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The Drake Family.

By FREDERICK W. KNIGHT.

The Drakes of Ashe.



THE Drake family is one of great antiquity. Sir William Poole mentions, *e.g.*, Roger le Drak who, in 1303, held the lands of Dertington in Devon. The *fons et origo* of the family, however, lies in the extreme east of that county, close to the Dorset border, and within a mile or so of the sea. Here, in the Parish of Musbury, is a hill crowned with prehistoric earthworks, now known as *The Castle*, which belonged to the Drakes before the Conqueror landed in England. Remnants of an old mansion (date uncertain)—no doubt, built on the site of an earlier castle—known as *Mount Drake*, are still to be seen on the hill.

In 1420, John Drake of Exmouth, Devon, “a man of great estate, and a name of no less antiquity,” presumably a member of the above family, married the heiress of John Billett, of Ashe, in the Musbury Parish, and thus brought the estate of Ashe into the Drake family, in which it remained for over four hundred years. This John Drake is the earliest ancestor from whom the descent of the present Ashe family can be definitely traced.

Ashe House.

Ashe House, which was rebuilt in 1683, stands in the valley of the Axe river, from which the town of Axminster takes its name. Remnants of the foundations indicate that the building was originally E-shaped. The house as it now stands is merely a wing of the original building. It has a modern slated roof and, with the exception of its mullioned windows and remnants of the old kitchens, contains little or nothing of interest. Traces of the ancient fish-ponds, bowling-green and ornamental grounds, may still be seen. The house with its Chapel, is, of course, steeped in traditions of old-world romance, as also in authentic associations of great historical interest. “Long is it,” says P. R. Pulman (Piscator), in his *Book of the Axe*—Longman, Green, 1875 (now out of print)—“since its old brocaded dames walked proudly through its stately halls; since trains of gallant Knights and high-born damsels swept with hound and hawk into the neighbouring marshes; long since the oak-beams rang with Sir John’s loud laugh, while the yule-log blazed on the enormous hearth, and the boar’s-head smoked on the groaning table.” Long, too, we may add, (in alluding to the unescapable ghost story which Ashe, in common with all ancient houses, regards as one of the essential frills and furbelows of its antiquity), since, for some forgotten offence, the departed spirit of one of the Drakes was “supernaturally doomed” to haunt the copse of Trill;¹

¹ The farm-house at Trill was once occupied by the Drakes, and the wyvern, carved in stone, may be seen on its walls.

a mile or two away, till, clothed in quasi-earthly form, and proceeding at the fixed rate of a cockstride a year, it should at last reach the house and gaze once more upon the scenes of its earthly career before vanishing finally into the ghostly shades. Long, too, moreover, since "a lady of the same family who had plighted her troth to one of the Drake circumnavigators, and (woman-like) broken it in his long absence, was horrified when in the act of walking to the altar of Ashe Chapel to be wedded to a later lover, to see a cannon-ball suddenly roll ahead of her and so firmly lodge itself in the wood-work of a pew as to defy all efforts to remove it—an omen which was instantly accepted, the proceedings being stopped, and the lady ultimately cheered by the return of her first lover."

John Drake,² of Ashe, who died in 1628, was succeeded by his son John, whose daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir Winston Churchill, of Minthorne, Dorset, Knight, who, for his adherence to the cause of Charles I., was greatly harassed during the Commonwealth, and remained for some time at the house of his father-in-law at Ashe, where on June 24th, 1650, the lady gave birth to the child who afterwards became the famous Duke of Marlborough—"The man, to distant ages known, who shook the Gallic, fixed the Austrian throne!" The bedstead on which the accouchment took place is still preserved at Shute House, in the neighbourhood. The Baptismal Register of the church at Axminster—a parish adjoining that of Musbury—contains the following entry:

"John, ye sonne of Mr. Winstone Churchill, was baptized the 18th day of June in the year of our Lord God, 1650."

There is also the entry:

"Arabella Churchwell, daughter of Mr. Weston Churchwell, and Elizabeth, his wife, was baptized in Aishe Haule the 28th day of February, anno dom. 1648."

A fairly recent correction reads:

"For Churchwell read Churchill; for Weston read Winston; and for Aishe Haule read Ashe Hall."

Ashe Chapel.

The chapel at Ashe is architecturally and historically interesting. It stands in the grounds of Ashe House, and was built in 1487 by John Drake, grandson (presumably) of the original John of 1420. It was in this chapel that the first Duke of Marlborough was baptised, as were also his brothers and sisters; and here, too, Lord North, the Prime Minister, was married to Anne Speke.

When the present writer visited Ashe some five or six years ago the chapel was in a deplorable state. Generations of farmers had used it as a storehouse for their "Wine of Devon." Part of the ancient mullions of the windows had been hacked away to accommodate a cyder-press, and holes had been driven through the walls to receive the ends of the beams which supported an apple-loft. A 14th Century piscina was in use as a

² The heir was called John through many generations.

receptacle for a grimy beer-bottle, in whose dusty neck reposed a stub of guttered candle; while in a corner lay a heap of mouldering and rat-eaten wood-work—probably part of the old pew panelling. A sight that would have sent cold shivers down the backs of the officials of our Cork Historical and Archaeological Society! Outside, things were as bad. John Bull's pig-sties had been built against the walls, and everywhere lay a swamp of the most noxious filth over which hung a stench compounded of all the odours that swine and cattle, fowl and geese, rotting wood-work and apples were capable of producing. The odour of sanctity, which alone was permissible, had long ago fled to the neighbouring churches of Musbury and Axminster. Through the summer months, troops of American, French, Irish, and other foreign tourists came, and gazed in amazement on this scene of desecration and desolation, so closely associated with more than one of England's most cherished heroes. Fortunately, the Ashe estate, with house and chapel, shortly afterwards passed out of English hands, and was acquired by a Mr. Peat, of Canada, whose widow is still in occupation. The interior of the chapel was at once very carefully restored, while outside a clean sweep was made of John Bull's "swahine" and their sties, and the immediate surroundings were safely enclosed. The ancient altar stone was missing, but investigation showed that it was popularly believed to have been identical with a stone which had been built into the altar of the church at Musbury. Traces of colouring were found beneath the filth on the chapel walls.

Musbury Church.

The church at Musbury (Saxon, "big hill") is early 14th Century, but there must have been an earlier building, as a recently-discovered record mentions a rector who was instituted in 1204. The church, however, has been greatly altered. There is a stained-glass window in memory of William Lethbridge, Nelson's Flag-lieutenant, who lost a leg while serving on *H.M.S. Temeraire*. There is also a Drake chapel with a very fine Drake monument (*see illustration*). The monument had been allowed to fall into a ruinous condition, but in 1926, an American gentleman—Mr. Louis Stoughton Drake (*see below—Drakes of U.S.A.*) had it carefully restored. It was erected in 1611. The figures are:

1. "John Drake and his wife, Dorothy, daughter of William Button of Aston, Wilts." This was the John whose daughter married Winston Churchill.
2. John Drake and his wife, Amy, daughter of Roger Grenville, of Stour, High Sheriff of Devon, Steward of the Monastery of Newnham, between Musbury and Axminster.
3. Sir Barnard Drake, Kt., and his wife, Gertrude, daughter of Bartholomew Fortescue, of Filleigh. Knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his exploits in fighting the Spaniards off Newfoundland. His last exploit consisted in capturing a Portugese ship which was privateering in the English Channel. The seamen on board were assigned to the Exeter Assizes. While awaiting trial they contracted gaol fever, which proved fatal to the judge, eleven of the jury, and Sir Barnard himself. He died April 10th, 1586.



THE DRAKE MONUMENT AT MUSBURY CHURCH,
AXMINSTER.

(Humphries Copyright, Axminster

The church's altar plate was presented by Sir William Drake, Bart., of Ashe, in 1730; and the reredos by Sir William Drake, Kt., of Oatlands, Surrey, in 1874. The baronetcy, which was created for John Drake, Kt. (b. 1625), became extinct in 1733. The Ashe property was afterwards (1793) sold in lots. (For modern Drakes see B.L.G.)

The arms of Drake of Ashe (1933) are:

Arg.—a wyvern, gu. Quartering Billett, Hampton, Orway, Atwell, Ford, Ash, Antage, Cole, Westover, Pennington, Kelloway.

Crest—an eagle displayed, sa.

Motto—Aquila non capit muscas.

Sir Francis Drake.

The celebrated Sir Francis Drake claimed descent from John Drake, of Ashe, (1420)—a claim which was substantiated by his 18th Century descendants. An amusing story is told by Prince in his *Worthies of Devon* with reference to this claim. He narrates it on the authority of Sir John Drake, his "honourable god-father":

"About this time it was that there fell out a contest between Sir Bernard and the immortal Sir Francis, chiefly occasioned by Sir Francis his assuming Sir Bernard's coat-of-arms, not being able to make out his descent from his (Sir Bernard's) family—a matter in those days, when the court of honour was in more honour, not so easily digested. The feud thereupon increased to that degree that Sir Bernard, being a person of high spirit, gave Sir Francis a box on the ear, and *that* within the verge of the court, for which offence he incurred Her Majesty's displeasure, and most probably it proved the occasion of the Queen's bestowing upon Sir Francis a new coat of everlasting honour to himself and his posterity for ever, which hath relation to that glorious action of his, the circumnavigation of the world, which is thus emblazoned by Guillim:

Arms—Diamond, a fess wavy, between the two pole-stars, arctick and antarctick, pearl as before.

Crest—A ship on a globe, under reef and held by a cable rope, with a hand out of the clouds, in the rigging whereof is hung up by the heels a wivern, gu.³

Unto all of which Sir Bernard boldly replied 'that though Her Majesty could give him (Sir Francis) a nobler, yet she could not give him an antienter coat than his.'

Mr. W. Rogers in *The Antiquary* for Oct. 5, and Nov. 30, 1872, introduces a pedigree of the Drake family, and remarks in the Oct. 19th number that "no credence is now given to Prince's story. He (Prince) was himself a dependent for favours on the Ashe house, and probably participated in any jealousy of the superior lustre conferred by Sir Francis. Prince's story is incorrect respecting the Wyvern in Sir Francis' crest, and if untrue in one particular, why not false in toto?"

"The matter of Drake's Arms," says Lady Elliott Drake in her *Family and Heirs of Sir Francis Drake*—Smith, Elder & Co., 1911—"has now

³ Arg., a wivern, gu.—the Ashe Arms.

been settled. Prince's story is manifestly untrue. Allowing that in the grant of arms of 1581 there is no mention of his having the right to bear any other than those given him by Elizabeth and that these latter were in the original draft at the Herald's Office ; yet, three days after the delivery of this to Sir Francis, Clarencieux gave Sir Francis a fresh document which placed the new arms in their rightful position as an augmentation of the coat he had previously borne. An account is preserved in the Ashmole Museum at the Bodleian Library, and a few years ago a further memo was discovered at the Herald's College, stating that Sir Francis, by privilege of his birth, may bear a 'Waver Dragon,⁴ geules, with the difference of a third brother.' "

"The early days of Drake's life," says Prof. Harte, of University College, Exeter, in his *Sir F. Drake*—S.P.C.K., 1920—"are wrapped in obscurity. His father was almost certainly Edmund Drake, and Francis was probably born about 1540 at Crowndale in the parish of Tavistock. The family left Devon and made their home in Kent. Camden says that Drake told him he was of mean (*i.e.*, middle-class) parentage—his father being vicar of Upnor.⁵ An Edmund Drake was vicar there from 1560 to 1567."

Marsh-Edwards (Stead's *Great Men* series) says that Edmund Drake was "made a clergyman on the ships of the Navy."

German Monument to Sir Francis.

"A correspondent of a London contemporary gives an interesting description of a statue in the town of Offenburg, in Western Germany, erected in 1853 to Sir Francis Drake for having introduced the potato into Europe. Carved in red stone the figure has at the feet a globe and an unrolled chart. One arm rests on an anchor. The left hand holds by the stalks a large bunch of potatoes. Inscriptions on the pedestal sing the praises of the importer into Europe of the potato—'the blessing of mankind.' There is not a word about his birthplace ; his exploits against Spain ; or the role he played in helping to defeat the Armada. To his German admirer, a Strassburger, who is supposed to have erected the statue in this little market town between the mountains of the Black Forest and the Rhine, Drake's greatest service to Europe was the fact that he brought home, on his return from his sea roving, the potato seeds from somewhere in the Southern Seas." (Quotation from a daily paper).

"Drake's Pool."

Is there any evidence in support of the centuries-old belief in the story of Sir Francis and *The Pool* ? Apparently not. Our worthy Secretary, Dr. Lee, whom the writer consulted last year, seemed to favour the view that the story is probably a myth, though he admits that there is no inherent difficulty in supposing the story to be founded on fact, as Drake probably knew the Cork coast well, and the harbour was constantly visited by adventurers of many nations. The editor of *The Mariners' Mirror*, to whom Dr. Lee wrote in Feb., 1932, was also somewhat sceptical—pointing out

⁴ Wyvern.

⁵ Upchurch (?)



DRAKE'S POOL, CROSSHAVEN, CO. CORK.

(Photo by Dr. P. G. Lee)



OLD ANCHOR DREDGED FROM DRAKE'S POOL.

(Photo by A. R. Day

that there is no reference to any such adventure in *Drake's Movements*. The most that can be said apparently, is that for two hundred years the tradition has been handed down, and the name *Drake's Pool* used as an alternative for the older and delightfully euphonious *Pool of Coolmore*.

Some excitement prevailed in Cork archaeological circles in 1931 when, through the instrumentality of Mr. Alexander Healy, of Cork, solicitor—son of the late Mr. Maurice Healy—an ancient anchor, which had been dredged up from the bottom of *The Pool*, was brought to the notice of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society and suspected of being, possibly, an anchor lost from one of Drake's ships. "I am informed by its owner," said Mr. Healy, in a letter to Dr. Lee, dated Feb. 23rd, 1931, "that he is using an old 16th Century anchor as a mooring in the Crosshaven river. This anchor was dragged up from the bottom of Drake's Pool some twenty or thirty years ago, and as I think the story of Drake is fairly well substantiated I should imagine that this anchor may have some historical value.⁶ Dr. Lee, in a letter to the present writer, remarked at the time "if

⁶ *Report on an old anchor, dredged up from Drake's Pool, Crosshaven about 50 years ago by Mr. Batteridge, Sr., and used by him as a mooring anchor until 1931, when his son hauled it up on the beach and eventually sold it to Mr. Alex. M. Healy, Solicitor, of Carragh Cottage, Crosshaven.*

On visiting Crosshaven on Wednesday, 17th February, 1932, I found the anchor to be covered in rust and very much the worst for wear. The measurements as taken on this day are:—

Length of Anchor from end of shank to crown—7 ft. 2 ins. Maximum circumference of shank at lower end by blades and flukes—10½ ins.

Maximum circumference of shank at upper end by stocks—6 13-16 ins.

At a distance of 13 ins. from the crown of the anchor on the shank there is a projection of iron like a bolt head, which is obviously a portion of the anchor, which has not rusted away. It projects about 1½ ins. from the shank and is about 2 ins. in diameter. The circumference of the shank round this projection is 10 5-8 ins.

The remaining blade and fluke measures 30½ ins. from crown to point and 24½ ins. from the shank to the lower edge of point in a straight line. The maximum circumference of the blade is 6 1-16 ins. The maximum width of the fluke is 5½ ins., and it projects 1½ ins. at one side of the blade and 2 ins. on the other.

The stock as it exists to-day comprises an iron bar, broken off at one side of the shank, leaving only a stump a few inches long, and the remaining arm being 38 ins. long and 5-16 in. in circumference.

Mr. Batteridge affirms, that he remembers when in his father's day the anchor was first dredged from Drake's Pool, the iron stock was only about one-third the length of this, projecting about 12 ins. or 15 ins. on either side of the shank, and that this acted as a foundation for a heavy wooden stock of about 24 ins. to 30 ins. long on each side of the shank.

Mr. Batteridge says that the then local blacksmith removed this wooden stock and replaced it with the present stock (now broken).

From the junction of the shank and the stock to the end of the shank is 7 ins. This portion is pierced by a hole of 2½ ins. diameter, which originally held the ring, now broken and at Mr. Healy's house. At the junction of the shank and the stock, the shank presents a distinct appearance of having been originally of square section.

It is obvious that the second blade and fluke has been cut off, and Mr. Batteridge confirms this, saying that it was done to make it a mooring anchor. The remaining portion of the second blade has been bent down against the shank, and it measures from the crown to its end, 14 ins. and its circumference is 8½ ins.

The anchor ring has rusted through at one point and came off and is now at Mr. Healy's house. It is now of an oval shape and measures as follows:—

Maximum diameter, 10½ ins.

Minimum diameter, 8½ ins.

External circumference, 35½ ins.

According as it has rusted away it varies in substance from 4 ins. to 1½ ins. circumference.

ALEC. R. DAY.

the anchor is genuine it will have been a very interesting find ; but it will be necessary to ascertain the exact type of anchor used by the Navy of Drake's time, and to obtain a sketch of the contemporary shank and haft, with information as to the material used in the haft—whether wood or iron."

Nothing further seems to have come of the investigation.

Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* (1837) gives the following :

" In 1589 Sir Francis Drake, with a squadron of ships, being chased by a Spanish fleet of greater force, ran into Cork Harbour, and sailing up Crosshaven (river) moored his squadron in a safe basin sheltered by Currabinny Hill, close under Coolmore. The Spaniards pursued, but being unacquainted with the harbour, sailed round the shore without discovering the English fleet, and giving up the search left it here in perfect security. The basin in which Sir Francis lay has since been called *Drake's Pool*."

Mr. K. V. O'Leary, M.A., writing in the *Cork Journal* for April-June, 1918, remarks : "... the waters that break upon the shores have borne many a strange visitor to the harbour of Cork—Algerian corsair, Spanish and Portuguese privateers, and English adventurers, among the latter of whom came Drake, no less a marauder, for all his fine airs, flying with his merry men from the arrogant Spaniard to take safe anchorage behind Currabinny Hill in the inlet since called *Drake's Pool*."

Quot homines, tot sententiae ! for we find the Bishop of Plymouth, Jan. 5, 1933, advocating the adoption of new "Saints days" for the English "Calendar," and suggesting that Drake (the "marauder") should be canonised as "St. Drake of Plymouth" !⁷

Present Representative.

Sir Francis Drake died without issue, and was succeeded by his brother, Sir Thomas Drake, of Buckland Abbey, Yelverton, Devon, whose great-grandson, Sir Francis, First Bart., was M.P. for Tavistock in the time of Charles II. The baronetcy became extinct, but a new creation was effected in 1782 in favour of Francis Drake, grandson of the First Bart. He, however, died *s.p.*, and the representation of the family passed to his sister Anne, who married General Eliott, created Baron Heathfield in 1787. This barony became extinct, and the great Sir Francis Drake is now represented by Anne's descendant, Lady Seaton, of Nutwell Court, Lympstone, Devon, and of Buckland Abbey, daughter of the late Sir Fuller Eliot Drake (the surname, Drake, having been adopted), created Third Baronet. Buckland was bought by the great Sir Francis on his return to Plymouth from his voyage round the world. His famous drum is still at Buckland.

"Heirs of Drake."

A writer in the *Morning Post*, of Feb. 16, 1933, points out that there are hundreds of Americans who believe themselves to be the rightful heirs of

⁷ Mr. Bernard Shaw should look into this.

the great Sir Francis.⁸ "Confidence men approach some farmer named Drake and tell him that painstaking investigations have proved him to be a descendant of the great navigator. In return for 300 dollars they promise to look after matters for him. When the Postmaster-General recently denied the use of the mails to seven of these confidence men he received angry letters from more than a hundred Mr. Drakes, all convinced that the story of Drake's treasure was true."

The *Evening Standard* of Dec. 29, 1932, under the heading "Heirs of Drake" remarks that—"American 'heirs' of Sir Francis Drake have contributed £260,000 during the past ten years to 'fight their case' in the British courts . . . it is alleged that most of them are farmers in the Middle West, and that they have been paying at the rate of £500 a week since 1922. A man who is alleged to be an American representative of the Drake 'estate' has been questioned in Washington."

Drakes, of Drakerath, Co. Westmeath.

"In 1913," says Mr. Louis Stoughton Drake, of Boston, U.S.A., (see below—Drakes of America), "John Drake, of Devon, had permission from Edward II. 'to go beyond sea,' and acquired large estates in the county of Meath (Barony of Kells), where the ruins of the mansion (date uncertain) of Drakerath may still be seen."

An account of the Drakes of Drakerath is given in Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 1851, and in Burke's *History of Commoners*, 1838. From these (both in the British Museum) the following is taken :

"This family and that of Ashe derive from a common progenitor . . . We find the Drake of Drakerath a distinguished person in the annals of that Kingdom throughout the turbulent and tyrannic rule of the Tudors and the Stuarts ; the sanguinary despotism of Cromwell ; and the confiscating reign of William. Those estates (round Drakerath) continued vested in his descendants until the Rebellion of 1641 when they were forfeited ; but a small portion was subsequently restored by the Court of Claims in the beginning of Charles II.'s reign. A cadet of the family, Capt. Peter Drake, a soldier of fortune who followed the wars through all the fields of Europe in the beginning of last Century, published a very amusing detail of his adventures, which he begins with the situation of his house at the time of the Revolution. 'I was born,' he says, '12th of October, 1671. My father's name was George. He was eldest son of William Drake of Drakerath, and married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Patrick Stanley, Esq., of Marlstown in the County of Louth, and neice of John Stanley, Esq., of Finner, near Slane in Meath. The family remained in peaceable possession of the estate from their first arrival until the war of 1641, when with many more they forfeited, and were driven to shift for themselves. At the beginning of Charles II.'s reign there was a Court of Claims set on foot by which a few of the proprietors were restored, and my father was of the number. He

⁸ Two questions were recently asked in the English Parliament with reference to the deportation of an American who had been "prosecuting claims to the 'Drake Estate' in England." It was asked: (1) What were the grounds for the deportation ? (2) What have been the results of the inquiry into the claims ?

became possessed, however, of only a part, and was at the eve of being restored to the whole when an order came from the King to dissolve the Court, so that an end for that time was put to his hopes. My father had some time before this, with his family, settled in the Co. of Kildare, having taken some lands from William, Lord Dungan (to whom he had the honour of being related) at Kildroughet, where he built a handsome seat. Here he continued until the Revolution, when his affairs took a new turn. Some time before or about the beginning of the troubles, Lord Dungan was created Earl of Limerick, and if I remember rightly constituted Governor of that City. Thither his Lordship repaired, taking my father with him, whom he soon after promoted. He was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Customs and Chief Comptroller of the Mint. As soon as King James came to Dublin and called a Parliament my father was put into the Commission of the Peace for the County of Kildare, and declared himself a candidate for the borough of Navan. He was at the same time restored to Limerick to fulfil his official duties. In June, 1690, he came to visit his family and settle his affairs, but the loss of the Battle of the Boyne (which happened July 1st following) obliged him with all expedition to move off with his family for Limerick, staying but one day after the battle to inter Lord Dungan, only son to the Earl of Limerick, who was that day killed by a cannon ball and brought to Castletown, the Earl's (his father) seat. This melancholy affair being at an end, the next day we set forward on our journey. Arriving at Limerick we found all hands employed in repairing the old, and throwing up new works for the defence of the place, which was soon after besieged, the particulars of which are so well-known already that it would be needless to descend to minute relation."

From the Irish records it appears that in the 9th of Richard II. (1386) the King conceded to Richard Drake, of Drakestown,⁹ the office of High Sheriff of the Co. of Meath, and that in the 9th. of Henry V. (1422) the same appointment was granted to John Drake of Drakestown, to be held during pleasure. Among the other early ancestors of the family, Catherine, sister and heiress of Nicholas Drake of Drakerath¹⁰ married Richard Nugent, Second Baron of Delvin, living in 1428; and about the same period Sir Christopher Barnewall, of Crickstown, Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, married Matilda, daughter of the then Drake of Drakerath.

The immediate progenitor of the family—Columbus Drake, Esq., of Drakerath, in Meath, son of Patrick Drake, Esq., was born in 1670, and married, in 1705, Anne, only daughter of — Jennett, Esq., of Oldbridge, Co. Louth, who was slain at the Battle of the Boyne in 1688, together with all his sons, except the youngest, then in infancy. This child and his sister, afterwards Mrs. Drake, were saved in a singular manner by a faithful servant who secreted them in baskets, and thus conveyed them across the river after the conflict. Mr. Drake left at his decease (with three daughters—the eldest married to William Cruise, Esq., of Mydoragh; the second to — Curtis, Esq., of Mount Hanover; and the third, who died unmarried) a son and successor, Patrick Drake, Esq., of Drakerath, born in 1712, who

⁹ Sic.

¹⁰ Sio.

married, in 1747, Frances, third daughter of James O'Reilly, Esq., of Roristown, Co. Meath, and had two sons and three daughters, viz.—

1. Columbus, his heir.
2. George, of Batterstown, b. 1760 ; married 1796, Emily, daughter of John O'Reilly, Esq., of Rahattan, Co. Wicklow, and has issue.
3. Catherine ; married, 1768, George Dowdall, Esq., of Causetown.
4. Elizabeth ; married Nicholas Brown, Esq.
5. Anne ; b. 1755 ; d. unmarried.

The elder son, Columbus Drake, Esq., of Roristown ; b. 1750 ; married, Oct. 13th, 1777, Anne, only daughter of Christopher Barnewall, Esq., of Fyanstown, Meath, and had issue.

1. Patrick ; b. 1782 ; died 1801.
2. Christopher, successor to his father.
3. Cecilia ; m. 1796, James Archbold O'Reilly, Esq., of Rahattan, Co. Wicklow.
4. Frances ; d. unmarried, 1799.
5. Anne.

Mr. Drake was succeeded at his decease by his only surviving son, the present (1851) Christopher Drake, Esq., of Roristown, Co. Meath ; b. June 4th, 1790 ; married (1), September, 1816, Mary Anne, daughter of Nicholas Gannon, Esq., of Ballyboy, in the same county, and by that lady (deceased) had a son and daughter, viz.—

Columbus Patrick ; b. 1818.

Anne Maria ; d. unmarried.

He married in 1821, Mary, eldest daughter of the late Alexander Somers, Esq., and had issue—

1. Christopher¹¹ Somers ; b. 17 Feb., 1823 ; d. young.
2. Alexander Joseph ; b. 1824.
3. Charles William ; b. 1827.
4. Catherine Cecilia.
5. Mary Elizabeth."

The connection of the Drakes with Ireland has been a long one, for we find in the *Landed Gentry* for 1900 the following references :

1. (Under " Drake of Barnstable, Devon ")—

" Charles Cutcliffe Drake, J.P., of Springfield, Devon, (d. 1858), married Mary, elder daughter and eventually sole heir of Henry Cusack, of Girley, Co. Westmeath."

2. (Under " Brockman ")—

" Rev. Julius Drake-Brockman, of Devon, married, 1793, Harriett, daughter of Rev. Thos. Locke, of Newcastle, Co. Limerick, and had issue—

Caroline Drake-Brockman, who married Capt. Boyle Travers, Rifle Brigade, son of George Travers, of Belvedere, Co. Cork."

The sister of Julius Drake married Rev. William Locke, of Newcastle.

There was also the William Drake of Cork, 1826, mentioned below (Drakes of U.S.A.).

¹¹ Either the 1851 *Dictionary of Commoners*, or the 1838 *Landed Gentry*, contains a note, written in ink, after the name of the above Christopher (b. 1790)—"died Feb. 22nd, 1854."—F.W.K.

Drakes of U.S.A. and Canada.

Those of your readers who may wish to acquaint themselves fully with the family history of the American Drakes should read *The Drake Family in England and America, 1360–1895*; and *the Descendants of Thomas Drake, of Weymouth, Mass., 1635–1691* (privately printed, Boston, 1896, Clapp & Son, 291 Congress Street). This book is by Mr. Louis Stoughton Drake, of Boston, Mass., U.S.A., a direct descendant of the Drakes of Ashe. The Thomas Drake referred to was the original immigrant into America from Colyton, Devon, close to Ashe (baptised 1635.¹²) In a letter to the present writer, dated Jan., 1927, the author enclosed the following “signatures:”

“In 1826 a William Drake came from Co. Cork to Quebec and settled on a farm in what was then Bytown, now Ottawa, Ontario. Later he moved to Kingston, Ontario, and then to Oswego, New York, and Syracuse, New York, where he died. His children were—

1. Major Edward, of Syracuse.
2. William, of Syracuse.
3. John, of Aberdeen, South Dakota, American Consul at Kehl, Germany.
4. Daniel, “followed the sea,” and died in Providence, R.I., aet. 25.
5. Thomas, enlisted in the Army, and died 1862, in Syracuse, aet. 25.

To this family belongs Robert Emmet Drake, attorney-at-law, of Syracuse, N.Y., son of William Drake and Margaret Ann (McCarthy) of Cork. This William was son of the William Drake who was killed in a factional fight in Maloga (Mallow?), Co. Cork, in 1845.

The above author is the Mr. Louis Stoughton Drake who restored the Drake Monument in Musbury Church.

Mr. Hamlyn Drake, of Grosvenor Gardens, S.W., thinks the above William Drake, of Cork, was of the Drakerath family.

¹² 1653 (?)

Diary of an Itinerary in Ireland in 1831.

By H. HILL.



ON Monday, 29th August, 1831, started for Youghal at 20 minutes of 5 o'clock, and arrived at 9½ o'clock. Visited the College Church and made some sketches in it. The exterior is very much altered of late years. The trees are so numerous that the building can scarcely be seen. Ruins of an ancient Abbey or Chapel, it is in the possession of the priests of Youghal, who it seems, have an objection that Protestants should be therein interred, so that party feeling is a good deal connected with it. A woman whom I met in the graveyard, and who made a mistake in supposing me to be a Papist, gave me a history of its character, and mentioned the circumstance of Mrs. Ronayne having