

Gunning Family In Ireland and England

In 1889 Horton House, Northamptonshire was acquired by George Harold Winterbottom.

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Gunnings at Horton

Horton House was acquired by a Gunning in 1781 and sold in 1888. During that time it was occupied by six Gunning men, all but the first inherited Horton and the baronetcy; Horton was their family seat.

- Sir Robert Gunning, K.B. (1731–1816) was born in Ireland and became a diplomat (minister plenipotentiary) at the Courts of Denmark (1765), Berlin, and St. Petersburg (1771). He was made Knight Companion of the Order of the Bath (KB) in 1773 and a baronet (of Eltham, Kent) on 9-3-1778 (in appreciation for his diplomatic services). He died at his seat at Horton in 1816.
- Sir George William Gunning (1763-1810) of Horton, son of Sir Robert, succeeded to the baronetcy 9-22-1816 (the day his father died). Horton House was his seat.
- Sir Robert Henry Gunning (1795-1862) of Horton, son of Sir George, succeeded to the baronetcy 4-7-1823.
- Sir Henry John Gunning (1797-1885) of Horton, son of Sir George, succeeded to the baronetcy 9-22-1862 (when Robert Henry died).
- Sir George William Gunning (1828-1903) of Horton, son of Henry John, succeeded to the baronetcy 6-30-1885 (when Henry John died); died at Horton and was buried there. He sold Horton House to Pickering Phipps II in 1888.
- Sir Frederick Digby Gunning (1853-1906) of Horton, son of George William, succeeded to the baronetcy 10-24-1903 (when his father died); Horton House was his principal seat (until it was sold); had family estates in Northamptonshire, Bucks, Lancashire, Longford, and Roscommon (Ireland). Died unmarried, age 53.

Gunnings of Roscommon, Ireland

Richard Gunning, b. 1587 Ightham, Kent; d. Castle Coote, Roscommon; parents Thomas Gunning (1554–1630/1 and Anne (b. abt. 1555 Southfleet, Kent, married abt. 1610. Richard was a younger son, determined to be a soldier of fortune, and went to Ireland about 1610/1 where he was rewarded, for the assistance he gave Sir Charles Coote in quelling the rebellion, by the grant of a large tract of land in county Galway (Roscommon). There he built a house

close to the village of Fuerty and in the immediate vicinity of Castle Coote, Sir Charles' own residence.

Left one son.

- i. John Gunning, b. abt. 1611 Roscommon. Later described as "of Castle Coote."
 - m. 1639 Miss Margaret Malone¹, b. 1620 Castle Coote, County Roscommon; father Edward Malone of Castle Coote.

Left two sons.

- i. Barnaby *Bryan* Gunning, b. 1640 Castle Coote, Roscommon.
 - m. Sarah Catherine Geraghty²; b. 1640³ in Roscommon. She was a sister of Richard Geraghty.

- i. Bryan Gunning of Castle Coote; b. 1665 Holywell, Roscommon; will d. 1717 — seems to be confused with father).

- m. 1693 Sarah Girahly (1675 -).

Sixteen children, three sons

- i. George *Bryan* (?) Gunning, d. 1740 unmarried.
 - ii. John *Barnaby* Gunning of Castlecoote, b. 1700 Castle Coote; 11-3-1725 admitted to Middle Temple; d. 1767 at Somerset House, London. Shortly after his marriage the couple moved to Huntingdonshire where they rented the Manor House (commonly called the Red House) at Hemingford Grey, near St. Ives. After four daughters were born there and his elder brother died, they returned to Roscommon and had two more children. In 1747 the family lived in Dublin. Some time later they moved to England and lived in Windsor, Edmonton, Enfield, Sunninghill, and finally in London (early 1751).

- m. 10-11-1731 (or 10-23-1731) Bridget Bourke of Mayo (1710-1770); d. 6-8-1770; parents Theobald Bourke, 6th viscount Mayo (b. 1-6-1681, d. 6-25-1741 Dublin) and Mary Browne (Theo's first cousin) who married 1702 and died 1771.

Six children.

- i. Maria Gunning, b. 1732 Hemingford Grey, Huntingdonshire. One of The Beauties.⁴
 - ii. Elizabeth Gunning, b. 12-1733 Hemingford Grey, Huntingdonshire. One of The Beauties.
 - iii. Catherine Gunning, bap. 6-12-1735 Hemingford Grey, Huntingdonshire.
 - iv. Sophia Gunning, b. 1737 Hemingford Grey, Huntingdonshire; d. 1737.

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<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:OqQ0MHHCcQkJ:landedestates.nuigalway.ie/LandedEstates/jsp/family-show.jsp%3Fid%3D1506+&cd=3&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

2. The family of Geraghty of Connaught is of ancient Irish descent.

3. One source shows two generations: Barnaby Bryan Gunning (1640 -) m. Sarah Catherine Geraghty (1640 -), son Bryan Gunning (1665 -) m. Sarah Girahly (1675 -) on 1693. Were there two Sarahs? Or only one and they have been confused?

4. The two sisters were widely regarded for their beauty. I have chosen to not include any details on their husbands and children as I am satisfied that this account indicates they were second cousins to Sr. Robert Gunning of Horton. *Three Generations of Fascinating Women: And Other Sketches from Family History* By Constance Charlotte Elisa Lennox Russell (Lady.), Russell (Lady.), 1905 (Google Books) has photos of paintings of Gunnings. It has the most detailed discussion of the family of John Gunning, husband of Bridget Bourke, and father of the Beauties. Can be had as an eBook.

- v. (Major-General) John Gunning, born Roscommon; served at Bunker Hill; died Naples in disgrace.
- vi. Elizabeth Gunning, b. 2-1744 Roscommon; d. 12-31-1752 of consumption; bur. Hemingford Grey, Huntingdonshire.
- iii. Barnaby Gunning.
 - m. Anne Staunton of Galway, father Thomas Staunton. Several children, all died young except one daughter.
 - x. Margaret Gunning, b. 1694; d. 6-1771 Dublin; bur. Ballintober, county Mayo.
 - m1. abt. 1712 John Edwards of Dublin at Roscommon; b. abt. 1690 Dublin; he was an attorney.
 - m2. 1714 William Lyster of Athelague, Roscommon; d. 1722; parents Thomas Lyster of Grange, co. Roscommon and Miss Kelly of Ballyforan, co. Roscommon.
 - m3. 1727 (Captain) Francis Houston of Ashgrove, Roscommon; d. 1731.
 - m4. 6-1731 Theobald Bourke, 6th Viscount Mayo, b. 1-6-1681; d. 6-25-1741.
 - i. Catherine Edwards, b. 1713 Dublin. Married cousin Robert Gunning (below).
 - x. A son and three daughters by Lyster.
- ii. John Gunning, b. abt. 1650 Castle Coote, County Roscommon; d. abt. 1750. [clearly there is a problem here, this cannot be the husband of Mary Mason as the dates don't fit].
 - m. abt. 1695 Mary Mason of Dublin, b. abt. 1685 Castle Coote, County Roscommon; father William Mason of Dublin. [the dates here seem odd]

Two sons.

 - x. Robert Gunning, b. 1697; d. 1750 London. Robert apparently got the executorship of the estate of Francis Houston, deceased husband of his mother-in-law and first cousin.
 - m1. 1734 Catherine Edwards at Dublin; b. abt. 1713 Dublin; d. 12-20-1782; parents Thomas Edwards and Margaret Gunning. Catherine was a cousin of Robert: she was the daughter of his first cousin Margaret Gunning.

Two children.

 - i. **Robert Gunning** . . . of Horton (1731–1816), b. 6-8-1731 Ireland; d. 9-22-1816 Horton.
 - ii. William Gunning, b. 1736 Ireland; d. 1759 at Guadeloupe, West Indies, killed in action, a Captain in the army—61st Foot (South Gloucestershire) Regiment (this was the Invasion of Guadalupe, a part of the Seven Years War; while the war killed many, the weather killed more).
 - m. Marion Christie of Stirling, Scotland; b. 3-3-1732; only surviving child of Provost William Christie.

two daughters.

 - y. John Gunning, d. unmarried.
- iii. Penelope Gunning, b. 1652.

Two daughters of John *Barnaby* Gunning and Bridget Bourke were widely praised for their beauty and became known as the Beauties. They were second cousins of Sir Robert Gunning of Horton.

Once the Irish family was established, some family members remained in Roscommon while others went to England. Sir Robert Gunning (who bought Horton) retained ownership of land in Roscommon and in Longford county. His descendants held the Irish lands until at least the 1880s.

From Cornwall to Kent

The Gunning family originated in Tregonning, Cornwall. William Gunning, younger son of Thomas Gunning of Tregonning⁵, Esq. settled at North Stoke, co. Somerset, about 1410 and fathered a line of Gonnings, who became Gunning, and that included Richard Gunning who went to Ireland about 1611. The Gunning family held estates in Kent, Somerset, and Gloucester.

The senior line of the Gunning family was, for very many years, seated at Tregonning, in the county of Cornwall, but became extinct there in 1587 at the death, without male issue, of Sir John Gunning, of Tregonning, Knight.

William Gunning, younger son of Thomas Gunning of Tregonning, Esq. settled at North Stoke, co. Somerset, 11 Henry IV [abt. 1410]; d. 1458. By his wife Alice Long, who survived him, he left issue one son:

John Gunning, of North Stoke.

m. Jane Wilshere.

One son.

i. Thomas Gunning, of North Stoke and Swanswick.

Grandson:

i. John Gunning, of Swanswick and Cold Aston, co. Gloucester; d. 1562.

m. Mary Dodington, daughter of William Dodington, Esq. of Todington.

Four sons and one daughter.

i. Thomas Gunning of Turney's Court, Cold Aston; d. 1603. Ancestor of the Gunnings.

ii. Robert Gunning of North Stoke.

iii. William Gunning of Todington.

iv. Peter Gunning. Became the Rev. Peter Gunning of Brookland, co. Kent; d. 1567.

m. Elizabeth Alchorn.

One son.

i. Thomas Gunning of Ash, b. 1554; d. 1630 at Southfleet.

m. abt. 1610 Anne, b. abt. 1555 Southfleet, Kent.

Four daughters, four sons.

i. Peter Gunning, vicar of Hoo; d. 12-6-1615.

m. 1612 Ellen Tracy.

Left one son.

i. Peter Gunning, Bishop of Ely, b. 1-11-1613; d. 7-6-1684.
Unmarried.

iv. Richard Gunning, b. 1587 Ightham, Kent; settled Ireland.
Detailed above.

5. Tregonning meant the place of the Gonnings.

The Dorey Connection

My great-grandfather John James Dorey (1844–1923) married a second time, six months after the death of his first wife in 1905. He was 60 when he married 26-year old Mary Elizabeth Gunning (1879–1914).

Her ancestors had come from co. Roscommon, Ireland. The earliest known was Timothy Gunning, born August 12, 1818 in the civil Parish of Moore, County Roscommon, Ireland; he immigrated to Boston, MA, USA in 1846. His parents are believed to be Timothy Gunning and Margaret Greeley, who remained in Ireland.

I cannot connect this Gunning family to the one that bought Horton House. Indeed, the civil records show many Gunnings in county Roscommon between 1848 and 1864 (23 were enumerated in Griffith's Valuation). I have found no way to analyze their family relationships. It is unlikely they descended from the English family detailed here, so there must be other, unrelated lines.

Futhermore, there is no evidence that the family which originated in Kent and moved to county Roscommon in the early 1600s had any male descendants who might have lived in Roscommon in 1818.