

A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF BEECHGROVE HOUSE

Clíodhna O'Leary



This paper is concerned with Beechgrove House, Clonakilty, which succumbed to a fire in June 2017 (Fig. 1).¹ Located in the townland of Tawnies Lower, just west of the town, the house has been dated to 1887 on the basis of an inscribed date plaque to the rear of the building.² It seems to have been erected on the site of an earlier dwelling named 'Lower Tawnies Cottage'. This paper explores the architectural chronology of the two buildings and surrounding estate, and investigates the social history of its occupants.

The early history of the estate is intertwined with that of Rev. Henry Wilson Stewart (c. 1773–1857). Stewart was the son of Henry Stewart of Co. Meath and Jane Walsh of Ardagh House, Co. Louth. He was ordained a deacon of the Church of Ireland in 1795 and a priest at Cork in 1797. Stewart also held an L.L.D (doctorate of law).³ It seems that his relationship with West Cork began in the first decade of the nineteenth century. In 1807, Stewart became curate of Kilnagross and Templequinlan.⁴ However, there was an earlier Stewart family connection with West Cork through his brother, Rev. William Stewart, who served as magistrate in Clonakilty.⁵ William is first recorded here in 1799,⁶ and in 1803 he was among those responsible for the arrest of Dr



Fig. 1: Fire in Beechgrove House, 16 June 2017
(Photo: courtesy of Dr Jason Van Der Velde of West Cork Rapid Response).

William Callanan and William Todd Jones for their involvement in the United Irishmen at the time of Robert Emmet's rising.⁷ William Stewart held land at Kilgarriff, Clonakilty, from c. 1800;⁸ this farm was known as Wellfield and the associated house was later called Kilgarriff House.⁹ William was married firstly to Elizabeth Townsend of Clogheen and later to Jane, widow of Thomas Hungerford of Cahermore.¹⁰

The year 1807 saw the opening in Clonakilty of a school house, with enclosed garden and playground, which was funded by Lord Shannon who made Henry Wilson Stewart its master. In a report on classical schools produced by the Board of Education, it was stated that the school was 'met with great encouragement in consequence of the character of the present Master [Stewart]' and was described as 'one of the largest and most reputable endowed Classical Seminaries in the South of Ireland'.¹¹ Horatio (Horace) Townsend of Derry House, Rosscarbery, wrote that the school bore 'honourable testimony to the master's exertions. The improvement of the boys in manners, as well as learning, has already given such general satisfaction,

that within a very short space the number of boarders has increased from twelve to fifty'.¹² Stewart expanded the school accommodation so that it was capable of housing up to 100 boarders and erected a spacious schoolroom next to the original schoolhouse.¹³ From 1827 to 1838, Stewart was admitted to the vicarages of Kilcoe and Cleere, which had a combined Protestant population of just under 250. From 1838 until his death, he was rector and vicar of Templeomalus and served for some time as the stipendiary curate of Castleventry, while also serving as vicar of Tomdeely, Co. Limerick. Stewart, like his brother, was connected to the Townsends, being married to Grace (c. 1777–1856), daughter of Rev. Edward Synge Townsend (1741–1819), and Elisabeth née Townsend (c. 1742–1831). Stewart and Townsend had three sons, two of whom, Henry and Edward, also entered into holy orders.¹⁴

It is possible that from the time of Stewart's instatement as schoolmaster in Clonakilty he was residing in Lower Tawnies Cottage though this author has found no substantive proof and it remains unclear precisely when the house was erected. The first known reference linking Stewart to this townland comes in 1824 in *Pigot's Directory*, which simply lists the clergyman at 'Lower-tawnies'. He was then curate of Kilgarriffe Church in Clonakilty, during which time Horatio Townsend was vicar.¹⁵ The Tithes Applotment Books (1823–37) record Stewart renting over 27 acres of 'good' land at 'Tawnies' valued at £1 15s.¹⁶ Samuel Lewis in 1837 lists 'Tawnies Cottage of the Rev. Dr. Stewart' among the six principal seats of the parish;¹⁷ this is the first known reference to the cottage itself. In the same year, Stewart advertised the house, and its accompanying 29 acres, for letting.¹⁸ Perhaps no successful tenants were found because in 1840 Stewart of 'Lower Tawnies' was listed among those elected as Clonakilty's first Town Commissioners.¹⁹ The following year, 'Lower Tawnies Cottage' appeared on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map which shows park/woodland surrounding an extensive building though not one as large as nearby Fernhill House, Kilgarriff House or Bellevue, while it also lacked a gate lodge, present on these other estates.

Between 1844 and 1846, Stewart is listed at Lower Tawnies in various trade directories,²⁰ but in August 1846 he again advertised the property, with its 32 acres, for lease. The advertisement stated that the house had been 'much improved lately, is roomy and commodious, and the Out Offices suitable'.²¹ In an 1847 tenure book, Stewart is recorded as renting Lower Tawnies Cottage,

offices and 32 acres of land from the Earl of Shannon for £60.²² The lease was for '3 lives', with twelve years taken, which would suggest it commenced in 1835 though we know Stewart was resident in the townland of Tawnies Lower for more than a decade before this. It also reveals that Stewart was, in turn, leasing a house and garden on the estate to Denis Carty. An 1848 house book again records Stewart at Lower Tawnies Cottage and this gives us a good impression of the house. It comprised an original modest structure measuring 23'6" long, 18' wide and 10'6" high with eight sizeable additions, including a particularly large one at 55'6" long and 21' wide, as well as a porch.²³ There was also a fowl house, pigsty, stable, cow houses, cart house, dairy, turf and mangle storehouse, as well as a privy. In total, the buildings were valued at £18 8s 8d. In an 1849 field book, Stewart has 33 acres of land in Tawnies Lower valued at £42 1d. By the time of Griffith's Valuation, he was renting over 33 acres of land at Tawnies Lower from the Earl of Shannon, valued at £42 while the buildings were valued at £13 15s, and Stewart, in turn, was leasing a house and garden on the property to Daniel McCarthy with a total value of 10s.²⁴

One of the last references to Stewart at 'Lower Tawnies' can be found in *Slater's Directory* of 1856.²⁵ On 30 September of that year, Stewart's wife, Grace, died at Lower Tawnies Cottage, aged eighty,²⁶ while Stewart himself died the following year on 17 April at the age of eighty-four.²⁷ After his death, William Stewart, 'M.R.C.S.E., Administrator' requested a meeting 'at my residence, Lower Tawnies' with Stewart's creditors.²⁸ As stated above, Stewart had three sons – the clerics Henry and Edward – and while we cannot be certain of the name of the third, it is probable that it was this man, William, who was evidently living in Lower Tawnies Cottage at the time.

A gap in our knowledge means that it is unclear who lived in Lower Tawnies Cottage over the next five years.²⁹ Certainly by 1862, the estate was in the ownership of George Ronaldson (c. 1823–85). He was recorded at 'Lower Tawnies' or more frequently 'Tawnies Cottage' in various sources between 1862 and 1881.³⁰ However, confusion arises as two properties in Clonakilty were called 'Tawnies Cottage' in the second half of the nineteenth century. The other house boasting this name is located on the boundary between the townlands of Tawnies Upper and Tawnies Lower, and is named 'Bellevue' on the OS map of 1841 but renamed 'Tawnies Cottage' on the OS map of 1900. This property was substantially larger than Lower Tawnies Cottage.

The address of a John Donovan was recorded as 'Tawnies Cottage' in various sources from the 1860s to 1870s.³¹ However, these must refer to the other property as John Donovan was listed at 'Belview' in *Guy's Directory* of 1875–76.³² We can therefore say with some confidence that it was Ronaldson, and not Donovan, who was living at Lower Tawnies Cottage.

Ronaldson of Haddington, Scotland, appears to have relocated to Clonakilty in the late 1840s.³³ In 1849, he married local woman Jane Toohig (c. 1823–1909) at the Methodist church in Clonakilty.³⁴ Ronaldson owned the mill at Millville on Western Road, Clonakilty, which, in 1851, successfully tendered to supply the new workhouse with oaten straw at 23s per ton.³⁵ The mill was placed for sale in 1861.³⁶ In 1876, it is documented that Ronaldson owned over 131 acres of land, which was valued at £77 10s.³⁷ As well as being a significant landowner, he worked as an insurance agent for Life Association of Scotland.³⁸ His other responsibilities included overseeing the applications for the staffing of, and enlistment of students to, 'Clonakilty Endowed School' in Shannon Square (now Emmet Square).³⁹ Ronaldson was also interested in local governance, becoming an elected member of the Clonakilty Board of Guardians and a town commissioner who was heavily involved in drainage, sewage and waterworks in the town.⁴⁰ He was active in church affairs and was one of a number of Presbyterians who finalised the lease for the new Presbyterian church in Clonakilty (now the post office), built 1861 with the Earl of Shannon.⁴¹ In a statement on the history of Presbyterianism in Clonakilty, Ronaldson was described as 'for many years one of the most respected and liberal members of this congregation'.⁴²

The name change from Lower Tawnies Cottage to Beechgrove was possibly due to Bellevue adopting the name Tawnies Cottage, and the first known reference to 'Beechgrove' appears in an 1882 advertisement selling the house and 47 acre farm in Tawnies Lower with yearly rent of £88, as well as the neighbouring farm in the townland of Miles (137 acres) with yearly rent of £78.⁴³ It is stated that these two farms are 'in the biggest state of cultivation, with every convenience of residence, farm buildings, fences, gates, water, etc.'.⁴⁴ The 'two splendid farms' and 'gentleman's residence' were auctioned at Beechgrove on 19 September 1882, while the household furniture, cattle, horses, pigs, donkeys, hay, corn, farm implements and machinery were auctioned three months later.⁴⁵ In the advert for the house auction, the property is described as follows:

... a charming residence called “Beechgrove,” having pleasant sunny aspect, handsome Conservatory, Porch, Vinery, &c. The House contains Drawingroom, Dining, and 5 Bed-rooms, Kitchen, Pantries, Sculleries, Servants’ Apartments, enclosed Yard, Stalls for 13 Cows, 4 Horse Stables, Harness House, Potato and other Houses, large Garden, stocked with every description of fruit and vegetables; nice Avenue approach. The Grounds are well sheltered with ornamental Trees and Shrubs which are registered as Vendor’s Property.⁴⁶

Ronaldson and his wife, Jane, moved to Barnhall in the townland of Parsonstown between Celbridge and Leixlip, Co. Kildare, where he died from heart disease on 25 January 1885, aged sixty-two.⁴⁷ Jane died at her home of Morningside Park in Edinburgh in 1909.⁴⁸ It is not clear who purchased Beechgrove in 1882 and, while we know that the present building was built in 1887, due to another gap in our knowledge we do not know by whom it was erected. Despite the label ‘Beechgrove’ being used in the late 1800s, the name ‘Lower Tawnies Cottage’ passed from the earlier dwelling to the present building, as it was so named on the OS map of 1900. By this time, two foot bridges had been erected to the south of the house; the one closer to it crossed a millrace associated with Millville and the other crossed the River Fealge.

Certainly by the late 1800s, the Kingston family was living at Beechgrove. The name ‘Beechgrove’ occurs on the headstone of Paul Kingston in St Matthew’s churchyard, Drimoleague, who died in 1898 (Fig. 2). Paul was an elder brother of Barnabas Kingston (c. 1837–1918) who was listed at Beechgrove in various sources from 1903.⁴⁹ We can glean more about the Kingstons and Beechgrove from census returns. Along with his wife Mary (b. *circa* 1852), listed as a housekeeper, Barnabas, a farmer and the landholder, was living on the estate in 1901 with his two adult sons (Frank and Richard) and two adult daughters (May and Madge), as well as a servant, Margaret Collins.⁵⁰ Excepting the Catholic servant, it was a Methodist household. Beechgrove House then had at least ten rooms with eight windows to the front and was deemed a first-class house.⁵¹ There were also twelve outhouses: two stables, a coach house, two cow houses, a calf house, a dairy, a piggery, a fowl house, a boiling house, a barn and a shed.⁵²



Fig. 2: Headstone in St Matthew’s churchyard, Drimoleague, marking the graves of Paul Kingston, Beechgrove, and his mother Margaret (Photo: author 2017).⁵³

In 1906, Barnabas sold his 296 acre farm at Lakemount, Enniskeane, for £3,210 to Leslie Arnott Johnson of Laragh House, west of Bandon,⁵⁴ but even after this sizeable sale the Kingstons retained some land east of Enniskeane.⁵⁵ In 1907, Barnabas got a good price of £600 for two of his fields at Tawnies Lower, comprising over 12 acres, which he sold to R. J. Helen.⁵⁶ This is presumably the Church of Ireland farmer and cattle trader, Richard James Helen, who then resided on Sovereign Street (now Pearse Street), Clonakilty.⁵⁷

The 1911 census records the same Kingston family members in Tawnies Lower but the servant, Margaret Collins, had been replaced by Mary Barrett,



Fig. 3: Barnabas Kingston with his wife Mary and daughter Madge
(Photo: courtesy of Heather Ridgeway née Bennett).

and Denis O'Mahony had been taken on as a farm servant.⁵⁸ By this time, the number of rooms in the house had been reduced slightly and there were then seven windows to the front;⁵⁹ the apparent loss of a window during the decade between the two censuses can probably be explained by the insertion of a porch, the remains of which are visible today. The number of outhouses had also been reduced to six: a stable, a cow house, a calf house, a dairy, a piggery and a fowl house.⁶⁰ Barnabas was then leasing a two-roomed, second-class

house, a piggery and a fowl house in Tawnies Lower to a gardener, Daniel Collins, and his family.⁶¹

Barnabas died in 1918 and the beneficiaries of his will were Richard Willis and Richard Kingston, his son.⁶² Willis is likely the fellow Methodist residing in Garranecore, Clonakilty, at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses.⁶³ Barnabas' wife, Mary, died in 1924 of 'Chronic Indigestion, Anaemia, Peritonitis following Perforate Gastric Ulcer'.⁶⁴ None of their four surviving children married and their eldest son, Frank, a farmer, died in 1927 aged fifty-four.⁶⁵ Upon Barnabas' death, the property at Beechgrove passed to his son Richard, also a farmer and member of the Clonakilty Farmers' Union.⁶⁶ In 1917, in the midst of World War I, at a meeting of the Clonakilty Urban District Council, Richard agreed to donate 13 acres under the Allotment Scheme in an effort to address the food crisis but many local labourers present objected to the land being too far from their residences.⁶⁷ In 1934 at the age of fifty-eight, Richard died as a result of an appendix abscess and, like his mother, peritonitis, i.e. inflammation of abdominal tissue.⁶⁸ He left his estate to his sister Margaret Kate (Madge).⁶⁹ It seems that Madge (b. *circa* 1882) lived with her sister Mary (May) in Beechgrove House until their deaths in 1950 and 1952 respectively. While Madge was noted as a farmer on her death certificate,⁷⁰ May was described as an 'invalid' dying as a result of 'Paralysis agitans', i.e. Parkinson's Disease.⁷¹ Barnabas, his wife Mary and their children Paul, Frank, Richard, Madge and May were all buried in St Matthew's churchyard, Drimoleague, in the same plot as Barnabas' brother, Paul, and their mother Margaret (Fig. 4). Madge left her effects to Harry Bennett (better known as 'Hal'), a Methodist farmer from Ballyduvane House, just west of Clonakilty, who had helped the Kingstons on the farm for many years, and to Walter Chiddick, a business manager from Western Road, Clonakilty.⁷² The beneficiaries of May's will were Walter Chiddick and Thomas Bennett, mill owner at Millville, Clonakilty.⁷³ All household goods, furniture and farming implements owned by the Kingstons were sold off in a large sale at Beechgrove following her death.⁷⁴

It is the Bennetts who are most commonly linked to Beechgrove in living memory. In 1952, Harry inherited the house and accompanying 32 acre farm.⁷⁶ In 1954, he was letting Beechgrove House and, during this time, Cork County Council acquired 2 acres of the Beechgrove estate in order to develop



Fig. 4: Broken headstone in St Matthew's churchyard, Drimoleague, marking the graves of Barnabas and Mary Kingston, Beechgrove, and their children (Photo: author 2017).⁷⁵

a graveyard on the site of what was to become St Mary's Cemetery.⁷⁷ Harry and his wife Hester moved to Beechgrove in 1958 (Fig. 5), when their son John married Ruth née Stanley and took over the farm at Ballyduvane. Harry used the land at Beechgrove predominantly for beef farming, rearing prize-winning Hereford and Aberdeen Angus cattle.⁷⁸ He took an active role in local agricultural activities, becoming Chairman of the West Cork National Farmers' Association in the early 1960s,⁷⁹ and for nearly half a century he was an officer with the Clonakilty Agricultural Society.⁸⁰ For more than a decade, he employed Mike Donovan of Ballyduvane as caretaker and gardener of

Beechgrove and, to a lesser extent, Ballyduvane. Before this, Mike had worked as a 'ganger' for Cork County Council but retired from this job c. 1948.⁸¹ In 1967, Hester died at Beechgrove and Harry died in 1971 (Fig. 6).⁸² By this time their daughter Jean, a former bank clerk and social worker, had returned to manage the farm and subsequently ran Beechgrove as a guesthouse (Fig. 7).⁸³



Fig. 5: Harry and Hester Bennett, 1921, on the occasion of their honeymoon (Photo: courtesy of Heather Ridgeway née Bennett).



Fig. 6: Headstone in St Mary's Cemetery, Clonakilty, marking the graves of Hester and Harry Bennett (Photo: author 2017).

The six-bedroom house and 14 acres with its courtyard and stables were placed for sale in 2000. Its surviving period features then included marble fireplaces, ceiling cornices and working window shutters.⁸⁴ It was bought by Cork County Council, and the house has remained unoccupied ever since. Plans to develop the building as the municipal district offices never came to fruition but some of the adjoining land was subsumed into the *Gaelscoil Mbichíl Uí Choileáin* development, which opened in 2013. The building and the surrounding grounds were used for storage of road signs and such by the Council, but being left idle the condition of the house and surrounding outhouses deteriorated considerably. It also attracted antisocial behaviour and, despite the entrance being fenced off, was easily accessible to eager teens. The estate has been receiving much attention over the past two years as plans are afoot to develop fifty-six housing units on the site.⁸⁵ During the pre-planning



Fig. 7: Harry Bennett with his daughter Jean (Photo: courtesy of Heather Ridgeway née Bennett).

stage, on 16 June 2017, Beechgrove House fell victim to a maliciously set fire that destroyed the roof. But what is now to become of Beechgrove House?

Legal Protection and Architectural Observations

Beechgrove House is a listed building on the Record of Protected Structures,⁸⁶ meaning that it is protected under section four of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. In theory, this entails that the owner, in this case Cork County Council, is legally obliged to prevent the building from becoming endangered through damage or neglect. Regrettably, there was no real effort made to preserve Beechgrove over the past decade and a half, nor was there any attempt at sufficient surveillance, and so the current state of the building is the



Fig. 8: Beechgrove House in recent decades when in the ownership of the Bennetts
(Photo: courtesy of Heather Ridgeway née Bennett).

consequence of such inaction. Unfortunately, the Council failed to learn from the mistakes regarding the care of the privately owned, nineteenth-century Good Shepherd Convent on Sunday's Well and the eighteenth-century Vernon Mount, near Douglas, which were destroyed by fire in 2012 and 2016 respectively.⁸⁷ Each fire is heralded as the 'wake-up call' needed to improve the protection of derelict historic buildings, and yet even more recently than the Beechgrove incident, on 4 July, a fire engulfed the nineteenth-century, HSE-owned St Kevin's Asylum on Lee Road in Cork.⁸⁸

As well as being listed on the Landed Estates Database,⁸⁹ Beechgrove House was surveyed by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in recent years, which commented on its 'fine slate roof'.⁹⁰ Much of the following



Fig. 9: Beechgrove House following the fire, view from the southeast (Photo: author).

description is informed by their records. Beechgrove House is a detached L-plan four-bay, two-storey house. The remains of a porch are visible to the front (south elevation), which was probably erected between 1901 and 1911 (discussed above). The walls to the front and sides feature lined-and-ruled rendering. The exposed rubble limestone wall to the rear (north) elevation has a rendered stringcourse, above which is a rendered pediment in a classical style. Centrally positioned within the pediment is the oval '1887' date plaque set in a moulded surround. The front door opening is round-headed, while there is a camber-headed door opening with red-brick voussoirs to the rear. The window openings, with rendered sills, are generally square-headed with some camber-headed examples to the rear; some timber sliding sash windows have survived but most of the window openings are boarded up. The building's hipped and pitched 'fine' slate roof was ravaged in the fire this year though its rendered chimneystacks survived. The building will undoubtedly rapidly

decay further following the fire and due to its exposure to the elements. However, the house still retains some important historic architectural features, lending all the more urgency to the need for its conservation.



Fig. 10: Outbuildings to rear of Beechgrove House, view from the north (Photo: author).

The house is not only of importance as a building in itself; its curtilage, including associated outbuildings and other features, lends to its historic significance. Nearby are a number of substantial vernacular outbuildings with slate roofs, some attached to Beechgrove House; some may predate it and relate to the earlier dwelling on the site. They are in various states of disrepair. A two-storey barn displays camber-headed door openings and square-headed window openings with red brick voussoirs like those visible on the main house. Of especial interest is a detached single-storey outbuilding to the west of Beechgrove House: its walls are rendered, as is its chimney stack, it has a hipped slate roof, a square-headed door opening with timber battened door and a square-headed window opening with slate sill and timber casement window.

This was possibly the home of Daniel Collins and his family, listed in the 1911 census (see above). Also on the site is a nineteenth-century cast-iron water pump exhibiting fine craftsmanship.



Fig. 11: Various outbuildings to north and east of Beechgrove House (Photo: author).

Conclusion

A historic house of this type with its rural character, on the edge of the town, and in public ownership, is highly unusual. But it is the retention of its outbuildings and other associated historic features that make the site remarkable: the survival of such an extensive array of nineteenth-century farm buildings is increasingly rare in the West Cork landscape. This, coupled with the history of both the original Lower Tawnies Cottage and the later Beechgrove House, as well as the fascinating stories of its various occupants, make it not only of local but regional significance. It is anticipated that as Beechgrove enters its next chapter, with its upcoming housing development,

the house and associated buildings will be conserved and maintained in a manner that respects and preserves its historic character.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who provided me with information especially to the Bennett family, Fachtna McCarthy and Traolach Ó Donnabháin who shared with me their memories of Beechgrove, to Michael O'Mahony for sourcing newspaper reports, and to Dr Bernadette McCarthy, Diarmuid Kingston, Michael O'Connell (West Cork Regional Museum), John Townsend and Dr Elena Turk for their expertise. Thanks also to Heather Ridgeway and Dr Jason Van Der Velde for kindly allowing me to reproduce their photos.

(Endnotes)

- 1 'Fire brigade battles fire in Clonakilty', *Irish Examiner*, 16 June 2017.
- 2 Coordinates: 51.62255369, -8.9047964. Coordinates relate to the WGS84 system and support GPS and Google Maps.
- 3 Brady, W. M. 1863. *Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross*, vol. 2. Dublin, pp. 134, 495, 552; *Pigot's Directory*, 1824, p. 235; *Jackson's Directory*, 1842–43, p. 135, for all street and trade directories see www.corkpastandpresent.ie/places/streetandtradedirectories.
- 4 Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 2, p. 552. Brady initially identified a 'Henry Stewart' who was prebend and vicar of Timoleague from 1809 to 1813 with this Henry Wilson Stewart, see Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 2, p. 557. However, he later rejected this assumption, see Brady, W. M. 1864. *Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross*, vol. 3, p. 290.
- 5 *Pigot's Directory*, 1824, p. 235. William on occasion has been identified as Henry Wilson Stewart's father (e.g. Coombes, J. 'Interesting story of Dr. Wm. Callanan'. *Southern Star*, 4 Feb. 1978) but it seems more likely that they were brothers as suggested by Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 3, pp. 252–3. Another William Stewart, nephew of 'Dr. Stewart of Clonakilty', was master in 1828 of the brig *Mary Russell*, when on 24 June travelling between Cork and Barbados, William killed seven of his crewmen by crowbar blows to their skulls and wounded two. Days before the incident, William had grown deeply distrustful, fearing mutiny, and in particular was suspicious of the Irish language spoken by some crew members. No proof of mutiny was found and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty due to 'mental derangement'. William was committed to the Asylum for Criminal Lunatics in Dundrum and then transferred to the Cork Asylum where he later killed a hospital attendant.

For further information on this William Stewart, see Waldie, A. 1838. *Waldie's Select Circulating Library*, vol. 6. Philadelphia, pp. 376–400; Kelleher Kahn, H. 2009. 'Forced from this world: Massacre on the *Mary Russell*'. *History Ireland* 17, no. 5, pp. 22–6; *Cork Examiner*, 19 May 1934.

- 6 *New Cork Evening Post*, 24 Mar. 1800, transcription available online at <https://durrushistory.com> [accessed 26 July 2017]. In this newspaper report, William Stewart is listed among those who were issued certificates granting the killing of game by James Chatterton, Clerk of the Peace for Cork, in 1799. Interestingly, his brother Henry Wilson Stewart is also listed.
- 7 Coombes, *Southern Star*, 4 Feb. 1978.
- 8 *Freeman's Journal* 13 Dec. 1800; *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 24 Oct. 1837; Townsend, W. R. 1843 (2nd ed.). *Directions on Practical Agriculture, for the Working Farmers in Ireland*. Dublin, p. 14.
- 9 Wellfield was described as follows in 1815: 'By draining, dressing and enclosing, it is now a very handsome, as well as productive farm, with the addition of an excellent house, offices, garden and plantations', see Townsend, H. 1815 (2nd ed). *A General and Statistical Survey of the County of Cork*, vol. 1. Cork, p. 331. A productive dairy at Wellfield supplied milk to the town of Clonakilty.
- 10 Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 3, p. 253; Townsend, J. *The Townsend (Townshend) Family Records*, <http://www.astro.wisc.edu/~townsend/tree/home.php> [accessed 26 June 2017]. William Stewart's son Henry was rector of Rathbarry and is sometimes confused with his uncle, Rev. Henry Wilson Stewart.
- 11 Board of Education. 1812. *Classical Schools: Twelfth Report from the Commissioners of the Board of Education in Ireland*. vol. 5.1, p. 9, available online at <http://www.dip-pam.ac.uk/eppi/documents/8744/page/199364> [accessed 10 Aug. 2017]; see also Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 2, p. 487.
- 12 Townsend, *General and Statistical Survey of Cork*, p. 322.
- 13 Board of Education, *Classical Schools*, p. 9.
- 14 Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 2, pp. 142–3, 487, 495, 541, 552; Commission for Inquiring into the Condition of the Poorer Classes in Ireland. n.d. *The Miseries and Misfortunes of Ireland and the Irish People*. Dublin, p. 181; *Aldwell's Directory*, 1844–45, p. 147; *Thom's Irish Almanac*, 1857, p. 686; Townsend, *The Townsend (Townshend) Family Records*.
- 15 *Pigot's Directory*, 1824, p. 235.
- 16 Tithe Applotment Books. 1823–37. National Archives of Ireland (hereafter NAI), available online at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie>.
- 17 Lewis, S. 1837. *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, vol. 2, London, p. 96.
- 18 *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 27 July and 29 July 1837.
- 19 *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 17 Oct. 1840; *Southern Star*, 22 June 1929; Potter, M. 2017. 'The establishment and workings of Clonakilty Town Commissioners 1840–99'. *Clonakilty Historical and Archaeological Journal*, this vol.

- 20 *Aldwell's Directory*, 1844–45, p. 286; *Slater's Directory*, 1846, p. 174.
- 21 *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 22 Aug. 1846.
- 22 Tenure Book, no. 13 Lower Tawnies, 31 Mar. 1847, Valuation Office Tenure Books, 1846–58, NAI, available online at http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/tenure_books.jsp.
- 23 House Book, no. 13A Tawnies Lower, 29 July 1848, Valuation Office Tenure Books, 1846–58, NAI, available online at http://census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/vob/IRE_CENSUS_1821-51_007246786_00070.pdf [accessed 10 Aug. 2017].
- 24 No. 13a Tawnies Lower, Griffith's Valuation (1848–64), available online at <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation> [accessed 10 Aug. 2017].
- 25 *Slater's Directory*, 1856, p. 197.
- 26 *Cork Examiner*, 3 Oct. 1856.
- 27 *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 24 Apr. 1857; Brady, *Clerical and Parochial Records*, vol. 2, p. 552.
- 28 *Cork Constitution*, 11 July and 18 July 1857; *Cork Examiner*, 10 July 1857. M.R.C.S.E.: Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.
- 29 It is hoped that a review of the Cancelled Books in the Valuation Office, Dublin, will fill the gaps in our knowledge concerning both the earlier Lower Tawnies Cottage and later Beechgrove House.
- 30 *Cork Constitution*, 31 July 1862, 5 Jan. 1867, 8 Feb. 1871; *Cork Examiner*, 29 Jan. 1863, 28 July 1863, 7 and 14 Apr. 1864, 3 Mar. 1865, 2 Aug. 1865, 1 and 2 Feb. 1866, 10 Nov. 1866, 1 Aug. 1867, 31 July 1868; *Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 - 1922*, 1866, NAI, p. 331, all calendars of wills available online at <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie>; *Guy's Directory*, 1875–76, pp. 189, 459; *Slater's Directory*, 1881, p. 35.
- 31 *Cork Examiner*, 29 Oct. 1868, 2 Nov. 1868, 6 Nov. 1877; *Freeman's Journal*, 26 Oct. 1877.
- 32 *Guy's Directory*, 1875–76, p. 192, see also pp. 188, 386. John Donovan was a town commissioner and one of the principal landholders in Clonakilty.
- 33 *Cork Examiner*, 7 and 21 Dec. 1849; *Southern Star*, 13 Nov. 1915.
- 34 *Cork Examiner*, 16 Mar. 1849. Jane was the daughter of James Twohig, see *Southern Star*, 9 Oct. 1915. In this year (1849), Ronaldson rented properties from the Earl of Shannon in the townland of Scartagh, Clonakilty, see House Book, no. 15 Scartagh, 12 June 1849, Valuation Office Tenure Books, 1846–58, NAI.
- 35 *Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Courier*, 16 Feb. 1856; *Slater's Directory* 1856, p. 197; Cork City and County Archives, Clonakilty Board of Guardians, IE CCCA/BG65/A/1, Minutes of meeting 14 Nov. 1851. The mill is sometimes referred to as Mill Vale.
- 36 *Cork Examiner*, 19 July 1861.
- 37 Local Government Board. 1876. *Land Owners in Ireland: Return of Owners of Land of One Acre and Upwards*. Dublin, p. 133.

- 38 *Cork Examiner*, 16 Nov. 1860, 3 Mar. 1865; *Slater's Directory*, 1881, p. 36.
- 39 *Cork Examiner*, 2 Feb. 1855; *Belfast Newsletter*, 3 July 1862.
- 40 *Cork Examiner*, 7 Dec. 1849; *Southern Star*, 25 Sep. 1915, 9 and 16 Oct. 1915, 13 Nov. 1915. Ronaldson was elected to the Town Commissioners in 1854 and in January 1855, he was sworn in.
- 41 Hayes, J. 'Post Office', <http://www.failteromhat.com/clon/clonpo.php> [accessed 10 Aug. 2017].
- 42 Irwin, C. H. 1890. *A History of Presbyterianism in Dublin and the South and West of Ireland*. London, p. 206.
- 43 *Cork Examiner*, 3 and 12 Aug. 1882, 12 Sep. 1882; *Skibbereen Eagle*, 16 Sep. 1882. The advertisement indicates that Ronaldson was also selling a 130 acre farm in the townland of Pallas, between Clonakilty and Ardfield.
- 44 *Cork Examiner*, 3 and 12 Aug. 1882.
- 45 *Cork Examiner*, 7 Dec. 1882.
- 46 *Skibbereen Eagle*, 16 Sep. 1882.
- 47 Death certificate registered 6 Feb. 1885, Register's District Celbridge, Union of Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Civil Registration Office of Ireland; *Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 - 1922*, 1885, NAI, p. 745.
- 48 *Irish Independent*, 8 June 1909; *Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 - 1922*, 1909, NAI, p. 519.
- 49 *Guy's Directory*, 1903, p. 311; 1916, p. 284; *Skibbereen Eagle*, 18 May 1912.
- 50 Household Return (Form A), no. 8 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1901, all census returns available to view at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>. Barnabas Kingston married Mary Jennings in 1872. See civil marriage record, Dunmanway, Civil Registration Office of Ireland, all civil records available to view at <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie>. From the 1911 census, we learn that Barnabas and Mary had eight children but only four had survived by then. See Household Return (Form A), no. 2 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911.
- 51 House and Building Return (Form B1), no. 8 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1901.
- 52 Out-Offices and Farm-Steadings Return (Form B2), no. 8 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1901.
- 53 Inscription reads: 'ERECTED BY / PAUL AND BARNABAS / IN LOVING MEMORY OF / THEIR MOTHER / MARGARET KINGSTON / WHO DIED MARCH 5TH 1892 / AGED 88 YEARS / AND HER SON / PAUL KINGSTON / BEECHGROVE / DIED JUNE 5TH 1898 / AGED 64 YEARS'.
- 54 *Southern Star*, 7 Apr. 1906.
- 55 *Southern Star*, 9 May 1908.
- 56 *Skibbereen Eagle*, 2 Nov. 1907.

- 57 Household Return (Form A), no. 38 Sovereign St., Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1901; Household Return (Form A), no. 40 Sovereign St, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911. In 1943, Samuel Kingston of Tawnies purchased over 29 acres of the late R. J. Helen's land at Tawnies Lower for £2,640 at a public auction; the price was declared 'probably the highest reached in the district since the 1914–18 war', see *Southern Star*, 27 Nov. 1943; some of this land presumably originally formed part of the Beechgrove estate.
- 58 Household Return (Form A), no. 2 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911.
- 59 House and Building Return (Form B1), no. 2 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911.
- 60 Out-Offices and Farm-Steadings Return (Form B2), no. 2 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911.
- 61 House and Building Return (Form B1) and Out-Offices and Farm-Steadings Return (Form B2), no. 3 Tawnies Lower, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1911. Could Daniel Collins be related to Margaret Collins, the former servant at Beechgrove?
- 62 Will dated 12 July 1918, NAI, available to view at http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/reels/cwa/005014921/005014921_00404.pdf [accessed 23 Oct. 2017].
- 63 Household Returns (Form A), Garranecore, Clonakilty, *Census of Ireland*, 1901 and 1911.
- 64 Died 4 Oct. 1924, death registered 10 Oct. 1924, Register's District Clonakilty; see also *Southern Star*, 11 Oct. 1924.
- 65 Died 25 Nov. 1927 due to 'Paralysis Endocarditis', death registered 2 Dec. 1927, Register's District Clonakilty.
- 66 Richard Kingston is listed at Beechgrove in the following: *Southern Star*, 6 July 1912; *Skibbereen Eagle*, 22 Nov. 1919, 6 Mar. 1920; *Guy's Directory*, 1921, p. 284; 1925, p. 286; 1930, p. 287.
- 67 *Skibbereen Eagle*, 27 Jan. 1917.
- 68 Died 2 Sep. 1934, registered 21 Sep. 1934, Register's District Clonakilty. Joseph H. Bennett of The Square (now Emmet Square), Clonakilty, was present at the time of his death.
- 69 Probate of will dated 9 Sep. 1936, CS/HC/PO/4/89, Calendar of grants of probate of wills and letters of administration made in the Principal Registry and its district registries. 1936. p. 361, NAI. See also Kingston, G. J. R. 'Kingston in the Irish Calendars of Wills & Administrations: 1858 – 1960', <https://kyngeston.wordpress.com/author/gjrkingston/page/4/> [accessed 26 June 2017].
- 70 Died 28 July 1950 of myocarditis (i.e. inflammation of the heart muscle), registered 9 Aug. 1950, Register's District Clonakilty.
- 71 An advertisement in the *Southern Star* (2 Mar. 1951) sought to employ a young girl to assist in May's care at Beechgrove. Died 9 Apr. 1952, registered 23 Apr. 1952, Register's District Clonakilty; *Cork Examiner*, 10 Apr. 1952.
- 72 Probate of will dated 25 Oct. 1950, CS/HC/PO/4/103, Calendar of grants of probate of wills and letters of administration made in the Principal Registry and its district registries. 1950. p. 433, NAI; *Irish Press*, 31 May 1951; *Southern Star*, 23 June and 7 July 1951. Information on Harry Bennett kindly supplied by his granddaughter Heather Ridgeway née Bennett.
- 73 Probate of will dated 9 Apr. 1952, CS/HC/PO/4/105, Calendar of grants of probate of wills and letters of administration made in the Principal Registry and its district registries. 1952. p. 311, NAI; *Southern Star*, 27 Dec. 1952; death registered 23 Apr. 1952, Register's District Clonakilty. Henry Bennett was present at the time of May's death.
- 74 *Southern Star*, 30 Aug. and 6 Sep. 1952.
- 75 Inscription reads: 'IN / LOVING MEMORY / OF / BARNABAS KINGSTON / DIED 26TH APRIL 1918 / AGED 81 YEARS, / HIS WIFE MARY KINGSTON, / DIED 4TH OCT. 1924 / AGED 72 YEARS, / AND PAUL KINGSTON / DIED - - - break in headstone - - - 1902 / AGED 16 YEARS / FRANK KINGSTON / DIED 25TH NOV. 1927 / AGED 54 YEARS. / RICHARD KINGSTON / DIED 2ND SEPT. 1934. / AGED 58 YEARS. / MARY (MAY) KINGSTON / DIED 9TH APRIL 1952 / MARGARET KATE KINGSTON / DIED 28TH JULY 1950 AGED 68 YRS / "UNTIL THE DAY BREAK AND THE / SHADOWS FLEE AWAY."'
- 76 *Cork Examiner*, 21 Oct. 1954.
- 77 *Cork Examiner*, 21 Oct. 1954. Harry and his wife were later buried in this cemetery (see Fig. 6).
- 78 *Southern Star*, 16 July 1960, 21 Dec. 1968; *Cork Examiner*, 2 May 1961, 16 Dec. 1969; *Irish Farmer's Journal*, 26 Dec. 1970.
- 79 *Cork Examiner*, 17 Apr. and 27 July 1962.
- 80 *Southern Star*, 5 Feb. 1972.
- 81 Information on Mike Donovan supplied by Traolach Ó Donnabháin, originally of Ballyduvane, grandson of Mike Donovan; Traolach remembers, from the mid-1950s, regularly cycling from Ballyduvane to Beechgrove House delivering a 'bite to eat' to his grandfather.
- 82 *Cork Examiner*, 13 Nov. 1967; *Southern Star*, 25 Sep. 1971.
- 83 *Irish Farmer's Journal*, 26 Dec. 1970. Jean Bennett died in July 2010, see *Irish Examiner*, 15 Jan. 2011.
- 84 *Irish Examiner*, 12 Aug. and 23 Oct. 2000.
- 85 *Cork Independent*, 1 Apr. 2015; *Irish Examiner*, 26 May 2015, 12 Aug. and 20 Sep. 2016; *Southern Star*, 6 Apr. and 10 June 2017.

- 86 RPS no. 20000178, see Clonakilty Town Council. 2009. 'Clonakilty Record of Protected Structures: July 2009'. In *Clonakilty Development Plan 2009-2015*. Cork, pp. 12, 225-7.
- 87 English, E. 'Gardaí: Convent fire likely deliberate'. *Irish Examiner*, 14 Nov. 2012; English, E. and O'Riordan, S. "All that now remains is ... a memory of what might have been" – Vernon Mount House faces demolition'. *Irish Examiner*, 26 July 2016; NIAH nos 20871029 and 20862019, all NIAH entries available to view online at <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah>. The early nineteenth-century Fortwilliam House, part of the Clayton Hotel Silver Springs, on Lower Glanmire Road, also suffered a fire in 2016 but unlike the other incidents, this was not due to anti-social behaviour, see *Irish Examiner*, 23 Dec. 2016.
- 88 Roche, B. 'Fire at site of former psychiatric hospital in Cork'. *Irish Times*, 4 July 2017; NIAH no. 20865030.
- 89 Landed Estates Database, NUI Galway, <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie>.
- 90 NIAH no. 20846174, <http://www.buildingsofireland.ie/niah/search.jsp?type=record&county=CO®no=20846174> [accessed 1 June 2017].

ERRATA AND ADDENDUM FOR VOLUME 1, 2015



Article: de Bhailís, C. 2015. 'Alfred Elmore's religious paintings'. *Clonakilty Historical and Archaeological Journal* 1, pp. 48-60.

Error: An error arose at the printing stage. In the main body of the text, there are two no. 10 superscripts. The first of these relates correctly to endnote 10; the second relates to endnote 11. Consequently, endnote 11 and all further endnotes do not correspond with the superscript numbers in the body of the text, i.e. no. 11 superscript relates to endnote 12, no. 12 superscript relates to endnote 13, etc. with the last superscript number (32) in the text referring to endnote 33.

Article: Tuipéar, T. 2015. 'A brief note on *Clonakilty's linen hall*'. *Clonakilty Historical and Archaeological Journal* 1, pp. 217-20.

Additional Note: As a result of this publication, it is now possible to identify the individuals in Fig. 2 captioned 'Tourists at Wheel of Fortune, Clonakilty, 1950s. In background note new two-storey corner extension on Houlihan's bakery'. These are as follows: children standing L–R: Tom Maguire, Garry