

The Carleton Chronicle

THOMAS CARLETON (1636-1684) has been previously mentioned in THE JOURNAL (iii. 12; x. 154n; xi. 117). By the kindness of Thomas Henry Webb, of Dublin, we have had before us a copy of an ancient Carleton Chronicle, which is introduced as follows:—

“The bringing up and the doings of Thomas Carleton, son and heir of Thomas Carleton, and Ann his wife, daughter of William Layton, of Dalmaine [Cumberland], for so much as he can remember truly, made & written in the year of our Lord 1510 and the year of his age 50, being born the 7th of January, of first year of Henry VIII., at Carleton Hall, compiled by the said Thomas Carleton himself.”

The family is traced back to Baldwin de Carleton who “was before the Conquest by two successions.”

T. H. Webb has, however, failed to connect the Quaker Carletons with this ancient house, though both families were seated at Little Salkeld in the parish of Addingham, in Cumberland.

The Quaker Thomas was the son of John and Elinor, who, with their children, went over to Ireland in 1674 from their Cumberland home. Thomas married, 1669, Isabel, daughter of Thomas Mark, of Mossdale, Cumberland. His sister, Margaret, married Jonathan Nicholson, of co. Wexford, in 1679. Thomas and Isabel had eight children, of whom Deborah married John Chandlee (*a quo* T. H. Webb) and Joshua, the owner of the Chronicle, married Rachel Rooke.

In the charming *Annals of Ballitore*, by Mary Leadbeater, granddaughter of Joshua and Rachel Carleton, there are many interesting details of the simple life of members of the Carleton family at Fuller’s Court, Ballitore, in the County Kildare, which will well repay perusal.

In the collection of Carleton’s writings, published in 1694—*The Memory of . . . Thomas Carleton Reviv’d*—he only slightly refers to his family—his father was a “husbandman mean (though honest).”

Thomas settled at Ballinacarrick, co. Wexford, prior to which he had suffered several years’ imprisonment for non-payment of tithe at the suit of the clergyman of his parish, “one of England’s chief Priests, named Lewis West” (*Captives Complaint, or the Prisoners Plea*, 1668, p. 28).

There are slight allusions to Carleton’s early ministry in *F.P.T.* In 1676 he wrote an epistle to Friends in Ireland, which was printed.

Men, not living to what they know, cannot blame God, that they know no more. The unfruitfulness is in *us* not in the *Talent*.

WILLIAM PENN, *Primitive Christianity Revived*, 1696, chap. vi. sect. i.