

**Extracts from Letters to Mary Watson respecting
the Irish Rebellion, 1798.**

Continued from page 24.

V.

Henry Deaves, London to Mary Watson at Norwich,
7 mo 3, 1798.

Being abstract of a letter from his sister, D. Watson,
dated Balidarten 6^{mo} 28th 1798.

At Enniscorthy the Rebels murdered 250 Protestants; they did not take the lives of any of our Society but pillaged them. We have not got a certain account of our Friends at Hoartown yet, but report says there was a Battle at Goffs Bridge opposite the Hall Door, and that 900 fell there, also the House standing and family safe—but to come to ourselves, those who got off from Vinegar Hill got to the mountains above us encamped near Two Thousand, every Day expected down, at last they marched to the Hill above Old Loughlan—all the inhabitation quit L Bridge except the Army who Seventh Day were all called to an engagement of another party at New Bridge and Castlecomer, at both places a number of the Mob killed. Yesterday the Rebels at Old Leighlin Bridge before Day broke up their Camp, and set out to return to the County Wexford it was supposed by us—they were overtaken by the Army within Four Miles of this, and a dreadful Slaughter ensued the situation of this neighbourhood was beyond discription expecting them every moment if they proved victorious.

Imagine my dear Henry thy poor Sister called up at Six Oclock, with this intelligence exaggerated for they said some were within a Mile. I just tied on my peticote got the Steward took all the papers of Consequence Leases &c &c put them in Boxes, and committed them to his care to bury in the Garden, we then, that is Cousin Sally, and I, bundled up a few Clothes, and some for the Children, that should our lives be spared we might not be without Covering—this done, I did not seem free to stir any thing else out of the House—Brother Sam^l came entreated we would not wait Breakfast, but get

to Kilnock which was more out of the way, most all went to Carlow, I hesitated, returned to my Room became quite calm—stand still was the Language that ran so powerfully through my Mind that I could not doubt but it was my place—and dare not stir: When I went down I found all the Servants ready to stay and even they said Die with me if I did—but if I went not one of them would remain in the House—this confirmed my resolution—but I entreated Cousin Sally Watson not to be influenced by me, but take the Children with her, but she also remained.

It was a solmn time. I believe near two Hours we remained in this suspense, the sound of the Cannon and Firing added to it, however we were happily relieved by an account of their defeat and that those who had remained had got off Scollop way home so I hope we are done with them, none of our neighbourhood seemed inclinable to join them, whatever they would have done if they got down is uncertain. . . .

No Tenant can get or pay a Shilling For my part I cannot Command a Guinea.

29th We have just got a certain Account that our Uncle and Aunt Goff with their family are well, had enough left to sustain nature but not a Horse or a four footed beast except milch Cows, they [? the Rebels] had Sam^l Woodcock, J^{no} Handcock, Jacob Martin, and some more of our friends, on the Hill had a pike lifted up over John Handcocks Head one called out, not to kill them without trial—then with an audable voice demanded of the whole had they any think against Quakers, they answered no, they were a Peacable Charitable People and did not meddle in Wars—thus our poor friend escaped as did those in Eniscorthy with their Lives, but plunder'd as others. David Sands and about 8 more from Dublin set out to attend the Meeting in faith not knowing whether they could get there or not, but they did the Day after the Battle.

VI.

T. Jacob, Waterford, to Mary Watson, at Norwich,
7 mo 4, 1798.

Sam^l Haughton has wrote me viz

“ There has been trying times with us scarce an hour passes without some alarm. The insurgents have made their way into our County & a great Slaughter of them is said to have taken place this day near Ballidarten our frds not yet returned from the Q^y Meeting. . . . D Sands was one of the Comp^y & in good spirits as he passed thro’ this place.” . . .

Property to many here now seems of but little acct several of our Co Wexford Friends having had close pinching trials to go through some of their Lives being threatned.

While the insurgents had possession of that County matters took a diff^t turn to what I believe was looked for by some—that was making Religious opinions have a considerable share in the confusion, killing & threatening such as w^d not conform to their way of thinking & go to Mass—J^{no} Hancock . . . was diff^t times taken prisoner & let go with^t being delayed longer that ab^t an hour & a half at the longest. Sam^l Woodcock, Tho^s Mason & Jos^a Webster & I think Jacob Martin were taken up to the Hill along with them—they were told they were to be made Christians of—While there the People fell on their knees w^{ch} was an additional trial to have to stand covered amongst so fierce a set of men, but J^{no} said there was moderate men amongst them that used to be a little Check on the rest—R^d Goff & Nancy were p^ticularly threatned to conform, but stood their ground & had to pass through a part of them to go to Meeting—Tho^s Mason kept to his habitation with agreeable firmness w^{ch} J^{no} says even the insurgents spoke well of him to him. . . .

VII.

Richard Jacob, Waterford, to Mary Watson, at Needham Market, 8 mo 17, 1798.

Thy house remains in its place & now long shut up. . . . I often wondered how it escaped with the Soldiers & Yeomen there was so much billiting, divers had 20 soldiers at one time on them—among the rest Jos^h Wakefield had them in his house & at one time it was

obliged to be so—abt a week since the high Constable came to me for the Quay of thy house to make a Guard Room for the Bridge Guard they being in much want of one—I had it not—& he tried 3 other friends but I suppose it's not in Town. He told me it must be broken open & that the General ordered it as the Yeomen were in bad want of a place & for an hour or two we did not know but it w^d have been Done—however with threatenng what I w^d do if they did & fair means they desisted & took a house at a greater distance from a person who c^d not so well afford it—so that thou has escaped—& am in hopes thou may as matters seem quiet for the present.

The Eng: guards are well liked by the people & there seems to be much difference in the quiet of the Town to what it w^d in all likelyhood have been if the Militia were here. . . .

A fine beautifull Harvest & in good order.

VIII.

Thomas Jacob, Waterford, to Mary Watson at Needham Market. A fragment—end of 8 mo, 1798.

. . . .
& its discouraging enough to leave home [for a marriage at Garryroan] as to be sure thou has heard of the long talked of matter of the French coming to this Kingdom being now realised. The event of a great Battle is almost hourly expected. People here seem to have minded it much less than thou w^d have expected—Yet a change might soon take place. . . .

People had need I think to look for other Preservation than that of arms as the Soldiery are much drawn out to the Field—scare any now in this City—the Yeomanry have the charge of it on 'em. . . .

IX.

Richard Jacob, Waterford, to Mary Watson, in London, 9 mo 17, 1798.

. . . .
Thy house remains undisturbed & if no further Commotion arises I hope will. . . . S. Gouch

came down but did not open the Halldoor or Windows she went in through the bakehouse. . . . I desired her to put every Moveable upstairs & if the house is taken I can the better secure them. . . . Great numbers of Eng^h Soldiers have Come over, people like their behaviour—The former acc^t ab^t the French was false, however it now appears they were all taken prisoners in Connaught. Their officers very numerous have been taken to Dublin, & a letter from thence, says the Men were to go there to be ship^d for England.

My Br J. Clibborn was taken by the Country people & detained ab^t 6 hours but released.

X.

T. J[acob] Waterford, to Mary Watson, in London, 10 mo 17, 1798. [Only the 3rd page remains.]

We are as yet favoured with quietude here, yet fears often prevail among the People, the City being left without the army, the Yeomen have exceeding close work night & day, & are to be pitied they go through so much slavery at night this being a great Place for send^g Prisoners to. I suppose thou hast heard how often Jacob Goffs house has being visitted. . . .

Certificates for Meeting Houses.

1748. 10th January.—*Certificate* that a house in the possession of Daniel Brown in Luton is proper and convenient for the meeting of a sect of Protestant Dissenters called Quakers. Signed by John Freeth, Daniel Brown, Joseph Brown, and Richard Brown, Quakers.

1789. 22nd April.—*Notice* to Quarter Sessions by Joseph Brook, Benjamin Reeve, Peter Bassett and John Grant, householders and inhabitants of Leighton Buzzard that the new building called the Meeting House situate near the Almshouses in the North End of Leighton Buzzard is intended to be used by them and others, protestant dissenters from the Church of England called Quakers, as a place of worship.

1800. 11th day of the 4th month called April.—*Certificate* by Richard Brown, John Frieth, Daniel Brown, Joseph Brown, and Christopher Pryor, householders and inhabitants of the town and parish of Luton, that the new building called the Meeting House, situate in or near Castle Street, Luton, is intended to be used by them and other protestant dissenters, called Quakers, as a place for divine worship.

From *Bedfordshire County Records*.