

Account of the Chambers family of Tallynaskeagh  
formerly spelled, Dthallow-nah-skeog.

The first John Chambers was known to live in  
Tallynaskeagh ~~before the Battle of Dunsford,~~  
~~now Dunsford,~~ in 1601; living there in the years 1595-6.  
Succeeded by his son John, the second and he was  
succeeded by ~~his~~ a third John; a branch of the family  
settled in Ballyclander. The third John was succeeded  
by a fourth John; of the former three, I have not  
heard to whom any of them was married or of  
their families in a direct line. <sup>Fellowship</sup> ~~line~~ each of them were  
appointed Elders or monthly leaders to the Presbyterians  
in the troublesome times; and also the fourth John as  
he was of an age sufficient to be appointed trustee for  
the Congregation, (see the lease), which was made out  
in the year 1721.

The fourth John Chambers was of sufficient age  
to be appointed one of the trustees in the said Lease by  
by the Rev. William Smith; who died in the year  
1727, he was the settled minister in Ballyclander  
and Ballee, during 52 years; and Ballyclander house  
fell on the first Sunday after St. John's day at



Midsummer in the year 1718, (which shows the fourth John was well known to Mr. Smith, and was appointed elder to succeed his father by merit and usefulness in such troublesome times, after the memorable battle of the Boyne.)

John was married to — and had three sons and one daughter or more, (she was married to a man named Keown, <sup>relative</sup> to the present William Keown of Ballydugan), The sons were John Chambers and Robert and William, the eldest, John, was one well qualified for business, and his father being much esteemed by the Ward family had given to him a half Plough land in Ballyalton, he also had the half townland of Slieve-na-Griddle and a part in upper Ballinagross of College or Cromwellian land and a part of lower Ballynagross, where James <sup>Mc</sup>Meachan now lives he became the most favourite Corn merchant in his day; He married Jane Foster by her he had Welshestown, and a little out farm in Slieve-boy-an. They had two Daughters Margaret and Mary, The eldest, Margaret was married to Thomas Anderson, of Blackcausey, to whom he gave Welshestown, and Slieve-boy-an (which farm is marked also). She bore her husband a son and two



daughters; the son Richard ~~the~~ married Jane eldest daughter of the late Alexander Gracey. who bore him two sons and a daughter; the sons both died young; the daughter married her cousin Rowland Craig, the present Clerk of the Peace; who succeeded his father in that office; she died shortly after her marriage, and as far as I know left no family.

The eldest Miss Anderson married John Craig then Clerk of the Peace; father of Rowland the present Clerk of the Peace; and dying (as far as I know) left Rowland and another son. I know not of daughters.

The other Miss Anderson married Mr. S. Acheson of Killough, the family still live there.

Mary, John's youngest daughter married W<sup>m</sup> Secord of Ballyculter and was to have what her Father then possessed, on the birth of their first child; he dying having no family she again married Gordon Bingham of Ballygilbert, she then went with her husband and sold all the properties to John Craig. She bore to her husband two sons, Walter and Charles, who both died young, also two daughters; one died unmarried, and the other married James Birney Esq<sup>r</sup> of Oakley who sold off Ballygilbert.



to John Carson; he had by his wife one son who went to the army and returned home in 1854, and died; his father died last month.

Robert second son to the fourth John Chambers and brother of the last named John was provided with a large farm in Eastern Corbally where he built a good house; Robert after the Death of his father was appointed Elder in the Congregation he was a man of most upright conduct and very much esteemed.

He married Margaret McConberg of Rosconnor by her he had three daughters and three sons; Jane, the eldest, married Hamilton Smith Esq; Attorney; who had the half townland of Dunsford, had by her one daughter who was married to an officer in the Army named Willis; who sold the land to the late William Thompson of Down, entrusting all to an Attorney, who on getting the money sailed to America, but how he succeeded I have not known. x

Margaret the second married - Brown of Drumcaw, brother to the late Robert Brown of Montpanther, whose father then lived in Ballyclander House, and held the farm attached to it; she went with her husband to Drumcaw; their land lying about the old burying



ground, the wall of the graveyard was broken down, it was said some of the graves <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ disturbed, and unpleasant circumstances followed; the name has now become extinct not one of the name is there.

His youngest daughter Mary married John Reid, son of Robert Reid of Ballygallum; he was in the Revenue; he took Ballykinlar House and farm they had a family but he dying left her a widow. She, rather imprudently, married again her own servant man, a Roman Catholic; much to the displeasure of all her friends; his name was Martagh Muklinor; perhaps rueing what she had done sold off, and went to America, of them, I believe, nothing has since been heard.

His three sons were William, Robert and James; William was a Doctor, and lived in Ballynahinch; he had a son and a daughter. The son was in the army and visited in Ballee and Tallynaskeagh; I was a little acquainted with him; he was married to a Roman Catholic lady; of him I heard not farther; of his sister I have heard not since she was a child; their father died in Ballynahinch and the last time I was there, I inquired of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Boyde and he told me, he was buried in Magheraduff droll.



and having a little time to spare, I went to the yard; and found his grave covered with a large stone upon it, inside the old church at the North wall.

Robert, the second son, was also a Doctor lived in Down, was married to a Miss Caddis and had one child, a son, called Brice, who died in youth; they are buried in Down.

James, the youngest son of Robert, was in America, came home and married Mary Clarke of Sheepland, and had one half of his father's land he had a family, three daughter, Mary, Margaret, and Jane, three sons, William, Robert and James. The eldest daughter married Leslie Carrow of Ross, who had the half ~~there~~ townland there ~~of as he~~ was chosen Lieutenant of the Down Yeomanry more for popularity than profit; as he had to keep company with Gentlemen; which burthened his land with expenses.

James, after the death of his father, which was about or in 1784, ~~at~~ as requested to act as elder in the Congregation, but being much attached to



## Meeting

with his family in the Meeting; but foreseeing the coming troubles, determined to emigrate to America, and after the death of his mother, which was in 1804 or 5, he sold off all the properties in his possession and went accordingly, and ~~when~~ there he wrote for Leslie Lanyon, who had one son, named Daniel, and he, according to the invitation, sold off all his property by piecemeal, and went; after which, I have not heard concerning them, save, that Mrs Chambers took an ailment in one of her legs, and applying to a surgeon he recommended bleeding, and unskillfully cut an artery, which caused the foot to be cut off. Since, I believe, all correspondence ceased with them.

William, the third son of the fourth John Chambers, became heir to, and representative of the ancient family; he married ~~for~~ Catherine Baillie of Bishopscourt, by whom he had three daughters, and two sons, who came to maturity. At that time; he had <sup>land</sup> in upper Ardmeen by lease, also a farm in ~~Dillon~~ of College land. His eldest daughter Margaret was married to John Martin of Tubbermoney, to whom he gave, as part of her fortune the land of Ardmeen, laboured and under crop but she



dying ~~that~~ soon, without issue, he, Martin, let the land go out from him, from inattention; it is now in the hands of Charles Brickard. His second daughter Catherine, married Benjamin Logan as his second wife; and bore to him a son and a daughter; the son died young and the daughter with her husband and family live in Ross on part of <sup>Baron's</sup> land. The youngest daughter married William Lewis of Ballee to whom she bore two sons and nine daughters; one of the daughters died in infancy; the fourth Anne married Robert son of William Henry of Ballyhosset, and took the farm of Carricknab; ~~they~~ <sup>he</sup> died leaving one Daughter; who is married to Joseph Flogg, to whom she has one child they still live in that farm. The eighth, Sarah Married Andrew Todd of Saintfield, she bore to him one child, and what was remarkable the child was baptized and the father ~~he~~ buried on the same day; the child died young; the Mother has now situation as matron of the Industrial School in Belfast. Their youngest Isabella, is married to James Todd, has a family and is doing <sup>business</sup> in Belfast. The two sons died young ~~men~~ unmarried; the other daughters live in the



WAL

family seat in Ballee.

The two sons of the Holmville family were John and James; the latter was educated for a minister. He preached in Ballee Meeting House in the year 1783; but owing to an unknown cause, he sailed for America; and the Rev. Mr. Patterson was partly charged as the cause of it; which caused the family to join the Down congregation. James was of a hasty temper and when in America a dispute arising, ended in a duel in which he fell; he left one son, <sup>named Washington</sup> with whom William Lewis was in America.

The road ~~for~~ <sup>from</sup> Ballee into the Big Parks passed by, in the front of the house, where now the court is at Tallynaskeagh, and through the stackyard, to the great annoyance of the family. A little ruined gate was into the parks, which continued till the late ~~Mr~~ <sup>Mr</sup> Ward took the Parks, when it was finally closed. Before which McMechan &c. passed through ~~this~~ way, with horses, &c. Squire Forder would pass to the sports of the field, calling on John to go with him; Mr Forder at this time had a Bu



of the public. ~~and~~

John gave charge of Dillion land ~~to~~ J. McKewen who so managed it, that he left it to a family that lived with <sup>him</sup> there, who again sold it off all nearly by piecemeal, having now only about 9 acres.

The Eddership <sup>the</sup> family ceased from the Death of Robert about or in the year and the Holmville family for a certian cause removed to worship in Down during the life of Mr Patterson, who died in 1798 when John returned to Ballee and took a seat nearly where Thomas Kewell sits.

During this time Mr Horde had John frequently to breakfast with him; There was no countryman held in such estimation as he was. He married Anne Lewis of Ballee and by her had two children, William and Susan. But dying <sup>the father</sup> when they were very young, exposed Mrs Chambers and her almost infants to many trials; yet she early took William to the field with her, which gave him an early idea of farming, which showed itself so conspicuous in his after and useful life, so that the demesne became a model <sup>for</sup> others to imitate in all manner and part of cultivation and implements employed therein. Improvements grew <sup>with</sup> his years, William's.



years; so that no part of the Demesne was left uncultivated; and his mother with a Matron's care, attentively watch<sup>ed</sup> over her children and farm; it showed itself in so conspicuous a manner that it tempted others to follow the example in all its parts, as yet none has arrived at the proficiency of cultivation.

When grown up to manhood he married Mary Miller of Ballyhemlin in the Ards; by whom he had five children three daughters and two sons. He relaxed not his attention to cultivation of the Demesne and though he was young in years for his conduct, experience and usefulness, he was chosen elder of Balle congregation; in which office he continued during his life. His sister died unmarried, her death was unexpected; she being on a visit to her friends in the Ards; her corpse was brought to the Burying ground in Balle Church yard; where all the different members of the family are interred. He was of a Delicate constitution often had sudden severe attacks, yet before his death he had given to a considerable portion of the land of Ballymenagh or Big Parks, joining his original Property, he also purchased a Freehold parcel on the first Sunday of which he left in the.



highest state of cultivation, and unencumbered at his death which took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1848, after he had continued in the eldership upwards of fifteen years; leaving a young family in years, but old in experience. Since his death, his eldest

Is called to a Heavenly rest,  
While others go and come,  
No more a stranger or a guest,  
But like a child at Home.

Francis Chambers.

N. B. All I know of the late Archibald<sup>son</sup> of Ballyvastin; is, that he was son of J. Chambers. descended from the third John Chambers of Tallynasteeagh, and that my Father and Archibald were second cousins and I now the father of the Chambers home; son of James; now in the eightyeigh year of my age, being born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1771.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The late John McKown, who got Dillion from your grandfather, was his full cousin, and late John McKown of Bishopscourt I believe was the same, - this is all I know.

Written by Francis Chambers, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 1858.  
Copied from the original <sup>the</sup> grew his years, William's,  
before ~~the~~ the