

Notes on Eighteenth Century Irish Nurserymen

By EILEEN MCCrackEN

PLANTING in Ireland began in the eighteenth century. There was of course ornamental planting long before; the mention in old records of such species as elm, lime or chestnut which are not native shows that there was some and during the seventeenth century the occasional landlord inserted a clause in his leases binding the tenants to put in some trees, often in hedgerows. But planting as we understand it, the growing of trees alone on a number of acres as a crop as opposed to an amenity, began in the eighteenth century. It is true that the acreages involved were very small: towards the end of the century when the Dublin Society (the Royal Dublin Society after 1820) was paying premiums of £4 an acre to encourage planting the largest amount claimed in any one year was £132 on 33 acres and this was a very exceptional figure—practically all claims were for 10 acres.

It is not difficult to find reasons why the eighteenth century saw the commencement of Irish planting. The native woods, which had sustained the export timber trade during the previous century, were becoming exhausted and sometime between 1696 and 1711 Ireland ceased to be a timber exporting country and became, in part at least, dependent on imported wood.¹ Between 1689 and 1791 fourteen acts of parliament were passed relating to planting all of which had as their object either enforcement of preservation or compulsory planting or safeguarding of tenants' rights over timber they themselves had planted. The number of trees to be planted was prescribed for each country and the onus was laid on tenants to make a return of the numbers which they put in. It is extremely unfortunate from the point of view of the history of planting in Ireland that these records, which covered the greater part of the eighteenth century and the whole of the nineteenth century, were destroyed in the Four Courts, Dublin, in 1922; only the volume for Londonderry has survived. Apart from the legal obligation to plant, after the Williamite war Ireland had a hundred years of peace, in contrast to the turbulence of the previous century, and landowners could feel reasonably secure in the possession of their estates and reasonably confident that their families would reap the fruit of any planting they undertook. The eighteenth century landowner was not unaware that trees were a capital investment: Edward Cooke writing from Kilkenny in 1724 says 'My father (in law), who is an oracle in everything that does not concern himself, lays it down . . . that no wood is worth preserving which will not pay interest upon interest, and this I heard often before I knew him, and believe to

be true . . . I take it, trees do not grow in equal value yearly, I do not know what value to put on an acorn and yet I am fully convinced that sowed in proper soils and preserved would produce in forty years £10 (?) and I fancy you think so too especially if planted in the county of Wicklow'.²

That the Irish suffered from a chronic inability to enclose the plantations they made and protect them from cattle is beside the point: trees were put in the ground even if they failed to mature and those trees had to be obtained from somewhere. Some estates had their own nurseries but these were usually for the use of the estate, and sometimes the tenants, and the general public could not buy from them. The need for public nurseries was underlined by an act of 1710 (9 Anne c.5) which laid down that the compulsory planting had to be done with trees out of nurseries and not to be taken from an existing wood or other places as was frequently 'practised to the destruction of woods and timber'. To protect nurseries from theft an act of 1776 (15 and 16 Geo. 111 c.26) imposed a penalty of £5 fine or six months imprisonment for stealing plants from one.

Reference to the list of public nurserymen at the end of this article will show that many nurserymen, particularly in towns, were also seedsmen and that in country towns they sometimes sold other quite unrelated things. This duplication of trades was common practice during the eighteenth century. But the combination of seedsmen and apothecary was not surprising in view of the close connection between medical remedies and plants. The nurserymen were not essentially specialists in trees, they sold many other sorts of plants³ but it is clear from their price lists that young trees were an important part of their stock. Even allowing for the fact that it is more likely for evidence of the existence of a Dublin nurseryman to survive than one in the depths of the country it is reasonably certain that the area around the capital was much better served with nurseries than the outlying areas. It was a common complaint during the eighteenth century that outside of Dublin young plants were hard to come by and this complaint seems justified, few countries had more than three or four public nurseries. The importance of country customers to Dublin nurserymen is borne out by their frequent assertion that they paid particular attention to their country trade. Even so the plants usually arrived at their destination in poor condition having travelled for a number of days and been roughly handled by the carmen.

Several of the more prominent nurserymen issued price sheets or catalogues. Until recently the only price lists available were a few published in the newspapers but Edward Bray's Catalogue, which is a small booklet of several pages published during the 1780's, has turned up in the Fingall collection⁴ of papers in the National Library, Dublin. Price lists that are also in the Fingall collection include

those of Patrick Adams,, George Cottingham, John McEvoy and the Foundling Hospital. There are also the catalogues of some English nurserymen and a bill heading of Edward Bray's.

Practically all the information on Dublin, Cork and Limerick nurserymen comes from advertisements in newspapers. Outside of the towns the chief sources are the county surveys published at the end of the eighteenth century under the aegis of the Dublin Society and the premiums offered to nurserymen during the eighteenth century. The latter source tends to be unsatisfactory in that frequently only the name of the nurseryman is given without any indication of his location in the county.

The Dublin Society endeavoured to encourage the establishment of public nurseries in three different ways: by offering premiums for new nurseries or extensions of existing ones,, by offering premiums on young trees sold from nurseries and by providing a fee for boys taken by nurserymen to train as apprentices. The Dublin Society was founded in 1731 and one of its first premiums was in the early 1740's for seedlings raised in nurseries. In 1741 £10 was offered for the greatest number of forest trees (to distinguish them from fruit trees) raised in nurseries and in 1744 and 1746 £20 and £10 were offered to the growers of the two greatest numbers, over a minimum of 15,000, of oak, ash, elm, beech, chestnut or walnut 'planted out from the nurseries'. During the 1750's premiums were given for sowing the greatest areas with acorns at the rate of half a barrel per acre and this was increased to a barrel (3½ bushels) in 1760. In 1764 new nurserymen were offered premiums of £10, £7 and £5 for sowing not less than 1 lb. of Scots fir seed.

Recognizing the difficulty that country people had in obtaining plants the Society from 1760 onwards offered special premiums to country nurserymen. In 1763 premiums of £10, £7, and £5 were offered to the first three men, who had been trained as nurserymen but had not yet opened their own nursery, who sowed and enclosed an Irish acre* with a bushel of seed. The nurseries were to be more than ten miles from the sea and over forty miles from Dublin with a rent under £20 annually and a lease of three lives or thirty one years. Security had to be given that the nurseries would continue to be operated.

Changes in the method of awarding premiums were made in subsequent years. In 1765 the first person in each county to offer two year old plants for sale in a nursery within three miles of a country town could claim a bounty of £1 an acre on a maximum of three acres for three years. In other words a nurseryman could claim a maximum of £9 and the Society was prepared to pay out a total of £288. The following year, 1766, the bounty was increased to 30/- a year and the acreage to five acres so the Dublin Society was now committed to an outlay of £720 over the following three years.

The premium was increased in 1769 to £5 a year for three years for one acre and £2 for every succeeding acre and in 1770 the premium to any one nursery was limited to £13. After 1781 the premium was fixed at £4 an acre for every acre of new nursery ground in each county except Dublin, a provision which reflects the fact that Dublin was well served by the nurserymen in and around the capital. The last premium to nurserymen under this scheme was paid to Patrick Carroll of Meath in 1791.

* All acreages in this article are in Irish or plantation measure of which one was equivalent to 1.6 English acres.

In all the Dublin Society paid out £987 on 217 acres between 1769 and 1791. Of this sum £477 was paid on 163 acres after 1781 when the flat rate of £4 an acre was introduced.

The second way in which a public nurseryman could obtain help from the Society was by applying for a premium on the number of trees he sold. This type of premium was introduced in 1780 and was given on young trees between two and five years old at the rate of 4/- per thousand for oak, beech, hornbeam, chestnut, walnut, elm, plane and Norway maple; 2/- per thousand for larch, Scots pine and spruce and 1/- per thousand for ash and birch. The Society was prepared to spend £400 annually on this type of premium and if the claims exceeded this amount preference would be given to the nurserymen who sold their plants most cheaply. Between 1780 and 1795, when the premiums were discontinued, £3,035 was paid to nurserymen.

The Dublin Society expended just over £18,000 on planting in all its aspects between 1766 and 1806. Of this £4,000 went directly to nurserymen, £8,500 to planters and £6,000 to 'fringe planting'—that is on fencing coppice, setting quicks for hedges or raising willows, sallows etc. for basket-makers, coopers or hop growers etc. The following table shows how the money in the first two categories (nurserymen and planting) was distributed over Ireland.

<i>County</i>	<i>To nurserymen</i>	<i>To planters</i>
	<i>(To the nearest £)</i>	
Antrim	11	35
Armagh	10	141
Carlow	8	54
Cavan	11	89
Clare	50	353
Cork	34	260
Donegal	14	285
Down	29	60
Dublin	342	146
Fermanagh	12	86
Galway	1,887	1,794

<i>County</i>	<i>To nurserymen</i>	<i>To planters</i>
	<i>(To the nearest £)</i>	
Kerry	712	322
Kildare	16	138
Kilkenny	34	252
Leitrim	137	49
Leix	137	195
Limerick	5	31
Londonderry	22	—
Longford	5	275
Louth	526	212
Mayo	23	306
Meath	222	57
Monaghan	—	—
Offaly	32	191
Roscommon	18	39
Sligo	—	83
Tipperary	68	840
Tyrone	24	540
Waterford	63	126
Westmeath	18	237
Wexford	54	145
Wicklow	40	684

* Exclusive of fee for apprentices.

It can be seen that in five counties, Galway, Kerry, Louth, Dublin and Meath, nurserymen received more than planters. About two-thirds of the premium money for nurserymen fell into the hands of the two Maddens in Galway, O'Brien in Kerry and M'Evoy in Meath.

A form of premium was introduced by the Dublin Society in 1800 which indirectly could have been to the advantage of nurserymen if it had been widely used but this type of premium does not appear to have attracted planters. This was planting by contract. Under this scheme six premiums were offered yearly until 1807. The first three were of £100 each for the three greatest acreages over a minimum of 20 acres. The planter was to enter into a written contract with a public nurseryman who was to plant at least 8,000 trees to the acre and replace loses for three years. Species had to include at least 3,000 oak or larch, and willow, poplar, birch and horse chestnut were excluded. The nurseryman's obligation ended at the end of the third year but the planter had to have at least 6,000 trees on an acre at the end of ten years.

After 1789 the Dublin Society offered £10 as a fee for each apprentice taken by a nurseryman, provided he paid an equal sum to the apprentice on the completion of his course which was to include instruction in grafting, planting and rearing of trees. The

Society was prepared to expend £500 this way limiting the amount any one nurseryman could claim to £20 a time. Preference was to be given to boys from the Charter Schools, the Foundling Hospital and the Hibernian Hospital. The fee was raised to £12 in 1784 to nurserymen with over five acres and the amount to be paid to an apprentice at the end of his term was reduced to £6. As can be seen from the appended list of nurserymen only seven made use of the scheme, taking fourteen apprentices between them.

The special mention of Charter Schools, the Foundling Hospital and the Hibernian Hospital is of some interest. Special premiums for planting were offered at different periods to these bodies and the latter two ran their own nurseries, partly for income and partly to train boys as gardeners.

Although the practice of offering fees for apprentices lapsed at the end of the century a modified form of training young men was introduced by the Dublin Society in the early years of the nineteenth century. The Society established the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin in 1796 and at first the staff consisted of a head gardener, John Underwood a Scot brought over by Speaker John Foster in 1798, and two under gardeners together with twelve labourers who were paid 9/9 a week plus uniform. This wage was raised to 12/- a week in 1808 to compensate for the increased cost of living due to the Anglo-French wars. It was reduced to 9/9 in 1816 and the issue of jackets and caps was limited to those who showed industry and were of good conduct. By 1812 the increasing amount of work at the Gardens led the Committee of Botany which ran the Gardens to conclude that a labour force of eighteen labourers was necessary. Instead of getting more labourers they decided to bring in six boys of about seventeen years of age as apprentices who would be paid 9/- a week. As well as this wage they would receive 5 gn. a year for three years if their work was satisfactory and Underwood, whose salary was £100 a year, was allowed £5 a year for the tuition of of each apprentice. In 1816 the number of apprentices was reduced to four. Then in 1820 the Committee decided that the apprentices were an unnecessary expense and it resolved to take no more and to make do with ten labourers. When Dr. Wade, the Society's Professor of Botany, declared that if apprentices were not used the Gardens would need twelve labourers the taking of apprentices was continued.

The example of the Dublin Society in offering premiums to nurserymen was followed by some of the Farmers' Societies which were widespread in the eighteenth century. Two examples from the north of Ireland may be quoted. In September 1756 the Down Society of Downpatrick offered a total of £60 a year (in premiums) to new nurserymen in each of the following groups of baronies: 1. Lecale, Kinalarty and Dufferin; 2. Ards and Castlereagh; 3. Upper and Lower Iveagh north of the Bann; 4. Upper and Lower Iveagh

south of the Bann together with Newry and Mourne. Two premiums of £10 and £5 were offered in each division to whoever would enclose the largest nursery of at least half an acre and stock it with forest trees, crabs and quicks. The premiums were to be continued to the winners for four succeeding years if the nurseries were kept in good order.

The second example is from county Antrim and was concerned, not with forest trees, but with providing a supply of quicks for the hedging and ditching that was so widely undertaken during the eighteenth century and which formed the basis of the present landscape of Ireland. The Farmers' Society of the four lower baronies of Antrim in 1760 offer £6 to the person raising the greatest number, not less than half a million, and entering into security to sell them at two years old; £5 for the second greatest number, not less than 400,000 and £4 for not less than 300,000 and £3 for not less than 200,000 quicks.⁵

The list of Irish public nurserymen which follows has been divided into two parts. The first part is of those found in Dublin city and the second part lists country nurserymen. While the list of Dublin nurserymen is probably reasonably complete there is no doubt that there were others operating outside of Dublin who have not been traced. The dates following a man's name are the years during which he is known to have operated his nursery.

DUBLIN NURSERYMEN AND SEEDSMEN

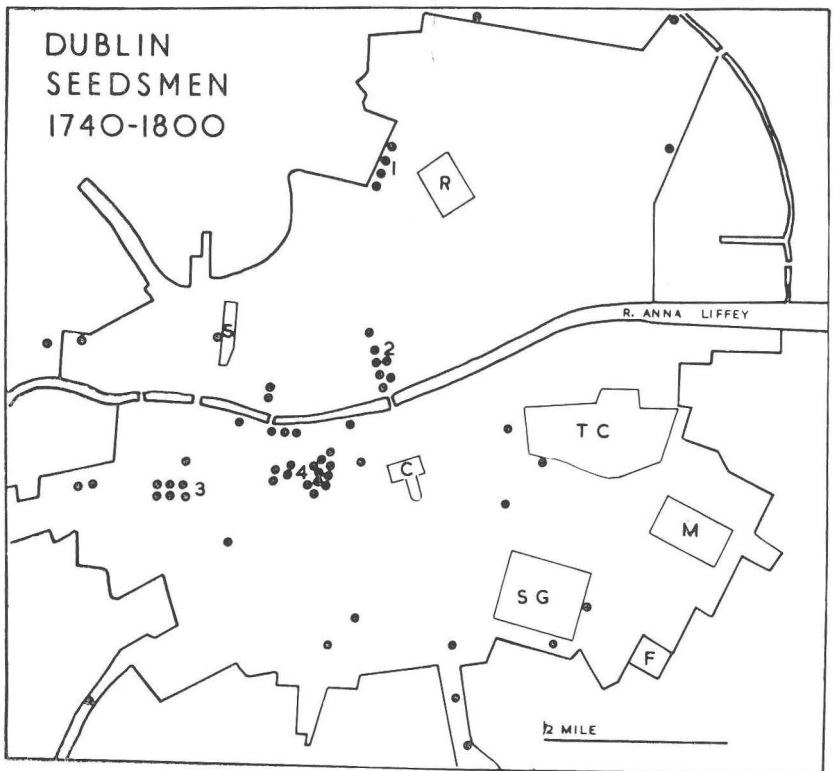
BRAY, EDWARD. 1775-after 1801. Merchant's Quay and nursery at Island Bridge. Served time with Daniel Bullen. Imported from Samuel Wor of Rotterdam and Eddie and Dupin of London and from Edinburgh. Premiums from Dublin Society of £65 on 470,000 trees* between 1790 and 1795. Helped dispose of Lord Trimbleton's collection of exotics in 1780 which had taken 40 years to build up and which included bananas and pineapples. One of the most prominent Dublin nurserymen and supplied Dublin Society with plants and seeds for the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. His catalogue and price lists published during the 1780's are representative of what a well stocked nursery contained at that period. The deciduous trees for sale were: ash (entire leafed, weeping, and flowering), birch, beech, purple beech, horse chestnut (gold striped, silver striped, scarlet striped and yellow striped), Spanish chestnut, elm (wych, striped and Canadian), alder, hornbeam, scarlet maple, black and balsam, poplar, lime, oak (scarlet, evergreen, mossy acorn, American, striped), sycamore, walnut; conifers: balm of Gilead, Scots pine, silver fir, spruce fir, American fir, Weymouth pine, larch, arbour vitae, yew, cedar of Lebanon, cypress.

* The term 'trees' in the following lists means plants between two and five years old.

BRUCE, GEORGE. 1745-68. The Lamb, Old Corn Market, near New Gate, nursery at Butterfield Lane, Rathfarnham. Imported from Holland and England. Died 1768.

BRUCE, GEORGE AND ELIZABETH. 1768-79. Succeeded their father. Imported. Supplied gardeners. Stock in 1768 included black, red and white American spruce, Gilead fir, Stone pine, red Virginian cedar, spreading and upright cedar, Chinese and common arbor vitae, arbutus, savin, holly, Portuguese laurel, spruce fir.

BULLEN DANIEL. 1765-79. Christchurch Lane, nursery at Bullen's Gardens, New St. Imported from Holland and England.



BULLEN AND FACON. 1789-94. 28 Smithfield. Received premiums on 7 acres of nursery from Dublin Society.

BURNETT, RICHARD AND FOLEY. 1780-97. Richmond, Ballyborough Bridge. Imported from Holland and London. Supplied unusual plants as a gift to Botanic Gardens.

CARROLL, PATRICK. 1786-post 1800. Possibly same man as Patrick Carol of county Meath. Michael's Lane, nursery at Mount Pelier Hill near barracks. Succeeded Robert Quin. Helped by Kenny, former gardener to Rt. Hon. David Latouche. Sold asparagus for Sheehan of Cork. Issued a catalogue.

COSTA, LAURENCE. 1754-55. A cellar at The Peacock, Capel St. an Italian gardener. Sold exotics including orange, lemon, lime and fig trees and cypress seed.

COSTELLO, PATRICK. 1790-95. 29 Merchants Quay, nursery at his father-in-law's in Co. Wicklow. (Edward Hodgins?).

COSTELLO, ROBERT. 1790.

CULLIN, DANIEL. 1755. Next door to The Cherry Tree, Dolphin's Barn. Land sold for building.

DODD, FRANCIS AND JOSEPH. 1784-85. Thomas St.

DODD, JAMES JOSEPH. 1786-post 1800. Thomas St.

DONEGAN, PATRICK. 1793-1810. Christchurch Lane and later Capel St. Supplied seed to Botanic Gardens.

DUTTON, HELY. 1783-88. Dorset St. Also florist.

EDGAR, PATRICK. 1722-95. James St. Joined by William Edgar 1785-86.

GRIMWOOD, JOHN. 1789-post 1800. Charlemont St. Supplied seeds to Botanic Gardens.

GUNITON, THOMAS. 1787-92. Corn Market.

HANLON, CABEL. 1746. The Three Tons and Bunch of Grapes, Thomas St. Wholesale and retail. Imported from England and Holland.

HARVEY, WILLIAM. 1778-90. Dorset St. later Christchurch Lane. Fee from Dublin Society for taking an apprentice.

HAY, ANNE. 1782-post 1800. Church St.

HAY, EDWARD. 1760-80. Capel St. later Church St. and Merchant Quay. Imported from Holland and England. Issued catalogue. Supplied gardeners.

HENDERSON, HUGH. 1764-78. The Orange Tree, corner of Capel St. and Upper Ormond Quay, nursery at North Strand. Imported from Holland and England. Died 1778, succeeded by daughters who sold lease of nursery immediately and in 1780 sold shop to Luke Peppard.

JONES, JOHN. c. 1720-c. 1760. Cut Purse Row.

JONES, JAMES. c. 1760-76. Moved in 1763 from Cut Purse Row to The Seed Warehouse, Ussher's Quay. Imported. Wholesale and retail. 1774 Sheriff's peer. Specialised in seeds.

JONES, JOHN. 1776-79. First Bridge Foot St. and then Thomas St. near the Market House. Joined 1776-8 by Kaven. Issued catalogue. Connected with Dickson, the Scottish nurseryman.

- KEEGAN, HENRY. 1793. Redmond's Hill.
- LANDRE, PETER AND JAMES. 1740. St. Stephen's Green. Lease expired and stock sold off.
- MADDEN, BARTHOLOMEW. 1776-78. Thomas St. Imported. Specialised in seeds.
- MATTHEWS, JOHN. 1783-99. Dorset St.
- MIDDLEWOOD, WILLIAM. 1789-98. Grafton St. nursery at Rathmines. Wholesale and retail, also fruit merchant.
- MCDONALD, HENRY. 1747. Nursery at turnpike, Drumcondra Lane. Imported.
- MOODY, ROBERT. 1730. Gardener to the Honorable City of Dublin. Seed shop next door to the New Inn, Queen's St.
- MORAN, ANN. 1776-92. Thomas St.
- MORAN, JACOB. 1776-89. Thomas St.
- MURPHY, EDWARD. 1791-post 1800. Christchurch Lane, later Nassau St.
- NUGENT, JOSEPH. 1788-90. Wood Quay.
- PEPPARD, LUKE. 1766-93. Cut Purse Row and also Capel St. Imported from Holland, Scotland and England. Supplied gardeners. Connected with Anderson's of Edinburgh. Imported fruit trees from Royal Gardens, Hampton Court.
- PETERS, MATTHEWS. 1746. Capel St. Succeeded George Sweetman.
- PHELAN, JOHN. 1749-89. The Sign of the Pineapple. Christchurch Lane, nursery at Harold's Cross where he also had stove and hot houses. Grew pineapples extensively. Imported from England and Holland and exported to England and Wales. Designed gardens. Stock in 1758 included Weymouth pine, tulip trees, Spanish plane, American cypress, cedar of Lebanon, red and white Virginian cedar, black spruce fir. A very prominent nurseryman.
- QUIN, ROBERT. 1753-84. Michael's Lane. Succeeded by P. Carroll.
- REILLY, JAMES. 1786-94. Cut Purse Row. Succeeded by Peppard.
- ROCQUE, JOHN. 1777-88. Milltown Road.
- RONEY, EDWARD. 1776-83. Thomas St.
- SHINE, WILLIAM. 1786-93. Skinner's Rd. Imported from Bordeaux
- SIMPSON, BENJAMIN AND SIBBERT. 1785-post 1805. College Green, Cork Hill, nursery at Inchicore. £45 premium on 288,000 young trees 1785 to 1791. Gave rare plants as gift to Botanic Gardens 1797. Supplied seeds to Botanic Gardens until 1805. From 1812 the nursery was run by Thomas Simpson until at least 1834.
- SMITTEN, GEORGE. 1785-post 1800. Capel St. Imported from England. Nursery. Supplied Botanic Gardens with trees.

SPRING, MATTHEW. 1791-92. Arbour Hill.

STEVENSON, ROBERT. 1734-56. The Orange Tree, east side of St. Stephen's Green. Connected with Dublin Society.

SWEETENHAM, GEORGE. Died 1746. Capel St. Succeeded by Peters.

TAYLOR, JOSEPH. 1740. The Cherry Tree, Cut Purse Row. Visited England and Holland every year.

TIERNAN, JOHN. 1793-post 1800. Camden St., later Meath St. Also florist.

TOOLE, CHARLES AND LUKE. In 1753 there was a Toole selling clover seed in Francis St. The Toole's nursery at Cullenwood may have been in existence by 1777. In 1790 they opened a shop in Kevin St. After 1808 but before 1825 the Tooles were joined by S. Mackey. By 1888 the partners had separated and the Tooles were at 22 D'Olier St. and Mackeys were at 23 Upper Sackville St. Since then the Tooles have gone out of business but Mackey's Seeds Ltd. is now at the same address (renamed Upper O'Connell St. since 1922). This, so far as is known, is the only nursery which has survived since the eighteenth century in Dublin. Tooles gave a gift of plants to the Botanic Gardens in 1797 and themselves received premiums from the Dublin Society for sowing imported sweet chestnuts 'not kiln dried' and imported acorns. They continued to supply the Botanic Gardens with seeds and plants. Imported from America 1801. £15 premium on 75,000 trees in 1793.

WALKER, ROBERT. 1762. Marybone Lane, near Thomas Court.

WALSH, GEORGE. 1774. Cut Purse Row.

WALSH, JAMES. 1778-post 1800. High St. Imported.

THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL NURSERY. James St. Established in 1776. 'more for the health and education of the children in the said hospital, than for profit'. Issued catalogue. Selling trees by auction 1795.

THE HIBERNIAN SOCIETY NURSERY. Phoenix Park near Hibernian House. Established in 1777 to train protestant boys as gardeners. Appealed for gifts of plants and seeds to start nursery. Three acres of walled garden. List of plants obtainable at Mr. Burrows, Arran Quay. Selling trees by auction 1790.

COUNTRY NURSERYMEN AND SEEDSMEN.

ANTRIM

By 1800 there were few nurseries in the county and those not of great extent'. Plants were brought considerable distances and sold in the markets in the spring.

M'CALLEN, CHARLES. Premium in 1769 from Dublin Society on 4 acres.

NELSON, ROBERT. Premium in 1805 on 355,000 fir.

ARMAGH

A well established nursery near Armagh town in 1800 with considerable sales.

BOWERS, WILLIAM. Premium on 1 acre, 1770-72.

DICK, WILLIAMS. 1755. Nursery near Portadown. Specialised in fruit trees.

PUE, SAMUEL. 1749.

CARLOW

FOSTER, HENRY. Premium in 1784 on 3 acres.

GRIFFITH, WILLIAM. Carlow town. Died 1742 or 1743. Widow continued business. Imported from Holland. Stock included silver fir, spruce fir 'also local seeds and trees'.

HACKET, PATRICK. Premium on 2 acres in 1789.

CAVAN

PIERS, JOHN. Raheny. Premium in 1790 on two acres and 54/- on 17,000 trees.

CLARE

Plants usually brought from Galway, Limerick, Dublin or Scotland.
HALLINAN, THOMAS. 1771. Ennis. Seedsman. Also sold 'Mr. Thomson of Banagher's genuine whisky fit for punch at 4/- the gallon', minimum quantity sold 3 gallons.

O'BRIEN, CHARLES. Premium on 6 acres, 1786-87.

RAMSAY, ROBERT. Premium on 6 acres 1783-88. Fee for two apprentices, James Ramsay and John Cantrel.

CORK

JOHN HENSHAW, supervisor of the nursery on the Kenmare estate, bought 2,000 yew in 1727 from ANDREW BRIDGES, nurseryman in Mallow, for 1½d. each. Henshaw and Lord Kenmare quarrelled over the correct way to grow yew—whether from seed or from cuttings—and he went to work for Lord Barrymore. Henshaw wrote to Kenmare, 'It is impossible for an Englishman to live in your lordship's family if he was a saint' and promised to pray for him.

AHERN, GARRET. 1769-87. Cat Lane, Cork city, later Castle St. Joined by John Ahern. Imported from London and carried a large stock.

BOYLAN OR BALOE, WILLIAM. Premium on 900,00 larch and Scots pine, 1803-7.

DAVIS, SAMUEL. 1750. Englishtown, Cork. Apothecary and seedsman.

HARLAND, RICHARD. Premium on 3 acres, 1789.

KEMPLIN, HUGH. 1749. Meeting House Lane, Cork. Nurseryman and seedsman. Stock included fruit trees, 2 to 3 year old oak, beech, hornbeam, silver, Scots and spruce fir, yew, quicks.

LAFFAN, ANDREW. 1787. Castle St., Cork.

LAFFEN, T. 1787. Castle St., Cork. In 1810 there was a T. and A.

MCLEAN, THOMAS. 1749. Seedsman. Cork.

SHEEHAN, JEREMIAH. Cork. Premium on 4 acres 1768-71.

SHEEHAN, MICHAEL. 1794. Grand Parade Cork. (See also Limerick).

SHEEHAN, THOMAS. 1787-1810. Grand Parade, Cork. Connected with Carroll of Dublin.

SMITH, WILLIAM. 1750. Doneraile. Stock included seeds of beech and hornbeam.

SULLIVAN, DENNIS. 1749-69. The White House, Cat Lane, Cork. Nurseryman. Stock included silver fir and arbutus. Sent arbutus to any part of the British Isles at from 2/2 to 11/4½ each. Also cork oak, mulberry and cedar of Lebanon.

DONEGAL

A large nursery at Nadir near Ballyshannon in 1800 supplying Leitrim, Sligo and Fermanagh.

CUNO, PATRICK. Premium on 2 acres, 1772.

DOWN

BELL, WILLIAM. Premium on 4 acres, 1784-89.

FULTON, ALEXANDER. Premium on 2 acres, 1784-89.

HAMILTON, JAMES. 1756. The Maze, near Hillsborough.

WALLACE, JOHN. 1760. Hollymount, Lecale.

WILKIE, DAVID. Moira. Premium on 2 acres, 1768-71.

DUBLIN

CARTER, CHARLES. 1728. His Majesty's Gardener at Chapelizod. 'Having since the decease of Robert Moody his late partner carried on the seed trade by himself'. Stock included seeds, fruit trees, forest trees, flowering shrubs, evergreens. Imported. Orders taken by Christopher Warrens at The Holy Lamb, High St., Dublin.

COTTINGHAM, GEORGE. Nursery opposite the Six Mile Stone on the Grand Canal. £130 premium on 2 acres and 859,000 trees between 1783 and 1786. Issued a price list with the following note: 'As these plants have all been raised in an open piece of ground Gentlemen may be assured they are not forced, or drawn beyond their

proper growth, either by shelter or manure. The distance from Dublin is so eligible, that Gentlemen, or their planters, have an opportunity of convincing themselves of the truth of these assertions, and of seeing them in their seedbeds, where they grow; and that none of them had been imported, or lay'd by the heels, as is too often the case, for months together, to the no small loss, and disappointment of the purchaser.

He requests when any order for Trees is intended, that it may be sent to him two or three days before carriers are sent for them, that time may be given to take up the trees, have them properly packed and brought to town.

It is too obvious to be doubted, the great advantage that would arise to gentlemen, if they would form small nurseries near the grounds intended to be planted and stocking them with Seedling trees, until fit to be planted out, in preference to the purchasing of grown trees; the very carriage speaks the utility, besides the certainty of success.

He hopes no Gentleman will take it ill, that he cannot execute any order without payment, as the prices are reduced as low as possible, in order to encourage a Ready Money Sale. The price of Matts, for packing, to be paid by the purchaser.'

GAHAN, JOHN. £12 premium on 59,000 trees, 1783.

GALVIN, JOHN. Black Horse Lane. Premium on 2 acres in 1768 and £3 bounty from the Dublin Society 'it appearing that he has merit as a nurseryman and particularly in the propagation of elm'.

HANWAY, JOHN. Premium of 36/- on 9,000 beech in 1785.

RUSSELL, JAMES. 1781-93. £7 premium on 6 acres and 60,000 trees.

The following supplied the Dublin Society with plants in 1801 and were possibly situated in county Dublin: George Field, P. Duffe, Peter Walsh, William Coogan, George Lewis, Thomas Bawrin, Daniel Grenan.

FERMANAGH

HAMILTON, RT. HON. ARTHUR COLE. Premium on 3 acres in 1789.

GALWAY

CLARKE, GEORGE. Premium on 3 acres in 1784.

CLARKE, RICHARD. Shangarry. £240 premium on 3 acres and 1,690,000 trees and 25,000 Dutch alders, raised from seed, between 1783 and 1795.

CLARKE, THOMAS. Shangarry. £12 premium on 6 acres and 5,000 trees between 1768 and 1783.

KELLY, FRANCIS. £149 premium on 2 acres and 1,281,000 trees between 1789 and 1795.

MADDEN, FRANCIS. Ballinasloe. £737 premium on 8 acres and 4,460,000 trees between 1785 and 1795. Also fee for three apprentices, William Byrne, Denis Brien and Thomas Monke.

MADDEN, MICHAEL. Ballinasloe. 1768-95. £376 premium on 7 acres and 2,739,700 trees between 1786 and 1795. Fee for two apprentices, Patrick Madden and William Guinan.

MULLOWNEY, JAMES. £86 premium on 3 acres and 566,000 trees between 1787 and 1795.

POWER, ROBERT. Galway town. £228 premium on 14 acres and 943,000 trees, including 7,158 cedar of Lebanon, 1783 to 1790.

KERRY

COURTNEY, DANIEL. 1773. Tralee. Nurseryman with experience at Kew and Richmond.

DOOLEY, DAVID. Ardfert. Premium on 2 acres, 1786 to 1790.

GALLWEY, RICHARD. 1724. Dronwickbane.

O'BRIEN, CHARLES. 1768-95. Tralee. £708 premium on 15 acres and 5,092,000 trees; the premium on trees between 1790 and 1795. Asked by Dublin Society to produce proof of raising Black oak and Athenian poplar. Imported from London and Holland.

KILDARE

DALTON, EDWARD. Premium on 4 acres, 1786.

KILKENNY

AUSTIN, NATHANIEL. The Three Flower Pots, High St., Kilkenny. Imported from Holland and England.

BROPHY, JAMES.. Premium on 2 acres, 1790.

BYRNE, PETER. Premium on 1 acre, 1784.

MAGRATH, JOHN. Premium on 6 acres, 1768 to 1770.

ROBERTSON. Established about 1756. It was, according to Loudon, in use in 1844. In 1800 the nursery occupied about 14 acres at a rent varying from £4 to £10 an acre. Its sales were chiefly in seedlings of which about a hundred thousand were sold annually, chiefly Scots pine, larch and beech. Possibly connected with John Robertson of Kilkenny, a member of the Royal Dublin Society, who died in 1839 and bequeathed his 400 books on botany and horticulture to the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin which at that time belonged to the R.D.S.

LEIX

There were three nurseries near Mountmellick in 1800 but stock of any one worth only about £300. Annual turnover about £100.

COSBY, POLE. 1742-60. Stradbally House, Stradbally. Premium in 1742 for planting 13,835 trees. Stock in 1760 included elm, oak, beech, ash, horse chestnut, sycamore, juniper, filbert and some flowering shrubs.

CUNNINGHAM, JOHN. £87 premium on 8 acres and 280,000 trees from 1768 to 1789. Fee for apprentice.

DOYLE, JOHN. 1752. Stradbally. Stock included English elm, beech, hornbeam, chestnut, oak, sycamore, juniper, Dutch alder.

GLENAN, MALACHY. £40 premium on 375,000 trees between 1789 and 1794.

GLENAN, PATRICK. £10 premium on anacre and 42,000 trees, 1789-1791.

LIMERICK

ALLEN, JOSEPH. 1769-71. Limerick town. Seedsman and apothecary. Also sold 'fine London and battle gun powder'.

DAVIS, GEORGE. 1770-73. Near Ball's Bridge, Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary. Imported Weymouth pine seed from England 'guaranteed this year's importation and free from old or Irish seed'.

DAVIS, SAMUEL, 1771-77. Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

DAVIS, WILLIAM. 1750. Irishtown, Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary 1768-85. Newcastle.

DREW, PATRICK. 1768-85. Newcastle. Premium on 1 acre and fee for apprenticing his son Patrick.

FENNESY, WILLIAM. 1777-92. Beside Carr's tanyard, Limerick. Stock included horse and sweet chestnut, Lombardy poplar, Dutch and English elm, oak, beech, sycamore, larch, laburnum, Dutch alder, lime, Scots pine, Weymouth pine, balm of Gilead, holly, crab, quicks.

HARROLD, THOMAS. 1771. Sign of the Guinea, Irishtown, Limerick. Weymouth and Scots pine, spruce and silver fir, French furze seed.

JUDD, JOHN. 1773. Pestle and Mortar, next door to Exchange, Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

LEWIS, THOMAS. 1771. Mary St., Limerick. Nursery and seedsman.

O'LOUGHLIN. 1798. Rathkeal. Seedsman and apothecary.

PHILLIPS, JAMES HILL. 1773. Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary. Succeeded Joseph Allen.

RAHILLY, EUSTACE. 1799. 2 Mungret St., Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

RAHILLY, THOMAS. 1799. 24 Broad St., Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

RICHARDSON, WILLIAM. 1771. Seedsman and apothecary. Imported from Holland and England.

ROWE, LUKE. 1773. Irishtown, Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

SHEEHAN, MICHAEL. Nurseryman from Cork. Purchased in 1794 the nursery belonging to Sir Vere Hunt, Curragh, near Limerick; the stock of this nursery included beech, larch, quickbeam, sycamore, hornbeam, service, Weymouth, cluster and stone pine, ash, alders, oak, Chesterfield willow. Expected 'no gentleman will send for trees without money'.

WIGHT, EDWARD. 1750. Englishtown, Limerick. Seedsman and apothecary.

WILSON, JOHN AND RICHARD. 1803. Pallace, Kenry. Nurserymen and seedsmen.

LONDONDERRY

There were nurseries kept by professional nurserymen at Portglenone and near Money more in 1800 but it was cheaper to buy plants from Scotland than from local nurseries. Local seedlings cost 6/- to 8/- a thousand and those from Scotland 5/-.

MAGENNIS, HAMILTON. Also surgeon and apothecary. †19 premium on 5 acres and 42,000 trees between 1784 and 1786.

STEWART, JOHN. 1774. Derry city.

STEWART, WILLIAM. 57/- premium on 16,900 trees, 1793.

LONGFORD

LAW THOMAS. £5 premium on 40,000 trees, 1793.

LOUTH

FOSTER, RT. HON. JOHN. Public nursery at Collon. Catalogue of 1797 lists 250 different trees and shrubs for sale.

M'EVROY, JOHN. Collon. Joined after 1791 by Downey. M'Evroy was supplied with plants for his nursery by Foster and published his own catalogue which states 'He will provide Carrs properly constructed for the Carriage of Trees, with experienced Persons, who will deliver the Trees safe, at Ten Shillings a Carr to Dublin, being near Thirty Miles, or Four Pence a Mile to any part of the Kingdom'. £525 premium on 14 acres and 3,758,00 trees between 1783 and 1794.

MAYO

BOURKE, THOMAS. Premium on 3 acres, 1771 to 1791.

MEATH

ADAMS, PATRICK. 1769-90. Gormanstown. £24 premium on 4 acres and 135,000 trees between 1769 and 1785.

CAROL, PATRICK. £114 premium on 6 acres and 721,000 trees between 1789 and 1795.

CURLEY, DANIEL. £7 premium on 158,000 trees in 1793.

FRAYNE, FRANCIS. Lusk. £8 premium on 1 acre and 39,000 trees between 1785 and 1789.

GREGAN, OLIVER. £36 premium on 264,000 trees between 1790 and 1795.

HAND, FARREL. 1785-86. Trim. Premium on 2 acres.

KELLY, PATRICK. Premium on 1 acre, 1789.

REILLY, PATRICK. Premium on 1 acre, 1789.

REILLY, TERENCE. 1784-post 1800. Ballybeg. Fee for two apprentices, Peter String and William Reilly. His nursery of 39 acres said to be one of the biggest in Ireland.

STAPLES, ROBERT. Fee for apprentice, 1783.

MONAGHAN

THOMAS WRIGHT. 1768-78. The Diamond, Monaghan. Nursery. Wholesale and retail. Imported from Holland and London. Stock included seeds, thorn quicks, crabs, fruit trees, ash, oak, sycamore, beech, Scots fir. Also stocked garden tools, groceries and ironmongery.

OFFALY

CLARKE, SIMON. £7 premium on 1 acre and 35,00 trees in 1787.

M'MULLEN, JOHN. Premium on 3 acres, 1768 to 1770.

ROSCOMMON

CLARKE, JOHN. Premium on 1 acre 1789.

CLARKE, SIMON. 1772-87. Tully. Premium on 2 acres and fee for two apprentices.

GALVIN, WILLIAM. Mount Talbot. Born 1756, died 1832. William was the son of Thomas Galvin, head gardener to the Crosbys of Ardfert, Co. Kerry. Thomas and William moved to the Talbot estate in Roscommon and obtained 46 acres on lease from the Talbots who were relatives of the Crosbys. The Galvins' lease was the only freehold lease on the estate. The Galvin nursery continued to operate, father to son, until a few years ago.

GIBBONS, J. AND L. £8 premium on 57,700 trees in 1793.

SLIGO

Nurseries at Oakfield and Ballytivnan in 1800.

TIPPERARY

BOURKE, PATRICK. 1773. Nenagh. Seedsman and apothecary.

FENNESSY, RICHARD. Ballynating. Premium on 9 acres between 1768 and 1784.

FENNESSY, THOMAS. Premium on 6 acres, 1784.

HARES, JOHN. 1756-59. Castle Otway. Plants 'on common pasture soil without dung or manure'. Stock included holm oak, beech, alder, ash, sycamore, lime, walnut, English elm.

QUAN, THOMAS. 1742. Carrick on Suir. A nursery of 3 acres.

ROBERTSON, WILLIAM. 1764. Thomastown. Imported from London. The nursery had belonged to his father and continued to operate until the nineteenth century.

ST. JOHN, THOMAS. 1771. Cashel. Seedsman.

TOLER. Solicitor-General. Premium on 11 acres 1790.

WALL., JAMES. 1749. Tipperary town. Seedsman and apothecary.

TYRONE

GARDINER, RT. HON. LUKE. Premium on 3 acres in 1787.

JOHNSTON, JAMES. Premium on 3 acres in 1786.

WATERFORD

KEEFE, DANIEL. Premium on 2 acres, 1787.

MULLAMPHY, BRYAN. £30 premium on 5 acres and 365,000 trees from 1789 to 1795.

WESTMEATH

ANDERSON, JOHN. £17 premium on 3 acres and 52,000 trees in 1789.

WEXFORD

EVANS, WILLIAM. Premium on 1 acre, 1790.

GOWAN, JOHN HUNTER. £39 premium on 3 acres and 32,000 trees between 1769 and 1790.

WEBSTER, WILLIAM. £14 premium on 1 acre and 28,400 trees between 1790 and 1793.

WICKLOW

BULLER, WILLIAM. Died 1757. Tinnahinch.

COLES, PHILIP. £3 premium on 17,000 oak in 1790.

FAULKNER, SAMUEL. Premium on 1 acre in 1790.

HODGINS, EDWARD. Dunganstown. Premium on 3 acres in 1786. Gave gift of plants to Botanic Gardens in 1797 and supplied plants in 1808. The nursery, under an Edward Hodgins, was still supplying plants to the Botanic Gardens in 1846.

KIRWAN, MARTIN. Premium on 1 acre in 1786.

LONG, WILLIAM. 48/- premium on 14,000 trees between 1785 and 1790.

REILLY, JAMES. £14 premium on 2 acres and 33,000 trees, 1790.

REILLY, JOHN. 28/- premium on 14,000 oak in 1790.

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4. The Fingall (Plunket) Papers, MS 8036, National Library, Dublin. I am grateful to Mr. Robert Hunter, B.A., for pointing out to me the existence of these papers.
5. *Belfast Newsletter*, 24 Sept. 1756 and 20 Jan. 1760.

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* The Transaction of the Dublin Society, 1806.