



THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

October 2005 – No. 24



14th Triennial Rally, Kilkenny - Tuesday 22nd - Sunday 27th August 2006

We have been working on a preliminary programme for the 14th rally to be held in August 2006 (there are now so many hotels in Kilkenny that there should be no problem with accommodation). Unlike many of the previous rallies, there will be no Dublin element in 2006. Instead, it will be centred on Kilkenny.

Preliminary Programme

Tuesday 22nd August (evening) - Register in Kilkenny Castle

- Wine and cheese reception in the Parade Tower in Kilkenny Castle

Wednesday 23rd August - Opening of the Rally

- Welcome from the Mayor of Kilkenny
- Tour of Kilkenny Castle.
- Coach to Lisnavagh for lunch with Lord and Lady Rathdonnell.
- Glass of wine with Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Cope at Shankhill Castle, Paulstown.

Thursday 24th August, AGM

- Coach to lunch with Mr and Mrs Andrew Kavanagh in the beautiful and historic Borris House.
- Visit the town of New Ross
- A glass of wine with Dick and Julia Crampton at Maidenhall.
- An evening of Irish music and dancing.

Friday 25th August

- Coach tour of Wexford to Castles and places of Butler interest including Butlerstown Castle. A glass of wine with Judge and Mrs Smithwick

Saturday 26th August

- Genealogical workshops with Lord Dunboyne.
- Walking the walls of Kilkenny with the archaeologist Ben Murtagh
- Society Dinner in Kilkenny Castle

Sunday 27th August

- Cathedral service.
- Farewell lunch in the Castle.

There are trains and buses to Kilkenny from Dublin.

The Annual Butler Dinner in Madrid

Marie Upton, who went to Spain with her husband and attended the dinner, wrote: *"It was a memorable occasion attended by approximately thirty people mostly Spanish members of the Butler Society. Richard Butler from Dublin and his daughter Ann, Chris and I were the Irish members in attendance. We had a wine reception in La Real Gran Pena, a majestic building overlooking Plaza de Espania, followed by dinner. David was a wonderful host and succeeded in introducing everyone.*

Our language problem was overcome by David who speaks three languages and by Sheila Duffy, both acted as interpreters. I had an interesting conversation with Maria Fernanda Marchessi Butler whose ancestors originated from Carrick-on-Suir and Kilcass. We stayed in the Hotel Cason Du Tormes where John Butler, his wife and sister Valarie from England also stayed. I would recommend this hotel for easy access to the via Grand Palace and other sites. I would like to thank our Spanish friends for a very sociable evening."

Barbecue at Ballintemple

This summer, Tom Butler hosted a barbecue for the Butlers at Ballintemple (Pierce Butler, the signer of the American Constitution came from Ballintemple). The house alas was burnt in the 1930s and only four great doric pillars remain. But the Butlers, descendants of Pierce Butler (the Senator for South Carolina) are still here. Tom, Pam and their children, Tamara, Antonia, Richard and Jasper live in the garden house while Sir Richard Butler, our President, has another house at Ballintemple.

The barbecue was a great success. There was some difficulty and tremendous fun in finding the venue for those of us who are unfamiliar with that particularly wonderful corner of County Carlow - there was much racing and chasing and many mobile telephone calls, until John Kirwan took up a strategic position acting as a sign post at a small, but significant, cross-roads. When we arrived at Ballintemple Lodge we felt like Stout Cortez sighting the Pacific. However, Piers, Bennett and Clement Gelly (who were there from Wisconsin) assured us that the Pacific is much easier to find than Ballintemple Lodge.

It was a perfect sunny Sunday and we sat in the shade of beautiful beech trees with a wonderful view across to the Mountains. There were delicious organic potatoes and salads grown by Tom himself, along with scrumptious lamb and Lavistown sausages (made not by Melo but her neighbour) which were cooked by the blackened figures of Tom and Colm (who insists that his main concern was to rescue the unfortunate sausages from a hellish demise) toiling over the flames and wood gases coming from Tom's elaborate inferno made that very morning.

As a family we do not seem to be great photographers and, while I would have liked to have a picture titled "Ben Rathdonnell enjoying a joke with Sister Noirin Butler", I'm afraid only their feet figure in the photograph. Indeed, most of the photographs are excellent portrayals of the backs of Butlers, while I have a most unbecoming snap of George Butler attacking one of the acclaimed Lavistown sausages. Chips Bosun, Mark and Jackie Reade's Golden Labrador, was one of the most popular guests at the picnic. David and Rita Keogh had crossed the Slaney to be with us with the Cripps family from Inistogue, while Tracey Culleton, the fiction writer, got a taste of the Butlers at their best – devouring all before them!

OBITUARIES

MAJOR ROBERT BUTLER

We are very sad to hear of the death of Major Robert Butler at the age of 85, who was one of our vice-presidents and was also the editor of the North American Butler Society Bulletin. He came to many of our rallies and will be very much missed.

MARGARETE, FREIFRAU TREUSCH von BUTTLAR-BRANDENFELS has died at the age of 90 at Markershausen. She was one of the early members of the Society and has entertained us twice at Markershausen during the Rallies that have been held in Germany. The last time was in 1998 when we spent the afternoon before having dinner at this most interesting and historic house.

COLONEL EDUARDO BUTLER PASTOR died a day after his 100th birthday. He was a vice President since the founding of the Society. His Obituary will be in the next Journal.

JOHN HUGH BUTLER, 20.9.1904 - 22.8.2005, a life member of the society, was the father of Maureen (Snook) and David, known through reunions in Ireland, UK, and Madrid. John was lastborn of the large family of William and Charlotte of Mexborough in the West Riding of Yorkshire. His forward-looking character and practical abilities led him into the then pioneering industry of electrical power generation and upon qualifying he spent his working life in engineering posts in Newcastle upon Tyne, always with the same employer passing through nationalisation, denationalisation and many changes of organisation. After the war John Butler became involved in civil defence. His wide cultural interests included music, photography, motor cars (which he drove safely until two weeks before his death) ballroom dancing and travel in Spain. (He picked up the language when almost 70 years of age.)

When his wife Phyllis died in 2000 aged 96 after 71 years of married life, John characteristically moved on and went to live in a flat in the same town, Whitley Bay, where they had both been so happy, and there he formed a new life and maintained his independence and self sufficiency to the end.

US Rally

The U.S. Rally due to be held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania last year (2004) had to be cancelled as they could not get enough people in the short time they had to arrange it. But we hope that Tammy Butler and her brother Shane will plan a rally in the USA in 2007.

Publications

South Tipperary 1570–1841: Religion, Land and Rivalry by David J. Butler

This study explores the interaction between the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities of South Tipperary from their earliest divergence c.1570 to the culmination of emancipation, c.1841. There is much of interest to those who would like to learn more about the role of the various Butler dynasties in inter-church relations, land and rivalry! The jacket depicts the taking of Cahir Castle in 1599 by the earl of Essex. A member of the Butler Society Committee, David was awarded a PhD in historical geography by the NUI in 2003, and is a research fellow at the Department of Sociology and part-time lecturer at the Department of Geography, UCC. Previous publications include *Cahir: a guide to heritage town and district (Cahir, 1999)*, and articles on Irish ecclesiastical, genealogical, military and social history.

The book is available to members of the Butler Society at a specially discounted rate of ?38.50 plus P&P, and may be purchased by contacting the publishers direct:

Four Courts Press, 7 Malpas Street, Dublin 8 01 – 4534668

Email: info@four-courts-press.ie Website: www.four-courts-press.ie

Website

The Society's website, www.butler-soc.org, continues to attract new members and to provide the membership with a valuable forum for their genealogical research. The "Desperately Seeking" page generates a remarkable number of replies from the general public. Your webmaster, Lord Dunboyne, (johndunboyne@aol.com) is investigating ways to enable members to post their own queries to this page and automate the replies, on similar lines to the current "NoBo" page in the Members Only section.

To enter the Members Only section of the website, USER NAME = aboo, PASSWORD = hudibras

World War I

John Kirwan is working on a book on the people from Kilkenny who fought in the first World War. So far he has found 17 Butlers but if anyone has any name to add please let him know.

The individuals must have been born or resident in Kilkenny.

Pte John Butler of Piltown, Irish Guards ;

James Butler of Maudlin St., Kilkenny city ;

Capt James George Anson Butler Life Guards, later 5th. Marquess, Life Guards

Capt James Arthur Norman Butler, later 6th. Marquess, 17th/21st Lancers ;

Lt. James Hubert Theobald Charles Butler later 7th. Marquess, KRRC ;

John Butler, Clonmel Road, Callan ;

Michael Joseph Butler, born Kilkenny city but living in Toronto January 1918 when 'drafted' into the Canadian army, 1st Dpt Bn ;

Pte Patrick Butler, born Kilkenny city Royal Irish Regiment ;
Cpl Percy or Pierce Butler of Clorinka, Muckalee, Topegraph Section ;
Pte Philip Butler of Graiguenamanagh (born Newtownbarry) killed in action 19
Oct. 1914 Royal Irish Regiment ;
Sgt. Thomas Andrew Butler, Co. G, 30th. Inf, born Glenmore but emigrated to
Peoria Illinois (died 1967) and father of Thomas Butler of Peoria, who with
his wife Katie joined us on a recent rally. Thomas died earlier this year.
Pte William Butler born Ballingarry but lived later in Kilkenny where he
enlisted, Irish Guards, KIA 15 Sept 1916.
Pte William James Butler born Tullabrin Co. Kilkenny emigrated to Oaklands
NSW where he enlisted, 1st Bn, AIF, KIA 3-4 October 1917.
Major William M. Butler, King Edward's Horse, of Minaun, Callan.
Pte William Patrick Butler born Kilkenny city but enlisted in London in
Cheshire Regiment, died 17 Sept. 1918.
Finally we have Captain Francis or H. (?) Butler-Kearney of the ASC, son of
Col Charles Butler-Kearney of Threecastles.

*If I don't give a rank or regiment it means it is unknown to us and we have
picked him up as an army/navy man on the 1919 Polling Returns.*

The Ladies associated with the war effort were:

Lady Constance Butler dau of 3rd marquess who worked with Order of St. John
Harriet Butler of Maidenhall who worked on the Home Front, Red Cross work ;
Isabella and Mildred Butler of Kilmurry who also worked at home for the Red
Cross etc.

Lady Kathleen Butler, later Lindsay wife of Col Walter Lindsey, who worked
for the Ministry of Munitions, Woolwich.

Sale of Back Numbers of the Journal:

We are offering back numbers of Journals for **€5 plus postage**: Volume I Numbers 2, 7, 8; Volume II 1, 2, 3, 4;
Volume III 1, 3, 4, Volume IV 1, 2,

A Journal including postage (surface mail) would cost: Ireland €6.50, Europe €8, Sterling £5, USA \$11 (\$13 air-
mail), Australia, NZ & Canada \$16.

Send to: **The Butler Society, Lavistown, Kilkenny, Ireland**

Membership subscriptions

There are still some memberships outstanding for January 1st - December 31st 2005

Annual subscription from 2004: €15, £10 sterling, \$20 US, \$25 AUS & NZ, \$25 CAN.

Send to: The Butler Society, Lavistown, Kilkenny IRELAND.

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