

LADY ANNE OF CLONTARF



A Summary of Research from 2001 to 2015
By Joseph Oliver

The mysterious “Lady Anne” is arguably the most famous figure in our Carlino side of the family, even though we don’t know anything about her. We all know *of* her because of the stories my mom and her siblings heard from their revered grandmother Jessie J. Koplik (ne. Curtis). Jessie is their mother’s mother. Jessie spoke often of Lady Anne, saying that Lady Anne was her 3rd great grandmother (or the 5th great grandmother of my mom Dawn, Aunt Pat, Aunt Ali, and Uncle Pat).

The reason why awareness of Lady Anne persists is due to her belongings, handed down through generations of the eldest daughters: a portrait, ring of two oval rubies and four seed pearls, silhouettes, and a wedding dress (The dress disintegrated to dust around 1933).



Since 2001 I have been striving to find out the exact identity of Lady Anne. With the help of many RootsChat forum members, a trove of exciting facts about Jessie Koplik's Scots/Irish ancestors have been found. However, it seems that the closer we get to Lady Anne, the less progress occurs. Since 2014, the connection of Lady Anne to our family has stalled - tantalizingly close, yet so far away.

The Carlino siblings recall Jessie saying that Lady Anne was Scotch-Irish, and that she was from the castle pronounced something like "Glen Tarff", Ireland

Aunt Pat said that although Anne is referred to as "Lady", she believes that such an appellation is incorrect, saying that she thinks that only the wife of a lord is called such, and she understood that Lady Anne's husband was not a lord, but an Earl, the Earl of Glen Tarff, and he was Earl of a castle: Glen Tarff Castle.

The actual name and location of the town, as well as the Carlino sibling's Scots/Irish ancestry, was revealed through the marriage record of Jessie's maternal grandparents James Francis Burke and Jessie Sophia Sutherland, of Ireland and Scotland, respectively. They were married in Clontarf, Ireland, a very small coastal town attached to the northeast corner of Dublin.



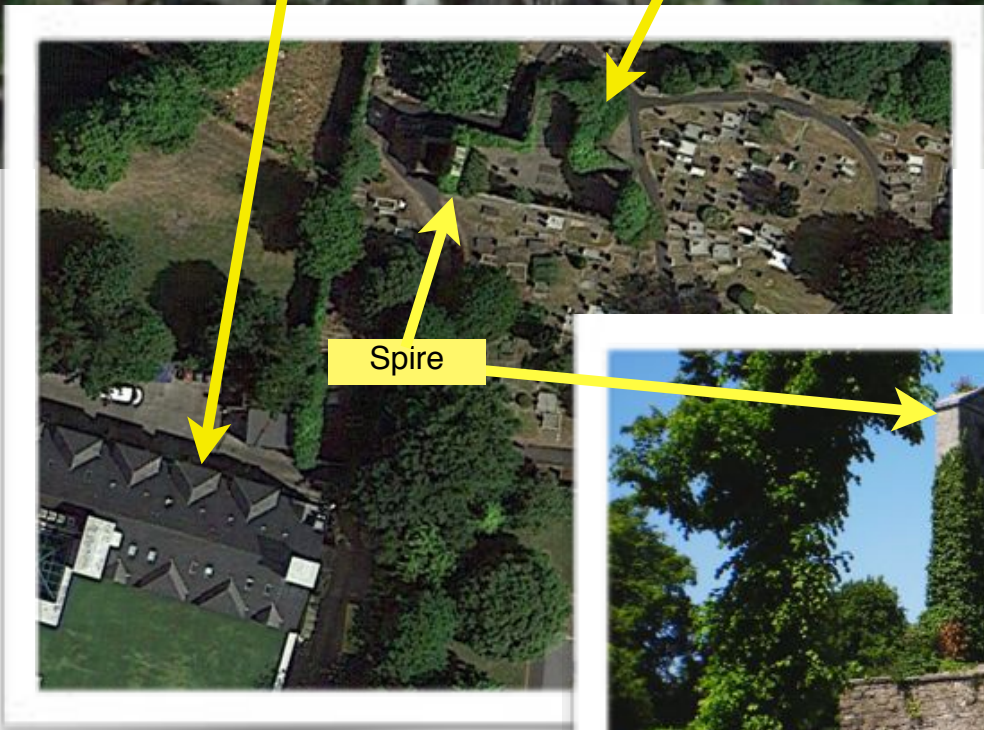
James was born in Dublin July 20, 1829. Jessie was born September 3, 1828, place unknown.



For some reason, circumstances brought the two to Clontarf parish, where they married April 20 1850. It is eerie to see the location of the church, just a few steps from the castle itself (see maps opposite and below).

Their United Church of England marriage record shows "John, gentleman" as JFB's father. Jessie's father, also John, was a captain in the army, so perhaps his service brought his family to live in Dublin or nearby.

Very unfortunately, the marriage record of James ("Gentleman") and Jessie ("Spinster") reveals nothing about their mother's names, making the tracing of their parents - and connection to Lady Anne - unsuccessful to date.



And as far as Clontarf Castle residents go, research is fairly conclusive that there are no likely candidates, considering all the factors, that would have been known as “Lady Anne.”

Just five months after their wedding, James and Jessie sailed from Liverpool to Philadelphia, arriving on October 3rd aboard the Bark Falcon. Between then and 1855, they had settled in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Based on Jessie Koplik’s birth year of 1875, and her claim that Lady Anne was her 3rd great grandmother, I’ve calculated Lady Anne’s birth year to be about 1768, give or take 15 or so years. Generation wise, she would be a grandmother to James Francis.

Since James Francis Burke is the connection to the Clontarf part of our family’s “Lady Anne” story, and the last ancestor we can clearly identify toward connection to our “Lady Anne”, further connection depends on discovering JFB’s parents. As of a couple of years ago, my efforts and those of RootsChat members and one professional researcher have yielded no results. (See attached report). Hopefully I will someday get more time and find more online resources to make progress on identifying JFB’s parents, and grandparents.

While Lady Anne is said to be Jessie Koplik’s 3rd Great Grandmother, the dearth of evidence connecting James Francis Burke by blood to any of the very few “Lady Annes” living in Clontarf makes me wonder if this Lady was simply a close friend of the family, perhaps an “honorary” mother.



Portrait done in 1796, when Anne was 16

Anne Caulfield, Lady Charlemont, is intriguing in this regard. She was a longtime Clontarf resident by 1850, when James and Jessie left Clontarf for the US. In name, title, era, age and proximity to Clontarf Castle, she is the perfect fit. Renowned as Europe’s beauty by her acquaintance Lord Byron, Anne ne Bermingham was born in Galway in 1780 and died in Clontarf 1876.

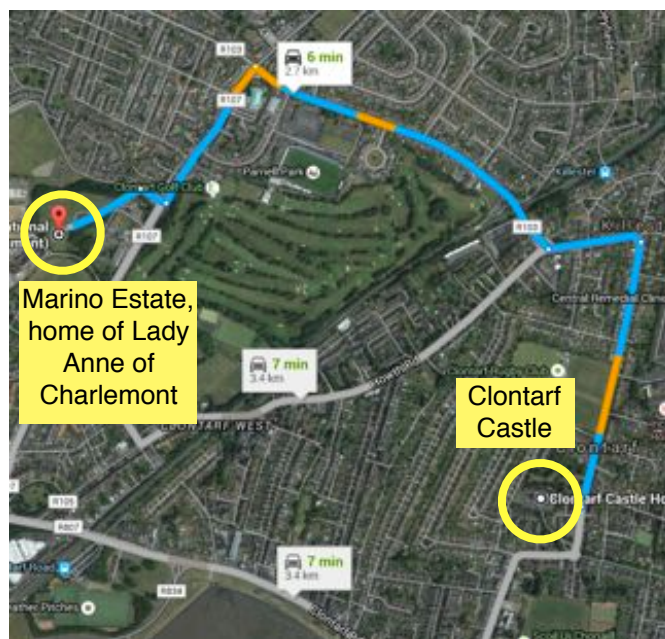


Lady Charlemont at 25 with son James, by Thomas Lawrence c. 1805

She was the wife of Francis William, Lord Caulfield, second Earl of Charlemont. They married in 1802. Her Wikipedia page contains many interesting links: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Caulfield,_Lady_Charlemont

The Lady and Earl lived just a few kilometers northwest of Clontarf castle, in the famous Casino Marino (*small house*), built for Francis William's father, the famous first Earl of Charlemont. The first Earl crammed it full of cultural and literary artifacts. Francis inherited the estate, and died there in 1863. His widow, Lady Charlemont, still residing at Marino on upper Grosvenor street, died at the age of 95 on November 24th, 1876. (The structure still stands as a national monument).

Her lauded beauty and status as heiress to one of Ireland's high heroes are just two facts telling of Lady Charlemont as a well-known resident of Clontarf. As such, it's possible that there was a friendship between the 70 year-old Lady and James and Jessie in 1850. Perhaps they met at John the Baptist Church, in the shadow of Clontarf Castle. If the artifacts ARE hers, it's likely that she was a guest at their April wedding, where everyone knows James and Jessie are leaving for the states. "Oh, going to America? Well here, I'm an old lady: I don't need this dress anymore and your lovely wife looks great in it." Or, maybe the Lady had made a gift of a wedding dress to the bride before her marriage. Who knows? "And take this portrait and this ring. I've got others and you've always liked them."



With Francis and Anne's four offspring dying as young children, and the lack of any other family connection so far, there does not seem to be any blood linking Lady Charlemont to James Francis Burke or his bride.

Very interesting though, that JFB's middle name is Francis, which is the first name of Lady Charlemont's husband.

It's also very interesting that through years of researching multiple branches of family history, I became grateful that our James Burke was easy to trace in historical records due to the very frequent inclusion of his middle initial F. It became apparent to me that this was deliberate on his part: he was either trying to stand out from the other James Burkes (a danged common Irish name), or, he was simply *proud* of his middle name).

So what? Maybe he was both proud of his name AND wanted to stand out. Big deal.

The Big Deal happens when we combine the above three items (no *direct* family connection, the name "Francis" shared between Lady Anne's husband and the local guy who's wife brought Lady Anne's artifacts to America, and James F. Burke seemingly proud of his middle name) together with a fourth: according to the book PARALLEL LIVES by Phyllis Rose, Francis William was notoriously unfaithful to Anne.

Perhaps infidelity is the path around the stone wall I've been up against for the last few years.

Let's start by following that path by imagining a scenario based on infidelity's obvious conclusion: illegitimate offspring. It's early 1829. Lord Francis is 54 years old. Lady Charlemont is 49 years old. Among their close local friends are a Mr. John Burke and his beautiful young wife. Anne discovers that Mrs. Burke is pregnant by the Earl, and the child turns out to be a boy. John Burke is oblivious, and is so enamored with

the Earl that he gives his son the name Francis as his middle name. Anne makes sure that her philandering jerk of a husband provides his namesake with gifts, money, an education, etc. Throughout the years, Lady Charlemont maintains a good relationship with Mrs. Burke and young James Francis, and at the time of James Francis's wedding, provides his bride Jessie with a beautiful dress and ring.

In this relationship, Lady Anne would be the equivalent of a stepmother to James Francis Burke. Age-wise and generation-wise, she would be more like a grandmother, which coincides exactly with my family's story of "Lady Anne" being my mother's 5th great grandmother.

This scenario really stretches things, I know, but consider...

A) The math works out.

B) Infidelity does result in illegitimate offspring.

C) The proximity and timing of *Lady Anne* Charlemont with Clontarf Castle, James and Jessie are more than favorable.

In the absence of any direct connections between Lady Anne and James F. Burke, this convoluted connection appears as the most likely one. I have felt Lady Anne's love bringing my family together in the present age, so many years after her passing. Even under such painful circumstances as I've just described, wouldn't Lady Ann pull her "family" together with the same kind of love while she was alive?

One glaring inconsistency for James and Jessie is the lack of any record of children born from their 1850 wedding until 1855 (when Mary Hellen was born). From years of doing family research, this stands out as an oddity: the vast majority of babies are born 9 months or less after a wedding. I have to put some focused energy on finding the birth record of James and Jessie's first kids. If we found the record of their first daughter, I would have a heart attack if her name was Anne. I'd have a stroke if their first or second son was named Francis.

In the passenger manifest of their ship *Falcon*, James and Jessie are shown as carrying two "boxes"; steamer trunks I assume. It seems probable that Lady Anne's articles were in the new bride's trunk: the dress, portrait, and silhouettes at least (Jessie was probably wearing the ring). Could one of the trunks be the very one my Aunt Pat describes her grandma Jessie opening to show Lady Anne's dress when my aunt was about 12? She remembers the trunk as a typical steamer style: rounded lid, tray on top. When Jessie lifted the top tray out of the trunk, a cloud of dust filled the air, as the dress had disintegrated. "Oh my word, oh my word" was all Jessie Koplik could say.

Notes:

- Continued research consists of trying to hook up my cousin Denise with a nearby Philadelphia art appraiser who can have a good look at our portrait of Lady Anne for names and other clues.
- Also communicating with the James Burke researcher to look further into Dublin newspapers and residency records.
- See if there is any way that the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has re-opened their archives to research again, or when they might do so. Search for children of James and Jessie born 1850-1854.
- **St. John the Baptist**, in the [Church of Ireland](#) Parish of [Clontarf](#), is situated on [Seafield Road](#), approximately 2¹/₂ miles (4.0 km) from the churches of each of the adjoining parishes. It was built in 1866 to replace an earlier church some 200 metres away on Castle Avenue, on the edge of the grounds of [Clontarf Castle](#).
- There is a bust of Lady Charlemont as a young woman that used to be displayed in the corridor of Windsor Castle, done by Joseph Nollekens. I've looked but so far cannot find it on line.
- "[Queens of Beauty and Their Romances vol II](#)" by W. Willmott Dixon, 1907. A short biography of Lady Charlemont. Very interesting read. I've downloaded it but you can look here:
https://books.google.com/books?id=UL8k71aaYtcC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Queens+of+Beauty+and+Their+Romances&hl=en&sa=X&ei=23wDU_O7NtSA2QXtzYDQDQ#v=onepage&q=clontarf&f=false
- [Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages](#) 1984 by Phyllis Rose apparently mentions Lady Charlemont, specifically her husband's infidelities, on page 88, in the chapter on Effie Gray and John Ruskin
- The Vernon family lived in Clontarf Castle for about 300 years, from the late 1600's to 1913. There are no Lady Annes of that family that fit the bill for our Lady Anne. The current building was constructed in 1837 and was significantly enlarged in the 1960's as a hotel.
- Clontarf Castle's Wikipedia page: very interesting: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clontarf_Castle

<http://www.clontarf.ie/history-of-clontarf/clontarf-castle>