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THE DESPARD FAMILY

BY RICHARD DESPARD DODGE (9)

The following paper consists of extracts from a volume written by my grandmother ISABELLA DALY DESPARD (7), and presented to her daughter (8), my mother, in 1867.

Occasional explanatory notes of my own have been inserted in brackets. For the purpose of facilitating identification, the number of the generation has been added in parentheses to most of the names, as in the case above.

Read before the Society, January 26, 1900.

The sources from which I have combin'd this sketch of the Despard family were notes written by Jane Despard (7), second daughter of Captain Philip Despard (6) of Laurel Hill, lent me by Gertrude Despard (7) of Donore; who has also been most kind in collecting some items and dates which have assisted my arrangements; also a few other notes of Eliza, the elder sister of Jane (7), entrusted to me by Richard of Donore. A table of descent given me several years ago by my cousin, Wheaton Bradish (7), whose maternal grandmother was a Despard (5), has helped me greatly. A retentive memory has contributed many circumstances. Invention has no part in these pages.

My acquaintance with the family began when I was about six years old, having accompanied my mother on a visit of a few days to Mr. and Mrs. Despard (5), of Coolraine, when they resided in Birr, or Parsonstown, for only a short period, I believe.

When I was placed at a boarding school in Dublin, on the day I was eight years old, I met at the house of my uncle, Mr. Bradish (6), several of the name, particularly Eliza and Jane, mentioned above, and old Aunt Kitty (6), sister of their father. Jane was then a lovely girl of 17 or 18 years of age. When her uncle, General John Despard (6), was Governor of Newfoundland, she spent a few years with him, when she witness'd the circumstances hereafter detail'd in the career of her brother, Colonel William (7).

Intervals occur'd, yet I still remember'd, and at last happily assum'd the name. Thus I heard much which I have written, much which unfortunately I cannot so arrange in my mind as to

which generation the apostrophe appears to have been dropped, and the name written since then Despard.)

This Colonel William (3) had four sons, as follows:

1st Branch. WILLIAM (4), married Frances Green of Killaghy Castle.

2d Branch. HENRY of the Sword (4).

3d Branch. JOHN, of Cartown (4).

4th Branch. RICHARD, of Cranagh (4).

First Branch.

WILLIAM DESPARD (4) and his wife, Frances Green, had three sons, viz.:

1. WILLIAM (5), married Jane Walsh.
2. FRANCIS GREEN (5), of Killaghy Castle, wife unnamed.
3. RICHARD, of Larch Hill (5), m. Frances Burton.

He [William (4)] was a very clever lawyer. Before his death he betrothed her [his own wife] to his particularly valued friend, Councillor Hughes, appointing him one of the guardians of his sons. In one year this good man died of decline. He had sent his eldest stepson (5) to Eton College. The widow married again, a Baron Keating, and had two daughters.

William Despard (4) was a determined Protestant. He exerted his superior talents warmly in the Irish House of Commons against the Popish party, in favor of the Hanoverian succession, in the latter end of the reign of Queen Anne, as she was supposed secretly to favor the Pretender;—and in our ancestor's will he directs, if any of his children should marry, or in any way connect themselves with persons professing the Popish religion, such child was to have but twenty pounds a year for maintenance during life.

(William was himself so popular and influential in the county that he was in 1715 returned to Parliament as Representative of the Borough of Thomastown, and also for the County Kilkenny. He chose, as may be supposed, to sit for the county. In the Parliament of 1719, however, he represented Thomastown, but appears to have soon after retired, or died.)

Sons of William (4) and Frances, m. 1700:

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(5), which so offended him that he would not see her for some time. At length appeased, he went to visit her. He saw and loved her sister-in-law Jane; m. her on coming of age, without any marriage settlement, which might have secured, by preventing his most unwise disposition of them, his then very extensive properties in Queens Co., Tipperary, Kildare, and Cork, &c. &c. to his heirs. I, Jane Despard (7) have heard an old gentleman, Mr. Hely, of Co. Kilkenny, say that if my grandfather [William (5)] had only kept what his grandfather [the Col. of 1685] left, not to say improved it, he could at that period (1727), or rather his son, have had £25,000, twenty five thousand a year. Miss Walsh had £500, which he presented to her sister. He leased away his property, not for gaming, drinking, or company-keeping, but to make votes for the Parnells. Charleville, worth to the Whites, in 1808, £1500 a year, was given to a whipper-in, at one shilling an acre, or swapped for a pony.

William (5) and Jane had six sons, viz.:

1st, WILLIAM (6); 2d, PHILIP (6); 3d, GREEN (6); 4th, JOHN (6); 5th, ANDREW (6); 6th, EDWARD MARCUS (6), and two daughters, CATHARINE and JANE (6).

WILLIAM (6) m. Elizabeth Armstrong, of Gillam, Kings Co. She had £3000. (A good portion in those days.—I. D.) [He built Alta-Villa and Shanderry.] In youth he was one of the pleasantest of men. (True, I remember him well.—I. D.) It has often been said that had he gone to the Bar, his wit and pleasant speech would have secured him another fortune. He was the first boy who clear'd the great Dyke called the Ha-ha, in Trinity College Park, in a standing leap. It is recorded there. He was also an admirable horseman.

(He had three sons, PHILIP (7), FRANCIS GREEN (7), and WILLIAM (7), all in the army, and all died without issue. He had also two daughters, ELIZABETH (7), m. in 1796 the Rev. Richard Despard (6) of Donore; and MARY (7), m. Moses Pim, in 1805.)

PHILIP (6) m. Letitia Croasdaile, of Rhin.

They had three sons and two daughters.

1st. WILLIAM (7), Lieutenant-Colonel 7th Fusileers, m. Miss De Blois; had two sons, Philip Henry (8) and George Packenham (8).

2d. PHILIP PILKINGTON (7), m. [1] Miss Gardner and [2] Miss Rainsford.

3d. HENRY (7), Major-General, m. Miss Rushworth.

4th. ELIZA (7), d. aged ninety-six.

5th. JANE (7), d. about eighty [the author of the notes used by my grandmother in her history].

He [Philip (6)] gave 700 guineas for his commission in the Fusileer Guards, a Royal Regiment, all first Lieutenants,—no 2^{nds}. He unfortunately left it on half-pay, retired to the Queens Co.—where he built Laurel Hill, a step he repented all his life, that is, leaving the regiment. Philip (6) never went anywhere that he was not beloved and respected, as shown on every occasion in the North of Ireland, especially on his death.

In 1815, being in London, he was accosted by a French officer, who claimed the name as belonging to his country, recognized the arms as those of the family, with some members of which he was acquainted; particularized one who some years before commanded a French Protestant battalion in the Swedish service.

(Sweden was then opposed to Napoleon, though Bernadotte, one of his own great officers, had become King of Sweden.—I. D.)

Capt. Philip's daughters resided a few years at Tours. Mons. de Chabannes, an author, told Jane Despard (7) there were families of Despards long settled on the banks of the Loire, still Protestants; also that a Count D'Espare had been beheaded for his part in defending Guienne, then belonging to the English, against one of the Charleses of France.

(It was Charles 5th.—I. D.)

GREEN (6), in the Navy. He was the bosom friend of Lord Longford's brother, Vice-Admiral Packenham, uncle of the Duchess of Wellington.

He would have been married to Jane Despard (6) of Donore, but hearing that a brother officer was dangerously ill in the King's Co. he went to him. The officer died. Green returned home, having taken the fever, died in three days, leaving his property, Gosbrooke, opposite Larch Hill, to Jane.

JOHN (6), in the Army. (A general; m. Miss Hesketh). He went out with the first Marquis Cornwallis at 13 years of age; who was so fond of him that he was reported to be his son;

but Lord Allen, his relative, being also quarter'd at Gibraltar, soon disprov'd that report. He had the talent of creating the same feelings of attachment in all who knew him during his prolonged life. He would have been a richer man, but that his wife, the sister of Sir Robert Hesketh, Bart, one of the pleasantest of women, always had the house full of company. He was some years Governor of Newfoundland, and liv'd latterly at Oswestry, Shropshire.

When the General (6), was Lieut.-Col. in the Fusileers, the Duke of Kent (father of Queen Victoria), was Colonel; and as the former happen'd to be of a most sweet disposition and humane temper, and the Duke very fond of the lash, they often differ'd in opinion. Lieut.-Col. Despard having been absent on leave for a year, the first and second days of his appearance on parade after his return, the men huzza'd, laid down their arms, hoisted him on their shoulders, and went round and round the parade, manifesting their joy thus twice in the day. After the second day, the Duke sent to him to say that, as a field officer, *He need not attend at common parades*. He was soon after placed on the staff, and when he call'd to take leave of the Duke, the latter took him by the hand, wished him every happiness, and added: "If at any time I have done what displeased you, believe me I am heartily sorry for it."

(This was a royal trait of a royal prince. The Duke of Kent was a martinet in the army, but with many noble feelings.—I. D.)

Tradition says that he (6), was the best horseman in the Queens Co., galloping *standing* on the saddle, not sitting.

ANDREW (6) also in the Army, served in the 59th Regt in which he was a pattern officer, as affirm'd of him by Lord Rossmore (who was also in that Regiment) many years afterwards. While recruiting in Liverpool, the townspeople raised a Regt in the American war. A deputation waited on him with the offer of a company in it, on account of his regular conduct,—no small proof of approbation from English commercial persons to *an Irishman in those times*.

He fought at Bunker's Hill, in the commencement of the Revolutionary War, and at other places in America. In 1798 he acted as amateur aide-de-camp to General Johnson, at the battle of Ross, by his enterprising vigilance pointing out where successes

could be, and were, obtain'd. He died at the advanced age of 94 or 95, a Colonel, unmarried.

EDWARD MARCUS (6). Also in the Army, d. un-m., a Colonel.

[Note, by R. D. Dodge. This officer was a companion in captivity of the celebrated Major André, in the early part of the Revolutionary War, when they appear to have been placed as prisoners in the charge of a certain Mr. Cope, in Pennsylvania. The following extract from Sargent's *Life of André*, page 91, is of interest as referring to Col. Despard] :

" This was an Irish officer, who, in 1781, very bravely supported Nelson in Nicaragua, and was executed for treason in 1803. He was one of the very few English officers that brought back from America democratical ideas. A democratical soldier was indeed an anomaly in the service of that day. 'Three distinguished heroes of this class,' wrote Scott to his son, 'have arisen in my time: Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Colonel Despard and Capt. Thistlewood: and with the contempt and abhorrence of all men, they died the death of infamy and guilt.' Even in America Mr. Cope had warned Despard that his recklessness & disregard would certainly bring him to some bad end."

[Those of us, however, who believe in the Fourth of July, will consider his fate glorious rather than grievous.]

Reverting to PHILIP (6), who m. Letitia Croasdaile; they had 3 sons and 2 daughters.

WILLIAM (7) the eldest, in the Fusileers, was aide and Secretary to his uncle, General John Despard (6), when governor of Newfoundland, where they remained six years, during which period William (7) acted as clergyman, there not being any in the place, putting on a black coat after parade, and in an appointed room in his uncle's house, read the whole service with a sermon to all church members, as well as to the military of the place.

When of age, as chief magistrate, he married, baptized, read to the sick, and buried the dead. All these offices served to fortify those principles of religion which he had very early learned at home. When the General (6) resigned, William (7) rejoined his regiment as Captain of Grenadiers, and was the first man in Fort Bourbon, Martinique, when it was taken by assault. He was after that appointed aide to General Moore at Newfoundland,

and had become such adept in the management of affairs in a colony, that Admiral Holloway, Naval Commander on the station, said that Moore could not have kept the situation without him. When the Fusileers were order'd to the Peninsula, he gave up the fine situation he held, which he need not have done, as the then Col. Packenham and he were as brothers, the same high-minded feelings actuating both. On his way home from Newfoundland to join his regiment, he was in London. Being presented to the Prince Regent, his Royal Highness paid him that elegant compliment: "Sir! in a regiment of heroes, I have heard your name distinguished."

He brought his character with him to Portugal. It is a pity he was not bred an Engineer, for a remark he made induced Wellington, while planning the fortifications of Torres Vedras, to request him to remain there with additional pay; *that* he declined, but consented to remain until his regiment was ordered up into action. In consequence of his superior officer, Sir William Myers, being killed at Albuera, the command devolved on him, and he was immediately appointed to the Majority. A soldier seeing him pass one day, said:—"There goes the best man in the army." Another said:—"My master never thought of himself; he was out all night looking for the wounded, fearing that one might be left behind or neglected." The last action he was in was nearly at the close of the Peninsular War, when he was promoted to the Lt-Colonelcy, but the very day, or a few days after his commission was signed in London, he died of his wounds.

(His promotion was at Victoria, his death-wounds at the battle of the Pyrenees. His loss was deeply deplored.—I.D.)

He m. Miss De Blois, of Nova Scotia and had two sons,—Philip Henry (8) and George Packenham (8).

HENRY (7), third son of Philip & Letitia, m. Miss Rushworth of Isle of Wight. He was a Major General, and Colonel of the 99th Reg^t. He commanded all the troops in New Zealand, where he sustained a high character. See Sir John Ross's last voyage.

The third son of William Despard (4) and his wife Frances Green, was the REV^d RICHARD DESPARD (5) of Larch Hill, Rector of Clonenagh, the old Irish name of the parish in which is the town of Mountrath. He m. Miss Frances Burton, of the family of the baronets of Burton Hall, County Carlow; a religious,

good woman, who survived him till her grandson Richard (7) was a few years old.

They had 5 sons and 1 dau. viz.:

1st WILLIAM (6), in the 18th Dragoons, d. unmarried.

2nd THOMAS (6), a physician, d. unmarried.

3rd REV. FRANCIS GREEN (6). These three all passed through Trinity College, Dublin.

4th Samuel (6).

5th Richard (6).

6th Mary (6).

The REV. F. G. DESPARD (6) m. Feb. 24, 1781, Jane (6) daughter of John Humphreys and his wife Jane Despard (5). [His oldest son, my grandfather, RICHARD DESPARD (7), was born Dec. 22, 1781, at Larch Hill, of Despard descent on both sides.]

The Rev. F. G. Despard (6) was college chum of the Right Hon. William Wellesley Pole, an elder brother of Wellington. The friendship continued, the Despard interest in the Queens C^o being also important. Ballyfin, M^r Pole's residence, was seven miles from Larch Hill. . . . There young RICHARD (7), of Larch Hill was a frequent and favorite visitor. Thus the friendship was continued thro' three generations. Richard (7) had been intended for the church, but the disturbed state of Ireland in 1797, induced him to decide for the army. In that year Mr. Pole raised among his own tenantry a corps of Yeoman Cavalry, himself the captain, and the too youthful Richard (7) a lieutenant. Too young, indeed, not yet sixteen, but preparatory to a commission in the army.

During the Rebellion of '98, he was in the battles of Castle-comer, Carlow and Ross, in which Col. Andrew Despard (6) joined. Lord Mountjoy, Colonel of the Co. Dublin Militia, was kill'd in that battle. When not actually on service, Richard (7) was at Larch Hill. In that neighborhood most families kept guard at night, strengthened by trustworthy servants, or by yeomen. No guard was necessary at Larch Hill, as no man would molest that house. Richard (7) often went to Laurel Hill [his aunt's home], on that duty, always in full uniform; and returning home at early dawn of the summer mornings, met the rebel patrols. Being challenged he gave his name in full, "Richard Despard of Larch Hill," and immediately, invariably, received the order to "Pass on, and God bless ye." No one in that

part of the country would injure any belonging to "Parson Frank" (6).

After the rebellion Richard was appointed Nov. 28th, 1800, a cornet in the 23rd Light Dragoons, gazetted 4th March, 1801; which regiment was reduced on the Peace of Amies, March 27, 1802. He was greatly liked by his brother officers, particularly Lord Portarlington and Lt. Col. Spencer, who entrusted him with the command of his own troop. I have read some of the Colonel's letters to him, of both direction and approbation.

Six months after the reduction of the 23rd he join'd the 7th Dragoon Guards at Newcastle on Tyne. Both his commissions were obtained thro' the interest of the Right Hon. W^m Wellesley Pole. At Newcastle the only daughter of the general commanding the garrison, whose fortune was £30,000, was fascinated by the handsome young Irishman. The fondness of her father induced him to sanction, and even to intimate her attachment. But the heart of Richard was one which "gold could never buy." The tale was told me after my marriage, by acquaintances in the regiment. I asked him if it was true? He only laughed and colour'd, but could not deny the fact. . . .

Here I will relate a veritable romance of private life.—

On a cold, frosty day of February, 1800, Isabella was sent on a message by her mother, guarded against *mud*, the streets being frozen *dry*, by pattens, almost certain to cause a fall. (Pattens are oval iron rings set under wooden soles, strapped under and around the feet, only suitable for wet weather. They were superseded by sabots with thick cork soles.) As she walked along Ormond quay, a rush of gentlemen entering and leaving Finlay's Bank, so jostled her that she felt herself falling, when an arm was thrown around her, providentially saving her. She saw not her deliverer, but thenceforth the pattens were rarely used.

On a certain evening of 1806, in the "sweet summer time," Mrs. Daly (6) and Isabella (7) were to take tea with their dear friends the Mazières, in Gardiner's Row. To prolong their walk from their house in Synnott Place, they went round by Granby Row, up which a goat and her kid were leisurely coming. Isabella, pleased by the pretty young thing, laid her hand on its head. The goat rushed at her with butting horns, laying her prostrate on the flags. Providence sent her aid. A stranger raised her, and drove away the angry animal. Terrified, confused, she

hastened onward, not looking at her champion. The injury to her arm she did not recover from for several weeks.

In July, 1807—Isabella prepared to visit her aunt, Mrs. White (6), at Springville, near Cork. . . . Eleven happy months flew past. The 7th Dragoon Guards came to Cork on the 22nd June, 1808—Richard Despard (7), one of the officers, renewed a former intimacy with the family at Springville. He at once became attached to Isabella, upon which she was summoned home in July. He followed her in three weeks. They were engag'd—only one walk they had together. Very happy they both were. He reminded her of the two accidents which occur'd so long ago—at both times he had rescued her,—how else could he have known of them? On seeing her at Springville her face had appear'd as that of a vision in his dreams, perplexing and puzzling, he knew not why. But that morning, as he walk'd up Granby Row, the whole scene, goats and all, had flashed on his memory;—then the half-fall opposite the Bank:—and thus were the shadowy features identified with those which now were, and henceforth to be, the dearest to him on earth. . . .

After those encounters, she hoped, trusted, pray'd silently that they should be destined for each other. So it proved.—Faithful and true he was, to the last hour of his subsequent life of 38 years!

Here I resume my memoir of Larch Hill. The following obituary appeared in a Dublin paper which I have still:

"*Died* on the 18th November last (1818) at his seat, Queens County, much regretted, *Francis Green Despard* (6) Rector of Rathsarran, being the inheritor of those pious and virtuous qualities, which many years since distinguish'd his father, the Rev^d Richard Despard of Larch Hill (5), he gained the respect and esteem of an extensive population. The feelings of his heart, the widow & the orphan can best testify, to whom the loss will be by them consider'd irreparable."

Well might the widow and the orphan mourn for the loss of their benefactor! When a tenant died on the glebe lands, Mr. Despard (6) never turned off the widow and children, nor required any rent of them until the eldest son was able to earn it. Neither did he at any time charge a rent above what the tenant was justly

able to pay. In the dreadful famine of 1817, he contributed equally to the parishes of Offerrlane and Rathsarran.

Thus it was:—On the 24th of June, 1817, occur'd the most terrific storm I ever saw in Ireland. It began about noon, lasting twelve hours. Incessant lightning, frightful thunder, torrents of rain, and for one hour after its commencement, hail as large as walnuts thickly cover'd the ground. Sixty-five panes of glass were broken by it in Cartown House. The weather having been previously intensely hot and dry, the thatched houses (ours was so) were quickly penetrated by streams of water, requiring tubs, &c. &c. to catch them. The mountain rivulets—(our horses going to bog for turf, cross'd those only fetlock deep; returning they were up to the girths)—swell'd in three hours to angry floods, carrying away two stone bridges near to the "Lover's Leap," at the foot of which, 150 feet below, flows the small, pretty, rapid river, the Delour, to which those rivulets are tributaries, all thus carried to the Nore. The original courses were fill'd up with earth, gravel and stones, and new ones forced by the raging waters. The weather was effectually broken. Rain day and night. Turf imbibing it like sponges, remained wet the rest of the year. Corn of every kind, reap'd unripe, grew in the stook. Potatoes mostly rotted in the ground—starvation, sickness, overwhelm'd the poor, and heavily tax'd the rich for their relief, and nobly they responded to the cry. Every gentleman in our neighborhood contributed. I have repeatedly reckoned more than seventy poor creatures at a time at the lawn on Larch Hill, being supplied with a good meal from the house, two servants bearing a tub of soup, thicken'd with oatmeal, vegetables and potatoes, wherewith to feed each hungry being, renewing the supply, till all were satisfied.

No wonder that Mr. Despard (6) was lamented; that he was follow'd to his last resting place by a gathering more numerous than any individual there had ever before witnessed!

The fourth son of the Rev. Richard Despard of Larch Hill (5) was SAMUEL (6) who m. Letitia, dau. of Mr. McMahon, merchant of Dublin. He had four sons and three daughters, viz.:

1. RICHARD (7) in the Army, Peninsular, d. unmarried.

2. SAMUEL (7) in the Church. Rector of Newtown parish, Westmeath; died, May 15, 1847, without issue; much beloved and greatly lamented. I copied the following from the *Mail*:

"The decease of this estimable man adds another to the melancholy catalogue of clergymen of the Established Church, who have fallen victims to the discharge of their Christian duties to the poor, in this season of national calamity" (the famine) "and whose deaths give evidence of charity, not limited to their special congregations, but to sufferers of every class and creed."

3rd son. WILLIAM FRANCIS (7) in the 17th Reg^t m. Louisa, dau. of Rev. Matthew West; died young, leaving:

SAMUEL DOPPING (8), settled in Australia.

LOUISA (8) m. Mack, do. do. do.

WILLIAM FRANCIS (8), of Belfast, Ireland.

4th son. PHILIP (7) married Anna Poe.

The three daughters were Letitia, Frances, and Charlotte Maria.

The fifth son of Rev. Richard of Larch Hill (5) was:

RICHARD (6) m. Diana, sister of the above Letitia McMahon. He settled in Clarksburgh, West Virginia. His children were Jane, Frances Diana, Richard, Mary, Burton, and Charlotte.

Second Branch. Extinct.

The second son of Col. William Despard (3) of the Engineers in 1685, was HENRY (4) of the Sword, called traditionally "the left-handed," or in Irish, "Kithogue," who, together with another Henry Despard of whom there is no further mention was cited before the Irish Parliament for a breach of the peace against St. Leger Gilbert. The "Swordsman" fought Conway of Cappanarra, in which encounter, or consequent thereon, it is reasonable to suppose he lost his life, as he is no more mentioned. [He seems to have lived up to the Despard motto: "Pugno" (I fight).]

Third Branch.

The third son of Colonel William (3) of 1685, was JOHN (4), of Cardstown or Cartown, he married Elizabeth Willington, had a son, John (5) Capt. of Dragoons who d. unmarried in 1748, and a dau. JANE (5) who inherited her father's property of £1200. per annum. She m. (1744) John Humphreys (of very obscure parentage), and had four sons and four daughters, viz.:

1. ISAAC HUMPHREYS.
2. WILLIAM HUMPHREYS.
3. JOHN HUMPHREYS.
4. DESPARD HUMPHREYS.
5. ELIZABETH HUMPHREYS m. Samuel Hutchinson.
6. MARY HUMPHREYS m. James Bradish, of Laurel Hill.
7. JANE HUMPHREYS m. Rev. Francis Green Despard (6), of Larch Hill.
8. SARAH HUMPHREYS m. Cochran Palmer.

Fourth Branch.

The fourth son of Colonel William (3) of 1685, was RICHARD (4), of Cranagh, m. Miss Warburton of Garryhinch, had 2 sons and 1 daughter.

LAMBERT, the first son, d. without issue.

GEORGE (5), the second son, was the first Despard who resided at Donore. He m. Gertrude Carden, of Lismore, and had 2 sons and 5 daughters. The elder son, GEORGE (6), m. another Gertrude Carden and died without issue. The second son, Rev. RICHARD (6), m. in 1795 or 6, Elizabeth Despard (7) elder dau. of William (6) who built Shanderry. He had 2 sons & 1 daughter. He died June, 1800, none more lamented, none more deserving. To this time (1867) the name of "Dick Despard of Donore" calls up sweet and sad recollections in the few aged persons who remember him (of whom I am one) and in those who know his virtues traditionally. His widow, young and lovely when she lost him, d. 2nd February, 1838. Their eldest son, WILLIAM WELLESLEY (7) b. Feb. 1798, m. Letitia Sandes, had 7 sons & 4 dau.

The second son of Rev. Richard (6) was:

GEORGE (7), who entered the army in 1815. (Richard (7), of Larch Hill, gave him his sword), he m. Gertrude Carden, and left the army, and was a most highly esteem'd magistrate of the C^o. Meath.

Observe: Three Georges of Donore, married successively three Gertrude Cardens.

I may here sum up the character of the Despards, as written by Jane Despard (7) and corroborated by all who knew them.

"As country gentlemen they were hospitable, unostentatious, social, adepts in all field sports and kind to the poor. As subjects, faithfully loyal, as landlords generous, unexact, kindly, only too free in giving leases on the lowest terms, many forever, on which tenants have grown rich, the grantors suffering thereby from one generation to another. As soldiers, most brave and enterprising. As ministers of the Protestant Church, exemplary in life, humble, openhanded, visiting, consoling the sick, rich or poor; reproof where needful, irrespective of rank, as became their sacred calling. In family circles, gentle, sweet-temper'd, most amiable, and equally so to their servants."

Landlords; clergymen; soldiers :—these were the three denominations of the Despard family. The first merchant of the name was William (7), 3rd son of the Rev. Francis Green Despard (6) of Larch Hill; in Dublin in 1806, a truly honest man.

And thus conclude these various pedigrees, interspersed with circumstances for the truth of which I can vouch. The frequent mention of individual talent or beauty is no fancied attribution or picture. . . .

ISABELLA DESPARD,

Aged 82 years, 4 months and 13 days.

DUBLIN, *December* 19, 1867.