

More on the Earl Family

For a detailed study of the Earl family of Raheenagurren and Knockduff, Co Wexford, Ireland, ancestors, supposedly, of Frederick Hollingsworth, see HR 8:133. Recently James Easton Godkin of Prescott, Ontario, Canada, sent some material on the Godkin family to Rev. N. J. Godkin of Sechelt, British Columbia. The latter kindly forwarded it to your editor. It is outstanding in itself as a collection of material thought to have perished in the 1922 Four Courts fire in Dublin. The genealogist, Tenison Groves, copied an immense amount of material. In this case he hit upon the family of Godkin. It is possible he mistook this Co Wexford family, emigrant at an early date from Derbyshire, to be Palatine in origin. Whatever the answer, he collected several wills which otherwise perished, and nearly all of the sworn affidavits taken after the 1798 Rebellion, including the following one: (Film 258,486SIC)

Affidavit Number 3469: William Godkin of Knockduff in Kilmikaloge, otherwise Gorey Parish, County Wexford, yeoman in the Gorey Cavalry. Claim made for the loss of his dwelling house, value £100., three horses, etc. His family consists of himself, William Godkin, aged 24, his wife, Hester, aged 20, and Catherine and Hester, two infant daughters; also his mother-in-law, Hester Earl; two servant men, viz: George Nicholson, age 18, killed by the rebels, and James Doyle, age 30. Minutes of the hearing by the claims board showed that William Godkin had a lease of which two lives are in being. He had a mare killed under him at Enniscorthy. Affidavits of John Corvan, curate of Gorey otherwise Kilmikaloge Parish, and Walter Hore, agent to the Earl of Courtown, (pronounced Court-town - Ed.) the landlord of said claimant. (Filed Feb. 18, 1799 - 8 documents in all. Found in index to Vol. 10, page 2221, Record Office, Dublin.) Bundle 47, Suffering Loyalists - lost.

The above affidavit proves what we asserted to be true in our Earl article at page 136 of the December, 1972 issue, namely, that Hester Earl the daughter of Edward and Hester Earl married William Godkin. The affidavit above also confirms the land petition dated 5 June 1828, in Canada, by William Godkin, in which he stated his loss of his house and other property in '98. By 1828 he had eleven children! It also proves that Hester Earl, Sr., the widow, lived on at Knockduff after her husband's death and died there in January 1814 aged 82. She was our great-great-great-great grandmother, maiden name unknown.

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