

## The Constables of Limerick Castle.

Prepared by Brian Hodkinson , Asst. Curator.

The following list is compiled from a wide variety of sources so the level of information is consequently somewhat varied. The three documents naming constables in the Black Book of Limerick are all undated. To get a rough date for these it was necessary to consider others named in the documents to see if they appeared in dated documents. These names are inserted where deemed appropriate. Others are listed with a range of known dates. In many cases where there is a single mention in a document, the constable may have been in position for some time before and continued in place afterwards. In the case of exchequer payments these are given as covering a fixed period, but the same caveat applies except where it is obvious from the list. In the latter part of the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Desmond monopoly was institutionalised by making the position hereditary, however this was lost in Silken Thomas?

The position of constable of the castle was often combined with that of sheriff of Limerick. Where this is certain the name is followed by an (S)

(Updated 28-04-10 and 18-06-10; new info thanks to Sonia)

AH	Analecta Hibernica
BBL.	Black Book of Limerick
CCR	Calendar of Charter Rolls
CDI	Calendar of Documents Ireland
CJR	Calendar of Justiciary Rolls
CPR	Calendar of Patent Rolls
FR	Fine Rolls
IEP	Irish Exchequer Payments
RDKPRI	Report of the Deputy Keeper of Records Ireland
RIA	Royal Irish Academy

DP= During Pleasure

GB=Good Behaviour

To 1207 William de Braose<sup>1</sup>. Orpen Normans

1215 Godeberto de Rupe<sup>2</sup>

1217 Reginald de Brewosa<sup>3</sup> to hold it to 14H3

1223-6 Richard de Burgo 1223 DP<sup>4</sup>

Radolpho de Ballyganeran<sup>5</sup>

c1230-40 Reginald de Sancto Jacobo?<sup>6</sup>

1232 Peter de Rivallis; grant of city and castle for life.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Orpen, Normans

<sup>2</sup> BBL p. 104 CXXVI. The document is from the reign of John, with Edmund as bishop and Geoffrey de Marisco as Justiciar The names date it to 1215.

<sup>3</sup> CPR 1216-25, pp. 112 & 132; CDI 1, p. 118 nos. 787 and 789 and p. 121 no. 814

<sup>4</sup> CPR 1216-25, pp. 375, 470 & 526; CDI 1, p. 170, no. 1114, p. 185 no. 1216 and p. 218 no. 1443, latter mentions L the only castle to be held for the King.

<sup>5</sup> BBL p. 86 XCVII. One of the witnesses witnessed documents in late 1220's and 1230s

<sup>6</sup> BBL, p 53, LXII & p. 101, CXXI. Document dating to 1230's names him as seneschal. Titles often interchangeable, could be constable but possibly provost, see my article. On provosts

1233 Richard de Burg surrenders castle to crown to pass on to Rivallis<sup>8</sup>  
 1234-5 John of Lexington<sup>9</sup>  
 1245 Philip de Inteberg, to deliver castle to justiciar<sup>10</sup>  
 Pre 1254 Sir Richard de Rochester<sup>11</sup>  
 1254 Edward son of Henry III<sup>12</sup>  
 1275 Hugh Purcel for custody of castle Easter term<sup>13</sup>  
 1275 Walter de la Haye<sup>14</sup>  
 1276 Thomas de Clare to deliver castle to justiciar<sup>15</sup>  
 pre1280 Robert Bagod, pardon to, named as “sometime constable”, possibly  
 preceding Thomas the Chaplain<sup>16</sup>  
 1279-80 Thomas the Chaplain; check date/ check what he is as well<sup>17</sup>  
 1280-1283 Nicholas Botevylein, pay for period Michaelmas 1280 to Easter 1283<sup>18</sup>  
 1297 Richard Weytham<sup>19</sup>  
 1300-07 Thomas de St. John, 28-12-00 to 25-12-07<sup>20</sup>  
 1307-08 Cambinus Donati, former keeper; Christmas 1307-24 Aug 1308 £4-4-8.<sup>21</sup>  
 1308 William son of Philip.<sup>22</sup> DP  
 1308 William son of John (S)<sup>23</sup>  
 1310-12 John of Athy<sup>24</sup>, John de Ascy<sup>25</sup>  
 1314-1316 John de Langeton fee 17-04-14 to 1-8-16 £15<sup>26</sup>  
 1318-19 David de la Launde part payment fee 1-6-18 to 1-6-19<sup>27</sup>  
 1319-21 James de Bellafago, fee of £13-6-8 for the period 2-5-19 to 2-5-21<sup>28</sup>  
 1322-25 William de Weston 7-12-22 to 16-12-25<sup>29</sup>  
 1325-26 Thomas son of Hugh de Lees 8-8-25 to 8-5-26<sup>30</sup>  
 1326-27 William de Wyncestre 28-11-26 to 5-2-27<sup>31</sup>  
 1327 Robert Lees 6-2-27 to 6-5-27<sup>32</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> CCR I, p. 167; CPR 1225-32, p. 495; CDI 1, p. 293, no. 1969, p. 294 no. 1971 and p. 295 no. 1976

<sup>8</sup> CPR 1232-47, p. 9; CDI 1, p. 299, no. 2009.

<sup>9</sup> RDKPRI Vol. 35 p. 35

<sup>10</sup> CDI 1, p. 417, no. 2792.

<sup>11</sup> CDI, p. 476 no. 472. Document dated 1255, Edward son of Henry III ordered arrears to be paid.

<sup>12</sup> CDI 2, p. 59 no. 371, p. 60 no 380 and p. 64 no. 406. As he never came to Limerick it is assumed he had a deputy.

<sup>13</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 5; CDI 2, p. 180, no. 1038

<sup>14</sup> CPR 1272-81, p. 128; CDI 2, p. 215 to hold it as long as he behaves responsibly and faithfully.

<sup>15</sup> CPR 1272-81, p. 149; CDI 2, p. 229 no. 1258.

<sup>16</sup> CPR 1272-81, p. 384

<sup>17</sup> RDKPRI Vol 36 p 51

<sup>18</sup> CDI 3, p. 369. Document dated 1290.

<sup>19</sup> CJR 1295-1303, p. 117

<sup>20</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, pp. 182, 186, 190, 193, 200 & 590; CJR 2 p. 189 & 405 and CJR 3, p. 17; also CDI 5, p. 148 nos. 486 & 487, p. 165 no. 572, p. 185 no. 639, p. 198 no. 671 and p. 201 no. 691.

<sup>21</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p 596

<sup>22</sup> FR, 2 p. 24

<sup>23</sup> CJR 3, p. 115

<sup>24</sup> FR, 2, pp. 55 & 135; Philomena Connolly, Irish Material in the Class of Ancient Petitions, AH Vol. 34 p. 20.

<sup>25</sup> Document dated 1312, National Archive, Kew SC 8/89/4429

<sup>26</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p252

<sup>27</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 260

<sup>28</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, p. 276

<sup>29</sup> IEP Vol. I 1270-1326, pp. 294, 297, 301 & 306

<sup>30</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 320 & 333; The 4-month overlap with Weston cannot be explained unless there is an error in transcription.

<sup>31</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 320 & 324

1327-34 William Skelton. At pleasure? Extended to grant for life 1329; some gaps in dates<sup>33</sup>  
 1330 John le White citizen of L. to repair wall<sup>34</sup>  
 1331 Adam de Fetherstanhalgh<sup>35</sup>  
 1332 Constable killed by escaped prisoners<sup>36</sup>  
 1334-36 William de Swyneford, 19-10-34 to 19-10-36<sup>37</sup>  
 1336-43 John Dufford; June 1336 DP, then for 6 yrs 20-03-37, arrears 12-7-37 to 12-1-1340 & 12-7-42 to 12-1-43<sup>38</sup>  
 1342-60 Peter de Okebourn 24-12-42 to 24-12-60<sup>39</sup>  
 1361-62 Roger Berde, Sept to Sept.<sup>40</sup>  
 1363-73 John de Beverley, March 1363 to March 1364<sup>41</sup>  
 1373-74 John Corbet 8-3-73 to 8-12-74<sup>42</sup>  
 1382 Thomas Brightrich.<sup>43</sup>  
 1394-1399 William Braunspath; grant for life to hold himself or by deputy; 1399 replacement of letters<sup>44</sup>  
 1413 John Barry<sup>45</sup>  
 1422 Earl of Desmond<sup>46</sup>  
 1427 Mayor & council; custody for 10yrs<sup>47</sup>  
 pre 1441 Thomas Frank surrendered<sup>48</sup>  
 1441-1446 (-62?) Nicholas Arthur, for life; 1446 inspeximus.<sup>49</sup>  
 1462 Earl of Desmond, for life. Ref to Arthur's fees; check Arthur MS<sup>50</sup>  
 1476 James Earl of Desmond; for life<sup>51</sup>  
 1488 Maurice Earl of Desmond; for life<sup>52</sup>  
 1494 James Ormond, in tail mail; 1496 king to mayor etc<sup>53</sup>  
 1523-1551 Sir William Wyse<sup>54</sup>  
 1551 Andrew Wyse<sup>55</sup>

---

<sup>32</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 324

<sup>33</sup> CPR 1327-30, pp. 28 & 361; also IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 329, 333, 341, 345, 350, 356, 363, 368, 370, 613 & 616.

<sup>34</sup> CPR 1327-30, p. 545

<sup>35</sup> CPR 1330-34, p. 83

<sup>36</sup> Annals of St. Mary's Dublin Vol. II, p. 378 and Book of Howth, p. 159

<sup>37</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 377, 383 & 620

<sup>38</sup> FR, 4 p.486; CPR 1334-38, p. 271; FR, 5 p. 9; also IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 416

<sup>39</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, pp. 403, 412, 416, 419, 425, 434, 447, 453, 459, 463, 467, 479, 491, 497 & 504

<sup>40</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 511

<sup>41</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 516, for 1 yrs. wages. A 1374 reference, FR, 8 p. 263, states he had surrendered his position the previous may..

<sup>42</sup> IEP Vol. II 1326-1446, p. 529

<sup>43</sup> Begley, Diocese of Limerick Vol 1 p. 237

<sup>44</sup> CPR 1391-96, p. 502; CPR 1396-99 p. 567

<sup>45</sup> CPR 1413-16, p. 48

<sup>46</sup> Fitzgerald and McGregor p. 94. (Thanks Sonja)

<sup>47</sup> CPR 1422-29, p. 390 see also David Lee (ed), 1997, Remembering Limerick, p.91; See AH Vol 34, op. cit. p. 43, for original petition from mayor etc

<sup>48</sup> CPR 1436-41, p. 529

<sup>49</sup> CPR 1436-41, p. 529; CPR 1446-52, p. 4. The later 15<sup>th</sup> century will of a Nicholas Arthur is recorded in the Arthur Manuscript (N. Munster Antiquarian Journal 1958, Vol. 8 No. 1 p. 3)

<sup>50</sup> CPR 1461-67, p. 196

<sup>51</sup> CPR 14?????????????- ????????, p. 595

<sup>52</sup> CPR 1485-94, p. 232

<sup>53</sup> CPR 1485-94, p. 464; Cal Ormond Deeds III, p. 281; PRO Dublin D1877

<sup>54</sup> Lenihan p 52

1556-7 Richard Chichester<sup>56</sup>DP  
1576 Hercules Rainsforde<sup>57</sup>DP  
157? Andrew Creagh<sup>58</sup>  
1580 James Spenscer<sup>59</sup>DP  
1580 Robert Longe<sup>60</sup>DP  
1582-1585 John Bleake<sup>61</sup>  
1588 Richard Chichester DP<sup>62</sup>  
1590 –1596 John Bleeke<sup>63</sup>GB  
1596-7 John Dunnet<sup>64</sup>GB  
1597 Capt. Francis Barckley<sup>65</sup>  
1605-1608 George Blundell<sup>66</sup>  
1610 Maueice Barckley<sup>67</sup>  
1622 George Courtenay<sup>68</sup>  
1644-1662 Roger Earl of Orrery<sup>69</sup>  
1679 Viscount Blessington<sup>70</sup>  
1692-1700 Sir William King<sup>71</sup>  
1700-1714 Brigadier General Richard Ingoldsby<sup>72</sup>  
1714-1727 George Lord Carbury<sup>73</sup>  
1727-1739 Sir Standish Hartstonge<sup>74</sup>  
1739-1749 George Lord Carbury<sup>75</sup>  
1749-1780 Thomas 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Southwell<sup>76</sup>  
1780-1795 Edward Stopford<sup>77</sup>  
1795-1809 Hon William Cockayne<sup>78</sup>  
1809-1842 Colonel Vereker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Viscount Gort<sup>79</sup>  
1842 abolished<sup>80</sup>

---

<sup>55</sup> Fiants Edward VI, No??????, Lenihan p 52, Cal of Patent and Close Rolls (find page)

<sup>56</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 1205, Lenihan p 52

<sup>57</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 2803, Lenihan p 52

<sup>58</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>59</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 3645, Lenihan p 52

<sup>60</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 3660, Lenihan p 52

<sup>61</sup> Lambeth palace N2796P1698; Fiants Elizabeth No 4792, a lease mentions him as constable, Lenihan p 52

<sup>62</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 5261, Lenihan p 52

<sup>63</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 5407; Lenihan p 52; Hampshire County Record Office 44M69/E3

<sup>64</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 6062, vacant by death of Bleake

<sup>65</sup> Fiants Elizabeth No 6154, vacant by death of Dunnet; Lenihan p 52

<sup>66</sup> RIA Ms 24D4 (1035)Lenihan p 52

<sup>67</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>68</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>69</sup> Patent 1644, PRO Dublin D19793; 1662 Harvard Ms Eng 218; Lenihan p 52

<sup>70</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>71</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>72</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>73</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>74</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>75</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>76</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>77</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>78</sup> Lenihan p 52

<sup>79</sup> Lenihan p 52 Cockayne refused to go in dispute Fortescue; Vereker appointed 1806; Manuscript HMC Vol. 8 1912, p. 139

<sup>80</sup> Lenihan p 52