

Background¹:

From 1793 to 1829 voters were restricted to people with at least a 40 shilling (£2) freehold/leasehold. It did not have to be a freehold a lease was sufficient. Year to year annual rents did not count.

This included many Catholics voters from 1793 (Catholic Relief Act 1793) firstly for the Irish Parliament and after 1801 for the United Kingdom Parliament.

In the Catholic Relief Act of 1829 the qualification restriction was raised to £10 and it remained this way until 1885. This excluded many Catholic and Protestant who were previously entitled to vote.

Many professional people like doctors lived in towns and you can see from Griffiths Valuation that a fine town house may only be valued at 5 or 6 £. It is because of this you see their voting rights are based on property they held elsewhere. You also come across candidates and their supporters giving their supporters / tenants leases so that they could vote. After the election these leases were often returned.

The 40s freeholder remained for a number of years beyond 1829 for borough/local elections.

The voting lists you are looking at "Fictitious Voters" is a strange name for the voting lists. It arises out of the fact that many people were awarded freedom of the towns and cities. These people could vary from visiting Military Officers, Royalty etc etc.....In theory all "Freemen" were entitled to vote in elections but non resident freemen were disfranchised in 1829 being in theory "fictitious voters" not that they ever came to vote.

Magistrates:

Thomas Baldwin Esq (1795-1871), 1819, Mardyke/North St., Skibbereen, son of Arthur, sitting Skibbereen, 1835. 1828 application to Dublin Castle re gas supply for Skibbereen. 1841 election voted Longfield/Leader, £50 freeholder Shountullig.

William B. Baldwin Esq, Pre 1831, Lissard, 1842, (William B.) Bantry Quarter Sessions, 1862, Jane widow, married 1865, M.C. Vallance Whiteway. May be Kinsale in 1830s.

¹ Thanks to Barry Bradfield.

Father James Barry, Parish priest Bantry ordained 1823. Dictionary of Ireland 1837. Thanked Assessors as Independent Liberal Elector for Impartiality in 1835 elections.

James was obviously a man of learning and compassion, and one who was called upon locally to be a spokesperson and advocate for his flock. Even before the Famine he gave evidence to boards of inquiry about the conditions in West Cork, pointing out the miserable diet, lack of proper clothing and housing, poor prospects for employment, the uncertainty of a lease being continued, the lack of compensation to tenants when lands were taken to build new roads, the desire of many to emigrate and the good account they gave of their experiences in their new homes. He would have read their letters to them, since many of his parishioners were illiterate – his remarks focused on the many advantages of the New World, including a pointed reference to the absence of tyranny. In what seems like a very modern concern with income inequality, he commented on how the rich got richer as their tenants' lives became ever more difficult. During the Famine, he and his brother, Father John, also of Schull parish, worked to help establish soup kitchens but insisted that more than soup be served, since the soup was not nutritious enough. Called *eating houses*, these places fed many people who would otherwise have died, and replaced the hated and ineffective Board of Works schemes that put weak and starving people to hard labour so they could buy their own corn, thus supposedly salvaging their dignity and rescuing them from the evils of pauperism.(Reported in British Parliamentary Papers)

Richard Viscount Berehaven (White/Bantry), Bantry, Pre 1838. Member Commission on Magistrates 1838

John Bird, Fisher St., Kinsale, from Bantry, listed 1854.

Father David Dore, Parish Priest Caheragh Ordained 1809, spent 50 years as Parish Priest of Caheragh

Thomas Dukelow, Clashadoo, Durrus, Probably from Crottees married into Clashadoo on his 1810 marriage to Frances Coughlan. She is probably of the extended Coughlan family of Carrigmanus likely pre Celtic in origin. Converted to Protestantism c 1600 associated with Hulls and Boyles. Jeremy/Jeremiah of the family an attorney, seneschal and manager of Devonshire Waterford Estate renting with his brother in law Nathaniel Evanson from c 1720 including Clashadoo. 1827, William Vickery member of Select Vestry St James, Durrus, with Thomas Dukelow². Clashadoo holding divided among descendants Shannons ea now JOhnson.

² Probably from Clashadoo married into Coughlan farm by marrying Frances Coughlan 1810 now part Clashadoo JOhnson farm.

Rev. Alleyn Evanson TCD AB, -1853) Pre 1828, Four-Mile-Water Court, Durrus, sitting Bantry, 1835. Son of Nathaniel and Mary Townsend Baldwin (1764-1827). Middle Man, Land Agent. While a curate in Schull 1829 he stated that there were 1,200 Protestants in the Parish, Freeman Bandon, 1841 election voted Longfield/Leader. Probate 1853, £5 (may be nominal for conveyancing). Friendly with Father Ryan, Drimoleague features in an account 1836 of journey from Drimoleague written by John Windle in Dublin Penny Journal. After death wife moved to Mespil Estate, Dublin is brother Hungerford and Dr. Henry Baldwin of Cork guardians of young children. Subscriber Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837. In 1835³ his rent charge over lands at Brahalish Durrus was granted to Henry Baldwin Evanson his brother entitling him to vote. Either his sister or cousin Martha Evanson married Rev. John Madras, their grand daughter m 1867 Ann Marie (Millie) Curtis, Magourney she descended from Huguenot Rev. John Madras and married Daniel O'Connell's grandson, his father was Charles O'Connell, Resident Magistrate, Bantry.

Lionel John Fleming-1869), Oldcourt (Reenmorragh), Skibbereen, pre 1831, listed 1838, 1843, at Newcourt, sitting Skibbereen 1850, 1861. Eldest son of Becher Fleming, Newcourt, Middle Temple, London 1815. Subscriber (Ballydevlin) Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837. 1841 election voted Longfield/Leader voting entitlement from Ballydevlin Attending Railway meeting Drimoleague 1856. Probate £1,400, 1869 to Becher L. Fleming, Oldcourt and Rev. Horace Fleming, Kilnagross, Clonakilty.

Alexander McCarthy, sitting Bantry 1861.

Murnanes, Letterlickey, Durrus. Hutchinson Estate Sale 1853 lists John O'Connell as Representative of John Murnane and other lease of 320 acres at a rent of £54 by lease of 1808 by Stephen Hutchinson to Owen, John, Denis, Timothy, Daniel Murnane for the lives of Owen and Patrick Murnane and Daniel Duggan of whom Owen Murnane and Daniel Duggan were still living. Art of a network of similar families such as McCarthys of Letterlickey, O'Sullivans, Millers and shopkeepers Durrus, Tobins Kilcrohane, Shannons Brahalish, Fitzgeralds⁴ of Baltimore. These families intermarried and from the mid 19th century many priests, teachers, nuns and medical professionals emerge from this class.

Charles O'Connell, R.M., Bantry, 1874, married Kathleen 2nd daughter Daniel O'Connell, his son m 1867 Ann Marie (Millie) Curtis, Magourney she descended from Huguenot Rev. John Madras and Martha Evanson, Durrus family. Daughter Kathleen m Thomas Downes Solicitor, Skibbereen.

³ Return 19th February 1836, James Chatterton, Clerk of Peace, Co. Cork, Eppi p. 255165

⁴ Ancestors of JHK's mother.

Dr. Daniel O'Donovan 1818, Norton Cottage, Skibbereen, listed 1838, son Richard Esq. O'Donovan Cove, and Jane d Alexander O'Donovan, Squince. Fond of dogs. Father of Dr. O'Donovan author History of Carbery. Brother of Timothy and Richard O'Donovan JP and uncle of Richard O'Donovan JP. Daniel O'Donovan MD has land in Knockeens, Glanroon in Griffiths. He was married to a sister of Rickard Deasy of the Clonakilty brewing family, MP. and Attorney General for Ireland and later Judge. Subscriber at Woodview, Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837.

Colonel Morgan William O'Donovan or 'The O'Donovan' -1870), MA, 'The O'Donovan', Mountpelier, Douglas, Cork, m Alicia Jones, 1863 patron Masonic concert Skibbereen, subscriber 1861 to Smith's History of Cork. 1835⁵ received benefit from Morgan O'Donovan of rent charge at lands at Carrigfadda and Lisardreeher entitling him to vote. Member Irish Society Antiquaries 1861. Probate to son Henry Winthrop O'Donovan, Lissard, Skibbereen, £35,000. Land record, 1870, 3,620 acres.

'Big' Patrick O'Sullivan, Millcove: Castletownbere. Lord Bantry estate appointed. Not legally qualified. Parliamentary Report 1837, Eppi. Baronial collector since 1825 deputy Denis Murphy (**Irish speaking**) as collector. Seneschal of Altham, Mill Cove, Berehaven, Bantry and Donemark from 1843. Sitting as Grand Juror, Cork 1842, 1844, Cork County Agriculture Society Dinner 1842. Millcove. leased by Patrick O'Sullivan from the Earl of Bantry's estate in 1852 when it was valued at £14. O'Sullivan worked as an agent for the White estate. The house has been demolished though traces of the stone work can still be seen in the gardens which are now part of an art gallery and sculpture display. He was agent for the Beara part of the Bantry estate working with receivers and banks to Lord Bantry while Augustus Payne from

⁵ Chatterton, Clerk of Peace, Eppi p 255165

the Upton family operated the rest of the estate. His daughter Christina⁶, who emigrated to the United States and became the matriarch of a very rich New York family, before ending her days sadly in a mental home.

Philip Somerville -1861), Priory (Prairie), Schull, 1850, listed 1850, 1856, 3rd son Thomas, Drishane, and Mary d Philip Townsend, Derry, m 1. daughter Horace Townsend, 2. 1816 Harriet d Richard Townsend, the Point, 3. Isabella d Redmond Uniacke, Old Court, Captain South Cork Militia. Listed in 1841 election Longfield/Leader, £50 freeholder North Lisacaha, Schull. Probate 1861 to John Limrick, Union Hall, £4,00

⁶ **Robert Scoble**. Author of O'Sullivan piece was published as Chapter 7 of book *Raven: The Turbulent World of Baron Corvo* (Strange Attractor Press, London, 2013).

6.—County of **CORK**.

Number of Freeholders in the County of **Cork** entitled to vote at the **Election** of
Members of Parliament.

Number of 40 s. under Leases for Life or Lives.	Number of 40 s. Freeholders in Fee Simple.	Number of £. 20.	Number of £. 50.
14,909	57	793	2,106

I certify that the foregoing is a true Return, as the different classes of Freeholders appear entered on the registry ; but numbers of all the classes, more particularly the £. 50 Freeholders, the return of which goes as far back as 1795, must be dead, or have lost their freeholds by the expiration of their titles, by the diminution in the value of lands, and from various other causes ; and I further certify, that with respect to the classes £. 20 and £. 50, I have no means of distinguishing Freeholds arising from Fee-simple Estates from those derived from other tenures.

Dated this 19th day of April 1825.

James Chetteton,
Clerk of the Peace, Co. **Cork**.