

THE WARBURTONS OF GARRYHINCH

Part of

CHRONICLE OF WARBURTON ANCESTRY FROM THE 11TH CENTURY¹

Researched and Written By

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An Anglo-Irish family of Norman descent, they stem from the Warburtons of Arley in Cheshire and were so proclaimed by the late Sir Peter Warburton of Arley, though the precise connection is not clear. The late Sir William Bentham Ulster King of Arms in the early part of the last century, who seems to have been much interested in the family, has entered Richard Warburton of Dublin in a place that he considered appropriate but without connecting lines thus indicating a large measure of uncertainty. He places Richard of Dublin as a son of Peter Warburton of Hefferston and his wife Magdalen Molten.

The second edition of Burke's Landed Gentry designated George of Aughrim the senior of the three brothers, a contention hotly denied by the descendants of Richard. They even went to law about it and lost the case. However the descendants of George have since admitted that Richard was the senior. I mention this to show the fallibility of Burke.

In a document or memoir printed in 1848² to establish the seniority of Richard of Garryhinch over his brother it is stated that "About the middle or the seventeenth century three young men of the name of Warburton, brothers, prompted by the spirit or adventure then strongly prevailing, migrated to that country (Ireland) with a view to improve their fortunes. There is no evidence from any deeds or documents in possession of the elder branch or the family that their father had come to this country at any time. He does not appear to have been possessed of any landed property in it". Yet I have a document from the Dublin College of Arms³ stating that one Richard Warburton of Dublin, merchant, named in a chancery decree dated 8th February 1635 and married to Elizabeth L, Estrange was father to the three young men, Richard, George and John of whom Richard was the eldest. It seems odd that the chronicler for Richard in the mid nineteenth century should not have this information nor were there "any deeds or documents in possession of the elder branch" that disclosed it. It may be explained by

- (a) The Merchant was not "possessed or any landed property" and was thus not eligible for Burke.
- (b) Richard of 1848 spent most on his latter years abroad and the document was prepared by an agent.
- (c) A number of valuable papers and documents had been destroyed during a deplorable family squabble over the inheritance from the second Richard of Garryhinch. With the authority of the College of Arms then I continue .

Richard Warburton, Merchant of Dublin, then had three sons; Richard of Garryhinch; George, called of Aughrim (Eliot's ancestor⁴) and John, of Dublin

Richard the first of Garryhinch married Judith Sandes (Sandys). They had one son and five daughters. I have it on record that Richard Warburton was "Clerk of the Council to Henry Cromwell, Lord Deputy of Ireland" in 1654. As Warburton of Garryhinch was only seventeen at the time it seems possible that this notation may refer to the Merchant though the later and continued interest in politics of Richard Warburton can only refer to the first of Garryhinch. He was MP for Ballyshannon and one of the under Clerks of the Council of State when Charles Ireton was Chief Clerk and Cromwell's son-in-law Ireton was Lord Deputy of Ireland.

At the Restoration Richard was appointed Clerk Assistant. He "joined zealously in the revolution of 1688 which placed William Third on the throne of this Realm. It appears from the diary of Lord Clarendon that he was one of the Irish Gentlemen who came on a deputation to that nobleman to represent the deplorable and depressed state of the Protestants (of Ireland) under the Earl of Tyrconnel".

Richard acquired large estates which passed to his descendants for many generations. He had one son and five daughters. His son, Richard the second of Garryhinch, married Elizabeth Piggot; they had a large family of five sons and three daughters. The estate at that time consisted of some four thousand acres with an annual rent or thirty thousands pounds. Even allowing for the Irish exuberance of the chronicler it was a comfortable estate.

This second Richard of Garryhinch was M.P. for Portarlton from 1692 to 1715 when he died. He left his estate "In strict settlement to his several sons successively by name and to their respective male issue" His oldest son the third Richard died without issue but, ignoring his father's precise instructions bequeathed Garryhinch and other properties to his younger brother Peter, "in holy orders". George, the next in succession, disputed the will on the grounds of his grandfather's will . A lawsuit followed as bitter and prolonged as family quarrels can be. The dispute was ended when "some discreet friends, seeing the ruin that would probably fall on both parties, more especially on the heir whom his uncle Richard sought to disinherit by his will , interposed their offices to produce a reconciliation between the reverend Peter Warburton and his nephew". It was at this time, during the course of the law suit, that many important deeds and papers were presumed to have been destroyed either by the late Richard or his brother Peter.

On the death of Peter without issue John, son of his older brother George, succeeded to Garryhinch and other estates under the will of his grandfather Richard the second. John had served in the army from his youth, and with some distinction. He was at the capture of Quebec under Wolfe as Captain and Adjutant of one of his Majesty's Infantry Regiments. He married Martha Benson and had three sons and one daughter. He was returned three times for Queen's County "but on no occasion without contest". In 1793, at the commencement of the French war, he was commissioned Lt. Col. of the Queen's County Regiment and served with distinction in that unit.

John's oldest son died young and he was succeeded by his second son Richard. Richard married Anne Kemis, the small portraits⁵, and they had an enormous family of eleven sons and four daughters. John the eldest was killed in a duel in Paris and is buried in Pere La Chaise cemetery. Thomas the second son died young and Richard the third son inherited. He married Mary Kelly, they had a family of two sons and six daughters. Mary brought a considerable fortune to the marriage which she left to the daughters and their offspring. Richard and Mary travelled extensively on the continent. Until recently the grandson or their coachman was alive to recount his grandfather's tales of their travels. Richard and Mary died in Florence, probably of

Typhoid, and are buried in the English Cemetery in Florence. I have no record that either of these Richards were ever in politics but they were magistrates.

Their son Richard succeeded; he married first Georgina Wilhemina Hutcheson and had one son Richard who died young, and one daughter. They must have been an extravagant pair as they got through two fortunes, his and hers. Georgina died of cancer and Richard married one of the maids, Bridget Mary McNamara who had four children, one boy and three girls. The boy Harry Richard is an Anglican priest. He too married twice and had two sons by his first wife, Richard and Nigel. One story of my youth is that Richard when he married Bridget Mary changed his name to Patrick and embraced the Catholic faith while Biddy Mary died an the Anglican faith.

Of the other sons of Richard and Anne, William the fifth son was "in holy orders" and is probably the Dean whom my father referred to in his tales of Garryhinch. The owner of Garryhinch had a good Living at his disposal and probably gave it to his brother. I have always had the impression that the Dean was a fine example of the "Sporting Parson" who held his own at the Hunt and at the table. Henry⁶ the seventh son emigrated to Canada ending up in Vancouver; James the eighth son also emigrated to Canada and settled in Prince Edward Island.

Robert the ninth son was commissioned a subaltern in the Indian Army. He was taken prisoner at the siege of Kabul along with Lord Roberts father⁷. They were freed by a niece of Amir Dost of Afghanistan and fled with her, thus escaping the massacre of the English in that city. The lady was already married to an Afghan husband but she obtained a divorce and married Robert Warburton who rose to the rank of Colonel in the Royal Artillery.

One son, Robert (1842-1899) was born in Ghilzai fort. His life was spent at various Indian stations. He was sent to school at Mussoorie until December 1856 when he was sent to Kensington Grammar School, then Addiscombe, the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and was commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1861. The failure of the Agra and Masterman's Bank left him with only his pay to support himself and his mother. He exchanged to the Punjab Infantry Regiment under orders for the Abyssinia campaign. General Napier wrote to the Governor of Punjab recommending him for employment on the Frontier. While serving with the transport train in Abyssinia he had shown great tact in conciliating the natives and received the thanks of Napier. From 1869 he served on the frontier and took part in several enterprises against the hill tribes. Five times complimented by the Government of the Punjab and thrice by the Secretary of State of India. In July 1879 he was appointed Political Officer of the Kyber, which post he held for 18 years. He was promoted to Major in 1881, Lt./Col. in 1887, and CSI in 1890. He resigned in 1897, but was recalled when hostilities broke out due to his incompetent successor. He had repeatedly asked for a successor to be appointed before his retirement as an assistant to follow his policies and succeed to his influence. He was made K.C.I.E. in 1898. The hardships of the Tirah campaign wore out his frame and the loss of the Kyber Posts broke his heart. He died at 3 Russel Road, Kensington on April 22nd 1899.

The Afghan lady had a son by her first husband who was adopted by Robert and given the name John Paul Warburton. He joined the Indian police and became famous in his work. He was known as "Button Sahib" and was the terror of all miscreants. A long obituary appeared in the London Times at the time of his death.

The eldest daughter of Richard and Mary Kelly was Catherine, mother of "the girls" Vi and Eva Barton who lived in London and performed professionally on piano and violin. Another daughter, Jessie married Judge Madden. Ada married Trench who was in command of the garrison at Halifax (Nova Scotia) in 1896 when I met them.

The others were Elinor Mary Ann who married James Hill Poe, a captain in the 94th regiment, Francis Sophie who married Olphert (I met her son Colonel Olphert during the Second World War), and Maud, who never married.

James, my grandfather, was born in 1810. He emigrated to Canada in 1834. He had been asked by two Irish gentlemen who had large grants of land in Prince Edward Island to look into the management of their property. His ship stopped at the Island to take on water and provisions. My grandfather disembarked there and stayed on. There is in the Registry Office in Charlottetown registry or an agreement giving James Warburton Power of Attorney to manage the real estate of Sir Edward Walsh, dated 4th Dec 1834 the year my grandfather arrived in Prince Edward Island. There is a similar document dated July 2nd 1853 giving him Power of Attorney from Sir Hunt J Walsh, presumably Sir Edward's heir. There is a further registration dated 2nd June 1856 a deed or transfer of 500 acres of Lot 11 adjacent to 100 acres already purchased by Jas. Warburton.

He met and married the beautiful Martha Green by whom he had a family of five sons and three daughters. He farmed his six hundred acres and lived on them till 1873 when he moved with the family to Charlottetown. It is probable that the eldest son Richard, who died without issue in 1887 carried on with the farm. Grandfather was a member of the first administration formed in Prince Edward Island for a number of years filling the positions of Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer. Aunt Elizabeth was the oldest of the family, she married a neighbouring farmer James Clark. I saw her only once, a forbidding sort of person. The story is told that on a return trip from Ireland the ship caught fire, the captain was drunk and the crew in a panic. Aunt Elizabeth took charge, ordered blankets to be soaked over the side and spread over the burning cargo. She saved the ship but I never heard that she got any recognition. All the boys were educated at St. Dunstan's and Prince of Wales College, King's College Windsor and Edinburgh University. Three sons, William George and James studied medicine at Edinburgh. Alexander Bannerman (A.B.) studied two years at King's College followed by a year in Arts and Sciences at Edinburgh and a year in London with a tutor. Anne, having visited cousins in Ireland, came back to the Island and married Robert Stewart of Strathgartney. Martha, the third daughter, died at the age of seven and is buried in the cemetery at lot 11.

William and George went into the Indian Medical Service. William was for some time protector or tutor to the Rajah Kapurtala during his minority. On his retirement from the service he was appointed superintendent of the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh and made a Companion of the Star of India. He married Harriet Melville and had two sons and a daughter. Melville of the Horse artillery married Muriel Henderson and had two daughters. Phillip of the Indian Police died without issue and Daisy who married Sir James Roberts of the Indian Medical Service attached to the Vice Regal Staff.

George married Maud Comber and had a family of one daughter and six sons of whom three succumbed to the Indian climate and one was born in PEI. He invested in a tea plantation in Assam and retired to PEI where he had a farm at Belleville. Surviving the Indian climate and mad dogs were;

- 1- Molly who married a Capt. Watson of the US Navy and had one son, Richard; she lived to a ripe old age near Seattle.
- 2- Richard who enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1914 and was killed in the trenches.

- 3- Hugh a Rhodes Scholar who on graduation was appointed to the Colonial Office an Africa. His ship was torpedoed on the way back to Africa from a leave in PEI.
- 4- George Patrick was born in Charlottetown about the turn of the century, the last I heard of him he was with a lumber company in B.C.

A.B. Studied law with Louis, afterward Sir Louis Davies. He was admitted to the P.E.I. bar in 1878 and practised at first alone and then in partnership. Interested an politics, he was appointed secretary of the Liberal Association of Queen's County. He represented the First District of Queen's in the Provincial House for some years and became Premier in 1897. In 1898 he was appointed Judge of the Court of King's County. He later represented Queens in the federal House and in 1910 was appointed a delegate to the conference on the "Representation of the Maritime Provinces in Parliament" held in St. John that year.

James. my father, was very active an local affairs, he was thrice Mayor of Charlottetown and was an M.P.P. for several years. All this and a large medical practice kept him busy. He was also "Associated with the Military service for many years". He joined the 82nd. Battalion in 1883 as Medical Officer. He rose to the rank of Colonel. He went to Queen Victoria's diamond Jubilee in 1897 as a representative from the Island. I think it was during his term as mayor that he was offered a knighthood which he refused. I do not know why he refused, he told me that he could not afford it. He was a first class surgeon with an enviable reputation among his fellow practitioners, at home and abroad. I remember one of the leading surgeons in Montreal told me that father was wasted in The Island, he should have been practising in Montreal where his skill would be properly appreciated. However he was happy on has beloved Island and did much good there. I quote from his obituary in the Canadian Medical Association Journal:

"James Warburton was the son of the late Hon. James Warburton, a native of Ireland, who came to Prince Edward Island in 1834 and became a Member of the first administration formed in this Province under responsible government and for a number of years filled the offices of Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer.

"Dr. Warburton received his elementary education in the public schools followed by four years at St. Dunstan's College. Subsequently he passed through Prince of Wales College and King's College, Windsor Nova Scotia whence he went to Edinburgh entering the Medical department of that university from which he graduated an 1880. He was one of the dressers to the great Lister and was a classmate of Dr Conan Doyle..... first practised in Fifeshire, Scotland where he remained for two years. (I have a letter written to his sister telling or his first patient, pulled a tooth, his fee sixpence). In 1882 he entered the medical profession in Charlottetown".

I remember him as the kindest and most understanding or fathers, his understanding was more appreciated an later years. He was a disciplinarian, though he was never harsh he could at times be devastatingly sarcastic. He was absorbed in his profession. When Uncle Willie was head of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, he made several trips across the Atlantic to brush up on the latest developments . One such trip coincided with a visit from the Rajah of Kapurtala. On his return he regaled us with descriptions of the jewels of the Rajah and the magnificent dinner provided. Oddly enough Aunt Harriet never mentioned the Rajah. I understand that these entertainments were a considerable strain on uncle Willie's finances.

Father and mother were married on July 13th 1887. She was the youngest daughter of Dr. William Hobkirk and his wife Louisa Margaretta Hensley, daughter of Capt. Hensley R.N.

Mother was a wonderful person, very pretty and devoted to her husband and children. She used to read to us when lessons were over. She read well with a lovely voice. It was then that we learned to love and appreciate the nineteenth century authors who are not much read these days. She read current authors too but my memories are mainly of Scott and Dickens and Thackeray.

Mother was an accomplished needle woman who made most of our clothes. She ran her house well. In those days we had servants to help, and they did help. They were very necessary where the office bell or telephone were on the go day and night. Mother was a great sport, playing golf and tennis. She had her own carriage and could get out to the links or the tennis court when she wanted. We were not wealthy by any standard but were comfortably off and could by careful management enjoy the amenities or life as provided in Charlottetown at that time. She had a keen sense of humour and a toleration for human frailties. She dearly loved a party and was a delightful hostess at home and for such official functions as came her way in the capacity of Mayoress or member's wife. She was a devout Christian and a strong supporter of the church, always by preference sitting at the back of the church. She was completely unselfish, too much taken up with the happiness and comfort of her family. I am afraid I took her too much for granted, she was always there to comfort and sustain us.

She was Regent of the local branch of the Daughters of the Empire from its inception and for some years but eventually gave it up, also an active member of the Soldier's Wives league during and after the Boer War.

Notes

1. This text is transcribed from a typed manuscript provided by Chris Warburton, grandson of the author. In transcribing the document I have corrected obvious typographical errors, applied a spellchecker (UK English), and made a few minor formatting and punctuation changes, but the actual words are left intact.
2. This document is reproduced on the Irish Midlands Ancestry site at: http://www.irishmidlandsancestry.com/content/family_history/families/warburton.htm
3. This should probably refer simply to the College of Arms. James Warburton's correspondent was probably Conrad Swan, the York Herald of the College of Arms
4. Eliot Warburton was a friend and contemporary of the author.
5. These portraits are still in the family.
6. This is Henry Hume Warburton who was in the Dominion Civil Service in Vancouver and who had an entry in Burke's Colonial Gentry. He had one son, Henry Egerton Warburton, and one daughter, but have no knowledge if any of his descendants survive today.
7. Robert's step son adopted the Warburton name. As John Paul Warburton he was referred to as "the super detective of the Punjab". The re is a town of

Warburton in the Punjab named after him. Robert's genealogy can be found at: <http://www.royalark.net/Afghanistan/warburto.htm>