

Ardnaggreine,
Bantry,
Co. Cork

24th June, 1963

Dear Inspector Hynes,

Blairs Cove House stands on the south shore of Dunmanus Bay about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the village of Durrus, Co. Cork. The mansion and outhouses with 71 acres of demesne land are bounded on the South by a high stone wall. The public road from Durrus to Dunbeacon, Schull, etc., parallels this wall. The sea surrounds the remainder of the lands on the West, North and East. The land forms part of the townland of Coolcouloghta, 1145 acres in all. The Blairs were at one time the landlords of this entire townland. (To an Australian it is difficult to explain what is meant by townland. The whole of rural Ireland is divided into townlands of unequal acreages. Suffice to say they are of ancient origin).

The first mention I have of Blair is William Blair's marriage to Sarah White in 1719. Sarah was the daughter of Richard White of Togher (district of Dunmanway, Co. Cork) and later of Whiddy Island, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork.

Richard White was the great grandfather of the Richard White of Bantry who in 1797 became the first Lord Bantry and was later raised to an earldom. * See margin hereof.

William Blair and Sarah had a son Richard who is mentioned in the Will of his grandfather, Rd. White. Will proved 4 Sept. 1733.

From the Account Book of Richard White^{II}, son of Richard above (and uncle to Dick Blair) it appears that as early as 1730's William Blair was continuously in debt to him. At this stage, I will merely mention this fact and not dilate on the items of the debts.

I think that William died during the late 1730's so it would appear that Richard White II paid Dick Blair's school and college fees, debiting them to the Blair Estate.

Young Dick was at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1739-1740 but apparently did not receive a degree. I have no information about Dick Blair's marriage. I find that he was made a Justice of the Peace on 8 Oct. 1766. There is a further gap in my file until

John Hungerford married Anna daughter of
Capt. Rd. Blair of Blairs Cove and The Abbey+

(The lands of The Abbey, Bantry, apparently at one time owned or leased by Blair). I have not the date of this marriage,

+ See Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland, 1912, page 332
under the heading of Hungerford of Cahirmore)

* White - family name of Earls of Bantry, Ireland, from 1797 to 1891 when the title became extinct. Family estates in 1883 consisted of 69,500 acres in co. Cork, of the annual value of £14,561 - principal residences - Macroom Castle and Bantry House, both in co. Cork. Motto; The Noblest Motive Is The Public Good. See Complete Peerage of Eng. Scotland, Ireland, Gt Britain & the United Kingdom By G.E.C. Vol. 1, 1910, pages 415-416.