



**Newsletter 49  
June 2020**

Dear Members,

Below please find our June 2020 Newsletter, Issue 49, which includes:

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Please enjoy and do let us know if you have any feedback, article offerings or great ideas!

#### **1 Butler Society Rally in Canada rescheduled to 2022**

With considerable uncertainty and concerns in the world right now, we really had no option but to reschedule the Canadian Rally 2020 in Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL), Ontario. Provisional revised dates for the Canadian Rally are Thursday 4th August to Sunday 7th August 2022. A local steering group in NOTL has put together a superb schedule of activities for the Rally - we're pushing everything back to 2022 so none of the tremendous efforts will be wasted. We'll be further enhancing our efforts and look forward to a very memorable and enjoyable experience in 2022. A dedicated information page for the NOTL Rally 2022 will be uploaded to the Butler Society website soon. We extend our grateful thanks to Ruaraidh Butler and his excellent team on the ground in NOTL. We'll be including a presentation on the NOTL Rally 2022 at the Triennial Rally at Kilkenny Castle in August 2021. These are tough days, but we all need something to look forward to. I encourage you to start thinking about Kilkenny next year and Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2022. For now, stay calm, stay safe and stay informed.

Take good care.

Butler Aboo, Richard, The Lord Dunboyne.

The following pictures of Niagara on the Lake should whet your appetite for August 2022.



## 2 20th Triennial Butler Rally 2021

The 20th Triennial Rally has been set for 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 in Kilkenny, Ireland. The Committee is currently drawing up the programme for this, the 20th Rally and a preliminary programme will be issued later in the year together with a list of Hotels and Guest Houses and train timetables to Kilkenny from Dublin.

## 3 Launch of the *Journal of The Butler Society*, 6.1

It is hoped that the Journal of The Butler Society, Volume 6, Number 1 (our 25<sup>th</sup> Journal) will be launched in Kilkenny in the Autumn of 2020. The Editor, Dr David Butler, is currently editing the Journal and is awaiting receipt of the last few articles.

## 4 Meanings of the Surnames of Spouses of the Chief Butlers up to the First Duke of Ormond (with thanks to Craig Foster)

The following are the surnames, and their meanings, of the women who married the men who became the Chief Butlers of Ireland, Earls of Ormond or were the direct ancestors of those who became the Chief Butlers and Earls of Ormond. Some of the names repeated, like FitzGerald, but their definition is mentioned only once. Sources included Behind the Name: the etymology and history of surnames; House of Names, and other sources.

**De Valoignes** – Probably having come from Valognes, Normandy. Hervey Walter (ca. 1070-1150) married Maude de Valoignes.

**Le Vavasour** – The name originated from Le Vavassour, Normandy where the family resided before coming to England in 1066. Theobald FitzWalter, 1st Chief Butler of Ireland, married Maud le Vavasour, granddaughter of William Vavasour, Justiciar of England.

**Du Marais** – The name comes from Old French “mareis” meaning someone living by a marsh. Theobald le Botillier, 2nd Chief Butler, married first Joan du Marais, daughter of Geoffrey du Marais, Justiciar of Ireland.

**De Verdon** – The surname Verdon was first found in Buckinghamshire where they were descended from Bertram de Verdun, a Norman baronial name from Verdun, near Avranches in Normandy, where they were descended from the Counts of Verdun, and came to England in 1066. Theobald le Botillier, 2nd Chief Butler, married secondly Rohese de Verdon.

**De Burgh** – Originated from Middle English burgh meaning "fortress, fortification, castle" and in Ireland was changed to Burke or Bourke. Johnghrenham.com states that “Burke,

along with its variants Bourke and de Burgh, is now by far the most common Irish name of Norman origin." Theobald le Botillier, 3rd Chief Butler of Ireland, married Margery de Burgh, granddaughter of William de Burgh and More O'Brien.

**FitzJohn** – The name literally means son of John as it originated from "fils de John." Theobald Butler, 4th Chief Butler of Ireland, married Joan FitzJohn (also known as Joan FitzGeoffrey as her father was John FitzGeoffrey).

**FitzGerald** – The name means "son of Gerald" and the FitzGeralds were arguably the most powerful Hiberno-Norman family in Ireland given the two main branches of the family were the powerful Earls of Desmond and Earls of Kildare. Edmund Butler, Earl of Carrick, Justiciar and Governor of Ireland, married Joan FitzGerald of Kildare; James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormond, married Joan FitzGerald of Desmond; Piers Butler, 8th Earl of Ormond, married Margaret FitzGerald of Kildare while James Butler, 9th Earl of Ormond, married Joan FitzGerald of Desmond.

**De Bohun** – The name refers to the family's former place of residence, the town of Bohun, in the French maritime area of La Manche in western Normandy. James Butler, 6th Chief Butler of Ireland and the 1st Earl of Ormond, married Eleanor de Bohun, daughter of Humphrey de Bohun, 4th Earl of Hereford, and Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of King Edward I of England.

**Darcy** – The name refers to the family's former place of residence, the town of Arcy in La Manche in western Normandy. James Butler, 2nd Earl of Ormond, married Elizabeth Darcy, daughter of John de Darcy and Joan de Burgh.

**De Welles** – Is said to have originated from the village and mill at Well/Welles in Lincolnshire. James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond, married Anne Welles, daughter of John de Welles, 4th Baron Welles, and Maud de Ros.

**Beauchamp** – From the Old French "beau, bel" meaning "fair" and "lovely" and "champ(s)" meaning "field" or "plain." James Butler, 4th Earl of Ormond, married Joan de Beauchamp of Bergavenny.

**Hankford** – Appears to be a surname based on a locality in England and appears to be of Saxon origin. Thomas Butler, 7th Earl of Ormond and younger brother of the 5th and 6th Earls, married Anne Hankford. They did not have sons thus the Earldom went to a cadet branch of the Butlers, the Butlers of Polestown. Thomas and Anne were the parents of Margaret Butler who married William Boleyn. They were the grandparents of Anne Boleyn, wife of King Henry VIII and mother of Queen Elizabeth I.

**O'Reilly** – Anglicized version of Ó Raghailigh meaning "descendant of Raghailigh", an Irish given name of unknown meaning. Richard Butler was the son of James Butler, 3rd Earl of Ormond and Anne Welles. He was known as Richard Butler of Knocktopher and Polestown. He married Caithriona "Catherine" O'Reilly, daughter of Gildas O'Reilly, Lord of East Breifne in County Cavan.

**O'Carroll** – Originates from the ancient Gaelic name Mac Cearbhaill or O'Cearbhaill, deriving from the word "Cearbh" which means to "Hack". Making it a possible name for a warrior or blacksmith. Edmund MacRichard Butler of Polestown, son of Richard Butler of Knocktopher and Polestown, married Giles O'Carroll, daughter of Maolruanaidh O'Carroll, Lord of Ely O'Carroll (Éile was located in modern County Offaly).

**Cavanagh/Kavanagh** – Derived from the Irish Gaelic name Caomhánach, which means "a student of saint Caomhán." It was the name used by a 12th-century king of Leinster, Domhnall Caomhánach, the eldest son of the historic Irish king Diarmait Mac Murchada. James MacEdmund Butler of Polestown married Sabh Kavanagh, daughter of Donel Reagh McMurrough Kavanagh of the Kings of Leinster.

**MacCartie/MacCarthy** – From Cárthach which means "loving" in Irish. This was the name of a 6th-century Irish saint. John Butler of Kilcash, son of the 9th Earl of Ormond, married Katherine, daughter of Cormac na Haoine MacCarthy Reagh, 10th Prince of Carbery (located on the southwest coast of County Cork). Their son, Walter Butler, 11th Earl of Ormond and 4th Earl of Ossory, inherited his titles from his uncle, "Black" Tom Butler,

10th Earl of Ormond. Walter married Helen Butler, daughter of Edmund Butler, 2nd Viscount Montgarret and Grizel FitzPatrick. Both Walter and Helen were great-grandchildren of Piers Butler, 8th Earl of Ormond.

**Poyntz** – This surname came from either the personal name Pontius or from a medieval occupational surname. The derivation of the name is from the pre 10th century Old French "Pointe" meaning a sharp or pointed end, and ultimately from the Latin "puncta", to pierce.

**Preston** – Originally derived from a place name meaning "priest town" in Old English. Thomas Butler, Viscount Thurles and heir apparent of Walter Butler, 11th Earl of Ormond, married Elizabeth Poyntz, daughter of Sir John Poyntz of Iron Acton, Gloucestershire. She married against her father's wishes and was the mother of James Butler (1610-1688) who inherited his grandfather's title as 12th Earl of Ormond. He eventually became the 1st Duke of Ormond. His other titles included 1st Marquess of Ormond, 5th Earl of Ossory, 4th Viscount Thurles, 1st Baron Butler of Llanthony, 1st Earl of Brecknock.

## **5 New from the Southern Cross Region - 2019 Triennial Gathering**

A total of 80 people from all over Australia and from New Zealand attended our Triennial Southern Cross Gathering in Brisbane, Queensland, last year. Over four days we heard about Butlers who had contributed to the early history of Queensland, and visited some of the places connected to these people.

One of our outings was to the town of Kilcoy, which is an hour's drive north west of Brisbane. For 35 years, William Butler was the manager of Kilcoy Station, a rural property of 35,000 acres. When a township was surveyed in the area in the early 1900s, it was named Kilcoy, after this property. William and his wife Jeanie then became active in setting up the first church in the town, the first school, and many other facilities and clubs to establish the community. When William died in 1917, the local residents erected a clock-tower in his memory. The size of the sum raised, in such a small community, indicates how highly he was esteemed.

William's son, Arthur Graham Butler was one of the most decorated men in the First World War. Attached to the 9th Battalion as a doctor, he took part in the landings at Gallipoli. He remained at this battlefield for months, attending to the wounded under very dangerous conditions. After the War, he was responsible for the production of the Butler Medal, which was awarded to Australian soldiers who had survived 6 or more months continuous service at Gallipoli. Sadly, there were only 94 recipients. Arthur Graham also served at other battlefields, showing great courage, and being mentioned regularly in despatches. His knowledge and experience was of value after the War in the development of the Australian Army Medical Corps.

We also heard about Cecil Arthur Butler, who made a record-breaking solo flight from England to Australia in 1931. His plane was only about 19 feet (6 metres) long. There was no cover to the cockpit, no oxygen mask, no parachute, and the only instruments were a clock and a compass. Arthur relied on paper maps of questionable accuracy. The flight took 9 days, with Arthur twice going without sleep for 36 hours. Afterwards he developed his own airline, Butler Air Transport, with a fleet of planes and a network of aerodromes, servicing the States of New South Wales and Queensland.

Another famous pilot in Australian aviation history is Captain Harry Butler. He taught himself to fly in a rural town in South Australia, travelled to England at the outbreak of World War One, where his skill was soon recognised, and he became a training officer for the newly formed Air Force. He also flew missions, to maintain his level of skill, and had the reputation of being an “ace” pilot. In 1919, Harry returned to Australia, shipping his favourite monoplane back with him. He decided to return to his home town by air, taking off from an aerodrome outside Adelaide, and flying across St Vincent Gulf, to Minlaton on the Eyre Peninsula. As he carried letters from various people in Adelaide to the residents of Minlaton, this became the world's first recorded overseas mail service. Harry couldn't swim, so he was advised to wear the inner tube from a tractor tyre around his waist, in case the plane came down while over the Gulf! He also flew without a parachute. The Centenary of his flight was celebrated in August 2019.

As is known, Australia experienced dreadful bushfires in January 2019. Thousands of square kilometres of farming land and forest were burnt out, many homes were destroyed, and the losses of life, both human and animal, were devastating. When these natural disasters occur, a number of organisations swing in to action to help. One of these organisations is Blaze Aid, which was started by Kevin and Rhonda Butler ([www.blazeaid.com](http://www.blazeaid.com)). Their property in Victoria was affected by a fire in 2009. When they appealed for help for their community, they were overwhelmed by the response from their fellow Australians. They realised that good organisation was needed to ensure that the many donations went where most needed and that nothing was wasted. So they set up Blaze Aid. The organisation has since extended its services to assist victims of floods and cyclones, as well as fires. The rebuilding of homes, lives and businesses after a disaster, takes years. Blaze Aid establishes Base Camps in the affected areas, and directs the volunteer labour and distributes the donations. It is a much appreciated organisation.

*Abigail Butler, Vice President (Australia)*

## **6 Requests for Help**

### ***From Jenny McGregor***

I have traced my ancestry to Mary Butler (my great, great grandmother) born 1844 in Ireland (Freshford, Kilkenny?) and she came to Australia and married Matthew Carmody on 4 Oct 1864. They lived in Queensland and at some stage together ran the Rosevale Retreat Hotel. Mary died aged 45 and is buried in Rosevale. I cannot get any further in finding her ancestry in Ireland. She might even be the daughter of John Butler and Ellen (Eleanor?) Short, but again not sure. Apparently Mary or her daughters (Louisa Fanny, Eleanor, Florence Catherine, Maud, Julia, Francis Elizabeth Sabina, Margaret Angelina, and Lucy Agnes) received a letter requesting them to come to a Butler gathering in Ireland but due to ill health were unable to make the journey due to the long distance. Mary also had 4 sons (John Daniel, Robert Thomas, James Burnett, and William Matthew Patrick). Some distant relatives visited my great grandmother Lucy Agnes in approx. 1961 and she said they needed to visit the homeplace. This is all the information I have to date on Mary Butler. And if you could at least steer me in the right direction to carry on my research I would greatly appreciate it. Jenny

### ***From Jacob Butler***

I am working on my Boy Scout Genealogy Merit Badge. I am wondering if you can help me with any information about my Ancestors. I have a relative that has done some research and found:

My Great-grandfather:  
Robert J. Butler  
B:27 June1908 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA  
D:26 June1987 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA

His Father:  
Bernard "Barney" Butler  
B:7 Mar 1875 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA  
D:8 Oct 1943 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA

His Father:  
Kearn Butler  
B:2 Jul 1846 Kilkenny, Ireland  
D:6 June1918 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA

His Father:  
J. Richard Butler  
B:1798  
D:14 June1861 Berlin, Green Lake, Wisconsin, USA

His Father:  
James Butler  
B:1774 or possibly 1777  
D:1838

The mother of J. Richard Butler has not been documented. Our relatives believe that he is an illegitimate child, whose mother was a French mistress in London. Can you verify any of this lineage and do you have any information on J. Richard Butler?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Butler  
Age 11  
Grafton, WI, USA

***From Dr Rachel Finnegan***

I wonder if anyone has any information on a Samuel Butler, who was a merchant involved in the textile trade in the Levant. He is recorded as being English vice-consul at Alexandria, Egypt, in the 1730s, and is mentioned in a similar light in correspondence from the 1760s. He was married, but his wife's name is not known.

Samuel's brother (possibly George) was also involved in the business and was based in Cairo in the 1730s. A George Butler is mentioned in a shipping document from the 1760s and is associated with a vessel called "The Favorite".

Any information would be greatly appreciated and I will acknowledge it in my forthcoming book: a new version of the eastern travel correspondence of Richard Pococke (later Bishop of Ossory), which is being published by Brill.

Many thanks,  
Rachel

If anyone has information which would be of assistance to Jenny, Jacob or Rachel , they can pass it Mark Reade at [ballyvolanmr@gmail.com](mailto:ballyvolanmr@gmail.com) and he will be happy to pass it on to them.

**7 Copies of “The Chief Butlers of Ireland and the House of Ormond”** an Illustrated Genealogical Guide edited by John Kirwan are available to purchase through the website [www.butlersociety.org](http://www.butlersociety.org) at a cost of €50 plus postage (postage costs are detailed on the website)

## **8 Message from Ladislav Rytíř received on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Dear friends,

I am a member of Butlers Dragonerregiment, which is introducing a history of the Butler family in the Imperial service during the Thirty Year's War. We are following the story of Walter Butler of Ballinakill Castle, Roscrea (c. 1600 – 25 December 1634), who served as a colonel in the Imperial Army under Albrecht von Wallenstein and was involved in Wallenstein's murder in 1634. I would like to inform you that we are preparing a commemoration of 400th anniversary of the end of Bohemian revolt. It would be great honour for us, if anyone from The Butler Society would be interested in our event and decided to visit it. All information about the event can be found at [www.1620.cz](http://www.1620.cz) or at FB page @cesta1620. As we are trying to collect as much information about Colonel Butler as possible, we hope that this can be the beginning of future cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Ladislav Rytíř

## **9 Subscriptions**

We aim to connect, preserve and unite this ancient family making use of the latest communication tools of our era.

The annual subscription rates for 2020 are: 15 Euro, £10 sterling, US\$20, Canadian \$25

For both members and non-members, simply visit [butlersociety.org](http://butlersociety.org) and, go to "Join". Payment is by Stripe. Other payment methods (less preferred):

If you use Paypal, send payment to [treasurer@butler-soc.org](mailto:treasurer@butler-soc.org). Please identify who is making the payment in the message line of the optional email (see “enter personal message for the recipient”) so we can allocate the payment to the correct member and confirm receipt;

If you prefer to send a cheque, use only the above currencies. We are no longer able to cash other currencies at the bank. Cheques should be made payable to “The Butler Society”; Please ensure that Euro cheques are drawn on an Irish bank, as the charges against Euro cheques drawn on non-Irish banks are prohibitive.

**Cheques should be sent to:**

**Tim Sweetman, Hon. Treasurer, THE BUTLER SOCIETY  
c/o Apt 242, Bellevue, Islandbridge, Dublin 8, Ireland**