

## Some Background on the Name Pigott

The Pigott family, according to Burke's peerage, is descended from one of the knights of William the Conqueror and the original name would have been Picot, which is Norman French. The Irish Pigotts came from Chetwynd, Salop, an old name for Shropshire, in southern England and established in County Cork during the Elizabethan plantation.<sup>1</sup> They were found in several Irish counties, as years passed, and were interconnected by generations of marriages between closely related individuals. The Plantation English were forbidden to marry the local Irish. "In the reign of Charles I ... and during the unsettled period of the Commonwealth, the [Pigotts] and others settled" in Queen's County. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~irllex/>

The material presented here is distilled from internet sources which I have accepted at face value, many appear contradictory and so my conclusions are not wholly reliable. In Queen's County the Pigotts were found at Capard (Rosenallis Parish) and Dysart (Dysartenos Parish) which are townlands in Mountmellick district, about four miles apart and close to Tullamore (King's County). Both were the locations of noted Quaker colonies.<sup>2</sup> Descendants of the Capard Pigott family lived at Knapton (Abbeyleix Parish) which is fifteen to twenty miles south of Rosenallis and Mountmellick.<sup>3</sup> Henry (of

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<sup>1</sup> I eliminated, as possible antecedents of our Rawdon people, an English family, Pigot of Patshull, Staffordshire. Sir George Pigot was twice Governor of Madras and created Baron Pigot, an Irish peer, in 1775. According to Leigh Rayment's Peerage Page <http://www.angeltowns.com/town/peerage/> he was born 4 March 1719 and died May 11, 1777. The title dates from 1766 when he was MP for Wallingford and Bridgnorth (two English ridings). Another account (same source) dates the title from 5 December 1764 and states that he was succeeded by his brother Robert on August 11, 1796.

<sup>2</sup> Photographs of Jane Watters Smith (see *Still Watters*) indicate that she wore a simple Quaker like headdress. Abraham Watters and sister Jane Watters Smith are believed to be born in Queen's County and their names appear as witnesses to events for Henry Pigott. Did their friendship with Henry begin in Ireland? As mentioned, Henry Smith knew the Bagnalls in Annaghavry

<sup>3</sup> This Sir George Pigott married Anna Isabella Kelly in 1794. They had eight children but did not have a son Henry. Sir George was the son of Thomas Pigott, a Major-General in the Army and Member of Parliament. Thomas was a descendant of the Pigotts of County Cork and Castle Dysart. Sir George seems not to be a brother to Harriet and Mary Ann, the sisters who married Robert and Isaac Bagnall.

A cached internet account of the Barrington Family of Knapton reports this seat, originally that of Colonel John Barrington had passed to Sir George Pigott. A gatekeeper at Knapton, in 1760, was named John Neville, a name which appears on a list of Irish Quaker names and is the name of a child born at Rawdon. Another source states the

Rawdon) was not a son of Sir George Pigott of Knapton, Abbeyleix (1766 - 1844) who was created a peer on 3 October 1808.

Captain Southwell Pigott was an Aide de Camp to Gen de Ginkel at the Battle of the Boyne, 1690 and he married a Van Der Graaf. He was of Capard, Rosenallis. The use of the name Southwell for sons of Henry Pigott and Jane Bagnall McNown suggests a link to the Rosenallis family. The name had been introduced to that family by William Pigott of Kilfinney, County Limerick, who died in 1667. He married Anne Dowdall, daughter of John Dowdall and Elizabeth Southwell (Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland). William and Anne were the parents of John Pigott who married Gertrude Southwell of Capard Townland, Rosenallis Parish, and were parents of Southwell Pigott who had a manor in Somerset, England and owned a set of Dresden china, which was held in the family for generations.<sup>4</sup> Southwell Pigott had a son of the same name. John Pigott's second wife was Margaret Colclough and the mother of Elizabeth Pigott Warburton.<sup>5</sup>

Kent McNowan and Marjorie Zwickel, whose writing I have quoted, suggest that Harriet Pigott Bagnall had several siblings. One was her sister, Mary Ann, the aforementioned mother of Jane and Harriet Bagnall. Another sister was said to be Madenia (a name used by Jane Bagnall McNown for her youngest child) and that they had brothers Robert and Isaac [perhaps doubtful as those are also their husband's names]. It is unclear if James Henry Pigott, our Rawdon settler was Harriet's brother or a nephew. There is no doubt in my mind that they were related.

Harriet's parents (from family lore, origin uncertain) were Mr. Pigott<sup>6</sup> and Miss Neville<sup>7</sup> and she reputedly a Quaker. Harriet's grandfather father was "Lord Pigott". I

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Barringtons were descendants of Archbishop Vesey of Tuam and the Pigott family of Knapton leased that property from the de Vesci family, c. 1760-1920.

<http://www.proni.gov.uk/records/private/devesci.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Riggs surname study

[http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~riggs/IREEdw\\_N.htm#Pigott](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~riggs/IREEdw_N.htm#Pigott)

<sup>5</sup> Sir George was the son of Thomas Pigott, a Major-General in the Army and Member of Parliament. Thomas was a descendant of the Pigotts of County Cork and Castle Dysart. His grandfather was Emanuel (whose third wife was Judith Warburton, daughter of Elizabeth Pigott Warburton and granddaughter of John Pigott and Margaret Colclough.) Thomas' father, George Pigott had married a cousin, Jane Warburton, a sister of Judith. This made his wife her sister's step daughter (Rootsweb Pigott Archives).

<sup>6</sup> His father was "supposedly was disinherited, because he married the daughter of a poor Episcopal rector. They had one son, whom he kept and reared, after his parents

have been unable to prove or disprove this connection and must accept this remark as it stands. I could not make a connection to either of the titled Pigotts, the two Sir Robert's mentioned in footnotes. Likewise, I have not been able to connect the Rawdon Pigotts to any of the descendants of Southwell Pigott. I have no doubt that Harriet and Henry Pigott came from some branch of the Queen's County families but must leave that to others to prove.<sup>8</sup>

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convinced him to divorce his wife. He never remarried and traveled with his son, until the son was in his 40s. (Family tradition as recounted by Marjorie McNown Zwickel.)

<sup>7</sup> Neville is a name well known at Rawdon. Joseph Neville was the husband of Mary Rourke whose four brothers from Tullamore settled at Rawdon. The Nevilles arrived at Rawdon about 1833.

<sup>8</sup> Chris Pigott of Potts Point, New South Wales [cgpigott@bigpond.com](mailto:cgpigott@bigpond.com) reached a similar conclusion in an email to Marjorie Zwickel.