



# THE AGNEW ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 14 - NOVEMBER 1995

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

We are all again indebted to Audrey Agnew for the production of this excellent 14th Newsletter. I would like to thank her for her support over the years as Newsletter Editor. I hope those of you who read it, will take the opportunity in the coming year, to write to her with contributions for next year's 15th edition. Any contribution will be much appreciated.

This year also saw a small gathering in Edinburgh in September attended by some of our members for Britain, the United States, Canada and one representative from Australia. In particular it was a pleasure to welcome Dr Tom Agnew, Convenor and Lois Schiek, Secretary of the Agnew Association of North America. It was a small scale meeting, but great fun. My wife, my children and I enjoyed meeting with all our visitors and having such a fun tour of Edinburgh in an open bus followed by dinner in the Carlton Highland Hotel. We will all remember, Ray Jenner's stirring skirl on the electronic pipes.

Best wishes to all members for Christmas and the new year in 1996.

*Cristina Agnew*

LOCHNAW NEWS — from U.S.A. — K. Scott Agnew,

President of the new Canadian Society, has discovered in a recent issue of the 'Wigtown Free Press' —

Lochnaw Castle nestling within its own grounds new Leswait, could soon be transformed to its former glory, all thanks to the boyhood dreams of a Hong Kong lawyer. Mr. Chris Nightingale, the current owner, bought the castle because he has had a lifelong fascination with mediaeval castles. Now he plans to spend 'a very large sum of money' restoring the castle and turning it into a family home for his wife and three young children. His lawyers say, however, that the work is at a delicate stage and they do not wish to reveal too much of their plans until work, due to begin in the autumn, begins in earnest. One source revealed, 'It is planned to be a private dwelling with access for the public. We are not talking in terms of commercial development'. The extensive woodlands would be managed with some public access, but mostly for conservation.

Plans were being drawn up by architects and the next few months had been spent in research work so that the castle and its extension could be restored and renovated to their original style. 'We were even lucky enough to find drawings of plans for the walled garden which is hoped may also be open to the public.' Their intention is to restore the Victorian gardens as well as the walled garden which go back to 1812.' A Free Press source comments, 'Really it will be lovely. We are lucky that such a person has bought this site.'

Mr Nightingale, born in Scotland and now in his thirties, is keen to return to his native land after working abroad. His ideas for the Lochnaw estate have the complete approval of regional planners and Heritage Societies. Students from Edinburgh University are at the moment carrying out archaeological digs on the island in the middle of the loch. Mr Nightingale is not fond of publicity and is looking for detailed research in planning, before work, which may cover several years, is put into operation. His agent completely discounts the idea of the castle being pulled down to make way for time-share chalets.

Scott points out, as a matter of interest, that Lochnaw Castle grounds contain the tallest Monkey Puzzle tree in the British Isles!

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From a GAZETTEER of Scotland, dated 1843, is described —

Lochnaw Castle, in its loch, wood and estate, forms the grand and almost only attraction of the parish of Leswait. Since it passed to Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., from his father, it has, in every particular, been remarkably improved. The castle stands on an eminence five and a half miles north-west of Stranraer, is a very ancient edifice, and bears marks, in the remains of a very deep fosse, and in other particulars of having once been strongly fortified. On its west side is a very beautiful lake, nearly half-a-mile long, once drained, and its bed turned into meadow-land, but re-instated in its watery honours and decorations by the present proprietor. A plantation around the castle contains some old trees, but has chiefly been raised within the last 28 or 30 years and forms the only exception to the treelessness of the parish. The estate of Lochnaw, especially in the vicinity of the castle, has been richly improved and tastefully decorated.

## MEMBERS' LETTERS

from Mr. A.C. WOOD, 10 Morona Avenue, WAHROONGA, New SOUTH WALES 2076

*Chris asks if any other member has information about his family as follows*

"As you will see my direct family connection was four generations ago but the Agnew has been used as a Christian name in various branches of the family ever since. I was named after my grandfather so my first name is Arthur.

My 3 g. grandfather was James Agnew who lived at Ballyphelane, Cork, Co. Cork Ireland, at least between 1830 and 1852. It is believed that a daughter of his married a David Williams, Master Mariner. It is unknown how many children they had but one, James Agnew Williams, born in 1840 in Cork, also became a Master Mariner after being apprenticed at 12 years of age to a shipping line.

James Agnew appears in the 1852 Griffith's valuations as occupying land at Ballyphelane, just outside Cork. He is the only Agnew in the Griffith's valuations in that part of Ireland at that time and could have come from Antrim. From a miniature portrait in the family it would appear he enjoyed some prosperity.

Should any member have any information on James Agnew, his family and his ancestry I would certainly appreciate hearing from them.'

Dr. Iris Agnew of Yeovil writes:-

"I have enclosed three articles on Kilwaughter. They are very interesting. (extensive coverage further on in this newsletter -Ed.)

The Old Squire "William" held land at Tullynamullan which my grandfather eventually inherited. The school at tullynamullan, which all of my aunts, uncles, great-uncles and aunts attended, was on a free lease from William Agnew.

My father's cousins Leah and Rachel, had memories of stories of great balls at Kilwaughter. Another interesting link is that my cousin Maureen is married to James Purvis and his mother is a Stewart of Killymoon Castle.

The 1940 article was amongst my grandmother Agnew's papers.

21/2/95

## FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr. M.J. Patrick and Miss L.H. Agnew

The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Colin Patrick of Poole, Dorset, and Lucie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Agnew of Corfe Castle, Dorset.

CHRISTMAS COOKERY NOOK**Mince Pies Pastry***The Cooking Canon's Bulk Bake*

20 ors, plain flour  
 1 lb lard  
 1 tspn salt  
 2 tspns baking powder  
 1 tblspn vinegar  
 5 fluid ozs. milk

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LIQUID: Put vinegar into milk. Break egg into bowl and add. Whisk up

DRY: Add baking powder to flour. Rub in lard with fingers. Carefully add liquid - almost sticky.

WRAP IN FOIL AND PUT IN FRIG. Roll out. Make mince pies. Reg Gas Mark 5 also makes Sausage Rolls - add tspn of sage, brush with egg and a little salt.

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**A Friend's easy foolproof FONDANT ICING**

(for 2 lbs)

1 lb 8 ozs. icing sugar  
 2 (size 3) egg whites  
 2 tabspns liquid glucose  
 2 tspns glycerine

Place icing sugar in bowl and add white glucose and glycerine

Mix with a wooden spoon

Turn out on surface into 4 oz lumps

Knead till smooth. Wrap in cling film Rollout when needed.

(N.B. Still imperial Measures!)

## AGNEWS in the NEWS

Daniel Agnew and the toy train. 16/9/95

*An old toy train was up for auction yesterday at Christies, London, having a reserve price of around £1000. It was battered with no wheels or engine but the bidding increased furiously till eventually it sold for £12,375.*

*Daniel Agnew, Christies' toy specialist commented, "It was a shock because the locomotive was just a shell with no engine, no wheels and in very bad condition. It got a very high price because it is very rare and was made for the British market by a German company. Most German trains are black but the company painted special green or maroon for Britain."*

*This rare 1938 Marklin British market LMS locomotive and tender, finished in maroon, was bought by an anonymous European collector.*

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14/9/94

### CAR ROBBERY

As Miss Tracy Zebrak, 28, waited in her car for her brother, at 4 a.m. in Hove, East Sussex, a man pulled open her door, hit her over the head and stole jewellery worth more than £300,000. She was on one of her business trips to Hong Kong.

Det. Con. David Agnew said it had been difficult to get information because of the victim's condition of shock. She had suffered facial wounds. Police believe she may have been targeted but Det. Con. Agnew said they were not ruling out the possibility of an opportunist thief who struck lucky. Three similar robberies had occurred in or near cars involving people in the area.

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CONVERSATION SNIPPETS:

The VANS AGNEWS --- "It is well-known that Mr. W. Vans Agnew captained the England Hockey Team for several years in the 1950s."

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MIKE AGNEW is Production Manager of BBC2. 'Red Dwarf' Comedy.

from Dr. Iris Agnew of Yeovil comes her recent research into the history

## KILWAUGHTER CASTLE

An article in the BELFAST TELEGRAPH dated  
Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> October 1940 is headed

"War has brought into the news in an unusual way an historic  
link with Ulster's past."

The article continues, "It gave one quite a shock at the weekend to read of a sale of furnishings at Kilwaughter Castle, Larne, by order of the 'Custodian of enemy property for Northern Ireland.' What an irony of fate."

Madame Gwendolin Valenian, elder daughter of the late Countess Balzani, popularly known as the last of the Agnews of Kilwaughter, was at this time owner of Kilwaughter Castle estate and like her mother, loved her Ulster home which she visited infrequently. She married a distinguished Italian nobleman but never forgot Kilwaughter and her tenants. Her name continued on in the title of the local Agnew-Balzani F.E.S. School.

Madame Gwendolin bequeathed the property to her elder daughter now also married to an Italian. Therefore Kilwaughter Castle was designated 'enemy property', not for the first time say some.

After De Courcey and Agneau de Lisle, brave knights with 300 men, invaded the Province and brought it under subjection, Agneau was awarded the lordship of Larne. The Agnews later spelt thus became the lords of Larne.

"It can quite be believed that the Agnew of Kilwaughter who met Edward Bruce at Olderfleet and accompanied him on his ill-fated march to Ulster, had many non-friends, though tradition has it that the friendship with the Bruce led to the family gaining a foothold in Galloway, which led to their prosperity across the sea of Moyle."

Although extensive research by Hector McDonnell suggests the Agnew family grew out of the O'Gnimh line, this 1940 newspaper account claims a Norman descent of the family Agnew, many coming over with William the Conqueror, the first of whom, according to an authentic record in Great Britain was Agneau de Lisle, ancestor of the lord of Larne. "He joined the English King Henry who set out with 500 knights, all fully appointed, with their squires and a large force of infantry, for the conquest of Ireland.

The first of the Agnews to be definitely identified with the Kilwaughter property was Patrick Agnew, who from Plantation times acted as agent for his kinsmen, the Agnews of Lochnaw in Galloway. To this Agnew the Scottish branch of the family sold the Kilwaughter property about 1708.

But the more modern history began with a William Agnew who was known as "The Old Squire" whose only daughter married a prominent merchant and citizen of Belfast, Valentine Jones. Their son Edward Jones, on succeeding to the Kilwaughter estate took the name of Agnew in compliance with the will of his maternal grandmother.

Edward Jones Agnew made many additions and improvements to the Castle, took seriously his duties as a country squire and in Parliament represented the County of Antrim from 1792-1797.

In 1820 he purchased for £15,000 the adjoining Cairncastle estate with Ballygally Castle, previously the residence of the Shaw family for some long time. He may have had the ambition to regain all the Agnew possessions from the time they were Lords of Larne but he died with only a granddaughter to succeed him. This was the Countess of Balzani.

It is not known when and how all the additions were made to the Castle. Some were recent but a small portion was said to have been added long before the Plantation of Ulster.

In 1683, the historian Dobbs wrote about Kilwaughter, "It is built castle ways with barn wall ('barn' may be mistaken for 'bawn')". Most probably it was of military character in keeping with the strongholds both on this side and many similar structures on the Scottish coast, and especially that on Lochnaw in the Rhinns of Galloway, of which the Agnews were the hereditary sheriffs or constables.

It may be that the 'enemy property' will never again be occupied. Castles appeal to the very few as 'desirable residences' now. But the influences of the Agnews will long persist in the neighbourhood, even if only in place-names and family names."

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Notice of SALE;                      From 'Burke's Guide to Country Houses'  
by Mark Bena-Jones

### ***KILWAUGHTER CASTLE, LARNE, Co. ANTRIM***

An early C19 castle by John Nash built in 1807 for E.J. Agnew.

Wide round tower at one corner, polygonal tower at another.

Windows with astragals and somewhat fanciful tracery.

Now demolished.

A small but beautiful photograph of the original Castle accompanied this notice.

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A further article sent by Dr. Iris Agnew, photocopied from newspaper accounts of 1951 show pictures of Kilwaughter Castle built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and workmen stripping the roof of the castle. The following article is written under the heading:-

### ***WILL DEMOLITION MEN SEE GHOST***

It was a common sight 300 years ago to see a magnificent coach and horses drive along the carriageway to Kilwaughter Castle near Larne, but on Tuesday a different type of vehicle drew up at the magnificent portals—a lorry full of workmen. They were there to dismantle the roof, which is entirely covered in lead.

In less than half-an-hour a large portion of one of the turrets had been stripped bare.

Kilwaughter Castle, built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, was designed by the architect of Buckingham Palace and stands about four miles from Larne.

The building has a large battlement tower at one end and two smaller round turrets at the other. The extensive grounds, set out in oak and beech trees, contain a large lake.

In the large entrance hall which once housed the family paintings, there now hangs a solitary notice marked "Bulletins." On it, written in chalk, are the words: "**BEWARE OF THE WHITE LADY**" — the legendary ghost which once inhabited the castle.

The notice is the last link with the Castle's war-time occupants, men of the American Army.

### **FLOORS DESTROYED**

Since then the building with its 300 rooms has lain idle and dampness has destroyed many of the beautiful inlaid floors.

The castle belonged to Signorina Nora Balzani and Madame Valansin, the descendants of Squire Agnew, the original owner, who are at present living in Italy.

Now it is the property of E.H.M'Connell (metals) Limited, Belfast, who have purchased it in order to recover the lead, woodwork and slates.

The tower, turrets and main roof are almost completely covered with lead, as well as the drains and downpipes, and with the metal at present touching £150 per ton, no time is being wasted in removing it.

Work on removing the lead is expected to take only four days, but it will be some months before the woodwork and the other materials can be taken away.

Mr. J. M'Connell, who is in charge of demolition operations, told our representatives that he intends using some of the leaded windows and other materials in a bungalow which he plans to build for himself!

The sale of the castle was conducted by W.H.Esler & Son, Point Street, Larne."

Another photocopied newspaper cutting sent by Dr. Iris Agnew gives a photograph of the interior view of the Castle, taken during the late Victorian era, which shows in part the spaciousness and luxurious fittings of the building.

from the 'LARNE TIMES', 29 November 1951

### ***Kilwaughter Castle demolition breaks notable link***

In the fair demesne of Kilwaughter, near Larne, Co.

In view of the interest taken in Kilwaughter Castle since the news given that it is to be demolished, we present an article on it, and its connection with the Agnews, and Buckingham Palace, by Colin Johnston Robb, the noted Ulster Historian

Antrim, where many an autumn day passed into the shadows of centuries, the fall of the leaf in all the glories of the seasonal tints, from yellow and gold to tawny brown and crimson, marked a particular charm in its landscape architecture, another fall is taking place within the ambit of this place of beauty.

Kilwaughter Castle, that stately mansion whose white facades and splendid round tower at its southern angle battlemented in the true style of its Anglo-Norman lords of the soil, with two turrets, have peered through the sylvan vistas since the last century was young, is now falling fast under the orders of the demolition contractors, who are in quest of its precious building materials.

When grandfather was a small boy, this grand old family seat with its beautiful ornamental grounds — the seat of the Agnew family from the time of the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ulster— was in its heyday. The conifer plantations, planted after the present Castle was built, by the reason of having grown close together, had sprung up to lofty heights. The brushwood for game cover and the glistening shrubberies were indeed luxuriant and lined a maze of well-kept walks, Then we had the verdant shaven lawns, studded by stately park trees. The pond with its sylvan isle was the haunt of both the duck and mallard and the snowy swans added a royal note to the wooded aquatic prospect as they preened their plumage by the water's edge or sailed gracefully over the silver sheet.

The garden of Kilwaughter was a dreamland in the world of floriculture back in those days, the blaze of the old time flowers in their delicate tints being most charming. Mr. Laing, a canny Aberdonian who came to Ireland over a century ago, was then the gardener in charge. This small weather-beaten man who knew all about *Aspleniums*, *Athyriums* and *Polystichums* and many other frail kindred, was reckoned to be one of the most skilled horticulturists of his day in the North of Ireland.

One of the sylvan rarities of the demesne was a spreading beech tree having four different kinds of leaves, or four species grown as one tree. Anon the vista widened and the eye could travel over fields of rich grazing, and bending golden grain, belted by beautiful ashes, planes and tossing firs. Now the scene is so changed, for the lone trees seem, in the cool autumn breeze, to sigh in the gentle gusts and murmur a requiem for departed glories and the passing "big houses" while the ringing and tapping hammers sound the last knell.

Kilwaughter has the premier honour of having been the seat of the Agnews, Lords of Larne and Lairds Lochnaw, since the close of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. They hailed from L'isle in France and one of them at least was in the Crusades and served with Sir John de Courcy in the Holy Land, and later was settled by him at Kilwaughter. The family heraldic device was originally three Holy Lambs (Agneaux) from which the family name is derived. According to the old genealogies, Agneaux or Agnew, the Lords of Larne, had a son and heir, Sir Patrick Agnew, who in 1330 acquired lands at Lochnaw in Galloway, Scotland.

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Both in the chequered history of Ireland and Scotland, the Agnew family figure, and many of them were noted soldiers in their respective ages.

They held the lands round Kilwaughter through the most crimsoned days of history. Their first house here was a wooden castle erected on the Mote which stands not far to the north-east of the present castle and dates from the Anglo-Norman time. There were subsequent castles and houses of the family within the present demesne, just how many is not certain. We have records of some of these having been destroyed in war and in the turmoil of both politics and religion. Even the lordship of the manor passed to the Earls of Antrim, but they still remained the underlords.

Sir James Agnew, (1659-1723, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet), of Lochnaw in Scotland, who held a lease of the chief rent, dated 1636 from the Lord Antrim of that day for a mere trifle, sold his underlordship and tenant right to his cousin, Patrick Agnew, of Kilwaughter, in 1704, and so the family link with the place remained unbroken until the present day. Patrick Agnew was a military officer who acted as agent for Sir James' Irish estate. The latter by his wife Lady Mary Montgomery, had two children, the second of whom, Patrick, was a most distinguished young officer in the Inniskillen Dragoons.

When Patrick acquired his cousin's estate in 1709 he built a new house at Kilwaughter, known in the 18th century as Kilwaughter House. His daughter Helen married in the above year James Stewart, of Killymoon, Cooktown, Co.Tyrone, and in this connection we have a link between Killymoon Castle and Kilwaughter Castle. Colonel William Stewart engaged the famous architect, John Nash, the designer of Buckingham Palace, to plan Killymoon, with its oval and semi-oval dining-room and drawing-room tower and turrets - a combination of Norman and Early English. It was due to this family and social connection that Stewart's kinsman Edward Jones Agnew of Kilwaughter retained Nash to draw up the plan for the Castle now being demolished which is very similar to Killymoon in design. Nash's detail drawing for the baronial tower of Kilwaughter Castle is still extant and bears the date 1815. The builder, Edward Jones Agnew, who was a great Whig, in his day, died in 1834.

William Agnew, commonly called "Squire Agnew", who is still remembered by the older generation, succeeded to the property in 1876, an estate then of 9,700 acres, with an annual value of £5,845. The Castle has its ghost, "The White Lady", but this phantom fair one, was formerly a tenant of Kilwaughter House, to the rear of the present Castle, for she is described by a writer in 1780. She was said to have been a love-demented Miss Agnew, who due to the wiles of an unfaithful lover had an untimely and sad end in 1745. Will she now haunt the site of the great house when it is no more?

The descendant of Squire Agnew, Signorina Balzani, an Italian, will be remembered as the last of the Agnews to grace Kilwaughter, which was taken over when Italy became enemy, by the custodian of enemy property.

So now has ended the long legacy by the family whose ancestor crusaders came to the shore of Larne with Sir John de Courcy very long ago.

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*AND FINALLY*, pro tem,

on this subject of Kilwaughter Castle

Dr. Iris Agnew writes,

"I hope to get access to some estate papers from 1788 when I go to Ireland in August."

1995 CELEBRATIONS of peace on the anniversary of VJ day, 15 August 1945, bring to mind military involvement of Agnews through the centuries.

from "The Whites of their Eyes."

by Major Douglas Agnew, published 1982 (first chapter)

The Scots, faced with possible conflict against England in the reign of Charles 1, 1625-49, when approached by Parliament to raise an army in 1643, agreed to find 18,000 foot and 3,000 horse, 600 dragoons and a train of artillery, and would receive £30,000 sterling a month for payment.

**"There were five Agnews actively concerned in the affairs of these times.**

**Sir Patrick, the 8th Sheriff,** now over sixty in age, still carried out the duties of the Sherifdom, but had given up representing Wigtonshire in the Scottish Parliament. At heart he supported the King though thinking him ill-advised and not ready enough to listen to the opinions of others.

**Andrew, Patrick's eldest son,** in favour of the Solemn League and Covenant, upheld by the Estates of Scotland who he also supported, and one of the first to sign the 1638 petition to the King in protest against imposing Laud's liturgy. From 1643 he attended the Estates of Parliament, the Assembly of the Kirk and the Committees of war; also he was made Commissioner for Irish affairs involving matters in Ireland. He was capable and energetic but he did not trust the King.

The following Agnews were soldiers:-

**James,** who had served abroad with the Swedes. His aunt married William McClellan and their son Thomas who succeeded his uncle as the 2nd Lord Kirkcudbright was given command of Kirkcudbright's Horse regiment. Troops of sixty men each were raised for this regiment: two from Galloway, two from Dumfriesshire and four from Perthshire. James Agnew was one of the majors.

**Alexander**, a captain in the Galloway Regiment of Foot was under the command of William Stewart of Castle Stewart whose mother had married Alexander Agnew of Ardoch as her second husband.

**Alexnader,** who was one of the captains in the new regiment of foot raised by Lord Kenmure in 1646.

The author lists Agnew military personnel at the beginning of the chapter:

James Agnew of Auchrochar, 1605?-1648

Lt.Colonel, Lord Kirkcudbright's Dragoons

Alexander Agnew of Whitehills, 1610?-1695

Lt. Colonel, The Earl of Galloway's Regiment

Alexander Agnew of Croach, 1620?-1680

Captain, Lord Kenmure's Regiment.

*The American AGNEWSLETTER from*

*(with kind permission)*

**SPOTLIGHT on:-**

1) *Nursing:* featuring a photograph of Miss J.A. Agnew and Miss C. Norris left and right of a tree in front of a hospital, the article describes the differences in nursing over the years.

"One day in 1889, students from the Rochester City Hospital School of Nursing Class of '89 apparently took a break from their academics to enjoy the warm weather, The young women are posing somewhere on the grounds of the old City Hospital. Pictured in the foreground are Miss J.A. Agnew, left, and Miss C. Norris, right. Misses Agnew and Norris led dramatically different lives from today's nursing professionals.

For example, according to the Hospital's history book, *A Century of Service*, 'Some of the older nurses tell of creeping through the wards at night in felt slippers, a lamp held under their aprons so as not to disturb the patients after the gas lights had been extinguished at 9 p.m. one nurse tells of being the sole nurse in a male ward of 25 very sick men, on night duty at the end of her third month in training. The nurses had to polish the brasses and clean the bathrooms.'

*A Century of Service* also tells us that the applicants to the school were required to be possessed of a good education, of perfect health and exceptional moral character.... Hours of duty (were) from 7a.m. to 7p.m. (and) for night nurses 7p.m. to 7a.m.

All students (were) to be in their rooms by 9,30p.m. and lights were to be extinguished at 10p.m.

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2) *Wildlife Art News: Al Agnew*

"The artist Al Agnew, a native of the eastern Missouri Ozarks is an avid outdoorsman whose experiences in the field furnish the material for his paintings. A professional artist since 1983, Al has been widely acclaimed for his breathtaking renditions of fur-bearing mammals, fish and birds of prey.

A member of the Society of Animal Artists, Al is an ardent supporter of the environment whose paintings have raised over a million dollars for conservation groups. He has been named the official Artist for both the National Park Service Wolf Recovery Project and the interagency Grizzly Bear Committee. In 1991, National Ducks Unlimited named Agnew as one of the ten Guest Artists nation-wide.

The National Wild Turkey Federation tapped him to design fund raising prints in both 1991 and 1992 and has named him Artist of the Year

of 1993. In 1990 Al was honoured to be selected as a member of the Artists' Africa Portfolio. Following his safari to Kenya and Tanzania with the group, he completed his first mylar lithograph, 'Cheetah Domain', to critical acclaim in 1991. Al has also designed eleven state hunting and fishing stamps and has garnered over 50 Best of Show Awards. His work has appeared in a number of publications including Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, Wildlife Art News, U.S. Art, Sporting Classics, North American Fisherman and Collector Editions.

His personal philosophy regarding his career is that an artist who specializes in wildlife should strive not to produce work that is original and aesthetically pleasing but that also heightens the viewers appreciation of wildlife in its natural habitat.

Contributed by Bob Agnew, Frisco, CO .

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### 3) *Tomato plants and the Tech pioneer Ella Agnew*

*(from the Spectrum, VPI, 4 Jan 1979 by Robin Rogers)*

"Squeezed between Seitz and Saunders Halls is a rather unobtrusive the building whose masonry walls form little more than an architectural connection with two relative giants. But this somewhat dwarfed edifice, known as Agnew Hall, has its origins deeply etched upon the cause of women's work --- not just at Tech., but across the country.

The building, one of two campus structures named for a woman , was named for Ella Graham Agnew, who once vowed to advance opportunities for women's service whenever and wherever she could, And she did.

In 1910, she became the first woman appointed for field service to the U.S. Department for Agriculture and the first female home demonstration agent, where she organized the 'Girls' Tomato Clubs' which eventually expanded into much greater programmes.

It was after many jobs around the country and the world that Ella Agnew returned to her home state of Virginia in 1910 to take on this task. Among other things, she had been principal of a girls' seminary in Transvaal, secretary-trainer and teacher at a seminary in South Africa, office executive to a New York school, and she finally worked with the YWCA. It was while she was working with the YWCA in Ohio that J.D. Eggleston, then superintendent of public instruction in Virginia and a former president of Virginia Tech, informed Miss Agnew of a new programme in the works for rural boys and girls, and requested she be involved.

She accepted the challenge and moved home.

Along with her new post, which granted her a unique position in the history of extension work, Miss Agnew was admonished that upon her shoulders rested the responsibility of either opening or closing this door of service to thousands of other women.

She began organising the 'Tomato Clubs' (tomatoes were decided upon since 'everybody likes them, they are easy to raise and easy to can') which would teach rural women and girls about growing, canning and processing the fruit.

There is a saying that 'the secret of teaching is to appear to have known all your life what you learned this afternoon.' This must certainly have applied to Miss Agnew, for in beginning the 'Tomato Clubs,' she knew nothing about gardening -- or tomatoes -- and said to Seaman A. Knapp of the USDA, 'If ignorance of this subject were accepted as a qualification, (for the job), then I (am) good.' Whereupon Knapp replied, 'But you know girls, Miss Agnew, and they are so much harder than tomatoes.'

She reported having difficulty finding a place to study and later wrote 'there seemed to be no place in Virginia where a woman could get instruction for this work.' But then the president of Hampton Institute invited her there for special instruction, which she promptly accepted.

So she took to learning about tomatoes -- not in an afternoon -- but she nevertheless learned quickly and knew about tomatoes as if she had been gardening all her life.

During her first summer of work she was 'on the go' constantly, speaking at teachers' meetings, farmers' institutes and picnics and church meeting, trying to reach the rural women and girls.

This, she said, was probably the hardest speaking year, for few women had dared to try such work as public speaking -- largely because they were looked upon as either curiosities or as bring reproach upon all women.

She said the attitude of people toward a woman so bold as to go round the country speaking to mixed audiences about new fangled ideas in 'schooling' was the most difficult obstacle to overcome. But, with dedication, she travelled to her appointments faithfully, occasionally on trains, but more often in horse and buggy along narrow gauge roads, on foot, in farm wagons, and on horseback.

By 1914 the name of her groups had been changed to 'Canning Clubs' and the programme had expanded to include poultry, gardening, cooking, canning, sewing, baby beef and all sorts of home improvement. And it was also in 1914 that Miss Agnew came to Virginia Tech. when home and farm demonstration work was placed under the Extension

While at Tech., she continued her pioneering efforts. Along with her Home Demonstration Agents, she helped organise emergency workers in 1914, gave demonstrations on saving wheat, sugar etc., and taught a wider use of garden produce during the war. In 1916 she developed a handbook for the use of country Home Agents, which was the first publication of its kind, and during the 'flu epidemic of 1918, all of the women agents volunteered to help out wherever needed.

Just nine years after beginning the 'Tomato Clubs' what had been the work of just one Ella Agnew had grown to 104 workers carrying out their tasks in 88 counties and four cities, reaching 320,760 women and girls.

But it was her firm resolve from the beginning to retire while the work was strong and there were people to carry on, so in 1919 when home demonstration work was firmly established, Miss Agnew resigned. On Jan 1 1920 she was in New York, preparing for her new job with the YMCA. She wrote that 'so many pioneers stay too long, until their work is built round their personalities and that means ultimate failure.'

Miss Agnew left Virginia Tech., but was not forgotten. In 1926 she was the first woman to be awarded the VPI Certificate of Merit in recognition of her service to rural sections of Virginia, and the new home economics building, which was constructed in 1940, was named Agnew Hall for her. The building now houses the animal science department.

Prior to her death in 1958, a month shy of 86 years old, she had the chance to visit Tech from time to time to see the progress which she had set in motion, and said 'I rejoice to realise that I had a small share in laying the foundation stones.'

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 AGNEW PROJECT 1995  
 (from Convenor's Corner)

Thomas I. Agnew

SEPTEMBER 9/10

DINNER in EDINBURGH : SEPT 10

Possible side trip to Lochnaw and Ireland

"The D'Agneaux Castle in Northern French is said to be a hotel now. Lois Scheik and Tom hope to go over there. Dortha Agnew of Texas is finding more information.

More about Ireland -- researched by DR. Iris Agnew

THE AGNEWS IN COUNTY ANTRIM

by John M. Dickson

who writes about the survival of the Agnews "in the name of Agnew's Hill, a mountain lying five miles west of Larne, so-called after an ancient family, now almost forgotten to County Antrim, yet whose broad estates once included the baronies of Larne and Glenarm, as well as the present parishes of Cairncastle and Kilwaughter.

Though, owing to the incursions of marauding Scots, those extensive possessions have shrunk to the present estate of Kilwaughter, now held by a descendant in the female line, the Agnew family is still represented in the baronetage of Scotland, and has the unique record of having held for upwards of five hundred years, the hereditary sheriffdom of Galloway.

A history of these sheriffs, published forty years ago in 1893, by Sir Andrew Agnew, is full of information concerning political and social life ever since the time of Brucee."-----

"As early as the tenth century, we find several branches of the family of D'Agneaux on the rolls of nobility of Normandy, the branch from which sprang the Antrim family having held estates in the arrondissement of Bayeux, and being distinguished as Lords De Lisle and D'Auval.

While, in all probability, some cadet of this family may have accompanied the Conqueror, the first authentic notice of the name in English history is that of Sir Philip D'Agneaux, who joined King Henry 11, on his Irish expedition in 1171, and five years later, when Sir John De Courcy (having quarrelled with the viceroy Fitzaldelme) came to Ulster to hew out a principality for himself. Sir Philip D'Agneaux was one of the twenty-two Anglo-Saxon knights who threw in their lot with the bold adventurer.

We learn that Sir John De Courcy, very tall, mighty and audacious, 'by his wise conference and witty persuasions he allureth and enticeth to him even such as were the valiantest, honestest and chosen men oof them all: and having gotten into his company two and twenty gentleman and above three hundred others, he boldly entereth and invadeth the province of Ulster.' "On the complete success of this bold invasion, De Courcy, although in reality a rebel, was created Earl of Ulster by the King; and his followers had the lands won by their swords granted to them and their heirs for ever.

Among these, D'Agneaux received for his portion the Lordship of Larne (or 'lairn' as it was then spelt)." He and his descendants settled here and as no records remain, it may be surmised that these were happy years in this next century.

When in 1315 the northern lords, tired of English domination invited Edward Bruce to be their king, the Lord of Larne who was very prominent, offered his full support. "He was the first to meet Edward when he landed at Olderfleet, and fought by his side throughout the three years of his uneasy rule in Ireland."

Carrickfergus Castle was held for the English, and as it thus gave access to reinforcements from England, Bruce had it under seige. "When the seige had lasted several months, the garrison agreed to surrender the castle on a certain day if not relieved in the meantime; and the appointed day having arrived, they sent word to the beseigers to send a detachment to take possession, and threw open the gates. When the detachment proceeded to enter, and when eight of the Scottish soldiers had already entered, they suddenly closed the gates; and having disarmed the luckless eight, and put them in irons, they announced their intention to defend the castle to the last extremity. Soon after, the castle had to surrender in reality; but not until the garrison, in the words of the ancient record, 'for want of other vittels were driven to eate leather and the eight Scots which they had taken prisoner.'"

In 1318 Edward Bruce lost his kingdom and his life on Faughard Hill. The northern lords and Scottish auziliaries retreated to Scotland under Randolph, Earl of Moray who became Regent under the minority of David 11.

The Anglo-Norman nobles did not seem to confiscate the estates of those who were in support of Bruce, at least there was no retribution in the case of the Lord of Larne.

There developed a friendship between the son of the Lord of Larne and Alexander, natural son of Edward Bruce who on return to Scotland was appointed to succeed his father as Lord of Galloway and keeping the castle of Wigton and Lochnaw. Soon afterwards Agnew was appointed sheriff of Wigton, the position being an hereditary gift.

This King;s commission amongst the wild Scots of Galloway was no easy task and other difficulties included the Douglass who maintained an 'imperium in imperio' in the south of Scotland. He would belittle the authority of both the King and his sheriff. In 1390 the Black Douglass took sovereign powers in the southern counties. He claimed all charters should be delivered to him; and all land-owners should pay him blackmail for his protection,

When Agnew refused to comply, Douglass beseiged the castle of Lochnaw. The Castle was at this time in an island in the lake and difficult to take, so Agnew was able to make terms allowing him to go in peace with his possessions. He returned sadly with his family and a few retainers to Antrim to seek shelter from his kinsmen there.

George Mackenzie writes, of the first Agnew of Lochnaw, "His great-grand-child was oppressed by the Earl of Douglass, by whom the castle was blown up."

Finding himself somewhat of a poor relation in Antrim, the young Agnew moved to the Scottish court at Perth where he was kindly received by the aged Robert 111 who made him a 'scutifer' or equerry, not highly paid but honourable, and there he met Princess Margaret, who afterwards became the wife of Archibald, the son of Black Douglass. When her husband Archibald died, she "being confirmed in the lordship of Galloway, was able to reinstate her friend, the young equerry, in all his former honours and emoluments in Wigtonshire, who soon after married her niece (daughter of the Princess Mary), quite on the style of the conventional melodrama; and as we learn that 'the lady of Lochnaw the following year presented her husband with a son and heir' we may assume that 'they lived happily ever after.' We hear nothing more of the doings of the family in Ireland until 1576."

In this year the founder of the Antrim family, Sorley Boy (or Yellow Charles) MacDonnell, came with a large following, and took all the lands bordering the sea right down to the lough of Larne. Agnew was left with "a nominal possession of the island portion of his property, now the Kilwaughter estate." The Agnews never regained the property wrested from them, though Queen Elizabeth sent the Earl of Essex over to confront Sorley Boy. He was too strong and Elizabeth for the sake of expediency was forced to confirm Sorley Boy in his looted possessions, in a similar way that Henry 11 had dealt with De Courcy 400 years previously.

"From this time forward, the headquarters of the Agnew family were in Wigtonshire; the fragment remaining of their Antrim property being held by lease from the Earl of Antrim, and let to under-tenants.

We find, in the year 1636, an interesting letter from Sir Patrick Agnew of Lochnaw to the Earl, relative to the renewal of his lease of Kilwaughter, in which, while very polite to his over-lord, he cannily conveys his indifference about the property:-

*Sir Patrick Agnew' letter submitting to my courtesie*

*I ressaveit ane letter from your servant John Agnew (probably the sheriff's factor or tenant) showing me that your Lordship was appointit with your tenants of the Barony of Glenarm upon Monday the seventh of this instant August, which gladlie I wold have kept gif it had been but to have come (according to my bounden dutie) to kiss you L. hand, but their is ane appointment and reference between the Erle of Cassils and me at Mayboll the nynth of this month which I must keep in regard the reference is in the friend's hands and the Erle will be there and gif I*

*Mayboll the nynth of this month which I must keep in regard the reference is in the friend's hands and the Erlie will be there and gif I should not keep the day our reference will expire. I have been more considerate in your L. good mind towards me nor all me Les is worth, bott howsoever my Les is absoluttie in your L. power; doe as it shall please your Lordship, for it was mor out of the luff I carrit to your Lordship's nobill Father than for any gan I haiff. But as I have ever had that respect to your Lordship and all yours, I am confident of your Lordhsip's good and generour dealing with me, and I shall ever prove a thankful and true servant to your L. and shall procure to your L. thanks from some of your honourable friends at Court for your L. dealings with me. So in this and all other things being willing to obey your L. to do qwhat you command, I am, yr. Lordship's humble servant.*

PATRICK AGNEW

The result of this correspondence was a lease, dated April 14, 1636, of the lands' according to the ancient bounds and limits of the same as the said Sir Patrick now enjoys the same,' for the term of threescore and seventeen years, 'he (Sir Patrick) alway delivering to the said Earl yearly the sum of twenty pounds stg., and as much good clear oats as any twenty acres within the Barony of Glenarm will yiead, also, upon demand, the sum of three pound sterling current and lawful money . . . and the said Earl shall and will 'warrant the premises to Sir Patrick Agnew against all persons whatsoever.'

Little did the signatories to this lease think that, before six years had passed, the Earl of Antrim would be quite unable to keep the promise so lightly given, and that the English crown itself would be equally unable to warrant the premises to Sir Patrick Agnew.

In 1641, on October 22nd, the native Irish rose up against the Scottish and English settlers to recover some of their land. the settlers feld to seaports and walled towns, including the tenants on the Kilwaughter estate who took refuge in Larne which was hastily fortified and put into the command of Captain Agnew, the sheriff's agent and kinsman, thus showing the strength and influence of family ties.

Ten years after, when Cromwell had quenched the flame of the rebellion in blood, a new danger appeared to the Scotch settlers in the north; this was the ascendance of the Independents; the animosity between whom and the Presbyterians rising to such a height, that the commissioners of the Commonwealth (being themselves Independents) resolved to end the strife by a scheme no less radical than 'the removal of all the popular Scots out of Ulster.'

In pursuance of their resolution, the commissioners issued a proclamation in 1653 announcing their intention of transplanting the leading Presbyterians of Antrim and Down into Munster; their list of 260 including Patrick Agnew, the sheriff's agents; Francis Agnew, another of the clan; James Shaw of Ballygally, and Sir Robert Adair of Ballymena.

Among those who used their influence with Cromwell to listen to calmer counsels were the sheriff and his son; and their exertions were so successful, that this wholesale transplantation scheme was abandoned. In the following year, when a commission sat in Belfast 'to enquire into the state of Ulster,' we find that Sir Patrick Agnew was able to sustain his title to the lands held under the lease of 1636 - and after this time we hear of but one further visit of the head of the Agnew family to Ireland, and this time of an agreeable and festive character, when in 1655, Sir Andrew Agnew (son of Patrick) came over to Kilwaughter, and in view of returning prosperity the visit made the occasion of some jollification among his tenants, as an entry appears in the factor's accounts for 1656, 'For drink last summer when your worship was here!'

*This is followed by a NOTE:- 'The surname Agnew, in the north of Ireland, does not necessarily imply descent from the Norman stock; the Celtic sept O'Gneeve having been Anglicized Agnew. These O'Gneevs, I find, on the authority of Reeves, were hereditary lairds to the Clannaboys O'Neills.'*

Dr. Iris Agnew notes James Shaw of Ballygally was a relative of the Agnew. In the appendices of this library reference book she discovered a memorandum by Edward Jones Agnew alluding to "Cousin Shaw" being "Henry | Shaw of Ballygally, who must have lived at the Castle instead of Weyburn, the Manse of his father-in-law, the Rev. John Lewson, Presbyterian Minister of the Cairncastle. He was arrested following the rising and confined in the Market House, Carrickfergus. Shaw died in 1799 and was succeeded by his son William who sold the property to Agnew for £15,400." See the next Appendix.

## APPENDIX XIV

Memorandum by Edward Jones Agnew of Kilwaughter.\*

"What happened in the Late Rebellion as I saw it in the 7th and 8th of June, 1798. The days of the late rebellion were very eventful in these parts of the County from Carrickfergus to Ballycastle. On the 7th day of June last I rode over to visit cousin Shaw at Ballygally and to exchange our views on the great events at hand. At Glenarm I had been informed by my worthy servant John Hunter, the rebels were in arms thousands strong, and that Mr. Achison, the Dissenting Minister, had been removed under a strong guard of the Fencibles and the Yeomanry. On reaching Gilbraith's cross roads, I encountered some forty or so of the rebels, some of whom I recognised as my own tenants, dressed in their Sunday best clothes, two had green-tailed coats cut in military fashion with brass buttons and yellow facings, and nearly all wore green ribbons. I saw some firelocks and pistols, but well burnished pikes were much in evidence. Two men whom I did not know came up to the near side of the cross and ported their pikes across the road and ordered me to dismount in a very military fashion. I left the saddle and on coming to the horse's head one said, 'You are Squire Agnew to which I replied in the affirmative. 'You are held to be a level-minded man' said he 'and may I ask what has you here in these troubled hours?' I replied that my business was only a friendly call on Squire Shaw. The two men joined the others, and in a few minutes they held me to mount and pass. 'All's well (in) the name of the Republic.'

I reached Ballygally about four by the clock in the afternoon and found cousin in his parlour with Mr. Devenny, the priest and Mr. Boyd of Mount Edwards. All of them were in a grave mood. I was only seated when a messenger arrived with the news that the rebels had taken several persons from Larne and were going to shoot them on Bellavie Hill. The Fencibles and Yeomen did not give Achison the Minister of Glenarm and William Coulter and Hugh McCoy both of Glenarm, which they held at Lord Antrim's house.

One of the Larne men was said to have been Samuel Baillie of the Larne Yeomanry. We took speedy counsel and it was decided that the priest and I would ride over to Lord Antrim's house which we did.

The officer in command of the Fencibles, an easy Scot, whose name I did not catch at the time, agreed to parley with the rebels in exchange of captives, and so it was Mr. Achison and Coulter and McCoy were exchanged for the Larne men.

After a glass of punch with the agreeable officer, we returned to Ballygally and were given the pass by all the rebel posts on the way. Cousin Shaw and I visited the rebel camp at Bellavie before 7 o'clock next morning and were well received. He and I were always on good terms with our tenants and were accorded the greatest esteem. We saw Mr. Achison, then in full regimentals, green jacket faced with yellow, white breeches, black hose and silver buckled shoes. He was in great spirits and wildly cheered by his little army of more than 2,000 and there were many women on the field, some cooking an early meal on the camp fires and others moving around with jugs of fresh milk and oat cake for the citizen army. This was the sight I beheld on that most beautiful morning in June as the sun climbed above the hilltops and the mist lifted like a great white sheet in the valley. I returned to Ballygally with a sad heart as I, like the ancient Greek, so deeply pondered on the fate that lay ahead of these worthy common people of the Kingdom.

It all came too true, for the rebellion in Antrim, in which the greater rebel army was engaged, was broken by a great military force, but the news of it prevented many of my tenants advancing into battle to meet the same bloody fate.

This account I shall put away from the eyes of men for a generation, when no one can come to any harm thereby, and I may add that in my house at Kilwaughter and at that of Cousin Shaw the hunted rebels were given shelter and many afforded a safe passage to America.

28 Day November 1798

Edward Jones Agnew"

\*McClelland transcription

\* \* \* \* \*

A further letter from Dr. Iris Agnew continues, "As the spotlight has been on the Irish question so much recently, I feel that it would be informative for the English readers to realise the problems caused by the administration in Dublin at that time and their knock-on effects 2 centuries later"— (following Edward Jones' memorandum 1798, a chapter on the years 1796 and 1797, *Revolt in the North*, offers opinions on the reasons behind the unrest)—

All of it refers to the rebellion of the United Irishmen in 1798. It is very interesting to find that Edward Jones Agnew was very critical of the Viceroy's administration in Dublin.

At that time he would have had to take Communion in an Anglican Church annually to allow him to hold public office. He was an MP in the Dublin Parliament."

Quoted from 'REVOLT IN THE NORTH':-

'The same people,' i.e. Presbyterians of Ulster (iA)', had committed two great crimes --' in the lapse of a century they have suffered religious prejudice to wear away and they have buried religious bigotry and religious animosity in oblivion. They have committed another crime, they have found out that the representation of Ireland, after having been mangled and mutilated and corrupted by a succession of English Viceroys is not, at the close of the eighteenth century such as a people calling themselves free, have a right to expect.

Brigadier-General Knox aimed to increase the animosity between the Orangemen and the United Irishmen for he believed that upon this animosity depended the safety of the centre counties of the North. There was a deliberate attempt by Cornwallis through to the Viceroy, to ensure the separation of the Catholics from Dissenters. At a meeting of freeholders convened by the High Sheriff of the very Protestant County of Armagh it was declared "that the people were being goaded to madness by accumulated oppressions, that in the richest and most prosperous province of Ireland, military coercion had taken the place of common law and useful citizens were dragged to the fleet without trial by jury like the most atrocious felons. ... and that the Government had been deliberately propagating religious animosities and persecutions.

The Hon. Chichester Skeffington, followed by Edward Jones Agnew of Kilwaughter, one of the members of Parliament for the county chaired a meeting in Ballymena, on 8 May, of the freeholders of the County Antrim. at which they issued a petition to the King's Most Excellent Majesty'. This pointed out that His Majesty's Ministers ' have laboured with the most remorseless perservance to revive those senseless and barbarous religious antipathies so fatal to mortals and to peace and so abhorrent to the mild and merciful spirit of the Gospel ....they have endeavoured through the medium of spies and informers ....to destroy public confidence and poison the intercourse of private life ... Had your Majesty's people of Ireland, without regard to religious distinction, been fully and fairly represented in the Commons House of Parliament, the events of which we complain could never have existed."

Evidence showing the direction of Government policy apart from the severities of martial law could be multiplied, but perhaps enough has been mentioned to prove that one of their main objects was to stir up sectarian discord in regions where it had, for a long period, been gradually disappearing.'

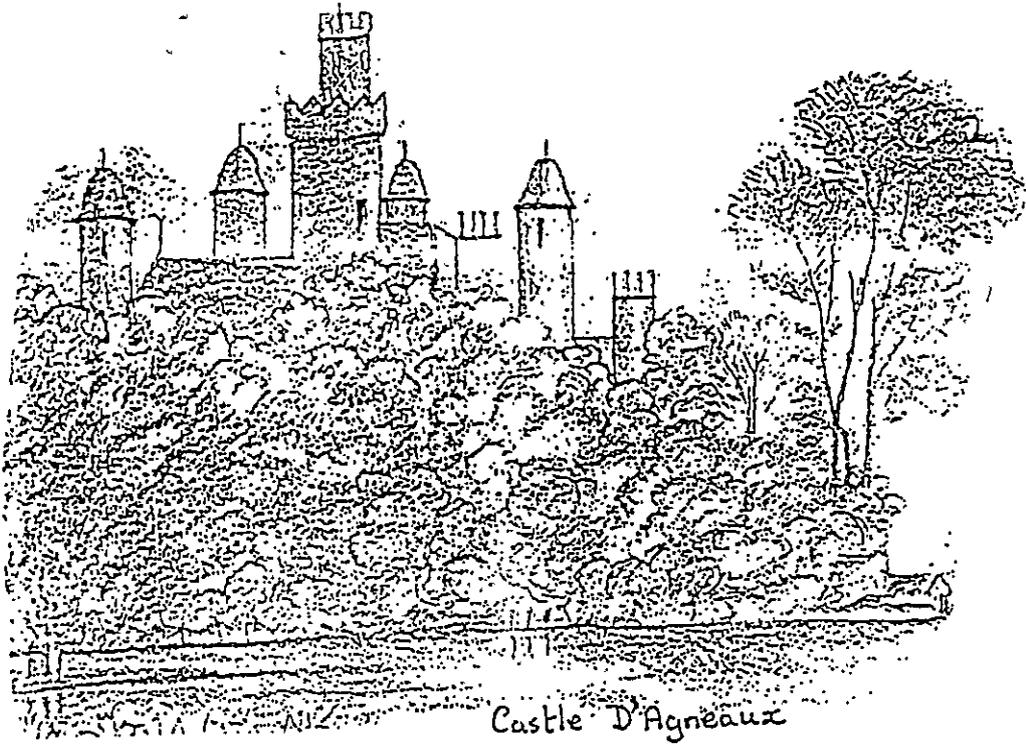
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Thank you, members all, for continuing to send in your articles for the Newsletter. All contributions are most gratefully received and we value comments also, in debate about any of the current items.....

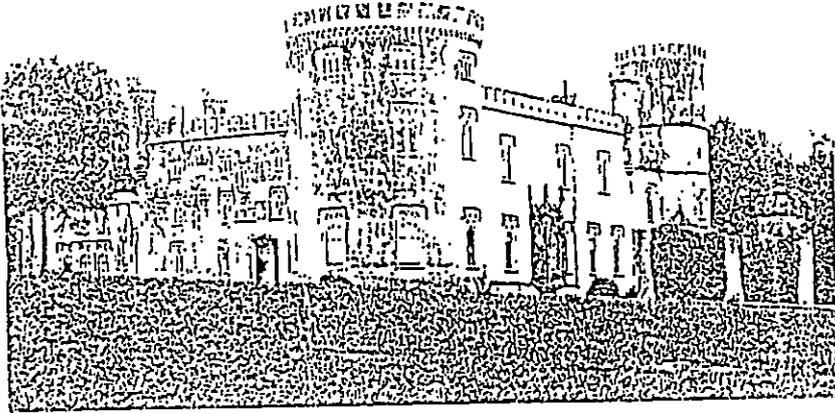
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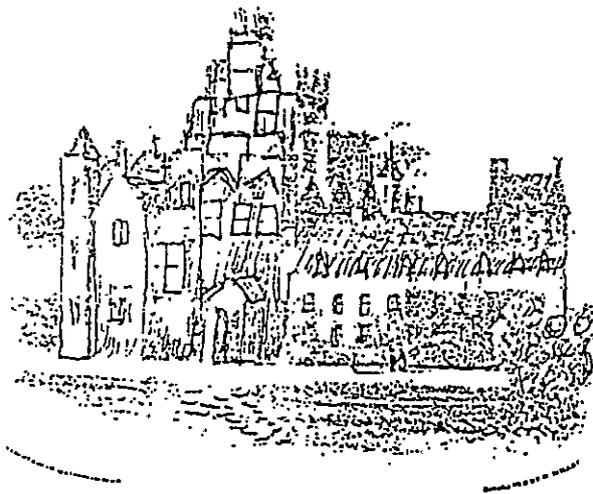
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Castle D'Agneaux



Killybegs Castle



Lochmaw Castle