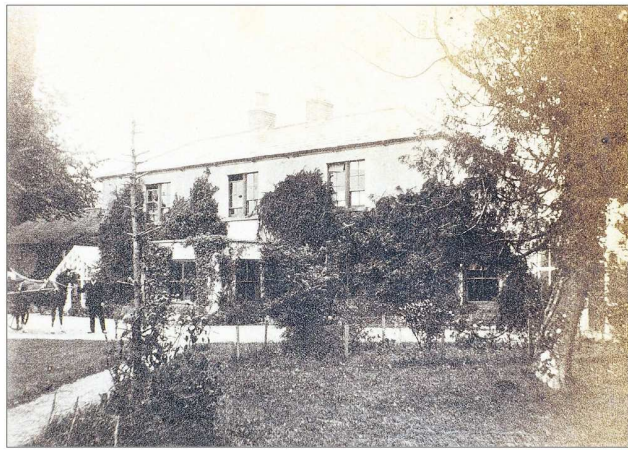


Local historian and Secretary of the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, MICHAEL BYRNE looks over the diary of an Offaly landowner and High Sheriff, Maxwell Fox for the year 1868. Maxwell Fox resided at Annaghmore House, near Tullamore, which was recently in the news, both locally and nationally, due to the auction of three sculptures from the house by Sotheby's.

The Life Of A King's County [Offaly] Landowner And High Sheriff In The 1860s

The Diary of Maxwell Fox Of Annaghmore House, Near Tullamore PART

WHAT brought Barry Fox to Annaghmore from Longford is unclear. Perhaps it was the connections with the county through the marriage of his ancestor Patrick Fox of Fox Hall, Longford to Lady Herbert of Darrow. Miss Herbert was the daughter and heiress of Sir Edward Herbert of Darrow by Lady Harriet Lambert, daughter of the earl of Cavan. Patrick Fox died without issue about 1735. Barry Fox was intimate with Lord Tullamore and his family at a time when Tullamore was at the zenith of his influence in the late 1820s and 1830s. Like his ancestors at Darrow Barry Fox participated in local affairs and was himself high sheriff of Longford in 1831 and a member of the Longford Grand Jury in 1833 and by the mid-1830s, was also serving on the King's County Grand Jury in a prominent capacity. He had been a member of the Longford county politics in the 1820s and early 1830s in the conservative interest. His brother Charles Fox had sought a vacant Longford seat in the house of commons on the death of Viscount Forbes in 1836. Luke White won the seat on a repeat ticket but was unseated and Fox declared elected on 5 May 1837, but lost the seat in the general election of the same year. Another cousin, Richard Maxwell Fox, was elected on a Repeat ticket in 1847 and again in 1852. It would be interesting to know how Barry Fox managed his Roscore estate and what political influence he sought to bring to bear on his own tenants. The Conservative interest began to wane in King's County in 1832 first with the loss of a seat by Bernard in favour of Fitzsimon in 1832 and second, the loss of the Oxmantown seat in 1834. Although the Conservatives were back in power in 1841 they seldom thereafter carried seats in King's County. In Longford the electoral experience of 1835 was unique in that Longford was the only county in the country where the conservatives failed to secure even one of the two county seats, even in the 1860s. That Barry Fox could be vengeful about tenants not voting in

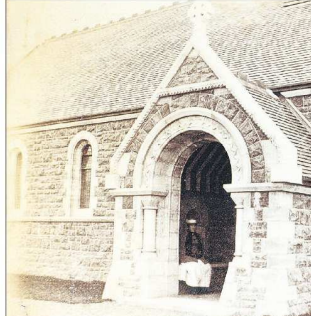


Ross House, home of Coote, near Tullamore. TT2800.

land served on the visiting committee of Tullamore gaol and as an ex-officio guardian of Tullamore union workhouse. Like his Biddulph neighbours in Killybegh he was prominent in the Ormond and King's County Hunt. Maxwell Fox appears to have had a good relationship with his tenants apart from the troubled 1880s when few landlords escaped such difficulties. At the beginning of the year 1868 just before he assumed the office of high sheriff the King's County Chronicle published a flattering note as to his good relations with his tenants. The Chronicle always looked to the English model of landlord-tenant relationships as the desideratum for Ireland and was quick to seize on any opportunity that might somewhat support its view. Maxwell Fox was also criticised for his treatment of his tenants in the townlands of Ballina and Derries. On 28 January 1886 the Midland Tribune again attacked the 'Roscore couplet' of Waller and Maxwell Fox for seizing a horse and cow of two orphan children on the estate by a decree of a half-year's rent of £6. The rent struggle lasted from January until at least May 1886 when the Midland Tribune urged Waller and Maxwell Fox to relent and negotiate. The brothers had taken the unusual step of publishing a letter in the same issue addressed to the Roscore tenants.

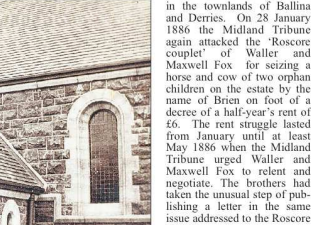
Tenants of Roscore before you finally commit yourselves to a course of action, which must bring you and your families to ruin and render you homeless, we write in friendship to urge you to consider what you are doing. You know as well as we that the tenants are fair - that you have always been justly treated - and up to a short time ago there had always been a friendly feeling between us; but you have been misled by the teachings of the League, and those teachings will run you. The reductions we offered would have enabled you to pay what you owe us. But you were not allowed to do so. You may still think we will give in, but you mistake. We look on it as a duty and a principle not to do so, and would sooner let the land lie idle at Roscore than be dictated to by the League, which we consider the ruin of our country and her people. Your true friends, W. Waller Fox.

servants. Mrs Fox was in that year aged fifty five with Dublin as her birthplace. Vera was nineteen and, of course, single. Of the servants, three were women and one, Thomas Edwards was presumably the chauffeur and male help. Two were Church of Ireland and two were Roman Catholic. Mrs Fox sold the Annaghmore estate in 1919 and moved to 5 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. The purchaser was Patrick J. Egan, son of Henry Egan, a leading Tullamore nationalist who was in May of that year Patrick J. Egan was a grand juror and was later to serve as a Cumann na nGaedheal TD for Laois-Offaly from 1923 until the first election in 1927. Egan was given a rousing welcome in Tullamore on his return after his election win in early September 1923. A bonfire was lit in O'Connor Square and he was introduced to the assembled public by John Williams. At the meeting P.J. Egan urged the republican cause to come into the new Dail and work for economic success. He was chairman of the Offaly County Council from 1928 until 1934 and died in 1960. At an appeal on the valuation of the Annaghmore property before the circuit court judge William Gleeson, in 1936, Egan told the judge that he had bought the property for £5,669 and that it consisted of the mansion house, 400 acres of land and 70 acres of bog. The land had a value of some 7s per acre as compared to 11s for the rest of the county. Annaghmore was dated by Egan to 1805 and he said it had thirteen rooms and some fifty five offices and was insured for £17,000. The Commissioners of Valuation had reduced the valuation of Annaghmore from £51,15s. to £47, Egan's auctioneer, James Hanlon, introduced some levity into the bid proceedings when he informed the court that the residence of the late James Lockied, Ardagh House, near Killybegh was going to be pulled down by Jack McGuinness at a cost of £300 while Lettybrook had been given to a farmer by the Land Commission and the valuation reduced to £15 from £30. The high quality Biddulph house - Emerald Hill - near Kinnitty, had been given to a Mr Nugge and the poor law valuation (p.l.v.) reduced from £66 to £20. The former Baron Smith's house at Newtown near Geashill had its p.l.v. reduced from £28 to £14. Some of the great house owners were, Hanlon told the court, keeping poultry and sheep on the ground floor. Hanlon overplayed his hand and the appeal on the Annaghmore valuation failed with no order as to costs. Gleeson thought the house was well suited to Mr Egan and that it struck him that Mr Egan was a prosperous gentleman as was nearly everybody in Tullamore. In fact he was more inclined to increase the valuation. It was P.J. Egan's eldest son, H.L. (Larry) Egan who had victory in another arena when his horse, Jack Chaucer, won the Red Cross Steeplechase in early 1940 earning another bonfire in Annaghmore but she was in residence in 1911 when the next census was taken. The house was described as having twenty eight rooms occupied by six people inclusive of Mrs Fox, her daughter Vera and four



Brittas Castle. TT2802

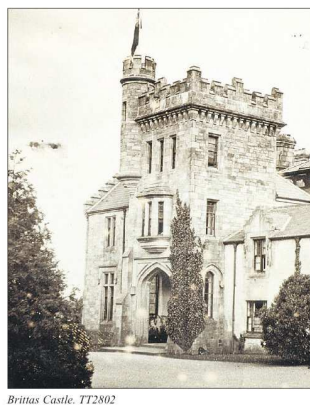
accordance with their landlord's instructions is clear from a situation that arose in Longford in 1835. Here, immediately after the election he had sought to punish tenants who had voted differently to their landlord. This was done by obliging them to discharge the 'hanging-gale' of rent (i.e. the rent due to the previous rent-day which the landlord allowed the tenant to hold). In the end the tenants were able to pay much to the satisfaction of Maria Edgeworth and her brother who did not support 'the precipitate and presumptuous' action of Barry Fox. His departure to live in King's County at this time may not have been welcome to Maria Edgeworth. Barry Fox's departure for the army after his wife's death leaving young children in the care of others in his family or in public schools was a sad end for his plans for Annaghmore. The financial difficulties of Maxwell Fox were relieved by the late 1830s and the closing up of Charleville with the sale of all the stock and cattle in 1842 was another bitter blow to fifteen years of close friendship with Lord Tullamore, now the impetuous second Earl. The earl departed for Berlin where he was obliged to live on a small stipend from the courts



Ross House, home of Coote, near Tullamore. TT2800.

the dancing was kept up to a late hour. Maxwell Fox went on record as saying that by his attendance and that of his wife and his brother he hoped to cultivate the good feeling that should exist between landlord and tenant. Fox was glad to note that the King's County was (so far) free of Fenianism and that in a county that a few years ago was considered one of the most disturbed counties in Ireland, but now it was free from crime than most counties. The vitality of the balliff, Mr Cummins, was drunk while Cummins, junior, proposed the vote of thanks to the landlord and his wife. This coming among them. The happy situation did not survive the early 1880s. The Chronicle in April 1882 gave the impression that matters had been settled amicably on the Maxwell Fox estate and rents paid except in a few instances. This was to be in line with the tenants of Lady Howard Bury at Cragh and those of Revd Algernon Coote while the tenants on the Geashill estate were still holding out for a rent abatement. Curious is a report of 1886 of a sheriff's sale in Tullamore of cattle and horses seized for non-payment of rent related to holdings of Joseph Cummins, now a poor law guardian, of Roscore in Guinan parish and John Ruhan of the

Dublin in 1892, held to protect against Gladstone's Third Home Rule Bill. At the time of his retirement he was farming in a small way with only some 20 horses and cattle and 150 pure bred Shropshire sheep and lambs. Maxwell Fox's sister, Charlotte, married in 1865 (the same year as her brother) the Revd Maxwell Coote, son of Colonel Chidley Coote. Coote features in the 1868 diary because he lived at Ross House, Sreeggan, Tullamore and was the rector of the extensive Killybegh parish in which Annaghmore is sited, from 1868 to 1905. Ralph Coote, also mentioned in the diary, lived at Brookfield House in Lymally parish where Barry Fox also had property. Ralph preceded his nephew as rector of Killybegh and held that office from 1827 until his death in 1868. As such he must surely have been an intimate at Annaghmore from the time of the refurbishment of the house for Barry Fox in the 1830s. Ralph Coote died on 24 November 1868 (there were no diary entries for November of December of that year) and by his will gave a sum of £2,000 to his nephews, Maxwell, to be invested for him and made him his executor and residuary legatee. It was hardly surprising that his nephew would be well known in the Fox household. Maxwell Coote, when he died in 1905, was described as the father of the Meath diocese and was generous to poor parishes in his district. By his will he left £2,000 to Killybegh parish and £1,000 each to Tullamore and Ballybeg. The residue of his estate amounting to c.£30,000 he gave to the poor parishes of the diocese. Mrs Charlotte Coote had died in the three months before her husband, and there was no issue of the marriage of some forty years. It was at the time of his death Maxwell Coote lived at Ross House near Sreeggan. His will of 1881 led to a law case, Fox v Representative Church Body, to deal with certain aspects of the will and the gross estate valued at £39,000. It was decided by Judge Meredith that all the money



Brittas Castle. TT2802

should go to the Representative Church Body. To the hymn 'The Church's one foundation' new communion rails and a lectern in Killybegh church were dedicated to the memory of Mr and Mrs Coote some two weeks before the judgment by the Master of the Rolls. Notwithstanding such munificence Killybegh church was closed some thirty years ago and is now a private residence. The bishop had in his 1907 address referred to days of trial ahead. The funeral of the eldest daughter of Barry Fox took place to Lymally, Tullamore in July 1906. Miss Mary Anne Fox died, aged 78, at the home of her last surviving brother, Waller, at Fox Hall, Edgeworthstown. The mourners included the daughters of the late Judge O'Connor Morris - The Misses O'Connor Morris of Gortnamona and that of the late governor of Tullamore gaol, Harry Fetherstonhaugh - Emily Craig and Laura Fetherstonhaugh. The immediate mourners were Captain Waller Fox and the widow of Maxwell Fox, by his second marriage and their three children, Sophy, Barry and Vera. Mrs Maxwell Fox lived on at Annaghmore until 1919 and had the good fortune to sell the place just before the Anglo-Irish War and the Civil War. Mrs Fox was active for various charities including a 'sale of work' in aid of the parish at Tullamore in October 1907. The youngest daughter, Vera, was engaged to be married to Lt. John Victor Drought of Lettybrook near Cadamstown in 1915, but this did not proceed as a further engagement was announced to a Captain Young of Bath in 1921. Mrs Fox remained at Annaghmore for some twenty years after the death of her husband, but may have only been resident for part of the time. The house appears to have been vacant at the time of the 1901 census, but she was in residence in 1911 when the next census was taken. The house was described as having twenty eight rooms occupied by six people inclusive of Mrs Fox, her daughter Vera and four

tributed with a large portion being sold to the Phillips family. The house was sold by the Phillips family now with only about ten acres in 1968 for £28,000. The new owners were an Irish-American couple, Harold and Audrey O'Brien from Trenton, New Jersey. Mr O'Brien died in October 2002 and his wife in June 2009. But for the O'Briens the house might not have survived to the present time. The present owner is Mr John McEvoy of Killurin, Killegh who had taken care of the house on behalf of the often absent O'Briens for many years. Patrick Egan died in May 1960 at his house, Kierutrin, Tullamore, at the age of 84. He was survived by four children and was probably the last person then living to have served on the King's County grand jury of which his predecessor in Annaghmore had been sheriff ninety-two years earlier. The Fox family had occupied Annaghmore for almost eight-hundred years before for thirty years and the O'Briens for forty years. Little or no furnishings survive from the original house save some statutory which was removed for sale by Sothebys in July 2010. However, the new bow-fronted rooms of the 1830s remain in good shape albeit with alterations to the front windows. The alterations to the front of the house and possibly the reason why Major Fox purchased the property is long gone. The somewhat rebellious tenants of the Roscore estate of the 1880s succeeded in their quest to become tenant proprietors.

The diary entries

Turning to the high sheriff's diary of 1868 it should be said that there is nothing touching on the public domain or the politics of the day save perhaps his account of the ceremony for the judges' annual assizes. Nevertheless, it is interesting to observe the daily routine of the Offaly landowner for three days before rapid transport or recreation other than cards, reading, shooting and fishing.

WEDNESDAY 1 January

Everyone late this morning after last night's dissipation. Waller and Vera and Harry - very few people there. Returned by 2 to luncheon. Aft lunch, preparing Annaghmore and the poor law valuation (p.l.v.) reduced from £66 to £20. The former Baron Smith's house at Newtown near Geashill had its p.l.v. reduced from £28 to £14. Some of the great house owners were, Hanlon told the court, keeping poultry and sheep on the ground floor. Hanlon overplayed his hand and the appeal on the Annaghmore valuation failed with no order as to costs. Gleeson thought the house was well suited to Mr Egan and that it struck him that Mr Egan was a prosperous gentleman as was nearly everybody in Tullamore. In fact he was more inclined to increase the valuation. It was P.J. Egan's eldest son, H.L. (Larry) Egan who had victory in another arena when his horse, Jack Chaucer, won the Red Cross Steeplechase in early 1940 earning another bonfire in Annaghmore but she was in residence in 1911 when the next census was taken. The house was described as having twenty eight rooms occupied by six people inclusive of Mrs Fox, her daughter Vera and four

Thursday 2 January

Went to Tullamore on car to attend the shooting on the farm with Felthestone in the gas called on Dr. Ridley about Mrs. Marshall and returned back. Played whist after dinner.

Friday 3 January

Splitting wood all the afternoon. Dr. Ridley came to see Mrs. Marshall drove in his trap to Doyle's gate and walked back. After dinner played whist and read.

Saturday 4 January

Splitting fire wood in Florence's garden, and writing letters. Charlotte and Max arrived and went to the lake to see the skaters, came back to luncheon after which the Coote's departed. I went to split wood. Played whist after dinner.

Sunday 5 January

Walked with Waller to church, a cold day.

Monday 6 January

Drove in dog cart with Dick to Blue Ball attended Dispensary (of course no guardians in there) then walked to Roscore, inspected ewes with Dick, looked at ploughing and returned to luncheon at 2. Walked with Flo to Lambs after luncheon then burnt a beech stump in middle of garden. Doing accounts with Waller [Fox] all the evening.

Tuesday 7 January

Went to Tullamore. Clonad bottoms fox, ducks etc. Waller shot 1 teal, 1 partridge, and 1 rabbit. I wounded a duck. After dinner played whist. Mrs. Marshall a little better.

Wednesday 8 January

Cutting beech for fire wood in Doyle's clump all day with Bergin. After luncheon - Dick selling stamps at 10. Doing per ton - finished cutting down and snagging 3 trees. After

dinner played whist. Mrs. Marshall not mending much.

Thursday 9 January
Cutting beech for fire wood in Doyle's clump all forenoon. Luncheon at 1. After luncheon drove with Flo to Tullamore to see Dr. Ridley about Mrs. Marshall, he was away at Rathrobin so returned home. Walter and Bergin crosscutting beech. Played whist after dinner. Mrs. Marshall better.

Friday 10 January
Drove to Clonad with Waller met Daly and shot the wood; a very disagreeable day, raining a little all day. Shot 7 brace of Cocks, 6 hares, 3 rabbits; shooting very good. Home by 4. 40. After dinner played whist. The Ridleys called at 3. Mrs. M. [Marshall] much better.

Saturday 11 January
Drove with Flo on car to Lynamly left her there and went on to Tullamore to lodge money in bank. Saw Mr. Whelan abt Sheriff's business and returned to Lynamly picked up Flo and returned home to luncheon at 2.45. Charlotte and Max were with me. After dinner played whist. Mrs. Marshall much better.

Sunday 12 January
Walked to church with Waller. F and maids drove.

Monday 13 January
Drove in to Tullamore with Waller, did deed signing business with Mr. Whelan (Master in Chancery), did business also at the bank and returned home to luncheon. After which walked with Flo to sheep-house in Phadrick's hollow and back taking the dogs with us. After dinner everyone reading.

Tuesday 14 January
A squally wet day, too wet to do anything out of doors in forenoon. Wrote letters and worked in workshop after luncheon. Cut down some old stumps in Middle clump and a holly at entrance of Doyle's wood. After dinner played whist. Mrs. Marshall getting on first rate.

Wednesday 15 January
Drove with Waller to Glaskill on car met Peirce and Ridley and Charleville keeper (Mitchell) shot the wood and only got 5 rabbits and 1 and a half brace of Cocks and one owl. Walked to Patsey's house and from there drove home. Home by 5. After dinner played whist.

Thursday 16 January
Burning stumps in Middle clump and writing letters. Blowing a gale all day after luncheon. Burning stumps. Walked a little with Flo who had a headache in the evening and went to bed instead of dinner.

Friday 17 January
Pulling down an ash tree at entrance of Doyle's wood with tackles. Got it down in a few minutes. Flo a little better after luncheon. Cross cutting ash tree. Very sleepy after dinner.

Saturday 18 January
X cutting ash tree with Bergin for fire wood as the turf is beginning to run short. Blowing a very heavy gale all the forenoon a spruce tree (opposite the greenhouse close to sunk fence) blown down. Almost impossible to walk on the avenue the wind was so powerful. After luncheon cutting and stacking fire wood. Heard that Roscoe's tenants had suffered much from the wind and Tullamore also. Played whist after dinner.

Sunday 19 January
Walked with Waller to church. Flo and Mrs. Cox went on car.

Monday 20 January
Waller went at 9 to Athlone to sell his colt. Drove with Flo in Brougham to Tullamore. Flo saw Dr. Ridley at Infirmary. I attended auditing the Infirmary accounts for the year then went to Ridley's picked up Flo, and came home at 3. Had luncheon and went to Doyle's wood to inspect filling holes where ash tree had been uprooted and cut for fire wood, dragged beech branches to be burnt. Waller returned at 7. Played whist in evening.

Tuesday 21 January
Cutting a large ash stump into fire wood with Bergin all forenoon. Wrote a letter to A. Bury after luncheon. Flo returned from visiting Rath Cootie at Lynamly. Bergin and I crosscutting beech for fire wood. Played whist after dinner.

Wednesday 22 January
Collecting strew'd branches and burning them in Doyle's wood and writing letters in forenoon. After luncheon Waller left on car for Clara Hill taking Flo as far as Tanhams lodge. I raked and wheeled chips to fire in M. A.'s barrow. Bilious in the evening. Flo tired.

Thursday 23 January
Burning and raking up leaves in Doyle's wood and writing letters. Mrs. Lov came to luncheon. After luncheon Fetherston came having walked from Tullamore with his pointer a sagacious looking old dog. Flo and I walked with him to Tanhams lodge, which was walk, gave Flo neuralgia she was in great pain and sick at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Friday 24 January
Flo much better. Blowing a gale from S.E. and afterwards southerly with heavy rain all day till 4 o'clock. After luncheon splitting and crosscutting fire wood in cart shed. Walked to Lambs and back. Read the papers and an excellent speech of Lord Stanley's about the remedies for Ireland.

Saturday 25 January
Drove to Tullamore met Mr. Whelan and drove with him to Clara, was sworn in High Sheriff, returned to Tullamore and home ("Ruby going well") at 3 - Dick laid up with bad faceache, walked about inspecting farm. After dinner played and sang with Flo until 11, then bed.

Sunday 26 January
Drove Flo and maids to church and walked back. Monday 27 January
Superintending the farming operations. Sold a ton and a half of turnips. Flo and Meades went in brougham to Clara Hill and returned at 2 bringing a very bad account of Aunt Henrietta. Waller returned on foot from Clara Hill. Played whist after dinner. Very bilious in the evening.

Tuesday 28 January
Superintending farming operations all day. Flo drove to the school at Killooughy church and returned to luncheon. Waller went out shooting and got 3 snipe. Sent to Tullamore for 2d post. Got a letter from Marian giving a hopeless account of poor Aunt Henrietta. Played whist in the evening.

Wednesday 29 January
Superintending farming as yesterday and writing letters. Walked with Flo down avenue to get moss for Jesses. Charlotte, Max and Mr. Henry Close arrived to luncheon. After luncheon walked about with Mr. Close showing him different things about farm and garden. They left at 4. Played whist after dinner.

Thursday 30 January
Shot the covers with Waller. Max, Cootie and Mr. Close were to have joined us but did not come. Sent for Dr. O'Malley (who came at 7) to see Dick who had Tic Doulaux. Played whist after dinner.

Friday 31 January
Doing accounts and writing letters. Inspected farming operations. After luncheon topping and raising a large holly in monument that had been blown down. Played whist after dinner. Dick no better.

FEBRUARY 1868
Saturday 1 February
Putting a wire stay to the holly that was blown down and topping others. Inspecting farming work. After luncheon topping hollies and walking over the farm and mending lutes on the roof of the house. Played whist after dinner. Jupiter and Venus close together.

Sunday 2 February
Walked to church, Flo and servants drove. I seedy.

Monday 3 February
Snowing. Took medicine and was unwell all the forenoon. Morris the butcher came and bought 3 bullocks at £19 a piece, well sold. After luncheon attended cutting ash along hedge in Lime Kiln field. Flo came out to me and we walked in Lambs screen. I afterwards snagged ash. Very sleepy in evening.

Tuesday 4 February
Snagging ash trees at north hedge in Lime Kiln field all day. Waller laid up indoors with a bad eye. In afternoon snagging ash. Played whist after dinner.

Wednesday 5 February
Armstrong went to Dublin. Writing letters and snagging ash in Lime kiln field. Flo and Waller went in Brougham to Clara Hill. After luncheon snagging and cutting ash. F and W returned at 4. After dinner played whist.

Thursday 6th
Heard from Marian of poor Aunt Henrietta Fox's death, 71 years of age. Waller went to see Ridley in Brougham. I walked with Flo and wrote letters. After luncheon walked with Flo and X cut ash with Bergin. W returned at 4.30. After dinner Armstrong returned from Dublin. Talked over plans for tomorrow. A lovely Spring day.

Friday 7 February
Preparing for a start to Dublin and London, was served with a severe bilious attack and nearly fainted several times before luncheon. Put off going to-day, went up to our room and lay on the sofa until bedtime at 10. Very seedy all day long, better before evening but very weak.

Saturday 8 February
Better this morning. W. left for London to attend Aunt H's funeral. Dr. Ridley came and saw me and put me on a regular diet, chops, bread and cold grog. Walked about with Flo, a lovely day (cold N.E. wind). Wrote letters. Connolly and a vet came to see W's colt. He wasn't sound, so wasn't bought. After lunch walked again with Flo. After dinner I read out Baker's Abyssinia, a charming book.

Sunday 9 February

Flo and maids drove to church. I too seedy to go.

Monday 10 February
Wrote letters and walked about farm; too seedy to work. Walked about with Flo. After luncheon in garden talking and arranging with gardener. After dinner Flo read out Baker's Abyssinia. I made snips.

Tuesday 11 February
Walking about in garden. Luncheon at 1.15 then drove in Brougham with Flo and Meades to Tullamore visited Mrs. Ridley and then to station; saw Flo and Meades off by 3.20 train and returned home. Ruby [the horse] a little frightened at the train, pulled a good deal. After dinner looking over farm accounts with Dick [Tanhams].

Wednesday 12 February
Rather seedy. Walking about gardens and farm. Writing letters. After Luncheon X cutting firewood with Bergin. Walked down avenue to look at screen opposite gate. Flo, Waller and Meade arrived at 8.5 in good health from Dublin.

Thursday 13 February
Drove in with Waller to Tullamore on business. Returned for luncheon calling at Lynamly. X cutting with Bergin.

Friday 14 February
Drove to Tullamore on Sheriff's business and returned to luncheon. X cutting with Bergin after luncheon. Dining room chimney caught fire, employed putting it out.

Saturday 15 February
Setting up wire fence round waste place at corner of garden. Wrote letters. After luncheon finishing the wire paling. After dinner played whist.

Sunday 16 February
Flo and maids drove in Brougham to Church. I walked. W returned from Clara Hill with Charlotte at 5.

Monday 17 February
Easton came to train "Ruby" and rode her a little - sweeps sweeping chimneys - Charlotte, Florence W. I and Tanhams laying out beds opposite to drawing room window. After luncheon walked with C. F and W to Lambs and back by lane to see the twin lambs etc then went on with the beds. After dinner played whist, Flo had a touch of Neuralgia.

Tuesday 18 February
Gardener finishing the beds before drawing room window. Flo all right again. Max Cootie came to luncheon and took Charlotte's home. X cutting with Bergin. Read Baker after dinner.
Wednesday 19 February
Went to Dublin by morning train arranged about horses for assesses etc shopped. Met Charles Fox at club, looking very well, just come from England. Called at Mr. Andersons about money lent to Richard Fox, then to train. Home at 8 to dinner, rather tired and sleepy.

Thursday 20 February
Dick went to see a ploughing match at Mr. Turlington's (Newtown), a very bad blowy and rainy day. Wrote letters. After luncheon inspecting farm work and talking to gardener about greenhouse gutter etc. After dinner read the Talsman and played whist.

Friday 21 February
Working in workshop at a nut and screw. Writing letters and setting up wire paling at back of garden corner. After luncheon Flo drove on car to the Glebe and Rathrobin [sic], Mr. Biddulph worse. I setting up wire paling. Flo had a slight touch of neuralgia. Played whist after dinner. Waller had a bad cold.

Saturday 22 February
Writing letters etc, and setting up wire paling as yesterday. After luncheon the same until 6 o'clock. A windy day, a cold evening. Played whist after dinner.

Sunday 23 February
Drove Flo and maids to church. Mrs. Thomason there for 1st time.

Monday 24 February
Drove with Waller to Roscoe on car with "Ruby" who was very fresh and shed a good deal. Visited Cummins and talked business, then walked to woods and marked trees in several beats (Patsey assisting) returned by 6 o'clock. Played whist after dinner.

Tuesday 25 February (Shrove Tuesday)
Drove to Tullamore to arrange matters with my Sub-Sheriff. Home to luncheon, after which drove with Flo to Gormamona to call on the Thomason's saw and chatted with Mrs. Thomason and returned home. Played whist after dinner. Flo had a little neuralgia.

Wednesday 26 February (Ash Wednesday)
Flo and maids drove to church. Waller and I walked he left me at the church and went on to Roscoe to remain there at Rigney's for 3 days. Rather a long service, communion?! Home a little before 2. Dined at 2.15, tea at 7. Flo read out Baker's Abyssinia while I fitted my boots sails.

Thursday 27 February
A fine day. At work with gar-

dener putting up wire paling behind garden and writing letters. After dinner (at 2) at wire paling and walking about farm. After tea Flo read Baker while I fitted my sails.

Friday 28 February
A wet day, couldn't do much out of doors, at work in workshop putting extra wire into small wicket gate behind garden. After dinner raking up chips, and covering beech stumps of trees cut in avenue east side. After tea. Flo read Baker, I worked at the sails, "evening as yesterday".

Saturday 29 February
Heavy showers during forenoon, after luncheon sent car to Roscoe for Waller. I covering stumps of beech trees with scraws. After dinner played whist.

PART THREE NEXT WEEK