



The Agnews of Kilwaughter

The Agnews of Kilwaughter have a distinguished pedigree, going back a long way, eventually to Sir Andrew Agnew of Lochnaw Castle in Wigtownshire in 1426.

There are excellent family trees and more information at these two blogsites:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.co.uk/2013/07/56-agnew-of-kilwaughter.html>

<http://lordbelmontinnorthernireland.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/kilwaughter-castle.html>

Questions to ponder:

Might the Houstons of Craig, Co Antrim, be connected to the Dublin Houston who married a Holmes daughter and eventually lead to the Blakiston-Houston family at Orangefield House beside Bloomfield (and their close connection to Agnew and Holmes)?

Might Margaret Stewart of Killymoon Castle be related to Thomas Ludford Stewart, land agent for the Marquis of Donegall and part of the 1802 'tenant to the precipe' deal?

A partial Agnew family listing looks like this:

Patrick Agnew (c.1710s-1740s) married Margaret (or Martha) Houston of Craig, Co Antrim.
Their offspring* were:

1. William;
2. Frances;
3. John;
4. James;
5. Patrick;
6. Henry;
7. Hugh.

*Note: Might one of these sons be a grandfather to our John Agnew?

Was John, the third son, the John Agnew of Craigs Parish, Co Antrim, who died in 1777?

William Agnew (c.1730s-1770s), eldest son of Patrick (above) married his cousin Margaret Stewart of Killymoon Castle (another John Nash 'pile'), Cookstown, Co Tyrone.

Their offspring were:

1. James;
2. William;
3. Maria;
4. Jane.

James and William died at an early age. Maria's first husband was James Ross. Her second was the wealthy Valentine Jones, part of a dynasty of Valentine Joneses in Belfast.

The offspring of Maria and Valentine were:

1. Edward;
2. Margaret.

Edward Jones (1767-1834) succeeded his grandfather, on condition that he took the surname Agnew. So it was that Edward Jones Agnew became the occupant of Kilwaughter Castle, which he had rebuilt to the designs of John Nash in 1803-1807.

He married Eleanor Galbraith. Their offspring were:

1. James (died 1826)
2. William (1824-1891);
3. Maria.

William, known as Squire William, inherited Kilwaughter Castle

Then, to confuse things (thinking of the Donaghadee Captain), there's another Captain William Agnew, a ship's officer said to be born in 1794, who, on 1 May 1823, obtained from Lord Donegall, a lease for lives renewable for ever, "of that parcel of land, called the Curran of Larne, containing by admeasurement, 125a 22r 30p., plantation measure, or thereabouts," with the rectorial tithes thereof, and the anchorage of the Lough and Curran of Larne. This was said to have included the site of the Friary of Drumalis.

Source: O'Laverty, Rev. James. *An Historical Account of the Diocese of Down and Connor, Ancient and Modern*, Gill and Son, Dublin, 1880. Page 160.

The Waterloo Lime Kiln, Larne, "is just one of many limekilns along the coast road – evidence of a long-standing industrial heritage. Captain William Agnew opened limestone quarries here during the 1830s. The stone was burnt in the kiln to produce a rich soil conditioner. Agnew also built a tramway along the shore and a quay at the Curran to facilitate exportation. Limestone is still quarried at Glenarm and Kilwaughter."

Source: http://www.larne.gov.uk/uploads/docs/Heritage_Trail2.pdf

Across the water, in the first decades of the 19th century, a William Agnew and a John Agnew, based in Wigtown and Stranraer, owned several boats. They were listed as both owners and masters in the compulsory shipping registers from 1824 onwards.

Interestingly, the 64 shares in the *Vanguard*, a smack registered in Portpatrick and built in 1804, were divided equally between four owners, one of whom was John Agnew, an inn-keeper in Donaghadee. The vessel was wrecked "within district of Donaghadee on 6 December 1824.

Source: <http://www.dgcommunity.net/historicalindexes/shipping.aspx>