

*AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF POLE COSBY, OF
STRADBALLY, QUEEN'S COUNTY.*

(Continued from p. 273.)

LENT Assizes 1733 the Grand Jury gave me £20. to build a Bridge at Mr. Frank Cosbys house, wh. was full sufficient to build a convenient Bridge for y^e use of the traveller, but it being so near my seat I had a mind to have it somew^t Handsome, & in june 1734 I began it & made it passable before winter & levilled y^e Hill (a great piece of work) & afterwards the finishing of the whole Bridge levelling & all stood me (besides the £20 the county gave me) in £41 8. so y^t the whole cost £61. 3. the same Lent Assizes y^e Grand jury gave me £15 to widen the 2 Bridges of Stradbally which were but 9½ wide in y^e clear & Little or no Battlemts so y^t they were exceeding dangerous & beside the two Bridges were not strait to one another and mighty sharp pinches to y^e crown of each Bridge, so that it was mighty terrible to be either in a wheel carriage or horse back and also the Bridges wall all assquew to the town, & so made y^e Bridge answer the street as well as it cold, I added to y^e south west side & at the south east end a great Breadth & Brought it in a point to the N.W. end & so on the N.E. side at y^e N.W. end I added y^e same Breath as I did on y^e other side at the other end, so by this mains I Brought it much straiter than it otherwise wo'd be to y^e town with the £15 the county gave me and £3. 10 of my own I allmost finished the S.E. side summer 1734, & so Lent Assizes 1735 y^e Grand Jury gave me £25 more to finish the other side & to widen the Little Bridge over y^e mill course, & with a £10 more of my own I compleatly finished y^e Bridge & built 4 pillars one on each side at each end, & so the whole expense of the town Bridges was £53. 10 sterling.

Col. Murray had served me & all the tenants of Timahoe with Ejectments before I came over from England & so Michaelmas term y^e 12th of Novr. 1734 it was tried by a Qs. County jury of 12 men whether Col. Samuel Freeman had a right to make leases of y^e Lordship of Timahoe, & first they got some poor Knights of y^e Post that swore y^t Dennis Dougan, Trustee in Honora Keivins & Col. freemans Settlement survived John Sprainger the other trustee in s^d Settlement, but the witnesses did not swear at all possatively to the day of Dr. Dougans death, but that he died they thought in March 1721, they thought it was the Beginning of March, we produced a

Witness one Mr. Barry a wealthy Goldsmith in Skinner Row, Newpew to John Spranger, in whose house John Spranger dyed y^t he dyed 24th of Feb. 1721 so y^t really y^e jury might with a safe conscience have found it for us, y^e Defendants, but they found it for ye Plaintiff Col. Murray, I brought a writ of Error to carry it to y^e K. B. in England, that was only to gain time to keep Possession till I had taken y^e Marble Chimney Peices, and all the things I co'd out of the house of Esker, & also in y^t time to try if I by any mains co'd throw Col. Murray on his back, there was no error found in England, so the K. B. here did grant an Habere & so I gave up the possession on the 1st of May 1735. No wonder the jury found as they did, for the jury was struck by the judicious wise Capt. Nathaniel Mitchel who was made High Sheriffe (w^t a weavers son had no pretensions to) this year to serve this turn. He was a Capt. in the Regmt that Col. Murray was Lieutnt Col. of and y^e Col. always residing in England, Col. Murray had the command of y^e Regmt

NOTE.

The Franciscan Monastery of Stradbally in Leix was founded in 1447 by an O'More, Chief of his name; he was possibly Kedagh O'More, Lord of Leix, who died of the plague in 1464.

After the Reformation Rory "caech" (the one-eyed), son of Connell, son of Melaghlín O'More, chief of his name, was granted by Henry VIII the sites and precincts of the Abbeys or Monasteries of Stradbally and Abbeyleix (founded for the Cistercian Order by Cucogry O'More in 1183).

Rory "caech" was slain by his brother, GillaPatrick, at "Killnesperokye," in Leix, about 1545, and the latter assumed the chieftainship of the clan. About 1549 GillaPatrick O'More was outlawed for rebellion, and his estates became forfeited to the Crown.

In 1550 a Fiant of Edward VI (No. 699) records a lease for twenty-one years to a faithful servant of the Crown, Thomas Jacob, of "the Manor of Stradbally, the lands of Nowaghwaile (Oughaval), Stradbally, on the other side of the bridge of Stradbally; a ruined house, part of the church, with certain thatched houses therein, called the late Friary of Stradbally, the lands and other appurtenances belonging to the said house," &c., parcels of the possessions of (Gilla)Patrick O'More attainted.

[In this same year Denis O'Byrne, chaplain, was presented to the Vicarage of St. Columban (*alias* Colman)¹ of Oughaval, or St. Patrick of Stradbally].

Thomas Jacob does not appear to have held Stradbally Abbey for the full period of his lease, as in February, 1563, it and 1,400 acres of the neighbouring lands were granted to an officer under the Crown, Francis Cosby, whose direct descendants are still in possession of them.

The illustration on the opposite page shows the original house built by the family, which was destroyed by fire (it is said by the O'Mores); the present mansion was built on a different site in 1772 by Dudley Alexander Cosby, Lord Sydney of Leix and Baron of Stradbally, and in 1866 it was greatly enlarged and added to by the present owner, Colonel Robert G. Cosby, D.L.

Sir Arthur Vicars is of the opinion that a portion of the mansion shown in the illustration dates from the early eighteenth century.

W. FITZG.

¹ His festival was kept on the 15th of May.

& could command y^e Captain to quarters y^e year round instead of 3 months in 3 years which is the favour ever sence, I will name all y^e jury men.

1. Sir Walter Burrows Bt. lives out of y^e County.
2. Warner Westenra Esq. led by y^e nose by y^e Sands!
3. Hunt Walsh Esq. whose nephew Oliver Walsh was an insign in y^e same Regmnt with Col Murray, so wanted favours.
4. Pigot Sands Esq. Brother to Richard Sands.
5. Richard Sands Esq. whom Tom Freeman owed money to, I think it £300. & Col. Murray was to pay it to him if he brook y^e tenants leases & did pay it.
6. One Card who lived in Dublin, a devotee of Ephraim Dawsons.
7. Lawrance Steel of Rathbride in the Co. Killdare, a Devotee of Dawsons.
8. Daniel Browne of Riverstown in y^e Kings County a Devotee of Dawsons.
9. William Wall of Marybourough a Devotee of Dawsons.
10. Major Champanie of Portarlinton a Frenchman and Devotee of Dawsons.
11. William Browne of Carlow. I know not if he was more inclined to one than the other but it was believed he was induced for some ends to serve the turn.
12. William Pleasants of Red Castle an impartial man & did stand out & argue agt y^e other 11. by my mentioning Dawsons Devotees is this, Dawsons Neices Husband John Doxy had y^e farm of Keil in y^e Lordship & there was some Bargain Between Dawson & Murray so y^t Doxy was not to be disturbed & so Dawsons creatures were put on y^e jury to serve Col. Murray. Soon after we lost the tryal, by mere chance two of our Lawyers heard y^t Col. Freeman had a son after Wm. & Nathaniel both which were mentioned in said Settlement called Venor who was Born before Tom & was shot by accident when he was a child so they were of opinion y^t Tom had no right for y^t on the Death of Venor it being only a lease of years it reverted to his father Col. Freeman & he could do what he pleased Councillor Hussey Old Malone, Peter Deally & Mr. Broadstreet all were of that opinion & I was most earnestly pressed to file my Bill but I wo'd not till I had the best opinions of England, so sent the state of my case to an acquaintance of mine in London on John Dowdall Esq. & he layed 'em before three of the Top lawyers of England, viz. the Attorney Generall and the Solicitor Generall and one Strange a very top man. & their three opinions agreed that Col. Freeman co'd do w^t he wo'd with y^e Lordship—but Mr. Strange s^d it reverted to

Col. Freeman on y^e death of Nathaniel the last that was named in y^e Settlement but the Attorney & Solicitor Generall were of opinion that it did not revert on y^e Death of Nathaniel but went as far as Venor & on his Death it did revert to Col. Samuel Freeman, but all three of their opinions agreed that Col. Freeman had the right, & y^t was enough for me, and so then I went on & filed a Bill in the High Court without fear, it was in October 1735 y^t I filed my Bill, and there was but very few knew all this while w^t I was driving, & they did not speak one word, so that my Bill was very surprising to Col. Murray as well as every one else, & wondered I could contain not making my thoughts known. Col. Murray had Esker & Esker Mooney in his own hands from May 1735 till May 1736 when he gave me the quiet possession of it, but y^t was [not] a legall possession till y^e Judgment in y^e K's B. was vacuated so it was Necessary for me to go on with my suite till I had effected that, but I do not know by what mains it was (but fear it was not fair), I did not get a Commission to examine witnesses till Monday the 24th of 8^r 1737 on w^h Day, Col. John Barrington Robert Chiswell & Elinor Morris his wife & Simon Earson foster-father to Tom Freeman swore & plainly proved y^t Venor Freeman was at least 2 years Older than Thomas Freeman, & Col. Barrington swore to y^e day y^e 30th of Jan. y^t Denis Dougan was Buryed, but he could not sware possatively to the year, but he believed veryly & to y^e Best of his knowledge y^t it was 1721, the Commission was adjourned to Ballynakill Monday y^e 31st of 8^r & there we had summons Doctor Dougan of Kilkenny son to s^d Dennis Dougan who swore y^t his father dyed the 28th day of Jan. 1721 and one Costigan a Shopkeeper at Durrow swore y^t he sold tobacco pipes & Brandy & other necessarys & that for Dennis Dougans weake & funeral & that he Booked 'em & y^t it was the 28th of Jan. 1721, so these 2 with w^t Col. Barrington swore was full sufficient for us, tho we had 4 more y^t knew it as well as those, so y^t it was plain y^t Col. Murray & Ned Ryan y^e Atorney had got those knights of y^e Post to sweare y^t Denis Dougan dyed in March, y^e Beginning of March, that was just to get y^e start of Spranger whom they knew dyed y^e 29th of Feb. 1721. There was perjury in other affairs as well as this for on the tryal they were to prove y^e original Lease & all y^e other deeds, there was one Cullen who swore to his Bro^e Handwriting y^t was dead he said for 40 years, and they said s^d Cullen could neither Read or write.

Robert Meredith of Shrowland Eldest son of Richd. Meredith of Shrowland Esq^{re} by Sarah Paul, my Mothers cousin Germain,

Had for a long time it seems loved my sister, & about 9^r 1730 he made proposals for her, my Mother looked for a much higher fortune & was not fond of this match, but however y^e friends she advised with thought best not to reject it & my sister herself did like it & grew fonder & fonder of it, so that onst when I found things did not answer to w^t they were at first given in at & w^t we always took Coz. Merediths estate to be, I was for Breaking of y^e match & did in a manner put an end to it, but my sister would not suffer it & so it went on Briskly, To be sure they came into all we asked, £350. p. an. jointure, £6000 for younger children & £500 p. an. present maintenance & £500 p. an. & somew^t more after his Fathers death, but it is a rising estate by Leases expiring & so when all things were settled they were marryed by the Rev. Mr. James Higgins on Thursday the 2nd of March 1730. As soon as Mr. Higgins had read prayers at 8 o'clock in the evening in my hall to all my whole family and company about 40 persons in all, Robert Meredith Esq. and Sarah Cosby stood forth & were marryed, his father & mother and sister Margaret were here at Stradbally where they were marryed, it was but a private marryage, no great doings on either side. They stay'd here about 10 or 14 days after they were marryed and then went to Shrowland & stayed there till his sister Margaret was marryed in Summer 1731 to Mr. Charles Burton 3rd son of Benjamin Burton of Burton Hall in county Carlow Esq. late Banker in Dublin. She had £1500 to her fortune more than his did at that time deserved as most people thought, but turned out afterwards very well for he (a wine merchant) was a clever managing man & is now (1737) a very rich. Brother & sis^r Meredith had a mind to take the fort from me with a design to live there y^e greatest part of y^e summer & I had a mind to have him a freeholder of y^e Q.C. & so y^e 2nd of Aprill 1733 I set him a lease of it for his life at £4. p. an. and they went & lived there y^e greatest part of y^e summer after they were married, i.e. 1731 and they built a roome joining the parlour boarded it & ceiled it & plastered it, new thatched all the houses & made some other improvements, but March 1732 they took Shrowland from Coz. Meredith & from that time intirely neglected the fort tho' it was after this they took a lease of it & when I took it from them May 1737, just for want of thatching the stable was quite gone to ruin every Bit dropped down, as was y^e kitchen and cellar & servants rooms and the dwellinghouse was in a woeful condition too. In 9^r 1731 my sister went up to Dublin, I did chance to be in Dublin & they kept me in their house in Grafton Street which they hired for 6 months. 1731 Sarah her eldest daughter (was born) Richard

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her eldest son the 1st of January 1732, Deborah Elionora the
 day of 1733, Dudley her 3rd daughter the day
 of 1734, Hannah the day of 1735,
 Mary the day of 1736. My wife and I were
 Godfather or Godmother to every one of the 6. Brother and
 sister Meredith lived very happily together, for he is a most
 exceeding good humoured man and she is as happy in a
 Husband as she co'd possibly be, or any can be, for her desire
 is his, and tho' his present fortune be not what her fortune
 might immediately expect they are so saving and managing that
 they live in a very handsome way, have their house of Shrow-
 land in very clever order, well furnished, keep coach, chariot,
 four wheeled chair, one horse chair & Ringsend car, 4 clever
 coach geldings, 4 servants in livery besides all other necessary
 servants as Gardener, stuard, &c. & live within their fortune.
 His Father & Mother when he took Shrowland went to live in
 Dublin where they live very prudently & to their great praise
 have managed as well for their children as any parents in the
 world co'd do, for their fortune at first was but small and many
 debts on the estate wh they p^d of & have saved much money for
 their children & allways for all that lived very creditably in
 their country. Mrs. Weldon 2nd wife to Arthur Weldon of
 Rahin Esq. died the day of 173 she was a very
 good sensible woman, her Mother Mrs. Dobbin was as sensible
 old lady as co'd be, and tho' upwards of 80 knew how to make
 herself agreeable to all companions old or young, she died a few
 months before her daughter Weldon.

I shall now give an account of all my grandfather Alexandrew
 Cosby's children and grandchildren as far as I have a knowledge
 of them. He had by his wife Elizabeth as before mentioned 16
 children and 1 dead born, viz. 1 Anne, 2, Elizabeth, 3, Jane,
 4, Dudley, 5, Francis, 6, Henry, 7, Thomas, 8, Loftus, 9 1 dead
 born, 10 Sidney, 11, Hartpole, 12 Alexander, 13, Dorcas, 14,
 William, 15, Isabella, 16, Cecilia, 17 Dorothy.

Anne the Eldest daughter was born the 10th March 1667,
 she was Named after her Father's mother Anne Loftus, she was
 married y^e 14th of March 1690 to James Wall of the county of
 Waterford, younger brother to Garrett Wall of Coolenamucka in
 the County of Waterford Esq^{re} and had issue that lived, first
 Anne who married Theophilus Eaton of Mt. Eaton in the county
 of Killkenny Esq^{re} who had an estate of £700 per annum, My
 Aunt's 2nd daughter Frances married first Williamite Willington
 of Ballymoney in y^e King's Co. Esquire w^h did not live above 18
 months after she married him, she soon after married Mr.
 Christopher Lovet who has now (1737) an employ in y^e Custom

House Dublin, and has good substance, a very deserving man he is, my Aunt's 3rd daughter Elizabeth married one Bowen, a Lieutenant of Horse and pretty good fortune besides, who Dwells near Mullingar in the county of Meath. She did not live long after, she left one son called Hugh, my Aunt Wall had one son called James, and was left by his Father a very good fortune but he not being very wise knew not how to keep it but spent all he got and his Wife's fortune too £500, his Wife was Edgeworth of Longwood's daughter in y^e County Meath, he is in a poor way expecting my Aunt's death that he may get her joynture £100 per annum, she was a most exceeding good woman and woman of vast good sense, and a most diverting commical companion, and one of the most agreeable (conformable to every ones temper) women y^t can be, tho' she be now very near 71 years of age, she was very handsome when young, she lives now 1737 in Dublin with her daughter Lovet.

Elizabeth my G: F: Cosby's second was Born y^e 7th of May 1699, she was called after her Mother's Mother, she was married anno. 1691 to Richard Phillips of Sandy Haven in Pembroke-shire in Walles, he was Captain of Foot in Brigadier Kirks Regt. when she married him, she had by him one son called Cosby, my uncle Gave him a most extraordinary good education and he was one of y^e prettiest young gentlemen y^t I ever heard of, one of very great hopes, but unfortunately he married one Miss Pigot in England a Papist much older than himself, which disoblged my uncle so much that he did [not] in some years see him still he never cared for him afterwards, and he pined at y^t, which brought on him several disorders and he died 1735 and left one son William, y^t I know of, for I saw him at Hanwell when I was there May 1733, he has left more children but I dont know 'em.

My aunt had 3 daughters the eldest Katherine is married to Lord Henry Beauclarc a younger son of the Duke of St. Albans who was son to K: Charles the Second, Althea my aunt Phillips 2nd daughter is married to Sir Peter Soame Bart of Haydon in Cambridgeshire and had one son, when I was at Hanwell in May 1733. Elizabeth the 3rd daughter married in 1735 very unfortunately my uncle's own man and is discarded & not named. My Aunt had more children but they dyed young, my Uncle was as s^d before but a Captain when he married, but he rose by merit to a regiment of Foot in 1712, and on Q: Anne's death when Sir Robert Walpole came in play as Prime Minister of State to King George the 1st, my uncle being second cousin to my Lady Walpole thereby had good interest, and in 1719 got the Governm^t of New Scotland, and lately in 1730 was removed

from y^t & got the Government of Annapolis Royal w^h is much more valuable, and he is very rich to be sure, though he lost at least £6000 by Col. Richard Gardner. My aunt in 1720, while he was at his Governm^t of New Scotland for the first time, purchased from my Lord Grandison the house and gardens and lands at Hanwell where they have lived ever since. Uncle Phillips is a mighty grave fine gentleman, a man of great good sense and indeed very affect^e to his wifes relations when in sight, my aunt was in her youth a mighty Beautyfull woman, vastly good humoured and good Natured and allways most exceedingly affectionate and kind to me and she has that report from all her relations that ever went to see her, she and all her family never were in Ireland sence y^e year 1703.

Jane my great G: F: Cosby's 3rd daughter dyed long ago, we don't know where, she went of no one ever knew where, for missdemeanours she committed and was scarcely at least not certainly ever heard of.

Dudly my father my grandfather Cosby's first son was born the 2nd of May 1672. There need nothing to be said of here only how he came to be called Dudly which never was the name of any of the family or anyone that was related to the family. In Autumn 1671 my grandfather Alexander Cosby went over to London, when he left my grandmother, neither she nor he knew that she was with child, while he was in London one night as he lay in bed his chamber door was opened and there came to his Bedside and opened the curtains a Bishop and told my G: F: y^t his wife was with child and y^t it was a boy and bid him call him Dudley for he would be y^e greatest man that ever was of his name and so shut y^e curtains again and went to the door and then turned back again & opened y^e curtains the 2nd time and s^d be sure you call him Dudley and so went away. My G: F: did suppose it was y^e ghost of his Mothers Grandfather Adam Loftus Archbishop of Armagh and Lord High Chancellor of Ireland, my Grandfather did immediately write to my Grandmother w^t had appeared to him & w^t it said and did desire y^t y^e child might be called Dudley. My Grandmother and everyone Else did and doth believe y^t y^e apparition he said appeared to him because of his not having any y^e Least knowledge that my Grandmother was with child when he left her, y^t my father was the greatest man that ever was before him of his family is very true, if haveing a greater fortune co'd make him so.

Francis my grandfather Cosby's 2nd son was born 1673, he was called after his Fathers Father, he died young.

Henry my Grand Father Cosby's 3rd son was Born 1675, he was Called after his Mothers father, he married agst all his

Friends consent very mainly one Charity Higgins only daughter to James Higgins an Inn Keeper in Athy, she was sister of the Revd. Mr. James Higgins now (1737) Vicar of Stradbally, he had by her one son and 3 Daughters, viz. Alexander, Elizabeth, Katherine and Charity, he had more but they dyed. My uncle Harry with part of his wife's fortune £500 purchased a Lieutenancy of Foot and went to Spain and by a drinking bout threw himself into a fever and dyed in 1705 so left his wife four children, whom she maintained and educated pretty well by the help of a profitable Farm 2 miles from Athy (Skerres) and her portion £25 per annum and when my uncle Will got his Regiment in 1717 he sent my Father word to send Sandy Cosby his Brot: Harry's son to him to Portmahon and he would take care of him, so my Father with much ado got his mother to consent y^t he sho'd go, for it was with all y^e do in y^e world that she wo'd let, for she said y^t it was only y^t he might be killed and put out of the way that he might not inherit his Fathers estate when I dyed, for she always talked of it as if she was sure it wo'd happen, but however he went and my Father Rigged him out with clothes from Top to toe and gave money to Bare his charges to Portmahon, where when he got my uncle Will allowed him 3 mens pay till a pair of Colours dropped & then gave him y^t & made him presents so much y^t my uncle Will told me in London in 1724 y^t he then had actually stood him in £500, in 1726 my uncle was at Portmahon and Sandy was vastly stobborn and disrespectfull by layin his hand on his sword on my uncles speaking sharply to him as his uncle, this disoblged my uncle Will so much that he never after took any kind of Notice of him, In 1731 when my uncle got y^e Governm^t of New York, he then expected y^t my uncle would make him a great man by his New Governm^t, and he came over to England but before he Left Portmahon he was made a Lieutenant in the same Regiment, Sir Charles Hothams, who got it on my uncle Will's getting y^e Governm^t of N York, so came to England to humble himself to my Uncle and he did all he Possibly could to get my uncles favor again but all to no purpose, for he wo'd never he was determined take the least notice of him, so Sandy now found y^t he had been the mains by his own arrogant imprudent behaviour to ruin his fortune by disoblging his Uncle Will & and that he had lost all y^e interest and hopes of rising and making himself greater and so he could never hope to be much better than Lieutenant, and could blame nobody but himself, and he being immensely proud could not Brooke to a little fortune, for he thought himself deserving of the very greatest, in short I believe this it was that turned his head first, and after this it was, he

came to me to Bristoll, if he had had no pride he wo'd have been an happy man and would have been very agreeable for he had a good judgment and good sense, and had made very good use of his time all the while he was abroad, he spoak and understood Spanish and French perfectly well and was well skilled in many Branches of the mathematicks and had a very sharp observation, and discoursed after a very agreeable manner, before he had his flights. I told before how he dyed so would not repeat it here, only at the time he shot himself he had in his Pocket Book which was in his pocket a piece of paper on wh was fresh wrote with a lead pencil, *viz. the rise and cause of all my Misfortune is owing to the treachery Falsehood ill usage and ill language of Col. William Cosby.* How unjust this was and how ungrateful anyone may be convinced by reading a few of y^e foregoing pages wh in my soul and conscience I do believe to be true or would not for anything write it in this Book, nothing could be more false, for wt he had he got entirely from Col. Wm. Cosby of his own free gift and he had no one but himself to Blame if my uncle Will took no notice of him. Treachery and falsehood, my uncle co'd not be guilty of to him he was above it and acted openly with him and told him his error in a dispute he had with his Capt and spoke sharply to him as his uncle and not as Colonel wh is w^t he called ill usage and ill language. His sisters 3;—the eldest marryed a tanner a ninyhammer of a man who had no head to carry on his trade, his name was R Gant, he was foreman of a tanyard and lived but very poorly and dyed autumn 1734 and left her two sons, more of her anon. Katherine the 2nd married one Hunt a farmer, an honest man but poor, and in 1726 he sold all and away they went to New England, and when my Uncle Will was at New York he was very kind to them and made them a present of a pattent for a large piece of land which in time may be a good estate, and we hear that they are in a thriving way. Charity the 3rd never marryed. My mother took her when she was a girl and bound her prentice to a Top Mantua maker in Dublin and gave 10 guineas with her, when she was out of her time instead of staying in Dublin and working journey work she came to her uncle y^e Rev^d Mr. Higgins at Stradbally and there she lived till summer 1734 when they for her misbehaviour, and so when we came from England in Sept. 1734 we took her & wo'd have kept her if she had been humble obligeing agreeable good humoured woman, but we found her to be y^e reverse, so I resolved on a way to put her & her sister Gant, just a widdow in a way of getting their livelyhood, she was by trade a mantua maker, and her sister Gant a notable stirring woman, worked

plain work very well, and quilted and co'd do many things to Bring in a penny, so I took a house for 'em in Waterford and was to pay y^e rent £5 per annum for 3 years, I furnished this house very handsomely, Good new things of all sorts and kinds wh altogether cost me at least £60, and in three years I Really believe they got at least £40. more from me one way or another, and all I required of them was to live togather in love, but they were so Damnably tempered that there was not the least love between 'em but y^e reverse, they were continually at variance and quarelling parted, & so renounced 'em and will never take any notice of 'em, nor will I ever give either of them one groat. Their Mother a strange perverse damnably tempered woman as ever was, not worth a groat, but is in the garb of a beggarr madwoman, and gos about wherever she thinks anyone will give her a piece of money, wo'd not stay in one place though she should live as well as anyone of £100 per annum, she will take no advice not be said by anyone, or else I would (she being my uncle's widow) maintain her at a tenants, I used to give her a piece of gold once or twice a year, but since 1734 she proves absolutely preverse and will live no life but that wandering one. I have not given her a doit and I do believe I never will. I am sure y^t in 3 years time she, her son and 2 daughters got from my mother, wife and me at least £200. and are not this day the 1st of Novr. 1737 a jot better.

Thomas my G: F: Cosby's 4th son was Born anno. 1676 he was called after his grandmother Anne Loftus's father Sir Thomas Loftus 3rd son of Adam Loftus, Lord Archbishop of Armagh & Lord High Chancelor of Ireland, My Father bound him apprentice in Dublin to a wholesale Grocer, but when his time was out he chose rather to lay out his fortune on a Commission in the Army than stocking a shop, and so purchased a Lieutenancy of Foot & so soon rose to be a Captain, but before he went into the army he married Jane Mansfield a widow whose maiden name was Loftus, she was half sister to Nicholas Loftus of Loftus Hall in y^e County Waxford (whose son on marrying Sir Gustaves Humes eldest Daughter changed his name to Hume) my uncle Tom had by her 2 Daughters, viz., Jane and Ann before he went abroad. His wife had £50 p. an. joynture, he was a very droll comical humourous man, and very good humoured & was much beloved by everyone y^t knew him, and after he got a Capt. Commission was made Paymaster in Flanders to the Regiment which did prove his Ruin, for he managed so ill y^t he was obliged to sell his Company for to pay the debts he had run himself into by the misapplication of the Regiments money & to London he went to finish his Bargain for

his Company, for wh he got £1,100 in 1713, but behold, instead of Applying all the £1,100 to pay his debts he spent the greatest part of it. The rest he did not spend went to pay his debts but that was But little, he spent it in the gayeties of London so y^t now, y^t is 1714 he was worth nothing & owed some hundreds. Q: Anne dyed the 1st of August 1714 & as I said before in page my Father gave him up his Company in Whitemans Regmt, but this was not much advantage to him for when his creditors found he had something they never left teasing him till he sold y^t Company, which was in 1719, and after all his debts were p^d he had about £400. Left with which he purchased y^e Portmajorship & Storekeeper-ship of Anapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, my Uncle Phillips's Governm^t, and thither he went in 1720 & stayed there till Spring 1727 when he was obliged by his ill state of health to leave it, for he had been so free with himself while in Flanders and afterwards y^t y^e disorder he had was made infinitely worse by so cold a climate which occasioned y^e loss of his eye When my Father went to live at Esker 1728 he, hearing y^t my Uncle Tom was come to London & he somew^t lonesome wrote over for my Uncle Tom to come & live with him, for he thought he sho'd be well diverted & happy in having him for a companion, so Xmas. 1728 he came to my father to Esker, but alas! never man was so disappointed as my Father was, for instead of being a comfort he was the reverse, & gave my Father more trouble than anything that ever happen'd him for y^e terrible spectacle y^t his disorder had brought him too made my Father Malancholly and he had not left of his follys which grieved my Fr^{..}. When my Father dyed y^e 24th of May 1729 I invited him to my house, made him a present of my Fa's furniture, swords, Pistols, and other things & behaved as kind as I cou'd, but his disorder Growing worse, I gave him £15. to go to Dublin to the Doctors to see & get himself cured, but he spent the money triflingly and but little for y^e benefit of his Health & came back as bad as he went, and the cold of the Winter 1729 made him very Bad, so I got a relation to persuade him to go live with my aunt Weldon at Roscumrow in the K. County and that I would give him £20. p. an: but however he was a long while thinking of it for he did not go till May 1731, he had about £60 p. an. duly paid him which was part of his pay as Fort Major of Anapolis Royal, the other part he was obliged to allow y^e person that did his duty at Anapolis and in Feby 1731 one Mr. Baldwin who lived in London (& had been his servant in Flanders & to whom when in his Power he had been most exceeding kind) advanced him £200 which with his posts at Anapolis he gave to a half pay Captain for his half pay as Captain of Foot on the English

establishment. My uncle now had above £100 p. an. but some part of it went to repay Mr. Baldwin which he stipulated should be repaid him & as much as he required sho'd be paid him was paid him by Xmas. 1734 so then my uncle had clear £100. p. an.

In May 1732 he did not like living at Rosscomrow besides there was not room for him, my Aunts eldest son being married & so he resolved to go live with his wife in Waxford & there he went and Lived with her & before this from the time he first left her that he had y^e 2 children by her w^h was about y^e year 1705 he never had been to live with her not many nights anywhere, nay! he was often for many years and never set his eyes on her, nor did he see her from this last time he came into y^e Kingdom which was Xmas 1728 till May 1732 which is more than 4 years, so y^t he lived asunder from her for 33 years and had not any Disgust or cause of disgust to her, nor did he in this 33 years give her £33, but she lived on her joynture (which indeed he left to her) of £50. p. an: and his two daughters lived on that. She was a woman of very sense and breeding and was impatient at his conduct to her, as she had good reason, but wo'd have been more happy co'd she have disregarded him. She behaved herself prudently and managed her £50 p. an. surpriseingly and educated and Brought up her & his 2 daughters genteely, she died ab^t May 1734 ab^t 2 years after He went to live with her. After he went to y^e county of Waxford he got himself salevated & was perfectly well seemingly of his disorder & grew very fat, but was not temperate which was w^t wo'd have preserved his life & on the 15th May 1735 he dyed (just after he had eat his dinner) sitting in his chair, he was a very drole Comical Humorous Man, and a great mimic, vastly Good humoured, never out of humour, did I see him, he played well on y^e violin & Bagpipes, was as lavishly Generous as a Prince, thought ill of no one, he knew not at all when to spend and when to spare, he thought not long beforehand of anything, if he was happy the present moment y^t was all he thought of, till the last 2 or 3 years he led as pleasant a life as he desired, & in truth had a great deal of pleasure in his time. He left 2 daughters Anne & Jane but not one farthing in the world were they the better for him in his life or at his death except his old cloaths & 2 very good girls they were, they lived with their mothers friends. Jane y^e youngest with Col. Nicholas Loftus of Loftus hall, her half uncle, the other Anne with one Dr. Wamsly in Armagh. My uncle Tom's company was courted and liked by everyone, every one rejoiced when Tom Cosby came to their house or into their company, he was nobodys enemy but his own & his familys, nor did he ever do hurt to anyone else.

(To be continued.)