



**m.1654**  
**Elizabeth Denny**  
 b.25.2.1635  
 d.1696 at Tralee;  
 (Will dated 1689,  
 pr.1696 PCA  
 (WELPLY p.592),  
 requests that she  
 be buried in Tralee  
 church [St.John's  
 C.of I.] near her  
 bro. Wm Denny

she was dau. of  
 Sir Edward Denny  
 Knt. (1605-1646)  
 of Tralee Castle,  
 Castle (*rebuilding*  
*of which he*  
*completed 1627;*  
*It stood close to*  
*where the Ashe*  
*Memorial Hall*  
*on Denny Street*  
*now stands*)

Elizabeth Denny  
 13th in descent  
 from Edward I  
 ("Longshanks")  
 through families  
 of Plantagenet,  
 de Bohun,  
 Courtenay,  
 Champerowne  
 and Denny;  
 see p.RD 5  
 & "Royal Lineage"  
 by J.FOSTER 1887  
**ROYAL  
 DESCENT**

**NOTE:** In the old  
 panelled library  
 (now hotel bar)  
 of Elm Grove/  
 Ballyseedy Castle  
 (built 1721) is a  
 wooden panel  
 (woodworm  
 infested but has  
 been over-cleaned  
 & is of uncertain  
 age), carved  
 with arms of the  
 Blennerhasset  
 family impaled  
 with three lions  
 and the date 1627;  
 this is thought to  
 commemorate the  
 marriage of his  
 parents, John BH  
 Sr & Martha Lynn  
 (*except that the*  
*usual Lynn arms*  
*are 'a demi lion*  
*rampant', not*  
*three lions...)*

**m. est. c1690**  
**Margaret Crosbie**  
 of Tubrid, Co.Kerry;  
 she bought one of the  
 forfeited estates prev.  
 purchased 1703-20 by  
 "Hollow Sword Blade  
 Company" of London;  
 Her brothers Thomas  
 & Arthur C. were in  
 1735 implicated in the  
 Danish Silver Robbery  
 scandal (B 6);

Margaret m.2nd 1714  
 Co.Cork, Hon. Capt.  
 David John Barry  
 of Barry's Hall;  
 MP Belfast 1727;  
 Sheriff of Cork 1728  
 d.1744; Son of the  
 2nd Earl Barrymore

#### **FURTHER LANDS GRANTED 1666:**

In 1666 a crown grant  
 was made to the BH  
 family of 2787 acres in  
 Co.Kerry & 2000 acre  
 in Co.Cork;  
 of this, John BH Jr  
 (d.1677) was granted  
 lands of Curraghmore,  
 Ferrenvorgan,  
 Ardcoanemenus,  
 Trogull,Knockloghkin  
 Gortintle, Castletowne  
 Ballymacelligott  
 (alias Ballygralagh),  
 Roghronane,  
 Gortackleegil,  
 Gurtapopus,  
 Garrynogorah,  
 Gurtirniye  
 and Garryrirode,  
 in Trughanackmy  
 Barony;  
 in all 1720 acres at a  
 rent of £26 annually

she describes him as  
 "a jolly dog; straight,  
 teeth and sight good,  
 bearing a little thick;  
 is polite, cheerful, and  
 even droll; sits to his  
 bottle constantly till  
 nine or ten o'clock,  
 and never wishes to  
 go to bed till one or  
 two in the morning;  
 vastly happy to see  
 us, and mighty fond  
 of his g.daughters..."

High Sheriff of Kerry  
 1717; Resident  
 JP for Kerry 1736;  
 Served on the Kerry  
 Grand Jury 1747 & 55  
 with son John BH &  
 brother William BH

Col. John Blennerhasset was MP for Co.Kerry 1709-13, 1715-27 & 1769-75 (*not 1760-69, see NOTE below*); MP for the borough of Tralee 1713-15, 1727-43, 1743-60 & 1760-69.  
 First elected MP or "Knight of the Shire" for Kerry in 1709, on the death of his father, at about age 17, well under the legal age of 21, having unseated Thomas Crosbie,  
 who had taken his seat illegally (when the High Sheriff of Kerry refused a poll of voters) then lost it after a petition, signed by a Thomas Blennerhasset & others;  
 On 19.8.1709 a petition complaining of the return of John Blennerhasset "by reason of his infancy" was signed by another John Blennerhasset and six others, but not proceeded with

Charles Smith's "The Ancient and Present State of the County of Kerry" in 1752 says John was "...lately one of the governors of this county, and is representative in parliament for the  
 Borough of Tralee, together with his second son Arthur..." also "...his eldest son John is one of the Knights of the Shire for this county..."

**NOTE:** Both **[JB/2]** & **[BIFR p.141]** have him in error as MP Co.Kerry 1760-69, but it was his son John Blennerhasset Jr who was MP for Co.Kerry in the 1760 parliament, until he died in 1763;  
 For many years both senior & oldest member of the Irish House of Commons at Dublin, known as "Father of the Irish House of Commons", having represented Co.Kerry  
 or the Borough of Tralee from 1709 to 1775, a period of 64 years spanning the reigns of four sovereigns; His two sons & a grandson were also members of the House

In 1727 signed a dubious "family compact" with Sir Maurice Crosbie, Knt. of Ardferit (knighted 1711/2) & Col. Arthur Denny of Tralee, that sought to partition the county representation  
 among the three families, themselves & their successors; However, this unusual agreement lasted only until Arthur Denny died in 1742; A witness to the signing of this document was  
 his brother Thomas Blennerhasset (B 6); Col. John Blennerhasset was responsible, with Col. Arthur Denny JP, for investigating the "Danish Silver Robbery" of 1731 (B 6);  
 in 1751 he was overseer for the building of the bridge at Cahirmoreau (Tramore), later renamed Blennerville (K 20); this bridge has recently (c2000) been rebuilt

c1734 he shared the Seignory of Castleisland with Sir Maurice Crosbie Knt., William Crosbie, Edward Herbert, John FitzGerald and Richard Meredith;  
 On 14.8.1758 awarded an annual Government pension of £200 ("Freeman's Journal 16-20.12.1766 "A complete List of the Annual pensions on the Irish civil and military Establishments)

Col. John Blennerhasset's Will dated 19.11.1774 defines the Ballyseedy estate entail in unusual detail; The original was lost in the Dublin Four Courts fire, but  
 a contemporary Ms. copy dated 27.6.1776 survives **[SA bundle 4, box 18, Ms. 823 of Leighton Hall Collection, papers of Browne family of Riverstown, Cork];**  
 Mary Agnes Hickson in her "Old Kerry Records" **[KEP 19.6.1880]** wrote that:

**"...The Will of Col.John Blennerhasset is a curiosity in its way, from the immense number of Blennerhassets (nearly a hundred if I remember rightly)  
 named in the entail, including all the then members of the Riddlestown branch and persons in different parts of Ireland, very remotely related to the testator  
 although his namesakes. His grand object seems to have been to prevent Ballyseedy ever going to the descendants of his two daughters, Agnes who married  
 her cousin Sir Thomas Denny, owner in chief of that place; and Mary wife of Lancelot Crosbie of Tubrid...";** This is an odd statement, as the estate was  
 entailed & thus could pass only to male heirs, multiple listing of names of individuals was un-necessary for this; his real objective appears to have been to  
 prevent the Ballyseedy estate passing to descendants of the disinherited male Blennerhasset who was ancestor of the Gortatlea family, this being his nephew  
 Thomas Blennerhasset  
 (B 7 & p.G 1)

**m.1713 Jane Denny**  
 dau. of Col. Edward  
 Denny (1652-1712)  
 MP, of Tralee Castle  
 the nephew  
 of Elizabeth Denny  
 (1635-1696) who  
 married his g.father  
 John Blennerhasset  
 (d.1677)

15th in descent  
 from King Edward I,  
 through same line  
 as Elizabeth Denny,  
 1635-1696  
**ROYAL DESCENT**

#### **OAK PARK TRALEE**

>> John Blennerhasset Jr. ("the younger") b.c1754; Edu. TCD (SC 1769, BA 1773), "Fellow Commoner of TCD 1773"  
 of Oak Park, Killeen, Tralee (now renamed "Collis-Sandes House") 1774 - the home of his 1st cousin Letitia Denny Bateman (B 4), and where his g.father "The Great Colonel John" d.1775

still living 19.11.1774, he died "...a few days before 14.12.1774...", age 20 yrs, at Nice, France, ...where he went for the recovery of his health..."; d. unm.;  
 death reported in "Gentleman's Magazine" Dec.1774, p.598 (place of death not stated); "Hibernian Chronicle" printed Cork 29.12.1774 (place of death given as Nice, France);  
 and "Dublin Hibernian Journal" 14.12.1774 (place of death given as Nice, France);  
 A second notice appeared in the "Dublin Hibernian Journal" of 30.12.1774, this giving his place of death as London (almost certainly in error)

**NOTE: This John is probably the source of a legend, documented in 1934 by William Day Blennerhasset of New Zealand (G 31), of an eldest son of the Ballyseedy  
 family who eloped with a Catholic girl to France and married her there; that he became sick and died; and that his wife was not permitted to see him (B 6 & p.G2-3);**

**NOTE: This tale appears to have over time become confused with another but distinct family legend, that of the ancestor of the Blennerhasset family of  
 Gortatlea & Blackbriar, believed heir to Ballyseedy but disinherited "for marrying without his father's consent" (see pp.B 6 & G2-3)**

perhaps(?) m. in France to <??>

**his wife perhaps(?) identical with the "Mrs Blennerhasset" whose funeral was held at Ballyseedy church (C.of I.) & was bur.18.4.1821 in Ballyseedy old graveyard (also on B 14);  
 no other "Mrs Blennerhasset" of Ballyseedy is known to have died then, but need to search more newspaper death notices to make certain of this...**

**also, it is unusual for the burial register not to show her full name;**

**it is also possible they were ancestors of Blennerhasset family of Skahanagh & Clahane (p.S 1 etc), in which John is a recurring name**

>> Arthur (Edward?) Blennerhasset; d.post1749, bef.1763; d.young; unm.

**[BIFR p.141]** has him named Arthur, a family name; **[JB/2]** has him named Edward, but I have found no evidence for this

#### **PALATINES**

A large number of German protestant refugees, among those driven out of the Palatinate by Louis the Fourteenth, settled in Ireland. The greatest number, about 1200, were settled 1709-1712 by  
 Sir Thomas Southwell on his estate at Castle Matrix, outside Rathkeale, Co.Limerick and close to the Blennerhasset estate at Riddlestown Park; The newcomers, known as 'Palatines', were  
 industrious and prospered; they introduced wheel ploughs, potato drills and horse hoes to Ireland; Patrick J. O'Connor in "People Make Places: The Story of the Irish Palatines" writes:  
 "...After July 1747 the following families appear to have moved together to the Blennerhasset estate nr Castleisland: BENNER, GROUSE, SHOULDICE, HOFFMAN, POFF, HYFLE, FITZELLE,  
 CRONBERRY and some of the SWITZER's..."; These families were brought to Kerry by "The Great Colonel John" Blennerhasset, who is also said to have brought 16 Palatine families from  
 Co.Limerick to Farmer's Bridge, Ballymacelligott, Castleisland and other places on his Co.Kerry estate in 1776 - this may be the same event, the date being an error for 1747, or refer to a second  
 influx of Palatines; other Palatine families such as HECK and RUTTLE are known to have migrated to Kerry later than 1747

The Co.Kerry Volunteer regiments during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century included the "Kerry Legion", also known as the 'Palatine' or 'Ballymacelligott' corps; c1779-82 under the command of Col. Arthur  
 Blennerhasset of Arabella, Ballymacelligott; This regiment was composed principally of farmers of Palatine descent (or 'Germans' as sometimes called) with a few other farmers and artisans

Palatine surnames from the Ballyseedy Estate, researched by Heather Groves of Dublin (p.G 37), with spelling variations found in Ballymacelligott, Ballyseedy or Tralee C.of I. parish registers:-  
**Alton (Altimes), Benner (Benner), Cronerberry/Cronerbery/Cronsberry (Cronenberger), Fizzell/Fitzel/Frizzel/Fitzell/Fitzelle (Fische), Gleazier/Glazier/Gleasure (Glaser),  
 Groves/Grouse (Kraus), Hoffman/Hofman/Huffman (Hoffman), Miller/Millar (Muller), Poff (Puff), Ruttle (Ruckel), Sparling (Sperling), Twiss (Tys)**  
 Original immigrant surnames are shown in ( ); The names Heck, Hyfle, Shouldice and Switzer are believed also to have been at the Ballyseedy estate, but are not found in local parish registers;  
 The Palatine name KRAUS became GROUSE and this appears to have evolved into GROVES, a well known Ballymacelligott name; all GROVES in Ballymacelligott are believed to descend from  
 Michael & Mary Grouse, living in Ballymacelligott by 1749; This name can be confusing because there is also a Groves of English origin that occurs in Co.Cork, but seemingly no connection

**"As I roved out one evening through the woods of Ballyseedy,  
 Whom should I meet on a cool retreat but a Palatine's daughter  
 You'll find gold and silver, oh! and land without tax or charges,  
 And a pretty lass to wed if you choose a Palatine's daughter."  
 "The Palatine's Daughter" (Kerry Ballad)**

















**TOWNLANDS of the Ballyseedy estate (from GV Co.Kerry 1852)**

spellings taken from the "General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands of Ireland 1851";

**Townlands marked \* are not always shown as such on modern maps**Townlands shown in **bold** are those appearing in **GV Co.Kerry 1852** as part of the Ballyseedy estate, then belonging to Charles Blennerhassett (1830-1859)**BALLYSEEDY CIVIL PARISH****Ballindoooganig (201 acres)****Ballycarty (182 acres)**

Ballymachthomas (395 acres)

**Ballyseedy (440 acres)**

Caherleheen (64 acres) \*

**Clashedmond (186 acres)****Curraghmacdonagh (102 acres) \*****Dromavally (358 acres)****Gortbrack East (178 acres)****Gortbrack, or Gortbrack West (178 acres)****Lissardboola, or West Lissardboola (376 acres)****Poulawadtra (821 acres)****BALLYMACCELLIGOTT CIVIL PARISH**

Ahane (178 acres)

Arabela (154 acres)

**Ash Hill (345 acres)**

Ballineedora (113 acres)

Ballinknock (112 acres)

**Ballybeg (<???) acres** not listed as a townland

Ballyyaukeen (299 acres)

Ballybrannagh (143 acres)

**Ballydwyer East (184 acres)****Ballydwyer Middle (136 acres)****Ballydwyer West (179 acres)**

Ballyfinoge (179 acres)

Ballymacelligott (97 acres)

Ballynahinch (80 acres)

Barrakilla (201 acres)

Bealagrellagh (72 acres) \*

Caherbreagh (387 acres)

Cahercullenagh Lower (283 acres)

Cahercullenagh Upper (520 acres)

Cahermore (89 acres)

Carrignafeela (81 acres)

**Clashatlea (335 acres)**

Cloghavoola (130 acres)

**Clogher (41 acres)**

Clogherclemin (204 acres)

**Cloghermore (62 acres)**

Coolnadead (124 acres)

**BALLYMACCELLIGOTT CIVIL PARISH** cont.**Curraghmacdonagh (25 acres)**

Doonimlaghbeg (158 acres)

**Flemby (518 acres)**

Garraun Beg (87 acres)

Garraun More (232 acres)

Glanageenty (421 acres)

**Gortagullane (68 acres)****Gortatlea (699 acres)** pronounced "Gortaclea"

Gortnaleaha (107 acres)

**Gortshanvally (82 acres)**

Kilbane (291 acres)

**Kilkerry (101 acres)****Kilquane (133 acres)****Knockatarriv (293 acres)**

Knockavinnane (136 acres)

Kylebeg (132 acres)

Lissooleen (28 acres)

**Loughnacappagh (36 acres) \***

Magh East (142 acres)

Magh West (196 acres)

Maglass East (235 acres)

Maglass West (291 acres)

Martara (87 acres)

Mountnicholas (108 acres)

Muingnaminnane (1,019 acres)

Muingnatee (230 acres)

Mweelinroe (38 acres)

Potaley (17 acres)

Rathanny (257 acres)

Reanagowan (1,093 acres)

Rockfield (305 acres)

Shanavally (269 acres)

Tonreagh Lower (157 acres)

Tonreagh Upper (137 acres)

Tooreen (170 acres)

Tooreennastooka (136 acres)

Tullygarran (163 acres)

Tursillagh (580 acres)

**RATASS CIVIL PARISH****Caherleheen (<???) acres)****Camp (<???) acres)**

## NOTE:

with the death of William Wynne Blennerhassett, (p.W 4), last survivor of the English Blennerhassetts, at Brooklyn, New York on 7-May-1894

Arthur Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy became head of the family worldwide, i.e. the most senior of the ancient line of Blennerhassett of Co.Cumberland; at Arthur's death in 1939 this passed to (Richard John) Verdon Blennerhassett of Rockfield & Ballyvegan, Co.Limerick. (p.R 8)

In 1920 Arthur BH of Ballyseedy "was awarded £800 compensation for the burning of a house, his property" **[IT 9.10.1920]**; Was this Ballycarty House, home of the Nash family but a part of the Ballyseedy estate?

NOTE: The house servants in 1911 were Anne Murphy (b.c1881); Catherine Moore (b.c1891); Bridget Kelly (b.1883)

Arthur Blennerhassett d.3.5.1939 at Ballyseedy Castle [TC], **[IT 5.5.1939 (2 items) & 13.5.1939]**;

bur.4.5.1939 Ballyseedy new graveyard, the first of his family to be interred there;

"Mrs. Blennerhassett was too ill in London to travel to the funeral" **[IT 13.5.1939]**;

In 1956 a brass plate was erected in Ballyseedy Church, in memory of him and his family, by his daughter Hilda

The "Arthur Blennerhassett Memorial Chase" horse race was established (where?), £150 prize in 1956 **[IT 7.9.1956]****m.6.6.1882 at Glin Castle, Co.Limerick; (Clara) Nesta Ricarda FitzGerald, MBE (1918)**b.c1864 Co.Kerry; d.16.1.1945 Ballyseedy Castle, bur. Ballyseedy new churchyard **[IT 27.1.1945]**;

only dau. of (Desmond) John Edmund FitzGerald, Knight of Glin, of Glin Castle; granddaughter

of Clara Ann Blennerhassett of Riddlestown Park, Rathkeale, Co.Limerick (p.R 5); she spoke Irish &amp; English;

In the hall of Glin Castle (right-hand wall by staircase arch) is a portrait in oil of Nesta in court presentation

dress, painted in 1882 on her honeymoon at Rome by Norwegian artist Christian Meyer Ross (1853-1904)

NOTE: At the start of WWI the 4th Earl of Dunraven, father of Lady Rachel FitzGerald, wife of 27th Knight of Glin

(R 5) well known politician, sportsman &amp; yachtsman (who attempted to win the America's Cup in 1893 and in

1895 with his yacht "Valkyrie") offered his home Dunraven Castle, Glamorgan as a convalescent home;

he also donated to the war effort his private 390 ton steamship "Greta", used as a hospital ship by the

Australian Voluntary Hospital; and his large steam yacht "Grianaig" (built for him to a high standard by

Scotts of Greenock 1904), with his personal services as its captain, used as an ambulance ship in the

Mediterranean; These ships were were painted white, with a red cross on each side and large red strip

around the hull, to deter German submarines; "Grianaig" eventually returned to its owner as "...unsuitable

for use as a hospital ship or patrol vessel... but served again during WWII as the "Lady Shahrazad";

during WWI Nesta nursed with a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) in the mediterranean on

board Lord Dunraven's steamship "Greta" &amp; steam yacht "Grianaig", in use as hospital/

ambulance ships; she and Lord Dunraven becoming close friends;

her dau's Hilda &amp; Vera also nursed on Grianaig; Nesta was awarded the B.E.F. 1914-15 star

(a.k.a. Mons Star; awarded to military personnel, &amp; some civilians, who served in France or

Belgium between 5.8.1914 &amp; 31.12.1915), the British War Medal (for service abroad) and the

Victory Medal (for all military &amp; civilian personnel serving between 1914 and 1918);

For her services Nesta was awarded an MBE 1918; her decorations are displayed at Glin Castle,

in a small frame adjacent to her portrait; her official medal record carries the a note that she

"...served on Lord Dunraven's Ambulance ships Greta &amp; Grianaig from Aug.14 [1914] onwards

but [the ships?] only became V.A.D. members April 16 [1916]...

It was widely known that Nesta was the mistress of Lord Dunraven until his death in 1927;

In 1922 she performed the naming ceremony for his new yacht, "Sonya", 554 tons **[IT 17.6.1922]**

When Lord Dunraven died he bequeathed to Mrs Nesta Blennerhassett £10,000 and "...an annuity of £1,500

during her life...", "...his two silver statuettes (one of himself), other articles, and Kenry House, Putney vale, and

lands, and his house, 22 Norfolk Street, Park Lane, London...." **[IT 22.1.1927]**

>>> (Georgina) Barbara Blennerhassett; b.31.8.1857 Ballyseedy, bap.20.9.1857 Ballyseedy (C.of I.), bap. register has "born Sept 1857" in error; d.11.1.1867 **[ "Belfast Newsletter" 18.1.1867]** but another source had d.7.1.1867

&gt;&gt;&gt; Adelaide "Ada" &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; Standish O'Grady b.25.7.1854 d.17.1.1856

Frances

Blennerhassett,

(Lady Guillamore)

b. est.c1830/2

d.4.12.1867

/

m.23.7.1853

The Right Hon. Standish O'Grady, 3rd Viscount Guillamore of Cahir Guillamore, Co.Limerick

&amp; 3rd Baron O'Grady of Rockbarton, Co.Limerick; b.8.7.1832 d.10.4.1860 (Succeeded by his brother, but titles now extinct)

&gt;&gt;&gt; Frances Annabella &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; Ada Frances &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; issue

Blennerhassett

of Rockbarton;

/

b. Feb/Mar 1834 as her mother died in childbirth;

obit. in **[Kerry Evening Post 8.3.1834]** describes her: "The little

stranger doomed never to behold a mother's smiles, or feel the warm

caresses of a mother's care and tender solicitude..."; d.30.5.1907

at home, 19 Longford Terrace, Monkstown, Dublin **[IT 3.6.1907]**;

m.6.12.1859 Tullybracky, Kilmallock, Limerick;

Sir John Richard Wolseley, Bart., JP, DL; 6th Baronet of Mt Wolseley,

Co.Carlow; and of Learass(?); b.24.6.1834; **[FOSTER]** has b.20.6.18318th Royal Irish Regt., served in the Crimea 1854-5 **[GM Feb.1860]**

d.20.6.1874; succeeded by his bro. Sir Clement James W., 7th Bart.

&gt;&gt;&gt; Cecilia O'Grady &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt; Sibil Fermoy

b.24/25.6.1855

d.?9.1919 Dublin;

m.28.4/5.1877; Edward FitzEdmond Burke Roche, 2nd Baron Fermoy;

b.23.5.1850 Twyford Abbey; Acceded 1874; d.1.9.1920 (not 17.9.1920) Barmouth

&gt;&gt;&gt; Amelia Cecilia Louisa Wolseley

&gt;&gt;&gt; Eva Blennerhassett Wolseley; m.Apr-Jun.1893 Carlisle, Cumberland

**either to Francis William C. Wharton or to George Hodgson**

&gt;&gt;&gt; Frances Wilhelmina Blennerhassett Wolseley d. unkm.

**Rev. WILLIAM BLENNERHASSETT'S LANDS**

Rev. William Blennerhassett (1800-1860) of Iwerne Minster, Dorset, owned land in these Co.Kerry townlands, all originally a part of the Ballyseedy estate [GV Kerry 1852] :-

**Parish of Ballincuslane:**

Kilcusnaun;

**Parish of ??? :**

Craggaunoonia; Ballyplimoth

**DORSET**

Blennerhassett  
b.10.7.1800

Elm Grove, Kerry

Edu. TCD (SC 1816, BA1821, MA c1847)  
Ordained C.of I. 1832; Vicar of Iwerne  
Minster, Dorset, England 17.12.1832-1860;  
believed to have built the Vicarage c1833;  
also Vicar of Wolland, Dorset & Hinton  
St.Mary, Dorset (IE) /

He owned land in Co.Kerry, originally part  
of the Ballyseedy estate (see NOTE to left)

d.27.4.1860, believed to have taken his own life; bur. Iwerne Minster, Dorset (*Suicide, verdict*  
"temporary insanity" is recorded in the Iwerne burial register); Will pr.7.7.1860 Blandford, Dorset;  
a stained glass window with two brass plates underneath were erected in his memory at Ballyseedy  
Church, Co.Kerry

Iwerne Minster is a large, prosperous and beautiful Dorset village, remembered well by me (B.J.)  
as the destination for one of my of my first expeditions in search of Blennerhassett history.

I visited Iwerne on 20.1.1969 at which time the village still had its own vicar residing at the old  
vicarage, but as with so many Church of England parishes this is, sadly, no longer the case.

The parish of Iwerne is now served by the vicar of /

Rev. Rex Wells was the last vicar to reside (1951-1977) in the old vicarage at Iwerne;  
He kindly permitted me to view the original parish registers, then kept in the church safe.  
Before we viewed the registers he told me the vicarage had been built c1833 by the Rev. William  
Blennerhassett and that the ghost of Rev. William was said by local people to haunt the vicarage

His own family had personal experience of this, there being a well or water reservoir, inside an old  
greenhouse attached to the rear of the house, "...where the family will not go...". This well was fed  
by a natural spring, once the water supply for the house. Water from the well ran out of the  
greenhouse to form a pond in the garden, before flowing away as a stream /

When himself drawing water from this "well" Rev. Wells had felt hands touching his own hands  
from behind, when no-one else was present. He also suggested that his wife thought the house  
haunted, as on hearing any unfamiliar noise or creaking floorboards at night, she would say  
"...there goes old Blennerhassett..." /

The well is also described as a "cellar" so presumably was sunk into the ground; the "well" was  
open to view until sealed, following the sale of the vicarage c1977 to become "Devine House",  
a boys' boarding house for the nearby Clayesmore School /

m.21.4.1835 (not 12.4.1835) [FOSTER]  
licence bond is dated 13.4.1835;  
at Donhead St.Mary, Wiltshire;

**Emma Sophia Houssemayne du Boulay**  
b.6.7.1814 France (twin; British Subject)  
d.25.12.1896; Will pr.27.2.1897 London;  
of Donhead St.Mary, Wiltshire 1835;  
of Hollam House, Fareham, Hampshire  
1881-1891 (with daughters Emma Sophia  
& Agnes); of Hollam Lodge, Titchfield,  
Hampshire 1897 (her son Arthur BH lived  
at Hollam Lodge, Fareham 1898-1911);  
dau. of Francis Houssemayne du Boulay,  
of Walthamstow, Essex /

**NOTE: Two brothers, both Anglican  
Priests in Dorset, married twin sisters**

>>> (Gustavus Ad. Frederick Freke.) Crosbie Blennerhassett; of Ballyseedy; b.10.10.1803 Co.Kerry; d.24.2.1834; Edu. TCD (Pensioner 1823); unnn;

**NOTE: this d.o.b. does not fit well with that of his brother John Blennerhassett b.3.3.1803**

**In Ballyseedy Ch. under stained glass window (St.John Ch.V, V.1-16) erected to his memory, is a brass plate "Gus. Ad. Fred. Freke. Crosbie Blennerhassett";**

**NOTE: Directly underneath and touching that is a second brass plate with date but no name, inscribed "Died 28th July 1877 aged 63 years";**

**This is the date of death of his brother Maj./Lt-Col. Barry Blennerhassett b.1814/5 d.28.7.1877 (see p.B 14);**

**This inscription appears to be a reject engraving, the plate reused installed blank side up, but now the engraved side has been exposed in error;**

**NOTE: There was another Crosbie Blennerhassett at Tralee in 1875; who was this?**

>>> Lt. John du Boulay Blennerhassett; b.28.2.1836 [GM April 1836]; JP Co.Kerry; Lt. Royal Wiltshire Militia to 22.4.1859;  
Ensign 39th Regt. of Foot (Dorsetshire/Dorset Regiment) from 22.4.1859 [IT 23.4.1859]; resigned 1862 [TIMES 23.4.1859]  
(NOTE: [TIMES 13.12.1865] has resigned 1852, from the 41st Regt., & that his property was in Co.Limerick, all in error) and  
settled at Shanavally, Ballymacelligott, to live with uncle Thomas Blennerhassett; John had 1352 acres of his own at Shanavally 1873-6;  
In 1876 lived at Ballymacelligott; post 1873 lived with another uncle, Lt.-Col. Barry Blennerhassett (B 14) at Edenburn, Co.Kerry  
In 1865 he became engaged to Rowena Chute, daughter of Dr Richard Chute of Tralee, but failed to marry her; She sued him for  
damages of £4000, for breach of promise, and "...the entire courtroom applauded when she was awarded £1000 in costs..."  
["Yass Courier" New South Wales, Australia 24.2.1866]; of "Springeld", Derby Rd, North End, Portsmouth, Hants 1899;  
d.25.10.1899; Will pr.26.1.1900 London; bur. Kingston Cem., Portsmouth; unnn.

>>> Marianne (Mary Anne, Maryann, Marian) Blennerhassett; bapt.19.4.1840 Iwerne Minster, Dorset; school at 2 Terrace, Weymouth, Dorset 1851  
a "visitor" at Iwerne Minster 1861; of Hollom House, Fareham, Hampshire (with mother; & sisters Emma Sophia & Agnes) 1881-1891;  
of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Emma Sophia & Agnes, bro. Arthur) 1926-28; d.13.7.1928; Will pr.7.12.1928 London; unnn.

>>> William Blennerhassett; b.23.8.1845 d.22.6.1917 [TIMES 27.6.1917]; Will pr.30.8.1917 London; Edu. Eton 1858-1860 (dsp); Indian  
Civil Service; graduate of "Bengal Civil Service" 1869; co-author of "Report of the Regular Settlement of the Hardoi District, 1872-77"  
(pub. Allahabad 1880); District & Sessions Judge (NW Provinces) 1889; High Court Judge, India (Central Provinces) 1896;  
Acting High Court Judge (NW Provinces) 1896; Second Additional Judicial Commissioner of Oude, India 1899; In 1873 Indian Civil S.  
Officer "5th Class" (4 years' standing); Most of his life spent in India; retired to England, a pensioner on "Bombay Civil Fund Register"

**NOTE: Either Bombay (Mumbai) or Calcutta (Kolkata) once had a street named after a Blennerhassett, but this street may have been re-named  
It may have been named for this William BH, or Sir Arthur C.F.B. BH (ass't commissioner, Indian Civil Service - Central Provinces - K.**

**INDIA**

of South Stoneham, Hampshire 1911; of "Netley Firs", Netley Firs Road, Hedge End, Botley, Hampshire 1907-17;

This Georgian house, owned c1844-59 by Keans/Keane family, said to have been demolished 1937 & a new house "Copper  
Beeches" built on the site; but another source says "Netley Firs" still stands as the "Southern Counties Conservative Club;

"...The entrance to the house was through a stone porch into a hall, with a light coloured parquet floor. The first  
floor reached by way of a fine stone staircase. As with most large residences of the period, there were also servants  
quarters. After demolition, the wine cellars were intact - but, doubtless, empty. A small cottage in the grounds had  
possibly been used by a gamekeeper. In WWII, some of the timber from the woods was used in Southampton during  
the blitz, to making ramps to protect fire hoses..." ("The Changing Face of Hedge End, Hampshire" by Joyce B. Blyth);

In 1860 William BH inherited a good part of his father's lands in Kerry (see left), becoming an "Absentee Landlord",  
a species not popular in Kerry; "The Kerry Sentinel" 17.9.1904 published a sarcastic letter (headed "The Blennerhassett  
Property", & signed "A Friend", Castleisland), about high rents charged his tenants through his land agents,

"...the well-known firm of philanthropists, 'Hussey, Denny & Huggard..."; The letter also makes uncomplimentary  
references about his uncle Tom Blennerhassett's (B 11) behaviour as a landlord "half a century ago", calling him  
"Thomashen na Ghark" ("Little Tom Rooster") & "...arch-rackrenter of Ireland..."; This contrasts strongly with the local  
view of the larger but "resident landlord" Blennerhassett estate at Ballyseedy, which was generally regarded as a good landlord

m.26.5.1904 Isabella Sara Ancketill; dau. of Maxwell Ancketill of Leatherhead, Surrey;  
of Windmill House, Bursledon, Hampshire 1923-37; b.c1855; d.9.2.1937 at Windmill House

>>> Capt. Arthur "Art" Blennerhassett RN (Cadet 1862, Lt. 1879, Lt.Cmdr 1881, Capt.1898); b.13.3.1847 Iwerne Minster, Dorset;  
of Hollam Lodge, Fareham, Hants 1898-1911 & The Grange, Osborn Road, Fareham (with sisters Emma Sophia BH & Agnes BH) 1926;  
(sisters Emma & Agnes BH were at Hollam House, Fareham 1881-91; brother William BH was nearby at Hedge End 1907-17);  
d.12.8.1926; Will pr.14.12.1926 London; unnn.

joined Royal Navy 12.3.1861; Naval Cadet on HMS "Black Prince" 1862 (the second ocean-going iron-hulled armoured warship,  
following HMS "Warrior" in the two-ship Warrior class, these two, briefly, the most powerful warships in the world) [TIMES 5.7.1862];  
Acting Lt. on HMS "Dryad" (149 crew) 1871; commanded HMS "Nautilus" 1879, from its commission [TIMES 9.7.1879];

At HM Naval Base Devonport 1881 (1881 census lists him twice, on HMS "Nautilus" but also on HMS "Impregnable";  
he commissioned the gunboat HMS "Stork" (built 1882, 4465 tons, 360 hp, 2x64 pounder & 2x20 pounder guns) at Sheerness 3.1.1883,  
attached to the "Chatham Steam reserve" [TIMES 25.12.1882 & 4.1.1883]; in command of "Stork" at St.Helena 12.8.1883

[TIMES 30.8.1883]; Subscriber to the book "Plymouth Armada Heroes - The Hawkins Family" by Mary W. S. Hawkins, 1888;  
**Coastguard at East Cowes, Isle of Wight 1895; Appointed to succeed Capt. Carpenter, RN as commander of the Coastguard  
on the Isle of Wight, following Capt. Carpenter's retirement; in the interim period the duties were carried out by Mr Rogers,  
chief officer ("Isle of Wight County Press" newspaper 8.6.1895 p.5 - report from East Cowes)**

>>> Francis "Frank" Housemayne Blennerhassett; b.20.1.1850 Iwerne Minster

>>> Emma Sophia Blennerhassett; bapt.28.9.1851 I.Minster; d.29.12.1925; admon. 7.8.1926 & 25.9.1926 London; unnn.; of Hollam House,  
Fareham, Hampshire (with mother & sis. Agnes) 1881-91; of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Agnes & bro. Arthur BH) 1926

>>> Agnes Blennerhassett; bapt.18.2.1853 I.Minster; d.10.11.1926; admon.1 pr.8.4.1927 London; of Hollam House, Fareham  
(with mother & sis.Emma Sophia) 1881-91; of The Grange, Osborn Rd, Fareham (with sis. Emma Sophia & bro. Arthur BH) 1926-27; unnn.



**History of HMS "Lightning" (18 guns)**

1829 Launched at Pembroke;  
 1829 Capt. T. Dickinson, Plymouth then South America Station  
 (Mate Nevinson De Courcy Blennerhasset, see right)  
 1832 Returned home, crew paid off at Portsmouth;  
 1832 Renamed HMS "Larne", the name "Lightning"  
 being needed for a steam vessel at Woolwich;  
 1832 Capt. William Sidney Smith, North Sea Station, where  
 she grounded; then the West Indies & Halifax Station  
 1836 Portsmouth;  
 1837-1844 Capt. P.J.Blake, East Indies  
 1844 Capt. John Brisbane, Coast of Africa  
 1848 Sheerness;  
 1866 broken-up at Charlton;

**History of HMS "Alecto" (3 - 32 pounder guns)**

1845-47 Cdr. Francis Austen, S.E. Coast of America Station  
 (Mate Nevinson de Courcy Blennerhasset)  
 1847-49 Cdr. Vincent A. Massingberd, S.E. Coast of America Sta.  
 (joined "Alecto" 17.11.1846; Captain from 18.10.1847)  
**Other officers of "Alecto" on this commission were:**  
 Lt. James B. Ballard (8.3.1848)  
 Lt. Nevinson de Courcy Blennerhasset (18.10.1847)  
 Master John Dillon (15.11.1845)  
 Surgeon Andrew Moffitt (acting) (8.3.1848)  
 Purser Thomas Pidcock (15.11.1845)  
 Late 1849 Out of Commission;  
 See "Ships of the Old Navy" by Michael Phillips, at  
<http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/marit.htm>

**ROYAL NAVY**

>> Lt. Nevinson de Courcy Blennerhasset, R.N. (known by his second name 'de Courcy'); of Ballyseedy House, Co. Kerry;  
 b.6.8.1811 at parent's house 12 George Street, Bath, Somerset ("Bath Chronicle" 15.8.1811 - FOSTER has 1806 in error); d.13.3.1853 unm.  
 Joined Royal Navy; Appointed Mate 2.8.1831; A Mate was at that time rated as Petty Officer, so not being included in "Navy List" until 1842  
 when Mates became commissioned officers; Listed in error as "Mate M.D. Blennerhasset" in "Marshall's Royal Naval Biography" 1833;  
 Promoted Lt. 18.10.1844 but continued to serve as Mate until 18.10.1847 (Re: Navy List 1847) then as 2nd Lt. 1847-1850

Served on HMS "Lightning" (18 guns) c1829-32 (Mate from 2.8.1831), which ship "...was refitting at Rio after a trip to the pacific when news was received on 5.12.1830 of the loss on Cape Frio of frigate "Thetis" bound for England with gold and silver bars and other treasure. After striking the cliffs she had drifted along the coast, finally breaking up in a small cove. The general opinion was that the treasure was irrecoverable, but this was not shared by Capt. Dickinson who, 'a gentleman of considerable mechanical talents', offered his services..."

A British civil engineer, Mr Moore, who was residing in Rio, improvised diving bells using iron tanks from "Warspite". These were suspended at first from a massive derrick built by the carpenter, Mr Jones, and after, when that was smashed to pieces in a gale which produced waves to a height of nearly 100 feet up the cliffs, from ropes stretched across cliff tops. While the derrick was being prepared, Richard Hearn, carpenter's mate of "Lightening" & George Dewar, a seaman, went down in a small bell suspended from a launch belonging to "Warspite". They found only pieces of wreckage and nearly lost their lives when the bell was dashed against rocks and overturned. Then, on 1.4.1831 a few dollars were discovered and then a little gold. By the time "Lightning" was relieved in March 1832 he and his people had recovered 600,000 dollars which had been scattered over a rocky bottom at depths of up to 75 feet. Mr Moore and Mr Linzee, mate of "Adelaide", were drowned in an accident with a boat on 10 June. Capt. De Roos in "Algerine" continued the salvage and brought the total to 747,909 dollars by the time he finished operations in July; "Lightning" returned home & was paid off at Portsmouth 13 Sept. The ship's company presented a sword & epaulettes to their commander and also rings to Lt. Thomas Forbes, Master Charles Pope and Mate "M.D." Blennerhasset, in gratitude for his care of them off Cape Frio..."

Promoted Lt. 18.10.1844 but on 6.12.1845 appointed Mate of HMS "Alecto" on S.E. coast of America station, under Cdr. Francis Austen (Re: RN "List of Ships and Stations" 1846); On 18.10.1847 appointed 2nd Lt. on "Alecto" under new Captain, Cdr. Vincent Massingberd, still on the S.E. America station; "Alecto" was a wooden steam driven paddle sloop of 200HP, built in 1839 at Chatham Dockyard, armed with three 32 pounder guns; She was the paddler used in 1845 for the well known tests with the screw steamer HMS "Rattler", of the same power; When the two vessels were fastened stern to stern, and with both steaming at their best, "Rattler" towed "Alecto" at 2.5 miles per hour

In 1849, year of the California Gold Rush, the "Alecto" was on a commission to S.E. coast of America; she sailed from New York to California, stopping at Boston for repairs & at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for supplies; while at anchor in bay of Rio, on 23.4.1849 Nevinson wrote a letter to a friend (Samuel Lyon of Northcastle, Westchester Co., N.York) describing the trip so far & their friendly meetings with other California bound ships; In the company of two such ships, on 22nd Feb., his ship fired a mid-day 21 gun salute with it's 32 pounders, in honour of "Gen. Washington's birthday"; arrived at Rio on 20th March & while there he visited U.S. Warships anchored in the bay, meeting their officers, some already old friends; He records his excitement at the prospect of reaching California & perhaps finding gold; NOTE: In 1850 the flagship of the U.S. Commodore in Rio was a frigate, USS "Congress"; The letter is in "Gold Rush Letters" collection of Charlie Hill, Lotus, California; In the 1850 Navy List he is one of four "Junior Lieutenants" listed with no seniority date

*In Ballyseedy Church under a stained glass window (St. John Ch. IV, V.46-53) is a brass plate inscribed:  
 "Nevinson de Courcy (sic) Blennerhasset died 13th March 1853 aged 41 years. Erected by his brother Lt.-Col. Francis Barry Blennerhasset";*

>> Margaret Theodora Sheldon Blennerhasset; of Nice, France and later of Sherborne, Dorset (near Ryme Intrinseca, home of her bro. Rev. John Blennerhasset); Probably identical with Margaret Blennerhasset, b.c1811 Bath, Somerset, who was unm. & a lodger at Exeter Road, Holdenhurst, Hampshire 1871; d.24.8.1876 Sherborne; Will pr.23.11.1876 Blandford, Dorset; unm.;

*In Ballyseedy Church under a stained glass window (St. Luke Ch. VIII V41,42,49,56) are a pair of brass plates, one inscribed: "Margaret Sheldon Blennerhasset" and the other "Erected by her son Thomas Blennerhasset"; The 2nd plate is misplaced; She had no children and Thomas was her brother, not her son; This plate has been accidentally swapped during building renovation, with the plate inscribed "Erected by her brother Lt. Francis Barry Blennerhasset of Ballyseedy" installed in error below the plate dedicated to their mother Dorcas Blennerhasset, d.2.8.1822*

**INDIAN  
MUTINY  
1857-1858**

>> Lt.Col. (Francis) Barry Blennerhasset b.c1814/5 ( [FOSTER] has b.1805 in error); of Blennerville & of Edenburn, Co. Kerry; d.28.7.1877 Blennerville; bur. Ballyseedy; Will with two codicils pr.6.10.177 Cork & 4.2.1878 England; with 71st Regt. of Foot (Highland Light Infantry) in Canada, the Crimea & during the Indian Mutiny; Capt. 1854 in Canada (returning to Liverpool 12.10.1854 on Royal Canadian Mail steamer "Cleopatra", he & other officers signing a testimonial for the Captain); on arrival the 71st Highlanders "were billeted here last night and will embark in a day or so for the seat of war in the east" ["Northern Daily Times" 13.10.1854]; Capt. during Crimean war (served at Sebastopol 20.12.1854 to 13.2.1855 - distributed by Queen Victoria in person at Horse Guards Parade 19.5.1855), returned from Crimea via Malta on P&O ship "City of London" Feb.1855 [TIMES 2.3.1855]

Major (from 26.12.1857) during Indian Mutiny; on return journey arrived at Bombay 24.12.1858 on medical certificate from Mhow ["Bombay Times" 27.12.1858] then departed Bombay "on leave to England" ["Bombay Times" 28.12.1858]; [another "Bombay Times" of 1858, no precise date] has Major Blennerhasset departing for Alexandria"; awarded the "Indian Mutiny 1857-1859" medal [medal roll]; retired from army 7.12.1858 as Lt.Col. [TIMES 8.12.1858]; In 1871 he lived at Blennerville, near Tralee and in that year he subscribed to "A History of the Kingdom of Kerry" by M.F.Cusack; unm.; His nephew John du Boulay Blennerhasset (B 12) lived with him at Edenburn post1873;

*At Ballyseedy Church he erected brass plates in memory of his sister Margaret BH and brother Nevinson de Courcy BH; also at Ballyseedy Church, under a stained glass window (St. Luke Ch. VII, V.1-10) is a brass plate erected to his memory by his brother Thomas Blennerhasset;  
 An additional brass plate (under window for his bro. Crosbie BH; B 11) is also inscribed with date for Barry BH, "Died 28th July 1877 aged 63 years";  
 This inscription is a reject engraving, the reused plate installed blank side up hiding the inscription, but subsequently the engraved side exposed in error*

>> Georgina Blennerhasset; of Ballyseedy, Co. Kerry; d.11.12.1826 at Nice, France  
 m.1823 (1st cousin); Edward Denny  
 of Moorstown; & of Derryvolan, Co. Fermanagh 1826/7; b.c1800; d.11.11.1838 Rome (B 14)





|>> Leticia "Letty" >>> >>> Horatio de Courcy :>>> Edward Horatio de Courcy Martelli; b.c1843 Milltown, Co.Kerry  
 | Godfrey | Martelli | **from whom descends his g.g.dau. Christine Allan-Johns of Upper Hutt, New Zealand**  
 | b.c1768/9 Co.Kerry ? m. <??>  
 | d.1.6.1850; |  
 | m.19.10.1789 |>> Agnes Martelli; m.c1836 Robert Crawley  
 | at Bushfield;  
 | Capt. (Norton) Charles Martelli; b.c1761; d.13.2.1819 Tralee;  
 | Lt. & Capt. 69th Regt. of Foot; of Lismore House, Ratass, Tralee (which house he built)  
 |>> Philippa Godfrey; m.29.10.1806 St.Anne's church, Shandon, Co.Cork (2nd cousin); Richard Frankland of Ashgrove, Co.Cork; barrister-at-law; d.?2.1811  
 | son of Dr Richard Frankland & Agnes Rogers; grandson of Agnes Blennerhassett & Robert Rogers (B 7);  
 | *NOTE: a trustee of the Will of Arthur Blennerhassett (d.1799) of Ballyseedy & Bath (B 3); with Sir John Godfrey (B 8) & Rev. James Archibald Hamilton (B 3)*  
 |>> Catherine Godfrey  
 |>> Margaret Godfrey; m.24.11.1801 John Mahony; of Dromore, Co.Kerry; d.1818  
 |>> Elizabeth Godfrey; m.1.6.1800 Jacob Mark of Cork; a Quaker; b.12.11.1774; d.21.10.1826 at Rutland Street, Cork  
 |>> Arabella Godfrey; b.1776 d.1853; m.11.8.1798 Rev. John Day, Rector of Killallagh; d.26.5.1817 Waterville, Co.Kerry

#### DISCONNECTED BALLYSEEDY REFERENCES...

John Blennerhassett of Ballycarty (Will 1681)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1685)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1714)  
 John Blennerhassett of Ballyseedy (Will 1716)  
 These four do not seem to fit; Not sure how reliable these are,  
 or if these dates represent a Will dated or proved...

Mrs Alice Blennerhassett; d.1765, there was a memorial  
 (in old Ballyseedy Church ?) (Will 1765 - Ardferf & Aghadoe diocese)

Mrs Blennerhassett; bur.18.4.1821 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.) - also B 3

Eliza Blennerhassett; bur.9.8.1821 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.)

Robert Blennerhassett; bur. 21.3.1826 Ballyseedy old graveyard  
 (NOTE: Robert is a family name of the Killorglin Blennerhassett family)

Mrs Anne Blennerhassett bur.19.12.1827 Ballyseedy old graveyard (C.of I.)

Arthur Hassett >>>> >>> >>> Arthur Hassett bapt.1.11.1861 Tralee (RC)  
 of Ballyseedy;  
 m. Anna Hogan  
 (see also p.G 53)

Lt. William Blennerhassett; served in the army; Ensign on 27.7.1855 and in 1856 (presumably to 10.9.1858)  
 with the 39th Regt. of Foot (Dorset/Dorsetshire Regt);  
 Lt. 10.9.1858 with 21st Regt. of Foot (Royal North British Fusiliers), with four years of paid service

Thomas Blennerhassett; served in army in Australia with the 39th Regt. of Foot (Dorset/Dorsetshire Regt.)

**Who are these? they do not appear to be from the Dorset family at Ryme Intrinseca or Iwerne Minster  
 also on p.E 1**