

The Journal of the Butler Society
Volume Five: Number Four (2015-16)

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Disclaimer

Every effort is made to avoid errors, and the information in the Journal is designed to help. But readers who act upon it do so at their own risk, for there can be no guarantee as to its accuracy.

Foreward

Dr David J. Butler

Now in its fiftieth year, *Journal of the Butler Society* has reached its twenty-fourth issue – the fourth and last of volume five – and is now presented for the perusal of the membership. This is the largest journal to date; several recent journals, 5:1 and 5:3 among them, have made about 200 pages, a quantity of material previously seen in 4:1 (1997-2000) and our largest journal to date, 4:2 (2000-02), which made 242 pages.

Our journal continues to gather momentum, such that a traditional ‘call for papers’ was not necessary for this issue, which coincides with the Golden Jubilee of our Society and covers the years 2015-16. Falling neatly between the Triennial Rally Years of 2015 and 2018, it is appropriate that it should be large. As always, material for the next journal, 6:1 (2017-18) is welcome and may be submitted at any time.

Once more the work of a cohort of regular, as well as new, contributors is presented, highlighting the ever-widening influence of the various Butler branches, in diplomatic and military affairs, matters of genealogy and inheritance, architectural heritage and conservation, colonial initiatives, the professions, as well as in fraternal pursuits.

The content, appropriately enough, commences with Craig Foster’s survey and analysis of the famous – and not so famous – descendants of The Chief Butlers of Ireland from many different backgrounds – being the triennial Hubert Butler Memorial Lecture, presented to the 2015 Rally; an appropriate commencement, given the efforts of the founding editor of this journal to bring the disparate branches of the family together.

The exotic overseas pursuits of the various Butler branches is well reflected in this journal, whether dealing with Edward Butler’s role in the war with Mexico, 1847-48 or, indeed, with the review of the new book, by the same author, examining the Dunboyne Plantation in Louisiana. This is also true of our feature-length article on the final chapter in the House of Galmoy, the result of many years of research on the part of its Australian author, Barbara Butler. This detailed, well-illustrated study analyses the loyalty of that House to the House of Stuart and its peripatetic existence in the service of James II and his family on the European continent and in these islands.

The late Head of another House, John 29th Baron Dunboyne, is poignantly remembered by Caroline Dunboyne, his widow, in the publication of her touchingly heartfelt address from the memorial evening, held during our 2015 Rally, for her late husband. It captures the essence of man who, for decades, was a fixture at all of our Rallies, still deemed sacrosanct in that family after

fifty years, and continues a longstanding tradition of the publication of papers and presentations with their genesis in Rally proceedings.

Another such is Sir Charles Ponsonby's wonderfully evocative account of succession in the House of Ormond from the late nineteenth century, filled with vignettes and insights into their lives in England and Ireland. It is appropriate that the great House of Ormond is well represented in this Golden Jubilee issue, with a further trio of works. The first, detailing military prowess against Oliver Cromwell at the 1650 Siege of Clonmel; the second, examining the settlement of the arrears of the Great Duke of Ormond; and the third, an investigation and interpretation of the difficulties surrounding the inheritance of Lady S.F. Anne Wandesford, Countess of Ormond and Ossory.

The architectural legacy of our leading families continues to attract state funding and improvement works, even in these recessionary times. Ormond Castle and Kilcash Castle have both received extensive external refurbishment of stone and lime mortar, the works on the latter being covered in this issue, courtesy of Michele O'Dea of the Office of Public Works, part of which was read during our visit to Kilcash during Rally 2015. Two other presentations given during that Rally, equally concerned with the built heritage of the Butlers, are also published in this journal. The conservation works carried out on the remains of the medieval town walls of Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary make for interesting reading and the account given by Clare Lee, together with the photographic before and after refurbishment evidence, speaks for itself.

It is important to the Butler legacy, the townspeople and county tourism that these sites of heritage are preserved and promoted. We are most fortunate that County Tipperary has been selected for an immersive inland tourism experience, in The Butler Trail, an account of which is provided by county tourism officer, Marie Phelan. Now featuring a free online 'app', The Butler Trail encompasses a driving route stretching over 38km from Carrick-on-Suir through the county town of Clonmel to Cahir or *vice versa*. Each town has a strong connection with the Butler family who has influenced their development over several hundred years. From a tourism perspective, it offers culture and history, medieval towns and castles, museums and art galleries, concerts and theatres, artisan food producers, beautiful riverside walks and entertaining festivals. The primary Butler sites in these towns are Ormond Castle in Carrick on Suir; The Main Guard, in Clonmel; Cahir Castle and Swiss Cottage in Cahir.

Notwithstanding the inevitable romance attached to reading of the great leaders, castles and houses of the many titled and landed Butler branches, it is important never to lose track of the 'ordinary' Butlers who make up the vast majority of our membership and, in this issue, it is good to have a comprehensive account of his Butler ancestors of Kill, Co. Waterford by Ivan

Fitzgerald, detailing their origin and movements throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition, Anthony Butler's treatise of his ancestor, Alexander Bishop Butler, the celebrated gunsmith, connected with the Spilsbury Family and Mortimer Gunsmiths. As such, both contains valuable perspectives on a range of topics, ranging from research of Irish and English genealogical records and migration to Australia and North America, to the use of contemporary newspaper records, to employment and entrepreneurial pursuits in niche industries.

In continuation of the acknowledgement of the significant Butler contribution to fraternal organisations in recent journals, this issue contains two short pieces; the first, by Robert Bashford, examines the provenance and history of the fine silver-gilt collar jewel of The Right Worshipful Brother, The Honourable Theobald Fitzwalter William Butler (who succeeded his father, in 1860, as 24th Baron Dunboyne), worn when Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland, 1828-42; this is followed by insights into the contribution of The Honourable Humphrey Butler and The Honourable Brinsley Butler, subsequently Lords Newtown-butler and, later still, 1st and 2nd earls of Lanesborough to eighteenth-century Irish Freemasonry as Grand Warden, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Master.

'Society News' occupies the final section. David J. Butler M.B.E., our Vice-President in Spain continues his long tradition of contribution, this year with a most informative and well-illustrated duo of short pieces: the first, concerning the launch of *La Memoria de los Irlandeses: Cádiz y la Familia Butler* by Lourdes Márquez Carmona – a valuable and timely study of this Butler family of Cádiz in the wider context of the Irish migration to the European continent; the second, informing us about the appointment of Dr Manuel Butler Halter, son of one of our deceased vice-presidents, to the senior civil service position of Director General of Tourism in Spain.

'Society News' contains also some obituaries; Roger Butler's Rally Report; the minutes from our most recent triennial general meeting; the rules and objectives of the society; and the guide for future contributors to this journal. Following a period of very heavy losses of Society stalwarts, the obituary section is smaller than it has been for many years, with pieces written concerning the passing of Jane Hays Butler, wife of our senior vice-president, Bill Butler, who died in the USA in May 2016; and Sister Nóirin de Buitléir, a longstanding member and inimitable fixture at many rallies past, particularly remembered for her contribution to the Irish musical evening.

The main inter-rally Society focus continues to be this journal – supplemented by occasional newsletters – as a celebration of the history of the various branches of our family. To again reiterate the sentiments expressed by

my predecessor as editor, Eleanor Burgess, writing in *Journal of the Butler Society* Vol. 4 No. 1 (1997),

[it is] an ambitious production for a small family society and, over the years, the quality of the articles has been quite remarkable. The Journal is a vital means of disseminating the work of those who have spent a great deal of time researching their family history. Without the Journal, this work, despite its high quality, might fail to find a publisher and thus be lost to future generations.

In addition to the publishing of articles and book notices of Butler interest, the *Journal* functions as a record of Society News, principally reports of gatherings, minutes of general meetings, and Butler obituaries. Since the publishing of the last journal, there have been two gatherings to report – The Triennial Rally of August 2015, ably recorded by Brenda Butler and Roger Butler; and The Butler Speaker Luncheon, held at The Kildare Street and University Club, Dublin, in November 2016, recorded by Mark Reade.

The Butler Society has a long heritage of ‘once-off’ and infrequent international gatherings, conferences and dinners beyond the triennial rallies held at Kilkenny since 1967, many of which have been reported on in the *Journal*. Some years ago, I gave a detailed listing of these events, in the hope of inspiring more to take place. While inter-rally events remain occasional, I am hopeful that our readers – one does not have to be an officer of the Society to propose an event! – will take the project under their wing. The German Butlers continue to be the most enduring in the organisation of their *Familientag* gatherings – since 1888, thus predating The Butler Society! – and their 50th *Familientag* – now a biannual affair for German Butlers – took place in 2016. On three occasions in the past (1968, 1984 and, most recently, 2000), our German members kindly took it upon themselves to lead An International Butler Gathering, open to all members and held between Kilkenny rallies and it was hoped to again do the same in 2016; unfortunately, owing to insufficient advance numbers, this was deferred and will, hopefully, take place at a later date. Similarly, an event will likely be held in North America by the branch organisation there over the next year or so.

Fortunately, in our fiftieth anniversary year, we are soon to have a special Golden Jubilee Rally, during the first weekend of August of this year, at Kilkenny. The combination of new and familiar venues and events will, I trust, appeal to members and the event looks to be very well supported. It is also a valuable opportunity, as is also the launch of this Journal, to reach out to local and regional communities of the south and east of Ireland, particularly in the old Butler stronghold counties of Tipperary and Kilkenny.

Our Society will have its next Triennial Rally next year, during 2018. In the spirit of our Society – and our predecessors as members, who often planned rally and inter-rally gatherings several years in advance – it would be very much appreciated if members in different countries would *continue* to support and, indeed, propose events for future years, where a luncheon or dinner, or a week-end incorporating a meal and an outing, could be organised for Butlers and their guests. The occasion should be self-financing, and any event would be well advertised on the society newsletter and our new website www.butlersociety.org and, I trust, enthusiastically supported by the membership.

With regard to our next *Journal* 6:1 (2017-18), I welcome your submissions and again encourage members and readers – as one does not have to be a member to write a paper – to be creative, not only in your written submissions, but to be inspired by the locations, buildings and personalities covered herein, such as may create the context for some future papers.

I close the editorial foreword of this, the fifth journal of my editorship, by thanking Shane Cusack for his graphic editorial assistance and by dedicating this, the Golden Jubilee *Journal of the Butler Society*, to our deceased founders, past members and officers. Finally, let us recall the quote of Hubert Butler himself; that one of our primary aims as a Society, is ‘to bring together the scattered branches of the Butlers and their kindred and to renew old ties that are in danger of breaking’.

Front Outside Cover: The Most Honourable James Wandesford Butler KP, 1st Marquess of Ormonde (3rd and final creation) (1777-1838).

Three quarter length portrait oil-on-canvas by Richard Rothwell purchased on 7 March 2017 by O. Roger Butler O.A.M., Vice-President (Australia) and presented to The Butler Society. On permanent loan to Kilkenny Castle.

Front Inside Cover: Lieutenant Colonel The Most Honourable James Arthur Norman Butler, 6th Marquess of Ormond CVO MC DL (1893-1971) as Lieutenant commanding H.M. Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms, at the wedding of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, York Minster, 8 June 1961.

Back Inside Cover: Handover ceremony of Kilkenny Castle by The Most Honourable, The 6th Marquess of Ormond CVO MC DL, 12 August 1967, and first published in *Journal of the Butler Society* 1, p. 17.

Back Outside Cover: Hubert Butler, Founding Editor, *Journal of the Butler Society* with Peggy, his wife.