

The Origins in Devon of the Peards of Coole, Ireland

Catherine Peard (d.1842) married David Staig (1775-1860) on 24th May 1806 in Dungourney, Ireland.ⁱ Catherine was the daughter of Henry Peard of Coole Abbey (1740-97) and Mary Gumbleton.ⁱⁱ

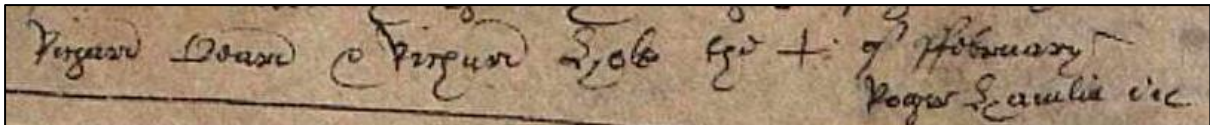
Catherine Peard was a second cousin to John Lysagt (1781-1834), 3rd Lord Lisle of Mount-northⁱⁱⁱ, a second cousin (once removed) of Sir Augustus Louis Carré Warren (1754-1821), 2nd Baronet of Kilbarry (see Appendix I) and a first cousin (once removed) of Admiral Sir Cornwallis Ricketts (1803-85), 2nd Baronet Ricketts.

The Peards of Coole, Ireland appear in *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry (1863)* by Sir Bernard Burke.^{iv} In this publication it is stated that:

Lineage.—This family is stated to be a younger branch of the Peards of Devonshire, and has been settled in Ireland since 1641.

RICHARD PEARD, Esq. of Coole, co. Cork, was married to Miss Cole, dau. of Richard Cole, Esq., and had issue two sons,

The marriage of Richard Peard and Miss Cole may have taken place on 9 February 1636 in West Down, Devon, recorded in this barely legible entry^v:



Miss Cole was apparently Richorde Cole, but the name in its antiquated script is not at all easy to read.

Catherine Peard was a great-great-great granddaughter of this Richard Peard.

On his tomb (shown below) in Saint Nicholas' Cemetery in Castlelyons (near Coole), it states that Richard Peard died in 1683 aged 88 years and came in 1641 to Ireland from the town of Upcott in the parish of Welcombe in Devon.



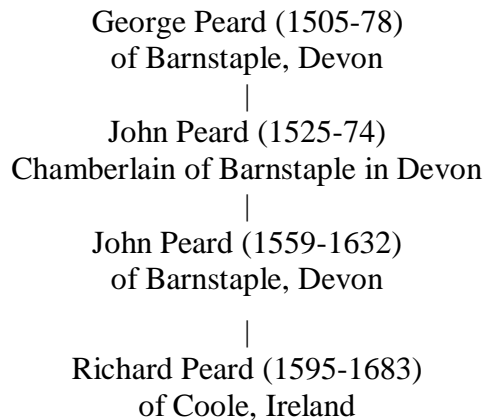
The coat of arms depicted on his tomb are two wolves passant in pale which is identical to the Peards of Devon, i.e. Or, two wolves passant in pale sable.

On his website, Niall C.E.J. O'Brien has published a history of the Peard family of North East Cork and district and has sourced Frank Peard: *Records of the Early Peards in Ireland and Their Houses near Fermoy, Co. Cork* (2003) for the ancestry of Richard Peard in Devon.

I can find no reference anywhere to this publication other than on Niall C.E.J. O'Brien's website, so can only assume that it is a private work.

The descent as shown by Frank Peard appears on a number of websites (including in a number of wiki trees).^{vi}

This source provides the following ancestry for Richard Peard of Coole:



Fortunately, the Barnstaple parish registers were published in 1903 (*Barnstaple Parish Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials, 1538-1812, Ed. Thomas Wainwright*).

When we examine the above parish registers, we find that there was in fact a George Peard who was buried on 9 May 1578:

1578.			
Jone, dau. of Harry Handfourd	...	26	Mar.
John, dau. [son?] of Harry Handfourd	...	28	„
William, son of Wylliam Yeo	5	Apr.
John Hacker	6	„
David, son of Nycholas Lake	22	„
Mris Thomlyn	26	„
Mary, dau. of William Pearse	26	„
James, son of Roger Beaple	1	May
George, son of Mr. Olyver Peard	9	„

This George was the son of Oliver Peard. However, I was immediately surprised by the fact that this George has his father named in the register - a practise largely reserved for children. This strongly suggests that George was almost certainly a child at the time of his death (not a

man in his seventies). This observation is further supported by George Peard's baptismal entry in the Barnstaple Register of 31 July 1573:

1573.			
Ellzabeth, daughter of Rogar Beare	...	7	Apr
John, son of James Rodrygos Portengall	...	11	„
John, son of Rychard Bedecoke	...	12	„
Rycharde, son of Rycharde Pearde	...	17	„
Nycholas, son of John Wylston	...	22	„
Margarete, daughter of Thomas Hares	...	11	May
Anes, base daughter of Jone Borges	...	15	„
John, son of John Thorne	...	21	„
Anes, daughter of John Lange	...	1	June
Phellepe, son of John Smethe	...	10	„
Jone, daughter of Antony Quyke	...	12	„
Rose, daughter of John Grove	...	14	„
Jone, daughter of Jone Tollen, <i>alias</i> Hone	...	19	„
Mary, daughter of Robarte Salesbery	...	22	„
Ame, daughter of Rychard Pogesle, toucar...	...	7	July
Wm., son of Davy Peren	...	10	„
Mary, daughter of Robarte Whyte	...	12	„
Water, son of Andro Bery	...	20	„
Rycharde, son of Wm. Stery	...	24	„
Pentycoste, son of Awyne Robenes	...	24	„
George , son of Mr. Ollyvar Pearde	...	31	„

It can be reasonably concluded that George was almost certainly a child of not yet five years of age at his death. On what authority George Peard's birth is ascribed to 1505 is unknown.

It is also curious as to why the pedigree would not then begin with Oliver Peard if it was concluded that George Peard was the father of John Peard (the Chamberlain of Barnstaple).

Using the Barnstaple parish register, some of the descendants of John Peard (d.1574), the Chamberlain of Barnstaple, can (as best) be established as shown on the following page.

The John Peard (b.1546) probably died at a fairly young age. This John's brother, George Peard (1548-1621) was a Member of Parliament. In the *History of Parliament*, we are told that George was the second, but first surviving son of John Peard of Barnstaple.

The Richard Peard (b.1598) is given by Frank Peard (with his birth year changed to 1595 so as to concur with Richard Peard's tomb inscription) as a son of the second John Peard (b.1559) who married Julyan Beaple (a prominent family in Barnstaple, who like the Peards furnished mayors of that town).

There certainly was a Richard Peard (b.1598) who was the son of the aforementioned John Peard, however, what is far less clear is whether this Richard Peard is the same Richard Peard that established himself in Coole, Ireland in 1641.

Richard Gay
 d. January 1544/45 in Barnstaple, = b. in of Eastleigh, Devon = d. 1574 in Barnstaple, Devon
 m. 4 May 1545 in Barnstaple, Devon

Julyan Berry John Peard



Source: Barnstaple Parish Register of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1538-1812, Ed. Thomas Wainwright (1903).

To start with, this Richard Peard of Barnstaple was born in 1598, whereas the tomb of Richard Peard of Coole states that he died in 1683 aged 88 years which would place his birth in 1594 or 1595.

In fairness, many people living in the 16th and 17th centuries would not have known their birthdate or precise year of birth, so this in itself does not rule out the two Richards being the same person, but it also does not aid Frank Peard's assertion.

Secondly, on what evidence do we actually know that this Richard Peard of Barnstaple ended up in Coole, Ireland?

I would contend that it is just an assumption because the dates more or less fit – it cannot be proven. This descent seems to be based more on the ready availability of records (for many Peards of Barnstaple) than a descent supported by sound evidence.

Indeed, Richard Peard's tomb tells us that he came from the parish of Welcombe and there are certainly Peards on record in Welcombe more or less contemporary with Richard. We can find for instance an Arminel Peard who received probate of his will in 1635, a Thomas Peard who received probate in 1636, a John Peard who received probate in 1582 etc. Is it not more likely that Richard Peard of Coole might have been more closely connected to these people rather than the Peards of Barnstaple?

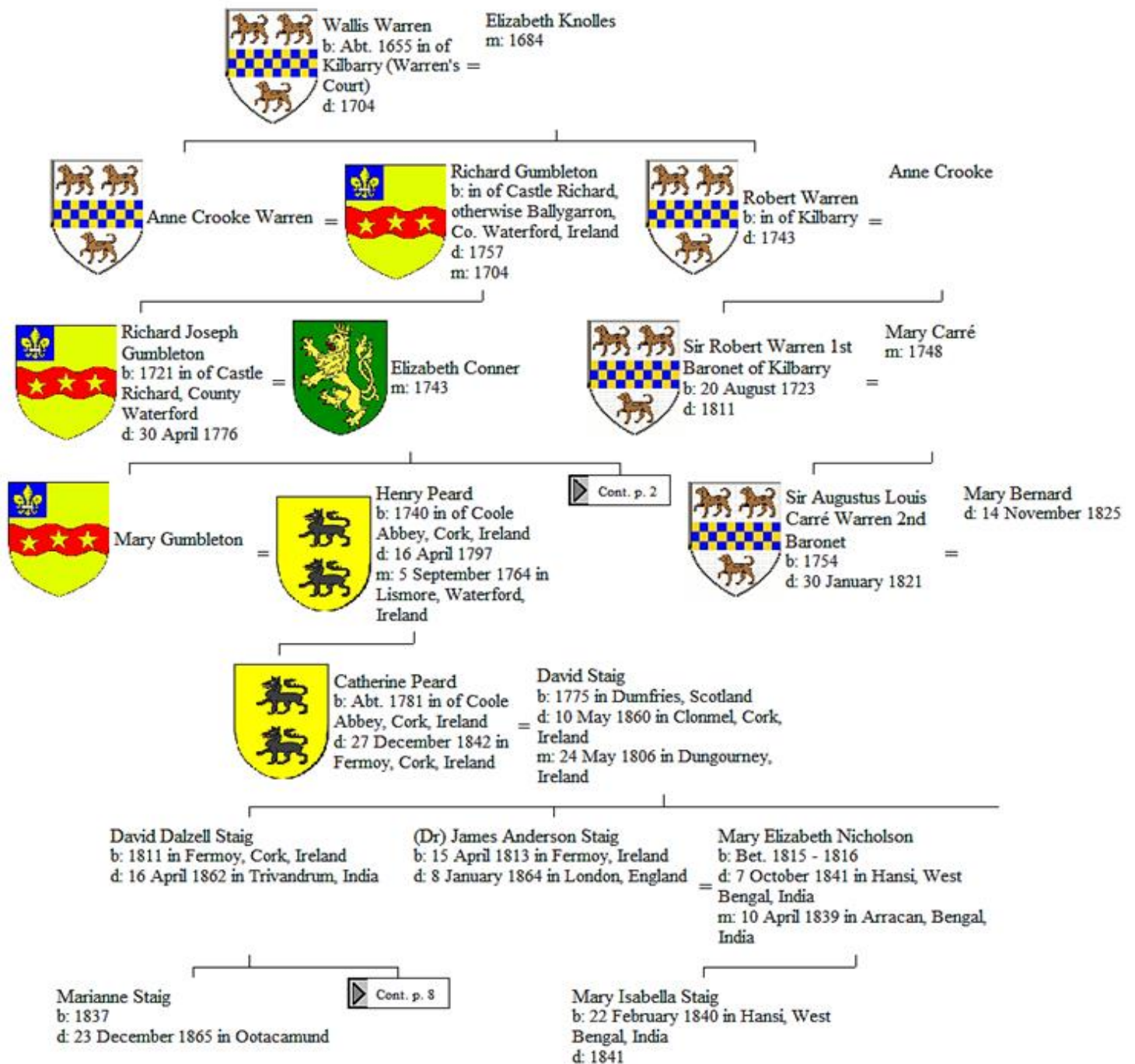
It also appears that there are two places in Devon named Upcott, one within the parish of Welcombe and the other within Barnstaple. Richard Peard's tomb tells us he came from the place of that name in Welcombe, not Barnstaple. He of course may have come from Barnstaple and ended up in Welcombe, but once again, where is the evidence to support this?

Many of the Anglo-Irish families that settled in Ireland in the first half of the 17th century are notoriously difficult to trace in England and the Peards of Coole certainly fall into this category.

Even the very accommodating Burke didn't venture to take the pedigree back any further than Richard Peard (d.1683) and I don't know on what basis we can do so.

I have examined much information concerning the Peards of Coole but cannot with any confidence trace them further back than the Richard Peard who came to Ireland in 1641.

Appendix I: Relationship of the Peard's of Coole to the Baronets of Kilbarry



i For extracts of notices of this marriage, see Staig Notes on www.staigfamily.wordpress.com

ii See the extracts referred to in note i.

iii The 3rd Lord Lisle of Mount-north's mother was Mary Anne Connor (d.1815), daughter of George Connor of Bally Bricken who was the brother of Elizabeth Connor, mother of Mary Gumbleton, the mother of Catherine Peard.

iv Pages 1165-1166.

v Barely legible to 21st century eyes, but clearly legible to those literate in the 17th century.

^{vi} This is why it can be particularly dangerous to rely blindly on trees appearing on the internet that do not provide sources that can be checked. Even on sites such as Ancestry.com you will see errors that have appeared over and over again because the original pedigree maker did not carefully check their information and others have simply copied it without any due care for the facts.