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# **INTRODUCTION**

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# Kilmorey Papers (D2638)

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## Summary

The Kilmorey archive consists of c.4,400 documents and c.220 volumes, 1552-1993, deriving from the Needham, or Nedham, family of Shavington, alias Shenton, Shropshire, and Mourne Park, Kilkeel, Co. Down, Viscounts Kilmorey (from 1625) and Earls of Kilmorey (from 1822). Although the largest single deposit of papers - particularly family correspondence - was received in 1993, over a long preceding period components of the archive had been deposited in PRONI by various members and agents of the Kilmorey family, under the reference numbers D1268 and D2965 (part) as well as D2638. These have now all been merged under D2638. This leaves only two other components of the archive, which 'strayed' into the possession of depositors other than the Kilmorey family and, their agents, and bear reference D3514 and T1513 respectively. Additional papers remain in the possession of Kilmorey Settled Estates Ltd., the company which administers the remaining interests of the estate. These include some 500 leases, dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and a series of rentals of the Newry area.



## The Bagenals and their heirs

The founder of the Kilmorey family's Irish estates, Sir Nicholas Bagenal, fled from Staffordshire to Ireland in 1539, having killed a man in a brawl. He entered the service of Conn O'Neill, 1st Earl of Tyrone, who obtained a royal pardon for him in 1544. By 1550 his prowess as a soldier had earned him the office of Marshal of the King's Army in Ireland and a place on the Irish Privy Council.

'Towards the end of the reign of Edward VI, Ulster was very restless and disturbed owing to the intrigues of the French King Heaty II and his emissaries. It was about this time that [Sir] Nicholas began to reap the reward of his labours in the field. He received in 1550 a lease of the abbey lands of Newry, where he had settled, and ... had been at great costs and charges ... The Privy Council therefore thought that in all likelihood the Marshal's continued residence there would conduce to the "civilitie" of the natives and their obedience to the King. Much of the abbey lands had become waste or lapsed into the hands of the Irish, and it was desirable to place them in better hands. Accordingly, Sir Nicholas was first given a lease for twenty-one years, and subsequently [in 1552] a grant of practically the town of Newry and the lands surrounding it, the fisheries, customs and tolls of the market, all that in fact belonged to the Abbey of Newry. Besides these valuable properties and other rights and lands, he was granted the Lordship of Mourne, which extended for ten miles in length and two in breadth. ...

Throughout the reign of Edward VI, Sir Nicholas was busily engaged in Ulster. ... [When] Queen Mary came to the throne in 1553 ..., [he did not lose] his recently acquired abbey lands in Newry ..., [but] he lost his post of Marshal. When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1559, Sir Nicholas, contrary to his hopes, was not at first restored to his old post of Marshal, ... [but was so eventually]. The admirable state of the Bagenal property is reported by [the Lord Deputy] Sir Henry Sidney, who visited Newry in November 1575, in his progress through Ulster. From the day of his first appointment as Marshal, [Sir] Nicholas seems to have been ... [regarded as a necessary ally to government] in the affairs of Ireland. His experience in the Irish frontier fighting of the day was no doubt unrivalled, and his knowledge of and acquaintance with the various septs and chiefs of the native Irish and of their language, must have been invaluable to the Council in London. With Burleigh and Sir Robert Cecil he was in regular communication, and in the State Papers are to be found frequent mention of his visits to England when detailed information was required in difficult crises. ... [When he eventually resigned on account of age and infirmity in 1590, Queen Elizabeth] appointed his son, Sir Henry, to the office and also to the ... Privy Council.

Sir Henry married, in 1577, Eleanor, third daughter of Sir John Savage of Rock Savage by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Manners, of Rutland. His eldest son, Arthur, [was] a minor [when his father was killed leading a disastrous attack on his brother-in-law, Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone, at the Battle of the Yellow Ford, near Armagh, in 1598]... . Arthur Bagenal married Magdalen, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Richard Trevor of Trevallyn. The only issue of this marriage was a son, Nicholas, who married, in 1671, Sydney, daughter of Roger Grosvenor of Eaton, in

Cheshire, ancestor of the present Duke of Westminster. In 1686 he married secondly Lady Anne Charlotte Bruce, sixth daughter of the 2nd Earl of Elgin. They had one child, Elizabeth, who married Rev. Henry Rowlands, author of *Mona Antiqua*.

Nicholas Bagenal was Member for Anglesey in 1673 and died leaving no male issue, thus ending the male line of his family. By his will, dated 13 November 1708, he divided all his estates in Anglesey, Carnarvon and elsewhere in England and Wales, and also in Down, Louth and Armagh in the Kingdom of Ireland, to his cousins, Edward Bayly of Gorsewen in the county of Carnarvon, and Robert Needham of the Isle of Jamaica. In 1715/16 a partition of the estate took place by which Sir Edward Bayly took the Carlingford [estate] and a moiety of some [Co. Down] townlands with the Welsh property, while ... Needham took the Newry and Mourne estate. ...

[Bayly and Needham descended from other children of Sir Henry Bagenal, in the female line. His daughter], Eleanor, married first Sir Robert Salisbury, by whom she had one son, John, who died unmarried, and secondly Sir Thomas Needham of Pool Park, Co. Denbigh [sic - but more probably Derby], and Shenton, Cheshire [sic - Shavington, Shropshire], ... brother of the 1st Viscount Kilmorey. Sir Henry's second daughter Ann married Lewis Bayly, Bishop of Bangor. He had come into England with King James I and had been chaplain to both the King's sons and their tutor, and was made Bishop in 1616. The Bishop of Bangor died in 1631 leaving two sons, Nicholas and John Baillie, or Bayly, as it was alternat[iv]ely spelt. Nicholas was ... one of the gentlemen of the bedchamber to Charles II. His only son, Edward, was created a baronet; and his son, Sir Nicholas Bayly, M.P. for Anglesey, married Carolina, daughter and sole heiress of the Hon. Thomas Paget. His son, Sir Henry Bayly, 3rd Bt, assumed the name of Paget and was created Earl of Uxbridge in 1784 and died in 1812. [Philip H. Bagenal, *Vicissitudes of an Anglo-Irish Family, 1530-1800* (London, 1925).]

As the 3rd Earl of Kilmorey noted, in a fragmentary and somewhat confused attempt at family history (D2638/D/13): '... It is interesting ... that these marriages in the days of the Tudor and Stuart dynasties account for the settlement of Baylys and Nedhams in Ireland, and the subsequent ownership of lands in the neighbourhood of Newry by their descendants, Pagets and Needhams, when members of the House of Hanover occupied the throne. ...' For the archive deriving from the Paget/Bayly half of the inheritance, see D619.



## The Nedham or Needham family

The genealogy of the senior, or Kilmorey, branch of the family is well-documented in successive Peerages; and as the Kilmoreys did nothing in particular during the 17th and 18th centuries (except die young) and are represented in the archive only by a few title deeds, the relevant particulars about them can be briefly extracted from Archdall's edition of Lodge's Peerage of Ireland (9 vols., Dublin, 1789).

'... Sir Robert Needham, who succeeded at Shenton [a variant of Shavington], was knighted by King James I, served the office of Sheriff for the county of Salop in 1606, was appointed 12 November 1617 of Council to ... [the] President of Wales, and by King Charles I created a peer of Ireland..., 18 April 1625. ... Robert, the 2nd Viscount [his elder son by his second marriage], married, first Frances, third daughter of Sir Henry Anderson, Sheriff and Alderman of London in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by whom he had Robert his heir ... . His Lordship's second wife was Eleanor, daughter and heir to Thomas Dutton of Dutton [Cheshire] Esq., widow of Gilbert, Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley, and dying at Dutton, 12 September 1653, had issue by her ... four sons and eight daughters ... .

Robert, the 3rd Viscount Kilmorey [a royalist in the Civil War, who was forced to spend £2,300 down and an annual fine of £120 in order to obtain the restitution of his estates], married Frances, second daughter of the aforesaid Gilbert, Lord Gerard, by said Eleanor Dutton ...; and his Lordship deceasing in January 1657, was buried at Atherley [sic – Adderley, Shropshire], when the honour descended to Charles, his half-brother, and the 4th Viscount, who in 1659 met at Warrington in Lancashire with the Earl of Derby and Sir George Booth in a small party to prepare for the restoration of King Charles ..., [all of whom were taken] prisoners to London, where his Lordship died in 1660; and having married Bridget, daughter and co-heir to Sir William Drury ..., had issue by her ... three sons, viz. Robert and Thomas, who succeeded to the honour, and Byron ... .

Robert, the 5th Viscount, born in 1655, succeeded his father and ... [died] 29 May 1668, a minor... . Thomas, the 6th Viscount, who succeeded his brother, ... married Frances, daughter and heir to Francis Leveson Fowler of Harnage-Grange in Shropshire ..., and by her (who remarried ... 1690 ... and ... deceased 27 December 1723) had issue Robert, the 7th Viscount, who was under age at the death of his father, and ... left four sons ... by ... Mary his wife, daughter of John Offley of Crew, in the County of Chester, Esq. [He] deceased October 2 1710, then aged 28 years.

Robert, the eldest son and 8th Viscount, dying unmarried 19 February 1716, his next brother, Thomas, became the 9th Viscount, and 29 June 1730 married the Lady Mary Shirley ..., and his Lordship dying 3 February 1768 without issue ..., was succeeded by his next surviving brother, John, the 10th ... Viscount Kilmorey. In July 1737, he was made Colonel and Captain of the company of grenadiers in the 2nd regiment of Footguards, which he resigned in November 1748. [On] 11 January 1738, his Lordship married Anne, relict of Peter Shakerley ... [of the] County of Chester, Esq., and had issue Thomas, who died 19 April 1773 unmarried, Robert [11th Viscount Kilmorey], Francis [12th Viscount and 1st Earl]... and a daughter, Mary.'

The genealogy of the untitled, junior branch of the family is less easily traced and has been the subject of much contradiction and confusion. The most convincing attempt at it was published in *The Newry Reporter* for 8 February 1912.

'The following is the genealogy of the Nedham family. Robert Nedham Esq. of Shavington and Cranach, in Shropshire, held important commands in Ireland in the reign of Elizabeth. By Frances, his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Aston of Tix[h]all, he had two sons: Robert Nedham (or Needham) was created Viscount Kilmorey; and Thomas. The younger son, Thomas Nedham of Pool Park, Co. Derby, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Henry Bagenal, lord of the Manor of Newry, Mourne and Carlingford, and by her had five sons and one daughter. ...

The eldest son, Sir Robert Nedham, of Pool Park, Derbyshire, and of Lambeth, Surrey, was knighted in 1630, [and] married, firstly, Mary, daughter and heiress of John Hartop of Surrey, and by her had issue two sons and ... [two daughters, one of whom, Eleanor, was mistress of the Duke of Monmouth, to whom she bore four illegitimate children]. ... The second son, George Nedham Esq. of St Thomas-in-the-Vale and St Catherine's, Jamaica, to which island he fled after having been defeated with the royalists at Worcester, and subsequently received large grants there from the Crown, in reward for his past services. He married, firstly, Mary, daughter of William Byam Esq. of Antigua, President of the Council there ... . By his first lady he had issue six sons and one daughter. ...

Robert Nedham, eldest son and heir of George Nedham, was of St Thomas-in-the-Vale and St Catherine's, Jamaica. In 1712 he succeeded, as co-heir with Sir Edward Bayly, to the estates of Nicholas Bagenal in Newry, Mourne and Carlingford. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Shirley Esq., of Jamaica, ... brother of Sir Anthony Shirley of Preston [Sussex]. He was M.P. for Newry from 1727 to his death at Naples in June 1753. He bequeathed his Jamaica estate to his nephew, George Ellis. He had issue two sons ..., [of whom the elder], Robert Nedham of Beckenham, Kent, Wallingford in Berks, Howberry in Oxford, Waresley Park ... [St Neot's] in Huntingdon, and of Mourne Park, Co. Down, was formerly M.P. for Winchilsea, and succeeded his father as M.P. for the borough of Newry, 1752 to 1760. He married, 21 May 1733, Catherine, daughter of Robert Pitt Esq. of Boconnoc, Cornwall, and sister of William Pitt, the well-known Earl of Chatham.

He died 13 August 1762, having had issue three sons ...: (1) George Nedham of Mourne Park, M.P. for Newry, 1761, to his death, unmarried, in December 1767 [who, according to another source, "... sold part of the estate [Rostrevor?] to enable him to discharge debts with which it was incumbered, having first obtained an act of parliament permitting him to do so"]; (2) Robert Nedham, who apparently died young; [and] (3) William Nedham of Mourne Park ... and also of Waresley Park, and of Howberry. He succeeded his brother as M.P. for Newry in 1767 to 1776. He was also M.P. for Pontefract in the English Parliament. He died unmarried in 1806, and although he had many near cousins of his own name living in Jamaica, he left his estates in both England and Ireland to his distant kinsman whom he is said to have seldom or never seen, Robert, 11th Viscount Kilmorey, descended from Robert Needham, the 1st Viscount, elder brother of Thomas Nedham of Pool Park, first mentioned.'



## The Newry and Mourne estates

Following the original grant of the Lordships of Newry and Mourne to Sir Nicholas Bagenal in the reign of Edward VI, a patent of 1613 (D2638/A/9) confirmed '... to [his grandson] Arthur Bagenal Esq., his heirs and assigns, the town of Newry, with all the demesne lands ... of the dissolved monastery, the manor, lordship, and castle of Greencastle, the lordship, country or territory of Mourne with two islands in the main sea; the manor of Carlingford with the monastery and its appurtenances, and the lands of Cooley; the ferry between Carlingford and Killowen; the customs and anchorage, and certain customs of goods and merchandise imported into or exported from Carlingford; the territory of Omeath, and all wrecks of sea happening on these properties. By virtue of his patent the proprietor is entitled to the tithes of the Lordship of Newry, and has the right of presentation to the rectory ...'. [D2638/E/6-7.]

After the partition of 1716 and whatever sales of land took place in the 1760s, the townlands in the Mourne, or Kilkeel and Greencastle, estate of the Needham family, as itemised in a rental of 1810 (D2638/G/81), were as follows: Aghyoghill, Aughnahorry, Ballintur, Ballygowan, Ballykeel, Ballymadeerfy, Ballymageogh, Ballynahatten, Ballyrogan, Ballyveagh Beg, Ballyveagh More, Corcreaghan, Cranfield, 'Carginagh' [sic - Carrigenagh], Derryoge, Drumcro, Drumindoney, 'Drummon' [sic - Drummanmore?], Glasdrumman, Greencastle, Leitram, Magheramurphy, Magheragh, Maghery, Moneydoragh Beg, Moneydorrugh More, Moyad and Tullyframe.

The townlands in the Needhams' Newry estate, as itemised in the same contemporary rental, were as follows: Ballinlare, Ballinacraig, Ballyholland, Carnbane, Commons, Crobane, Derryleckagh, Drumcashellone 'Dyserts' [sic - Desert], 'Drumonlane', [sic - Drummanlane], Edenmore, Gransha, Lisdrumliska, Newry (Boat Street, Castle Street, High Street, Market Street, Mill Street, North Street, etc), 'Owley' [sic - Ouley], Ryan and all in Co. Down; Altnaveigh, Fathom Upper, Lisdrumgullion and 'Clohog' [sic - Cloghoge], all in Co. Armagh.



## **The transformation of an Irish town: Newry, 1635-1837**

The following resumé is taken from a QUB Economic and Social History Department handout (BAGS course, April 1996) by B.M.S. Campbell: '... Newry embodies and exemplifies the economic and commercial transformation which occurred in Ireland during the "long eighteenth century" [1690-1800]. At the end of the 16th century, during the Nine Years War, it was of considerable strategic importance and it retained that importance throughout the following century, paying a high price for it during the 1641 Rebellion and the Williamite Wars (when the greater part of the town was burnt). Towards the end of the 17th century steps were taken to improve access to the port and further improvement were made during the 18th century, including the construction of a two-mile ship canal.

Newry's ground landlord – first the Bagenals then the Needhams – exercised an exceptional degree of influence and control over the town. ... Robert Nedham [d.1753] ... invested both his own capital and £6,000 granted by parliament in the reclamation of the low, marshy ground adjoining the river and canal. ... [He] used his influence to nourish the remarkable economic efflorescence which Newry experienced at about this time. Many of the urban leases which he granted from 1731 on are preserved at D2638/B/1-51.

During the 18th century the Hills, Earls of Hillsborough and later Marquesses of Downshire [cousins of the Nedhams], also acquired an important stake in the town. They seem to have been even more interested than the Nedhams in town planning, to judge from contemporary developments at Hillsborough, Hilltown, Banbridge, and Blessington (Co. Wicklow). It was Wills Hill, Earl of Hillsborough who laid out the regular grid of streets on the newly reclaimed low ground between Water Street and the Newry River. Hill Street was named after him and soon became the principal street of the town. Marcus Street, Margaret Street and Kildare Street were also named after members of the Hill family, a pair of squares being laid out where Marcus and Margaret Streets intersected Hill Street. Lord Hillsborough also developed a new access road into the town via Downshire Road and Trevor Hill. These later became the focus of carefully controlled suburban development. South of Mill Street a further planned extension was developed on much the same axis as Hill Street, its continuation being named, appropriately, Needham Street (now John Mitchell Place).

These developments effectively shifted the commercial and residential heart of Newry from the high ground to the low, leaving the former High Street to degenerate into a steep and narrow street largely occupied by labourers and mechanics. To seal this migration a new parish church of St Mary's was built in 1810 on Needham Street to replace the old parish church of St Patrick's on the hill. Newry was now aligned north-south along the river and canal, instead of east-west along Mill Street and High Street as they climbed from the old bridge over the Newry River, via the Old Market, to St Patrick's Church on the hill overlooking the town. [It was on this hill that the Abbey of Newry and Sir Nicholas Bagenal's castle had stood.]

The prosperity which the Nedhams and the Hills tapped derived more from commerce and trade than from manufacturing. The completion of the Newry Canal in 1741 was a real fillip. The prosperity it brought greatly impressed Arthur Young a generation later when he passed through the town in 1776. Much of the linen destined for the White Linen Hall in Dublin also passed through the town. Towards the end of the 18th century Newry acquired its own brown and white linen halls, but the amount of linen traded always lagged far behind the main centres of the trade in the Lagan Valley and north Armagh. Nor was Newry ever significant as a centre of linen manufacture. Rather, it profited from the general prosperity which the linen manufacture brought to the north of Ireland and the greater commercialisation of the economy to which it gave rise.

By the second half of the 19th century Newry had emerged as a substantial, well built and prosperous town, transformed beyond recognition from the small, fortified outpost of two centuries earlier. Thereafter its economy stagnated and for the remainder of the 19th century, like so many other Irish towns, it ceased to grow. It was peripheral to the main focus of economic growth taking place in north-east Ireland at this time and it could not compete with Belfast, which was better placed to develop and tap a wide hinterland. ...'



## Mourne Park

There appears to have been a house on or near the site of the present Mourne Park for a considerable time. The Newry Chronicle account of the Nedham family in the 18th century, which appears to be well-informed and accurate in other respects, states that the Nedhams of the period between the 1720s and the 1770s were 'of Mourne Park' (though the parliamentary records state only that those of them who were returned to the Irish parliament were 'of Newry'). An obituary (D2638/D/79) of Hunter Moore, solicitor and agent to the Kilmorey estate, who died in 1923, throws light on what became of the house during the last third of the 18th century, when William Nedham seems not to have inhabited it. '... For almost three centuries the Moore family had been connected with the Mourne estate as tenants and freeholders. His [Hunter Moore's] grandfather and great-grandfather held the office of seneschal for the barony of Mourne under the late [3rd] Earl of Kilmorey's predecessors, and they resided at Mourne Park [from c.1770?] until it was converted into the family seat in connection with the estate [sic - in 1806-7?], when they were given Moore Lodge at Kilkeel. ...'

'[Soon after inheriting the Co. Down estates of his kinsman in 1806, Robert Needham, 11th Viscount Kilmorey] ... built a house among the glorious oak and beechwoods of his newly-inherited demesne – which lies on the southern slopes of the Mourne Mountains – in place of an earlier house. It was modest in scale; 2 storey, 3 bay, with Wyatt windows and a doorway with sidelights. Some time later, probably post 1820, a third storey was added; then, post 1859, a new 2 storey front was built onto the house; so that the new front rooms had higher ceilings than the rooms in the older part of the house at the back. The new front, of granite ashlar, was of 3 bays, like the original front; but with unusual paired rectangular windows, set in shallow recesses rising through both storeys with relieving arches about them. In the centre, the entrance door was treated as though it were simply another window, flanked on either side by a window of similar shape and size.

Towards the end of the 19th century [in 1892 – see D2638/F/6], the 3rd Earl of Kilmorey added rectangular bows to this front; then, c.1904 [actually, in time for the 21st birthday celebrations for Viscount Newry, the future 4th Earl, who came of age in that year], he built a single-storey wing at the back of the house containing a large room [formerly the laundry] known as the long room, with a vaulted ceiling on timber supports [F/4-5]. Between 1919 and 1921, [the] 4th Earl built a wing to the left of the front, containing various rooms including a new large drawing room and a top-lit entrance hall the entrance being moved round to this side of the house [F/10]. At the same time, the principal staircase was remodelled to fit in with the new entrance.' [Mark Bence-Jones, *Burke's Guide to Irish Country Houses* (London, 1978).]

A 'Sketch' of Mourne Park by one W.E. Russell among the papers of the 3rd Earl (D2638/D/13) dwells on the demesne and the location rather than the house. 'Between Rostrevor and Kilkeel in the ancient barony of Mourne stands the ancestral home of the Kilmoreys, with its broad acres of cultivated land, its beautiful woods and shrubberies, its romantic glens and winding river, while towering above all these to a

height of 1300 feet is the beautiful mountain Knockcree, ... situated in the centre of the park ..., from whose summit an interesting and extensive view can be obtained. The mansion ... is built of the solid Irish granite for which the Mourne mountains are so remarkable. ... The scene ... from the front entrance is indeed very fine. Before you, in the precincts of the mansion, is a lake. Beyond this lake, the demesne stretches away with a gently rising slope, which hides the intervening land, till one can fancy that the sea waves lap the lawns of the park. ...'



## Kilkeel and Rostrevor in 1807

Some light on the situation immediately following the 11th Viscount's succession to the Co. Down estates and decision to rebuild Mourne Park and live there, is shed by correspondence among the papers of the Rt Hon. John Foster, M.P. for the adjoining county of Louth and Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer (PRONI, D562/15366-73). In August 1807, General the Hon. Francis Needham, M.P. for Newry, Lord Kilmorey's younger brother and subsequently his successor as 12th Viscount, wrote from Eastbourne to Foster: '... I yesterday received a letter from Lord Kilmorey, who is now at Morne Park in Ireland, requesting that I would in his name and that of the gentlemen in that neighbourhood and Ross Trevor, apply to the Post Masters General of Ireland to grant them a daily post to Kilkeel, which passes through Ross Trevor [and] consequently will serve both. ... Lord Kilmorey expresses an anxious wish for it, and as he is at present so well pleased with Ireland, I wish to remove every difficulty that might prevent his coming to Ireland every summer, and a daily post is a great comfort to persons whose connections are in England. ...'

Foster replied encouragingly to General Needham and wrote in the same spirit to Lord Clancarty, Joint Postmaster General for Ireland, whose reaction was sharp: '... Kilkeel is a small village on the sea coast, neither possessing trade or [sic] consequence except what may be derived from the system of smuggling practised there and which is carried on in rather an extensive manner. To comply with Mr [sic] Needham's wishes, it would likewise be necessary to give a six-day post to Rosstrevor also, the additional expense of both of which would be £56 8s per annum, whereas the total revenue of both of these towns combined amounts barely to £60 per annum ...'. Foster, in his reply, was quick to contradict these arguments: 'My recollection of Kilkeel is very different from your surveyor report. It had a very considerable weekly market of linen, which I believe continues. It produced a very respectable corps of yeomanry, and the system of smuggling which he represents to be extensive affords an additional motive for facilitating the speediest intercourse between the officers stationed there and the Custom Board. Rostrevor is an increasing village, filled during the summer with families of rank who hire every room in the town, and I should think their postage would well pay the expense even to Kilkeel. But I shall say no more on the subject, only add that, if by a daily post to Kilkeel such an absentee as the Needham estate has experienced could be induced to be resident, his [sic] residence would add more to the revenue in various branches than the whole cost of the post he desires ...'.

In reply, Lord Clancarty pointed out that the residence, or otherwise, of the Needham family was a matter of political consideration, which was beyond Clancarty's sphere and should be referred to the Lord Lieutenant. Foster responded by declining '... to urge what you don't approve', and there the matter rested.



## **General the Hon. Francis Needham, 12th Viscount, and 1st Earl of, Kilmorey (1748-1832)**

'The Hon. Francis Needham, ... third son of John, 10th Viscount Kilmorey, choosing the profession of arms, procured a commission of cornet in the 18th Dragoons, 17 December 1762. In February 1765 he exchanged into the 1st Dragoons, in which corps he obtained a lieutenancy in 1771, and in May 1774 he was promoted to the rank of captain in the 17th Dragoons.

He accompanied this regiment to North America in the spring of 1775, and served at Norton under Lt-General Gage. He also served at the capture of Long Island under General Sir W. Howe, and received, with his regiment, the thanks of the Commander in Chief for his conduct at the Battle of Brooklyn. He took part in the action at White Plains and in the Jerseys, and afterwards, having proceeded to Philadelphia, in several skirmishes in Pennsylvania, and in covering the retreat to New York, in the performance of which he was engaged at Freehold. He was subsequently stationed in the lines in front of New York, where he was taken prisoner by the Americans. In August 1780 he was promoted to the rank of major in the 76th Highland Regiment, then serving in America, in which corps he served [in the defence of Yorktown and] till the conclusion of the peace.

In February 1783, he was promoted to the Lt-colonelcy of the 104th Regiment, and six weeks afterwards to a captaincy and Lt-colonelcy in the 1st Foot Guards. In 1793 he was nominated A.D.C. to the King, with the rank of colonel, [and led the Guards in Flanders]. In 1794 he was appointed adjutant general of the expedition to the coast of France under Lt-General the Earl of Moira; and in 1795 he was appointed 3rd Major in the 1st Foot Guards, promoted to the rank of major-general, and placed on the home staff. He was subsequently detached, as second-in-command to Major-General Doyle, with Monsieur le Comte d'Artois and his suite, to take possession of Tete Dieu, which place the troops maintained so long as the navy could afford them protection.

An appointment on the staff of Ireland was next conferred on him, and he commanded a body of troops during the Rebellion in 1798. He was at the Battle of Arklow on 9 June, and commanded a division at Vinegar Hill on 21 June [where he blotted his copy-book by allowing large numbers of the rebels defeated at the battle of Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy, to escape through what became known as "Needham's Gap". "This Needham is always late", one loyalist, the 2nd Earl of Shannon, remarked.] He continued on the staff in Ireland until April 1802, when he was promoted to the rank of Lt-general. He had previously been appointed Lt-colonel in the 1st Foot Guards (21 August 1801) and in April 1804 he obtained the colonelcy of the 5th Veteran Battalion. He was appointed Colonel of the 86th Regiment in 1810, and took great interest in the reputation and welfare of his corps. ... '... The 86th ... [had been] raised in 1793 as the "Shropshire Volunteers", and a few years later it enlisted the remnant of the 121st County Clare Regiment, which had been captured by the French in the Irish Sea. ... As the "Leinster Regiment", the 86th made its name at Bourbon in 1810, when Corporal Hall signalled the capture of the fort by swarming up the flagstaff and flying therefrom the King's colour of his regiment. A regimental

monument was erected on the island, and in 1812 (as a reward for its gallantry there, and by the request of its colonel ...), the regiment was named after the county of the Ayrshire plantation and the pikemen of '98. ... The reputation and welfare of the 86th were very dear to ... [General Needham, who had been so promoted in 1812], and he bequeathed to the regiment new colours bearing the motto signifying "Who shall separate us?".' [D2638/D/2.]

'... In 1806, reviving the abeyant family interest in the borough of Newry, ...' [which at about this time had a population of c.10,000 and an electorate of 500 voting on the basis of a £5-householder franchise], '... Needham had been returned after a contest against a pro-Catholic Whig. Though "inimical" to Catholic relief, he wished to be regarded as a supporter of the Grenville ministry and to obtain the borough patronage from them. His requests were politely refused and the advent of the Portland ministry proved more congenial to Needham, who admitted he had "never voted with" the Grenvilles on that account. Obtaining the patronage from the new viceroy, he [continued to represent Newry in the next three parliaments and] supported successive administrations until he succeeded to his brother's title in 1818.

Needham was not an active Member. His only known speech, 13 June 1816, was in justification of the dismissal of a pro-Catholic Newry magistrate. Although he lived at Datchet, near Windsor, evidence of his attendance is thin. He threatened to withhold his support when his requests for patronage were not met. The official reaction was that he asked for county as well as Newry patronage and that "no government is benefited by concessions so urged". He vacillated on the Catholic claims [in 1813 and 1817] ... . He voted with the government on the Scheldt inquiry, ... [January-] March 1810; against the regulation of sinecures, 17 May, and for the Regency bill, 1 January 1811. The Chief Secretary wrote that month of his "steady support". ... [In January 1817, he replied] to a circular from the Chief Secretary ... that the House was "the very first place I have gone to since the loss [of his wife, Anne, daughter and co-heiress of Thomas Fisher of Acton, Middlesex] I have sustained".

After receiving a step up in the Irish peerage in 1822, he unsuccessfully requested to become [a] representative peer, on the basis of his having undertaken "... severe contests, difficulty and expense ... to recover the borough of Newry, in which I have now succeeded, and it has enabled me to give my support to government ever since. The antiquity of the family titles, given (as appears by the patent) for services performed by my ancestors in that country [under Essex towards the end of Elizabeth's reign], added to the property belonging to the family there, which is very considerable, and on which my late brother and myself have always resided a considerable portion of the year, may plead in favour of my present application. I must acknowledge it would be gratifying to me to have a seat in the House of Peers, and if not now successful at 75 I have little time to look forward to. ..." ' [R.G. Thorne (ed.), *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons, 1790-1820* (5 vols., H.M.S.O., 1986), and typescript transcripts of letters in the Liverpool, etc, papers not used in the published entries for the 1st Earl and for Newry but made available by their computer, Professor P.J. Jupp.]

A letter from 'Candidus' to the editor of *The Newry Telegraph*, published in that newspaper on 8 August 1828, sought to demonstrate the munificence of Lord Kilmorey to the town of Newry. '... In the first place, the town parks ... would let for

£2000 per annum more than they do at present. If, then, his Lordship's object were merely to secure a seat in the Commons, this could be procured elsewhere for less than one-third of that price. ... Are we not indebted to him for numerous valuable and lasting advantages? ... I would merely allude to the buttercrane, the wheat market, the corn market, the flax market, the shambles (all elegant and commodious buildings, and which have been erected at his Lordship's private expense). I say naught of his donations and costly gifts to both the Established Church and Roman Catholic chapels, nor of his liberal patronage of public school, nor yet of his munificent gift of a public clock, or his more recent endowment of a chapel of ease... . To his Lordship we owe the establishment of an extensive timber trade, the most valuable of our imports. The anxiety of the Earl [of] Kilmorey to improve our canal cannot, I think, be denied by his veriest enemies. ...'

'... This excellent and patriotic nobleman [in the customary language of obituaries] died at his seat of Shavington in Shropshire, 12 November 1832 ...', '... aged about 85. His Lordship ..., one of the oldest generals in the army, ... was, at his death, [still] Colonel of the 86th Regiment of Foot. His loss will be severely felt, not only by his numerous family and friends, but by his tenantry and the poor in his extensive estate both in England and Ireland, among whom, and in the latter more particularly, he expended a considerable part of the income he derived from them. He was a liberal landlord, and a kind, benevolent and steadfast friend. ...' [D2638/D/2.]



## **The Hon. Francis Jack Needham, Viscount Newry and Morne, 2nd Earl of Kilmorey (1787-1880)**

The future 2nd Earl was his father's eldest son and was educated at Eton, 1800-04. In 1814 he married Jane, daughter of George Gun-Cuninghame of Mount Kennedy, Co. Wicklow, by whom he had three sons and one daughter, from whom he separated in 1835 and who died in July 1867. Later in the same year he married Martha, daughter of John Foster of Lenham, Kent. He was an ensign in the 2nd garrison battalion in Ireland, 1813-14, and in 1813 also became Captain Commandant of the Newry Yeoman Infantry. He succeeded to his father's seat for Newry in March 1819, following the latter's succession to the peerage, and was for the most part a silent supporter of government until he ceased to be an M.P. in 1826. Between 1822 and his father's death in 1832, he was styled Viscount Newry and Morne, and in 1828-1829 he was Sheriff of Co. Down. [Thorne, House of Commons, 1790-1820.]

Soon after assuming his new courtesy title, on 15 August 1822, he'... excited a tremendous sensation on the Thames. Assisted by five of his own servants – men, commented the press of the period, not accustomed to the work - he accomplished the herculean task of rowing from Oxford to London (118 miles) in eighteen successive hours for a considerable wager. ... "When we consider the time necessarily lost in passing the numerous locks", concludes the report, "we believe an instance of greater skill and prowess is scarcely to be found on record; but Lord Newry is famed for manly and athletic exercises and laborious employments, which he pursues as ordinary amusements." Unfortunately, he 'lost immensely' when, two years later, he bet that a party of Guardsmen would beat a party of Thames watermen on a similar journey. [D2638/D/3.]

He travelled extensively on the Continent, particularly in Italy, where he spent much time in Rome. When resident in the British Isles, he seems to have spent little time at Mourne Park or Shavington, but to have resided near London, first at his father's house at Datchet (this is surmise, based on the fact that his first wife, who died in 1867, is buried there), then (apparently) at Cross Deep, Twickenham, and then at Gordon House, Isleworth, Middlesex, the part of the world where his mother had been born and brought up and which presumably he had known as a young man.

In 1834, in reply to an electioneering letter from Lord Downshire (PRONI, D671/C/12/547) he justified his absenteeism from Ireland as follows: '... With respect to the Irish property which you call mine, perhaps I might have been of some small use by residing there occasionally, and at all events spending a part of the produce of so many poor people's labour among them, but it was my father's pleasure, and I must not dispute it, so to devise by his will that the interests of the Irish estate should be greatly divided, and to throw obstacles in the way of its deriving any efficient advantages from its produce: in short, by giving it no real owner to inflict on it permanently the curse of absenteeism. I am but an agent for the trustees, who act with much delicacy, and allow me to manage as I please. The application of the rents, however, must for some years go to other purposes than the good of the

country from which they rise, and I cannot therefore afford to make sacrifices for political purposes. Under these circumstances, you will be aware how I am situated with the borough of Newry, which cost my father about £3,000 a year. ...' In a subsequent letter of 1836 (D671/C/12/587) he complains '... that I have not the smallest interest in Ireland, my trustees having unceremoniously turned me out of my house and property in that country.'

This action may have been resorted to in retaliation for his separation from his first wife (D2638/A/13). His swiftly contracted second marriage in 1867 was also deeply unpopular with the rest of his family, as were the debts which he accumulated (with the complicity, it must be said, of his grandson, the future 3rd Earl, who joined him in 1873 in barring the entail of the Shropshire estate and thus made possible its sale in 1885[D2638/A/14.]). His private life had always been far from exemplary, as is suggested by the scantily clad statue he had made of himself in Rome by the Scottish sculptor, Lawrence Macdonald, and which is still to be seen in the garden at Mourne Park: in particular, he lived openly for at least a decade with his young ward, Priscilla Hoste (daughter of the celebrated Capt. Sir William Hoste, R.N.), by whom he had an illegitimate son, Charles Needham, in 1844. For all these reasons, it may be conjectured that the nickname 'the Wicked Earl' by which he is now known in the family is not of recent coinage.

His penchant for notoriety, as manifested in his early boat-racing, did not leave him in later life. In May 1879, he printed privately a short pamphlet in which he vented his spleen at an estranged friend, Caroline, Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, with whom he had quarrelled over '... a Roman mosaic table, ... made for him according to his own taste ... by Le Chevalier Barberi. All round the surface of the table were views in Italy in mosiac, designed and executed in the most exquisite manner. £1500 was paid for the table ..., [which] gained a first prize at the [Great] Exhibition of 1851. Within the last year or two, living as he does a solitary and retired life at Gordon House, and caring less and less for the things of this world, he has been giving away to intimate friends, by way of anticipated legacies, some few of his valuables, to be retained by his friends as memorials of himself. Caroline, Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, long before her marriage and ever since, had been amongst his most cherished friends. No-one professed such devotion to him as she did. He believed it to be genuine, and desiring to requite it ..., he gave her the mosiac table. She was profuse in her acknowledgements, as well she might be, at this princely gift ...', but shortly afterwards sold the table. This give rise to an acrimonious correspondence with Lord Kilmorey, which he felt 'constrained' to publish. [D2638/D/3.]

At the same advanced age (he died in the following year, 1880, at 93), he precipitated a much more public and damaging controversy over the running of his Cheshire estate. In September 1879, the local and national papers were full of '... A notice which has been served by Lord Kilmorey on his tenantry in Cheshire to the effect that it is his intention, in order to test how far the letting value of his property there has been affected by the depression of the agricultural interest, to bring it into the market to see what it will fetch ...' '... Lord Kilmorey has always enjoyed a reputation for being an excellent landlord, though the credit should perhaps be given to Mr [Owen] Grant, the agent [whose wife was a first cousin of Lord Kilmorey], for the cordial understanding which subsisted between his Lordship and the tenantry

down to the present time. His Lordship is non-resident, and could not, therefore, be intimately acquainted with this condition of the tenantry, nor be aware possibly that in giving them notice he was casting adrift families which had occupied the same farms and homesteads for generations. Some of the older tenants cherish the hope that his Lordship's intention is merely to equalise the rental, others, regarding his Lordship's great age (ninety-three), believe it to be an act of eccentricity which it was never seriously contemplated would be executed in its entirety. ...' '... There would seem, however, to be no doubt, according to the information received from Chester, that it was the intention of Lord Kilmorey at the time the notices were issued to throw his farms into the market. ...' However, it is now '... pretty generally believed that during the past week the greatest possible county influence has been brought to bear on Earl Kilmorey to induce him to withdraw ... [them].' [D2638/E/1.]



## Francis Charles Needham, 3rd Earl of Kilmorey (1842-1915)



Francis Charles Needham  
3rd Earl of Kilmorey

'Born in London in 1842, Francis Charles, 3rd Earl of Kilmorey, succeeded to the title and estates of his grandfather in 1880. His father, Lord Newry, eldest son of the [2nd] Earl, had died as far back as 18[51] ... . Educated at Eton, Lord Kilmorey passed on to Christchurch, Oxford, where he graduated with distinction B.A. in 1863, and M.A. in 1867. Between these years, however, he travelled extensively. He witnessed the latter part of the civil war in America during an extended trip there in 1864-1865. Then in 1866-1867 he accompanied the late Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., as a member of his staff upon his first cruise round the world in *H.M.S. Galatea* ... [and] was present when at Clontarf, in Sydney Harbour, a man named O'Farrell shot the royal visitor in the back. [He saved O'Farrell from being lynched by an enraged mob, so that he could be tried, convicted and executed by due process of law.] ...

In 1868 Lord Newry made his first essay to enter parliament, contesting Newry in the Conservative interest, but he was beaten by six votes in a total poll of 764 by his Liberal opponent, William Kirk. The latter died, however, in 1871, and Lord Newry was elected unopposed for the borough which his father and grandfather had successively represented. He held the seat for four years, but at the general election of 1874 was defeated by the Liberal, William Whitworth ... . Lord Newry served the office of High Sheriff of Co. Down in 1871, and prior to this he had become an officer in the South Down Militia, in which in 1880 when his grandfather died he held the rank of captain. Just prior to his succession to the title he unsuccessfully contested the borough of Shrewsbury at the general election of 1880. The year following ... [he] was made an Irish representative peer, and took his seat in the House of Lords. ... In 1891 Lord Kilmorey was made a Knight of St Patrick, and in 1902, when the late King Edward came to the throne, his Lordship was made one of his aides-de-camp. ... Previously, it may be mentioned, he had commanded the Shropshire Yeoman Cavalry ... and in 1897 was made honorary colonel of the corps. He was also a deputy-lieutenant for ... Salop. ...

He lived ... a good deal in London [particularly in the 1870s and 1880s. On his grandfather's death, he took up residence at Gordon House, Isleworth, where his elder son, Lord Newry, was born in 1883, at some point thereafter at Orléans House, Twickenham, and from 1887 onwards at a succession of town houses, culminating c.1896 in 5 Aldford Place, Park Lane, which remained the Kilmorey town house until 1924. He was a member of at least the outer circle of the Prince of Wales/Edward VII (see D2638/D/31). However, the main reason for his London-orientation was that] ... he was keenly interested in the theatrical world, and for a time was principal proprietor of two first-class metropolitan theatres. He was himself a talented amateur actor and accomplished musician, and ...' '... [was] always ... interested in the drama and in "dressing up" generally. ... At Christchurch, when ... Lord Newry, he danced before their ... [late] Majesties at a "Commems" ball ... . Years afterwards, he

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appeared as my Lord Prior Dockwra in the St John of Jerusalem tableaux at His Majesty's Theatre. In the interval [not of the play!], he built the Globe Theatre and leased the St James's Theatre ... . He wrote the comedy *Ecarte*, and adapted others. ... For Mr and Mrs Kendal [he wrote in 1876] a successful version of the Russian drama, *Les Danischeffs*. He was a strong supporter of the Italian opera at Covent Garden [and was a prominent in the running of the Royal Albert Hall. Although the *Vanity Fair* cartoon of him, as Lord Newry in 1879, is captioned 'Amateur Theatricals', it is plain from his papers (D2638/H/4) that he made a good living out of his theatres – for example, a nett income of £7,000 from the St James's and the Globe in 1885.] Tall and good-looking, he ... [was] a splendid talker and story-teller, and in great request as a diner-out.'

'When he first came into possession of the Kilmorey estate he was full of ideas for the improvement of the district known as the "Kingdom of Mourne", of a considerable portion of which he was lord of the soil. The tramway connecting Warrenpoint and Rostrevor (the first public tramway in Ireland), the fine hotel at Rostrevor (afterwards acquired by the Great Northern Railway Company), and the skating rink (now demolished) at the same ... resort, were all undertakings in which he was practically interested [D2638/B/58-59], and for the promotion of which he was more or less financially responsible. The greater part of the Kilmorey estates have been sold under the Land Acts. A very large tract of mountain property in the heart of the Mourne range above Kilkeel was acquired in fee by the Belfast Water Commissioners [D2638/B/22], and comprises the catchment area of their Mourne supply. ... [Lord Kilmorey] had notions of improving the fishing of Kilkeel and the quarry industry of the locality. However, the slump in estate values hit him perhaps harder than most other Irish landlords, and many of the projects he had planned failed for lack of capital. [Nevertheless, he remained] ... keenly interested in his native district, and ... for a number of years past [ie from at least 1892] he resided the greater part of the year at Mourne Park, ... and took a keen interest in local affairs. He was an active magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Co. Down. The Unionist cause in Ulster during the Home Rule struggle found in him an unswerving supporter, and when the UVF was established he entered into the movement with characteristic enthusiasm [D2638/D/49], and was prominently associated with the raising of a strong contingent in the district. ...

Lord Kilmorey married in 1881 Ellen Constance ["Nellie"], daughter of the late Mr Edward H[olmes] Baldock, M.P. ... for Shrewsbury [1847-57], and of Elizabeth, fifth daughter of Sir Andrew Corbet, 2nd Bt, of Moreton-Corbet, Salop ...'. [D2638/E/24-6.] Lady Kilmorey's grandfather, another Edward Holmes Baldock (1777-1845), who founded the family fortunes, has been the subject of a two-part article by Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, Surveyor of the Queen's Works of Art, in *The Connoisseur* for August 1975. He describes the first Baldock as '... an antique dealer who ended his days as an armigerous gentleman, ... numbered among his clients George IV and William Beckford, ... became "Purveyor of China" to William IV and Queen Victoria, [and] specialised in foreign porcelain and furniture. ... [In the period up] to 1827 ..., he contributed to the refurnishing of Windsor Castle, selling the King cabinets, sofas, chairs and Sèvres porcelain. ... [Subsequently he acted] rather in the manner of the French *marchands-marciers* ... . [He] fitted porcelain with bronze mounts, altered, adapted and repaired porcelain and furniture, and designed new furniture made by outside manufacturers. Unlike the French *marchands-merciers*, he

was not prohibited by guild regulations from making works of art himself, and ... may have decorated wares and worked on furniture in his Hanway Street premises [London]. ... Probably he also made up furniture from dismembered pieces. ...' Following his death, his son and namesake married into the baronetage and became an M.P. (without ever making a speech in the House of Commons). '... On his [Edward Holmes Baldock II's] death on 15 August 1875 his estate, which was valued at under £140,000, was divided between his son, also named Edward Holmes Baldock, and two daughters [one of whom was the future Lady Kilmorey]. His assets consisted principally of consols and railway stock, as well as real estate property [in and near Oxford Street, in the Haverstock Hill area of London, etc] from which he derived an annual income of £1,093 11s. 4d. ...'

'... Lady Kilmorey was commandant of the South Down Nursing Corps. When the [First World] War broke out and the activities of the movement were diverted to war exigencies her Ladyship bore a very active part in connection with the Ulster Division, paying many visits to the hospitals where men of the division lay, and trying by her presence and sympathy to lighten the terrible sufferings the men of her own province were undergoing. ... [In addition, she was] ... specially "mentioned" to the Secretary of State for War by the Chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John of Jerusalem in England for "valuable general Red Cross service during the war" ... .

[Lord and Lady Kilmorey's children were]: ... Francis Charles Adelbert Henry Needham (the 4th Earl); Capt. the Hon. Francis Needham, Grenadier Guards [grandfather of the present (6th) Earl of Kilmorey]; and Lady Cynthia Almina Constance Mary Needham who, in 1908, married Viscount Villiers, now [8th] Earl of Jersey. ...'. [D2638/D/97.]



## **Francis Charles Adelbert Henry Needham, Viscount Newry and Morne, 4th Earl of Kilmorey (1883-1961)**

According to family tradition, the 4th Earl's first love was the sea, although he was not given scope to follow this bent until middle age. His parents wanted him to follow his father into the Shropshire Yeomanry (or the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, as it had become during the Boer War). Accordingly, in 1901, he became a 2nd lieutenant in that regiment, which was shortly afterwards disembodied. Parental influence and royal favour then obtained for him a 2nd lieutenancy in the 1st Life Guards (the 'Blues'), in which regiment he was promoted lieutenant two years later, in 1904, and captain in 1907. He resigned his commission in 1911, and was appointed to the general reserve as a captain. On the outbreak of the First World War, he rejoined the Blues, and was appointed temporary major and transferred to the Household Battalion in 1916. In 1917 he was appointed second-in-command of the Reserve Household Battalion. He joined the army reserve, as a major, early in 1919. [D2638/D/99-133 passim.]

Shortly after becoming too old to be recalled for army service, he was appointed Commanding Officer of the Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. In 1939, he was about to resign from this post, on the grounds of his age (56) and the distance he lived from Belfast, when the Second World War broke out. Towards the end of the war, in June 1944, he contributed to the official history of Northern Ireland's part in the war, the following short account of the Ulster Division (D2638/D/106/14).

'The Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve came into existence on the 1st April 1924, thus forming the eighth division of this force round the coasts of the British Isles. The approved strength was 500 officers and men and the ... Marquess of Dufferin and Ava was appointed Commanding Officer. ... In July 1930, Capt. ... [Lord] Dufferin ... was killed in an aeroplane accident, and in the autumn of that year... the Earl of Kilmorey, O.B.E., D.L., was appointed to succeed him in the command of the Division. ...

*H.M.S. Caroline*, a cruiser which had taken part in the Battle of Jutland and which was then being paid off after service in the East Indies, became the headquarters of the Division in Musgrave Channel, Belfast. The strength of the Division increased rapidly and within a few years many trophies open to competition by all the divisions were being won by ... [it]. The Division provided a four-gun battery which fired the royal salute on the occasion of the opening of [the] Parliament House at Stormont by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1932. A guard of honour was also mounted by the Division on the occasion of the visit of H.M. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Ulster in 1936.

In accordance with the Royal Naval Volunteer regulations every officer and rating performed a specific period of training at sea with the Fleet during each year of his service. In the spring of 1939 the officers of the Division numbered 42, composed of 25 executive officers, 10 medical officers and 7 paymasters, and the number of ratings was up to establishment. In the summer of that year the Reserve Fleet was

mobilised and with it the great majority of the officers and men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve were appointed to H.M. ships or shore stations, so that on the 3rd September 1939 it could be said that so far as the Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve was concerned it was fully mobilised and already at war stations. ... Some 31 volunteers were attached to the Ulster Division ... as members of the Royal Naval Volunteer Supplementary Reserve, these members being called up as sub lieutenants, RNVR .... From the lower deck of the Ulster Division, several members of the division ... [were] selected for commissioned rank. ...

It would be impossible to give details of the actual spheres in which the officers and ratings served during the war, except to say that the Ulster Division was represented in every part of the world from ... Far Eastern waters to the American shores. Many members of the Division took part in the landings in North Africa and in the Sicily and Italian campaigns which followed. The Division was also represented by officers serving on the Prime Minister's staff at the conferences which Mr Churchill attended with other Allied leaders in Newfoundland, where the Atlantic Charter was signed, Casablanca, Washington, Quebec and Cairo. The Ulster Division was also fully represented in coastal forces both in the Channel and elsewhere and one of its officers was leader of a flotilla of motor-launches which took part in the raid on St Nazaire. ...'

By virtue of his position in the Ulster Division of the RNVR, Lord Kilmorey was appointed Vice-Admiral of Ulster in 1936 - an honorary office which his predecessor, Lord Dufferin, had held and of which Lord Kilmorey was disappointed in 1930 because the British Government was hoping at that stage to let the various Vice-Admiralties of provinces and principalities fall into desuetude. In addition to his naval and military appointments, Lord Kilmorey was Sheriff of Co. Down, 1913, a Deputy Lieutenant for the county from 1915, and Lieutenant, 1949-59 (when he resigned on grounds of ill-health). In the same year, 1959, he also resigned as a member of the Carlingford Lough Commission, which he had been since c.1920. In 1936 he received the O.B.E. and was made a member of the Northern Ireland Privy Council. On a couple of occasions (1947 and 1951) he served as one of the Lords Justices of Northern Ireland appointed to cover a temporary absence of the Governor, and in the period immediately preceding the Second World War he seems to have been under consideration for appointment to the Governorship itself (D2638/D/128). He was a member of the Royal Ulster Yacht Club from 1910, a member and trustee of the Ulster Club, Belfast, from c.1923, the third-senior member of the Downe Hunt by 1953, a Steward of the Down Royal Races and the Downpatrick Races, etc, etc. He had a record of unbroken attendance in the Royal Enclosure, Ascot, from 1903 to the late 1950s (the War years only excepted) and was also a member of the Iron Stand at Ascot. As his papers show, he played a prominent part in the British Legion, in various sailors' benevolent associations, in the masonic order, etc, etc. [D2638/D/75, 94 and 128.]

He married in 1920 Lady Norah Hastings, second daughter of the 14th Earl of Huntingdon, whose family had a subsidiary Irish seat at Sharavogue, Co. Offaly, and a principal seat at Burton, near Loughborough, Leicestershire. The Hastings family were descended from Richard III's Lord Hastings and, in the female line, from Lionel Duke of Clarence (hence the recurrence of 'Plantagenet' as a christian name among both the men and the women of the family). More questionably, they claimed descent

from Robin Hood, and also used 'Robin Hood' as a frequent christian name. This ancient pedigree notwithstanding, they derived their recent financial security from the 14th Earl's marriage in 1892 to Maud Wilson, a daughter of the Ballymoney-born, self-made and extremely rich Sir Samuel Wilson (1832-1895) of Ercildoune, near Ballarat, Victoria; Hughenden Manor, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (which he rented from Disraeli's heirs); and 10 Grosvenor Square, London. 'Sir Sam', having made a fortune in Australia and been knighted in 1875, transferred his attention to the English social and political scene, acquired an enviable collection of Old Master paintings and of sons- and daughters-in-law from the old aristocracy, was an unsuccessful Conservative candidate for North Buckinghamshire in 1885 and sat for Portsmouth, 1886-1892. Cuttings from *The Gentlewoman* for 11 June 1892 and a Victoria newspaper called *The Argus* for 28 August 1935 (D2638/E/23) discuss - both of them in obsequiously snobbish tones - the high social position which Sir Samuel Wilson's money had bought by 1892 and the glories of Ercildoune (which by 1935 had been sold by his heirs).

None of this would be relevant to Kilmorey family history, but for the fact that it was Lady Kilmorey's share of the Wilson inheritance which secured Mourne Park for the children of her marriage to Lord Kilmorey and the descendants of those children.

Lord Kilmorey died in 1961 and his widow in 1985. Just before his death, a re-arrangement of Needham family property and assets was carried into effect, whereby his nephew and heir-presumptive, Major Patrick Needham, subsequently 5th Earl of Kilmorey, waived his right of succession to Mourne Park in exchange for assets of equivalent value.<sup>16</sup> This compromise or partition arrangement made perfect sense, in that Lady Kilmorey and her daughters wanted to go on living at Mourne, and Major Needham assumed that he and his heirs would have no reason to want a residence in Northern Ireland. Ironically, however, his son and successor, Richard Needham, the 6th Earl, was to spend much time in the province, where he served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the Northern Ireland Office from 1983 to 1992.

The title deed and related material in the archive, 1552, 1603, 1613, 1636, 1669, 1677, 1680 and 1700-1912, is largely relevant to the English estates in Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire, most which were sold in 1885. The original of the grant from Edward VI to Sir Nicholas Bagenal of the lands of the Abbey of Newry, 1552, is present, as is a non-contemporary copy of James I's patent confirming these estates to Arthur Bagenal in 1613. There are also recoveries of the Co. Down estates, 1763 and 1819, together with a recovery of tithes in Co. Louth, also 1819. Also present are a deed of separation between the 2nd Earl of Kilmorey and his first wife, 1835, a copy of the marriage settlement of his eldest son, Viscount Newry and Mourne, 1839, the settlement made on the 2nd Earl's second marriage, 1867, and a copy of the marriage settlement of the 3rd Earl, 1881.

The biggest single section of the archive is the leases and conveyances (even allowing for the retention for business reasons of c.500 such documents), 1731-1945. The Newry leases, which begin in the former year, are important to an understanding of the development of the town (though, in fact, the really important town-planners of Newry were the Needhams' cousins, the Hill family, Earls of Hillsborough and Marquesses of Downshire, who began to lay out what is now the centre of Newry,

c.1740). The Newry leases are arranged alphabetically, mainly by street, as follows: Barrack Street, 1755-1832; Boat Street, 1732-1903; Canal Street, 1745-1903; Castle Street, 1732-1942; Catherine Street (formerly Corry Place), 1831; Chapel Street, 1802-1884; Church Street, 1759-1901; Crawford's Park, 1800-1864; Custom House (leases of, and leases of premises near), 1752-1835; High Street, 1832-1907; Kilmorey and King Street, 1742 and 1885; Market Street, 1732-1901; Merchants' Quay (formerly the New Quay), 1762 and 1830; Mill Street, 1732-1835; North Street, 1731-1832; Pound Street, 1759-1832; Waterloo Street, 1759-1946; White's Park, 1743-1937; William Street, 1753-1835; and unidentified, 1761-1946.

The other leases, conveyances, etc, relating to urban property concern Rostrevor (1820-1900) and Kilkeel (1912), Co. Down. The Rostrevor documents mostly relate to sales of land, but they include papers about the Rostrevor Improvement Bill and various local railways, 1885-1900, and papers about the Mourne Hotel, Rostrevor, 1875-1890, and a failed business enterprise of the 3rd Earl of Kilmorey. Kilkeel is represented by a single conveyance of 1912 relating to premises in Greencastle Street. (All the other Kilkeel leases, etc, appear to have been retained for business purposes.)

The remaining leases, conveyances, etc, relate to rural townlands in Cos Down and Armagh. The first bundle relates to Derrylacka and Desert, Co. Down, two townlands jointly owned by Lords Anglesey and Kilmorey, and fall within the period 1790-1830. In alphabetical order, the remaining leases, conveyances, etc, relate to: Altnaveigh, Co. Armagh, 1755-1792; Ballinacraig, Co. Armagh, 1735-1920; Ballinlare, Co. Armagh, 1772-1910; Ballybought, Co. Armagh, 1820-1837; Ballyholland, Co. Down, 1789 and 1794; Brackenagh, Co. Down, 1733; Carbane, Co. Down, 1795-1820; Carmeen, Co. Down, 1749-1838; Castlenagan, Co. Down, 1797; Cloghoge, Co. Down, 1750-1820; Commons, Co. Down, 1869-1927; Crobane, Co. Down, 1790-1791; Correigh, Co. Down, 1767; Derrybeg, Co. Armagh, 1820-1832; Drummanlane, Co. Armagh, 1764-1839; Fathom, Co. Armagh, 1771-1813; Finnard, Co. Down, 1768 and 1813; Glasdrummon, Co. Armagh, 1811-1880; Gransha, Co. Down, 1790-1804; Lisdrumgullion, Co. Armagh, 1771-1919; Lisdrumliska, Cos Armagh and Down, 1768-1912; Lisserboy, Co. Down, 1756; Loughhorn, Co. Down, 1734-1880; Mageragh and Magarty, Co. Down, 1774 and 1803; Ouley, Co. Down, 1813; Ryan, Co. Down, 1786-1794; Saval-More, Co. Down, 1755-1788; Shannaghan, Co. Down; 1779; Sheeptown, Co. Down, 1790; Tormore, Co. Down, 1787-1788 and unidentified leases, 1761-1772.

The wills and testamentary papers run from 1710 to 1960. Pre-1858 Irish wills are as follows: copy of the will of John Atkinson [of Newry?], 1768; copy to the wills of Anthony Atkinson (1807) and of his wife, Annabella Atkinson (1819); letters of administration relating to the estates of Henry Waring Knox and John Knox of Waringsford, Co. Down, 1823; copy of the will (1832), trust disposition (1845) and codicil (1858) of Matilda Dorothea Baget of Newry; and copy of the will of Moses McKeivitt of Newry, 1832. There are some originals and copies of wills of member of the Kilmorey family, none of them Irish, including the original of the all-important will of William Nedham of Waresley, Huntingdonshire, by which devised his Co. Down estates to his kinsman, Robert Needham, 11th Viscount Kilmorey, 1804.

The correspondence section of the archive runs from 1791 to 1961. Early correspondence, from 1791 to c.1865, deriving from the 11th Viscount and 1st and 2nd Earls of Kilmorey and from Viscount Newry (d.1851) and Emily, Viscountess Newry, is meagre. The principal items of note do not really belong in a correspondence section at all. The first is a tour journal, 1791-1793, kept by an unidentified young man and containing some interesting comments on Co. Kerry and Cork City, their places of interest and their curiosities (human, natural and architectural); an original indentures of return for the borough of Newry of two successive Viscounts Newry, 1819 and 1841 respectively.

With 3rd Earl of Kilmorey and his wife, the correspondence - running from 1848 to 1920 - builds up to a significant quantity. Basically, the topics covered are highlighted in the preceding biographical sketch of the Kilmoreys, and the arrangement of their correspondence speaks for itself. It is as follows: family, social and personal letters and papers, 1876-1920; correspondence with and about the royal family, 1863-1927; letters and papers about public affairs, at both (Shropshire and well as Co. Down) and national level, 1863-1920; UVF letters and papers (of Viscount Newry, the future 4th Earl of Kilmorey, as well as of the 3rd Earl), 1912-1914; letters and papers about theatricals and the arts, 1861-1914; and legal and financial letter and papers, 1861-1911.

Of the 'theatrical' material perhaps the most interesting item is a letter to Lord Newry from Arthur Sullivan, 30 October 1874, enquiring about hiring the Globe Theatre and explaining: 'Gilbert and I are very anxious to do a new kind of piece - a humorous comedy in music - something between opera comique and opera bouffe. With good singers and actors, I believe the piece would be a brilliant success, if we did our part well. ...' The verdict of history is that they did! The 'royal' material also requires comment. It includes c.45 letters and telegrams from or on behalf of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, 1868-1910, and a bundle of letters and papers, 1902-1927, throwing some light on Lady Kilmorey's unspoken but widely recognised role as chère amie of Queen Mary's younger brother, Prince Francis of Teck, who died young (he was at least ten years younger than Lady Kilmorey in any case) in 1910 and made embarrassingly generous provision for her in his will.

Family history and the piecemeal building history of Mourne Park (from 1892), broad details of both of which have already been provided, also feature very prominently among the 3rd Earl's letters and papers, as they do among the letters and papers of the 4th Earl. This material runs from 1882 to 1966.

The letters and papers of the 4th Earl and his wife, like those of his parents, reflect the interests, activities and (in the case of money) problems which are outlined in the brief biography already provided. The material is arranged as follows: personal, family and financial letters and papers, 1893-1966; letters about miscellaneous public affairs, starting with the Shropshire yeomanry but thereafter mainly concentrating on Northern Ireland and Co. Down (of which the 4th Earl was a DL and, from 1949, Lieutenant, 1901-1959; files, letters and papers of the 4th Earl as Commanding Officer of the Ulster Division of the RNVR, 1930-1945, with some later, associated patronage correspondence and correspondence about naval matters generally, 1946-1955; and a series of rather haphazard outward letter-books, reflecting

combinations and permutations of the other topics covered in the 4th Earl's correspondence, 1922-1954.

Newscutting books and scrapbooks run from 1876 to 1950, and relate to births, deaths, comings-of-age and marriages in the Kilmorey and Huntingdon families, the Third Home Rule Bill crisis and the UVF, royalty, hare-coursing and Mourne Park, etc, etc. Photographs and photographs albums, 1877-1939, cover similar subjects, with the addition of 'Flanders and France, 1914-1915' and the 4th Earl's role in the RNVR and as Vice-Admiral of Ulster, 1932-1939. Other subjects are 'big houses' with which the family had associations – Mourne Park itself, Sharavogue, Kinnitty, Cos Offaly (a house and property which the Huntingdons had inherited from the Westenra family, Lords Rossmore), 1877, and Castlewellan Castle and gardens, Newcastle, Co. Down. The 5th Earl Annesley of Castlewellan and the 3rd Earl of Kilmorey were both gifted amateur photographers, and an album of c.1880s displays their efforts to capture their own or each other's seats (and incidentally catches some of the photographic gadgetry which they used).

The maps, plans and surveys in the main part of the Kilmorey archive (D2638) are disappointingly late and scrappy. The 'strays' in T1513 and D3514 include a map of Lisdrumgullion, part of the estate of William Nedham, by Samuel Reid, 1781, and a map of Ballinacraig by the same surveyor, 1784. There are also maps of Ballinlare and Ballyholland by John Wilson, 1800 and 1813 respectively, and – by John Wilson (1819), James Wilson (1820), J. & T. Wilson (1830) and an unnamed surveyor (c.1835) – maps of the demesne and vicinity of Mourne Park.

Rental material is fairly abundant, although much - particularly for the Newry estate, post-1881 – has been retained for business purposes. For 1810 and 1811 there are rent ledgers-cum-leasebooks for the entire Irish estates of the 12th Viscount Kilmorey in Cos Armagh, Down and Louth, giving details of leases back to 1731. A later rent ledger of 1813, also covering the entire estate, includes a list of 'Tithes of the Lordship of Kilmorey' – a term which does not seem to be used elsewhere. There is a good run of Newry rentals, 1820-1881, with a largely uninterrupted blank between 1840 and 1870; and a complete run of Mourne (ie Kilkeel and Greencastle) estate rentals, 1882-1906. One volume records 'Judicial reductions on Morne [sic] and Greencastle estates', 1896, and there is a singleton Mourne estate rental for the period 1963-1966.

Accounts, inventories, etc, run from 1835 to 1944 (accounts) and from 1889 to 1957 (inventories). The former include a farm account book for Shavington, 1835-1844, another relating to 'Coursing at Mourne Park', 1879-1884, statements of the private income of 'Nellie', wife of the 3rd Earl of Kilmorey, 1884, 1887 and 1892, and statements of the 3rd Earl's income, 1885 and 1886, including fascinating details of his income from his London theatres. The remaining account books and accounts consist of bills, details of payments, etc, for personal and Mourne Park expenditure, 1885-1944. The inventories include a number of sale catalogues (reflecting the family's deteriorating financial situation), 1898, 1913 and 1924, and some correspondence about works of art in Kilmorey family possession, including a letter of 1934 from Kenneth Clark, as Director of the National Gallery, to the 4th Earl of Kilmorey offering him £5,000 for his Gainsborough portrait of the 10th Viscount Kilmorey. ▲