

## THE COSHMORE AND COSHBRIDE.

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IT is upon record that hounds were kept at Ballynatray by the ancestors of the present Master, Captain Rowland Holroyd Smyth, of Ballynatray Lodge, near Youghal, more than a century and a half since, and there is an old Hunt button extant depicting a fox at speed, and the word "Ballynatray" inscribed upon it.

The country hunted by the Coshmore and Coshbride—"C.C.H.," as it is now called—is somewhat peculiarly situated, being an isolated portion of county Waterford in the extreme west of the Blackwater Vale, cut off by that river from the remainder of the county. The country covers an area of about twenty miles, nearly the whole of it being in county Waterford, but there are a few coverts in Cork.

During the latter half of the last century it was hunted by Mr. Philip Chearnley, of Satterbridge, Cappoquin, and he was succeeded by Sir John King. Prior to 1847 (generally known as the famine year) the Blackwater Vale Hounds hunted both sides of the river. The pack in question was given up about 1848, and the country was unhunted, when the late Earl of Huntingdon (then Lord Hastings) got together a pack, which he hunted from his residence at Whitechurch, near Cappagh. These hounds were known as the "H.H.," or Lord Hastings' Hounds. His Lordship continued for four years, but, moving to Sharavogue at the end of that period, he gave up his hounds, and the country again lay fallow for awhile, in manner of speaking; but in 1870 the late Marquess of Waterford took it up as an addition to the Curraghmore country, as far west as the Blackwater. Indeed, he occasionally met at Youghal Bridge, on that river, which is a very far call from Curraghmore. So far was it that, after one season, the Marquess gave it up, never drawing farther west than Ballyvoile Glen.

Following this, Sir Nugent Humble, who had previously hunted the eastern portion, again took up the country as far as the Blackwater with a pack formed from hounds sent from the Curraghmore, Lord Doneraile's, and Mr. Watson's kennels. Sir Nugent's son, the late Mr. Robert Nugent Humble, carried the horn, Mr. Charles Nugent Humble acting as whipper-in. Together these gentlemen not only got together a first-class pack, but showed splendid sport with it, Mr. Charles Nugent Humble eventually acting as M.F.H.

After the death of Sir Nugent Humble in 1886, Mr. Henry Villiers Stuart, of Dromana, stepped into the breach, hunting the country for three seasons, being succeeded for one season by Mr. Curran, of Clashmore.

In 1892 the boundaries of the country were definitely settled. Colonel G. Holroyd Smyth purchased hounds at Ballynatray, and began to hunt the district. In Sir Nugent Humble's time Mr. Percy Smyth, of Headborough, and Captain William Maxwell, of Moorehill, had successively worked the western side of the Blackwater, but this, after Colonel Holroyd Smyth's accession to office, was taken in hand by the "C.C.H." Added to this they draw, on the eastern side of the river, the coverts of Ballintaylor, Clashmore, Dromana, Dromore, Glenbeg, and Glenleckey; they also, by permission, draw certain coverts belonging to the "U.H.C."

Colonel Holroyd Smyth died in 1902, being succeeded by his son, the present Master, Captain Rowland Holroyd Smyth, who, previous to his father's death, had been acting as huntsman for eleven seasons.

He is a good houndman, and the pack, which at the time of writing consists of some 25 couples, is almost entirely home-bred. They hunt twice a week, Tuesday and Saturday. The Master carries the horn himself, with W. Wootton as kennel huntsman and whipper-in. Coshmore and Coshbride is the name of an united barony.