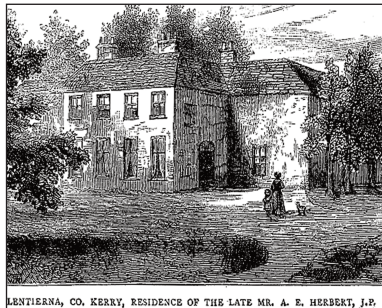
occasion the landlords would abstain from voting at all. That murder of Mr. Arthur Herbert on his return from Petty Sessions at Castleisland was one of the worst, and as an exhibition of infernal hatred and vengeance it transcended the murders of Lord Mountmorres and Lord Leitrim. It cannot be denied that Mr. Herbert committed acts of a harsh and overbearing character. He was a turbulent, headstrong man, brave to rashness and foolhardiness, and too fond of proclaiming his contempt for the people by whom he was surrounded. As a magistrate, sitting at Brosna Petty Sessions, he expressed his regret that he was not in command of a force when a riot occurred in that village, when he would have 'skivered the people with buckshot,' language brought under the notice of the Lord Chancellor and the House of Commons. He was the son of a clergyman, and lived at Killeentierna House with his mother, a venerable old lady over eighty, he being himself forty-five. His income was estimated at about four hundred a year, and as his relations with tenantry were not harmonious, he never went out without a six-chambered revolver in his pocket. Physically he was very robust—over five feet ten in height, and very corpulent. In his own neighbourhood he always was known as 'Mr. Arthur.' Leaving Castleisland about five in the afternoon, he was accompanied for about a mile by the head constable, who then turned back. Mr. Herbert had not proceeded a quarter of a mile further when he was felled by the assassins. The spot chosen was singularly open, no shelter being visible for some distance. Several shots were heard by a labourer at work in a quarry, and when he came up he found Mr. Herbert lying on his face in the road, quite dead, the earth about him being covered with pools of blood. The body was almost riddled with shot and bullets. That night a further illustration of the vindictive ferocity of the outrage was given. The lawn in front of Killeentierna was patrolled regularly by some of the large body of police which at once occupied the house. On this lawn eleven lambs were grazing. At half-past two these were seen by the police to be all right. At daybreak the eleven were found stabbed with pitchforks—nine of them killed outright, and two wounded to death. This act, as wretched as it was daring, added a new horror to the crime. Mr. Herbert's murder was received with such exuberant delight in Kerry that my steward said to me:— 'You would think, sir, that rent was abolished and the duty taken off whisky.' Constabulary had for a long while to be told off to prevent his grave being desecrated.

Moral of the story: the church and graveyard are out there somewhere! Or they were ...

**06 May 2011 14:25:29**

Hi Eileen

The attached puts a real human face on the whole affair, what a find, I searched under Killentierna and it gave better results. I've been in the library all morning poring over maps. At least the newspaper article proves the house was there! Wherever 'there' was! And wherever there was, the church was nearby!



**06 May 2011 18:06:31**

Hello Jan

Here's this afternoon's search. I don't know if they are going to help or muddy the water further :) At least you have an attempted murder plot Rev Thomas Herbert in 1861.

I went through all the reports of the murder of Herbert JP in case there may be a clue somewhere. Where I thought it could be useful I downloaded. One maybe useful point was the evidence re location of Arthur Herbert's home. I'm sure somewhere it says 5 miles from Tralee and 5 miles from Castleisland and mentions a fork in the road. So out with your old maps! Wilhelmina says that she had 4 sons deceased plus a surviving daughter.

**06 May 2011 21:07:19**

Dear Eileen

Well what a miracle worker you are. Lots of clues now, which I've made a list of, the clydane barracks should be a good help. I'm going to go back to the maps in the morning, bright and early. Jonas Travers Herbert was a sad story, his son born after he died. And Wilhelmina lost four sons, I wonder was Arthur Edward included in that figure; it's not clear from the report. It may be that she was left with just one daughter, and that may explain why no great research appears to have been done on this branch.

As for Hungerford, I smiled when I read your mail (with relief) but then the smile faded, because there is a family connection. Take a look at the attached document. I noted that Wilhelmina was resident at Cahirmore, Co Cork in the press report following her husband's death, this turns out to be the seat of Thomas Hungerford Esq, or rather his son Henry Jones Hungerford. You'll see from the attached document that Jane Travers was the daughter of Jonas Travers; why would Mrs Herbert name one of her sons in like manner unless there was a family connection:( Also noted that Wilhelmina's brother was

Jonas Travers Jones, vicar of Kilmacabee 1836-39.

Anyway, might not need to know all that, it's enough to know they are all in the same mixing bowl somewhere or other. I need a clear head in the morning to re-think what I need to know. Most importantly I'd like to find the site of the house, and the church of Ireland, and the grave. The early start is telling on me now ... On a final note, I attach a very wishy washy pic of Richard Townsend Herbert. I contacted the auction house to see if I could contact the new owner, but it was sold to a dealer. They did however send the catalogue shot.



**07 May 2011 16:51:00**

Hi Eileen

Well, it's pouring down here and my son has a 20th birthday barbecue starting about now:( Oh well, this is Ireland. Killeentierna. Herbert's residence became a presbytery. Just behind the presbytery is a graveyard and the ruins of the ancient church of Killeentierna. The 1913 edition of the OS map seems to show this and 'church (in ruins)'. If this was the church of Ireland built in 1814 then it's not there now. All that remains there is Killeentierna burial ground. I went back today, it's very small, I checked every grave and tomb but there is no Herbert tomb there; there are a few protestant graves, like Harold, and there was a Hussey, but no sign of a grave for Arthur Edward. Perhaps the grave was desecrated, as threatened? But I'm still not happy Eileen, something is wrong somewhere.

I had a look at burial records this afternoon and found the burial record for Thomas, his father who died in 1878. There are three entries (just to help confuse matters), two state Ballymacelligott, one states Castleisland. It's not clear if this is parish or church or congregation as the items aren't scanned. I found a note of Wilhelmina Herbert's death in 1887: 'died 25 March at the Blennerhassett Arms Hotel, Tralee, aged 86, Wilhelmina, widow of late Rev Thos Herbert 43 years rector of Killeenatierna'. Also a note that her address

was 'Fenit'. Her burial record states 'Ballymacelligott'. Also her son Jonas Travers burial record, it states Castleisland.

I'm now wondering, could this church of Ireland be Ballymacelligott? It's hardly Currow village, as per my reference, but I do know this church, and it's not too far distant from Currow. This would certainly explain a lot. Tomorrow, Ballymacelligott:)

**07 May 2011 19:35:45**

Hello Jan

I hope the weather abated long enough for your son's barbecue or did you have steamed sausages? :) Wish him a happy birthday from me.

I searched just Ballymacelligott and Castleisland looking for 'churchy' things. Sometimes it throws up articles that do not come up by searching surnames - don't know why. There are a few bits that may (or may not:)) interest you. And the last one on the file is one to raise a smile from you. Have a good evening and a successful day tomorrow

**08 May 2011 12:20:18**

Dear Eileen

No, the rain did not abate, but worsened with an added wind:) But, as they say, a good time was had by all. I attach a couple of shots, my son is dressed in a blue tee-shirt. Today we have storm force winds, so yesterday could possibly have been worse.

Thank you so much for the added items, and reading of the burning of the church at Killeentierna and its total destruction in 1880 has made my day, at least it solves the riddle. So it's safe to say no service was held there for Arthur Edward in 1882. It's quite funny really to think I've been driving around looking for a church that burned down over a hundred and thirty years ago:) I had another look earlier at the burial records, and found the attached for Thomas Herbert. As you'll see, he was buried in the graveyard of Castleisland church. So now I'm wondering, perhaps the 19th century hack who wrote that Arthur was buried in the burial ground which is 'within a few hundred yards of where he resided' was wrong? It's happened before, perhaps the 19th century hacks were worse than those of the tabloids. So this is my plan, I'm going to go to Tralee tomorrow and read the local newspaper report of the funeral, which I should of course have done in the first place, depending on the outcome of that I'll proceed to Castleisland or Ballymacelligott to check

his final resting place. Fingers crossed. Also worked out Wilhelmina's last surviving son, it was Henry Carden, who died at Plymouth in 1906. He married a Galwey:) He achieved much as a surgeon general. I note also that his daughter Cornelia St Leger who married Cpt William Mason Inglis died aged 25, 1895. End of another line possibly? Wilhelmina must have suffered dreadfully don't you think, to bury four of her sons, and see one shot dead? What a life of misery.

I had a closer look at the curious court case document you sent me this week. From what I can gather, two widow women who both had two children married two brothers?: widow one Alicia Herbert (widow of Edward Herbert, curate who died in 1832) and widow two, Maria Ledmon. Alicia married William Sealy, and Maria married Arthur Sealy of Killeentierna. The two children of widow Maria, namely William and Jane, were the subjects of the court case (William having died). Seems their mother left as their guardians her second husband, Sealy, Rev Thomas Herbert and Rev Maunsell. So a family interest was maintained in Rev Herbert?

Rev Herbert seems to have had rich pickings from the pot but as the families were so intertwined, I have no intention of trying to unravel. I daresay both sides had a story to tell. Now time to shower, dress and start the day.



**08 May 2011 18:38:57**

Hello Jan

I persist :)

The enclosed names the burial plot as the family vault at Tralee. Hmmmm ...

**08 May 2011 20:50:54**

Hi Eileen

Not sure whether to laugh or cry when I read of the new or should I say latest

burial location! Well, I'll be in Tralee anyway and so if it is there, all the better! It does make you think though, doesn't it, about nineteenth century reporting. There's the item about the businesses in Castleisland closing or not closing, as the case may have been, suggesting *that* town for burial, then the indignant report that the remains were deposited *only yards* from his home in Killeentierna, and my subsequent wild goose chase; the burial records suggest Ballymacelligott and now we have Tralee. He does seem to have been pretty much despised, doesn't he, a rope not being supplied to lower his coffin but I can't help thinking it's not so much a case of him being an impossible agent but more a case of being an agent at an impossible time in the run of Irish history. Did you note how his mother said at the Crimes Act compensation hearing that he used to pay rents for his tenants if they couldn't afford it, he couldn't have been all bad, could he?

On the subject of nineteenth century reporting, I had a thought earlier about the mysterious Rev Edward Herbert, and am wondering if another 19th C hack got it wrong, and so tomorrow I will check that out too! Now I must go, there's an electric storm underway as I write and I'm afraid of being zapped and losing all! Thanks as ever!

**08 May 2011 22:03:12**

Hello again

Now you know if you mention a place or name I just have to have another look.

The Cloghereen 2 is just an interesting article - Queen Emma of Hawaii visiting Killarney and buying from Egan plus a lovely letter re Please do not pick the flowers at Muckcross :):):):):) Have a successful day tomorrow and then you can give me some more names and places:)

**09 May 2011 21:58:41**

Dear Eileen

Well what a day. First job I checked out the mysterious Rev Edward preaching to Prince Arthur in 1869, and it turned out not to be Edward, nor Henry, but Richard of Cahernane, which makes perfect sense.

Job two, I searched for more information on the burning of Killeentierna church, and found that the glebe lands were purchased by Arthur Edward Herbert from the Church Temporalities Commissioners just before the fire. It seems he had received threatening letters over this. Following on I read the Castleisland petty sessions at which various juveniles were questioned about

the fire, lads aged from nine to 14 who gave evidence. 'I did not see anything' was the consistent line throughout. They all went into 'the preaching church' and saw the place 'wrecked' and some saw others with pieces of coal and some suggested a bit of a blaze which could be later quenched but nobody saw a thing:) Well, I surmised from this account that there were vandals and hooligans in the nineteenth century aswell, lads messing around with fire til things got out of hand, until I read later more about Arthur Edward's death. Hold that thought!

The funeral of Arthur Edward; I found that he was buried at Ardcrone - yes, another location to add to the list. I looked through a number of local papers and found myself quite impressed with *The Kerry Sentinel* because the editor seemed to be doing the job properly, noting where their own reporter was absent and stressing what had not been verified by their own staff. This paper too identified Ardcrone burial ground, and gave a good description of the funeral, 50 RICs with guns reversed, 40 soldiers 80th regiment, a long line of carriages and outside cars, six tenant farmers, and a military salute of respect. What I liked about this paper was its comment, it noted the arrests that had been made, details of which 'as is now the staple practice in Kerry will be secluded from the press' (I wondered why I could find nothing about the follow up!!) - 'How the ends of justice can be better advanced by holding those courts in secret we cannot well divine'. It goes on to say that with a one thousand pound reward up for grabs, the lives of those charged were now 'at the mercy of any informer who might account himself capable of sustaining a good story'. This reporter then goes on to discuss how every little circumstance of the case was 'going the rounds of the press' and 'a good deal of capital being made'. Nothing changes! It comments on the story you sent yesterday about the rope being declined for the lowering of the coffin, 'the people may not have had it, or may not have been asked for it for all we know'. It continues with other anecdotes but one I found very interesting. It goes like this: Mr Herbert laid a wager with a gentleman of the district that he would not be living in Killeentierna House twelve months on and that the house would be inhabited by 'a certain respectful priest in the locality'. This anecdote I find so interesting Eileen because the house did subsequently become the property of the RC church and as we know, became a presbytery. This, in my view, makes the burning of the church look sinister and more suspicious than malicious. It strikes me that Herbert could have been targeted for his land (do you know the play *The Field*?). I say this because the press was at pains to try to explain this murder. There is a clear line of incomprehension running throughout the reports. The *Sentinel* concluded, after

noting that Herbert wasn't a landlord as such, hadn't done anything out of the ordinary or any worse than any other land holder: 'he was the dupe and tool of a cowardly clique of Kerry landlords whose shoulder-patting and flattery nerved him in his rash contempt of the people'. And, goes on the writer, the passive sympathy for horrible crime will not change while the Whigs abet it.

So concludes *The Kerry Sentinel*. My finger would move more in the direction of the local parish priest. I noted that Mr R Meredith, of Dicksgrove House, who lived about 500 yards away, on hearing of the murder beat a hasty retreat to Tralee! Don't blame him.

Anyway, off I set in search of Ardcrone. Turned out to be a tiny burial ground, like Killeentierna, near Currans village and I wandered around trying to read the inscriptions on the old tombs. I found the Herbert tomb inside the old chapel ruin. It was a strange feeling to find it, quite moving for some reason.

Now, a few other bits I noted in the press, the *Sentinel* reported that he was unmarried leaving a sister and aged mother. The tomb gave a bit more info about the family, it stated Arthur was the eldest son, and in the tomb with Rev Thomas (father) were the remains of his brothers Richard and Thomas William. We know that Jonas Travers died in 1880, and so Arthur made four sons dead. Henry Carden was the remaining son, and an unknown daughter. Anyway, enough known now to include Arthur Edward:) It made me feel very sad finding that grave today, I must say.



**09 May 2011 23:52:54**

Dear Eileen

Just before the day ends, lovely items on Cloghereen, especially the vandals at Muckross! And the princess story is very usable. Meant to say earlier I

chanced on an item today on Mrs Leahy, widow of Col Leahy of Flesk House (Gleneagle) reporting how she held in Aug 1880 a 'harvest home' for her tenants and labourers, which included a substantial dinner and dancing til late.

**10 May 2011 09:06:51**

Hello Jan

Well Congratulations! You were like a dog with a bone searching for that burial place and persistence paid off. Well done. I, of course, seeing a couple of place names in your email, Ardcrone etc, just had to have a look at them. It's surprising that sometimes a search on a place name brings up things not found by surname. So here they are. I did them last night so I've forgotten what is in :):) Oh yes Drunken Herbert :)

Recycling - glad to see you doing it. I'm lucky in that I have a green bin for garden and cardboard waste, blue one for paper, brown one for glass, plastic and glass and the general grey household bin. Collected once a fortnight it is a real blessing although I do have a waste site about 3 miles away for other odd items.

Queen of Hawaii :) yes you could add the Queen of Tonga climbing into St Kevin's bed at Glendalough and Eileen followed her footsteps when she was only about 10 :):):)

**10 May 2011 13:58:25**

Hi Eileen

Poor Mr Herbert. They removed his bones from Ardcrone! But where did they put him:( Superstition was very powerful in the nineteenth century, I wonder why a murdered man could not rest in the graveyard? He sounds a bit of a character though doesn't he, and I don't blame him one bit for being drunk and disorderly, it looks as if everyone was on his case; constable O'Brien after his job. He must have been a brave man to have remained in the area. In quite a number of articles he's described just that, his downfall his forthrightness and championship of his class.

I want to let Mr Herbert rest in peace now, but there's something still bugging me and it's the entry in Burke's, why did he not mention the sons. I've been going through a number of editions this morning, just want to ensure I have the right tree. Mary Herbert is said to have died aged 87 at Fort Etna, Castle-townsend, in Sept 1855 having had three sons and three daughters. I have two dates for her husband Arthur's death, Feb 20 1818 and Feb 26 1828. Her

daughter Frances married John Townsend Somerville of Drishane and Castlehaven, Co Cork; Mary married John Henry Townsend of The Point, Co Cork.

And so I'm wondering, just to put my mind at ease, can you verify some of those births, marriages, deaths? Just want to be sure I'm not regurgitating incorrect information.

PS: the duel article was fab. I've read quite a bit about them on my travels, hard to believe grown respectable men were firing guns at each other ...on second thoughts, perhaps it's not:)

**10 May 2011 20:31:33**

Hello Jan

Tortuous Tuesday. I think this must go down as my worst ever search! Sack me!!!!!!!!!!!!

I have tried all manner of combinations and got very little. The only thing that can be confirmed is the marriage of Mary Herbert to John Henry Townsend. Why didn't they just give numbers to their kids instead of repeating the same Arthur Henry Thomas Richards? I searched also under Aghadoe and Ardfert diocese but found nothing relevant. Was I in the right diocese?

Time for a shower and a coffee :) and Elliott is screaming for his chicken

**11 May 2011 13:22:55**

Hi Eileen

How about I give you a second chance? I'm not like my last ruthless employer. And I'll keep you on the same rate.

My god this is turning into a mess, isn't it? Take a look at the enclosed document, according to this Rev Arthur Herbert died in 1818. Yet the article you sent of 1859 states that Mary, daughter of late Arthur, married. According to my poor maths she would have to have been in her 40s, do you agree? Not beyond the realms of possibility I suppose. And there seems to have been no other Rev Arthur in that parish after him? If he was born in the 1750s, he did well to become a father in his 60s but I suppose it's not impossible?:) I calculate his wife Mary was born 1768 (died 1855 age 87) so she would have been in her 40s giving birth. Perhaps the girls did come late, after the boys, but I still don't understand why Burke made no mention of the sons. Perhaps I should leave it rest here Eileen. What do you think?

Yesterday I added Arthur Edward to the Herbert text, after all that work he was consigned to a footnote. My artist friend (of the Fitz Erin cover) has posted his

first movie clip on you-tube, he plans to make a few short films, including the former railway at Castleisland. Take a look if you fancy a bit of an Irish session: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VL9X3uSL8M>

**11 May 2011 15:26:41**

Hello Jan

Glad you are giving me another chance :):):) I loved the You Tube - it could have been in one of thousands of pubs over there.

Why do all your families turn out to be so complicated? Herberts marrying Herberts etc.

So here is my Bland selection. No onions but there were mangolds instead :) No doubt the report saying Derrynane should have read Derryquin. Note too 18thc spelling Deriquin. I'm enclosing too a piece re a play in Sheffield in 1880 re Daniel O'Connell that you may find interesting.

I did my search in between making some new curtains (still making) because its such a boring job sewing straight lines so a little search has given me a nice break. Back to a few straight lines of sewing now - would that genealogy was so straight forward (but its not boring)

**11 May 2011 18:35:46**

Hi Eileen

Like you I'm doing things in between things. Been trying to upload Mahony book to the web but need to use ftp again and my free trial has expired and so I'm trying other companies, downloading one at the moment, but who knows if it'll work? A lot of the free trials want your credit card details, but I don't trust putting too much info on the web. I don't for the life of me understand the younger generation who plaster their entire lives minute-by-minute online. For a start, where do they get the time? Someone suggested to me I post a twitter about the queen booklet, but that's far too technical for me, and who could be bothered?

I wonder when the frenzy for facebook will die a death, because it will. Do you have a facebook page? Some of my friends do, but I've never been interested, I've glanced at the lads' pages now and then when they've been online and watched them click *like* or *don't like* but I'd much rather be poring over my old maps with my magnifying glass. A friend has threatened to buy me a monocle, says it'll confirm my character, whatever that means:)

**11 May 2011 19:23:58**

Hi Eileen

How I wish I had known you when I wrote a thesis on theatre in Kerry, the Daniel O'Connell play would have been perfect! Google gives no clue as to the identity of the playwright, John Levey, nor the play's title, so it's quite a find I think. The text suggests a Sheffield connection and I found an Alexandra theatre once in Sheffield.

Now to ring my sister for a bit of online support to upload my file.  
I can't wait to start Bland with the items you've sent. But first I must put Herbert to bed. Serious start in the morning.

**11 May 2011 19:21:57**

No Jan I am twitterless and facebookless :) I prefer to communicate to real people :) Well you are real because I have got to know you a bit and I've heard you on the DVD :):)) And I read too much about things that go up into space and can never be deleted :)  
So here are some more Bland - I love the first piece. Have you thought of trying to sell on Ebay at a fixed price. Easy to pack and post.

**11 May 2011 19:28:26**

Hi Eileen

Do you fancy being my agent:) I'm useless at things like that. Maybe I'll ask my sister, she's always selling on ebay.

**11 May 2011 19:31:09**

Richard Herbert Townsend, son of F C Bland. I see this will be a very interesting one Eileen!

**11 May 2011 20:40:00**

Don't Google - ask Eileen.

A story waiting to be written (Yes he was Irish) It would seem his wife loved him very much judging on the *In Memoriams*. By the way I buy things sometimes from Ebay but never sold - you could easily set up an account and it would be simple for you to post out orders weekly :) Ask your son how to do it :):)) (I cannot resist a new name :):):))

**12 May 2011 01:05:45**

Dear Eileen

Well I never! Mr Levey is a definite for the rock, I'll find a Kerry connection

somewhere:) somehow:) Brother to Paganini Redivivus? It's odd because one of the articles you sent recently about the stag hunt referred to 'the village paganinies' which I thought alluded to pagans and didn't make sense. Just googled, and what a talented family! Have a read at <http://billhaneman.ie/IMM/IMM-XIV.html> Real family name was O'Shaunessy. There's a photo there too of R M Levey, the father.

Talking of google, did you see the marvellous and beautiful Google search box today? Well, yesterday now, the tribute to Martha Graham contemporary dancer? It was captivating, the most gorgeous Google searchbox artwork I've yet seen, I was entranced, in fact I 'print screened' it as a record.



Why am I up so late? Well, I just created an account at ebay as an experiment. Thank you for the suggestion. It was straightforward enough, just time consuming - and that's the thing that always puts me off:(

**12 May 2011 06:13:22**

Hi Eileen

Redivivus = revived. Paganini revived, great compliment to O'Shaunessy's son, judging by what I've just read of Niccolò Paganini (1782–1840).

**12 May 2011 13:38:11**

Hello Jan

What an interesting find John Levey was. I wish I could ask my gt grandmother if she went to see him :) She did have a great big framed print on the wall of O'Connell making his first speech in Parliament. It eventually passed down to my Aunt Nellie and when she died I donated it to an Irish Society. So it would not be a surprise if she had been - only 15 miles from where she lived then. Yes I too wondered about the 'paganinis'. Would they be the local fiddlers then? Never too old to learn! It would be a shame for John Levey (like the way he was renamed) not to be reunited with his family.

Food run done - now coffee.

**12 May 2011 18:18:39**

Hello Jan

I've just been playing around with a new purchase from Ebay :) a 3 set DVD arrived from America - 326 reference books on 3 dvds re Irish Genealogy. Cost me less than 8 pounds and I am having fun (and arguments with my computer) playing around with it. On one file, The History of the Palmer Family, I saw some references to the genealogy of the Herberts. So I'm enclosing them to see if they are of use. Do you know if DVDs searchable using Adobe can be copied? If they will copy I will send them to you.

**12 May 2011 19:07:37**

Dear Eileen

Many thanks for your attachments, the names are frighteningly familiar now, aren't they:) And I don't use the word frightening lightly! I like the sound of the Arthur Orpen who was shipwrecked in Ballinskelligs Bay with a French woman. I know these will become valuable as the research progresses. Esp the Brewsterfield branch. A lady named Mrs O'Donoghue died here this week at a grand age of 101. Her husband was from Killaha (just up the road), from I believe the branch of The O'Donoghue that I must look further into one of these days. I wonder if this family might possibly have intermarried with the Herberts? Seems highly unlikely, but I'm not going there at the moment:)

According to my son, the disks can be copied if they are ripped first. If that means anything to you I salute you. I'm on the road with the Herberts now, anxious to get it finished. Shutting down early tonight though, I only slept from 2am to 5am, dog woke me and I couldn't get back to sleep and so was up and working at dawn. The dog of course has been happily snoring all day.

**12 May 2011 21:17:44**

Hi Eileen

I'm debating which of a small number of little poems to use with the Herberts (in addition to George naturally). Of the first I have a couple of verses, one about a mill and another about Cahernane and Herbert; poet is Patrick O'Kelly, 1754-1835 acc to wiki. Another is by gaelic poet Ulick Kerin and more apt as he was a Kerryman, from Cordal near Castleisland. The third is a poem Cahirnane again, written in 1800 by D R O'Connor. I know no more about these poets than I've learned online during the last hour, and of the last there was nothing at all. I quite like the Kerin poem but how to decide?

**12 May, 2011 21:40:54**

Hello Jan

Read how to rip dvds :(:( Beyond me certainly and it means installing a ripping programme! I've ordered a copy for you :)

**13 May 2011 12:44:43**

Hi Eileen

Thanks for the Windele obituary, it's lovely, I half guessed it would be. Just checked google images to see if there was an illustration of him and found a lovely (old) image of his headstone in St Joseph's cemetery Cork.

Last night I found an online copy of O'Kelly's 'Killarney A Descriptive Poem' in a neighbouring University library. Reason for the search, I want to check if the mill poem I have is O'Kelly's as this book seems to contain his 'poetical miscellanies'. I asked the librarian if I could access, and if not, could they check the book for the first line. I had a very curt reply saying no, I can't access it and, quote, 'it would be *impossible* to go through it for a single reference'. I hate the word *impossible*!! And it's online - searchable!

**13 May 2011 14:01:04**

Hello Jan

Can you give me first line of poem - will try searching on that.

Your dvds are on the way direct to you. I'm just not into ripping (unless its curtain lining!)

**13 May 2011 15:10:24**

Hi Eileen

'Ah! Oft I strayed to that old mill'. It details very local history, place names Sheheree, Rookery, Woodlawn and Coltsman (of the castle) and so I don't think it would be too widely known, but you never know with your skills:) Patrick O'Kelly the poet sounds quite interesting, I had a quick look at some of his work last night and the preface of his *Hippocrene* (pub 1831) claimed proper ownership of *Killarney* (the poem), seems a Michael McCarthy of Kinsale had plagiarised his work in 1816, O'Kelly having published it, allegedly, in 1791. A lot of heavy names involved in the dedications of his books, like Marquis of Anglesey, Lord Kenmare. What's a bit odd is that this poem (if indeed he did compose it) is *extremely* local and seems to be a poem of reminiscence of youthful days. Someone who grew up in the area? Yet we are told O'Kelly was born in Clare, a teacher in Galway. Hmm. There's always a complication!

Herbert is progressing remarkably well, it will be quite long, much longer than I expected, about 72 pages, perhaps 76, reckon I'll have it done by tomorrow.

**14 May 2011 18:22:19**

Hi Eileen

Long day, half six this morning til now, and almost finished. Upload next, and then the next project ... I'm thinking about a reference book to the Church of Ireland in Kerry. Seed planted at Churchtown. It would be relatively straightforward. What do you think?

My son has travelled to Dublin today on army mission as part of security around the Queen's visit. I told him he was party to an historic event, but he just laughed, 'I'm only guarding a gate'. Someone has to guard the gate, I told him :) There's very little in the news about the visit, and little sign if any of celebration. A lot of negativity. Yesterday I overheard people in the shop at the petrol station complaining about the cost of the visit, and that of Obama, but what of the cost of the last government?

Onwards now to finish, want to chill with the Eurovision or Britain's GT later. And wine of course! Decisions decisions. Think I'll take a day off tomorrow.

**14 May 2011 18:49:36**

Hello Jan

Now you have missed an opportunity - a few Royal Killarneys pushed into your son's back pocket and he could have done a roaring trade whilst guarding the gate :))

It's Britain's Got Talent for me. And don't say the new project will be straightforward. How boring that would be! Like sewing these curtains - straight lines :( In fact I've just taken my nice neighbour's husband's work trousers to try and repair a hole in the back - much more creative :) The curtains rest in the spare room unloved. Enjoy your evening - tomorrow I will see if it is straightforward!

**16 May 2011 18:10:25**

Hi Eileen

When I said straightforward, I meant as straightforward as Killeentierna :) I had a mail from P\_\_\_ v\_\_ d\_ K\_\_\_ last night asking if I'd help him with a book about K T\_\_\_. I replied no, and suggested he sell the valuable manuscripts to pay off his mortgage. Not satisfied with this answer he has asked me again, but if I agree to help, I can't do it without you! What do you

think? Plan for this week is to go to Cork at some point to see the queen, or at least see the crowd and finalise the printing of Herbert and Mahony. Now, boiled bacon and cabbage and a glass of red wine.

**16 May 2011 20:18:07**

Do you know Jan, I haven't had boiled bacon and cabbage for ages. You made my mouth water as all I had today was a fry up of potatoes, cauliflower, carrots and cold lamb.

So you are going to pay your respects to the Queen :) (do put a copy of Royal Killarney in your handbag in case she stops to shake your hand and do practice the curtsy :)) I do hope all goes well with her visit. She's an old lady and cannot be held responsible for the past. Today's news was full of the dissident Republican group and the threatened bomb in London. Why will people not accept that nothing can change the past and just look to a better future?

I (naturally) had a look through K T \_\_\_\_\_. There are about 90 mentions of her but sadly no onions. Just mentions and reviews of her books and quite a few of her short stories. I must admit from what I read (and the poems that I googled) I wasn't enthralled. Now if it was W.B. Yeats then yes, I love his works.

Curtains finished and hung in the back bedroom :):) I thought I would be able to catch up on some tidying tomorrow but my son has just called me. He is having a bed delivered tomorrow and neither of them can get away from work so could Mum possibly come over between 1-4. Of course she can. He said he had saved over a thousand pounds by buying it on the internet. I would want a whole refitted bedroom for that!

Hurry up and get the skeleton of your new project for me. Board of First Fruits gets a few mentions. Enjoy your trip to Cork and good luck with the uploading.

**17 May 2011 00:37:56**

Dear Eileen

Do tell your son I'm not happy about you taking unpaid leave at such short notice:) Been trying to write the few lines needed for the back cover for last hour, the simplest thing can take so long. Going to upload tomorrow now, everything is ready apart from me.

It's strange the way you love Yeats, because P\_\_\_\_\_ is his biggest fan. Yeats brought him from Holland to Ireland. He wrote a PHD on Yeats's use of the word 'and', so that'll tell you about devotion. Do you know there's a Yeats summer school here in Sligo every year? I tried it one year, the year that the statue was destroyed by a wayward driver right bang in the middle of the Yeats week. The year I met Imsoo, translator of Lady Gregory into South Korean. Have a good few days helping and cleaning Eileen, why not stay for that curry.

**18 May 2011 00:08:38**

Dear Eileen

My goodness that is some library you sent me! Don't worry if you don't hear from me for a few years:) I listed the titles this evening and attach a copy. Thank you so much, it is a truly fantastic gift.

**18 May 2011 09:12:06**

Hello Jan

I'm so pleased the DVD will be useful – amazing value (6.72 including postage) and I only ordered it on 13th May! So if I see anything else .... Don't get too engrossed - I need to keep my brain active.

**18 May 2011 21:22:15**

Hi Eileen

My daughter's boyfriend's parents arrive from Hungary today and are coming to dinner on Sunday. They don't have a word of English, and we not a word of Hungarian so it should be interesting. A good bit of housework is on the cards this weekend.

**19 May 2011 14:56:09**

Jo napot kivanok Jan,

Hogy vagy? (how are you?)

So you can just keep your computer on and google Hungarian phrases whilst you have your visitors? It's full of extremely useful phrases. E.g. you never know when you may need to say "My helicopter is full of eels" but there it is on Google :):)

Enjoy your day in Cork. Poor Queen - she has tried so hard. In fact I have never seen her so human before. Amazing strength for an 85 year old and I did like the way she chose her outfits.

I did stay for a curry with P\_\_\_\_\_ and R\_\_\_\_\_ after all. The bed arrived later than

expected. Jan, it is HUGE. 6ft x 6ft 6 and the mattress is 18 inches deep. They made me climb up into it to try it out. Luxury but I being the practical sort lay there wondering how on earth one person could change the bedding :) When I left P\_\_\_ gave me a card and inside was a Treat Voucher for Debenhams as a thank you for rescuing them :)

**19 May 2011 21:55:42**

Hi Eileen

And hogy vagy this evening? I'm reminded of the princess and the pea with you climbing onto that bed.

Yes, our queen is trying very hard, lots of symbolic gestures being made, lots of talk of healing and going forward, it remains to be seen. Can't help thinking though the talk will still be of Cromwell in the local pub one hundred years from now. There's nothing like wallowing in a one-sided story. I will be glad to see the queen fly out in one piece tomorrow, breathing, that will be an achievement anyway. It seems Cork is 'in chaos' streets closed and so on, but nonetheless I think I'll attempt the journey because she'll never walk this way again.

I've still a bit of a bee in my bonnet about the parish priest of Currow since reading about *that* murder, I'm just curious about him. There was in the parish in the 1880s a Rev James K Fitzgerald, resident at Killeentierna House on the 1901 census. No idea when his ministering began though. The old church was a converted barn that belonged to Meredith of Dicksgrrove, and is now gone, pulled down to make way for the new church in the 1950s (the protestant church, the presbytery, and a barracks burned down by the IRA in the 1920s, a lot has disappeared from that village!). All I can find on him was a boycotting of nearby Ranalough school in 1893 after Fr Fitzgerald appointed a teacher not acceptable to the locals.

**20 May 2011 21:21:00**

Hi Eileen

Well the Queen made it out of the country alive. I ventured to Cork this morning and had to park miles outside the city. There was a pretty small crowd really and no real sense of occasion, perhaps because nobody was allowed near. A small cheer went up when her entourage came into sight, but I was busy taking pictures and missed her as my camera wouldn't go off:( Huge security, guys on the rooftops, unlike the 19th century when it was the people. No decorations that I noticed, apart from a small sign outside a florist. But

there you are, it was over in a flash (especially one that didn't go off). After that I couldn't get out of the city, buses were not allowed to leave until four after the queen had departed for the airport and so I resorted to good old shank's pony and walked the 40 mins or so to my car via the side-roads, avoiding road closures. Back in my car, I very quickly came to a standstill as all routes out were shut. And so I sat at the roundabout, turned off my engine and very soon after the entourage cruised past me and a very small crowd on the roundabout, sped off to the airport, and shortly after a plane passed above. I attach a few shots, the lookalike is the closest I got to the queen:)



**21 May 2011 09:44:00**

Hello Jan

Smiled at your description of the visit :) I watched on tv and my mouth was watering at the beautiful bread on display in the market. Good tv coverage inside the market and I loved the fishmonger. Never seen the queen smile and laugh so much. Perhaps she should pop over and buy her fish there weekly. Today I go to a strange event. My daughter-in-law's sister is having a combined wedding celebration and naming day in a park. She married in a registrar office about 18 months ago very quietly. My only problem was trying to find a suitable card. My son picks me up at 12 and I have a taxi booked to bring me home at 10.30. Search will commence Sunday.

**21 May 2011 17:55:29**

Hi Eileen

I'm intrigued by a 'naming day', first time I've ever heard of such a thing.

**22 May 2011 17:22:16**

Hello Jan

Yesterday was quite different. We all assembled around a big fountain in the middle of a park by a lake and then the Naming Ceremony took place. It was a sort of civil ceremony - lots of promises and speeches and making circles around the child. Lovely couple and the happiest baby I have ever seen. 6 months old and she spent her hour waving and laughing at everyone around her. I felt something was missing from the occasion though. Two hours later we went to her parents house and tried to finish off an absolutely delicious huge vegan and vegetarian buffet. Lots of music and drinks later I clambered into my taxi at 10pm absolutely exhausted but enjoyed the day.

**22 May 2011 23:13:22**

Hi Eileen

Maybe what was missing was a priest?:) I don't quite understand that ceremony, but living in a quiet place you get left behind with what's happening in the real world. My day: large joint of pork nestled in oven by 9am, crumble and a blueberry make-it-up-as-I-go-along cake prepared before ten, potatoes, other veg, gravy sorted next and hey presto, done! Guests arrived, and seemed a very nice couple, but of course after the hazy day, I was a bit short of phrases. Danny acted as interpreter and we had a noddy, smiley, three-way conversation over lunch:) It was actually very nice, quite relaxing. They left about five and I emerged from the dishes about six. There's a lot of work involved in social gatherings, no wonder I've given up Christmas.

I started making a plan on the church project last night, thanks to the multi-spelling of words I had trouble finding even the first few parishes on my list. I can see fun and games ahead ...