



**m.1654**  
**Elizabeth Denny**  
 b.25.2.1635  
 d.1696 at Tralee;  
 Will dated 1689,  
 pr.1696 PCA  
**[WELPLY p.592]**,  
 requests she be bur.  
 inside St.John's  
 Ashe St. Tralee  
 (C.o.I.) near her  
 bro. Wm Denny

she was dau. of  
 Sir Edward Denny  
 Knt. (1605-1646)  
 of Tralee Castle,  
 Castle (*rebuilding*  
*of which he*  
*completed 1627;*  
*It stood close to*  
*where the Ashe*  
*Memorial Hall*  
*on Denny Street*  
*now stands*)

Elizabeth Denny  
 13th in descent  
 from Edward I  
 ("Longshanks")  
 through families  
 of Plantagenet,  
 de Bohun,  
 Courtenay,  
 Champerowne  
 and Denny;  
 see p.RD 5  
 & "Royal Lineage"  
 by J.FOSTER 1887

**ROYAL**  
**DESCENT**  
**NOTE:** In the old  
 panelled library  
 (now hotel bar)  
 of Elm Grove/  
 Ballyseedy Castle  
 (built 1721) is a  
 wooden panel  
 (woodworm  
 infested but has  
 been over-cleaned  
 & is of uncertain  
 age), carved  
 with arms of the  
 Blennerhassett  
 family impaled  
 with the three lions  
 of England and the  
 date 1627

this panel believed  
 to commemorate  
 the marriage of his  
 parents, John  
 Blennerhassett Sr  
 & Martha Lynn,  
 Martha being a  
 descendant of the  
 Plantagenet Kings  
 of England; this is

Will dated 24.1.1708,  
 codicil 24.1.1708;  
 pr.9.5.1709 [PCA]  
**[WELPLY p.592]**;  
 An executor was  
 Thomas BH, attorney  
 (either B 03 or p.K 14);  
 his codicil witness was  
 a requests she be bur.  
 Richard B'hassett  
 (perhaps a brother ?)

In 1709 Gaelic poet  
 Aodhagan O'Rathaille  
 (Egan O'Rahilly,  
 d.c1729) wrote an  
 Elegy on the Death of  
 John Blennerhassett,  
 dedicated to "...John,  
 son of John, son of  
 John of Ballyseedy..."  
 (included in his  
 "Poems" reprinted  
 by "The Irish Text  
 Society" in 1911)  
**[O'RAHILLY]**

**m. est. c1690**  
**Margaret Crosbie**  
 of Tubrid, Co.Kerry;  
 she bought one of the  
 forfeited estates prev.  
 purchased 1703-20 by  
 Hollow Sword Blade  
 Company of London;  
 Her brothers Thomas  
 & Arthur C. were in  
 1735 implicated in the  
 Danish Silver  
 Robbery scandal (B 09);

**FURTHER LANDS**  
**GRANTED 1666:**  
 In 1666 a crown grant  
 was made to the BH  
 family of 2787 acres  
 in Co.Kerry & 2000  
 acres in Co.Cork;  
 of this grant, John  
 Blennerhassett Jr  
 (d.1677) was granted  
 lands of Curraghmore,  
 Ferrenvorgan,  
 Ardcroanemus,  
 Trogull,  
 Knockloghkin,  
 Gortintle,  
 Castletowne,  
 Ballymacelligott  
 (alias Ballyraglagh),  
 Roghroneane,  
 Gortackleegil,  
 Gurtapopus,  
 Garrynogorah,

she describes him as  
 "a jolly dog; straight,  
 teeth and sight good,  
 bearing a little thick;  
 is polite, cheerful, and  
 even droll; sits to his  
 bottle constantly till  
 nine or ten o'clock,  
 and never wishes to  
 go to bed till one or  
 two in the morning;  
 vastly happy to see  
 us, and mighty fond  
 of his g.daughters..."

High Sheriff of Kerry  
 1717; Resident  
 JP for Kerry 1736;  
 Served on the Kerry  
 Grand Jury 1747 & 55  
 with son John BH &  
 brother William BH

Col. John Blennerhassett was MP for Co.Kerry 1709-13, 1715-27 & 1769-75 (*not 1760-69, see NOTE below*); MP for the borough of Tralee 1713-15, 1727-43, 1743-60 & 1760-69. First elected MP or "Knight of the Shire" for Kerry in 1709, on the death of his father, at about age 17, well under the legal age of 21, having unseated Thomas Crosbie, who had taken his seat illegally (when the High Sheriff of Kerry refused a poll of voters) then lost it after a petition, signed by a Thomas Blennerhassett & others; On 19.8.1709 a petition complaining of the return of John Blennerhassett "by reason of his infancy" was signed by another John Blennerhassett and six others, but not proceeded with

Charles Smith's "The Ancient and Present State of the County of Kerry" in 1752 says John was "...lately one of the governors of this county, and is representative in parliament for the Borough of Tralee, together with his second son Arthur..." also "...his eldest son John is one of the Knights of the Shire for this county...";

**NOTE:** Both [JB/2] & [BIFR p.141] have him in error as MP Co.Kerry 1760-69, but it was his son John Blennerhassett Jr who was MP for Co.Kerry in the 1760 parliament, until he died in 1763; For many years both senior & oldest member of the Irish House of Commons at Dublin, known as "Father of the Irish House of Commons", having represented Co.Kerry or the Borough of Tralee from 1709 to 1775, a period of 64 years spanning the reigns of four sovereigns; His two sons & a grandson were also members of the House

In 1727 signed a dubious "family compact" with Sir Maurice Crosbie, Knt. of Ardfert (knighted 1711/2) & Col. Arthur Denny of Tralee, that sought to partition the county representation among the three families, themselves & their successors; However, this unusual agreement lasted only until Arthur Denny died in 1742; A witness to the signing of this document was his brother Thomas Blennerhassett (B 09); Col. John Blennerhassett was responsible, with Col. Arthur Denny JP, for investigating the "Danish Silver Robbery" of 1731 (B 09); in 1751 he was overseer for the building of the bridge at Cahirmoreaun (Tramore), later renamed Blennerville (p.K 20); this bridge has recently (c2000) been rebuilt

c1734 he shared the Seignory of Castleisland with Sir Maurice Crosbie Knt., William Crosbie, Edward Herbert, John FitzGerald and Richard Meredith; On 14.8.1758 awarded an annual Government pension of £200 ("Freeman's Journal 16-20.12.1766 "A complete List of the Annual pensions on the Irish civil and military Establishments)

Col. John Blennerhassett's Will dated 19.11.1774 defines the Ballyseedy estate entail in unusual detail; The original was lost in the Dublin Four Courts fire, but a contemporary Ms. copy dated 27.6.1776 survives [SA bundle 4, box 18, Ms. 823 of Leighton Hall Collection, papers of Browne family of Riverstown, Cork]; Mary Agnes Hickson in her "Old Kerry Records" [KEP 19.6.1880] wrote that:

"...The Will of Col.John Blennerhassett is a curiosity in its way, from the immense number of Blennerhassetts (nearly a hundred if I remember rightly) named in the entail, including all the then members of the Riddlestown branch and persons in different parts of Ireland, very remotely related to the testator although his namesakes. His grand object seems to have been to prevent Ballyseedy ever going to the descendants of his two daughters, Agnes who married her cousin Sir Thomas Denny, owner in chief of that place; and Mary wife of Lancelot Crosbie of Tubrid..."; This is an odd statement, as the estate was entailed & thus could pass only to male heirs, multiple listing of names of individuals was un-necessary for this; his real objective appears to have been to prevent the Ballyseedy estate passing to descendants of the disinherited male Blennerhassett who was ancestor of the Gortatlea family, this being his nephew Thomas Blennerhassett (B 10 & p.G 01)

**m.2nd 10.4.1753**  
 Frances Herbert  
 b.c1727/8 (issue);  
 of Kilcow & of  
 Muckross, Kerry

d.c17.2.1803  
 "...in the house of  
 Mrs Browne,  
 Gardener St..."  
**["Limerick Chron."  
 19.2.1803]**

>> John Blennerhassett Jr. ("the younger") b.c1754; Edu. TCD (SC 1769, BA 1773), "Fellow Commoner of TCD 1773"; of Oak Park, Killeen, Tralee (now renamed "Collis-Sandes House") 1774 - the home of his 1st cousin Letitia Denny Bateman (B 04), and where his g.father "The Great Colonel John" d.1775

still living 19.11.1774, he died "...a few days before 14.12.1774...", age 20 yrs, at Nice, France, ...where he went for the recovery of his health..."; d. unm.; death reported in "Gentleman's Magazine" Dec.1774, p.598 (place of death not stated); "Hibernian Chronicle" printed Cork 29.12.1774 (place of death given as Nice, France); and "Dublin Hibernian Journal" 14.12.1774 (place of death given as Nice, France); A second notice appeared in the "Dublin Hibernian Journal" of 30.12.1774, this giving his place of death as London (almost certainly in error)

**NOTE: This John is probably the source of a legend, documented in 1934 by William Day Blennerhassett of New Zealand (G 31), of an eldest son of the Ballyseedy family who eloped with a Catholic girl to France and married her there; that he became sick and died; and that his wife was not permitted to see him (B 09 & p.G 02);**  
**NOTE: This tale appears to have over time become confused with another but distinct family legend, that of the ancestor of the Blennerhassett family of Gortatlea & Blackbriar, believed heir to Ballyseedy but disinherited "for marrying without his father's consent" (see p.B 09 & p.G 02)**

perhaps(?) m. in France to <???)  
 his wife perhaps(?) identical with the "Mrs Blennerhassett" whose funeral was held at Ballyseedy church (C.of I.) & was bur.18.4.1821 in Ballyseedy old graveyard (also on B 18); no other "Mrs Blennerhassett" of Ballyseedy is known to have died then, but need to search more newspaper death notices to make certain of this...  
 also, it is unusual for the burial register not to show her full name;  
 it is also possible they were ancestors of Blennerhassett family of Skahanagh & Clahane (p.S 1 etc), in which John is a recurring name

>> Arthur (Edward?) Blennerhassett; d.post1749, bef.1763; d.young; unm.  
**[BIFR p.141]** has him named Arthur, a family name; **[JB/2]** has him named Edward, but I have found no evidence for this

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**PALATINES**  
 A large number of German protestant refugees, among those driven out of the Palatinate by Louis the Fourteenth, settled in Ireland. The greatest number, about 1200, were settled 1709-1712 by Sir Thomas Southwell on his estate at Castle Matrix, outside Rathkeale, Co.Limerick and close to the Blennerhassett estate at Riddlestown Park; The newcomers, known as 'Palatines', were industrious and prospered; they introduced wheel ploughs, potato drills and horse hoes to Ireland; Patrick J. O'Connor in "People Make Places: The Story of the Irish Palatines" writes:

"...After July 1747 the following families appear to have moved together to the Blennerhassett estate nr Castleisland: BENNER, GROUSE, SHOULDICE, HOFFMAN, POFF, HYFLE, FITZELLE, CRONBERRY and some of the SWITZER's..."; These families were brought to Kerry by "The Great Colonel John" Blennerhassett, who is also said to have brought 16 Palatine families from Co.Limerick to Farmer's Bridge, Ballymacelligott, Castleisland and other places on his Co.Kerry estate in 1776 - this may be the same event, the date being an error for 1747, or refer to a second influx of Palatines; other Palatine families such as HECK and RUTTLE are known to have migrated to Kerry later than 1747

The Co.Kerry Volunteer regiments during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century included the "Kerry Legion", also known as the 'Palatine' or 'Ballymacelligott' corps; c1779-82 under the command of Col. Arthur Blennerhassett of Arabella, Ballymacelligott; This regiment was composed principally of farmers of Palatine descent (or 'Germans' as sometimes called) with a few other farmers and artisans

Palatine surnames from the Ballyseedy Estate, researched by Heather Groves of Dublin (p.G 37), with spelling variations found in Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy or Tralee C.of I. parish registers:- Alton (Altimes), Benner (Benner), Cronerberry/Cronenberg/Cronsberry (Cronenberger), Fizzell/Fitzzel/Frizzel/Fitzell/Fitzelle (Fischel), Gleazier/Glazier/Gleasure (Glaser), Groves/Grouse (Kraus), Hoffman/Hofman/Huffman (Hoffman), Miller/Millar (Muller), Poff (Puff), Ruttel (Ruckel), Sparling (Sperling), Twiss (Tys)

Original immigrant surnames are shown in ( ); The names Heck, Hyfle, Shouldice and Switzer are believed also to have been at the Ballyseedy estate, but are not found in local parish registers; The Palatine name KRAUS became GROUSE and this appears to have evolved into GROVES, a well known Ballymacelligott name; all GROVES in Ballymacelligott are believed to descend from Michael & Mary Grouse, living in Ballymacelligott by 1749; This name can be confusing because there is also a Groves of English origin that occurs in Co.Cork, but seemingly no connection

**OAK PARK**  
**TRALEE**

*"As I roved out one evening through the woods of Ballyseedy,  
 Whom should I meet on a cool retreat but a Palatine's daughter  
 You'll find gold and silver, oh! and land without tax or charges,  
 And a pretty lass to wed if you choose a Palatine's daughter."*  
**"The Palatine's Daughter" (Kerry Ballad)**





>> Letitia Denny >>>> >>> Archdeacon >>>>>> >>> issue (p.R 03)

of Tralee Castle  
/  
m.23.10.1799  
Tralee  
William Rowan  
of Tralee

Barrister-at-Law;  
For many years  
Provost of Tralee

on 8.12.1801 he  
leased Arbela  
(Arabella)  
house & townland,  
and Ahane, also in  
Ballymacelligott,  
"for life"  
for £300 pa

Dr Bottom resided  
at Arabella 1812;  
this is the house  
built c1740-50 by  
Col. Arthur BH  
Blennerhassett  
(B 09) and named  
for his first wife;  
Arthur BH had  
ceased residing at  
Arabella House  
and settled in Bath  
about the time he  
remarried in 1800

Rev. Arthur  
Blennerhassett  
Rowan DD, MRJA  
of Belmont, Kerry;  
(also on p.R 03 & p.K 49)

b.?.10.1800; as a child lived with his parents at Arabella House, Ballymacelligott, wherer he may have been born

Curate Blennerville 1824-54 (supported Blennerville Parochial School at his own expense for 25 yrs);  
Rector of Kilgobbin (Clonfert) & Ballinooher 1854-6; Archdeacon of Ardfert 1856-61;  
Surrogate of the Consistorial Court of Ardfert & Aghadoc; Provost of Tralee & later Recorder of Tralee

Treasurer of the County Infirmary 1861;  
Chairman of Tralee Harbour Commission & in 1861 Chairman of the Canal Commissioners who built Tralee Ship Canal, opened 1846 (p.F 04);

Kerry local historian, genealogist & antiquarian writer; author of "The Spare Minutes of a Minister" 1837, "Lake Lore" 1853; a pamphlet  
"Tralee & its Provost, Sixty Years On" 1860; Item in [MGH New Series: Vol 3, p.116]; "Kerry Genealogies" 1846 [NLI Microfilm POS 2786];  
Publisher of "The Kerry Magazine" 1854-6; **When he d.1861 he had in preparation a history of Kerry - where is this now?**

Author of numerous articles in "The Gentleman's Magazine" [GM] as follows:

2nd Series: "Etymology of Smerwick, Co.Kerry" vol.18 pt 2, Oct.1842 p.351-2; "Sir Isaac Newton" vol.18 pt 2, Nov.1842 p.491-2;  
"Family of Roper, Baron of Bantry, & Visc. Baltinglass" vol.19 pt 1, Jan.1843 p.2; "Autograph Letter of Q.Elizabeth" vol.32 pt 2,  
Jul 1849 p.31; "Coningsby Family" vol.33 pt 1, Jan.1850 & p.2 Apr.1850 p.346; "Desc. of Rev. Thomas Fuller & Mary Roper"  
vol.34 pt 2, Oct.1850 p.346; Letter to "Notes & Queries" Series 2, vol.2, 23.8.1856 pp.154-5 (re: Queen Anne's foster-father)  
Obituaries pub. in [KEP 14.8.1861]; [PRIA series 1, vol.8, 1861-4, p.91]; [GM Third Series vol.11 pt 2 Nov.1861 p.565-6]

NOTE: c1858 (or 1855) he transcribed original c1736 MS of "Black Jack's Book" by Capt. John "Black Jack" Blennerhassett  
(d.c1738) of Castle Conway (p.K 01), a pedigree of Blennerhassett & related families c1580-1736; This MS he borrowed from  
John Hurlly of Fenit House, Tralee (p.K 34); a brief letter of 25.6.1858 from him to Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms,  
discussing this loan is now in a genealogical scrapbook in the library of the IGRS, London; Black Jack's Book was also  
transcribed in [BJB/OKR] by Mary Agnes Hickson (p.K 06), another prominent Kerry local historian; The location of the 1858 Rowan  
Ms is unknown, but a photocopy (listed in "Hayes Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation") is [NLI Ms.5629]

d.12.8.1861; bur. "in the family vault at Ballyseedy"

Marble plaque & four brass chandeliers erected to his memory at St.John's Church (C.of I.), Ashe St. Tralee

m.16.11.1825 (not 1820/1) Tralee;

Alicia "Alice" (not Mira) Thompson of Tralee;

b.c1800; d.1876 Tralee;

dau. of Anne Blennerhassett of Annadale House & Peter Thompson (p.K 49)

#### ARABELLA HOUSE

>> Arabella >>>>>>>> >>> issue (B 09)

Blennerhassett

b.21.12.1726; d.21.1.1795 or 27.1.1795,  
[BIFR p.141] giving both dates

"Arabella House" Ballymacelligott built  
by her 2nd husband & named for her,  
giving its name to the townland of Arabella  
(a.k.a. Arbela)

m.1st Richard (Thomas) Ponsonby MP;  
of Croto, Co.Kerry

m.2nd 1764 Co.Cloyne (1st cousin)  
Col.Arthur Blennerhassett (B 09)

>> Leticia Blennerhassett

of Tralee; b.28.2.1728

d.post1801 unnm.

Will dated 27.5.1801 (copy exists)

>> Arabella Margaret >>	>> Charles Fairfield >>	>>> Letitia Fairfield
Blennerhassett	b.c1841 Co.Kerry	
Rowan	/	>> Winifred Fairfield
b.13.2.1806 Tralee;	Journalist; gunnery	
bapt.23.2.06 Tralee;	instructor with 2nd	>> Cicily Isabel >>>> >>> Anthony West b.1919 d.1987;
joined the	Rifle Brigade,	Fairfield " <i>Dame</i> author & critic; wrote a biography of his father,
Plymouth Brethren	"Prince Consort's	<i>Rebecca West</i> " "H.G.Wells: Aspects of a Life" 1984
/	Own",	/
m.1833 Maj. Charles	serving in Canada;	b.1892 Kerry d.15.3.1983
George Fairfield	received his	of Buckinghamshire
of Co.Kerry;	commission from	& London; D.B.E.
/	Queen Victoria in	/
said to be the	a private audience	outstanding journalist, novelist & critic (under her pen name "Rebecca West");
illegitimate son	/	joined the staff of feminist paper "Freewoman" in 1911;
of a Royal Duke;	witnessed U.S. civil	reported on Nuremberg War Crimes Trials 1945-46; author of numerous works;
/	war battles and was	friend of Violet Hunt, Ford Madox Ford, Wyndham Lewis, George Bernard Shaw,
a gambler, he lost	once pressed into	Charlie Chaplin & Max Beverbrook (proprietor of "Daily Express" newspaper);
two small inherited	service as a stretcher	see "Rebecca West: a Saga of the Century" by Carl Rollyson 1995, etc
fortunes;	bearer; he ran a saw	/
d.1853	mill in Virginia & a	/
/	mine in Colorado	/
<i>he previously</i>	/	p.1913-1923 Herbert George "H.G." Wells
<i>m. Frances Crosbie</i>	m. Isabella Mackenzie	historian, novelist & science fiction writer
<i>b.bef.1803</i>	(they met on board a	<b>NOTE: In his 1909 novel "Tono Bungay", H.G. Wells introduces a character</b>
<i>d bef.1833, dau.</i>	ship to Australia);	<b>who "...had been maid to the widow of Sir Roderick Blennerhasset Impey,</b>
<i>dau. of William</i>	pianist	<b>some sort of governor or such-like portent in the East Indies..."</b>
<i>Arthur Crosbie,</i>	/	/
<i>MP for Trim</i>	m.1930 Henry Max Andrews	<b>H.G. WELLS</b>

>>> Digby Fairfield; served in the army; d. aged 25 on leave from India

>> Arthur Fairfield; Civil Servant with Board of Trade

>> Edward Fairfield; Civil Servant

>> Ellen Rowan b.c1818 d.Jun-Mar.1878 Tralee

>> Sophia Denny >>> >>> Sophia Catherine McGillicuddy; b.1813; of Day Place, Tralee; d.17.1.1890 (B 08, p.K 20)  
 d.1832 /  
 / m.22.5.1834 (1st cousin); Rev. Henry Denny; b.20.6.1802; of Churchill; Edu. Oxon (BA);  
 / Rector, Union of Ballinahaglish, Cloherbrien & Annagh, Co.Kerry; d.25.9.1877 (B 08, p.K 20)  
 m.26.8.1811  
 Daniel de Courcy McGillicuddy; of Tralee; b.?.2.1775; High Sheriff Co.Kerry (p.K 19);  
 Grandson of Anne Blennerhassett & Denis "Donogh" McGillicuddy "The McGillicuddy of the Reeks" (p.K 19)  
 /  
 his 2nd marriage; he m.1st c13.9.1784 at Tralee (dsp); Elizabeth Blennerhassett; d.24.12.1807 Tralee (p.K 01, p.K 06)

>> Sir Edward >>>>>> >>> Sir Edward Denny, Bart.; 4th Baronet of Castle Moyle; b.c1796 d.1889; unm.  
 Denny  
 3rd Baronet >>> Rev. Robert Day >>> >>> Sir Robert Arthur Denny, 5th Bart. of Castle Moyle; b.23.7.1838  
 of Castle Moyle Denny b.21.8.1800 /  
 b.c1773 d.12.7.1864; m.1872 Jane Kirton (dsp)  
 / Edu. Oxon (MA)  
 of Tralee Castle,  
 Co.Kerry; Vicar of Shedfield, >>> Arabella Elizabeth >>>> Herbert John Denny Salmon b.28.11.1866  
 MP for Tralee Hampshire Denny d.11.6.1914 /  
 1818-9 & 1828-9; / >>> Robert Hugh Salmon b.4.3.1868  
 High Sheriff m.1st 14.6.1833 m.16.11.1864  
 Co.Kerry; Sarah Grant; of Rev. Frederick >>> Reginald Salmon b.7.12.1870  
 Provost of Tralee Soberton, Hants. Thomas Salmon;  
 1794 d.23.9.1839 Rector of Gittisham >>> Frederick Arthur Salmon b.16.8.1872  
 d.1.8.1831 / Devon;  
 / d.18.5.1906 >>> Frances Beatrice Salmon  
 m.26.5.1795 /  
 Elizabeth Day / >>> Eleanor Margaret Salmon  
 of Lohercannon; /  
 d.27.4.1828; / >>> Ethel Salmon  
 dau. of Judge /  
 Robert Day / >>> Margaret Lillian Salmon  
 /  
 >>> <son> Denny / >>> Alice Maud Salmon  
 /  
 >>> <son> Denny / >>> Flora Mildred Salmon  
 /  
 >>> <son> Denny m.2nd 30.1.1849  
 Frances Waller >>>>>> >>> Sir Cecil Edward Denny, 6th Bart.; b.14.12.1850;  
 >>> <son> Denny of Ospringe Capt. Inspector N.W.Mounted Police, Canada; unm.  
 d.6.1.1877;  
 >>> <son> Denny she m.2nd >>> Herbert Champerowne Denny; b.22.2.1852 d.17.2.1900; unm.  
 Rev. A. Boyd  
 >>> <son> Denny >>> Gertrude Honora Frances Denny  
 >>> <dau.> Denny >>> Frances Flora Denny; m.28.10.1879 Rev. James Arthur Kempe, curate of Lew Trenchard  
 >>> <dau.> Denny >>> Constance Mary Sophia Denny











**NOTE ON "ELM GROVE" & "BALLYSEEDY CASTLE", near Tralee, Co.Kerry**

Ballyseedy, pronounced "Ballysheedy", was originally Baile Ui Soida or "O'Sheedy's Town"  
The Ballyseedy estate was the principal seat of the Blennerhassett family in Ireland 1590-1967

The present "Ballyseedy Castle" began life as a georgian house named "Elm Grove", probably new built in 1721 by "The Great Col. John" Blennerhassett (B 01), remodelled by his brother William BH Sr (1705-1785), this work completed c1788 by his own son William Blennerhassett Jr; [RM pp.22/142] and others suggest Elm Grove was new built in 1760s, but this appears not to be so; The banqueting hall, in the 1821 north wing of Ballyseedy Castle, contains a primitive carved blackoak fireplace surround and overmantle, appearing early 17th century, moved from "old Ballyseedy"; above that fireplace is an unusual "foundation stone" with initials & date 1721; this date appears to indicate the year the present house erected as "Elm Grove"; another 17th century oak fireplace in the library is probably also from "old" Ballyseedy; If [RM] were correct about a 1760s date for the house, would indicate the stone was also from the ruins of "old Ballyseedy", but this appears not to be the case

In 1821 (100 years after Elm Grove believed built 1721) Arthur BH (1799-1843) added the gothic north wing, with turrets and battlements in the fashion of the day, renaming the house "Ballyseedy" ("old" Ballyseedy, at the opposite, west end, of Ballyseedy Wood, by then falling into ruin); two identical stones in the North Wing display a shield with chevron & A \* B 1821

The house at this stage is illustrated by an ink sketch titled "The Seat of Arthur Blennerhassett Esq M.P. Co.Kerry", in the collection of Glin Castle; this sketch dated c1837-41, his years as MP for Kerry; This 1821 work has strong similarities to Glin House, seat of the Knights of Glin, remodelled in similar fashion by John Fraunceis FitzGerald, 24th Knight of Glin (p.R 05) and renamed "Glin Castle"

Arthur Blennerhassett (1856-1939) had Ballyseedy Castle remodelled & refaced once again in 1880s, work of Kerry architect (also Kerry historian & genealogist and Blennerhassett descendant) James Franklin Fuller (p.K 16), this left the house as you now see it, with what had previously been the front face and main entrance now the rear of the house; the house is said to have 365 windows, "...one for every day of the year..."; Following this 1880s remodelling the house began to be called both "Ballyseedy House" and "Ballyseedy Castle" on a more-or-less equal basis

[HK p.107] in error takes Elm Grove and "new" Ballyseedy Castle to be different houses, stating that Elm Grove was "...almost opposite Ballyseedy Castle gates..." & "...Elm Grove is believed to have burned down towards the end of the 18th century...", and that "...No trace remains..."; this is not so, the house "Elm Grove" still stands, renamed first as Ballyseedy 1821, then Ballyseedy Castle c1880, then "Ballyseede Castle Hotel" 1967;

The latest date I have found the name "Elm Grove" in use on any document is 1819

**The greater part of Ballyseedy estate was sold to tenant farmers following Lord Ashbourne's "Land Purchase Act" of 1885; This made state credit available, enticing tenants to purchase the land they worked and landlords to sell it to them; see list of estate townlands on (B 14)**

Ballyseedy Castle sold out of the family, by auction, in May 1967, to Mrs Eileen Sheraton of Galway, who with her husband Arthur converted it into a quality country house hotel standing in its 31 acre demesne, renamed "The Ballyseede Castle Hotel"; an auction of contents, "objets d'art, furniture, antique silver, china, etc" was held at Ballyseedy in June 1967

The hotel was again sold c1986 to Barth O'Connor of Boston, USA, whose forefather had emigrated to the USA from nearby Castleisland, Co.Kerry; He ran the hotel successfully for some years, then offered it for sale at an asking price of 4.5 million Euros

"The Ballyseede Castle Hotel" was purchased c2004 by Marnie Corscadden, who initiated a sympathetic program of renovation, decoration and extension that is bringing back something of the grandeur of this great old house, albeit as an hotel; in 2008 there are plans to build a west wing, for additional guest bedrooms

>> Charles John >>>>> >>> Major Arthur >>>>> >>> (Nesta) Georgie Blennerhassett, OBE (1920); b.17.5.1883 at Ballyseedy Castle [IT 26.5.1883 p.7]; bap.17.6.1883 Ballyseedy; confirmed 1900 at Devonport, Devon

Allanson Winn Blennerhassett (only son) / M.B.E. (1917/8) / during WWI Hon. Secretary & Treasurer for Co.Kerry branch of the "Royal Munster Fusiliers Comforts Fund", Co.Kerry branch in WWI [advertisement in TIMES 30.3.1916]; b.6.7.1830 Ireland; of Ballyseedy (succeeded 1843) / D.L., D.L., JP; of Ballyseedy Castle (succeeded 1859 at the age of 3 yrs) / during WWI she was awarded the OBE in the "Civilian War Honours" list for her "...valuable work in providing comforts for soldiers and prisoners of war..." [TIMES 31.3.1920 p.18]

Ed. Chichester House School, Brighton 1841; / b.26.6.1856 / m.17.6.1920 St.Peter's, Cranley Gardens, Kensington, London  
Ed. Cheltenham College (Turnbull) Aug.1843-Dec.1844 / Co.Kerry; / Lt-Col. Verelst T. Worship, DSO; Royal Munster Fusiliers; of Ormsby, Norfolk (dsp) wedding had been planned for Ballyseedy, but instead took place quietly in London "owing to threatened dislocation of traffic in Ireland" [TIMES 6.5.20, 19.5.20, 22.6.20]

[CCR]; / JP Co.Kerry; / High Sheriff Co.Kerry 1876/8 >>> Hilda Blennerhassett "Miss Hilda" of Ballyseedy Castle; succeeded 1939, jointly with Vera; b.29.9.1884 Ballyseedy Castle bap.27.10.1884 Ballyseedy; confirmed 1900 Devonport, Devon; she spoke Irish & English; d.9.12.1965 Ballyseedy Castle; bur. Ballyseedy [IT 10.12.1965]; unm.

d.9.12.1859 / Major, 4th (6th?) Battalion (mil.) / during WWI Hilda, with her mother & sister Vera, served as nurses with a VAD ("Voluntary Aid Detachment") on board Lord Dunraven's (p.R 05) yacht "Grianaig", in use as ambulance ship in Mediterranean; for her services Hilda was awarded the B.E.F. 1914-15 star (Mons Star), the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

St.Anne's Hill, Blarney, Cork (one source has d.10.12.1859); / Royal Munster Fusiliers from 1900; mem. British Legion / In 1873-86 owned 12,621 ac. in Kerry; gross value 1883 £4159, 1886 £4157 [IT 30.8.1886]; Hilda was last of the Blennerhassetts of Ballyseedy, residing there until she d.1965; [TA pp.128-129] has a 1904 photograph of Hilda, Nesta & Vera boating on Caragh Lake, Co.Kerry, also verses written by Hilda in 1902

bur. in the family vault, Ballyseedy old churchyard; / some sources say he died following hunting accident (Ballyseedy had a well known pack of hounds) but his obituary in [IT 16.12.1859] reports he "...had been suffering for some time from a painful and exhausting internal disease, which though moderated by, eventually baffled, medical skill..." / In 1900 the family was at Devonport, Devon, England / Hilda bequeathed Ballyseedy to Sir Adrian Blennerhassett, 7th Bart. of Blennerville, of London (p.K 40); as a child Adrian (b.1940) had spent holidays at Ballyseedy, his mother being a close friend of Hilda, so he knew the house well (see p.G 30);

during the 1880s / Sir Adrian inherited with the house a leather bound Ms. "Blennerhassett Pedigree" c1911 given to her father by the author, Lt.-Col. Edward Francis Jemmett-Browne (B 01); Arthur remodelled the house, using Kerry architect James Franklin Fuller (see NOTE to left); A microfilm of this Ms. is in [NLI ref. n.4216, microfilmed as POS 3887]; a better quality copy is in the private archives of Glin Castle, Co.Limerick / Ballyseedy Castle sold out of the family, by auction, in May 1967 (see NOTE to left)

>>> Vera Blennerhassett "Miss Vera"; b.1886 Ballyseedy Castle; spoke Irish & English; of Ballyseedy Castle (succeeded 1939, jointly with Hilda); b.18.11.1885 Ballyseedy Castle; bap.7.2.1886 Ballyseedy (confirmed 1902 Ballyseedy); d.14.4.1942 Ballyseedy Castle [IT 25.4.1942]; bur. Ballyseedy; unm.

his headed notepaper was printed with "Ballyseedy Castle" / during WWI Vera, with her mother & sister Hilda, served as nurses with a VAD ("Voluntary Aid Detachment") on board Lord Dunraven's (p.R 05) yacht "Grianaig", in use as an ambulance ship in the Mediterranean; for her services Vera awarded the B.E.F. 1914-15 star (Mons Star), the British War Medal and the Victory Medal

"A well known figure in Irish hunting and racing circles", he acted as official starter for race meetings and inspector of courses to the Turf Club & Irish National Hunt Committee, "in which capacity he gave universal satisfaction"; in Arthur Blennerhassett's time Ballyseedy Hunt was run jointly by Arthur & Francis Chute of Chute Hall (p.K 35); "...their huntsman, wearing an old coat and ill-fitting breeches, would ride up & down the streets of Tralee blowing a horn to advertise that there was to be a hunt..."

"a fine judge of a horse", during WWI he travelled continuously on behalf of British Army Remounts Commission to purchase horses as remounts in USA, Canada, Australia & NZ, performing this role from 1914 to the end of 1918; his first such mission was to Australia, sailing London-Melbourne on P&O Line SS "Morea", departing 31.10.1914; in 1916 he was in Canada and USA, returning New York-Liverpool on Cunard Line SS "Orduna", arriving 28.2.1916; again sailed New York-Liverpool on White Star Line SS "Lapland", arriving 19.12.1916;

under Arthur Blennerhassett the Ballyseedy estate was dispersed, land sold to sitting tenant farmers following the Irish Land Purchase Acts of 1885 & 1903 [IT 13.5.1939]; only the demesne & Ballyseedy Castle Farm were retained; The Blennerhassetts of Ballyseedy had a reputation locally as good landlords and neighbours, and "his relations with his former tenantry continued most cordial" [IT 13.5.1939]; this helped protect the house to some extent during the war of independence and subsequent Irish civil war of 1922-23, when so many country houses burned, but he was attacked and severely injured by members of the IRA and much of his agricultural property stolen; Maj. Arthur Blennerhassett was in <??> awarded compensation by the Irish Grants Committee for injury and loss of property [IGC NA: CO762.55.18 No.848]

m.26.9.1855 / at Tralee; Mary Anne "Marianne" Hickson of The Grove, Dingle, Co.Kerry / under Arthur Blennerhassett the Ballyseedy estate was dispersed, land sold to sitting tenant farmers following the Irish Land Purchase Acts of 1885 & 1903 [IT 13.5.1939]; only the demesne & Ballyseedy Castle Farm were retained; The Blennerhassetts of Ballyseedy had a reputation locally as good landlords and neighbours, and "his relations with his former tenantry continued most cordial" [IT 13.5.1939]; this helped protect the house to some extent during the war of independence and subsequent Irish civil war of 1922-23, when so many country houses burned, but he was attacked and severely injured by members of the IRA and much of his agricultural property stolen; Maj. Arthur Blennerhassett was in <??> awarded compensation by the Irish Grants Committee for injury and loss of property [IGC NA: CO762.55.18 No.848]

Marianne m.2nd 12.6.1862 at Dublin; Capt. William Walker, Royal Lancashire Artillery; of Wood Hill, Bury [GM July 1862]

**TOWNLANDS of the Ballyseedy estate (from GV Co.Kerry 1852)**

spellings taken from the "General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands of Ireland 1851";

**Townlands marked \* are not always shown as such on modern maps**

Townlands shown in **bold** are those appearing in GV Co.Kerry 1852 as part of the Ballyseedy estate, then belonging to Charles Blennerhassett (1830-1859)

**BALLYSEEDY CIVIL PARISH****Ballindooogan (201 acres)****Ballycarty (182 acres)**

Ballymachthomas (395 acres)

**Ballyseedy (440 acres)**

Caherleheen (64 acres) \*

**Clashedmond (186 acres)****Curraghmacdonagh (102 acres) \*****Dromavally (358 acres)****Gortbrack East (178 acres)****Gortbrack, or Gortbrack West (178 acres)****Lissardboola, or West Lissardboola (376 acres)****Poulawaddra (821 acres)****BALLYMACELLIGOTT CIVIL PARISH**

Ahane (178 acres)

Arabela (154 acres)

**Ash Hill (345 acres)**

Ballineedora (113 acres)

Ballinknock (112 acres)

**Ballybeg (<???) acres** not listed as a townland

Ballyyaukeen (299 acres)

Ballybrannagh (143 acres)

**Ballydwyer East (184 acres)****Ballydwyer Middle (136 acres)****Ballydwyer West (179 acres)**

Ballyfinoge (179 acres)

Ballymacelligott (97 acres)

Ballynahinch (80 acres)

Barrakilla (201 acres)

Bealagrellagh (72 acres) \*

Caherbreagh (387 acres)

Cahercullenagh Lower (283 acres)

Cahercullenagh Upper (520 acres)

Cahermore (89 acres)

Carrignafeela (81 acres)

**Clashatlea (335 acres)**

Cloghavoola (130 acres)

**Clogher (41 acres)**

Clogherclemin (204 acres)

**Cloghermore (62 acres)**

Coolnadead (124 acres)

**BALLYMACELLIGOTT CIVIL PARISH** cont.**Curraghmacdonagh (25 acres)**

Doonimlaghbeg (158 acres)

**Flemby (518 acres)**

Garraun Beg (87 acres)

Garraun More (232 acres)

Glanageenty (421 acres)

**Gortagullane (68 acres)****Gortatlea (699 acres)** pronounced "Gortaclea"

Gortnaleaha (107 acres)

**Gortshanvally (82 acres)**

Kilbane (291 acres)

**Kilkerry (101 acres)****Kilquane (133 acres)****Knockatarriv (293 acres)**

Knockavinnane (136 acres)

Kylebeg (132 acres)

Lissooleen (28 acres)

**Loughnacappagh (36 acres) \***

Magh East (142 acres)

Magh West (196 acres)

Maglass East (235 acres)

Maglass West (291 acres)

Martara (87 acres)

Mountnicholas (108 acres)

Muingnaminnane (1,019 acres)

Muingnatee (230 acres)

Mweelinroe (38 acres)

Potaley (17 acres)

Rathanny (257 acres)

Reanagowan (1,093 acres)

Rockfield (305 acres)

Shanavally (269 acres)

Tonreagh Lower (157 acres)

Tonreagh Upper (137 acres)

Tooreen (170 acres)

Tooreennastooka (136 acres)

Tullygarran (163 acres)

Tursillagh (580 acres)

**RATASS CIVIL PARISH****Caherleheen (<???) acres)****Camp (<???) acres)**

*"a story is told that during the civil war [when Arthur Blennerhassett was away, with Hilda & Vera at home] members of the IRA arrived at Ballyseedy, at night, threatening to burn the house; they gave the family and servants minutes in which to leave; Hilda said, "fair enough, I can see why you want to do it, and your point while the servants are dressing, and its such a cold night, come in and have a drink while you are waiting". So the potten was broached and drinks poured & they drank 'til 7ish; they sobered up, thanked her & left. The house still stands..." [Brian Blennerhassett, Sligo, 1988]*

In 1920 Arthur BH of Ballyseedy "was awarded £800 compensation for the burning of a house, his property" [IT 9.10.1920]; Was this Ballycarty House, home of the Nash family but a part of the Ballyseedy estate?

member of the Kildare Street Club, Dublin (163 Kildare St. - he was resident there at the night of the 1911 census) and the Royal St.George Yacht Club, Kingstown;

Arthur Blennerhassett d.3.5.1939 at Ballyseedy Castle [TC], [IT 5.5.1939 (2 items) & 13.5.1939];

bur.4.5.1939 at Ballyseedy new (C.o.I.) burial ground, the first of his family to be interred there, previous generations having been interred in the adjacent Ballyseedy old burial ground;

[IT 13.5.1939] reports "Mrs. Blennerhassett was too ill in London to travel to the funeral"; in 1956 a brass plaque was placed inside Ballyseedy (C.o.I.) Church, in memory of him and his family, erected by his daughter Hilda

The "Arthur Blennerhassett Memorial Chase" horse race, held at Tralee races, £150 prize in 1956 [IT 7.9.1956]

**HOUSE SERVANTS:**

at the time of the 31.3.1901 census Arthur Blennerhassett was away from Ballyseedy, with his wife and daughters Hilda & Vera, at (house 3) Liskgnnett East, Coulrus, Co.Limerick accompanied by servants: Patrick Dowling (b.c1851), Jame Campbell (B.c1861), Ellen McCarthy (B.c1866) & Ellen Lyons (b.c1861); at the time of the 2.4.1911 census the Ballyseedy House servants were:

Anne Murphy (b.c1881); Catherine Moore (b.c1891); Bridget Kelly (b.c1883)

NOTE: with the death of William Wynne Blennerhassett, (p.W 05), last survivor of the English Blennerhassetts, at Brooklyn, New York 7-May-1894, Arthur Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy became head of the family worldwide, i.e. The most senior of the ancient line of Blennerhassett of Co.Cumberland; at Arthur's death in 1939 this headship passed to (Richard John) Verdon Blennerhassett of Rockfield & Ballyvegan, Co.Limerick. (p.R 10)

m.6.6.1882 at Glin Castle, Co.Limerick

**(Clara) Nesta Ricarda FitzGerald, MBE (1918); b.c1864 Co.Kerry;**

only dau. of (Desmond) John Edmund FitzGerald, Knight of Glin, of Glin Castle;

granddaughter of Clara Ann Blennerhassett of Riddlestown Park, Rathkeale, Co.Limerick (p.R 05)

she spoke Irish & English;

In the hall of Glin Castle (right-hand wall by staircase arch) is a portrait in oil of Nesta in court presentation dress, painted in 1882 on her honeymoon at Rome by Norwegian artist Christian Meyer Ross (1853-1904)

*At the start of WWI the 4th Earl of Dunraven, father of Lady Rachel FitzGerald, wife of 27th Knight of Glin (p.R 05) well known politician, sportsman & yachtsman (who attempted to win the America's Cup in 1893 and in 1895 with his yacht "Valkyrie") offered his home Dunraven Castle, Glamorgan as a convalescent home; he also donated to the war effort his private 390 ton steamship "Greta", used as a hospital ship by the Australian Voluntary Hospital; and his large steam yacht "Grianaig" (built for him to a high standard by Scotts of Greenock 1904), with his personal services as its captain, used as an ambulance ship in the Mediterranean; These ships were were painted white, with a red cross on each side and large red strip around the hull, to deter German submarines; "Grianaig" eventually returned to its owner as "...unsuitable for use as a hospital ship or patrol vessel..., but served again during WWII as the "Lady Shahrazad";*

during WWI Nesta nursed with a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) in the mediteranean on board Lord Dunraven's steamship "Greta" & steam yacht "Grianaig", in use as hospital/ ambulance ships; she and Lord Dunraven becoming close friends;

her dau's Hilda & Vera also nursed on Grianaig; Nesta was awarded the B.E.F. 1914-15 star (a.k.a. Mons Star; awarded to military personnel, & some civilians, who served in France or Belgium between 5.8.1914 & 31.12.1915), the British War Medal (for service abroad) and the Victory Medal (for all military & civilian personnel serving between 1914 and 1918);

For her services Nesta was awarded an MBE 1918; her decorations are displayed at Glin Castle, in a small frame adjacent to her portrait; her official medal record carries the a note that she ...served on Lord Dunraven's Ambulance ships Greta & Grianaig from Aug. [19]14 onwards but [the ships?] only became V.A.D. members April [19]16...

It was widely known that Nesta was the mistress of Lord Dunraven until his death in 1927;

In 1922 she performed the naming ceremony for his new yacht, "Sonya", 554 tons [IT 17.6.1922]

When Lord Dunraven died he bequeathed to Mrs Nesta Blennerhassett £10,000 and "...an annuity of £1,500 during her life...". "...his two silver statuettes (one of himself), other articles, and Kenry House, Putney vale, and lands, and his house, 22 Norfolk Street, Park Lane, London...." [IT 22.1.1927]

d.16.1.1945 Ballyseedy Castle, bur. Ballyseedy new churchyard [IT 27.1.1945]

(Georgina) Barbara Blennerhassett  
b.31.8.1857 Ballyseedy (bapt. register has "born Sept 1857" in error); bapt.20.9.1857 Ballyseedy (C.of I.)  
/  
d.11.1.1867 ["**Belfast Newsletter**" **18.1.1867**] but another source has d.7.1.1867

>>> Adelaide "Ada" >>>>>>>> Standish O'Grady b.25.7.1854 d.17.1.1856

Frances  
Blennerhassett, >>> Cecilia O'Grady >>>>>>>> Sibil Fermoy  
(Lady Guillamore) b.24/25.6.1855  
b. est.c1830/2 d.?9.1919 Dublin  
d.4.12.1867 /  
/ m.28.4/5.1877  
/ Edward FitzEdmond Burke Roche, 2nd Baron Fermoy;  
/ b.23.5.1850 Twyford Abbey;  
/ acceded 1874;  
m.23.7.1853 d.1.9.1920 (not 17.9.1920) Barmouth  
Standish O'Grady,  
3rd Viscount Guillamore of Cahir Guillamore, Co.Limerick;  
3rd Baron O'Grady of Rockbarton, Co.Limerick;  
b.8.7.1832  
d.10.4.1860 (Succeeded by his brother, but titles now extinct)

>>> (Frances)Annabella : >>>>>>>> Ada Frances >>>>>>>> issue  
Blennerhassett Alice Wolseley  
"Lady Wolseley" b.27.4.1861 101 Lower Mount Street, Dublin;  
b. Feb/Mar 1834 bapt.17.5.1861 St.Stephen (C.o.I.) Dublin;  
as her mother died d.11.3.1940  
in childbirth /  
/ m.18.6.1885; [FOSTER] has m.16.6.1885;  
her mother's obit. in [Kerry EP 8.3.1834] Lt.-Col. Charles Bradford Harries Jenkins; 19th Hussars;  
describes her: "The little stranger doomed (later Wolseley-Jenkins, name changed by Royal Licence 15.11.1894)  
never to behold a mother's smiles, or feel of Cruckton Hall, Shropshire  
the warm caresses of a mother's care and  
tender solicitude"; of Rockbarton /  
d.14.12.1922  
/  
d.30.5.1907 at home, 19 Longford Terrace, >>> Amelia Cecilia Louisa Wolseley  
Monkstown, Dublin [IT 3.6.1907]  
/  
m.6.12.1859 >>> Eva Blennerhassett Wolseley;  
Tullybracky, Kilmallock, Co.Limerick; b.9.1.1867 Mount Wolseley, Tullow, Co.Carlow;  
Sir John Richard Wolseley, Bart., JP, DL; bapt.5.3.1867 Tullow (C.o.I.) Co.Carlow  
6th Baronet of Mt Wolseley, Co.Carlow; /  
b.24.6.1834; [FOSTER] has b.20.6.1834; m.Apr-Jun.1893 Carlisle, Cumberland  
of Mount Wolseley & of Learass(?) to either: Francis William C. Wharton or to George Hodgson

>>> Frances Wilhelmina Blennerhassett Wolseley  
18th Royal Irish Regt., served Crimea 1854-5 b.1.1.1869 Mount Wolseley, Tullow, Co.Carlow;  
[GM Feb.1860]; d.20.6.1874 succ. by his bapt.4.4.1869 Tullow (C.o.I.) Co.Carlow  
brother Sir Clement James Wolseley, 7th Bart. d. unkm.

**Rev. WILLIAM BLENNERHASSETT'S LANDS**

Rev. William Blennerhassett (1800-1860), vicar of Iwerne Minster (pronounced Uwerne), Dorset, owned land in these Co.Kerry townlands, originally a part of the Ballyseedy estate [GV Kerry 1852]:

**Parish of Ballincuslane:**

Kilcusnaun;

**Parish of ??? :**

Craggaunoonia; Ballyplimoth

Rev. William BH owned land in Co.Kerry, originally part of the Ballyseedy estate (NOTE, left)

He d.27.4.1860, drowned in a stone "water tank" (also described as "well") in a cellar or outhouse of the old vicarage, this tank being fed by a spring rising in the garden; he is said to have taken his own life (Suicide - verdict "temporary insanity" is recorded in the burial register); bur.2.5.1860 in churchyard at Iwerne Minster, under an evergreen tree (still standing) planted in his memory; a notice of this event appeared in the newspaper [???]; Will pr.7.7.1860 Blandford, Dorset; a stained glass window, under which are two brass plates, erected in his memory at Ballyseedy Church (C.o.I.), Co.Kerry

I first visited Iwerne on 20.1.1969 at which time the vicar still resided at the old vicarage, but since then a new vicarage has been built c1978 in the grounds of the old, the old vicarage finding new purpose as "Divine House", a boarding house for boys of Claysmore School at Iwerne Minster; Rev. Rex Wells was the last vicar to reside (1951-1977) in the old vicarage at Iwerne Minster; The parish register for the period were at that time kept in the church safe but are now in Dorset History Centre (formerly Dorset Record Office) at Dorchester; Before we viewed the registers he told me the vicarage had been built c1833 by the Rev. William Blennerhassett and that the ghost of Rev. William was said by local people to haunt the vicarage. His own family had personal experience of this, there being a stone tank, well or water reservoir, inside an old greenhouse or outhouse attached to the rear of the house, "...where the family will not go...". This well was fed by a natural spring, once the water supply for the house. Water from the well ran out of the greenhouse to form a pond in the garden, before flowing away as a stream. When himself drawing water from this "well" Rev. Wells had felt hands touching his own hands from behind, when no-one else was present. He also suggested that his wife thought the house haunted, as on hearing any unfamiliar noise or creaking floorboards at night, she would say with some humour, "...there goes old Blennerhassett..."

The well is also described as a "cellar" so presumably was sunk into the ground; the "well" was open to view until sealed, following the sale of the vicarage c1977 to become "Devine House", a boys' boarding house for the nearby Claysmore School

NOTE >----> Two brothers, both Anglican Priests in Dorset, married twin sisters, daughters of Francois Jaques Houssemayne du Boulay, of "Forest", Walthamstow, Essex 1798-1828; He said to have made a fortune on government stocks during the French war

**DORSET****SHANAVALLY**

>>> Rev. William Blennerhassett b.10.7.1800 Elm Grove, Ballyseedy, Co.Kerry

Edu. TCD (SC 1816, BA1821, MA c1847) Ordained C.of I. 1832; Vicar of Iwerne Minster (pronounced Uwerne) Dorset from 17.12.1832 to 1860; Iwerne Minster is a large, prosperous, beautiful Dorset village and Rev. William is said to have built the Vicarage at Iwerne c1833 although the style of the building does appear older; he was also Vicar of Wolland, Dorset; and Hinton St.Mary, Dorset [IE] where he employed a curate (Rev. C.J. Nicholl 1860)

m.21.4.1835 (not 12.4.1835) [FOSTER] licence bond is dated 13.4.1835; at Donhead St.Mary, Wiltshire; **Emma Sophia Houssemayne du Boulay** b.6.7.1814 France (twin; British Subject)

of Donhead St.Mary, Wiltshire 1835; of Hollam House, Fareham, Hampshire 1881-1891 (with daughters Emma Sophia & Agnes); of Hollam Lodge, Titchfield, Hampshire 1897 (her son Arthur BH lived at Hollam Lodge, Fareham 1898-1911)

d.25.12.1896; Will pr.27.2.1897 London

NOTE: There was another Crosbie Blennerhassett at Tralee in 1875; who was this?

>>> Lt. John du Boulay Blennerhassett; b.28.2.1836 probably Iwerne Minster, Dorset [GM April 1836]; JP Co.Kerry; Lt. Royal Wiltshire Militia to 22.4.1859; Ensign 39th Regt. of Foot (Dorsetshire/Dorset Regiment) from 22.4.1859 [IT 23.4.1859]; resigned 1862 [TIMES 23.4.1859] (NOTE: [TIMES 13.12.1865] has resigned 1852, from the 41st Regt., & that his property was in Co.Limerick, all in error) and settled at Shanavally, Ballymacelligott, to live with uncle Thomas Blennerhassett; John had 1352 acres of his own at Shanavally 1873-6; In 1876 lived at Ballymacelligott; post 1873 lived with another uncle, Lt.-Col. Barry Blennerhassett (B 18) at Edenbun, Co.Kerry In 1865 he became engaged to Rowena Chute, daughter of Dr Richard Chute of Tralee, but failed to marry her; She sued him for damages of £4000, for breach of promise, and "...the entire courtroom applauded when she was awarded £1000 in costs..." ["Yass Courier" New South Wales, Australia 24.2.1866]; of "Springeld", Derby Rd, North End, Portsmouth, Hants 1899; d.25.10.1899; Will pr.26.1.1900 London; bur. Kingston Cem., Portsmouth; unnm.

>>> Marianne (Mary Anne, Maryann, Marian) Blennerhassett; bap.19.4.1840 Iwerne Minster, Dorset; in school at 2 Terrace, Weymouth, Dorset 1851; a "visitor" at Iwerne Minster 1861; of Hollom House, Fareham, Hampshire (with mother; & sisters Emma Sophia & Agnes) 1881-1891; of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Emma Sophia & Agnes, bro. Arthur) 1926-28; d.13.7.1928 unnm.; Will pr.7.12.1928 London [PPR] executor: distant cousin Emily Mary Eliza de Courcy 1856-1934 (p.K 17);

>>> William Blennerhassett; b.23.8.1845 probably Iwerne Minster, Dorset; Edu. Eton 1858-1860 (dsp); Indian Civil Service; graduate of "Bengal Civil Service" 1869; co-author of "Report of the Regular Settlement of the Hardoi District, 1872-77" (pub. Allahabad 1880); District & Sessions Judge (NW Provinces) 1889; High Court Judge, India (Central Provinces) 1896; Acting High Court Judge (NW Provinces) 1896; Second Additional Judicial Commissioner of Oude, India 1899; In 1873 Indian Civil Service Officer "5th Class" (4 years' standing); Most of his life spent in India; retired to England, a pensioner on "Bombay Civil Fund Register" a street in Jubulpore, north of Nagpur in the Central Provinces (now Jabalpur in the State of Madhya Pradesh) was named for a Blennerhassett; the street is located in the Traffic Lanes area, close to the Allahabad bank; I am unsure if was named for William Blennerhassett or for Sir Arthur C.F.B. Blennerhassett, Assistant Commissioner, Indian Civil Service - Central Provinces (p.F 02)

of South Stoneham, Hampshire 1911; of "Netley Firs", Netley Firs Road, Hedge End, Botley, Hampshire 1907-17; **INDIA** This Georgian house, owned c1844-59 by Keans/Keane family, said to have been demolished 1937 & a new house "Copper Beeches" built on the site; but another source says "Netley Firs" still stands as the "Southern Counties Conservative Club;

"...The entrance to the house was through a stone porch into a hall, with a light coloured parquet floor. The first floor reached by way of a fine stone staircase. As with most large residences of the period, there were also servants quarters. After demolition, the wine cellars were intact - but, doubtless, empty. A small cottage in the grounds had possibly been used by a gamekeeper. In WWII, some of the timber from the woods was used in Southampton during the blitz, to making ramps to protect fire hoses..." ["The Changing Face of Hedge End, Hampshire" by Joyce B. Blyth]; In 1860 William Blennerhassett inherited a good part of his father's lands in Kerry (see left), becoming an "Absentee Landlord", a species not popular in Kerry; "The Kerry Sentinel" 17.9.1904 published a sarcastic letter (headed "The Blennerhassett Property", & signed "A Friend", Castleisland), about high rents charged his tenants through his land agents, "...the well-known firm of philanthropists, Hussey, Denny & Huggard... The letter also makes uncomplimentary references about his uncle Tom Blennerhassett's (B 14) behaviour as a landlord "half a century ago", calling him "Thomashen na Ghark" ("Little Tom Rooster") & "...arch-rackreuter of Ireland..."; This contrasts strongly with the local view of the larger but usually "resident landlord" Blennerhassett estate at Ballyseedy, which was generally regarded as a good landlord; d.22.6.1917 Hampshire [TIMES 27.6.1917]; Will pr.30.8.1917 London; m.26.5.1904 Isabella Sara Anckettill; b.c1855; dau. of Maxwell Anckettill of Leatherhead, Surrey; of Windmill House, Bursledon, Hampshire 1923-37; d.9.2.1937 at Windmill House

>>> Capt. Arthur "Art" Blennerhassett RN (Cadet 1862, Lt. 1879, Lt.Cmdr 1881, Capt.1898); b.13.3.1847 [BIFR] (not 13.5.1847) Iwerne Minster, Dorset; of Hollam Lodge, Fareham, Hants 1898-1911 & The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sisters Emma Sophia BH & Agnes BH) 1926; (sisters Emma BH & Agnes BH were at Hollam House, Fareham 1881-91; brother William Blennerhassett was nearby at Hedge End 1907-17); joined Royal Navy 12.3.1861; Naval Cadet on HMS "Black Prince" 1862 (the second ocean-going iron-hulled armoured warship, following HMS "Warrior" in the two-ship Warrior class, these two, briefly, the most powerful warships in the world) [TIMES 5.7.1862]; Acting Lt. on HMS "Dryad" (149 crew) 1871; commanded HMS "Nautilus" 1879, from its commission [TIMES 9.7.1879]; At HM Naval Base Devonport 1881 (1881 census lists him twice, on HMS "Nautilus" but also on HMS "Impregnable"; he commissioned the gunboat HMS "Stork" (built 1882, 4465 tons, 360 hp, 2x64 pounder & 2x20 pounder guns) at Sheerness 3.1.1883, attached to "Chatham Steam reserve" [TIMES 25.12.1882 & 4.1.1883]; in command of "Stork" at St.Helena 12.8.1883 [TIMES 30.8.1883]; Subscriber to the book [Plymouth Armada Heroes - The Hawkins Family] by Mary W. S. Hawkins, 1888; **Coastguard at East Cowes, Isle of Wight 1895; Appointed to succeed Capt. Carpenter, RN as commander of the Coastguard on the Isle of Wight, following Capt. Carpenter's retirement; in the interim period the duties were carried out by Mr Rogers, chief officer [Isle of Wight County Press 8.6.1895 p.5 - report from East Cowes]** d.12.8.1926 unnm.; Will pr.14.12.1926 London [PPR]; executor: distant cousin Emily Mary Eliza de Courcy 1856-1934 (p.K 17);

>>> Francis "Frank" Houssemayne Blennerhassett; b.20.1.1850 Iwerne Minster

>>> Emma Sophia Blennerhassett; bap.28.9.1851 Iwerne Minster; of Hollam House, Fareham, Hampshire (with mother & sis. Agnes) 1881-91; of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Agnes & bro. Arthur BH) 1926; d.29.12.1925; admon. 7.8.1926 & 25.9.1926 London [PPR]; unnm.

>>> Agnes Blennerhassett; bap.18.2.1853 Iwerne Minster; of Hollam House, Fareham (with mother & sis.Emma Sophia) 1881-91; of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Emma Sophia & bro. Arthur BH) 1926-27; d.10.11.1926; admon. 8.4.1927 London [PPR]; unnm.; executor: distant cousin Emily Mary Eliza de Courcy 1856-1934 (p.K 17)

>>> (Gustavus Ad. Frederick Freke.) Crosbie Blennerhassett; of Ballyseedy; b.10.10.1803 Co.Kerry; d.24.2.1834; Edu. TCD (Pensioner 1823); unnm.;

NOTE: this d.o.b. does not fit well with that of his brother John Blennerhassett b.3.3.1803

In Ballyseedy Ch. under stained glass window (St.John Ch.V, V.1-16) erected to his memory, is a brass plate "Gus. Ad. Fred. Freke. Crosbie Blennerhassett";

NOTE: Directly underneath and touching that is a second brass plate with date but no name, inscribed "Died 28th July 1877 aged 63 years";

This is the date of death of his brother Maj./Lt.-Col. Barry Blennerhassett b.1814/5 d.28.7.1877 (see p.B 18);

This inscription appears to be a reject engraving, the plate reused installed blank side up, but now the engraved side has been exposed in error;

**Rev. JOHN BLENNERHASSETT:**

A portrait in oil of Rev. John Blennerhassett hung in schoolroom at Ryme Intrinseca, presented to the school in his memory by his children, to mark his devotion to the school and to the village children; When the village school closed the portrait was placed in the church, where it hangs on the west wall. A photograph of the portrait is in the Stockwell Collection at the Dorset Record Office, Dorchester [**DRO Catalogue Ref. D1733**]; a label on this portrait says in error that he was rector 50 years, but he was incumbent 60 years (two of these as curate)

also at the Dorset Record Office are three copies of a draft conveyance for a piece of land, added by John Blennerhassett to the churchyard at Ryme Intrinseca in 1890; this is in the Ffooks & Darlington (Sherbourne Solicitors) archive **D/FFO**

The Parish Registers of Ryme Intrinseca, held at the Dorset Record Office, have at the front of the volume for "Baptisms 1813-1992" a note that "John Blennerhassett was inducted to Ryme in 1832 and Hermitage in 1834"

John Blennerhassett had a strong interest in the welfare and condition of Dorset farm labourers

**REV. JOHN BLENNERHASSETT'S inheritance from the Ballyseedy estate**

Rev. John Blennerhassett (1803-1890) of Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset in 1876 owned 2374 acres in Co.Cork (**GV Co.Kerry 1852**):-

**Parish of Clondrohid, Co.Cork:**

Kilmountain, Lacktifym

**Parish of Clonfert, Co.Cork:**

Killowen

**RYME IntrinSECA**

One of Dorset's most poetic village names, Ryme Intrinseca evolved from two adjoining manors at Rima or Rym, known as "Ryme Intrinseca" (inner) and "Ryme Exteinseca" (outer); the latter has long since disappeared as a place name [**SHRI p.2**];

The church at Ryme Intrinseca is one of two in England dedicated to Saint Hippolytus, the dedication appearing on a 1298 grant by Edward I to Humphrey de Beauchamp; St.Hippolytus was the goaler in charge of St.Lawrence and it is said that the example set by this man during his imprisonment so impressed Hypolite that he became converted to the Christian faith [**RICG p.3**]

NOTE >----> Two brothers, both Anglican Priests in Dorset, married twin sisters, daughters of Francois Jaques Houssemayne du Boulay, of "Forest", Walthamstow, Essex 1798-1828; He said to have made a fortune on government stocks during the French war See "Houssemayne du Boulay Pedigree" 1906

**THOMAS BLENNERHASSETT'S LANDS**

Thomas Blennerhassett (1805-1878) of Shanavally owned land in these Kerry townlands, all originally a part of the Ballyseedy estate [**GV Kerry 1852**]; These lands were mostly let to tenant farmers, see notes to right >---->

**Parish of Ballincuslane:**

Kilcusaun;

**Parish of Ballymacelligott:**

Gortshanvally (Gortshanavalla); West Ballydwyer; Cloghmore;

**Parish of Killiney:**

Killiney townland;

He also had lands at: Inch (probably Inch House, Ballinvoher), Inch Island (Annagh) & Ardrae; at Dromin, Dunnasicheen, Dungeel, Lismaefinan, Auglouta, Toorcennasligaun, Glennagillah, Muingaphuca, Coomnafarider, Kilcurtna & Riverville; He leased further lands from his nephew Charles BH of Ballyseedy Castle, at Ballymacelligott, West Ballydwyer, Clohermore, Gortatlea, Gortshanvally/Gortshanavalla, Kilkerry and at Ballyseedy

The greater part of these lands were sold to tenant farmers following Lord Ashbourne's "Land Purchase Act" of 1885; This made state credit available, to entice tenants to buy land & landlords to sell it to them

**DORSET**

Blennerhassett b.3.3.1803 Elm Grove, Ballyseedy Edu. Hyde Abbey & TCD (Pensioner 1821, BA, MA)

Ordnained 1826; first Curate (1830-32) then 58 yrs Rector (1832-90) of St.Hippolytus, Ryme Intrinseca, near Sherbourne Dorset; Vicar of Hermitage, Dorset from 10.7.1834, appointed c26.6.1834 following death of Rev.Hobson [**LE**][**TFP 26.6.1834**] to 1885

JP (Magistrate) for Dorset 1871-5; Commissioner of Land Taxes 1889; In 1876 owned 2374 ac. in Cork (see left) in [**Pigot's Directory for Dorset 1830**]; [**Cheltenham Looker-on" vol.II No.19 6.9.1834**] reports him recently arrived & staying at 21 Glyde's Terrace, Cheltenham [**"Kelly's Directory of Dorset" 1889**]

d.5.9.1890 Ryme Intrinseca; Will pr.16.3.1891 [**PPR**]; admon.14.9.07 Lond. bur. in family vault at Ryme Intrinseca; Inside the church are two memorials, erected by his widow and parishioners

**m.21.10.1834 Heddington, Wiltshire; Elizabeth Houssemayne du Boulay**

b.6.7.1814 France (twin) British Subject;

of Heddington, Wiltshire 1834; of 4 Charlotte Row, Weymouth, Dorset 1881 as widow, of Chesterfield House, Esplanade, Weymouth 1895-1904 [**"Kelly's Directory of Dorsetshire"**]

d.4.2.1904 Weymouth; Will pr.9.4.1904 Blandford, Dorset; bur. in family vault at Ryme Intrinseca; in the church is brass wall plaque erected by her daughter Bunnie, Lady Headley

**SHANAVALLA****LODGE****Shanavally**

>>> Thomas "Tom" Blennerhassett, "Mr Tom"; b.18.10.1805 at Elm Grove, Ballyseedy; d.25.5.1878; of Ballyseedy and of Shanavalla Lodge, Shanavally, Ballymacelligott; also of Inch on the Dingle Peninsular; both in Co.Kerry; Edu. TCD (Pensioner 1823); Gentleman farmer

Thomas Blennerhassett had houses & property at Tralee & extensive lands in other parts of Kerry, in 1873/6 owning 5995 acres; In 1873 his nephew John du Boulay Blennerhassett lived with him at Shanavally & had a further 1352 acres there; Shanavalla Lodge (Shanavally) was built as a hunting lodge by the Blennerhassetts of Ballyseedy, mainly for the shooting around Castleisland; The lodge was later sold by the Blennerhassetts to the Burns family, who remain there

"The Kerry Sentinel" 17.9.1904 published a sarcastic letter (headed "The Blennerhassett Property", signed "A Friend", Castleisland), about high rents charged tenants by Tom's nephew William BH (B 13); This letter also makes uncomplimentary references to Tom's role as a landlord "half a century ago", calling him "Thomashen na Ghark" ("Little Tom Rooster") & "...arch-rackrenter of Ireland..."; This contrasts strongly with the popular view of the Ballyseedy estate & other Blennerhassett landowners, regarded as good landlords

"Mr Tom" was a good friend to neighbouring farmers John Arthur Blennerhassett (1829-c1896) of Gortatlea & Glenageenty (see G 30) and his brother Arthur Blennerhassett (b.1825) of Gortatlea (see p.G 30); John Arthur Blennerhassett, after his younger brothers Tom (G 34) and William Arthur (G 36) went to New Zealand c1875, found it necessary to put in excessively long hours of hard labour & travelling between the three properties, over several years, to keep their farms going as well as his own and to pay off mortgages that he guaranteed on their properties (This continued until brother Tom returned to his farm from NZ c1881; William Arthur stayed in NZ); In this endeavour John Arthur was actively helped both by his brother Arthur and by their friend "Mr Tom" Blennerhassett of Shanavally; The two brothers were at Mr Tom's bedside the night before he died (25.5.1898), when Tom signified an intention to assist his friends in their difficulty with a bequest; At the suggestion of Parson Foster, the matter was "deferred until tomorrow"; but tomorrow was too late

*In Ballyseedy Church he placed, under windows, brass plates in memory of his mother Dorcas BH, d.2.8.1822, & his brothers Henry & Barry*

>>> Rev. John >>>>>>>>> Elizabeth Blennerhassett; bapt. 26.6.1836 Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset; bur.30.5.1837 Ryme Intrinseca

Blennerhassett b.3.3.1803 Elm Grove, Ballyseedy Edu. Hyde Abbey & TCD (Pensioner 1821, BA, MA)

(Elizabeth) >>>>>>>>>> Sir (Arthur) >>>>>>>>> Sir (Augustus George) Digby Warren, Bart; 7th Baronet (succeeded 1914); MBE (1945) Augustus Riversdale b.23.10.1898 d.20.1.1958 Switzerland; unnm.; Edu. Harrow & RMC Sandhurst; John Blennerhassett Served in both WWI & WW2; WWI Lt. 7th Hussars 1917-25; Warren, Bart; WWII from 1939 Major 17th/21st Lancers, serving in N.Africa & Italy; 6th Baronet succeeded as Bart. 1914 by his cousin Col. T.R.P. Warren of Cahir, Co.Tipperary (succeeded 1893); 25th birthday reported in [**IT 23.10.1923**]; b.11.3.1865; [**FOSTER**] has 1868; 6th Baronet of Warren's Court, Co.Cork; landowner; JP Co.Cork; Lt. 3rd Battalion, The Royal Munster Fusiliers (**Rifles?**); d.28.8.1914; His obit. in [**IT 3.4.1914**] mistakenly gives data all relating to his father, not to him !

>>> Geraldine >>>>>>>>>> Geraldine Mabella Wingfield-Digby; d. an infant

de Courcy Blennerhassett; bapt. 24.12.1843 Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset; d.17.1.1913 at Chetnole House; bur. Ryme Intrinseca (headstone inscription has d.17.1.1914 in error; another source d.17.12.1913 in error)

m.10.8.1869 at Ryme Intrinseca Major William George Digby Wingfield-Digby, JP; of Thornford & of Chetnole House, Sherbourne, Dorset; b.18.7.1834 Geashill, Ireland; d.27.2.1907 at Chetnole; Major in 2nd Warwickshire Militia

>>> Elizabeth "Bessie" > >>> Avis Millicent >>>> >>> issue (Crosse)

"Bunnie" Blennerhassett Allanson Winn >>> <dau.> Llewellyn Blennerhassett d.29.4.36 Chelsea >>> <dau.> Llewellyn m. Lt.-Cdr. Kenneth M. Fardell, RN; 32 years in the Navy Ryme Intrinseca; d.?.10.1928 London; m.1st 27.4.1896 Herbert Dudley Hinton Crosse; of Newell House, Sherbourne, Dorset, d.18.10.1908; bur.30.10.1928 Ryme Intrinseca m.2nd 29.11.1911 (or 29.4.1911?); Dr. R. Llewelyn Jones Llewellyn MB, MRCS, LRCP; d.19.4.1934

m.31.10.1867 London; Right Hon. Charles Mark Allanson Winn, 4th Lord Headley, Baron Allanson & Winn; b.4.12.1845; Representative Peer for Ireland (B 03); Baron Allanson & Winn, of Aghadoe House, Killarney, Co.Kerry; 10th Baronet of Nostell, Yorks; 4th Baronet of Little Warley, Essex; DL & JP Co.Kerry, JP Essex & Middlesex; Owned 12,769 acres in Kerry 1876; Lt.-Col. Cmdg 4th Battalion The Royal Munster Fusiliers, and Capt. Cmdg Light Horse HAC; d.13.1.1913;

>>> (Ada) Dorcas Blennerhassett; bapt.18.3.1848 Ryme Intrinseca, Dorset; of Ryme Intrinseca 1848-74; m.10.2.1874 at Ryme Intrinseca; Capt.(Maj.) William Frederick (Edward?) Chapman KDG; of London; 1st Dragoon Guards; b.22.2.1843

**History of HMS "Lightning" (18 guns)**

1829 Launched at Pembroke;  
 1829 Capt. T. Dickinson, Plymouth then South America Station  
 (Mate Nevinson De Courcy Blennerhassett, see right)  
 1832 Returned home, crew paid off at Portsmouth;  
 1832 Renamed HMS "Larne", the name "Lightning"  
 being needed for a steam vessel at Woolwich;  
 1832 Capt. William Sidney Smith, North Sea Station, where  
 she grounded; then the West Indies & Halifax Station  
 1836 Portsmouth;  
 1837-1844 Capt. P.J.Blake, East Indies  
 1844 Capt. John Brisbane, Coast of Africa  
 1848 Sheerness;  
 1866 broken-up at Charlton;

**History of HMS "Alecto" (3 - 32 pounder guns)**

1845-47 Cdr.Francis Austen, S.E. Coast of America Station  
 (Mate Nevinson de Courcy Blennerhassett)  
 1847-49 Cdr. Vincent A. Massingberd, S.E. Coast of America Station  
 (joined "Alecto" 17.11.1846; Captain from 18.10.1847)  
**Other officers of "Alecto" on this commission were:**  
 Lt. James B.Ballard (8.3.1848)  
 Lt. Nevinson de Courcy Blennerhassett (18.10.1847)  
 Master John Dillon (15.11.1845)  
 Surgeon Andrew Moffitt (acting) (8.3.1848)  
 Purser Thomas Pidcock (15.11.1845)  
 Late 1849 Out of Commission;  
 See "Ships of the Old Navy" by Michael Phillips, at  
<http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/marit.htm>

**ROYAL NAVY**

>> Lt. (Nevinson) de Courcy Blennerhassett, R.N.; of Ballyseedy House, Co.Kerry;  
 b.6.8.1811 at parent's house 12 George Street, Bath, Somerset [**"Bath Chronicle" 15.8.1811**] [**FOSTER has 1806 in error**]

Joined Royal Navy; Appointed Mate 2.8.1831; A Mate was at that time rated as Petty Officer, so not being included in "Navy List" until 1842 when Mates became commissioned officers; Listed in error as "Mate M.D. Blennerhassett" in "Marshall's Royal Naval Biography" 1833; Promoted Lt. 18.10.1844 but continued to serve as Mate until 18.10.1847 (Re: Navy List 1847) then as 2nd Lt. 1847-1850

Served on HMS "Lightning" (18 guns) c1829-32 (Mate from 2.8.1831), which ship "...was refitting at Rio after a trip to the Pacific when news was received on 5.12.1830 of the loss on Cape Frio of frigate "Thetis" bound for England with gold and silver bars and other treasure. After striking the cliffs she had drifted along the coast, finally breaking up in a small cove. The general opinion was that the treasure was irrecoverable, but this was not shared by Capt. Dickinson who, 'a gentleman of considerable mechanical talents', offered his services..."

A British civil engineer, Mr Moore, who was residing in Rio, improvised diving bells using iron tanks from "Warspite". These were suspended at first from a massive derrick built by the carpenter, Mr Jones, and after, when that was smashed to pieces in a gale which produced waves to a height of nearly 100 feet up the cliffs, from ropes stretched across cliff tops. While the derrick was being prepared, Richard Hearn, carpenter's mate of "Lightening" & George Dewar, a seaman, went down in a small bell suspended from a launch belonging to "Warspite". They found only pieces of wreckage and nearly lost their lives when the bell was dashed against rocks and overturned. Then, on 1.4.1831 a few dollars were discovered and then a little gold. By the time "Lightning" was relieved in March 1832 he and his people had recovered 600,000 dollars which had been scattered over a rocky bottom at depths of up to 75 feet. Mr Moore and Mr Linzee, mate of "Adelaide", were drowned in an accident with a boat on 10 June. Capt. De Roos in "Algerine" continued the salvage and brought the total to 747,909 dollars by the time he finished operations in July; "Lightning" returned home & was paid off at Portsmouth 13 Sept. The ship's company presented a sword & epaulettes to their commander and also rings to Lt. Thomas Forbes, Master Charles Pope and Mate "M.D." Blennerhassett, in gratitude for his care of them off Cape Frio..."

Promoted Lt. 18.10.1844 but on 6.12.1845 appointed Mate of HMS "Alecto" on S.E. coast of America station, under Cdr. Francis Austen (Re: RN "List of Ships and Stations" 1846); On 18.10.1847 appointed 2nd Lt. on "Alecto" under new Captain, Cdr. Vincent Massingberd, still on the S.E. America station; "Alecto" was a wooden steam driven paddle sloop of 200HP, built in 1839 at Chatham Dockyard, armed with three 32 pounder guns; She was the paddler used in 1845 for the well known tests with the screw steamer HMS "Rattler", of the same power; When the two vessels were fastened stern to stern, and with both steaming at their best, "Rattler" towed "Alecto" at 2.5 miles per hour

In 1849, year of the California Gold Rush, the "Alecto" was on a commission to S.E. coast of America; she sailed from New York to California, stopping at Boston for repairs & at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for supplies; while at anchor in bay of Rio, on 23.4.1849 Nevinson wrote a letter to a friend (Samuel Lyon of Northcastle, Westchester Co., N.York) describing the trip so far & their friendly meetings with other California bound ships; In the company of two such ships, on 22nd Feb., his ship fired a mid-day 21 gun salute with its 32 pounders, in honour of "Gen. Washington's birthday"; arrived at Rio on 20th March & while there he visited U.S. Warships anchored in the bay, meeting their officers, some already old friends; He records his excitement at the prospect of reaching California & perhaps finding gold; NOTE: In 1850 the flagship of the U.S. Commodore in Rio was a frigate, USS "Congress"; The letter is in "Gold Rush Letters" collection of Charlie Hill, Lotus, California; In the 1850 Navy List he is one of four "Junior Lieutenants" listed with no seniority date

d.13.3.1853 unnm.; bur.17.3.1853 Ballyseedy; **in Ballyseedy Church under a stained glass window (St.John Ch. IV, V.46-53) is a brass plate inscribed: "Nevinson de Courcy (sic) Blennerhassett died 13th March 1853 aged 41 years. Erected by his brother Lt.-Col. Francis Barry Blennerhassett"**

>> Margaret Theodora Sheldon Blennerhassett; of Nice, France and later of Sherborne, Dorset (near Ryme Intrinseca, home of her bro. Rev.John Blennerhassett); Probably identical with Margaret Blennerhassett, b.c1811 Bath, Somerset, who was unnm. & a lodger at Exeter Road, Holdenhurst, Hampshire 1871; d.24.8.1876 at the Digby Hotel, Sherborne, Dorset [**Limerick Chronicle 31.8.1876**]; Will pr.23.11.1876 Blandford, Dorset; unnm.

**in Ballyseedy Church under a stained glass window (St.Luke Ch.VIII V41,42,49,56) are a pair of brass plates, one inscribed: "Margaret Sheldon Blennerhassett" and the other "Erected by her son Thomas Blennerhassett"; The 2nd plate is misplaced; She had no children and Thomas was her brother, not her son; This plate has been accidentally swapped during building renovation, with the plate inscribed "Erected by her brother Lt. Francis Barry Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy" installed in error below the plate dedicated to their mother Dorcas Blennerhassett, d.2.8.1822**

**INDIAN MUTINY 1857-1858**

>> Lt.Col. (Francis) Barry Blennerhassett b.c1814/5 ( **[Foster]** has b.1805 in error); of Blennerville & of Edenburn, Co.Kerry; with 71st Regt. of Foot (Highland Light Infantry) in Canada, the Crimea & during the Indian Mutiny; Capt. 1854 in Canada (returning to Liverpool 12.10.1854 on Royal Canadian Mail steamer "Cleopatra", he & other officers signing a testimonial for the Captain); on arrival the 71st Highlanders "were billeted here last night and will embark in a day or so for the seat of war in the east" [**"Northern Daily Times" 13.10.1854**]; Capt. during Crimean war (served at Sebastopol 20.12.1854 to 13.2.1855 - distributed by Queen Victoria in person at Horse Guards Parade 19.5.1855), returned from Crimea via Malta on P&O ship "City of London" Feb.1855 [**TIMES 2.3.1855**]

Major (from 26.12.1857) during Indian Mutiny; on return journey arrived at Bombay 24.12.1858 on medical certificate from Mhow [**"Bombay Times" 27.12.1858**] then departed Bombay "on leave to England" [**"Bombay Times" 28.12.1858**]; [another "**Bombay Times**" of 1858, no precise date] has Major Blennerhassett departing for Alexandria; awarded the "Indian Mutiny 1857-1859" medal [medal roll]; retired from army 7.12.1858 as Lt.Col. [**TIMES 8.12.1858**]; In 1871 he lived at Blennerville, near Tralee and in that year he subscribed to "A History of the Kingdom of Kerry" by M.F.Cusack; unnm.; His nephew John du Boulay Blennerhassett (B 16) lived with him at Edenburn post1873

**At Ballyseedy Church he erected brass plates in memory of his sister Margaret BH and brother Nevinson de Courcy BH; also at Ballyseedy Church, under a stained glass window (St.Luke Ch. VII, V.1-10) is a brass plate erected to his memory by his brother Thomas Blennerhassett; An additional brass plate (under window for his bro. Crosbie BH; B 14) is also inscribed with date for Barry BH, "Died 28th July 1877 aged 63 years"; This inscription is a reject engraving, the reused plate installed blank side up hiding the inscription, but subsequently the engraved side exposed in error**

d.28.7.1877 Blennerville; bur. Ballyseedy; Will with two codicils pr.6.10.177 Cork & 4.2.1878 England

NOTE: The name "Elm Grove" was used in 1819 on Fanny's death notice (she died late 1818), the latest occurrence of the house name I have seen; The use of the name Elm Grove (Elmgrove) appears to have ceased about 1821 when the house remodelling was completed, it being given the name "Ballyseedy" from the old house at the other end of Ballyseedy Wood, by then falling into ruin

>> Georgina Blennerhassett; b.c1801; of Ballyseedy, Co.Kerry;  
d.11.12.1826 at Nice, France; bur. Nice; memorial inscription on Denny tomb at Derryvullan New Churchyard, Irvinestown, Co.Fermanagh m.1823 (1st cousin) Edward Denny (below) b.1.1.1801; of Moorstown; & of Derryvullan, Co.Fermanagh 1826/7;  
Officer 3rd Buffs; High Sheriff Co.Fermanagh 1823; d.11.11.1838 Rome, Italy; bur. Protestant cemetery, Rome, tomb. No.1745;  
memorial inscription on the Denny tomb at Derryvullan New Churchyard (an altar tomb with inscriptions on four sides, mostly now illegible)

>> Frances "Fanny" >>> Edward Denny >>> >>> Anthony Denny >>> >>> Rev. Edward >>>>>> >>> Anthony Denny;  
Anne Wilhelmina | b.1.1.1801 Ireland; | of Moorstown | Denny SE, MA | b.13.7.1879 d.21.2.1880  
Blennerhassett | of Moorstown; | b.11.10.1823 | b.4.8.1853  
of Elm Grove; | & of Derryvullan, | Officer in the | / | >> Edward Maynard  
bapt.30.6.1783 | Co.Fermanagh | 7st Regiment; | of Moorstown, | Coningsby Denny  
Tralee (C.of I.) | 1826/7; | d.5.4.1857 | Co.Tipperary; | b.4.3.1883  
/ | Officer 3rd Buffs; | Haverford West, | & of Drumlone, |  
d.20.12.1818 age35 | High Sheriff Co. | Pembrokeshire, | Co.Fermanagh; | >> Barry Maynard Rynd  
Cheltenham, Glos. | Fermanagh 1823 | South Wales; | Edu. Pembroke | Denny; b.2.1.1885  
[Bath Chronicle | / | bur. Denny tomb | Coll. Oxford |  
31.12.1818] | d.11.11.1838 Rome; | at Derryvullan | (MA 1880); | >> John Maynard Denny  
[Limerick Chron. | bur. Protestant | New Churchyard, | Vicar of Kempley | b.3.9.1886  
2.1.1819] | Cem. Rome, Italy | Irvinestown, | and of St.Peter's, |  
/ | tomb. No.1745; | Co.Fermanagh | Vauxhall, London | >> Maynard Henry  
bur.29.12.1818 in | (he & wife have | (an altar tomb; the | / | Blennerhassett Denny  
one of the two | mem. inscriptions | only person bur. | m.1.7.1875 at the | b.6.6.1888  
Blennerhassett | on Denny tomb at | there but are mem. | temporary church, | d.10.1.1907 unm.  
vaults in crypt of | Derryvullan New | inscriptions for | Cheltenham | >> Mowbray Charles  
St.Swithin Walcot | Churchyard, | three others) | Alma Mary | Maynard Denny  
Bath (she has no | Co.Fermanagh) | / | Chesshyre | b.20.8.1891  
inscription) with | / | m.21.9.1852 | / |  
her cousin Arthur | m.1823 (1st cousin) | Sarah Jane | of Bennington, | >> Michael Maynard  
Blennerhassett | Georgina | Lockwood, of | Cheltenham, | Denny; b.3.10.1895  
d.1810 (B 09); | Blennerhassett; | South Hackney, | Gloucestershire |  
& brother Arthur | b.c1801; | Middlesex | [The Cheltenham  
BH of Ballyseedy | of Ballyseedy, | d.3.10.1902 | Chronicle  
d.1815 (B 11) | Co.Kerry (B 19); | d.11.12.1826 at Nice, France; bur. at Nice | 6.7.1875] >> Alma Margaret Mary  
/ | >> William Denny | Denny; b.20.7.1876  
m.1st 1799 | >> William Denny | >> Murial Mary Denny  
Anthony Denny | d.5.10.1886; Col. 71st Regt.; | b.9.1.1878  
b.c1770; | m. Everetta (Ewretta?) Richardson | >> Clare Innocentia Mary  
bap.19.3.1773 | of Montreal, Canada (dsp) | Denny; b.28.12.1880  
/ | >> Mary Denny >>>>>> >>> William O'Malley | >> Joan Champerowne  
MP for Tralee; | d.1883 | Mary Denny; b.5.2.1890  
of Moorstown. | / | >> Katherine Mary Monica  
Co.Tipperary & | m.1823 Charles O'Malley QC; | Denny; b.25.8.1893  
of Derryvullan | of Hawthorne Lodge, Co.Mayo |  
(Derryvolane) | d.19.12.1849 | >> Doris Mary Georgina  
& Drumlone, | >> Doris Mary Georgina  
Co.Fermanagh | Denny; b.15.12.1894  
/ |  
(son of Col. Edward Denny of Tralee & Mary Rynd,  
heiress of Derryvullan);  
d.1806 but [Foster/Lodge/King] have d.1818 in error; bur. Denny  
vault No.40 under Old Derryvullan Ch., Irvinestown, Fermanagh  
(mem. inscription on Denny tomb at Derryvullan New Churchyard)  
/ |  
m.2nd 1814 | >> Anthony Denny >>> >>> Anthony Denny  
Col. Sir (Edward) > >>> Theodosia Morris | b.30.7.1854 | b.23.12.1883  
George Morris | d.17.1.1893  
KCB, DL, JP; bapt.19.3.1773 Tralee; | / |  
Lt.-Col. 3rd Regt. of Foot (Old Buffs); "Usher of the Black Rod  
of the Order of St.Patrick" at Dublin Castle; d.21.5.1858 | m.22.11.1882  
Clara Richardson; of Springfield, Co.Down

>> Mary >>>>>>>>>>>> >>> issue de Courcy (p.K 14) | >> Rev. Arthur Lockwood Denny;  
Blennerhassett | b.16.3.1856; of Hatfield House, Lowestoft  
b.post1783; of Elm Grove, Ballyseedy, Co.Kerry;  
d.19.1.1873  
/ |  
m.10.8.1810 (cousin) |  
(but cannot be as the marriage license is dated 7.8.1811)  
Capt. Nevinsin Blennerhassett de Courcy, RN; b.20.2.1789;  
Lt. 29.1.1806; Commander 26.1.1809; Captain 7.6.1814;  
awarded the KTS (Knight of the Portuguese order of the Tower and the sword); d.1.11.1845;  
son of Anne Blennerhassett of Castle Conway & Hon. Capt.Michael de Courcy (p.K 14)

NOTE: "A Naval Biographical Dictionary" by William R. O'Byrne 1849,  
in error names Nevinsin de Courcy's wife as Catherine Blennerhassett instead of Mary



**DISCONNECTED BALLYSEEDY REFERENCES...**

John Blennerhassett of Ballycarty (Will 1681)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1685)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1714)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1716)

These four do not seem to fit; Not sure how reliable these are,  
 or if these dates represent a Will dated or proved...

Mrs Alice Blennerhassett; d.1765, there was a memorial  
 (in old Ballyseedy Church ?) (Will 1765 - Ardferf & Aghadoe diocese)

Mrs Blennerhassett; bur.18.4.1821 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.) - also B 03

Eliza Blennerhassett; bur.9.8.1821 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.)

Robert Blennerhassett; bur. 21.3.1826 Ballyseedy old graveyard  
 (NOTE: Robert is a family name of the Killorglin Blennerhassett family)

Mrs Anne Blennerhassett bur.19.12.1827 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.)

Arthur Hassett >>>>>> Arthur Hassett bapt.1.11.1861 Tralee (RC)  
 of Ballyseedy

/  
 m. Anna Hogan  
 (see also p.G 53)

Lt. William Blennerhassett; served in the army; Ensign on 27.7.1855 and in 1856  
 (presumably to 10.9.1858) with the 39th Regt. of Foot (Dorset/Dorsetshire Regt);  
 Lt. 10.9.1858 with 21st Regt. of Foot (Royal North British Fusiliers), with four years of paid service

Thomas Blennerhassett; served in army in Australia with the 39th Regt. of Foot  
 (Dorset/Dorsetshire Regt.)

**Who are these two? they do not appear to be from the Dorset family at Ryne Intrinseca  
 or Iwerne Minster; also on p.E 1**

>> Christina Godfrey d.9.3.1902;  
 /  
 m.3.8.1850 Sir Richard Wood GCMG, CB; d.21.7.1900 (issue)  
 >> Helen Isabella Godfrey; d.7.7.1895 unnm.  
 >> Emily Godfrey unnm.

>> Rev. John Godfrey; d.1849 unnm.

>> Henry Alexander >>>> dau. Godfrey  
 Godfrey  
 b.24.8.1803; >>>> dau. Godfrey  
 72nd Highlanders  
 d.1888

/  
 m.10.7.1827 Mary Wood; of Woodville, Co.Sligo; d.1882

>> Robert Godfrey b.6.10.1807; unnm.

>> James George Godfrey JP; b.4.6.1808; d.1894;  
 /  
 m.31.3.1843 Mary Isabella Maunsell

>> Richard Frankland Godfrey; b.10.3.1810; unnm.

>> Anne Godfrey d.1889 unnm.

>> Agnes Godfrey; unnm.

>> Eleanor Godfrey >>>> issue  
 d.12.1.1854

/  
 m.26.8.1934; very Rev. John Godfrey Day, Dean of Ardferf; d.1878 (issue)

>> Rev. William >>>>>> >>> Edward Godfrey; of Kilburn House, Milltown, Co.Kerry; d.1872; b.18.4.1803  
 Godfrey

b.22.12.1764 / m.28.9.1942 Lucy Christian (issue)

Elm Grove [AR  
 Ballyseedy bible] >> Barbara Godfrey

/  
 Rector of m. James Hickson;  
 Kenmare, of Lansdown House, Co.Kerry

Co.Kerry;  
 d.6.4.1847 >> Agnes Godfrey

Kenmare  
 >> Lucy Margaret Godfrey

m.1796 Lucy Day /  
 b.c1770 d.1861 m.1st John Curry of Milltown, Co.Kerry

/  
 m.2nd Rev. Charles Peter Thomas

>> Eleanor Godfrey

>> Maj. Luke >>>>>> >>> Elizabeth Godfrey

Godfrey /  
 b.c1766 m. <??> Barnes, of Dublin  
 d.22.6.1836

/  
 >> Isabella Godfrey

m. Susanna  
 Colles-Meredith;  
 dau. of Sir Barry  
 Colles-Meredith,  
 Baronet

>> Agnes Godfrey; b.1772 d.16.10.1854

>> Barbara Godfrey; d.?11.1817 Killarney

**Probably descended from this family is:**

John Blennerhassett Godfrey, b.c1814 Kilkenny;  
 moved to London; Surgeon, of 3 Mount Place,  
 Whitechapel Road, London 1841;  
 author of "The Means of Preventing the Downfall  
 of the British Empire" pub. London 1882;  
 In May 1841 charged with assaulting Mr Thomas  
 Godfrey, his cousin [TIMES 20.5.1841];  
 In July 1856 charged with "letting off fireworks on  
 the night of 4th July, being the first Friday of July,  
 the day of Firllop Fair" [TIMES 21.7.1856]

>> Leticia "Letty" >>> >>> Horatio de Courcy :>>> Edward Horatio >>> >>> ?????????????????? >>> ?????????????????? >>> Christine Allan-Johns of Upper Hutt, New Zealand  
 Godfrey | Martelli | de Courcy Martelli;  
 b.c1768/9 | ? / b.c1843 Milltown, Co.Kerry  
 Co.Kerry | ? m. <??> /  
 d.1.6.1850 | | m. <??>  
 / |>> Agnes Martelli  
 / |  
 m.19.10.1789 | m.c1836 Robert Crawley  
 at Bushfield;  
 Capt. (Norton) Charles Martelli;  
 b.c1761;  
 of Lismore House, Ratass, Tralee (which house he built);  
 Lt. & Capt. 69th Regt. of Foot;  
 d.13.2.1819 Tralee;  
 |  
 >> Philippa Godfrey  
 /  
 m.29.10.1806 St.Anne's church, Shandon, Co.Cork (2nd cousin);  
 Richard Frankland of Ashgrove, Co.Cork; barrister-at-law; d.?2.1811  
 son of Dr Richard Frankland & Agnes Rogers;  
 grandson of Agnes Blennerhassett & Robert Rogers (B 10)  
 /  
*NOTE: a trustee of the Will of Arthur Blennerhassett (d.1799) of Ballyseedy & Bath (B 03);  
 with Sir John Godfrey (B 11) & Rev. James Archibald Hamilton (B 03)*  
 |  
 >> Catherine Godfrey  
 |  
 >> Margaret Godfrey  
 /  
 m.24.11.1801 John Mahony  
 of Dromore, Co.Kerry; d.1818  
 |  
 >> Elizabeth Godfrey  
 /  
 m.1.6.1800 Jacob Mark  
 of Cork; a Quaker; b.12.11.1774; d.21.10.1826 at Rutland Street, Cork  
 |  
 >> Arabella Godfrey; b.1776 d.1853  
 /  
 m.11.8.1798 Rev. John Day,  
 Rector of Killallagh; d.26.5.1817 Waterville, Co.Kerry