

**Barons of Delvin, Earls of Westmeath and Nugents of Antigua:  
A History of the Drumcree Nugents**

By Oliver Nugent

The text that follows, covering the period from the early fifteenth to early eighteenth centuries, has been transcribed from Oliver Nugent's handwritten account deposited at the IGRSOC Library in London after his death in 1988, with minor editing. It is likely that there is an earlier manuscript covering the previous centuries of Nugent residence in Ireland; if there is it has yet to come to light, though summarised version can be found on the website on the Irish and Norman pages.

*(Bracketed numbers/letters refer to page ends in the original manuscript. The symbol '?' indicates word/spelling uncertainty.)*

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The Barony of Delvin, 1172-1621

No part of the Nugent story has given rise to so much confusion among genealogists as that dealing with the descent of the barony of Delvin. As we have seen the original grant by Sir Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Meath, to his brother-in-law, Sir Gilbert Nugent, was made about 1172, and from then until 1621 when the title was merged with the earldom of Westmeath there were 15 holders of the title. Not all of them were Nugents as in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century the title descended in the female line and it was not until 1389 that the title was restored to the Nugent family.

In the twelfth century the title did not automatically create a peerage. A barony was an estate of which the owner customarily was described as a baron, and in time the holder became entitled to a summons to parliament. Which of the barons was the first to become a peer of Ireland is in doubt as the years 1385, 1389, 1407, 1449 and 1486 have all been suggested as the dates of the creation of the peerage.

Delvin was an Irish barony before 1172 and had been held by the O'Finelans (?), and the grant to Sir Gilbert entitled him to all the rights hitherto held by the O'Finelans with one small exception. *(Unfinished)*

It is beyond dispute that Sir Gilbert became the first baron under Anglo-Norman rule. His two sons predeceased him, and before his death Sir Gilbert made a grant to his brother Richard, known as Sir Richard de Capella de Nugent. Richard died in 1207 leaving a daughter and sole heiress whose husband, in right of his wife, became the third baron. (C)

Sir Gilbert, according to Lodge, divided his barony among his brethren and others. Lodge does not say which lands were taken by Richard, the next brother, but he does say that Christopher was seated at Balrath and John at Brackloom (now Bracklyn). Skey, who does not mention Christopher or John, says that Bracklyn went to Cousin Hugh. (D) (From draft dated 21/4/78.)

*(Later draft now begins.)*

**Sir Richard Nugent, 10<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup>) Baron of Delvin**, succeeded his father, Sir William in 1414. He distinguished himself in the wars against the native Irish and the record refers to several payments he received from Henry VI for impoverishing himself in the King's wars. He was Sheriff of Meath in 1424. On 28<sup>th</sup> August 1444 the Earl of Ormonde (*source DNB*), who ruled Ireland as lieutenant, appointed Richard Nugent as his lord deputy, making elaborate arrangements for his payment for six months and providing a force of 120 archers for him, and the appointment continued in 1449 under the new viceroy, Richard Duke of York. As deputy the Baron Delvin convened parliaments in Dublin and in Drogheda in 1449 and his final appointment was as Seneschal of Meath in 1452. The date of his death is variously given as 1460 or 1470 or 1474.

He married Catherine, daughter and heiress of Thomas Drake of Carlandstown, Co. Meath, and had three sons. The eldest, James, died in 1457, before his father, leaving a son, Christopher, who became the 11<sup>th</sup> baron. Richard's second son was Edward; the name of the third is not recorded.

James, the eldest son of Sir Richard, the 10<sup>th</sup> Baron Delvin, married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Robert Hollywood of Artane, Co. Dublin, and widow of James Kynton Esq. She brought the estate of Drumcree, Dysert and Donore to her husband. They had two sons: 1) Christopher, the heir, and 2) Robert, who (1) succeeded to Drumcree. It is from the latter that the direct line of Drumcree Nugents is descended while the line of the Barons of Delvin continued through the eldest son, until Richard the 15<sup>th</sup> Baron became 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Westmeath in 1621.

James, as has been stated, died in 1457, before his father, and the barony descended to his elder son Christopher.

**Christopher, the 11<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup>) Baron**, had livery of his estates in 1475 and died in 1493. He married Elizabeth (or Anne), daughter of Sir Robert Preston, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Gormanston, and his only son, Richard, succeeded as 12<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup>) Baron.

**Richard Nugent, the 12<sup>th</sup> Baron**, was summoned to the Irish parliament in 1486 and 1490 and again in 1493, by when he had succeeded as the 12<sup>th</sup> baron. When summoned again in 1498 he neglected to go and was fined forty shillings for non-attendance. Meanwhile, on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1496, he was appointed by the lord justices in council to be commander and leader-in-chief of all the forces destined (?) for the defence of Dublin, Meath, Kildare and Louth, from the attacks of the native Irish. In 1504 he joined the Lord Deputy, the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kildare, on an (2) expedition against a confederation of Irish chiefs, and at the battle of Knocktough (or Cnoc Tuagh, now Knocklayd) he commanded the cavalry. Kildare won a decisive victory and the battle is notable as the first time that firearms were used in an Irish battle. It is said that at a

council of war before the battle Delvin swore “to God and the prince” that he would “be the first that shall throw the first spear among the Irish in this battle”. He was as good as his word, before the battle he spurred his horse towards the Irish and threw his spear, killing one of them, and retired.

For over thirty year, until his death at a great age in 1537 or early 1538, Richard took a very prominent part in Irish affairs: justice of the peace for Meath 1515, member of the council 1522, lord deputy 1527. In 1524 Kildare, having fallen from favour, was restored and enjoined not to prosecute, stir nor maintain any war against the Earl of Ormond, the Baron of Delvin nor Sir William D’Arcy.

In 1528 the Irish Chief Brian O’Connor, who was being paid rent regularly for certain lands in Meath, was preying on areas of the English Pale and Delvin ordered the rent to be withheld. By a stratagem O’Connor succeeded in capturing Delvin and, in spite of attempts to rescue him by force or persuasion, Delvin was kept a prisoner until the rents were restored nine months later. In 1534 he was again deputy for a short time and the following year was given military command in Meath. (3)

Lord Leonard Grey wrote to Thomas Cromwell that the lord treasurer and the Baron of Delvin were “the best captains of the Englishry except the Earl of Ossory who cannot take such pains as they.” Later, however, Lord Leonard Grey called Delvin a traitor, but others allege that Grey was the traitor. On 10<sup>th</sup> February 1538, Delvin’s death while on another expedition against the O’Connors was reported thus: “The Baron of Delvin who was one of the best marchers (?) of this country is departed to God.”

Richard, the 12<sup>th</sup> Baron, had married Isabella, daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald, son of one of the earls of Kildare (Thomas or Gerald). There were two sons: 1) Sir Christopher Nugent, from who were descended the Earls of Westmeath, the Nugents of Coolamber, Co. Longford, of Ballina, and of Farrenconnell, Co Cavan; 2) Sir Thomas Nugent of Carlandstown, from who was descended, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Robert Earl Nugent. (*NN adds:*) In 1533, Richard had built Ross castle with magnificent views over Lough Sheelin.

Sir Christopher predeceased his father in 1537 so the barony passed directly to the 12<sup>th</sup> Baron’s grandson. Sir Christopher had married Marian St Lawrence, daughter of the 16<sup>th</sup> Baron of Howth, who survived him. There were four sons:

- 1) Richard, who succeeded his grandfather in 1538;
- 2) James, of Coolamber, Clonmow and other lands in counties Westmeath and Longford;
- 3) Oliver, of Ballina, and
- 4) Nicholas, of Kilmore, Lord Chief Justice of the King’s Bench in Ireland.

One report says there was a fifth son; there was also a daughter, Mary.

**The 13<sup>th</sup> (5<sup>th</sup>) Baron Delvin**, was also called **Richard**. He sat in parliament in 1541 and the same year he had a grant of the manors of Belgard and Fore, Co. Westmeath, (4) which had been entrusted to his grandfather in 1505. He died on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 1559. His wife was the Hon. Elizabeth Preston, daughter of Jerico, Viscount Gomanston,

and they had two sons, Christopher, the heir, and William, baron of Skrine, and a daughter, Mary.

**Christopher, the 14<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup>) Baron** was born in 1544, and succeeded his father in 1559, had livery of estate 1569, died in Dublin Castle on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1602 and was buried at Castletown, Delvin. In between he married the Lady Mary (or Marie) Fitzgerald, daughter of Gerald, 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kildare. There were six sons:

- 1) Richard, the heir;
- 2) Christopher, of Corbetstown (who had no issue)
- 3) Gerald, of Lissagamedon Co. Longford
- 4) Thomas of Dunfierth, Co. Kildare, who died without issue on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 1634 and is buried at Castletown, Delvin,
- 5) Gilbert, who married Jane, daughter of Edward Brereton and widow of Robert Nugent of Dysert, who had no issue
- 6) William, of Killasonna, Co. Longford. There were also six daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth, married yet another Gerald, Earl of Kildare (the 14<sup>th</sup>)

During his minority, Christopher was the ward of Thomas Radcliffe, third Earl of Sussex. On 12<sup>th</sup> May 1563 he went to Clare Hall, Cambridge, as a fellow commoner, and in the following year Queen Elizabeth visited Cambridge and he was presented to her. This must have been quite a notable meeting for when he returned to Ireland on coming of age in November 1565 he took with him his letters of commendation (5) from the Queen to Lord Deputy Sir Henry Sidney, with grants of land as a rewards for his good behaviour in England, while in return he wrote “A Primer of the Irish Language, compiled at the request and for the use of Queen Elizabeth.”

In July 1574 Christopher fell into disfavour by refusing to sign the proclamation of rebellion against the Earl of Desmond. His excuses, that he was not a privy councillor and had not been acquainted with the reason for the rebellion, were not accepted and were taken as evidence of a wilful partiality to an offender against her majesty. In May 1575 he and his brother William, who was suspected of complicity, were “placed under restraint”, but upon Christopher’s confessing his fault he recovered the good opinion of the government. In December Sir Henry Sidney wrote that he expected a speedy reformation of the country, “a great deal the rather through the good hope I conceive of my lord of Delvin whom I find active and of good discretion.”

In succeeding years Christopher’s story involves two other Nugents, William, Christopher’s younger brother, and Nicholas, the chief justice.

#### The Baron, The Rebel and The Judge

Nicholas was the youngest son of Sir Christopher Nugent, who died in 1537. He was educated for the legal profession and his name first appears in a commission for determining the title to certain lands in Ireland on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1564. In 1566 he obtained a grant of the office of principal or chief solicitor to the crown, and sat on a number of important commissions (6) over the next four years. On 18<sup>th</sup> October 1570 he was made second baron of the exchequer.

William (brother of Christopher the 14<sup>th</sup> Baron) is remembered as a rebel, but he first came to note in December 1573 by his forcible abduction of and marriage to his uncle's ward Janet Marward (or Maureward), daughter and sole heir of Walter Marward, Baron of Skrine, Co. Meath, and Lord of Santry Co Dublin, and granddaughter of Sir John Plunket, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. However on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1577 he and his wife had livery granted to them of the lands valued at £130.5s a year of the late Baron of Skrine, whose title William took.

In May 1575 William was, for a short time, placed under restraint with his brother for complicity in his brother's refusal to sign the proclamation of rebellion against the Earl of Desmond. (8)

*(revert to p7)*

1576 saw Christopher and Nicholas combining in objections to the "cess," a long established tax to support and provision the army. This tax, reasonable enough in its origins, had become unfair through currency reforms introduced by the Queen and by a general rise in prices. The objections were led by Christopher, Baron Delvin, who sent a deputation to the Queen. She was indignant that her prerogative be questioned, the more so because the action of her former protégé savoured of treason. The deputation in England and the leaders in Ireland were imprisoned including Christopher and Nicholas, who forfeited his post as baron of the exchequer. Most were soon released but not Christopher with whom the Queen was particularly angry "for that he has showed himself to be the chiefest instrument in terrifying and dis-persuading the rest of the association from yielding their submissions," and it was left to the discretion of the lord deputy to decide whether he should remain in prison a little longer.

Surprisingly, the incident did little damage to Christopher or Nicholas, for on Sidney's retirement and the appointment of a new lord deputy, Christopher was in 1579 entrusted with the command of the forces of the Pale, where he did good service in defending the northern marches against the inroads of Turlough Luineach O'Neill, chief of Tyrone, while Nicholas was successfully recommended for the post of Chief Justice of the c... *(unfinished)* (Source: *History of Ireland by R Dudley Edwards; Ireland Under the Tudors by Richard Bagnell Vol. II p 261*) (p7, revert to p8)

In 1580 William became involved in the abortive rebellion of Viscount Baltinglass (the complaint this time being that a woman, Queen Elizabeth, was head of the Church) but he eluded capture and was sheltered by Turlough Luineach O'Neill. Baltinglass and his adherents were soon pardoned but William was specifically excluded from the pardon and his estates, the manor and castle of Ross, Co Meath, were forfeited. So as an outlaw he started a rebellion on his own account and with his adherents the O'Connors and the Kavanaghs, he created considerable violence and disturbances on the borders of the Pale. But this rebellion did not last long, and William was reduced to the most abject misery and was exposed without covering to the inclemency of winter. None of his friends dared commiserate with (8) him, and when his wife out of "the dutiful love of a wife to a husband in the extremity" sent him some shirts she was found out and sentenced to a year's imprisonment. But William survived and in January 1582, again with the aid of Turlough Luineach O'Neill, he escaped to Scotland.

Nicholas, however, was not so fortunate. The fact that he was a Roman Catholic and uncle of William and his “scarcely less obnoxious brother” Christopher, was sufficient to condemn him in public opinion. He was not popular with higher officials in Dublin, in particular with brother judges Sir Robert Dillon and Sir Lucas Dillon, chief baron, and furthermore it was said that Lord Chancellor Sir William Gerard had been paid £100 to ensure his appointment. Nicholas was denounced for complicity in William’s rebellion by one John Cusack, described as a double faced traitor, who had himself played a prominent part in that rebellion and been pardoned. Nicholas was arrested on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1582 together with Edward Cusack (no doubt a relation of the accuser) and was charged not only with complicity in the rebellion but also with planning to assassinate the two Dillons.

The trial was before a special commission at Trim in Co. Meath, on 4<sup>th</sup> April. As was to be expected, Nicholas put up a rigorous defence. The only witness was John Cusack, but an objection that the evidence of one witness, an accomplice and a personal enemy, was insufficient was overruled. As the narration of an eye-witness put it, he denied the truth of Cusack’s accusation “shewing ye (9) weaknes and unliklihood of enerie p’te by probable collections and circumstances with great learnings, courage, and temperancie to his owne great commendation and satisfaction of mosyt of his audience”. The lord deputy, Arthur Grey, fourteenth Lord Grey de Wilton, who “sate upon the benche to see justice more equallie mynistered” addressed the jury, and “praise God, like an upright judge and a noble gentleman to pute in ye juries harts to do as they ought, p’testing yet he had rather Mr N weare found trew than otherwise.” (*as written*)

The jury retired, and as it soon appeared that they were in favour of an acquittal, by one account they had actually brought in a verdict of acquittal, but the two Dillons compelled them by menaces to alter their verdict. Two days later, on Easter Eve, April 6, Nicholas Nugent was hanged. “To which death he went resolutely and patiently, protesteigne yt sith he was not found trew, as he said he ought to have been, he had no longinge to live in infamie,” says the eyewitness previously quoted.

The enormity of all this caused a profound sensation, and the Queen herself reversed the attainder (?) and restored the estates by re-grant to his widow Ellen (or Elinor), daughter of Sir John Plunket, Chief Justice of the King’s Bench (or possibly d. of Thomas Plunket of Dunshaughter, Co. Meath) for life with the remainder to her son, Richard Nugent.

To return to Christopher, the 14<sup>th</sup> Baron, he had been arrested earlier in December 1580 and committed to Dublin Castle together with his father in law, Gerald Fitzgerald, 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kildare, on suspicion of involvement in the (10) rebellion of Baltinglass, though it is said that another reason was Christopher’s “obstinate affection to popery.” No charge could be established and after eighteen months in prison Christopher and Kildare were sent to England in the custody of Marshall Bagnal. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1582 Christopher was examined by the Lord Chancellor and the Master of the Rolls, and as there was no fresh evidence of treason he was set at liberty, though not immediately allowed to return to Ireland. In April 1585, however, he was again sitting as a peer in the Irish parliament.

Later the same year, on the death of the Earl of Kildare, he seems to have been freed from nearly all restrictions and once again took letters of commendation from the Queen to the Lord Deputy, then Sir John Perrot, and the lands he leased from the crown were restored to him. There were, however, a number of law suits over his lands, with which he had great difficulty owing to the continued hostility of the Dillons. On a later visit to England he secured the favour of Lord Burghley, who however named him that in Ireland his loyalty was regarded with suspicion and (*ON notes: 'doubtful'*) he was included in a list of discontented person compiled by the new Lord Deputy, Sir William Fitzwilliam.

In the meantime, William had returned to Ireland. After his escape to Scotland in 1582, he had been to Rome, France and Scotland all the time seeking from various leaders support for a new insurrection in Ireland. He received little support and later in 1582 he returned to Ireland disguised as a friar. He was for a time hunted by the Lord Deputy (still Sir John Perrot) but soon was offered a pardon and submitted. Like his brother he was included in the list of discontented persons, nevertheless he gradually regained his (*11*) position of influence and his estates were restored in 1606.

The brothers Christopher and William then proceeded to seek vengeance on the Dillons whom they regarded as responsible for the death of their uncle Nicholas and for the persecutions of the family. In 1591 Christopher charged Chief Justice Sir Robert Dillon with maladministration of justice. There was, it is said, strong presumptive evidence of Dillon's guilt of crimes dishonourable to a judge. It is said that Christopher prosecuted with extreme violence, which did not help his case, and the political effect of a conviction would have put the government in an awkward fix. For over two years the proceedings dragged on, but it became clear that Dillon would be acquitted and this occurred in November 1593. Christopher then charged the Lord Deputy with having acted with undue partiality.

About this time, Christopher was restored to the command of the forces of Westmeath at the general history/posting (?) on the hill of Tara. This was a disturbed period (1593-7) and Christopher showed such acuity and zeal in the defence of the Pale that he was warmly commended by Sir John Norris and received further grants of land.

In 1597 and 1598 Christopher was appointed to enquire into abuses in the government of Ireland and, jointly with his kinsman Edward Nugent of Dysert, to a commission of gaol delivery (or Assize) in Mulburgan Westmeath. (*12*)

In January 1600, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, rose in rebellion. He descended from the north on the barony of Delvin and so managed it that Christopher was induced to submit. He gave no assistance to Tyrone but shortly afterwards was arrested by the newly appointed Lord Deputy, Lord Mountjoy, on suspicion of treason and again confined in Dublin Castle. Here he died before his trial, in 1602 (11<sup>th</sup> Aug, or 5<sup>th</sup> Sept, or 1<sup>st</sup> Oct) at the age of 58. He was buried at Castle Delvin.

So of the three principal characters of this chapter, William the rebel was the last survivor and the only one to die a peaceful death. After the failure of the proclamation of Sir Robert Dillon, William's life was uneventful. On 31 Oct 1606 King James 1 consented to restore him to "his blood and inheritance," and a bill was prepared to that effect, but was not passed. William died on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1625.

The six sons and five daughters of Christopher have already been mentioned. William had five sons: 1) Robert, 2) Christopher and 3) James (all of whom died without issue), 4) Thomas, who will again be referred to, and 5) William, of Ross, County Meath, about whom nothing else is recorded. There was also a daughter Mary, who married James Nugent of Ballina.

Nicholas's only son was Richard, a poet of some repute. On the death of his mother Ellen (or Elinor) in November 1616, he succeeded to his father's estates of Kilmore, Kilcaine, Ashengrove and Shillinglass in Co. Meath, estates later estimated at 1228 acres 2 roads 24 poles. Richard married Anne Batt, and his (13) descendants are set out in appendix.

**[Appendix 1 (p. 14) consists of pedigree 1487-1690 scanned but not transcribed.]**

### The Direct Line: Nugents of Drumcree, 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries

We now go back a century to the direct line. **Robert Nugent of Drumcree** was the younger son of Sir James Nugent and his wife Elizabeth Hollywood. He was the brother of Christopher, 11<sup>th</sup> Baron of Delvin, and descended in the 18<sup>th</sup> generation from Evas de Belesme, the powerful Norman baron who is considered to have founded the dynasty. Besides Drumcree, which was inherited from his mother and remained in the direct line for seven generations, he had settled on him by his parents Ballystown, Oldbourn and other estate in Co. Westmeath.

He married Anna Cusack and had one son, Christopher. The date of Robert's death is not known, but he was alive in 1487.

**Christopher Nugent of Drumcree, 19<sup>th</sup> generation**, inherited the above mentioned estates. He married Elinor, daughter of Alexander Plunket, and their sons were: 1) Sir Oliver Nugent, of Drumcree, 2) Edward (of whom nothing is known), 3) Robert Oge Nugent, of Newcastle, County Westmeath, 4) The Right Reverend Edmund Nugent D.D., Lord Bishop of Kilmore (died 1541), 5) William Nugent of New Haggard, Co. Meath, 6) Richard, 7) James, and there were two daughters, Anna and Elinor. Christopher died on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1526. (15)

**Sir Oliver Nugent of Drumcree, 20<sup>th</sup> generation**, the eldest son of Christopher, was born in 1509, had livery of the estates when he came of age in 1530, was knighted in 1546 and died on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1557. He married Anne, daughter of Thomas Barnewall, and she died on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1561. There were four sons: 1) Christopher (no issue), 2) Robert, who became the heir and died on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1561, 3) Lavallin (our ancestor in the direct line), 4) Richard, and a daughter, Anne. Robert, the heir married Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Nugent of Canonbury, Co. Meath. Their only son Oliver died on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1573 and his uncle Lavallin inherited Drumcree and other estates.

**Lavallin Nugent, 21<sup>st</sup> generation**, third son of Sir Oliver and heir to his nephew Oliver, died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1610. By his wife Elizabeth he had sons 1) Nicholas, son

and heir, 2) Robert, 3) Edward, 4) Oliver, 5) Christopher, 6) Richard and three daughters 1) Margaret, 2) Elinor, 3) Elizabeth Maud. Nothing is recorded of any of the younger sons or daughters except that Elinor married James Ledwich of Grange Co. Westmeath.

**Nicholas Nugent, 22<sup>nd</sup> generation**, the heir, married Anne, daughter of James Birmingham of the City of Dublin. Their sons were: 1) James, eldest son and heir, 2) Thomas, 3) Lavallin, and a daughter, Margery. Again nothing is written about the younger sons, and of the daughter; all we know is that she married James White, son and heir of Richard White of Clongell.

**James Nugent, 23<sup>rd</sup> generation**, the heir to Drumcree, married Anne Dillon. His sons were Oliver, John and Robert. **Oliver Nugent, (24<sup>th</sup> generation)** last of the Nugents of Drumcree, who married a distant cousin, Jane, the only daughter of Christopher Nugent of Dardistown, Co. Westmeath. More will be written of Oliver, John and Christopher in a later chapter. (16)

**[Appendix 2 (p. 17) More pedigree - unclear in places – scanned not transcribed.]**

#### Barons of Delvin and Earls of Westmeath, 1602-1684 (1714?)

As has already been said, Christopher, the 14<sup>th</sup> Baron Delvin, died in 1602 while imprisoned in Dublin Castle awaiting trial on a charge of treason, leaving six sons, three of whom had no issue. His death was considered sufficient atonement for his offences and his eldest son, **Richard**, born in 1583, was allowed to take the lands and the title of **15<sup>th</sup> Baron Delvin**, and was knighted by Lord Deputy Mountjoy on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1603.

Almost immediately, Richard became involved in a row with the government which ultimately led to his arrest. The background to this was that in 1597 his father, Christopher, had been rewarded “in consequence of his recent charitable and valourous services” by lands to the value of an annual rent of £100 which had belonged to the O’Farrells and O’Reillys and had been forfeited by the crown. Because of the disturbed state of the country, the grant had not been taken up: it was, however, confirmed on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1603 by King James 1 to Richard and his mother. After the grant had been taken up and Richard had spent a considerable sum on the lands – £3000 according to him – it was found that they had not been forfeited. Richard was ordered to surrender them and when he refused he was compelled to do so. The story continues: “Exasperated at his ill luck, Delvin listened to the voice of the tempter and in the summer of 1606 entered into a conspiracy to overthrow the government.” (Source ‘Barons and Earls 1602-84’ – not located.)

He soon repented of this and withdrew but his crime was his failure to reveal the plot to the government (18) his reason being that Lady Tyrconnel, wife of one of the conspirators, was his kinswoman. Inevitably someone else revealed the conspiracy, implicating Richard who was inveigled to Dublin and arrested on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1607. He confessed his part and was committed to the castle by Sir Arthur Chichester. Within a fortnight, however, he escaped, “by practice of some of his servants and

negligence or corruption of his keeper,” and reached his castle of Cloughoughton, Co. Cavan. From here he wrote to his captor Chichester “apologising for his unexpected departure, protesting that he did it not so much for the safety of his life as to prevent the certain ruin of his estate, which would of force happen if he had been sent to England, and praying forgiveness for his untimely fault, which was only in thought not in act, and occasioned by the subtlety of another who entrapped him, a youth.”

Chichester in reply gave him five days to surrender, but Richard took to the Cain (?) mountains where he defied all attempts to capture him, although both Cloughoughton Castle and his young son were taken. But with bigger rebellions brewing, Chichester was able to hint, without any direct promises, “that he should not fare worse for an unconditional surrender.” On 5<sup>th</sup> May 1608 Richard unexpectedly presented himself before the council and “humbly submitted himself to hi majesty without word or promise of a pardon.” He was however required to go to England in order that the King might satisfy himself of his security and grant a pardon, but owing to his extreme poverty he had to borrow the necessary money for his journey from Sir Arthur Chichester. (19)

At court he fared better than he could have hoped. His misconduct was entirely overlooked and orders were given for the restitution of his property, together with a grant of certain lands in lieu of those he had been forced to surrender.

Richard returned to Ireland in November 1608. Five years later, he again incurred the displeasure of government by the part he played in parliament and with others was summoned to England in January 1614 to explain his conduct. Presumably his explanations were accepted and he again sat in parliament in 1615. On 4<sup>th</sup> September he was created Earl of Westmeath.

Afterwards the new earl spent most of his time in England, though he was sent on important missions to Ireland. In 1625 he was appointed commander of the new auxiliary militia which was planned but never executed. In 1628 and again in 1633 he acted as one of the agents of the Irish Catholic nobility to the King – now King Charles I - and Council in what was known as the matter of the Graces, which were grants of land made by the King which the Viceroy (as the Lord Deputy had become), Sir Thomas Wentworth, refused to implement. Wentworth, as Earl of Stafford, was eventually disgraced and executed but his successor continued his policy in respect of the Graces. (*On the Graces, see Aidan Clarke – 'The Old English in Ireland 1625-62' p 238*)

*(reverse of 19)*

In 1634 Richard again sat in the Irish parliament, but his eyesight was failing and in February 1635 he obtained a year's leave of absence to go on a pilgrimage to Loreto in northern Italy, where miraculous cures had been reported. He did not benefit from this pilgrimage, and does not appear to have returned to Irish political life and he took no part in the complicated manoeuvres that led to the great rebellion of 1641. Most of the Roman Catholic nobility of Ireland joined the rebels, and with risings everywhere most of the country outside the Pale, including Westmeath, was soon in rebel hands. (*reverting to 21*)

Richard, Earl of Westmeath, refused to cooperate with the rebels, his refusal being ascribed to Thomas Deas, Bishop of Meath, but was probably also due to his infirm state of health, he being blind and palsy stricken. As a result, his estates were plundered and he was forced to leave his house at Clonyn in February 1642. He himself was attacked near Athboy, Co. Meath, while being escorted to Dublin, and received injuries from which he died soon after. (*Complete Peerage*: "In coming away towards Trim, his coach was forcibly drawn and he was hauled out of it and shot with pistol-shot in the thigh; and then in pulling and drawing him up and down they drew both his shoulders out of joint of which that noble earl (being then above 60 years old, blind of his eyes and often stricken with a dead palsy) died." His will was proved on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1643. (21) (*See Family Book, p16*)

(reverse of 19, viz 20)

Richard's wife was Jane, daughter of Christopher, ninth Lord Killern, and sister of Lucas, first earl of Fingal. His eldest son, Christopher Lord Delvin, died in his father's lifetime, having married Anne, eldest daughter of Randall Macdonnell, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Antrim. Christopher was buried at Clonyn, Castletown, Delvin on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1625. Richard's other sons were: 2) Francis Nugent, of Tobber Co. Galway, who joined the rebellion of 1641-2 and saw action at Drogheda; 3) John Nugent, of Drumeng (Dromin) Co. Longford, 4) Laurence Nugent, who died unmarried in France, and 5) Ignatius Nugent, colonel commanding a regiment in the French service, who died in 1670. There were two daughters, Bridget and Mary, who both died unmarried. None of the younger sons had any recorded issue.

The heir to the earldom in 1642 was **Richard**, son of Christopher and the only grandson of the first earl, (NN:) who became the **16<sup>th</sup> Baron of Delvin and 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmeath**. He was in England at the time of his grandfather's death but returned to Ireland and took his seat in parliament on 15 April 1644.

By this time the confederation cause had declined, principally because of dissension between their leaders, and the Civil War was well under way in England. In 1645, by order (?) of the Earl of Ormonde, Richard raised a troop of horse and a regiment of foot for the King's service. Several attempts were made to secure the support of the confederates against the parliamentary forces in Ireland, in return for religious tolerance, and indeed there was a secret treaty to this effect in August 1645, but this was repudiated by the King and other attempts to secure a peace were frustrated by the intervention of the papal nuncio, Rinuccini. Nevertheless, the confederates achieved respectability as royalists rather than rebels and Richard Nugent, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl, fought with them at the Battle of Dungan's Hill near Trim on 7 August 1647. The royalists were heavily defeated by parliamentary forces and Richard was taken prisoner, though he was exchanged soon after for the Earl of Montgomery. After a further defeat at Knockna (*ness, or tuagh?*) in the south, the confederates agreed to a truce.

In the confused situation that followed, Richard took the oath of association to the confederation in June 1648: he was appointed to a commission to treat (?) with the Earl of Ormonde for the settlement of a peace in October 1648 and appointed a field marshal by the supreme council on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1649.

Cromwell landed in Dublin in August of that year, his way prepared by the surrender of the city to parliamentary forces of the Earl of Ormonde and a parliamentary victory at Rathmines, south of Dublin, a few days before Cromwell arrived. He at once marched northwards to Drogheda, and the Earl (23) of Westmeath is mentioned as a member of a council of war on 23<sup>rd</sup> August that decided to defend that city. Cromwell, however, took it after a short siege, sacking the town and massacring the garrison, clergy and some townspeople, and leaving bitter memories that last till today. When the news reached the nearby garrisons of Trim and Dundalk, they fled without resistance.

Cromwell did not remain long in Ireland, leaving his generals to continue its submission. In 1650 the Earl of Westmeath was appointed general of all the forces in Leinster and was, it was said, a general who “never gathered an army into the field since he was appointed general, nor any party did stick unto himself that did not act worth 6d; rather worked all the means possible for faction, dispersion, rent and decision”. (?)

By the articles of Kilkenny of 12<sup>th</sup> May 1652, the royalist leaders including Richard submitted to the commissioners of parliament (*revert to reverse of 23*) an order to settle his soldiers in Ireland. Cromwell proceeded to seize large estates, and in the counties of Meath and Westmeath seventy five per cent of the land was captured. Included were the Nugent estates of Ashgrove, Ballinacour, Ballinslott, Corkoskeran, Coolamber, Coyne, Calvin, Donore, Kilmore, Kilcairn, Moyrath and Shillinglass.

By the Act for the Settlement of Ireland passed three months later, Richard was excluded for life from pardon and estates. He was, however, allowed to raise a regiment for the Spanish service (Irish troops were recruited for Spain as early as 1641) and to travel abroad and to return “without let or molestation” provided he gave notice of his arrival to the governor of the place where he should first land. He was also allowed to “enjoy such parts of his estate as lay waste and un-disposed of,” this latter being extended to a full third of his estate. Fears of fresh disturbances in the summer of 1659 led to the arrest of Richard and other leading royalists, but at the Restoration he was released and recovered his estate.

Richard, the 2<sup>nd</sup> earl of Westmeath, took no further interest in politics. He died in 1684 and was buried in the chapel of Fore which he had rebuilt four years previously. (24)

### [Appendix 3 (p. 24b, opp. p. 25) Notes scanned but not transcribed.]

Richard’s marriage to Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Nugent, bart., of Moyrath, united the prominent branches of the Nugent family. Sir Thomas was a direct descendant of Sir William FitzNicholas Nugent, 9<sup>th</sup> Baron of Delvin, through his younger son, Sir William Oge Nugent of Moyrath.

Mary died on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1737, aged 97. There were four sons: 1) **Christopher, the 17<sup>th</sup> Lord Delvin**, who died before his father, having married Mary Butler of Kilcash in Co. Tipperary, and leaving three sons, Richard, Thomas and John, who each in turn

succeeded to the earldom of Westmeath, and three daughters; 2) Thomas, baron Nugent of Riverston, 3) Joseph, captain in the Irish brigade in France, 4) William, MP for Co. Westmeath 1689, as well as five daughters, one of whom, Anne, married Luke, 6<sup>th</sup> Viscount Dillon, and kinsman of the Dillons who earlier had persecuted the family.

Richard Nugent, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl succeeded his grandfather in 1684, and died in 1714. He was a Capuchin Friar at Wasey, France, and not surprisingly left no issue.

He was succeeded by his brother **Thomas Nugent, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl, and 18<sup>th</sup> Baron of Delvin**. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John, Baron Bellew of Dalek (Duleek), Co, Meath. There were two sons, Christopher Lord Delvin and John, who died unmarried before their father and two daughters, the elder the Lady Mary Nugent was born 1<sup>st</sup> March 1694, married aged 12 to Francis Bacon of Athenry who was two years older, and died 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1725, the younger, Lady Catherine, the sole surviving child of Thomas, married Andrew Nugent of Dysert and left three sons and 3 daughters. Earl Thomas died 14<sup>th</sup> June 1752 aged 86 and was succeeded by the third brother, John, then aged 81, whose career will be followed later. (25)

#### Thomas Nugent, Baron Riverston, Lord Chief Justice

James II had acceded to the throne in 1685. He was an ardent Roman Catholic and relaxed many restrictions which earlier had been imposed on Roman Catholics. In Ireland, an ardent supporter of James and of his policies was Thomas Nugent of Pallas, Co. Galway, the second son of Richard Nugent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmeath, and Mary Nugent his wife. He was bred (?) to the law but was undistinguished until the accession of James when he was made one of his counsel. He is reported to have made himself very useful to James, and was treated by ... as a representative of the Irish Roman Catholics and promotion came rapidly. In March 1686 he was made a judge of the King's Bench. "A man of birth indeed," said Lord Clarendon, "but no lawyer, and so will do no harm upon the account of his learning." On taking his seat Thomas had a wrangle with another judge about precedence "as brisk as if it had been between two women", to quote Lord Clarendon again. Thomas was sworn in (26) as a Privy Councillor in May 1687 and in October became Lord Chief Justice. His conduct on the bench showed a complete lack of dignity (?) and was scandalously partisan towards Roman Catholics, and his court was occupied in reversing outlawries which pressed on his own co-religionists, and generally in dispossessing (?) to Protestants. He revised an old act of Henry VII forbidding the keeping of guns without licences, but interpreted it as referring to Protestants, in whom breach of the act was declared by the judge to be treason, though the act provided a penalty of £20. Deprived of their arms the Protestants were defenceless against the still armed Catholics, and their situation was made worse by another declaration that robbery of protestants was unfortunately necessary for the furtherance of King James's policy.

Early in 1688, Thomas was sent to England with Chief Baron Rice to arrange for the repeal of the Act of Settlement. By that time James had made himself very unpopular, and the Irish delegates were received in London in mock ... by a ... who escorted them with potatoes fixed on sticks and with cries of "Make room for the Irish ambassadors."

In November 1699, James II was deposed, and his nephew William of Orange and daughter Mary, William's wife, were declared king and queen jointly as William III and Mary II. James escaped to France and about this time Thomas Nugent was expressing to a Dublin jury the hope that William's followers would soon be "hung up all over England in bundles like a rope of onions."

James made his way to Ireland in an attempt to regain his throne, and landed at Kinsale near Cork in March 1689. He received tremendous support from the Irish including large numbers of the Nugent family. Thomas Nugent joined him at Kinsale (27) where he was created Baron of Riverston and was summoned as such to a parliament held by James in Dublin on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1689, the 'patriot parliament' as it was called, where he sat as a peer and introduced a bill for the repeal of the Acts of Settlement. He was active in the House of Lords in Dublin and frequently presided, and in July was made commissioner of the empty Irish treasury.

The end of this was foreshadowed by the arrival of William III's Marshall Schomberg in August 1689.

### The Boyne

In two wars, as has been described, the family of Nugents came as invaders and stayed, firstly to England with William I, and secondly to Ireland with Henry II. Now another invasion of Ireland by William III was to have the effect of driving many of the now enormous family out of Ireland, some to the continent of Europe while our ancestors migrated to the West Indies.

Marshall Schomberg arrived in the north near Belfast and, apart from consolidating his position by the capture of Carrickfergus, did little except to wait for William. James too was waiting during this period. William did not arrive till January 1690 and immediately the two armies moved together, to confront each other on the River Boyne near Drogheda. The superior numbers (*revised 28*) and leadership of William's forces achieved a complete rout of the Irish Jacobites, and James at once fled back to France.

Though this battle was decisive it did not terminate the war. William himself led his army across to Limerick and on to Shannon which he besieged but failed to capture. He gave up the siege and returned to England leaving the Dutch General Ginkel in command. Little of note occurred until the following year when Ginkel again marched his army across Ireland capturing Athlone in June and Aughrim in July. Aughrim was the scene of a desperate attempt to stop him and with equal numbers of about 20,000 on each side the Jacobites were routed. Ginkel advanced upon Limerick which he besieged for the second time and which surrendered after a month and a treaty was signed ending the war.

"So many Nugents fought at the battle of the Boyne in 1690 against William III and his General Schomberg," says Robert Nugent-Dunbar in a letter to his son Arthur dated 27 December 1844, "that 16 were killed in action, but my grandfather Walter Nugent of Drumcree in the county of Westmeath, escaped the slaughter and made his

way to Liverpool... freighting a vessel with his own merchandise and going himself to dispose of her cargo at Antigua.” (*The History of Antigua, vol. II, p. 314.*) In the Skey pedigree only one Nugent is identifiable as having been killed at the battle of the Boyne, but in the whole campaign 5 deaths are recorded which might be included in the 16:

- John Nugent of Donore and Corballies, Co. Westmeath, MP, son of Robert Nugent of Donore, Captain in the King’s Army, died 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1690 (before the battle);
- Andrew Nugent, his brother, Captain in King James’s Army, died of wounds at the Boyne 1st July 1690;
- John Nugent, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of James Nugent of Drumcree, Captain in King James’s Army, wounded at the Boyne and killed in action at Aughrim, 12<sup>th</sup> July 1691;
- Walter Nugent, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Francis Nugent of Dardistown, a colonel in Lord Doncan’s (?) regiment, was killed in action at Aughrim 1691; (29)
- William Nugent, 6<sup>th</sup> son of Richard, Earl of Westmeath, MP for Westmeath, a colonel in King James’s Army, was killed at Cavan 1690.

By this time the branches of the Nugents were so numerous that there could well have been 11 more deaths in action. Many were present at the siege and surrender of Limerick. It was reported that the night before the surrender Thomas (who was treated as being Earl of Westmeath though his elder brother was still alive), who had served at the battle of the Boyne, was one of a group of officers who left the horse camp outside Limerick on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1691 during the cessation of hostilities and dined with General Ginkel on their way to the city. It could well be that these officers were sent to negotiate the surrender. The following day Thomas was sent back to the English camp as a hostage for the observance of the articles of capitulation.

After the surrender, the warlike Irish were permitted, perhaps even encouraged, to leave Ireland to fight elsewhere. This they did in large numbers, an estimated eleven thousand leaving at once, and thousands more annually for very many years. Many of them joined continental armies, becoming known as the Wild Geese and comprising the Irish Brigade of the French army, which subsequently fought against the English under Marlborough. (30)

**[Appendix 4 (pp 30b) Names of some killed are listed here but not transcribed.]**

In the French army the careers of the two major-generals, Christopher and John Nugent, followed parallel courses. John was born in 1672 and was present as a cadet in the horseguards of James II at the battle of the Boyne and at Limerick. The date of Christopher’s birth is not recorded, but he must have been considerably older than John as he was MP for the borough of Fore, Co. Westmeath, in the parliament of 1689. There is no mention of his being present at the Boyne though it would be rather surprising if he were not. At Limerick in 1691 he was attached to the first troop of Irish horseguards.

At the capitulation both went to France where Christopher was given a command in the army for an intended invasion of England in 1692, which however never

materialised, and both served with the Irish horseguards in Flanders in wars against William of Orange. John remained there until the peace of Ryswick in 1697.

Christopher served from 1694-7 with the army in Germany and in the Moselle under the Duc de Longes (?), being appointed 'mestre-de-camp' on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1695. On the disbandment of the Irish horseguards on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1698, both were attached to the reformed regiment of Colonel Sheldon and with it went to Italy in July 1701, where both fought at the battles of Chiari on 1<sup>st</sup> September that year and Luzzara in 1702. John also took part in the defence of Cremona that year. In 1703 Christopher again went to Germany, while in 1704 both were back in Flanders. In 1705 John was promoted captain while Christopher was promoted to brigadier and in January 1706, on Sheldon's instructions, he succeeded to the command of the regiment which he renamed 'Nugent's'. He commanded the regiment under the French standard at Ramilles (1706), Oudenarde (1708) and Malplaquet (1709), John being present at all three. In 1712 both were in the Calais area and took part in the (33) battle of Denain and the siege of Douai, John additionally being present at the siege of Quesnoy.

Both served with the army in Germany in 1713, Christopher being present at the siege of Landau (June-August), at the defeat of General Vanbourne on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and the capture of Freitung in Bresgan (?) in November. The following year both were in the army of the Lower Meuse.

In 1715 Christopher accompanied the Old Pretender to Scotland, without permission, and on the remonstrance of the British ambassador in Paris, he was deprived of his command, which however was given to his only son (no other mention is made of this son). On 13<sup>th</sup> September 1718 he was promoted marechal-de-camp or major-general of horse. John was promoted major of his regiment in 1720 and on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1721 appointed 'mestre-de-camp de cavalerie', a rank which Christopher had attained in 1695. There followed a period of peace, and no more is heard of Christopher until his death in France in 1731.

John, however, was back in action in 1733 at the siege of Kehl, the first episode in the war of the Polish succession, an attack on the lines of Etlingen in 1734 and sieges of Philipsburg the same year and of Klausen in 1735. He was promoted lieutenant colonel of his regiment in 1736, then brigadier on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1740, and in that rank served in Westphalia under Marechal de Maille Bras on the frontiers of Bohemia (1743). He was made major-general on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1744 and retired in June 1748 at the age of 76. Four years later succeeded his brother Thomas as fifth Earl of Westmeath. (34)

Christopher, who was wounded at least 12 times in his long military career, married Bridget, the second daughter of Robert, ninth Baron Trimleston. They had a son who, as mentioned above, succeeded to the command of 'Nugent's' regiment, and a daughter, Jane, who married Oliver Nugent of Drumcree, our ancestor. (*reverse of p33 – source given as McLysaght*)

**[Appendix 5 (p. 35- reverse of p. 34) contains a family tree: scanned.]**

### Earls of Westmeath 1684-1754

Richard, the second Earl of Westmeath, died in 1684 and, as has already been stated, was succeeded in turn by his grandsons Richard (died 1713), Thomas (died 1752) and John (died 1754). Richard, the third earl, the Capuchin friar in France, took no part in the affairs of Ireland, and it was Thomas who was summoned to the House of Peers in James II's parliament in Dublin in 1689, though he did not succeed as earl until 1714.

Thomas was probably born in 1656 (as he is said to have been 96 when he died in 1752; other accounts make him ten years younger). One report that he was a minor in 1689 must have been inaccurate. He married Margaret, daughter of John Bellew (Lord Bellew of Duleek, Co. Meath) in 1684 and after a few years of travel returned to Ireland and was given command of a regiment of horse.

His presence at the battle of the Boyne and siege of Limerick has been recounted. He was outlawed by William III on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1691, but six years later it was reported that he "hath since reversed his outlawry." He died on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1752 aged 96. His two sons predeceased him as did 7 of his 9 daughters. With two co-heiresses, the barony of Delvin, which previously had descended through the female line, was held in abeyance between them.

The earldom however did not descend through females, so the fourth earl was Thomas's brother John, whose career has already been detailed. He was 15 years younger than Thomas, aged 81 when he inherited, living in retirement at Nivelles in Brabant, where he died on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1754.

John had married Mary (or Margaret?), daughter of Charles, Count Molza of the Duchy of Modena in Italy. She died on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1775. There were three sons, Thomas, sixth earl, Edward and Charles, and a daughter, Frances. (36)

### Earls of Westmeath 1754-1871

Before we leave Ireland to follow the Nugents across the Atlantic to Antigua, we continue with a further episode in the story of the earls of Westmeath, until the title lapsed more than a century later.

Thomas, the sixth earl, returned to Ireland where he became a Privy Councillor and one of the Knights Founders of the Most Illustrious Order of St Patrick. He conformed to the established religion and was the first protestant peer of his line. He died on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 1790. He had married firstly on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1742 Mary, daughter and heir of Walter Durand Stapleton: she died on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1750 leaving an only son, Richard Thomas Lord Nugent, born 13<sup>th</sup> December 1742, who was killed in a duel on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1761 without issue; and secondly, Catherine, daughter and co-heir of Henry White of Pickfordstown, Co. Kildare, on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1756: she died on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1772. Their eldest son, Thomas Lord Nugent died in infancy. George Frederick, the second son born 18<sup>th</sup> November 1760 inherited as seventh earl, and the only daughter, Catherine, married the Hon John Rodney, Captain RN (who may have been the son of Admiral Lord Rodney) on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1784.

George Frederick Nugent, the seventh earl of Westmeath, died on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1814. He married firstly, in 1784, Mary Anne, elder daughter of James St John Jeffreys JP of Blarney Castle, Co. Cork, by whom he had a son and heir, George Thomas John; and secondly, in 1791, Lady Elizabeth Emily, elder daughter of Charles, Marquess of Drogheda, Knight of St Patrick, and by her had three sons, none of whom had issue, and three daughters.

The Most Honourable George Thomas John, Marquess of Westmeath so created by patent of 12<sup>th</sup> January 1822, was also eighth Earl of Westmeath and 22<sup>nd</sup> Baron Delvin, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Westmeath, a Representative Peer, Captain in the Coldstream Guards when he was 15 (1800-03), Colonel of the (37) Westmeath Militia. Born on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1785, he died in 1871. His wife, whom he married on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1812, was Lady Emily Anne Bennet Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Marquess of Salisbury K.G. Their only surviving child was a daughter, Rosa Emily Mary Ann, born in 1814: she married in 1840 Fulke Southwell Greville, second son of Algernon Greville of the City of London. He took the name of Nugent, but the succession to the marquissate or earldom did not pass through the female line, so the marquissate became extinct on the death of the only marquis.

The earldom, however, passed to the next in the male line, the descendants of Thomas Lord Riverston, the Jacobite Chief Justice of Ireland. We left Lord Riverston sitting as a peer in James II's Dublin parliament in 1689, and being appointed a commissioner of the Treasury. After the treaty of Limerick, Thomas was outlawed as a rebel in 1694 together with his elder son, Hyacinth (Hyacinthus) Richard Nugent, then aged 7, and all his honours were disallowed. He died in 1715.

On 14<sup>th</sup> June 1680, Thomas had married Marian (Marianna), daughter of Henry Viscount Kingsland. About the same time he obtained a high court judgement against his father-in-law for the sum of £4000, but in October 1680 he executed a deed of release from that judgement on condition that Viscount Kingsland paid half that sum at the rate of £400 annually for five years. In addition to the elder son Hyacinth already mentioned, there were two other sons, William (38) and Ignatius, and five daughters, Mariana, Anne, Lucy, Clara and Frances. Mariana (the mother) died on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1635 and is buried at Pallas, Co. Limerick.

The title of Lord Riverston was of doubtful validity having been created by James II in 1689 after he had ceased to be King of England. Nevertheless, the title was used by his descendants until 1871, when it merged with the earldom of Westmeath, but in official documents they are usually described as "commonly called Lord Riverston".

Hyacinth Richard succeeded his father in 1715. He was a captain in the British service and died at St James's, London without legitimate issue (sometime between 1737 and 1756). The title, as established, was taken by his brother William who died in 1756. (39)

**[Appendix 6 (p. 39) Family tree scanned but not transcribed.]**

## Walter Nugent and the migration to Antigua 1690-1721

Our ancestor at the time of the battle of the Boyne was Oliver, last of the Nugents of Drumcree and 24<sup>th</sup> generation in the pedigree. (*See Family Book p.16.*) As a colonel in King James's Army, he must have been prominent in the campaign, and after Limerick he became one of the Wild Geese and joined the French army in which he rose to major-general, though no other details of his military career either in Ireland or France appear in records seen by the writer.

All his estates in County Westmeath were forfeited after 1690 and though King William, who succeeded to the throne in 1699, published an amnesty Oliver Nugent, being in the West Indies, did not submit in the prescribed time so the lands passed to the family of Thomas Smythe and were never recovered. (Some accounts say Oliver Nugent had already sold Drumcree estate itself to Mr Smyth in 1675 but that other estates were forfeit.) Oliver died at St Germain in France.

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 1687 Oliver had married Jane, the only daughter of (41) Christopher Nugent of Dardistown, whose career in the armies of King James and of France has already been described. Christopher was the eldest son of Francis Nugent of Dardistown, Co. Westmeath, who was the second son of Sir Thomas Nugent Bart of Moyrath.

According to the family pedigree, the only son of the marriage was Walter and there was also a daughter Jane who died unmarried. Walter, our ancestor, became a captain in the Imperial service, and married Elinor, daughter of James Cusack of Flinstown, Co. Westmeath. Their only son, also called Walter, went to Antigua, where in 1721 he married Antoinette Le Roux, daughter and heiress of a wealthy French merchant.

The story of Walter is continued by his grandson, Robert Dunbar-Nugent in a letter written in 1844, when he was 75, to which reference has been made above. He wrote: "...my grandfather, Walter Nugent of Drumcree, escaped the slaughter [at the Boyne] and made his way to Liverpool where he became (*NN added:* ) a ship husband or supercargo, by freighting a vessel with his own merchandise and going himself in the ship to dispose of her cargo at Antigua." (*Source The History of Antigua, Nugent pedigree pages vol. II p.313-4.*) (43)

It is, however, difficult to believe that either the Skey pedigree or the Nugent-Dunbar account is entirely accurate. If Oliver Nugent of Drumcree was married in 1687, and his grandson, the second Walter, was married in 1721, this means that two generations grew to maturity in the space of 34 years. Walter I, the son of Oliver, could have been no more than an infant at the time of the Boyne (1690), so that the passage about "escaping the slaughter" in the Nugent-Dunbar letter must refer to his father Oliver. The existence of the second Walter was first queried by V L Oliver in *The History of Antigua* (p.312) where he wrote in the pedigree reference to the second Walter "quaere if it was not this father".

On probabilities, it is suggested that there was only one Walter and that the same man married Elinor Cusack in Ireland and Antoinetta Leroux in Antigua, and that he was the son and not the grandson of Oliver Nugent of Drumcree and Jane Nugent of Dardistown.

On this basis, Walter's story would be as follows: born about 1688, or a little later if his sister Jane were the elder, Walter remained in Ireland until as a young man he married Elinor Cusack, probably between 1705 and 1710. We know no more about Elinor, possibly she died, but not long after the marriage Walter left Ireland and joined the Imperial army of England in which he served as a captain perhaps until 1718, when he was aged about 30. Soon after this he made the first of his three voyages to Antigua, where in 1721 he married Antoinetta, he then being 33 and she being 12 ½. It is this Walter and his Huguenot wife who are progenitors of the Nugents of Antigua.

It is not clear when Walter first went to Antigua, nor indeed why he chose to go there. From the time of Cromwell many Irish had emigrated to the West Indies, so many to Montserrat (an island next to Antigua) that even to this day the inhabitants speak with an Irish accent. The History of Antigua mentions a Mr Thomas Nugent in Montserrat as early as 1678, and it is probably the same Thomas who by 1684 is referred to as Captain, Marshall, and Member of the Assembly.

In Antigua, the earliest reference is to Darby Newgent and Margaret his wife, the daughter of Captain John Lynch, deceased, who in 1680 sold lands in Antigua, 33 acres in Bermudian valley, (*NV ex JA*) in the south between Pearn's Point and Johnson's Point, to Robert Cardine (?) and 32 acres in Belfast to Mr John Elliott, cooper. A Darby Nugent – presumably the same gentleman – died in July 1719 and was buried at St Philip's.

Other early references to Nugents in Antigua are:

- 1708-9 March 15: Edward Nugent was one of the signatories to “a petition from the gentlemen, freeholders, planters and traders, praying that the assembly (42) may be called”;
- 1714 December 15: Samuel Hicke married Ann Nugent at St Philip;
- 1721-2: William Nugent was one of seventeen to “join the troop”;
- 1723 August 20: William Newgent married Elizabeth Symes at St John;
- 1723 August 23: Judith Newgent buried at St John;
- 1727 January 2: Robert Newgent buried at St John;
- 1728: Thomas Nugent, chirurgeon (surgeon) (?).

*(Some of these are verified in V L Oliver's 'The History of Antigua'.)*

And there are others – Dominick, Eleanor, Richard, two Catherines – with entries in the first half of the century. Not one of them appears in the family pedigree, but it does give rise to the possibility that Walter chose Antigua because of the presence there of kinsmen or friends.

### Early Antigua Years

In 1724 Walter became captain in the Antiguan militia, and later major (prior to December 1736) and colonel (prior to March 1743). He lived at 'Nugent's' a few miles

east of the capital St John's, where he died aged about 70 and was buried at St John's church on August 5<sup>th</sup> 1758 when, it is recorded, he was "carried into church."

Walter and Antoinetta had three sons and six daughters:

- 1) Walter, baptised 21 April 1727, died 9 month later;
- 2) Mary, baptised 6 May 1730; married 25 April 1758 to Stephen Lynch (his third wife: he died 1771); (44)
- 3) Margaret, bap. 21 January 1732, died December 1736;
- 4) Antoinetta, bap. 22 January 1735; married Robert Skerrett, 14 November 1753 at St Johns;
- 5) Oliver, bap. 22 May 1737, son and heir of 'Nugents,' Antigua, an estate of 500 acres;
- 6) Sarah, bap. 28 July 1740, died aged 2;
- 7) Margaret (no record of baptism) married (before 1762) Sir Peter Parker, Bart, Admiral of the Fleet. She died 18 January 1803, he died 21 December 1811, aged 90;
- 8) Eleanor (Elinor), bap. 13 June 1744, died unmarried aged 94 (or 99?);
- 9) Sir Nicholas Tyrel Le Roux Nugent, Bart, bap. 24 May 1747, in the guards, created baronet by George III, died unmarried 1810, aged 63, and the title died with him.

#### Robert Earl Nugent

This might be a suitable place to leave Antigua for a while and introduce Robert Nugent, a prominent figure in English politics for much of the middle part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and created Viscount Clare and Earl Nugent. (*unfinished*) (45)

#### *Oliver Nugent*

*April 1978 - November 1988*

*There follow six pages of the original manuscript, which are not easy to decipher:*

**[Appendix 1 (p. 14) consists of pedigree 1487-1690 scanned but not transcribed.]**

**[Appendix 2 (p. 17) More pedigree - unclear in places – scanned not transcribed.]**

**[Appendix 3 (p. 24b) Notes scanned but not transcribed.]**

**[Appendix 4 (p. 30b) Names of some killed are listed here but not transcribed.]**

**[Appendix 5 (p. 35- reverse of p. 34) contains a family tree: scanned.]**

**[Appendix 6 (p. 39) Family tree scanned but not transcribed.]**

Richard - 2418 = Mary d of St Thomas Major  
his 6 his grandfather of Majorat  
d 1646 1640 - d 1737

Ch. Tople her son Delon = Lady Anne MacDonnell  
elder son d 10 July 1725 d St. Raphael's &  
bure charge, Carleton Anne Latin  
Duch

Richard 2418 = Mary d of St Thomas Major  
his 6 his grandfather of Majorat  
d 1684 1640 d 19th 1737 age 97

Ch. Tople her son Delon = Mary Belle + 45 54  
OVP Rovers

Richard 30E Thomas 4E = Majorat Belle John 50E = Majorat  
Capade Fura Her 6 his Her 6 his wife  
150 April 1714 letter Thos. Majorat  
Her 6 his grandfather d 14th 1752 & Paul King

(1) Christopher d unmarried Mary Catherine Thos 5E = Mary = (2) Cathin  
at Bate 12 Apr 1757 & = Andrew N  
(2) John d unmarried Turlock 6 folow 9 Majorat  
21 July 1745

Richard Thos 6 13 Dec 1742 Thos Feoy Frederic 7E = (1) Mary Anne (2) Lady Elizabeth  
Killer - a deat d ofat 6 18th 1760 d 40 1760 only d of  
11 Aug 1761 sp Dec 1814 Joffris Charles Majorat  
of Majorat

George Thos John = Lady Rich, Ann Mary  
8E, 19 & 20 Majorat small Elizabeth d Majorat of Solist  
of Westmatt, so on

Lady Ann Rich = Fulk Majorat  
Mary Anne penible  
only surviving son Thos to son Majorat

Ears of Worcester  
1684 - 1757  
1821

18 Robert Nuyent of Drumcree etc. younger son of  
 Sir James Nuyent and Elizabeth Hollywood. = Anna Casade  
 Aline 1487

19 Christofler Nuyent only son & heir  
 obd 4<sup>th</sup> October 1526. = ~~Alexandra~~ <sup>Aline</sup>, d of Alexander  
 Pluchet

20 Sir Oliver Nuyent of Drumcree, Knight, b 1509, knighted  
 1546 d 23 May 1567 = Anne d of Thomas Bannhall  
 of Newton. She d 24 Dec 1561.

- (2) Edward Nuyent
- (3) Robert Ose Nuyent  
 Newcastle, Co Westmeath
- (4) The Rt Rev. Edmund Nuyent DD  
 Lord Bishop of Kilmore d 1591
- (5) William Nuyent of New Haggard  
 Co Meath
- (6) James Pellan
- (7) James
- 1 Anna
- 2 Elinor.

21 (1) Christofler sp. (2) Robert Nuyent of  
 Drumcree, heir obd 12 Mar 1561  
 in Anne d of Sir Andrew Oliver  
 Thomas Nuyent of  
 Camrathway Co Meath obd 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 1610

- 1) Marjaret
- 2) Elinor  
 m James  
 Ledwith  
 of Grange  
 Co. W

22 Oliver only child died  
 4<sup>th</sup> April 1573 aged 16  
 Nicholas Nuyent of Drumcree = Anne d of James  
 eldest son & heir b 7 April 1570  
 Birmingham of the  
 City of Dublin

- (2) Robert
- (3) Edward
- (4) Oliver
- (5) Christofler
- 6 Richard
- (1) ...
- (2) ...
- in Ja
- Leds
- Gray
- (3) Elizabeth

23 James Nuyent of Drumcree, eldest s Marynet Dillon  
 son & heir (2) Thomas  
 (3) Lancelin  
 (4) Marynet = James White

24 Oliver Nuyent of Drumcree = James only d of Christofler  
 Nuyent of Drumcree  
 Co Westmeath (2) John  
 (3) Robert called 1690 by 1691

Christopher - 14<sup>th</sup> Baron DeLam

c. 1544 - d. 1602



16-50 Richard, 15<sup>th</sup> Baron DeLam (Christopher's son) (4) Thomas =  
 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Westmoreland (b. 1621) d. 1642 (of Lissajaneau)  
 1583/1642

16-37 Christopher, Lord DeLam Francis John (4) Lawrence  
 d. 1625 VP (1) Thomas  
 (5) Elizabeth  
 (6) William 31  
 God's Will

16 Richard 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl = Mary II  
 1685 heir to his grandfather  
 d. 1684

16-20-21 Christopher Lord DeLam Thomas Lord (3) Francis (5) John 5<sup>th</sup> Earl  
 d. 1681 (4) Francis

20 Richard Thomas John 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup>

17 John Thomas = Charles 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Charles = Charles  
 Charles = Charles

Thomas 7<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> William Arthur 2<sup>nd</sup>

George 7<sup>th</sup> Henry 8<sup>th</sup> Arthur 5<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Arthur 1<sup>st</sup>

Rosa

Wm 9<sup>th</sup>

reverse of 24  
Killed  
across

Foster

F-

46-

(246)

~~20 Hyslop~~

Wm 21 1918 69

~~21  
Dobson  
36~~

57

57 J. L. W.

31 - J. L. W.

32 - J. L. W.

469 Angus 1/1600

35 Hyslop

73 J. L. W. 1690

X Colman R

X W. J.

73 Hyslop

47 Wilson R

570 Hyslop

40 Hyslop - J. L. W.

73

96 Walk (Hyslop)

09 Cozart R

Hyslop

→ 69 Cozart

71 Bullman R

53 Hyslop

99 Mearns R

72 Hyslop

63 Hyslop

99 Bullman

92 Hyslop

07 Hyslop

75 Down R

71 Hyslop, J. L. W.

96 Hyslop

94 Hyslop

Hyslop

95 Hyslop

Hyslop

99 Hyslop

3<sup>rd</sup> E.

D. 1714

46

11 Oct 1911  
of 96 - DNB

5E

Redax's message to Mary →



The title was the title by his brother William the second - 1756

Thomas Noyes of Pallas, Barn Paristh = Maria & Henry Visions Noyes  
2<sup>nd</sup> son of Richard 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Westmore (1662-1735) baron of Pallas

Hyacinth Noyes = Susanna William = Bridget Iqpalis = Elgibot (1) Maria = Susan  
1887 - 2<sup>nd</sup> son 1718 Catharine 3<sup>rd</sup> son Paristh 1719 Duly 1723 Catherine (2) Anne = Patrick Noyes  
Paristh, Capt. 1758 d 1768 (3) Lucy = Decata Baron  
Barth Paristh d 1783 (4) Clara = Thomas Barst  
(5) Francis = Thomas Wilson

(1) Thomas (3) Anthony = Olivia Field (1) Maria = Christoph Jerni

(2) Charles (Christy) 3<sup>rd</sup> son Paristh 1723 (2) Bridget

(3) Jan = Robert Byron  
(4) Anne = John Sparwell (5) Francis = Christoph Chereau

William = Mary Catharine Arthur Anthony Olivia  
Thomas 1794 Bellew of Bellewage = Christoph  
1773-1831 Bellew to Solway JP Bellew  
Bar Paristh (1818)

Arthur Noyes = Maria (Anne) Duly Michael Jane  
of Pallas 1805-1879 = Lady Annick = James Kerney  
Barth Paristh  
Ben to Jerry Frederick  
9 Successors G & F  
of Westmore

William Noyes of Pallas  
Arthur Noyes = 1847 Ella  
Coker.  
of Cremona  
to Julian  
Julian Mary Maria  
Julia

1756

39