

## Who was “Colonel Wallis”?

IT has apparently always been thought that “Col. Wallis” of Shanagarry was an English Cromwellian soldier<sup>1</sup> with whom William Penn had to deal on behalf of his father. Col. Wallis’s grant of Shanagarry, which had been made after his service in the Irish army raised by Cromwell, at the Restoration was reallocated by Charles II to Admiral Penn. As part of the redistribution of land, the Admiral’s original grant at Macroon (west of Cork), where William Penn had lived as a boy, was returned to its former owner, the Catholic royalist Earl of Clancarty. So it came about that Peter Wallis, although he had been “pardoned” in 1660 for his part in the wars, found himself displaced from his holding.

Those to whom lands were granted were actually “tenants”, paying an annual rent to the king’s agents in Ireland, the “Commissioners of Revenue”. They, in turn, let various estates at very attractive rents. Isabel Grubb in her masterly editing of *Penn’s Irish Journal* has a note on page 78, that Admiral Penn’s two baronies in County Cork amounted in all to more than 12,000 acres, for which he had to pay a rent of about £113 per annum while the lands returned him an income of about £1,000 per annum.

Many Anglo-Irish of Elizabethan or earlier settlements had taken service under Cromwell, and Peter Wallis was one of these, a Protestant. At one time he had an interest in Quakers. In the State Papers of John Thurloe<sup>2</sup> it is said (in 1655):

Report is made of the Quakers who begin to growe in some reputation in the County of Cork, their meetings being attended frequently by Col. Phaire and Major Peter Wallis and most of the chief officers thereabout.

Oliver Cromwell’s son, Henry Cromwell, as Lord Deputy for Ireland,<sup>3</sup> also mentions it in writing to his father. As far as we know, Peter Wallis did not continue to attend Friends’ meetings, though both Phaire and Wallis assisted Penn in

<sup>1</sup> *My Irish Journal*, William Penn 1669–1670. Edited by Isabel Grubb. 1952. p. 12ff, 71.

<sup>2</sup> State Papers of John Thurloe; *Jnl. F.H.S.*, 8 (1911), 153.

<sup>3</sup> *Irish Journal*, p. 74 (notes).

1669 when he was dealing with claims on the lands formerly held by them and others, then held by Admiral Penn. William Penn finally came to a settlement with Col. Wallis after litigation, and with Col. Phaire, who was an old friend of the Admiral and his family.

A genealogy, (included in a "General Search" on the Wallis family, from the Office of Arms, The Castle, Dublin, some fifty years ago, the then registrar being Thos. U. Sadleir,)<sup>4</sup> gives particulars of Peter Wallis of Shanagarry, Co. Cork, alive in 1630, High Sheriff 1660, died 1679. He was son of Thomas Wallis of Curryglass, Co. Cork (died before 1630), where that family had purchased land and settled in 1595, near the border of Cork and Waterford.<sup>5</sup> Peter Wallis had married Audrey, daughter of Barrachias Baker, son of an early settler from Cornwall. Peter and Audrey Wallis had a son John, and his daughter Mary married Charles Gookin in 1693. In 1709 Penn appointed Charles Gookin Governor of Pennsylvania, and of him Robert Proud gives an account in his *History of Pennsylvania*, setting out the difficulties the province faced in the period to 1717.<sup>6</sup> Other descendants of Peter Wallis and his brother Thomas married into families mentioned by Penn or his "tenants", and some to people called Meade, Webber and Cooke, names occurring among early members of Cork meeting.

In *My Irish Journal*, 1669/1670 William Penn mentions coming to his "father's house"—Shanagarry or "old garden", and several times speaks of returning "home" and writing his book there, and having guests.

Col. Wallis was living in a house built after the destruction of the Castle by Cromwell's order, and Penn reports visiting him and being "civilly treated".<sup>7</sup>

It seems likely, as Howard M. Jenkins notes in his *Family of William Penn*, 1899,<sup>8</sup> that an old house on the estate two miles south west of Col. Wallis and the Castle and named "Sunville" is indicated, as the old people in the neighbourhood insisted this was where Penn lived when in Ireland. It was used by some of his descendants of the Penn Gaskell

<sup>4</sup> In possession of A. E. Wallis.

<sup>5</sup> Cork Historical and Archaeological Society *Journal*, 1962, p. 48.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Proud, *The history of Pennsylvania*, 1798, vol. 2, pp. 3-94.

<sup>7</sup> *Irish Journal*, p. 31 (27 Dec. etc.).

<sup>8</sup> Howard M. Jenkins, *The family of William Penn*, 1899, p. 259.

family. A visitor more recently states it is out of repair now, and should be saved as the one relic of Penn's visit.<sup>9</sup>

Penn himself says in his diary on 3 May 1670, "The Irish inhabitants came—they had their houses and gardens as before. Two were made Serjeants to keep the grass etc."<sup>10</sup> Under 6 May, "I made the steps into the private walk". These touches point to a continuing interest and care of the place. He returned on his later visit to Ireland in 1698, but for a few days only.

After wondering for years as to the identity of "Col. Wallis", and suspecting that Peter Wallis and he were one and the same, comes confirmation.

On sending to Cork three years ago, I obtained several extracts from the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society's *Journal*, and in that for 1962, with regard to the grant of Carrigrehan to Abraham Baker (Will, 1615) is the statement: "Abraham Baker was succeeded by his son Barrachias Baker the father of Audrie, wife of Col. Peter Wallis of Shanagarry", and after failure of a male heir in the Baker line the property came to the sister of John Baker, Mrs Peter Wallis. Her eldest son John Wallis was described as of Carrigrehan in his Will 1731. It passed to his younger brother Barrachias Wallis of Ballycrenane. Through other changes it passed to his granddaughter Clotilda, wife of Sir Edward Hoare of Annabella, Mallow, and so into the Hoare family when it became the property of Sir Joseph Hoare. "The Hoare family disposed of Carrigrohan Castle and lands some score of years ago."<sup>11</sup>

Thus the granddaughter of "Col. Wallis" came to be the wife of the Governor of Pennsylvania and, through his grandson's descendants, linked with the Quaker family of Hoare—two unexpected results to come from the first contacts of "Col. Wallis" and William Penn.

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<sup>9</sup> Richard Hayward, *Munster and the city of Cork*, 1964, p. 27. This volume includes references to Quaker interests in Munster, and especially Newtown School, Waterford, where the author went to school.

<sup>10</sup> *Irish Journal*, pp. 51-2.

<sup>11</sup> Cork Historical and Archaeological Society *Journal*, 1962, p. 50.