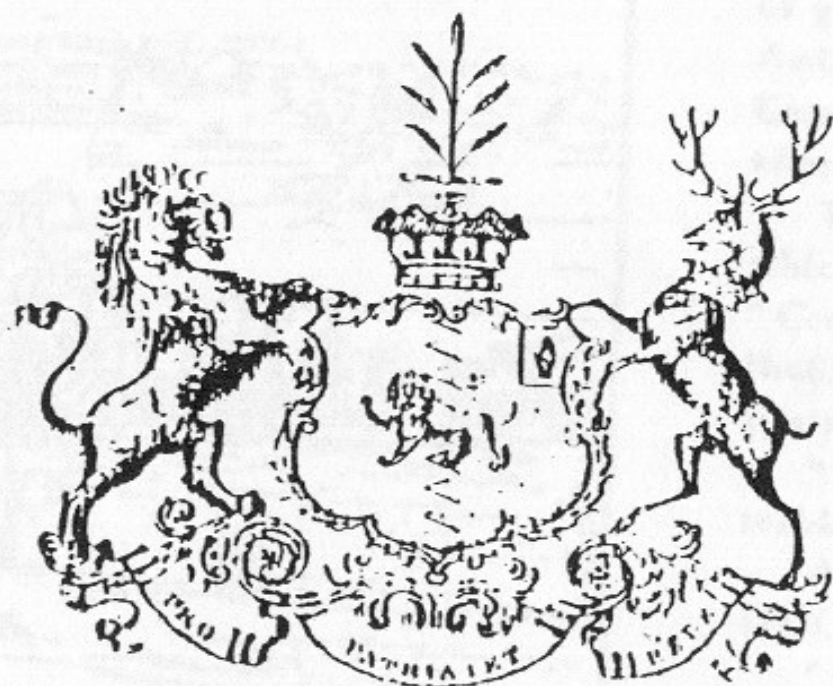


The
Story of Mote.

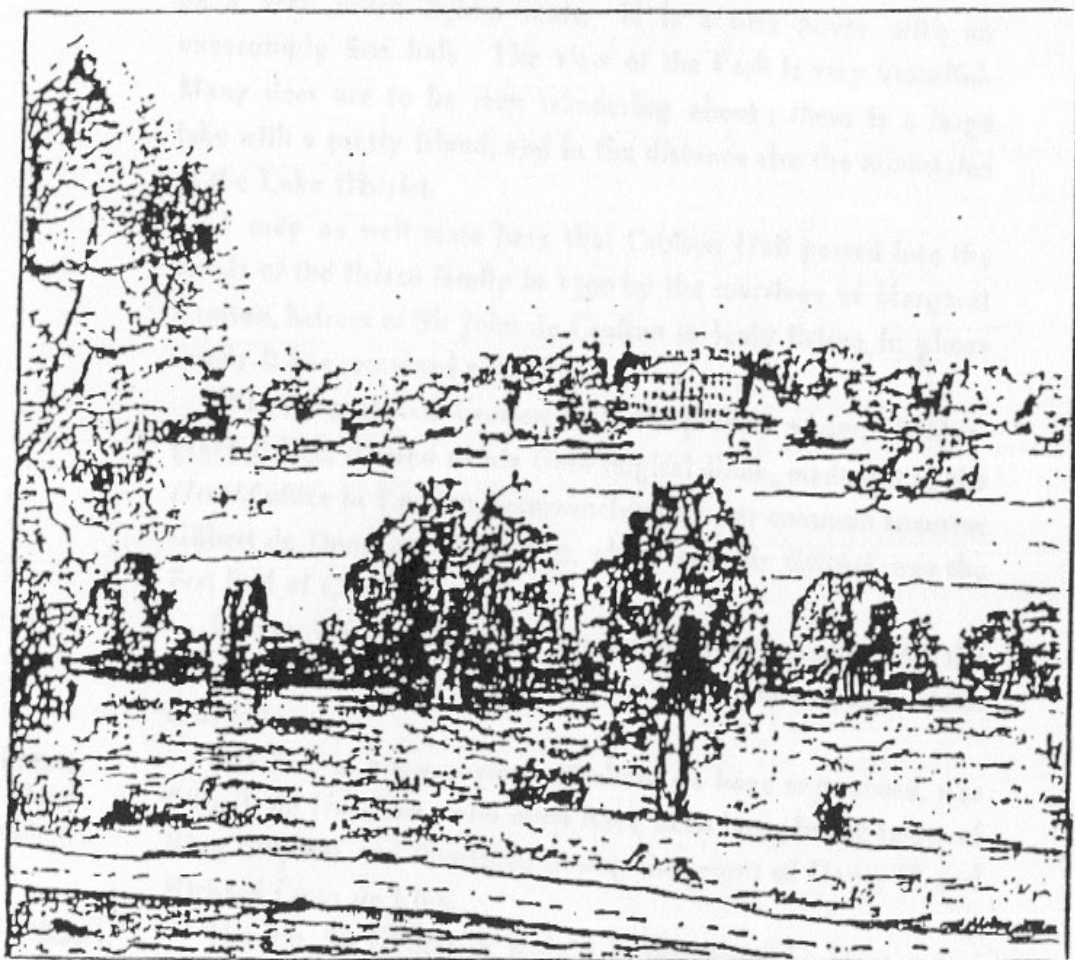
Written for my Brother.



By Francis Crofton.

Illustrated by G. Crofton.

1895.



Mote

The story of Mote is gathered from a hasty look at some of the old papers in the library there.

Time did not allow of an examination of them all, or even of making full notes from those that were read.

Should opportunity occur, something more might be found to make this little family story fuller and more interesting.

Our story of Mote commences with John Crofton, the Escheator-General in 1572, but the chronicles of the Croftons, as given by the old authorities, namely, Playfair's Brit. Family Antiquities, Collier's Peerage, and N. and B. History of Cumberland, Denton's MSS, with Gilpin's Additions, begin about the year 1150.

These authorities give us the origin of the name "Crofton," which, they say, is pure Saxon, being formed of two words, "Croft," a small enclosed field or *holding*, and "Ton," a town—that is, a town or *place* situated on or surrounded by fields or pastures.

"The name of the family undoubtedly arose from a local residence of one of its ancestors at Croft-town, in Cumberland."

A short description of Crofton Manor, now called Crofton Hall, is given as follows:—

"Crofton is the next town and Manor to Thursby, in the parish of Thursby, and lies between Thursby and Parton, towards the East and West, and between the rivers of Wampool and the Pow; on the South and North it is 'Croft town,' as the town standing upon the Crofts."—(Denton's MSS., with Gilpin's Addition.)

Some of us visited the place in 1898, and admired it very much. It stands in a pretty little valley 8 miles South of

II.

Carlisle. The entrance gate, with an imposing-looking stag on top, reminds one of the Lion Gate at Mote, only that this one is on a very much lighter scale. It is a nice house, with an exceedingly fine hall. The view of the Park is very beautiful. Many deer are to be seen wandering about; there is a large lake with a pretty island, and in the distance rise the mountains of the Lake District.

I may as well state here that Crofton Hall passed into the hands of the Brisco family in 1390 by the marriage of Margaret Crofton, heiress of Sir John de Crofton to Isold Brisco, in whose family it has remained ever since.

When we visited Crofton Hall, the present owner, Sir Musgrave Brisco, showed us his Genealogical Book, made out in the *Herald* office in London, commencing with our common ancestor Gilbert de Dundraw, about 1150, whose son, Sir Gilbert, was the first lord of Crofton.

This authentic pedigree of the family agrees exactly with the account already named given by the old historians, and which is as follows:—

The first of our ancestors, of whom we have any record, was Gilbert de Dundraw, who must have been born in the reign of King Stephen, and flourished during the reigns of Henry II. and Richard Cœur de Lion.

His son, Sir Gilbert, a Knight, is mentioned by Denton and Playfair as the first lord of Crofton, and he lived in the reign of King John. "He gave a parcel of the same (viz., his lands) to the Hospital of St. Nicholas of Carlisle, and bounded it out in the place called Gilmarthin Riddin."

He bound that land to grind at his mill at Crofton.

Next after him the lords of Crofton had to their surname

III.

Crofton, as Stephen de Crofton, John de Crofton, Robert de Crofton.

Sir Gilbert had two daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom, Ada, married Stephen de Crofton.

We do not know who the latter was, but we suppose he must have been a cousin, as he took his name from their property.

With Ada, Stephen got besides Crofton Manor, lands of Carlisle, Dundraw, Whinnow, and Birskeagh, which, correctly, is Brisco.

They had a son John, who gave land to the Priory of Carlisle.

He was succeeded by his son Robert, who also gave lands to the Church of Carlisle.

He was succeeded by his son John, who was again succeeded by his son Clement, who died in the 43rd year of King Edward III. (1370), and was succeeded by his son Sir John, who had a son Adam, who died young. His daughter and heiress, Margaret, was married about the 14th year of Richard II. (1390) to Isold Brisco, of Brisco, in the same County, and Crofton Manor passed into the hands of the Brisco's, who are thus Croftons on the maternal side. They hold it to this day. Besides Crofton, Isold got with his wife the Manors of Whinnow and Dundraw.

The foregoing account only makes mention of the eldest son and successor. We cannot, therefore, be quite certain as to where we branched off. In all probability, however, it was with one "Thomas," for, at the Record Office in Dublin, there is a record, dated Feb. 22, 1232, of a safe conduct to Ireland being guaranteed to "Thomas de Crofton."

He was contemporaneous with, and probably a brother of

Ada and
Stephen.

John de
Crofton.
Robert de
Crofton.
John de
Crofton.
Clement,
d. 1370.
Sir John
de Crofton,
1370.
Margaret
de Crofton,
m. 1390.

Gilbert,
b. about
1150.

Sir Gilbert,
Kt., b.
about
1176.

Sir Gilbert, first Lord of Crofton, and from him, probably, we are descended.

There is an old map extant showing the localities of some of the principal families in Ireland in the 13th century, with the name "Crofton" marked near Roscommon where Mote is. This is possibly where Thomas settled, and where the family have been ever since established.

If we doubt the family came to Ireland in the 13th century, then we must throw the old map overboard altogether, which we see no reason whatever for doing, as it seems good evidence. If, however, it is not accepted, then it is clear our ancestors must have come over before the first quarter of the 16th century, as we find them established here in 1551.

At present we have no authentic record of the family from the time of the last of the Croftons, of Crofton Hall, until William. But there is nothing extraordinary in this.

In the first place records may exist, though we do not know where to look for them, and besides, in those troubled times, records, both public and private, were so often burnt, or otherwise destroyed, that the wonder is that any remain extant, not that many are lost. Even in George's time the Castle was sacked no less than twice, and all his possessions carried off.

Sir Bernard Burke, in his Peerage, says that the founder of the family in Ireland was John, who came over with Essex.

This is obviously incorrect, as John was a man of importance, and held office some time before Essex landed. We also know of a William Crofton in 1551, which proves that the family was established in Ireland 22 years before the time of Essex.

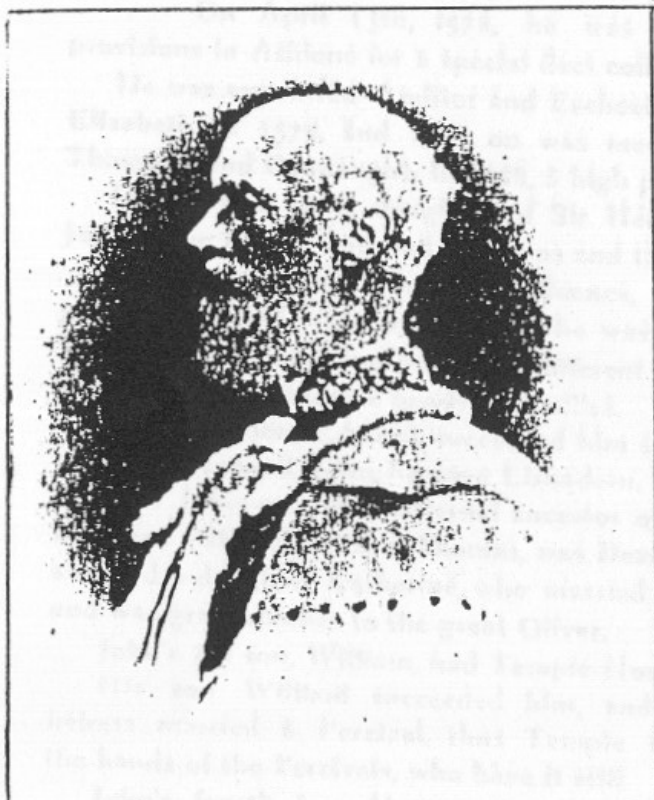
This theory, which always seemed sufficiently clear to me, I

have since found corroborated by "The History of Sligo," by T. O'Rourke, which says:—

"It is said by Sir Bernard Burke that the first Crofton that settled in Ireland came over with Essex, but this, if possible, is very unlikely, as we find John Crofton already in office as Clerk of the Provincial Council in Connaught in 1572, the year *previous* to that in which Essex landed in this country on his ill-fated mission. That John Crofton was not Escheator-General on his arrival in Ireland appears from a letter of Queen Elizabeth addressed to Sir William Drury, Lord Justice, and dated Feb. 22nd, 1579, directing the appointment of John Crofton to the office of Escheator and Feudary" (Moylan's Patent and Close Rolls of Elizabeth, p. 26).

The fact, which is sufficiently proved, of the residence of John in Ireland, previous to the arrival of Essex, the record of the journey of Thomas to Ireland in 1232, and the evidence of the 13 cent. map shows the position of the family in the place where it is known to have been for the last 330 years—all goes to support the supposition that the Crofton family have been at Mote for over 660 years. There is at least nothing against this theory, and all we know of the family history is all in favour of it.

The fact, too, that John was granted lands in Roscommon is further in favour of this view, as when granted land he would naturally like to have it in the County in which he already held property. It may have been attained by Mary (he being a Protestant), and given back to him by Elizabeth.



Edward, 3rd Bn. Crofton, to whom
this book is dedicated.
He is wearing peer's robes
for the coronation of Edward VII.
1834-1912 1902



Captain Hon. Francis Crofton
when he was Harbour Master
of Kingstown.

John.
15—

We now commence the story of *Moté* with John, who was called John of Ballymurry, and also John of Connaught.

On April 13th, 1572, he was directed to obtain provisions in Athlone for a special fleet collecting in Ireland.

He was appointed Auditor and Escheator-General to Queen Elizabeth in 1579, and later on was made Commissioner of Thomond and Connaught, in 1588, a high post in those days.

He married Jane, daughter of Sir Henry Duke, of Castle Jordan, Co. Meath, and had four sons and three daughters.

He was not only a man of influence, but must also have possessed considerable property, as he was able to give each of his four sons estates and houses in different counties. Each of them eventually became heads of families.

His eldest son, Edward, succeeded him at Moté.

To his second, John, he gave Lisnadern, in Co. Roscommon.

This John was the maternal ancestor of Oliver Goldsmith, the Poet. His eldest son, Thomas, was Dean of Elphin in 1663, and had a daughter Katherine, who married Robert Goldsmith, and was grandmother to the great Oliver.

John's 3rd son, William, had Temple House, Co. Sligo.

His son William succeeded him, and his daughter and heiress married a Percival, thus Temple House passed into the hands of the Percivals, who have it still.

John's fourth son, Henry, was given Mohill Castle, Co. Leitrim, and was the ancestor of the present Sir Morgan Crofton, Bart., of Mohill.

John, the Escheator, was succeeded at Moté by his eldest son, Edward, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Captain Robert Moyston (by Julia, daughter of O'McLaughlin, whose ancestors were Kings of Meath).

John of
Lisnadern.

William of
Temple
House.

Henry of
Mohill.

Edward.
— to
1627.

They had four sons: 1st—George, who succeeded his father at Moté; 2nd—Thomas, who settled at Longford House, Co. Sligo, and was the ancestor of the present Sir Malby Crofton, Bart., of Longford House; 3rd—John, died unmarried; 4th—William, settled in Mayo. We have reason to believe that it was Edward's grandchildren who, later on, distinguished themselves at the siege of Derry.

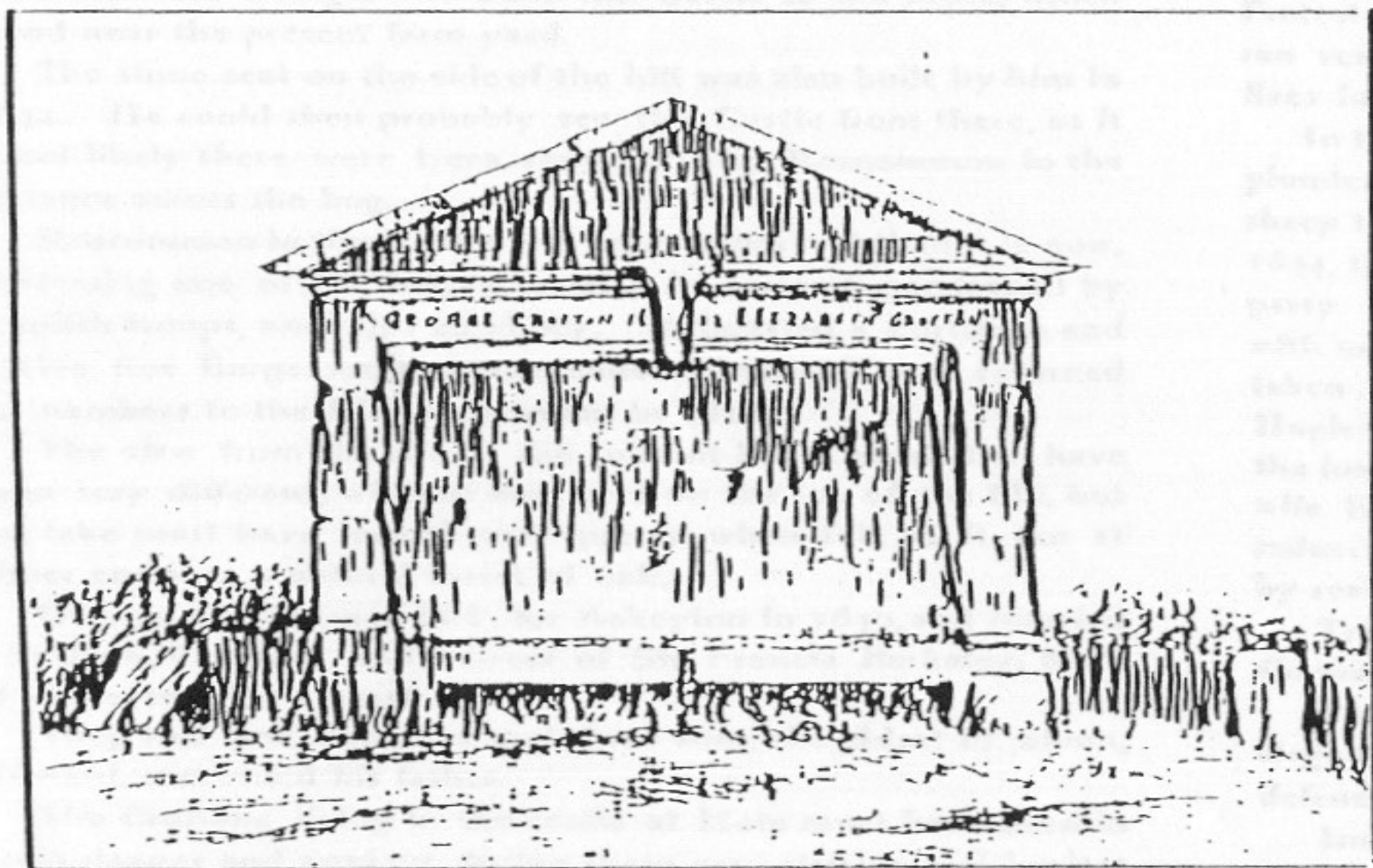
There is mention of four or five Croftons there who distinguished themselves. A Colonel Richard Crofton appears to have held an important command. Walker, in his History of Derry, mentions him as having been left to maintain the post against the enemy, which he did with good resolution.

In Graham's *Derrilana* there are four more Crofton's mentioned:—

"Crofton and Hammill, the same station grace,
These and the Volunteers defend the place;
Young Francis Crofton to the battle flew,
And with his sword a multitude he slew."

Crofton and Dashford did much honour gain,
By Captain Noble multitudes were slain.

To return to Edward and his history, we know very little more about him, except that O'Rorke in the History of Sligo, says:—"Edward Crofton, John's son, was as great a favourite with James I. as his father had been with Elizabeth, and accordingly we find the king in the first year of his reign writing to the Lord Lieutenant, and directing him to grant to Edward Crofton, son of John Crofton, of Connaught in Ireland, for good services done to Queen Elizabeth and the Crown, by him and



The old Seat

his father, the reversion of all such lands as the said John Crofton holds of the king by any leases for years yet unexpired."

George.
1627 —

This Edward died January 19th, 1627, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George, who built the Castle of the Mote, which stood near the present farm yard.

The stone seat on the side of the hill was also built by him in 1632. He could then probably see the Castle from there, as it is not likely there were trees round it, and Roscommon in the distance across the bog.

Roscommon in those days was more important than it is now, possessing one of the largest castles in Ireland garrisoned by English troops, and also an abbey. It boasted a Portrieve and twelve free Burgesses, and was made a borough and returned its members to the Irish Parliament in 1613.

The view from the site of the present house must then have been very different, without any trees on the top of the hill, but the lake must have looked very pretty when full, as it ran at either end into a natural forest of oak.

George was returned M.P. for Askeyton in 1639, and married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir Francis Berkeley, M.P., of Askeyton, Co. Limerick.

They had one daughter and three sons, the eldest of whom, Edward, succeeded his father.

The Croftons, living in the castle at Mote must have been in great danger and anxiety during these very stirring and lawless times, the country being in rebellion from 1640 to 1660.

There was constant fighting going on round them.

The ancient Catholic families, joining with the Irish rebels, obtained entire possession of the country.

To these the Croftons were strongly opposed, being staunch Protestants and Royalists, and as party spirit and religious feud ran very high, they may almost be said to have carried their lives in their hands.

In the beginning of the rebellion, George Crofton's castle was plundered by some of the Kellys, and his horses, cows, and sheep taken to the value of £2,000; and afterwards, in the year 1644, the house was surprised by one Donogh O'Connor and his party. George and Edward faithfully defended the house, but with much loss and expense, all their goods and chattels being taken away, and carried by Donogh O'Connor to his father, Hugh O'Connor's house, at Castlereagh and disposed of by them—the loss this time amounting to £3,000. His (George Crofton's) wife Elizabeth and his sons and daughters were consequently reduced to a "very sad and low condition, and therein continued by reason of the estate having yielded no manner of profit."

Troops from Athlone, under Lord Ranelagh, President of Connaught, twice defeated the rebels in the neighbourhood.

The Croftons must have watched with great anxiety the siege of the Castle of Roscommon (in 1642), which made a brave defence against the assaults of the Insurgent forces.

Imagine the consternation at Mote, when they heard the news that the Castle had fallen into the hands of the rebels, who then held it for ten years, until 1652, when it was taken by the Parliamentary army! The anxiety at Mote must have been still further increased by the fighting going on at Athlone, the cannonading occasionally being heard.

See
Appendix.

The Castle (at Athlone) sustained a siege of 22 weeks, and the English inhabitants were in a state of great danger, until relieved by troops from Dublin, under the Duke of Ormonde, whose forces, however, were not sufficiently strong to effect any permanent relief. They gained an undecisive battle at Ballin-tubber, but Athlone again fell into the hands of the rebels.

Dangerous and difficult as the position of the Croston family was during this rebellion, it must have been doubly so afterwards, when to all the dangers arising from the lawless rebels was added the dread of Cromwell's soldiers, Roscommon Castle falling into their hands after a bombardment, the effects of which are still visible in the breach between the two towers on the north side.

George Croston must have died about this time, and his son succeeded him. Mr. Edward Croston, as he then was, sent in a petition to the Commissioners of the Commonwealth of England for the affairs of Ireland, stating that his father's house had been twice attacked by the rebels, and property to the value of £2,000 the first time, and £3,000 the second, carried away by them, and that, in consequence, he and his mother, brothers, and sisters were in a "sad and low condition," having no profit from the estate. He asks that he may be granted such portions of the Kellys and O'Connors lands as shall compensate him for what they took from him, such lands to be in Leinster, and he also asks to be allowed to exchange his own lands in Connaught for their equivalent in Leinster. He received an answer, dated 13th January, 1653, to the effect that when the Kellys and O'Connors were given back their estates by the Act of Settlement, he might proceed to take his remedy at law, and that as to his other request, relative to the exchange of his lands in Connaught, the matter should receive consideration. Five years

1652.

Edward,
1st Bart.,
—1675.
See Ap-
pendix.

later he sent in a petition asking to "partake of the grace and clemency held forth by a declaration giving the Protestants further time to compound for their estates."

He received an answer dated Dublin, 3rd December, 1658, to the effect that "it was ordered to ascertain the fine for the same, and to make report thereof unto this Board for further consideration."

We know nothing further as to the result of either petition; but we are glad his request for exchanging his land was not granted. Had it been, *we* should have had no Mote.

Edward, being a staunch Loyalist, and at the same time, opposed to the rebels, was, during the Commonwealth, as it were between two fires. How he managed to defend himself and help his sovereign we are unable to say, but this we know, that he maintained himself and the king's cause so well that immediately upon the accession of Charles II., he was created a Baronet for his services by patent dated 1st July, 1661. He was also M.P. for Lanesborough, and High Sheriff for the Counties of Roscommon and Leitrim. He married (according to Sir B. Burke), firstly, Mary, daughter of Sir James Ware, and had one son, James, who died young, and secondly, Susanna Clifford (who afterwards married Gerald Dillon), and had one son, Edward, who succeeded him. According, however, to a document found in the library at Mote, he married, firstly, Elizabeth Clifford niece to the celebrated Lord Clifford, who was leader of Charles II.'s famous Cabal, and had one son, Edward, who succeeded him, and secondly, Susanna Croston, by whom he had no issue. Sir Edward died in 1675, and was succeeded by his only son, Edward, a minor at his father's death.

He married, according to the entry in the old prayer book,

1658.

Edward,
1st Bart
—1675.

Edward
2nd Bart.,
1675-1729

Edward Croston

St George

8

"Katherine St. George, daughter of Sir Oliver St. George, of Headford, in ye County of Galway, on Feb' 2nd, 1681, about 7 o'clock at night, being the day Charles ye Second sickened."

They had two sons—Edward, born at Headford, May 25th, 1687, and Oliver, born at Mote, 1688. Oliver settled at Liscannore, Co. Limerick, and married Katherine Armstrong, but their union was not a long one, as Oliver was drowned at Quebec in 1709 at the age of 21. They had a posthumous son, Oliver, born 1710, who eventually succeeded to the baronetcy. The year 1689 was an unfortunate one for Sir Edward, as on May 7th he was attainted by James II.'s Parliament, thereby losing his estates. Having to leave Mote, he went to London, where he lost his wife in September of the same year. She was buried in St. Martin's Church. His estates were restored almost immediately after on the accession of William and Mary.

Sir Edward lived in just as troubled times as his ancestors, and in the summer of 1691 must have been kept in a constant state of anxiety, as the war of the rebellion was then at its height, and the siege of Athlone was prosecuted with the utmost vigour by De Ginkell.

Between the 20th and 30th of June 12,000 cannon balls, many tons of stone shot, and 50 tons of powder were fired at the Castle. This heavy cannonading would have been heard on still summer evenings at Mote, and it must have been a great relief to Sir Edward's mind when he heard that Athlone was taken, and St. Ruth and the rebels were defeated shortly afterwards at Aughrim by William's army, with whom, of course, his sympathies were. He was not afraid of showing his colours as, some years after, in 1711, he put up a sundial, at present in the garden, with the inscription—

9

"May those be blest with length of days
That still proclaim King William's praise."

He appears to have been of a sturdy and determined character. There is a document among the papers in the library, being a curious agreement between Sir Edward Crofton and Sir Robert King, of Rockingham, in which they agree to take from their Majesties, or those commissioned by them, several estates which had been forfeited in Roscommon during the Rebellion, and which they were to divide between them equally, binding themselves under a penalty of £1,000 to carry out the agreement, and appointing arbitrators in case of a dispute.

Sir Edward was returned to Parliament for Boyle in 1695 and as knight of the shire of Roscommon in 1705, which county he continued to represent for 24 years, and even till his death. He was also a member of Queen Ann's Privy Council, 1714. In 1714 he built Derrydonald Bridge, on which he recorded that he built it "at his own expense for his own use."

This Sir Edward was in possession for 54 years, which was longer than any other representative of the family. He died in Dublin on the 24th November, 1729, and was buried on the hill.

He was succeeded by his son Edward, born in 1687, thus being 42 years of age at the time of his succession. He was member for the county.

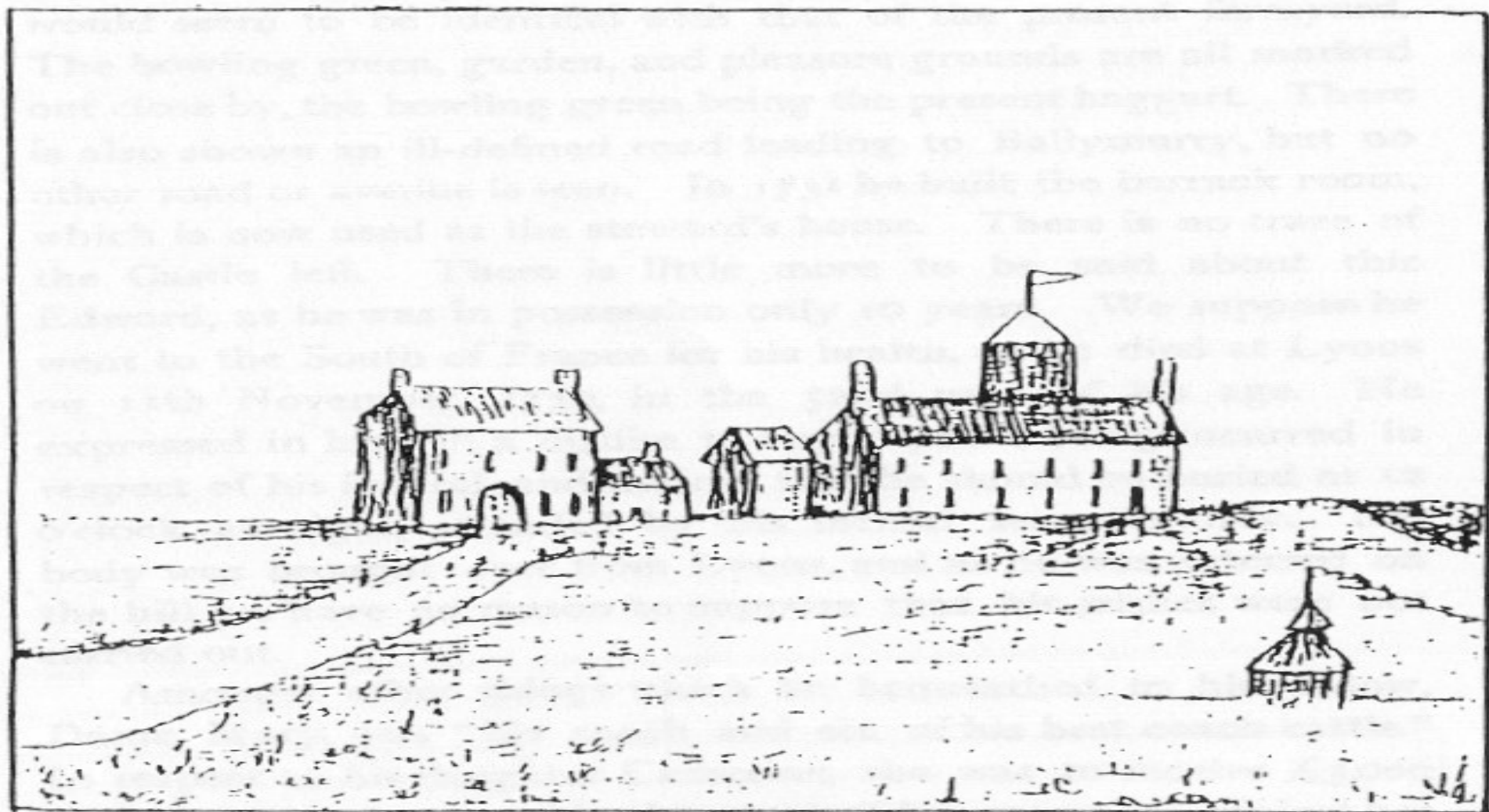
In 1711 he was married to Mary, daughter of Antony Nixon, Esq., of Dublin. They had two children—Edward, born in Mary Street in 1713, and Katherine, born in Henry Street, 13th July, 1722.

There is a map of the demesne, garden, and offices made during his time (1730), with a small sketch of the offices, with

1693.
See Appendix

Edward,
3rd Bart.
1729-1739.

Edw. 3rd Bart.



The Mote of other days
(from an old Map - 1730)

what appears to be the Castle showing above the roof of one of the houses, as it is square, with a flag on the top of it. This site would seem to be identical with that of the present farmyard. The bowling green, garden, and pleasure grounds are all marked out close by, the bowling green being the present haggart. There is also shown an ill-defined road leading to Ballymurry, but no other road or avenue is seen. In 1731 he built the barrack room, which is now used as the steward's house. There is no trace of the Castle left. There is little more to be said about this Edward, as he was in possession only 10 years. We suppose he went to the South of France for his health, as he died at Lyons on 11th November, 1739, in the 52nd year of his age. He expressed in his will a dislike to any expense being incurred in respect of his funeral, and desired that he should be buried at 12 o'clock at night, attended by his menial servants only. His body was brought over from Lyons, and as he was interred on the hill we have no reason to suppose that his wishes were not carried out.

Amongst other things which he bequeathed to his widow, Dame Mary, was "his coach and six of his best coach cattle." In respect to his daughter Catherine, she was to receive £3,000 on her marriage, except in the event of her marrying against her mother's will, in which case this amount would revert to her brother Edward.



Edward was succeeded by his only son, Edward, aged 26. He was M.P. for the County of Roscommon. In 1741, on the 17th June, between 6 and 7 in the evening, he married Martha, daughter of Joseph Damer, Esq., of Came, Dorsetshire, and sister of the 1st Earl of Dorchester, but had no issue. On 9th September, 1744, his sister, Katherine, married, without the consent of any of her relations or friends, Mr. Marcus Lowther, second son of George Lowther, Esq., of Kilrue, Co. Meath. This was so strongly opposed by her family that, we find, she had to go to her father-in-law's place to be married.

Edward,
4th Bart.,
1739-1745.

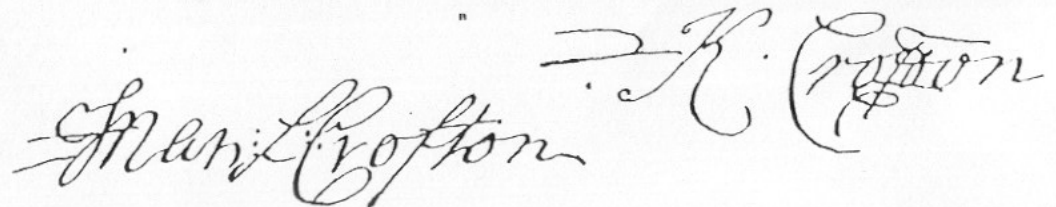
Marcus Lowther was grandson of Edward Lowther, of Kilrue, whose great-grandfather, William Lowther, was the son of Sir Christopher Lowther, of Lowther, Cumberland, the ancestor of the Lonsdale family. He was, therefore, the sixth in direct line from the Lowthers of Lowther.

On March 26th of the following year, Sir Edward died at Mote, in the 32nd year of his age, having enjoyed the title and property for only six years. In a draft will of his we find that he cut off his sister Katherine Lowther with the sum of "one shilling sterling," leaving all his estate to Oliver Crofton, Esq., and his heirs, and failing them to Henry St. George, Esq., of Woodsgift, Kilkenny, on condition that he assumed the name and arms of Crofton. It is fortunate, however, for us that this will was never signed, and that the estates eventually became the property of Katherine Lowther (his sister and heiress-at-law), otherwise the present Mote family would never have existed.

Katherine
and Sir
Marcus
Lowther
Crofton,
1745-1784.

The title of 5th Baronet, in the ordinary course of events, devolved upon Sir Oliver Crofton, of Lissanarre, Sir Edward's first cousin. Sir Oliver claimed the property from Marcus and

Sir Oliver,
5th Bart.,
1745-1780.



Katherine, his wife, stating that her brother, Sir Edward, had made a will in his favour, dated 1741, which he left sealed up in his (Oliver's) hands for safe custody. On the 1st April, 1745, soon after Sir Edward's death, Sir Oliver came to Mote, and met Dame Martha (the widow), Marcus Lowther, his brother, and a certain Mr. Cane; and before any of the late Sir Edward's papers were examined stated that he held this will, which he had left in Dublin. Pending a settlement of their respective claims, he proposed that he and Marcus should quit Mote, and leave Martha in temporary possession of everything.

They then sealed up in the presence of one another, the cupboard in which Sir Edward kept his papers, and afterwards they left the place.

Martha, however, immediately proceeded to Dublin, "but leaving most of her family at Mote, and, more particularly, three persons in charge." Notwithstanding the agreement previously mentioned, Marcus returned to Mote on the 29th April, "with many persons in arms, and forcibly broke into the gates of the mansion house and deer park, and entered the same and the demesne, and broke several of the locks and doors of the house, particularly the lock of the closet where Sir Edward usually kept his deeds and papers, and forcibly carried them away, and Marcus Lowther forcibly possessed himself of the said mansion house, and still continues in possession of the same."

The will, which was stated by Sir Oliver to be in his possession, was disputed by Marcus, and one John Crofton was indicted for forging it. The trial was begun in Roscommon in 1746, and Sir Oliver (who was a barrister) defended the case, which was considered most extraordinary, considering the great personal interest which he held in it. The trial terminated in favour of

Marcus, and we find the following entry in the family prayer book:—"Friday, ye 10th of May, 1751. God Almighty ended my troubles by permitting me to overcome my wicket and vile enemy Oliver, by a verdict given for me in the Court of Common Pleas after a long and vexatious law sute of six years and two months for my hole estate."

Sir Marcus and Katherine had ten children, as follows, viz. :—

1. Edward, {eldest son, who became 5th baronet.
born 6th August, 1745.
2. Georges, {born 13th June, 1747.
died in the lifetime of his father.
3. Marcus, {born 11th October, 1748.
died in 7th year of his age (entry in prayer book).
4. George, {born 28th February, 1749.
died in 15th year of his age (at school).
5. Hamilton L., {born 11th October, 1751.
Major in 13th Dragoons; died at sea in 1796.
(Two miniatures in drawing room; entry in prayer book.)
6. Katherine, {born 6th June, 1753. Married to James Somerville, eldest son of Sir Quaile Somerville, and became Lady Somerville, and died July, 1775, leaving three sons.
7. Sophia, {born 19th May, 1756, married Baron Metge,
died November, 1778, leaving one son and one daughter.
8. Marcus, {born 13th June, 1757.
died in 1786.

Edw. Crofton

Ham L. Crofton

9. John Frederick,

born 13th October, 1758. Married Mary Thorney. He had two daughters and six sons, two only of whom left any children—(1) Edward Lowther, Captain R.N., C.B., born 1783, and had two children, who died with issue. (2) Frederick Lowther, Lieut. R.N., who died at sea, leaving two sons (1) Frederick Charles Edward, (2) Stephen Smith, (3) Anne-Elizabeth. Frederick Charles Edward married twice, and had one son by his first wife. George Lowther, major in the army, who married 27th April, 1865, Ellen Mary, daughter and heiress of Thos. George Norris, Esq., of Gorphwysia, J.P., Co. Denbigh, and had two sons and five daughters. These latter are at present living at Ryde, and failing any further issue from the Mote family would become the next heirs to the title.

Stephen Smith, vice-admiral R.N., born 9th November, 1818, married, first, in 1849, Eliza, daughter of Senor Thom, of Rio de Janeiro, by whom (died 1855) he had (1) Marian Eliza, (2) Rose Sophia, (3) Eliza Anne. He married, secondly, 13th Feb., 1868, Agnes, only daughter and heiress of Sir John Reid, 6th Bart. of Barra.

10. William H.,

Lieut. in the army, born 28th Feb., 1762, married Jane, daughter of James Kelly, Esq.; died 21st August, 1794, leaving, with two daughters, a son, Marcus Lowther.

Of Catherine's ten children only one was born at Mote.

Mary, Lady Crofton, widow of Edward, 3rd Baronet, died in the family town house in Mary Street, Dublin, on the 10th February, 1756. Amongst her other testamentary wishes, we find the following:—"I leave and bequeath to my dear, though undutiful and unkind daughter, Katherine Crofton, her father's

and her uncle's, Oliver Crofton's, pictures, both of a small size in the dining room in Mary Street, her own, her grandfather, Sir Edward Crofton's, her great-grandfather, Sir Oliver St. George's, and his ladies, and her aunt, Lady Kerins', several pictures, and also other pictures hanging in the dining room—nine in number. Also, I give and bequeath unto my dear niece, Catherine Donnellan, otherwise Nixon, the following pictures:—Her own, and that of Sir Edward Crofton, deceased, which was her father's."

Marcus Lowther assumed the name of Crofton after the death of Sir Edward, and was created a Baronet on the 12th June, in the year 1758. According to the patent, we find that the Baronetcy was conferred upon him for "being well assured of his many and very faithful services, and being fully certified of his faith and industry, and also of his ability and cheerfulness in advancing our said plantation, and in enlarging and maintaining the same." The following clause is also included in the patent:—"And likewise, that the wives of the said Marcus Lowther Crofton, Esq., and of his heirs male of his body aforesaid, may have, use, and enjoy these titles, that is to say, LADY, MADAM, and DAME respectively, according to the manner of discoursing."

Sir Marcus represented the borough of Roscommon in Parliament, which representation had for many years been looked upon as a family right by the Croftons.

Katherine, Lady Crofton, died at Mote, 10th April, 1763, aged 41, and was buried in the family vault. Her youngest child was only 11 months old when his mother died.

In September of the same year Sir Marcus enclosed a well and there is still a stone there bearing the inscription as follows, viz:—"St. Catherine's Well, walled in by Sir Marcus Lowther

John Crofton

Mary Crofton

Crofton, Bart., Sept., 1763." We suppose that he named it in memory of his late wife.

The garden, we think, must have been also enclosed in his time, as there is a stone over one of the arches in the garden wall with a date 1782.

It is difficult to say with any degree of certainty to whom we are indebted for the planting of the Ballymurry Avenue, and many other improvements about this time. If the trees are more than 150 years old they must have been planted by Sir Edward, 4th Baronet, or, if they are less than 110 years, by Sir Edward, 6th Baronet, and anything between the two would be in Sir Marcus' time. I am inclined to think that the house was built and the avenue made during Sir Marcus' lifetime, but by his son, who was managing his affairs.

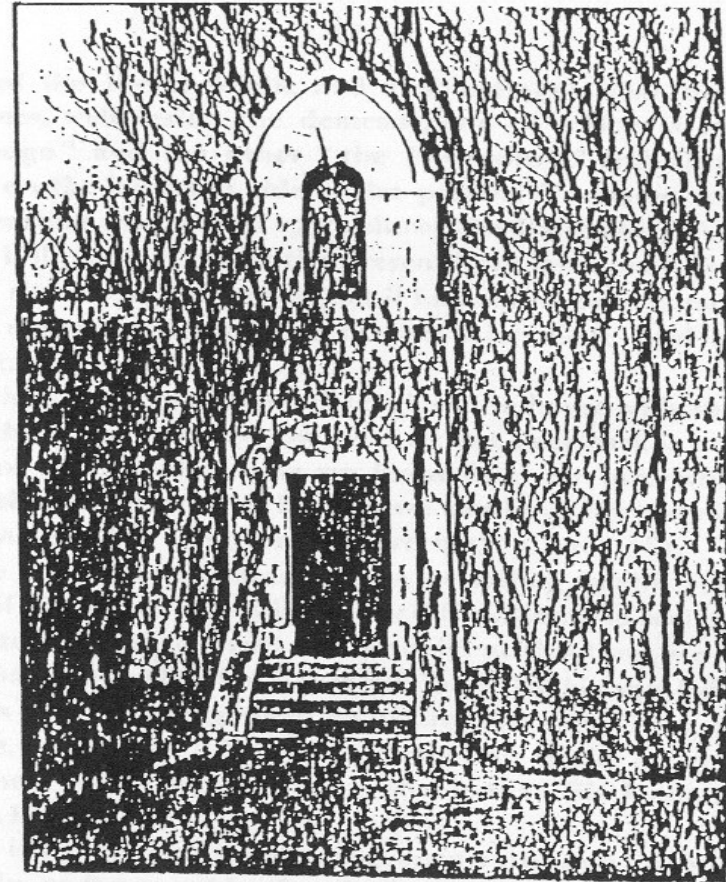
In 1768 Sir Marcus' health began to fail, after which we find his son Edward's name appearing on the maps of, and documents relating to, the estate.

Sir Marcus appears to have been involved in pecuniary difficulties, probably on account of the very heavy expenses of the litigation in which we find he was so constantly engaged.

His son Edward wished to assist his father in his difficulties and satisfy his creditors. He made an agreement with Sir Marcus that if he would make him a lease of Mote at £500 a year, and give him up the rest of his property he would pay him (his father) £1,000 a year for his support, and apply the rest of his income to payment of his debts.

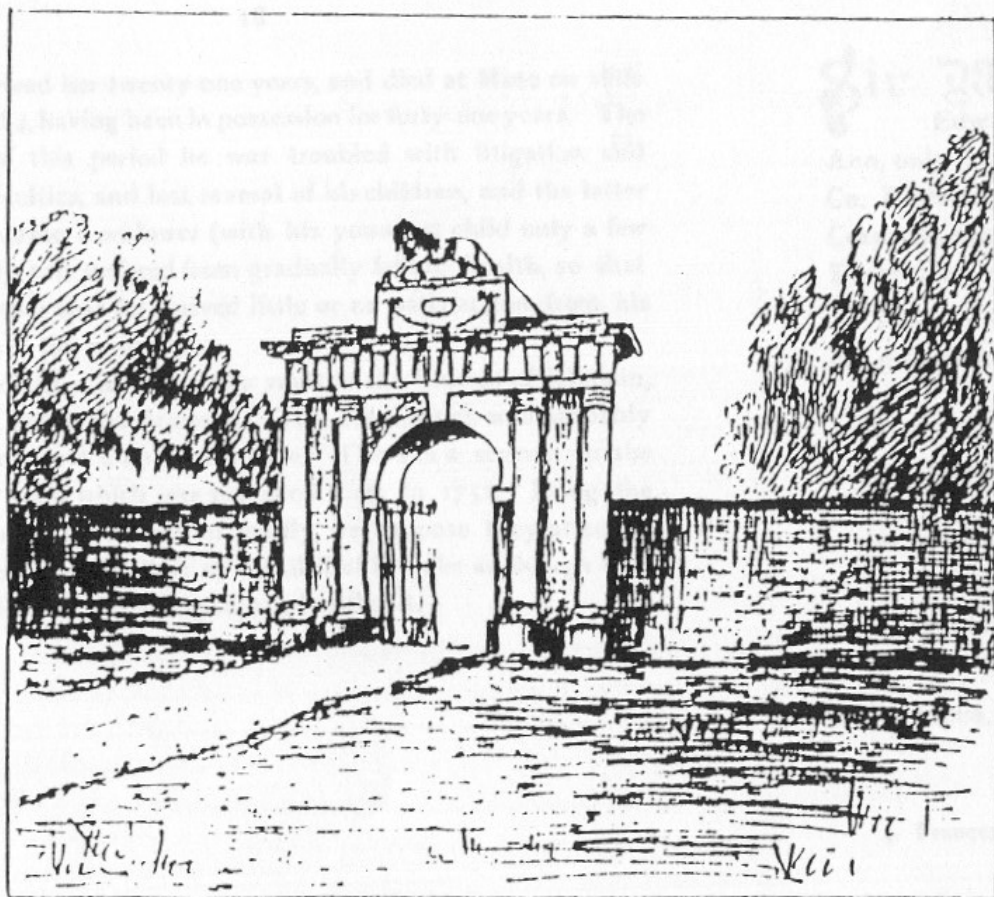
Accordingly, on November 19th, 1776, Sir Marcus executed a lease of Mote to his son Edward, and also a deed of conveyance of most of his property.

There are three maps of the demesne, one of which, bearing the date 1730 (previously mentioned), shows no plantation above



The garden door. Mote -





*The Lion Gate
1787*

the top of the Broad Walk, and two cottages near the large beech trees, well inside the demesne, one of which is marked "the Lodge" and the other "the Pheasantry," and also three cottages on the left-hand side of the present Tremaine Avenue.

The second map, dated 1777, shows the Ballymurry Avenue, with the hill plantation and the present front lawn marked as the intended site of the new house (but it had at that time apparently not been commenced), and the present Lion Gate field as the deer park.

The third map, bearing no date, gives the house with the hall door on the north side, and the then former deer park is marked as the Lion Gate field, and as we know from an inscription on the gate that it was erected in 1787 we can limit the date of the house to a period of ten years—between 1777 and 1787.

As we know that Sir Marcus was in failing health towards the end of his life, and also in money difficulties, and seeing that his son had the management of his affairs at this time, we think it more than likely that the house was built by his son Edward. Up to this the previous generation of Croftons were living at the old house, or Castle. We know Katherine could never have seen the new house, and it is not probable that Sir Marcus ever lived in it himself.

There is a tradition of its having been burnt, and this appears to be likely, as it was evidently rebuilt, for we find in the present house two different kinds of masonry, apparently of different age, and also the hall door changed from the north to the south side.

Sir Oliver Crofton, who held the Baronetcy, died in Dublin on 9th November, 1780, leaving no legitimate issue, so that the title became extinct, and Sir Marcus became representative of the family through his late wife.

He survived her twenty-one years, and died at Mote on 16th January, 1784, having been in possession for forty-one years. The first part of this period he was troubled with litigation and money difficulties, and lost several of his children, and the latter part he became a widower (with his youngest child only a few months old), and suffered from gradually failing health, so that we may gather that he derived little or no satisfaction from his inheritance of the property.

He was buried in the family vault in the Church of Kilmain, on the hill, inside the demesne. This old Church was probably still used for service up to this time. There is a sermon in the old prayer book which was preached there in 1752. Being the parish church of the Crofton family, we suppose they attended service there, though it is so small that it looks as though they and their servants would have nearly filled it.

Sir Marcus was succeeded by his eldest son Edward, aged 39. He had previously married, in 1767, Ann, only daughter of Thomas Croker, Esq., of Weston Park, Co. Kildare. Their ancestor, Thomas Croker, of Trevillas, in Cornwall, second son of the eighth John Croker, of Lineham, Devonshire, obtained estates in Ireland in 1600.

Edward,
7th Bart.,
1784-1797.

These Crokers (or Crockers) were a family so ancient that an old proverbial distich records that

"Croker, Crewys, and Coplestone,
When the Conqueror came were at home."

Edw. L. Crofton

Sir Edward and Ann had ten children, viz.:—

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Catherine Ann, | { born 1772; died three months afterwards.
buried at Kilmain. | <i>Anne Crofton</i> |
| 2. Caroline, | { born 20th October, 1773; died in Paris in 1858.
unmarried. | <i>Caroline Crofton</i> |
| 3. Louisa, | { born 20th March, 1775; married, 1803, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Perigrine Maitland. Died November 2, 1805. | |
| 4. Frances, | { born 4th May, 1777; married, 2nd April, 1802, St. George Caulfield, Esq., of Donamon Castle, leaving St. George Caulfield and two daughters. | |
| 5. Edward, | { born 25th October, 1778; succeeded his father.

{ born 4th February, 1781; married James Caulfield, Esq., of Drumcain, Co. Tyrone, grandfather of the present Lord Charlemont, and had issue (1) Edward, born 1807, married daughter of Pierce Geale, Esq.; (2) Thomas, (3) Charles. | <i>Harriet Crofton</i> |
| 6. Harriet, | | |

7. Marcus Thomas Henry, { born 4th September, 1783, was clergy-
man of Mount Talbot, and was
drowned in the Suck in 1833.
8. George Alfred, { born 11th September, 1785; retired
admiral, R.N.
{ died 1858.
9. William Gorges, { born 27th August, 1787; captain in
Coldstream Guards; killed in
action at Bayonne, 1814.
- E. Crofton* 10. Augusta, { born 4th January, 1789; married in
May, 1813, Captain James Caul-
field, R.N., of the Moorings,
Athlone. She died in 1832, and
had issue—Lieutenant-Col. Mont-
gomery Caulfield.

It is a curious fact that in this generation three Crofton sisters married three Caulfields.

Sir Edward represented the county in Parliament, and appears to have been of a go-ahead nature, spending perhaps more than he could afford, for he died in considerable money difficulties, having to spend the latter part of his days away from Mote. As a young man, however, it would seem that he was of an energetic and determined character. He was hardly of age when he killed a Mr. Edward Ffrench, of Ffrench Park, in a duel, and he was Colonel of the Militia; and it is told of him that when he heard that the county was to be put under martial law, he immediately jumped on his horse, rode to Dublin, and returned next day, having succeeded in getting the order cancelled upon his undertaking to go bail for the good conduct of the county. He apparently was very successful in this particular undertaking and in maintaining order and suppressing

riots in the county generally, for it was intended to make him a peer for his services. This distinction, however, he was never able to receive, for he died at Bristol on the 28th September at the age of 52, whilst the patent was being made out, and the peerage was consequently conferred on his widow, who became the first Baroness Crofton by patent dated 1st December, 1797. Sir Edward was interred in the family vault.*

Anne, Baroness Crofton, survived her husband 20 years. After his death she lived in the family house in Henrietta Street, Dublin, and sometimes with her mother, Mrs. Croker, at Weston Park. Anne's daughter, Augusta Crofton, lived there with her grandmother, Mrs. Croker, and when the old lady died she left her property to her, instead of her grandson, Sir Edward.

Augusta Crofton married Captain Caulfield, R.N., and thus the property went to the Caulfields instead of to the Croftons, as it should have done.

In the meantime Edward was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward, in 1797, aged 19. He did not succeed to the Peerage, as his mother was still alive.

Edward,
8th Bart.,
1797-1816.

One of the first things he must have done was to rebuild the house, burnt in his father's time, as previously mentioned; for we find the architect's sketch of the house with Sir Edward's name on it, and we are told the workmen had not left the building when, in 1801, he returned to Mote with his bride.

He married Lady Charlotte Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Galloway, and 11th in descent, through the families of Brandon, Clifford, Stanley, Murray, and Cochrane, from Henry VII. and his queen, Elizabeth of York.

* Sir Edward's miniature is in the drawing room at Mote.

Charlotte Crofton

gentleman's house, set fire to it, and pitchforked the inmates as they endeavoured to make their escape from the flames by jumping out of the window.

It must have required a considerable amount of pluck to go out in the dead of night, as Sir Edward frequently did, armed with a pistol, with the object of deterring the ribband men from congregating and committing outrages in the neighbourhood.

He was too generous and trustful; for on one of these occasions he met a party of "Whiteboys" just outside the gates and not recognising them as such asked them if they could tell him where the seditious meeting was being held. They gave him minute directions, putting him entirely off the scent, and then they told him they were a party of poor people, two of whom had just lost their father; they were going to the wake, and had not enough money to bury him. Sir Edward, with his usual impulsive generosity, emptied his pockets to them, but great was his rage next day when he discovered how he had been taken in and that they were the very party he was in search of.

He was also a very passionate man, and frequently used his hunting whip upon the country men, but, notwithstanding, he was very popular among them, being beloved for his kind-heartedness and liberality; indeed, more so by them than by his own family, where his eccentric temper made him more feared than loved.

From a sketch in a book at Mote, it would seem that he was also something of a sportsman.

He once made a bet of 500 guineas with the Duke of Richmond, then Lord Lieutenant, that his Connaught pony "Turnip" would jump a six-foot wall. The pony was accordingly brought

up to the Phoenix Park, where he performed the feat in the presence of Sir Edward and the Duke. The sketch represents the scene on that occasion.

Lady Charlotte was equally as charitable as her husband, and much beloved by the poor, and popular with all classes.

She never went out without filling her pockets with presents to give to any poor person she might meet.

Some idea of the influence and control which the landlords must have held over the people in former days may be gathered from the contents of a Petition from Sir Edward Crofton (found in the library), in which he prays for compensation for the loss of his right to elect the representatives of the Borough of Roscommon in Parliament.

It appears that King James I., by a Charter of Incorporation dated the 27th February, 1613, did incorporate the town of Roscommon and its inhabitants in a corporate body consisting of twelve free Burgesses and a Commonalty, and that the Portrieve and Burgesses only should have power to elect and return two members to serve in Parliament.

In the year 1700, or thereabouts, Sir Edward Crofton obtained entire influence and control over the Borough of Roscommon, which continued in the Crofton family for many years until some time prior to the year 1727, when, in return for some services in county elections, he brought in one Sandford to participate in the control of the Borough. It seems to have been an understood matter between Sir Edward and Mr. Sandford, "upon a compact founded on honour and good faith," that they should each exercise a right over one half of the Borough, and after their deaths, each family continued to nominate, down to the year 1745.

The dominion over the Borough of Roscommon from the first acquisition by the Crofton family was always considered as an "honourable appendage to the family property."

Sir Edward Crofton died in the year 1745, intestate and without issue, leaving his sister Katherine Crofton his heiress-at-law, who was at that time married to Mr. Lowther, afterwards Sir Marcus Lowther Crofton.

Sir Oliver Crofton claimed the family estates, under a pretended will of Sir Edward's, which will, after a litigation of many years, was set aside as a forgery, and Robert Sandford (son of the person originally admitted) "taking advantage of the distractions and misfortunes of the Crofton family, and regardless of the trust reposed in him, contrived to acquire a majority of votes in the Corporation of Roscommon, which he continued to increase from time to time during the contest, which engrossed all the attention of Sir Marcus Lowther Crofton, who could not with prudence, owing to the peculiar circumstances of a disputed possession, assert his right to the Borough or oppose the encroachment of Mr. Sandford, who so acquired sole dominion over the Borough, to the exclusion of the Crofton family."

In the year 1768 Sir Marcus Lowther Crofton's health began to fail, insomuch that he became lethargic, indolent, and unfit to engage in active business, and although he had often been pressed by his wife (the representative of the Crofton family) to re-assert the family right to one half of the Borough, he could not be prevailed upon to do so, and his eldest son would (at his mother's instigation and desire), have taken the steps necessary for the recovery of the privilege had he not been restrained by the jealousy of an infirm parent towards his heir, which prevented him taking any steps in the business until the general election,

which happened about the year 1783, a short time before Sir Marcus' death, when his son renewed the claim by attending at Roscommon to offer his brother as candidate for the Borough, but the election having been conducted in a private manner by the Corporation, and, as Mr. Edward Crofton thought, illegally, he determined to petition the House of Commons against the irregularity of the proceedings. This determination having been openly avowed, brought about a negotiation between the Sandford family and Mr. Crofton (who, by the death of Sir Marcus, then succeeded to the title of the Crofton estate, and became Sir Edward Crofton). This dispute ended in a reference of the claim of Sir Edward to two gentlemen. The Right Hon. Henry Grattan and the Right Hon. Joshua Cooper were chosen as arbitrators, but, as they were unable to agree, the Right Hon. Denis Daly was chosen as umpire in the year 1784, and he made an award in favour of Mr. Sandford on the grounds that there was no evidence forthcoming to prove that the connection of the families in the Borough was anything more than a junction for their mutual convenience. Sir Edward, however, about the latter end of 1785, accidentally found among his papers some letters from Mr. Sandford (the person originally admitted) explicitly acknowledging the existence of the family engagements, and promising to punctually adhere to them.

Thereupon Sir Edward requested a rehearing of the case, and feeling confident that Mr. Daly (who was a second time appointed umpire) would decide in his favour, made use of the following expression:—"I will agree to forfeit my life and property if Mr. Daly or any man of honour can decide against me." After much difficulty Sir Edward succeeded in obtaining

a rehearing of the business, but, unfortunately for him, with the same result as on the previous occasion. Although Sir Edward was astonished and much dissatisfied at the decision, still he felt bound by it so far, at least, as to relinquish any further proceedings as to himself and his personal right. In order to show his dissatisfaction he caused a narrative of the whole transaction to be printed and circulated amongst his friends, and so far from considering this award as binding on his successors he strongly recommended his son to use every means to recover the right which he considered had been usurped. Sir Edward's father died in 1797, and although this petition is undated it must have been sent in at the time of the Union of Great Britain and Ireland, when the privilege of returning representatives to serve in Parliament was about to be extinguished, and compensation granted to those from whom the privilege was so wrested. We do not know whether or not Sir Edward's petition was granted, or, if it was, what compensation he received under the Act, but we can only suppose that from the determined and resolute manner in which he went about everything he undertook that he left no stone unturned to effect his purpose.

In January of 1816 the family made preparations for leaving Mote for some time. They took Drumcondra House, near Dublin, and Lady Charlotte preceded them there. The governess and children were to follow on the 8th.

Sir Edward, who was of a quarrelsome disposition and fond of fighting duels, was just now engaged in an affair of this kind with a certain Captain Brown.

On the afternoon of the 7th he rode over to Mount Talbot to ask Mr. William Talbot to be his second, but failing to see him

he returned home, and next morning died suddenly, a little before his family left.

Although the people about had already heard the sad news, it had been kept from his family, and as the carriage passed through Ballymurphy the people, who were all sobbing, saw that the children were crying too, and thought it was for the same cause, whereas they knew nothing of their father's death, and were only in trouble because they were leaving Mote for so long.

Lady Charlotte never saw her husband again, as he was buried before she knew anything about it. Her youngest child, Frederica, was not born till three months after her father's death.

Sir Edward was only 39 years old when he died, having held the baronetcy 19 years. He never succeeded to the peerage, as his mother Ann, baroness, survived him.

Crofton

Sir Edward

was succeeded in the baronetcy by his eldest son, Edward, then 10 years old.

In the following year (1817), on the death of his grandmother, he became 2nd Baron Crofton.

During his minority Mote was shut up, and Lady Charlotte, to whom Sir Edward had left the furniture, sold everything, even to the chimney pieces and grates.

Our father was sent at an early age to Charter House School, from which he joined the army, and was appointed to the 81st Regiment, stationed at Malta.

His promotion was extremely rapid, for he left his Regiment as an Ensign to go on leave, and while away was appointed as Captain in the 7th Hussars, in which Regiment he commanded a Troop at the age of twenty-one, never having done a day's duty as a Lieutenant.

He was a strikingly fine-looking, handsome man.

When the Queen first saw him, she was so struck by his appearance that she asked his name, and on being told said, "How I wish he were on our side," her Majesty at that time having liberal tendencies.

In his younger days he did not live at Mote, but used to go there occasionally with a party to shoot.

On October 19th, 1833, he married Lady Georgiana Paget, daughter of the Marquis of Anglesey, who was then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Lord Anglesey, as Lord Uxbridge, was a most distinguished cavalry officer.



Edward,
9th Bart
and 2nd
Baron,
1816-1869

He served with great distinction in the Peninsular, where he covered the retreat of Sir John Moor's army on Corrunna, and it was in a great measure to his dash and daring that they owed their safety and were able to effect their embarkation.

At Waterloo he commanded the combined allied cavalry, and gave the order and himself led the final charge which won the day.

Almost the last shot fired shattered his leg. It was amputated on the battle-field, and so great was his fortitude that he actually held the candle and conversed with the surgeons during the operation.

For his services he was created Marquis of Anglesey, and received many other honours.

Immediately after our father's marriage, he furnished the house and went to live at Mote.

He had four sons and one daughter:—

1. Edward Henry Churchill,

{ present peer, born October 21st, 1834; Representative Peer, twice State Steward to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

2. Charles St. George,



{ Lieutenant R.N. (retired), born 1st February, 1836; died February 2nd, 1895; married, 19th Oct., 1864, Theresa Augusta, third daughter of Daniel Tighe, Esq., and the Hon. Mrs. Tighe, of Rossana, Co. Wicklow, and by her, who died 14th August, 1867, has had issue—(I.) Arthur Edward Lowther, Captain 1st Battalion 5th Fusiliers, born 7th August, 1866; married, April 14th, 1893, Jessie, Castle, daughter of J. Hewitson, Esqre., and widow of Neville Paddon, Esqre., and has issue—Eileen Mabel, born March 24th, 1894—(II.) Mabel Georgiana; (III.) Theresa Diana.



Georgiana Paget
Georgiana Crofton
1822

Anglesey

Crofton

3. Alfred Henry,

{ born 2nd April, 1837; died 29th October, 1881. Page of Honour to the Queen.

{ retired Captain R.N., born 7th June, 1838; married, first, 18th August, 1864, Gertrude Caroline, daughter of Colonel Edward Symes Bayly, of Ballyarthur, Co. Wicklow, and widow of John Talbot, Esq., of Mount Talbot, County Roscommon, and by her (who died 19th August, 1869) has a daughter, Gertrude Catherine Georgiana. He married, secondly, 7th February, 1878, Emily Augusta, eldest daughter of Lieut-Colonel Montgomerie Caulfield, of Weston Park, Leixlip, and Monkstown, Co. Dublin, a great grand-daughter of Ann, Baroness Crofton, and has issue—Ernest Alfred, born December 6th, 1878; George, born 23rd March, 1881; Alfred Gerald, born 18th June, 1882; Francis Lowther, born 23rd May, 1883.

{ married, 18th July, 1866, to the Hon. Luke Gerald, now 4th Baron Clonbrock, and has—Robert Edward, born 21st May, 1869; Georgiana Caroline, born 27th May, 1867; Edith Augusta, born 9th August, 1878; Ethel Louisa, born 16th October, 1880.

It is a curious fact that this was the third time that a Crofton had married a Gerald Dillon

At the time of our parents' arrival, there was hardly any shrubbery round the house. The only two walks at the back were the Dark Walk and the one to Shut-the-door. He planted all the rest of the shrubbery, and made the walks and terraces.



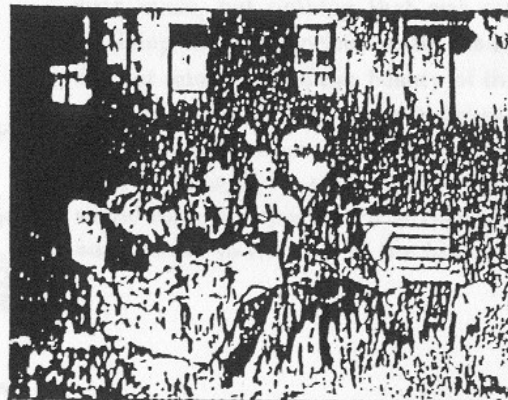
Francis George,

Augusta Caroline,

Augusta
Lady Clonbrock
Née Crofton.



Hon. Francis Crofton. Hon. Alfred Crofton



Hon. Francis Crofton with his second wife Augusta, nee Caulfield, & two of his sons

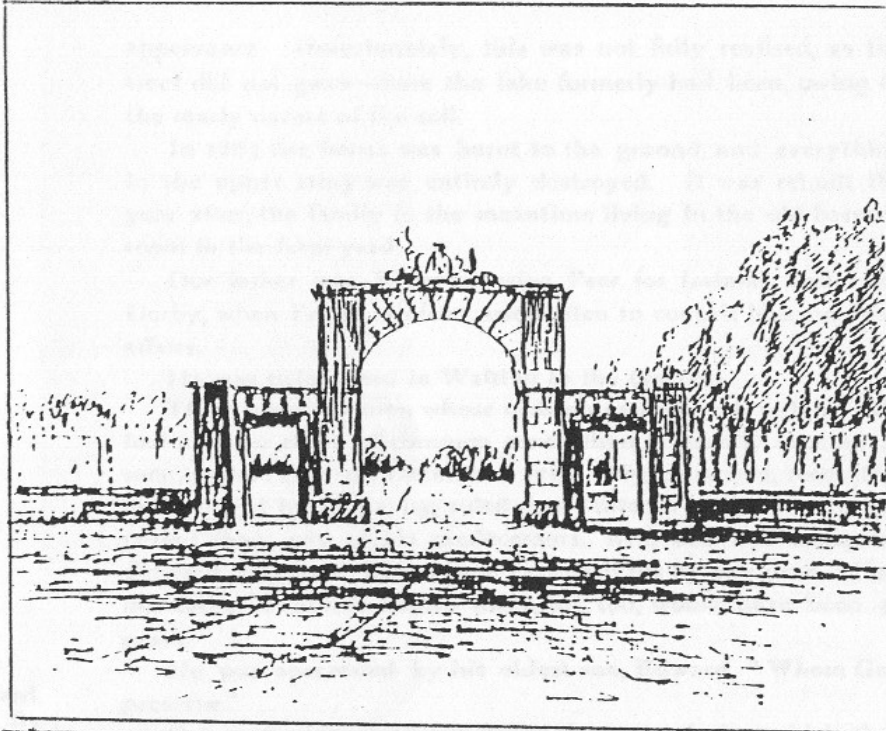


Hon. M. F. Crofton
nee Bayly. d. 1867



Hon. Francis Crofton
with "G."

Ballymurray Gate. The coat of arms on top of arch



Gertrude Crofton "G" and Laddie at Clonbrock. G. did the pen and ink drawings in this book. During the Troubled Times in 1922 the deer's horns were knocked off. When Killeen, the carpenter was told by Midge he put them on again he unfortunately cemented them upside down!

A crop of potatoes had to be planted to prepare the ground for laying out the back lawn.

Our father made the roads of the Tremaine and Ballymurray Avenues, and built the gates and gate lodges, built the stables in 1839, the new addition to the house in 1844, and the farmyard in 1850.

He drained and reclaimed all the bog and wet land in the demesne, which amounted to several hundred acres. In 1860 he made the Roscommon Avenue and Gate Lodge, purchased Martinstown, and included it in the demesne. In front of the house during the winter there was a lake, and in a wet season it stretched from the road on the left until it was lost to sight in the trees on the right. It was a haven of rest for innumerable flocks of wild fowl, as they were never fired at or disturbed (except one day in the year, the 1st February). Their numbers were extraordinary, and on a bright day in winter the whole scene was the prettiest sight imaginable. Unfortunately, in summer the water disappeared, and left nothing but sedge and white grass, which was very unsightly.

Our father came to the decision that he would make the lake permanent, if possible, and if not, drain and plant it and throw it into the lawn. Accordingly plans, specifications, and estimates were made, but nothing that was satisfactory. Any plan for retaining the water permanently made it look too artificial, and did not retain any of the beauty of the natural lake, and all the estimates showed it would cost a great deal of money.

With much reluctance it was decided to drain it, which was done in 1852, and trees afterwards planted, and it was hoped it would have the appearance in time of the lawn, continuing without a break to the foot of the hill, and giving a larger park-like

appearance. Unfortunately, this was not fully realised, as the trees did not grow where the lake formerly had been, owing to the marly nature of the soil.

In 1865 the house was burnt to the ground, and everything in the upper story was entirely destroyed. It was rebuilt the year after, the family in the meantime living in the old barrack room in the farm yard.

Our father was Representative Peer for Ireland, and Lord Derby, when Prime Minister, used often to consult him on Irish affairs.

He was twice Lord in Waiting to the Queen.

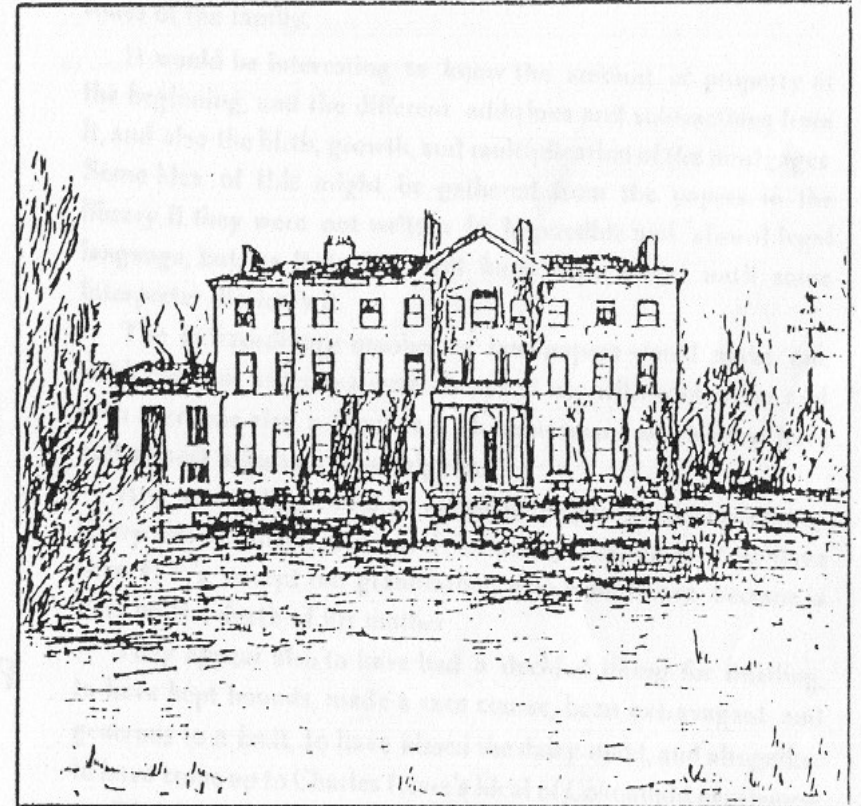
There were few men whose opinion carried such weight. He had a larger share of common sense than is usually allotted to men, and he died on December 27th, 1869, esteemed, respected, and beloved by all, having ruled over Mote for 53 years, a longer period than any of his predecessors, with but one exception Edward, 2nd Bart., whose time exceeded his by one year. Had our father lived one month more, his, too, would have been 54 years.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, Edward, "Whom God preserve."

Our mother survived our father six years, during which time she lived at Mote. She died there November 9th, 1875, and on that day one of the most lovable and gentle spirits that ever lived passed away.

If the present possessor has not inherited any wealth from his ancestors he has at least inherited from his parents a generous and unselfish nature, and a longing desire to help and give to others, which he can only indulge in at the expense of his own personal comfort and necessity.

Edward,
10th Bart.,
3rd Baron.



The Mote of Today
1895



Georgiana
Lady Crofton
1800 - 1875



Edward, 2nd Bn.
Crofton. 1846-1869

I speak from experience.

I will say no more about the present generation, but have a few more words to add about the past.

We have followed as well as we can the fortunes and misfortunes of the family.

It would be interesting to know the amount of property at the beginning, and the different additions and subtractions from it, and also the birth, growth, and multiplication of the mortgages. Some idea of this might be gathered from the papers in the library if they were not written in impossible and absurd legal language, but, as it is, they will keep their secret until some interpreter discloses it.

The extraordinary number of law papers would make one think that our ancestors were always at law with each other and with everyone else, a peculiar Irish amusement which must have cost almost a fortune to indulge in.

Any money that could be raised they spent in electioneering. Every one of them, since and including George in 1630, have been M.P.'s, except our grandfather, who would have become a Peer on the death of his mother.

They appear also to have had a decided liking for duelling, to have kept hounds, made a race course, been extravagant and generous to a fault, to have kissed the dairy-maid, and altogether to have come up to Charles Lever's ideal of Connaught gentlemen.

The family have, and have had many very good looking members, some of the men being particularly tall and handsome and some of the women very pretty.

Some people think the picture of Katherine is intended to represent a good-looking woman.

We know nothing of her daughter's looks, but three of her grand-daughters were very tall and handsome, and one was described by someone as "the most beautiful woman God ever made."

The next generation had two beauties, and the last three generations have certainly worthily maintained the credit of the family in this respect, including the last little pocket edition, who bids fair to rival them all.

Between faults and misfortunes the family have had a chequered career.

Poor George built his castle, but it was immediately sacked, and he was almost ruined.

Marcus Lowther, no doubt, thought he was very lucky when he ran off with Katherine, a pretty young heiress, but he very soon was involved in Law, and ended his career in great money difficulties.

His son, Edward, thought *he* was very clever, and could manage not only his own affairs but his father's, too, to say nothing of the county's, for which he went bail.

He was successful and a great man for a time, but came to terrible grief in the end.

And so again with his son, only he put charges on his successor, and did not wait for a smash.

There are not many families that are so unlucky as to have three fires in one century.

In 1640 the family were described as being in a "sad and low condition," and as "having no comfort in life."

In 1765 the "misfortunes and distractions" of the family are alluded to.

In 1895 the family are again in a "sad and low condition," but they have these "comforts in life"—that which money cannot buy—namely, unity and affection.

We shall conclude by wishing the present representative a long life, with a hope that future generations may be as united as the present and more fortunate than the past.





Hon. Mabel Crofton

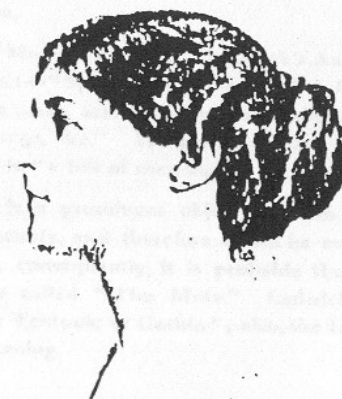
1911



May and Di at Clonbrock
Di was the beauty of the family

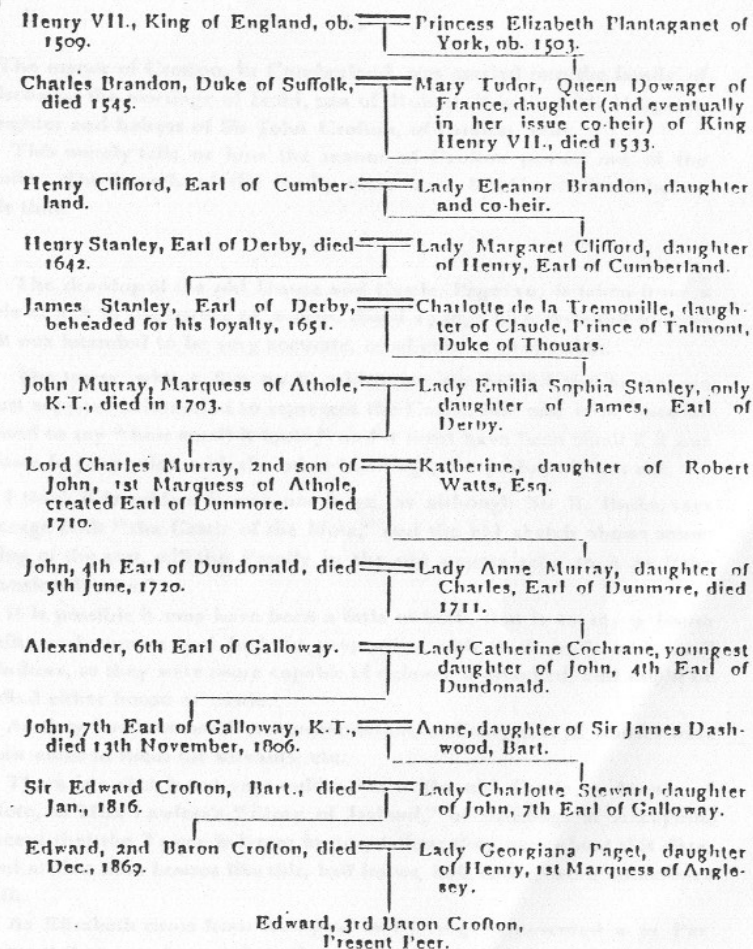


Hon. Mrs. Chichester, née Crofton.



Di.

Genealogical Tree showing our Descent from Henry VII. through Lady Charlotte Stewart:—



Appendix.

THE name of the place has been spelt in two different ways—viz., "Mote" and "Moat." Sir H. Burke mentions it as "the Castle of the Mote, built by George in 1627," and the family have, with few exceptions, spelt it in that way ever since.

Two entries in the Prayer Book, prior to 1740, show it as "Moat," and these were copied in by Sir Marcus; but he himself always spelt it "Mote."

In a document dated 1693 we find it "Mote," but it is curious that outsiders then, as now, almost invariably spelt it "Moat."

What we know of the derivation of the word certainly favours the "Mote" spelling.

There are no remains or trace of any old Moat in or about the demense, which would be the case had there existed one of sufficient dimensions to give it that name.

Taking the other spelling "Mote," we find in "Ledwick's Antiquities of Ireland" the following, viz.:—"Spencer informs us that it was of great use among the Irish to make assemblies upon a hill, there to parley about matters and wrongs, &c." He also explains that the meaning of the word "Mote" is "a hill of meeting."

The hill in the demesne is a prominent object, and can be seen from nearly all parts of the county, and therefore would be eminently suited as a place of meeting; consequently, it is probable that it was used for this purpose and so called "The Mote." Ledwick again says:—"The word is evidently Teutonic or Gothic"; also, the Icelandic word "Mot" has the same meaning.

The manor of Crofton, in Cumberland, was carried into the family of Briscoe by the marriage of Isold, son of Robert Briscoe, with Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John Crofton, of Crofton, Bart.

This merely tells us how the manor of Crofton passed out of the family. Our branch of the family must have left Cumberland before this time.

The drawing of the old House and Castle, Page 10, is taken from a little sketch in the corner of a map, dated 1730, which does not look as if it was intended to be very accurate, or of correct proportion.

The tower, with a flag on it, which we see behind the house, we must suppose is intended to represent the Castle, but one is at once inclined to say "how small it looks," and it must have been small if it was drawn in proportion with the other buildings, but perhaps it was not.

I think it is evident it was not large, as although Sir B. Burke, says George built "the Castle of the Mote," and the old sketch shows something of the sort, still the Family in the old papers refer to it as "the Mansion House."

It is possible it may have been a little of both, that is to say a house built nearly square and high in proportion, with thick walls and small windows, as they were more capable of defence if attacked, and might be called either house or castle.

As they had not much accommodation, ordinary sort of houses were built close to them for servants, etc.

There is a sketch not very unlike that of the old Castle or House of Mote, in Miss Lawless's "Story of Ireland," of buildings at Askeyton, except that the Tower is larger in proportion; they were about this date, and at that time houses like this, half house, half castle, were sometimes built.

As Elizabeth came from Askeyton and George represented it in Parliament they may have taken their idea of a house from there.

All our ancestors lived in the old house up to the time of our great grandfather.

Old Documents in the Library.

*To the Hon^{ble}: the Comm^{rs}: of the Commonwth: of England for the Affaires
of Ireland.*

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF
EDWARD CROFTON, ESQ.

SHEWETH that in the beginning of the Rebellion, your pet^r: father was plundered by some of the Kellys, and others in the Barrony of Athlone, to the value of £2000, all his horses, cowes, and sheep being there taken, and afterwards your pet^r: house, called the Moat, was surprised by one Donnogh O'Connor and his party about the year Forty-four.

Your pet^r: father and himself faithfully preserved the said house for the English and Protestant interest (though with much loss and expense).

At the time of the surprisall, all your pet^r: goods and chattels were taken away and carried by the said Donnogh O'Connor to his father Hugh O'Connor's house, at Castlereagh, and disposed them to Oliver Cromwell, to your pet^r: detrimente att least £3,000, by reason whereof tour pet^r: mother, brothers, and sisters (being then many, and constantly at war in the English interest) were reduced to *a very sad and low condition*, and therein have continued by reason of the Estate left by y^r: pet^r: father yielding since no manner of profit.

May it therefore please your Honours to take the said pet^r: condition into your consideration, and either to order your pet^r (on the present settlement in Connaught) such a proportion of the said Kellys and O'Connors lands, as shall be judged suitable, and equal to his lossest and the quantity by your Honours so assigned to be in Leysrote, (together with other lands in Connaught of the pet^r: which he is ready to exchange), or to consider some other way that may afford y^r: pet^r *some comfort in life* and satisfaction for his former sufferings and losses, and put him into a capacity to support himself and such as depend upon him more comfortably than formerly.

And he will ever pray, &c., &c.

ANSWER.

By the Comm^{rs}: of the Commonwth: of England for y^r: Affaires of Ireland.

For such part of the said Kellys and Connors Estate as shall be allowed them by the Act of Settlement according to their Qualification, the Pet^r may proceed to take his remedy at law, when the same shall be apportioned and sett out unto them. And as to the other part of his peticon concerning the exchange of his Lands in Connaught, the Pet^r making a particular of them, and setting down his title to them respectively, the same shall be put into a way of consideracon. Dublin, 13 Jan., 1653.

Signed by order the said Comm^{rs}

J. HUGHES.

*To His Excellency y^e Lord Lieu^t and his Highing Councill for y^e Affaires
of Ireland.*

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF EDWARD CROFTON, ESQ.,
HIGH SHERIFFE OF y^e COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON AND LEITRIM.


SHIWEETH y^e yo^r Pet^r is and always hath been of y^e Protestant Religion, and faithfull to y^e English interest, having served y^e Commonwealth in sundry capacities and employments within this Nation. And though yo^r said Pet^r be not conscious to himself of any guilt whereof he may be impeached, yett in persuance of y^e clause in y^e late Declaration by w^{ch} further time is given to Protestants to compound, he humbly prays for y^e preventing of all doubtes and questions w^{ch} in time to come may be raised thereupon by covetous and malicious persons y^e yo^r Pet^r may be admitted to partake of y^e grace and clemencie held forth by y^e said Declaration.

In relation whereunto may it please yo^r Hon^r to admit yo^r said Pet^r to compound for his Estate w^{ch} respect to his present low condition and y^e great incumbrances thereunto w^{ch} he is ready to make appeare.

And he will pray.

EDW. CROFTON.

Ordered y^e it be referred to y^e Auditors Gen^l and Mr. Jeoffreys, or any two of them to consider of y^e above pet^r of Edward Crofton, Esq., desiring to compound for his Estate and (persuant to their Oom^{ty}) to ascertaine y^e fine for y^e same, and to make report thereof unto this Board for further consideracon. Dublin y^e 3^d of December, '58.

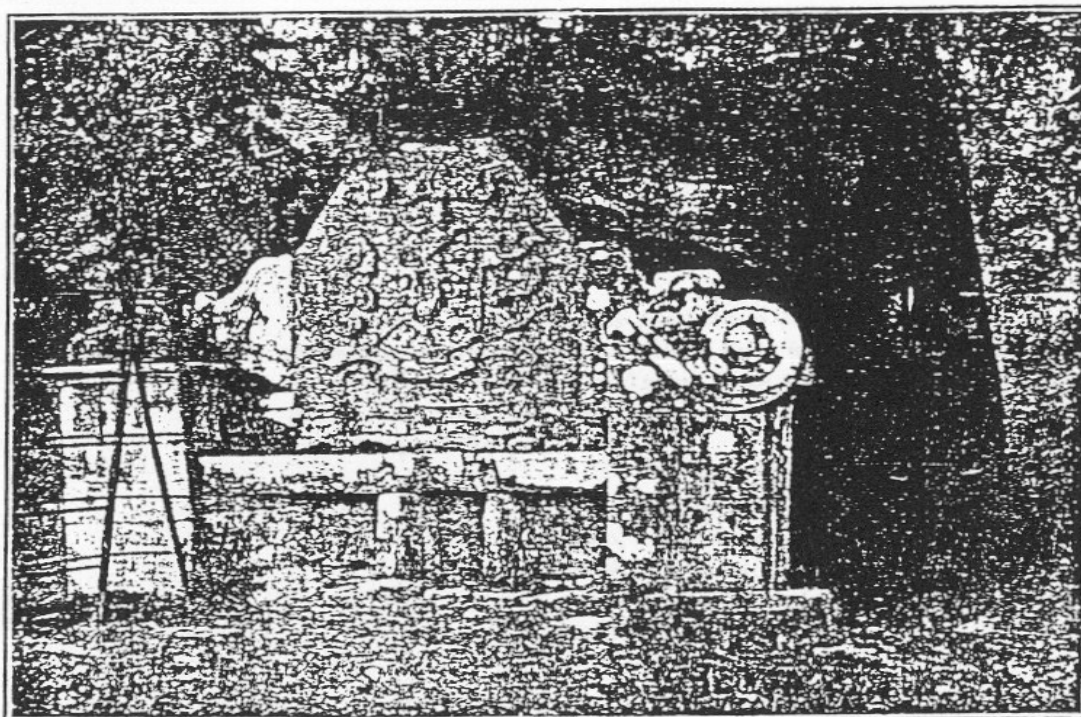
THO. HERBERT,  of y^e Councill.

*Curious Agreement between Sir Edward Crofton and Sir Robert King
in 1693.*

WHEREAS, several Estates in the County of Roscommon are by the late Rebellion forfeited to their Majesties and in their disposal; and whereas we S^r Edward Crofton, of Mote, in the said county, Bar^y, and Sir Robert King, of Rockingham, in the s^d county, Bar^y, *do intend, and design to take from their ma^{ty}* or those commissioned by them, several of the said forfeited estates in the said county. Know all men, therefore, by these pres^{ts} that it is covenanted and agreed between the said S^r Edward Crofton and S^r Robert King, and each of them doth hereby for himselfe, his Heirs, Ex^{rs}, and Administrators, under the penalty of a Thousand pound, covenant, promise, declare, grant, and agree to the other, his Ex^{rs} and Adm^{rs} that what forfeited Estates, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments are or shall be taken by either party from their ma^{ty}, or other person or persons impowered to sue or dispose of the same shall be and so is hereby declared to be equally to the use of both of them, the said S^r Edward Crofton and S^r Robert King, their Ex^{rs}, Adm^{rs}, and Assigns as fully, and absolutely to all intents and purposes, as if the same had been joyntly granted to them both, excepting and is hereby excepted the proper Estate of Garrot Dillon, Esq: (Father in law of the s^d Sir Edward) w^{ch} if granted to him by the King or his Commiss^{rs} shall remain to the proper use of s^d S^r Edward. And if any difference shall or may happen between them touching or concerning the premises, they do hereby declare and promise to leave the determination thereof to two or more indifferent Gentlemen or men skilled in the Law, to be equally chosen between them. In witness whereof both the s^d parties have hereunto sett their hands and seals the twenty-second day of March, 1693.

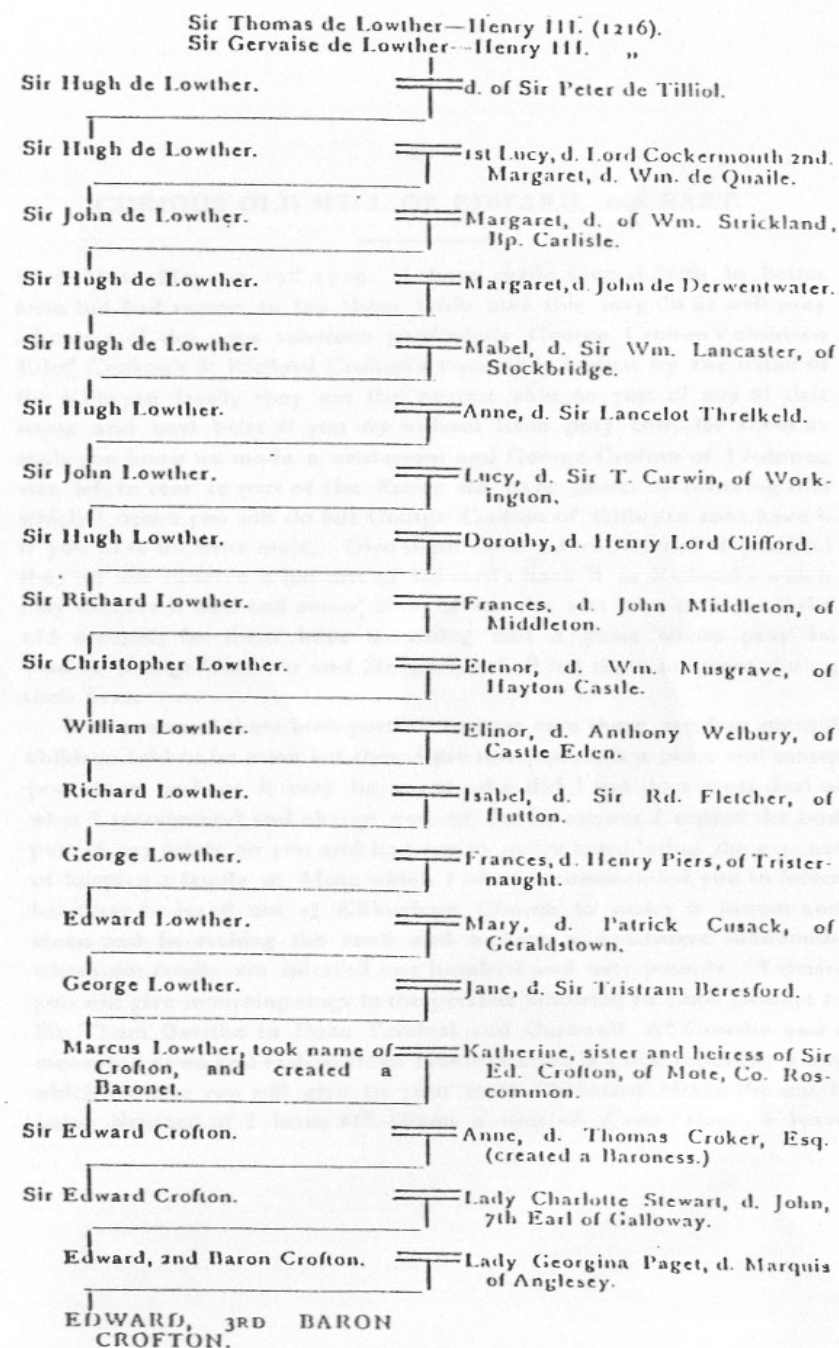
Signed and sealed in ye
presence of
(signed) THO. WALL.

(Signed) ROB: KING (Seal).



Garden Seat, Mote.

From photographs by Miss G. G. Crofton.



There is a curious old tombstone in the churchyard of the figure of a man on a horse with a horn in his hand and a hound running in front. It would seem from this that he was a huntsman to Edward, 2nd Bart., but in the following inscription he is called a park-keeper :—

Here

Lyeth y^e Body of Franc^e
Mason, Parke Keeper to S^r
Edward Crofton for 35 years,
and died DZ^r 5th 1734.
His loving wife, Mary M.,
alias Lilly, had y^e done.

CURIOUS OLD WILL OF EDWARD, 2ND BART.

Wed. Mote May ye 17th 1719. I have made several Wills in better form but had reason to lay them aside and this may do as well pray take care of the poor relations particularly George Crofton's children Edw^d Crofton's & Richard Crofton's commonly known by the name of the Kilbryan family they are the nearest akin to you of any of that name and next heirs if you *dey* without issue pray consider them as such you know we made a settlement and George Crofton of Lisdoone was left in rem^t to part of the Estate we have power of revoking that which I desire you will do lett George Crofton of Kilbryan sons have it if you have no issue male. Give them some education and if you find they do not deserve it lett one of Edward's have it or Richard's which may deserve it best and sunw^t charged for the rest take care of all the old servants let them have mourning and a years wages pray be kind to George Gardiner and Stevan Mitchell lett them not want during their lives.

I recommend them both parti^{ly} to your care there are four natural children said to be mine lett them have thirty pounds a piece and marry protestants perhaps it may be sayed why did I not do a great deal of what I recommend and charge you to do in answer I settled the best part of my estate on you and had not to *spere* considering the expense of keeping a family at Mote which I often recommended you to lessen lett there be layed out at Killmyham Church to make it decent and clean and in arching the vault and making a handsome monument where our family are interred one hundred and sixty pounds. I desire you will give mourning rings to the persons following to Lord Goware to Sir Thom Smythe to Dean Percival and Cornwell A^m Ormsby and a mourning gown and sash to Dean Percivall there is a new repeating watch which I desire you will give to your sister Catherine Nixon the watch being disposed of I leave M^r Nixon a ring of £100 value. I leave

you all my real & personal estate subject to what I have mention which I charge you on my blessing to perform. I desire I may be privately buried at the dead of night Exert yourself do *not* lead a lazy indolent life, take care who you are intimate with do not make your house *comen* to all people give the poor of Kilmyham parish ten pounds and to the poor of Roscommon parish six pounds.

I pray God bless you & yours and make you happy in this and the next world *don* at Mote the 17th May 1719 one thousand seven hundred and nineteen

EDW^d CROFTON seal signed & sealed
Witnesses present GEO CROFTON
JOHN CROFTON

1724

I leave to George Gardiner, Stephen Mitchel and to George Crofton that I have taken care of that lives in the house to each ten pounds a piece during life and to Martin Grady if with me when I dye ten pounds as a legacy dated as above and signed Edward Crofton what I mean by a watch for Mrs. Nixon and a ring is I bought a repeating watch at London which I designed for her which she would not accept of therefore I intend she will accept of a ring as a legacy of one hundred pounds value from me who had a value and regard for her.

Witness my hand 10th of X^r: 1724 and I charge my son to deseve it

EDWARD CROFTON

1724

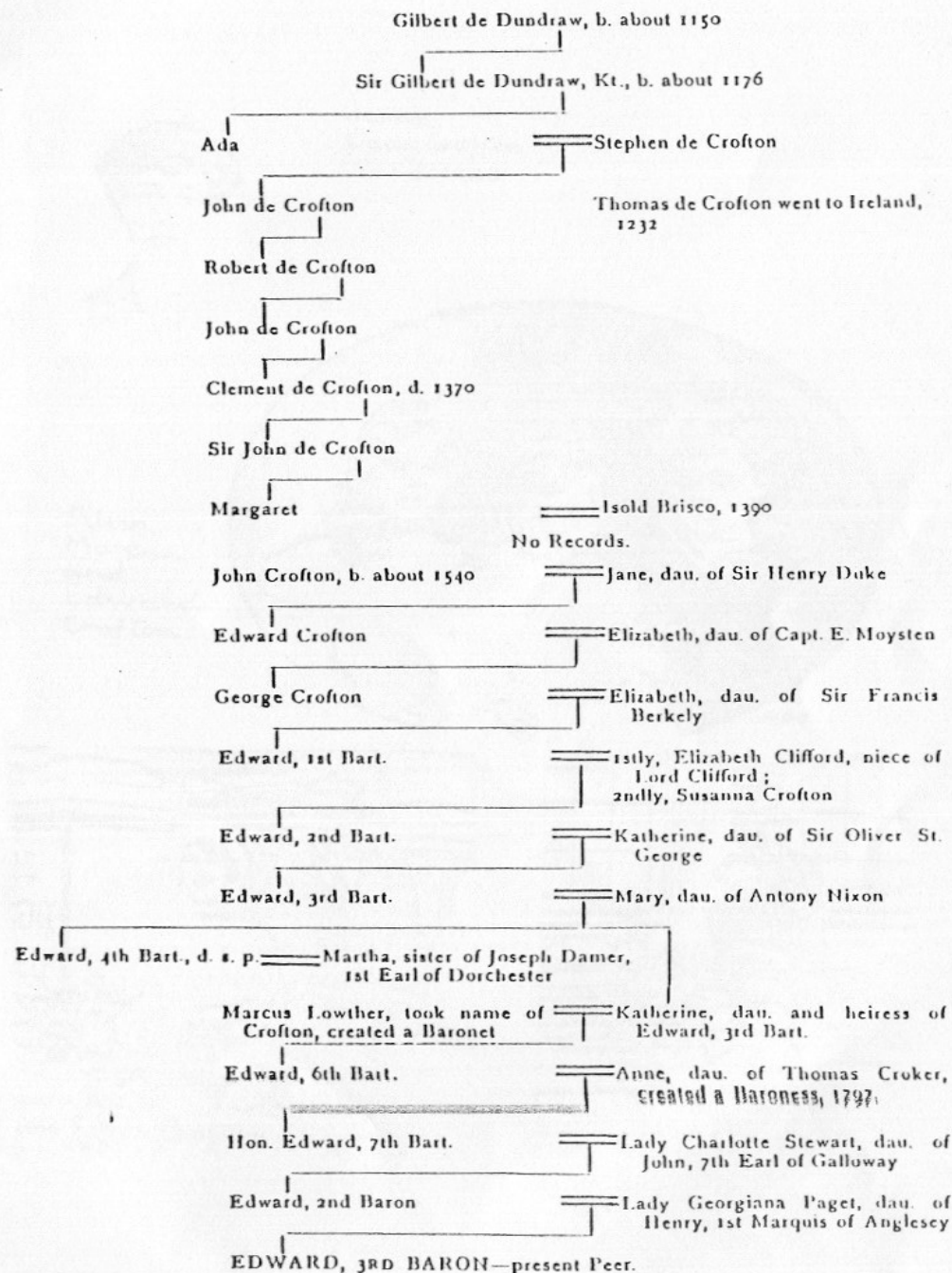
And I charge you on my blessing never to part with Robert Mitchel while he will live with you & keep him about your son, he is honest, faithful and good natured, very sober has all good qualities and none bad, lett him have all my close, linen and woolin, but my surtoul w^{ch} I leave you and my family y^t is to be kept for them

Dated at Moat the 8th of July 1727

EDW^d CROFTON

1739

Probate in Latin





Arthur Edward Lither. 4th Bn. Crofton. b. 1866 m. 1893 d. 1944
5th Northumberland Fusiliers.



Jessie
Lady Crofton
d. 1923

Eileen,
Marcus,
and
Edward
Crofton.



Lady Clonbrock, Lord Crofton



Hon Eileen Crofton



Hon. Mrs. Hughes-Onslow