

# Newsletter



Issue No. 100 Autumn 2013

## RE-LAUNCH

Ninety-nine editions of the *Newsletter* have been issued to members of the Old Malahide Society, which later became the Malahide Historical Society, over the period from 1980 to 2010. The great majority of these were edited by Noel Flanagan who drew on his almost encyclopedic knowledge of history, especially the history of this locality, to bring interesting and often little known facts to his readership.

Unfortunately, due to deteriorating health, Noel has been unable to continue with his much appreciated efforts. We wish him well and thank him for his contributions over the years.

Your committee feels that it is desirable to maintain a regular link with members. Commencing with this issue it is proposed to issue several *Newsletters* yearly. In order to keep time, printing, and postage costs to a minimum these will be distributed in electronic form via email. For those members not using email we will provide black and white copies for the time being.

With regard to content it is hoped members will contribute material. We will also draw on the Society's considerable archive of local historical facts and our large and growing collection of images of old Malahide. Another suggestion is that we highlight an interesting artefact from our museum collection.

## Whats happening

**October:** *Adolf Mahr-Dublin's No. 1 Nazi* : Gerry Mullins.

**November:** *Billiard Tables, Making Money & Telescopes.* Prof. Tom Ray.

**December:** *March Away My Brothers:* Presentation with music and song about Christmas 1914 in the trenches: Brendan McQuaile.

**January:** *Belcamp House and the Marckievicz connection:* Pat Quigley.

**February:** *19<sup>th</sup> C. Portmarnock:* Garry Ahern.

**March:** *18<sup>th</sup> C. Dublin Shop Signage:* Alan Costello.

**April:** *Theatre Royal- a trip down memory lane:* Conor Doyle.

**May:** *Malahide Miscellany,* a presentation by Brian Dooley of recent acquisitions to our collection of old Malahide photographs. Plus a short talk on *Woodbine Willie:* Ken McAllister.

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All talks take place in Presbyterian Church Hall, Dublin Road at 8pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Free parking in public car park opposite.

Admission €4.

Non-members welcome.

# Rags to Riches in Malahide

*CAPTAIN TALBOT, being anxious to expedite the payment of the Debts due to the several Creditors of his father, the late Richard Talbot, of Malahide, Esq deceased; acquaints the said Creditors, that a fund is now in collection, and will be applied forthwith in discharge of the interest due on the several judgement debts; and in order to make a rateable distribution of the money now appropriated of this purpose, he requests the several persons who have not yet returned the amount of their demands, will send in the same to Capt Talbot, as his apartments in Dublin Castle, or to William Glascock, Esq. York-street; and further acquaints the Creditors, that he intends applying to the next Session of Parliament for an Act the better to enable him, by sale or mortgage of a competent part of his estates, to raise a sum sufficient to discharge not only the debts affecting the same, but the several other debts which were due by his father at the time of his decease; and in the mean time, Captain Talbot will appropriate the rents to increase the fund of the purposes above mentioned. –*

*Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 1788.*

On inheriting the Malahide Estates following his father's sudden death in 1788 the young Richard Wogan Talbot found them burdened with enormous debt which he acknowledged by inserting the above advertisement in the *Freeman's Journal*. At the time he and the young Lieut. Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington) were A.D.Cs. to the Lord Lieutenant. He immediately set about trying to bring these debts under control. As his widowed mother Margaret could not afford to continue to live in Malahide Castle she and her large family moved to a relatively small house in the Phoenix Park which had been put at her disposal by her relative by marriage the Lord Lieutenant. One measure adopted by Richard was to attempt to rent the Castle and so he inserted the advertisement below in the *Freeman's Journal*. However, he does not appear to have found a taker.

## **MALAHIDE CASTLE AND DEMESNE,**

*Ready furnished, with all the Offices suitable thereto, and an excellent large Garden, with as many Acres of the Demesne as may be required, to be lett, for such term as shall be agreed on. Appy to Captain Talbot, as his apartments, Dublin Castle, or to William Glascock, Esq. N.B. The tenant may be accommodated with old Hay on valuation.*

Talbot achieved some measure of relief by selling off lands at Garristown in 1790 and despite a busy life at home and abroad, in and out of the English army, Richard found time to marry Catherine Malpas, heiress of John Malpas of Chapelizod and Rochestown. When John Malpas died in 1797 the Rochestown estate passed to Richard. Apart from the land it comprised a modern house, brewery, pigeon house, pleasure grounds, orchards and a bowling green. Further good fortune came the family way when Richard's mother Margaret inherited a large fortune in 1801 on the death of an uncle who had accumulated wealth in the West Indies.

Jumping forward to 1825 we find the Duke of Wellington's brother, the bachelor Marquis of Wellesley holding the office of Lord lieutenant but obviously contemplating marriage as he was having the Vice-Regal Lodge in the Phoenix Park renovated. Needing somewhere to hold court he rented Malahide Castle for the summer from family friends, the Talbots. Earlier that year Richard had re-decorated the Great Hall at Malahide Castle.

Wellesley was apparently concerned by the surge in support for Daniel O'Connell's Catholic Emancipation movement for he garrisoned Malahide "with a large detachment of FootGuards, assisted by a strong posse of Peace Officers, and backed by a squadron of the Constabulary Police"

The Talbot family fortunes had greatly improved in the meantime and perhaps further bolstered by the above letting income Richard and his second wife initially retired to Lambay and then set off to travel in Europe.

Meantime, speculation was rife with *The Times* of London carrying the following piece taken from Dublin papers.

## **Lord Wellesley**

*We believe there is some foundation for the rumour that the head of the Government of this country is about to be married to an American Lady, an ally of one of the Buonaparte family. We have heard from good authority that the nuptials are to take place even as early as Thursday next. The lady is a Catholic, and therefore there will be a double ceremony on the occasion. Her fortune, we are told, is, in money alone, equal to 400,000 dollars.*

*The marriage of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant with Mrs. Patterson is certainly to take place—we believe the day is not fixed, but report states that it will not be post-poned beyond the ensuing week. It has been erroneously supposed that the lady is the same who had been formerly the wife of Jerome Buonaparte, ex-King of Westphalia. This is not the fact; Mrs. Patterson is the widow of the brother of that amiable and accomplished lady, and is herself also a most beautiful and accomplished woman. She was presented at Court at one of the King's late Drawing-rooms. His Majesty is said to have admired her very much. Mrs. Patterson is a Roman Catholic, and a native of the United States.-Dublin Morning Post.*

Two days later *The Times* copied further items from the Dublin media.

### **The Marquis of Wellesley**

(From the *Dublin Freeman's Journal* of Tuesday.)

*On Saturday his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant removed from Malahide Castle to his permanent residence at the Vice-Regal Lodge, Phoenix Park. The day for the celebration of his Excellency's approaching nuptials, which have excited so much interest among all classes in Dublin, is not yet appointed, as it will depend upon the arrival of his Excellency's brother, the Duke of Wellington and Lord Maryborough, who are expected about Wednesday; but at all events it is understood that the ceremony will not be deferred beyond Saturday next. It will be performed by the Protestant Archbishop, and afterwards by the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin.*

*A King's Messenger arrived at Malahide Castle on Wednesday last, bearing an autographed letter addressed by His Majesty to the Lord-Lieutenant, highly complimentary to his Excellency on the approaching auspicious event. In our paper of yesterday we stated, that Mrs Patterson had in ready money £130,000. We have been since informed that we underrated the sum and that £186,000 in 3 ½ per cents is nearer the truth. This lady, in addition to her property in the British funds, has claims upon the British and American governments to an equal amount, besides considerable landed property in America. She is niece to the Catholic Bishop of Maryland, and is herself, of course, a member of that communion. She will not be, however, the first Catholic consort of a Protestant Viceroy of Ireland. When the late Marquis of Buckingham administered the government of this country, the Marchioness, who was the only daughter and heiress of the great Earl of Clare, and a strict Catholic, went regularly to mass.*

*The apartments at the Vice-Regal Lodge, in the*

*Park, are undergoing considerable Improvement alterations. The Castle has been for some time under repair.*

(From the *Dublin Morning Post*)

*There have been some rumours that the Lord-Lieutenant's marriage would be followed by his retirement from the Vice-royalty of this country; if our information be correct, and we have good reason to believe it is, the contemplated event will but cause his longer continuance in his high office. One excuse for the clamour raised by some of those persons who wage a pretty personal hostility against the King's representative in this country, will then be relieved - namely, that there is no Court. The Irish Court, under the new Vice-Queen, will, we have no doubt, be brilliant and fashionable. The Duke of Wellington would, we believe, have honoured the nuptials with his presence, if circumstances of an imperative nature did not prevent his coming to Ireland at this period.*

(From the *Morning Register*)

*We understand that the city will be splendidly illuminated on Thursday evening, in honour of the nuptials of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.*

The event was obviously proving beneficial for the hotel trade as the Shelbourne Hotel inserted the following advertisement in the *London Times*:

*As the nobility will be coming from all parts of Ireland to congratulate our beloved Countryman, the most noble the Marquis of Wellesley, on his happy union, the proprietor has fitted up sixteen private sitting rooms, for the reception of those who may not wish to go to the public table.*

On Monday 31 October, 1825 *The Times* reported as follows:

### **The Lord Lieutenant**

*The marriage of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant with Mrs Patterson, took place at the Vice-Regal Lodge, in the Phoenix Park on Saturday evening.*

*At three o'clock two of the Lord Lieutenant's carriages, with a numerous retinue of servants in splendid liveries, arrived at Ryland's Hotel, in Sackville Street, where Mrs Patterson has been residing for the past three months. Immediately afterwards this esteemed Lady and her sister, Mrs Caton, accompanied by Mr Johnston and Col. Shawe, entered one of the carriages and proceeded directly to the*

residence of the illustrious Vice-Roy in the Park. The other carriage followed with the attendants.

A grand dinner was given, at a quarter past six, to a select party, consisting of the following persons of distinction:-

The Lord Primate

Sir George Murray

The Lord Chief Justice

The Attorney General and Miss Plunkett

Bishop of Raphoe

Mr and Mrs Goulburn

Mr Gregory

The Surgeon General

Dr. Radcliffe

Mr and Mrs Blake

Archdeacon Bishopp

**Mrs Talbot**

**Col. and Mrs Talbot**

Mr Colt and Col. Shawe

Dr Hunter and Mr Johnston

Mr E. Johnston and Capt. Keppel

Capt. Vignoles and Johnston

At eight o'clock precisely the marriage ceremony was performed by the LORD PRIMATE (Archbishop of Armagh). The lady was not given away, that form being unnecessary, as she had previously been married.

There was also a select evening party as follows:-

Col., Mrs and the Misses Gore

Sir Stewart Bruce

Mrs Furrell

Miss Montague

Mrs Webber

Capt. Malcolm

Capt. and Mrs Scott

The Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, (Most Rev. Dr. Murray) was honoured with an invitation to the dinner party but found it necessary to offer an apology. At eight o'clock one of the carriages of the Lord Lieutenant waited on the Archbishop at his house, in North Cumberland Street, from whence he proceeded without delay to the Park, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Russell, Parish Priest of St. Paul's and Vicar General of the Diocese, and the Rev. Mr. Glynn of Liffey Street Chapel, Vicar Apostolic. On the arrival of Dr. Murray the Marquis of Wellesley and Mrs Patterson were again married by that most reverend prelate in Pontificalibus. The Archbishop and the reverend gentlemen who attended him, afterwards, remained some time, and partook of some refreshments with the distinguished guests of the Lord Lieutenant. They were then conveyed to their several residences in His Excellency's carriages.

No event has, for a long time, diffused so much satisfaction through the metropolis as this union. The party is expected to be exceedingly gay during the winter in consequence of it.

Editor's note. It is almost certain the guest Mrs Talbot was Margaret Talbot, soon to become Baroness Talbot of Malahide and Col. Talbot was her eldest son Richard Wogan Talbot, the Capt. Talbot mentioned at the beginning of this article (and his second wife Margaret).

In conclusion, the *Glasgow Herald* provided this piece of information about the new bride.

### **The Marchioness Wellesley**

This lady's grandfather, Mr Carroll, of Carrollton, is the descendant and representative of a highly respectable Irish family who accompanied Lord Baltimore to Maryland in the first settlement of that province. He finished his education, as most young men of family and great expectations at that period usually did, in Europe. Returning to America while yet a youth, he warmly espoused the glorious cause of freedom and independence. With other illustrious individuals, he signed the "Declaration of Independence", by which act, in a time of awful uncertainty and frightful peril, he devoted his life and fortune to his country, where his name can only perish with the history of her trials and her triumphs – and thus he enjoys, in my humble opinion, a patent of nobility the proudest peer might envy. Of the great characters associated with him on that occasion, only three are now living, viz. the ex-presidents Adams and Jefferson, and Mr Carroll. Although upwards of eighty, Mr C. possesses all the vivacity and activity of the prime of life – as once an accomplished scholar and polished gentleman - less known for his large estates and great wealth, than for his noble hospitality, his simplicity and warmth of heart, his beneficence and active charity, crowned with a spotless honour, and all the chivalry and gallantry of a successful patriot. Free from bigotry himself, he does not appear to suspect it in others, and at his board are always found the most intelligent Americans, as well as strangers, whatever their faith may be. Of two daughters, one married the late amiable and excellent General Harper of Maryland, and the other (Lady Wellesley's mother), Mr Caton, an English gentleman, who processes a good estate in the immediate neighbourhood of Baltimore; he is a very handsome, elegant man, and his kindness can never be forgotten by the stranger reared at his feet. Mrs Paterson was every way worthy of her noble grandfather, beautiful, amiable, and accomplished – possessing all the refinements and fascinations of her charming sex, with a noble and generous heart – adored by her own family, and esteemed and respected by the State of Maryland, the noble Viceroy may well glory in his bride, and Ireland be proud of this choice.



### **FROM OUR MUSEUM COLLECTION**

#### **Candle snuffer**

This scissor-like tool could be used to trim the wick of a candle. With skill, this could be done without extinguishing the flame. A small receptacle catches the trimmed bit of wick.



## **MARGUERITE**

The oldest known surviving Malahide built boat.

Built in **1896** by Jack Wellington down by the Green. This pretty little gaff-rigged sailing vessel has had many owners down the years. This photograph, taken in 1936, shows the then owner Mrs Hilda Park (nee Jameson of Seamount) at the helm with her son Mungo crewing.

The *Marguerite* was discovered in a Wicklow farmyard some years ago and subsequently lovingly and expertly restored. She is currently afloat, resplendent in her dark green livery, in the Coal Harbour in Dun Laoghaire.

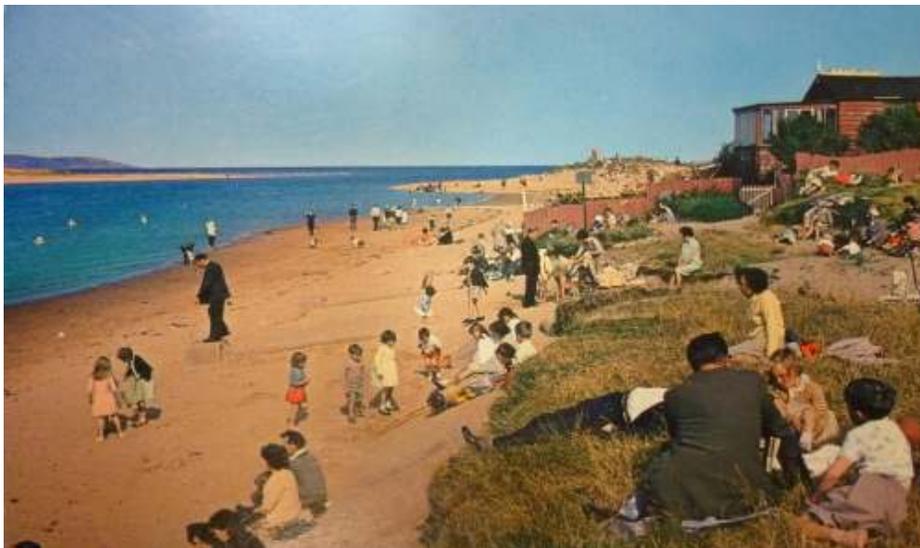
She is for sale and the owner would like to see her return to her home port of Malahide.

# SUMMER DAYS LONG AGO IMAGES FROM OUR PHOTO ARCHIVE



Seabank, probably about 1930s

Seabank 1950s



Seabank, about 1960s

# SUMMER DAYS LONG AGO

## DO YOU HAVE AN OLD PHOTO

TO CONTRIBUTE ?



Beaches at Biscayne (above) and Portmarnock (below) in the 1950s





## A recent museum acquisition

### Holmes stereoscope

The donor also provided several sets of stereo image cards depicting what are thought to be South African mining scenes from the early part of the last century.



In 1861 Oliver Wendell Holmes created and deliberately did not patent a handheld, streamlined, much more economical viewer than had been available before. The stereoscope, which dates from the 1850s, consisted of two prismatic lenses and a wooden stand to hold the stereo card. This type of stereoscope remained in production for a century.

A stereoscope is a device for viewing a stereoscopic pair of separate images, depicting left-eye and right-eye views of the same scene, as a single three-dimensional image.

A typical stereoscope provides each eye with a lens that makes the image seen through it appear larger and more distant and usually also shifts its apparent horizontal position, so that for a person with normal binocular depth perception the edges of the two images seemingly fuse into one "stereo window". A divider or other view-limiting feature is usually provided to prevent each eye from being distracted by also seeing the image intended for the other eye.

Text from Wikipedia and the smaller image from Google Images.